

Dhaka Day by Day

Rootless Youngsters' Haven

by A S M Nurunnabi

These rootless young ones are collectively known as Tokais. They come in droves to the city from the villages with the fond hope of finding some source of living here. While in the villages, they hear rosy stories about money rolling in the city. They are of course disillusioned when they set their feet in the city. Aged between 10-12 years, their dreams shattered, most of them roam about hungry or starving in the city streets.

Some of them, are however, resourceful. In the Dhaka University campus, we find about one thousand of them leading their lives by performing various chores of the hall students. Not long ago, a survey showed that such youngsters are engaged in the halls in the work of cooking for the students. Some others are engaged in selling various food items, flowers, peanut, cigarettes, etc. for the students. In short, the university campus has become a new field of activities for these youngsters.

The students utilise their services in various ways. Besides cooking, they help the students in sweeping the rooms, and run errands for them on various matters. Generally eight to 10 students engage one such youngster for their various chores. They pay him Tk 50 a month each and also give him food three times a day. Some of the youngsters dress themselves in old clothes donated by the students and move about in such ways that it is difficult to distinguish them from hall students.

Most of these youngsters come from the districts of Comilla, Noakhali, Chandpur,

Barisal and Faridpur. Once a youngster finds employment with a group of students, he tries to help some others of his district in finding similar work with another group of students living in other rooms.

Normally the halls are overcrowded with students, their number being more than the capacity of each hall. Hence these youngsters find their sleeping accommodation on roof tops and staircases of the halls. They also use the already crowded bathrooms and toilet facilities. Some of them are not free from minor crimes like stealing personal things of the students.

The hall authorities often try to discourage the students from cooking in the rooms with the help of electric heaters, but they are not successful. The students argue that the quality of food served in the dining rooms is poor. Hence they are forced to make their own arrangements for cooking their food with the help of the youngsters.

When these youngsters reach the age of twenties, they normally give up work in the halls, and try to find employment as rickshaw-pullers, hawkers, hotel boys, peons, guards, etc.

In spite of all the tribulations, these youngsters choose to remain in the city. They enjoy being amidst tall buildings, shiny cars and life of luxury found in the city. Hence they do not want to return to their villages. Their life on the university campus is an important stepping stone in their bitter struggle for survival.



Children trying their hands at an art competition at the Fine Arts Institute in the city yesterday. The Bangladesh Chhatra League organised the competition on the occasion of the 76th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. — Star photo

DFHE meeting held

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the executive committee of Doctors for Health and Environment (DFHE) was held yesterday at the BMA Bhawan with Prof Nazmunahar in the chair.

The meeting discussed the proposal of reform in public sector health management styled as 'centre for management efficiency and quality (COMEGA) manual'.

The meeting observed that the manual would not ensure people-oriented health service due to administrative complexities, uncertainty over autonomy of the hospitals.

Doctors role in dev of health sector stressed

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday urged the doctors to give a proper guideline for the development of health services in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the first annual conference of Bangladesh Society of Radiation Oncologists in the BIRDEM auditorium in the city, he identified the lack of planning, management and course of actions as the major obstacles to the improvement of health services and observed that doctors had an important role to play in this regard.

WHO representative in Bangladesh Dr Wajiduzzaman Hardjotanojo, Director General of Health Services Prof A K Shamsuddin Siddiqui, general secretary of the society Dr A Rub Bhuiyan and director of Cancer Institute and Research Hospital Dr Mohammad Amir Hossain also spoke on the occasion while president of the society Dr Fazle Elahi was in the chair.

President of Bangladesh Cancer Society Prof Sayyid Fazlul Hoque presented the keynote paper at the conference. The minister said despite the limited resources the government was committed to promote the health sector.

Referring to the cancer treatment facilities in the country, he said only one old cobalt machine which was installed in 1969 at Dhaka Medical College Hospital is giving services to the cancer patients.

NASHGAF's concern

By Staff Correspondent

The Nadi Shikast Gono Adhikar Forum (NASHGAF) has expressed deep concern about certificate cases filed against river erosion victims and demanded end to police harassment on their family members.

