

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Spitting Spree All Around

by Samia Islam

Imagine that on a sunny day you are determined to do everything right because you feel great. No doubt, such feelings still overcome most of us even though much has been done to eradicate the incurable romantic in us. Although the attempt to destroy the soul inside the human body has failed to some extent so far but the world around you never gives up. Hence, the first thing you encounter after stepping out of the house is your fellow citizen puckering his mouth and spitting right in your way. Immediately, your day is ruined. This is one sight that's guaranteed to leave you worse off than it found you.

Now, let's try to analyze the situation before pointing fingers. Maybe, spitting is good for you, who knows? Maybe, it acts as a stimulant like having tea or a puff at a cigarette and

up someone else's day you will end up messing your own. Amateurs are, therefore, a greater menace to society with all their confidence and not much aim. Like all art-forms imperfections in this field also have dire consequences. Not to worry since boys start out early and practice devotedly in the staircase, the roof or the garage of their residence or anywhere else they go. This not only teaches them aim and control but also makes them immune to its unhygienic characteristics. All the better since growing up in a city like this, one cannot afford to be very hygiene minded, not with the overflowing garbage bins that don't get emptied till the middle of the day, stray cats, dogs and crows picking at the heaps, fellow humans responding to the call of nature at every road side and so on and so forth.



maybe spitting is the one thing that keeps people from getting heart attacks on the streets. Whatever its medical significance, it seems to something that keeps the city dwellers ticking. More and more people every day are joining the rank and file and spitting away as if life depended on it. The habit is not confined among the illiterate or the ignorant, educated office-goers and school children also indulge in this national pastime and prove once again that nothing that's worth knowing can be taught. If only spitting was an Olympic event, we could have won the gold, the silver and the bronze all at the same time.

It is quite impossible to walk on a street and not step on the mark someone has just left on the path of life. It's all very good since spitting is not everybody's cup of tea and if you are a novice then chances are instead of messing

At least the problem of keeping oneself busy amid the frequent bottlenecks on the road is solved. One can now be amazed at the frequency of occurrence of this awesome accomplishment of man and think out ways to escape from the cesspool that's in the making. Ignoble thoughts but what else can one expect since not everybody needs an outsider to point out to them the maladies of life in the city. What is needed to remove this criminal act from society isn't sarcastic columns in newspapers but a war. Surely there must be a way of uprooting the affliction through regulations, fines and their implementation as well as drives to make people aware, once more, of the fact that the act is not only tremendously unpleasant and unhygienic but also uncivilized and sickening, something they seem to have forgotten somewhere along the line.

## SPGRC seeks meeting with new Pak HC

By Staff Correspondent

The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) lauded Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and newly appointed Pakistani High Commissioner Karam Elahi for raising their issues of repatriation during a meeting held recently.

Karam Elahi called on the Prime Minister at her office on Monday last.

SPGRC in a press release signed by its chief patron Nasim Khan Tuesday expressed the hope that during her forth coming visit to Pakistan Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would help remove the bottlenecks regarding their repatriation.

Nasim Khan, in the press release, also sought a meeting with the Pakistani High Commissioner.

## Qatari FM due Apr 2

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabour Al-Thani will arrive in the city on April 2 (Sunday) for a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The first ever-visit of Foreign Affairs Minister of the country, is expected to focus on ways and means to further strengthening bilateral political relations, expansion and diversification of trade, investment, economic cooperation and other issues of common interest.

The minister will lead a 22-member delegation, which includes senior officials of the Ministry, envoys of Qatar to United Nations and China, representatives of Civil Aviation and Qatar Airways.

A private sector trade delegation and a media team will also accompany the visiting minister.

## Training course on drug begins April 1

A two-week training programme on "Drug Identification, Intelligence and Seizure" begins in the city April 1, reports UNB.

Director General of Narcotics Control Department Syed Marghub Murshed is expected to inaugurate the training programme as chief guest.

Jointly organised by United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and Narcotics Control Department, the training course will be attended by 30 law enforcing officers from the Narcotics Control Department, Bangladesh Rifles, Police and Customs.

Two trainers from International Department for Technical Police Cooperation (IDTPC) in France will conduct the training course, which is the first in a series of workshop to train up some 400 law enforcing officials in the next four years.

## Bangladesh envoy to USA hosts reception

Bangladesh Ambassador to USA, Mrs. Humayun Kabir hosted a reception at the Chevy Chase Club on Monday in celebration of the 24th national day of Bangladesh according to a message received here, reports BSS.

The reception was attended by more than 300 persons from across a section of the elite in Washington and prominent Bangladesh nationals. They included assistant secretary of state, Margaret Carpenter, deputy assistant secretary of state Tim Carnesy, Walter Stewart, former secretary of the senate, senior staff members of the US Senate and House of Representatives and former US Ambassador to Bangladesh, William B Milam.

Among others, envoys, ambassadors of India, Malaysia, Tunisia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Bahrain, Singapore, Kenya, Prof. Don Wallace of Georgetown University, journalists, leading US businessmen, and personal representative of the mayor of Washington, DC.

## Eid-reunion of Open University

The media department of the Open University yesterday held an Eid-reunion and reception on the university campus, reports BSS.

The reception was arranged to welcome the newly appointed director of the department Syed Luthfi Ali.

Sakera Ali, wife of the vice-chancellor of the university attended the function as chief guest while Syed Luthfi Ali presided.

Asst director of the department Salahuddin Ahmed took part in the discussion while the function was conducted by asst director Ashraf Haq and programme officer Mossamat Mehar Nigar.

## BPC earned Tk 80 cr in '94

Bangladesh earned about Tk 80 crore from the tourism sector last year as more than 1.4 lakh tourists visited the country, reports UNB.

The visitors to Bangladesh constituted about four per cent of 37 lakh international tourists who visited South Asia in 1994, according to the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), the state run tourism organisation.

This indicates that Bangladesh has tremendous

potential to develop its tourism industry. Antonio Enriquez Savignac, secretary general of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), told a BPC official during a training course in Madrid recently.

The WTO secretary general hoped that Bangladesh would establish itself as one of the main tourist attractions in South Asian region.

According to WTO, world tourism grew at 3 per cent in 1994 when a record number

of 52.80 crore tourists visited different countries which earned 321 billion US dollars from the industry.

Some 16 lakh tourists from Europe, a 14 per cent growth over the last year's figure, travelled to the South Asian countries and the number is 44 per cent of the total tourists who visited the region in 1994.

India hosted the lion's share of the international tourists, more than 51 per cent, during the period. Pakistan followed with 10 per cent and Nepal with 9 per cent.

The WTO estimates that the number of international tourists would stand at 66.10 crore in the year 2000 and 93.70 crore in 2010. The South Asia is expected to receive one crore tourists in the year 2010.

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