In a press release co-signed by convenor, joint convenor and two members of NASHGAF Wednesday expressed concern about the report that some banks had filed certificate cases against the farmers hit river erosion in several districts. It is not fair to push the destitute families into further destitution, the release said.

NASHGAF also called upon the authority to look into the matter from humanitarian point of view and thereby find out a reasonable solution.

Foundation of RU College Physics Building laid

RAJSHAHI, Mar 10: Minister of State for Land Md Kabir Hossain yesterday said that the present government had been implementing a massive programme of hundreds of crore of Taka by constructing and reconstructing the educational institutions throughout the country for accelerating the development of education sector, reports BSS.

He said this while laying the foundation stone of a Physics Building of Rajshahi University College.

Samina's art show opens

By Staff Correspondent

Rafiqun Nabi, the Director of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University inaugurated Samina Rahman's solo exhibition at the Alliance Francaise last evening. Francois de Grailly, the counsellor for the Embassy of France was the special guest.

There were 28 pieces in all and this included acrylic work, pottery, creations and 7 sculpted pieces. Samina, who is studying law privately and putting in full time at a vegetable dye firm, has studied fine arts till the 'A' level standard in South India. Her works on display, however, were inspired by Muslim art work in Bangladesh and landscape of Bangladesh. Samina has been in Dhaka for five years.

She says she tries to relate emotions to nature around in her work. She has been inspired specially by the Baitul Mukarram mosque and the Tara mosque. A well-travelled mother of a four year old, a busy career woman and homemaker, she works in her spare time in the evenings and week-ends.

She is obviously encouraged by her parents.



Visitors on the first-day, yesterday, at the maiden painting and sculpture exhibition by Samina Rahman at the main gallery of Alliance Francaise in the city. — Star photo

188 JU students against receiving certificates from Biswas

By Staff Correspondent

Some 188 former students of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday expressed their reservation to take certificates from the President in the forthcoming convocation of the university.

In a joint statement, they said, would not be grateful for them to receive certificates from President Abdur Rahman Biswas who had 'played a controversial role during the Liberation War of 1971'.

The President is the Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University and he is supposed to confer degrees in the convocation. The date of convocation is yet to be fixed.

The former students urged the university authorities to take necessary steps so that the spirit and values of the Liberation War remain upheld.

The signatories to the statement include Anisur Rahman of 1984-85 session, Aslam Khan of 87-88 session, Abdullah Al Mamun of 84-85, Manas Kumar Chowdhury of 86-87, Tahmina Sultana of 86-87 and Azizur Rahman of 86-87.

Principal Abul Kashem's death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of eminent educationist Principal Abul Kashem will be observed today, reports UNB.

Principal Kashem was one of the pioneers of the historic Language Movement of 1952 and the founder of Tamaddun Majlish, which played an important role in the movement.

He wrote more than hundred books including some 40 text books in his bid to establish Bangla as the medium of education.

To mark the day, Principal Abul Kashem Trust Board will arrange Quaran Khwani at Mirpur Bangla College, which was founded by the late educationist.

Besides, Principal Abul Kashem Smriti Sangsad will organise discussion at the college premises.

In a message on the occasion President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said that late Principal Abul Kashem being one of the pioneers in the historic language movement was an uncompromising personality of the time, reports BSS.

He said 'he established the Bangla College for imparting higher education in Bengali language and wrote a number of text books in Bengali including books on terminology'.

In a similar message on the same occasion Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia recalled that Principal Abul Kashem, an architect of historic language movement, had also laid behind valuable contributions in the country's movements for autonomy and independence and flourishing of nationalist spirit.

Handicrafts, folk festival begins today

A month-long handicrafts and folk festival begins today at the Bangladesh Folk and Handicrafts Foundation at Sonargaon, on the outskirts of the city, reports BSS.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum will formally inaugurate the festival at 11 am.

Handicrafts made in different parts of the country will be on display at the festival and will be sold.

French theatre show Mar 16

A French theatre show 'Embarquez-les' will be staged at the gymnasium of American International School in the city on March 16, reports UNB.

House Wanted

Wanted building suitable for a restaurant located in the main road in Gulshan or Banani. Interested proprietor requested to send the details and offers to the following address:

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Tender Notice for Purchase of Computer Hardware & Software

Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, a national NGO is inviting signed and sealed quotations from authorized and reputed Suppliers/Vendors/Dealers in Computer business.

Proshika intends to procure 1 Power PC, 8 PC workstations, 7 Note Books, 2 Laser Printers, some Dot Matrix Printers, UPSs, Software and other accessories. All the above hardware and peripherals will be installed at its central office Mirpur, Dhaka.

Tender schedule with detail specifications can be collected from Accounts Section on payment of Tk. 1000/= (Taka one thousand) only. Tender schedule will be available from 15.03.95 to 27.03.95 between 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Quotations should be dropped in the Tender Box kept at Reception of the undemoted address latest by 2:30 p.m. on or before 28.03.95 which will be opened at 3:00 p.m. on the same day.

The tenderers or their authorised representatives may be present at the time of opening of tenders. The organization reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Procurement Organiser
Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra
I/1-GA, Section-2, Mirpur,
Dhaka-1216.

Ref: COM/Purchase/95/098

Foundation of municipal auditorium laid

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun Al-Rashid laid the foundation of the Municipal Auditorium at Brahmanbaria yesterday, reports UNB.

The auditorium will be constructed at a cost of Tk 1.20 crore.

Presided over by local Municipality Chairman Al-Mamnoon Sarkar, the function was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner M A Matin, President of District Bar Advocate Kazi Quamruzzaman and Press Club President Mohammad Musa.

BAF nat'l confce March 29

A special general assembly of the Bangladesh Anti-drug Federation of NGOs (BAF) was held at the Dhaka Club in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Presided over by Azmal Kabir Khan, the vice-president of BAF, the meeting was attended by the representatives of 24-member organisations.

It was also resolved that the national conference will be held on March 29, instead of March 16 and 17.

Children's art competition

The Hunger Project Bangladesh has organised an art competition for children on March 16, says a press release.

The competition is open for the children aged between 8 and 11 years (Class III to VI). Fifty selected paintings will be displayed at the National Children's Castle Gallery in Tokyo and at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

The award of the contest includes gold, silver and bronze medals plus cash prizes.

The subject of the competition is 'Problems and solutions' of self-reliant Bangladesh.

Interested children have been requested to contact the Country Director, The Hunger Project Bangladesh at House 18, Road 15 (New), Dhanmondi or over Telephone 812622 for further details.

Call to ensure equal rights for women

The three-day programme of the International Women's Day Celebration Committee ended here yesterday with a renewed call for establishing equal rights for women in Bangladesh and elsewhere around the globe, reports UNB.

MUTUAL JUTE SPINNERS LIMITED DHAKA

Dated: 8 March, 1995

NOTICE

The 16th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders will be held on Tuesday the 28th March, 1995 at 5.00 PM at the Registered office of the Company at JK Bahaban, 30 VIP Road, Kakrail, Dhaka.

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March, 1994.
2. To adopt the Directors Report, Auditors Report and pass the Accounts of the Company for the year ended on 30th June, 1994.
3. To elect Director in places of retiring Directors.
4. To appoint Chief Executive of the Company and to fix his terms and remuneration.
5. To declare dividend for the year ended on 30th June, 1994.
6. To appoint Auditors and to fix their remuneration for the year 1994-95.
7. To consider any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

By order of the Board
(MOZAMMEL HOQUE, FCA)
Company Secretary

NOTE: The share transfer book shall remain closed from 18th March, 1995 to 28th March, 1995 both days inclusive.

Weather

Gusty wind, rain likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere across the country.

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest 13.0 degrees at Chandpur.

The sun sets today at 6:06 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.0	19.4	40	57
Chittagong	31.6	19.0	50	—
Rajshahi	24.2	15.1	80	78
Khulna	31.4	16.5	56	55
Barisal	31.0	17.0	53	48
Sylhet	31.0	16.6	68	60
Cox's Bazar	—	21.0	48	—

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