

Dhaka Day by Day

At the Doctor's Office

by Gemini Wahhaj



A few deft queries reveal that everyone in the waiting room, holding serial-numbers 1 through 50, has appointments for 5:00 pm. The patients therefore understand that they're not seeing the doctor before about 7 pm.

After settling herself comfortably under the fan, one patient looks around the room, staring hard at the other occupants. Hmm, what is that woman wearing? Are those shoes the latest in fashion? She gets a few interested stares back. Hey, there's a tear in that woman's sarree. A room visible from the waiting area reads Pharmacy. In this room, a kerani (clerk) makes tea. He does this every so often, decorating a black tray with matching black cups and saucers, which he carries into the doctor's room — an unending supply of tea for the over-worked man.

"Hey," an over-anxious patient calls to the clerk. "My serial no. is 49. When do you think I'll get to go in?" "Any minute now," answers the suave kerani. "In ten minutes?" "Yes, yes, of course."

The other patients snicker. Mutual stares have established some form of camaraderie among them. Soon they begin to make small talk. "So why are you here?" they ask each other. "I have fungi on my hands," answers one. "Look!"

"Everyone crowds around to take a look. 'Ooh, very scary. Have you seen him before?'"

"Oh, yes. He's very good. He gave me five packs of medicine."

A wave of questions flows through the room. Everyone is asked in turn, "So what's wrong with you?"

Just when goodwill has reached a peak, one patient takes offence. "What's it to you why I'm here?" she barks. "Aieee, bhai," the over-anxious woman gets up again an hour later. "What serial number are we on?" "Three," replies the kerani. "So when will I be able to go in?"

"Oh, in a couple of minutes." Sweat rolls off several faces. The patients look up pleadingly at the tired fan. Outside, the sky turns dark, and street lights come on. Conversation has moved on to very interesting topics, such as gossip about famous people, whose family is more prone to fatal diseases, who has how many sons.

"Are they all married?" asks an eager mother accompanied by three daughters.

Finally, a voice calls out, "Number 49." The over-anxious patient jumps up, and runs to the doctor's door. She pushes it open, peers in, then smiles in delight. There he sits, a real-life bespectacled little doctor in a white gown, surrounded by half-empty tea-cups. "Come in, come in," he calls.

"Oh, doctor shaheb, so glad to see you, at last!"

Rule Nisi on DCC; RAJUK, DOE issued

By Staff Correspondent

A Division Bench of the Supreme Court has temporarily stayed the construction of a multi-storied marketplace, now being built on a proposed public car park site in the capital.

The bench, comprising Justice Muhammad Ismailuddin Sarkar and Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed, on May 2 also issued a rule nisi asking the authorities concerned to show cause why the construction of the Udayan Market at Bangabandhu Avenue would not be declared unlawful.

The petition was filed by Sharif Nurul Ambia, Joint Secretary General of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), with legal assistance from the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA).

The rule was issued upon the Dhaka City Corporation, the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK), the Department of Environment (DOE), the Ministry of Housing and Public Works and the Udayan Bahumukhi Samabay Samity, a cooperative society.

BELA Secretary General Dr Mohiuddin Farooque, moving the petition, submitted that the DCC has undertaken the construction of the multi-storied market at the site earmarked for a public car park in the RAJUK Master Plan at Bangabandhu Avenue.

The petitioner also pointed out that the construction was continuing despite the DOE's findings that the building would disrupt the environment of the area.

Adhunik hails anti-smoking law in Kuwait

Country's leading anti-smoking organisation, Adhunik, has congratulated the members of Kuwait parliament for passing an anti-smoking bill, reports UNB.

The bill, passed by Kuwait parliament, prohibits advertisement of tobacco in the media, bans smoking in government offices and public transports and also sale of tobacco to those under 21.



Minister for Information and Commerce M Shamsul Islam (dark suit, C) sitting with the newly-elected office-bearers of the JICA Alumni Association at a city hotel yesterday.

4 killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Four people including a woman were killed in separate incidents and another received bullet wounds in the city yesterday.

A house maid died when she fell from the fifth floor of a building at Bangla Motor road crossing at 5.30 am yesterday. The maid Monowara Begum, 35, fell through the window of the building, police sources said.

Critically injured Monowara was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared her dead.

Meanwhile, three people were killed in separate road accidents.

One Sadar Ali, 30, was killed on the spot when a truck ran over him near the Gabtali bus stand early yesterday.

Nazir Ahmed, 70, a pedestrian succumbed to his injuries on the way to the DMCH. He was hit by a speeding bus in front of the Jalalabad Match Factory on Dhaka-Narayanganj road about 7 am.

In another incident, an unidentified man aged about 50 was crushed under the wheels of a truck near the AGB colony in Motijheel at 8 am.

Meanwhile, some unidentified gunmen shot at Ali Matin, 25, a businessman near Dayaganj bridge in the old part of the city yesterday afternoon.

All received injuries in his right chest. He was going to his residence at Gandaria by a rickshaw when the bullet hit him, sources said.

He was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Call to develop Barisal div

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at an exchange-of-view session at the National Press Club yesterday suggested formation of a coordination committee consisting of representatives of various organisations and leading personalities of the southern districts to ensure smooth development of the newly established Barisal division, reports BSS.

The exchange of views with the mediemen was arranged jointly by Barisal Bhubhagya Samity and Barisal Jubo Samity to highlight various problems and prospect of the division.

City Nirmul confce today

By Staff Correspondent

The conference of Dhaka City Unit of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee will be held today. Begum Mushtari Shaif will inaugurate the conference at 9:30 am at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

The Nirmul Committee will also observe the 66th anniversary of birth of late leader Jahanara Imam today.

A civic procession will be held at 5:00 pm, while Prof Kabir Chowdhury will present Jahanara Imam Memorial Speech at 6:00 pm.

Distribution of the Jahanara Imam Gold Medal and discussions will be held at 6:30 pm at the TSC auditorium.

UNB Bengali news service soon

United News of Bangladesh (UNB) will shortly introduce Bengali news service for mufassil newspapers with assistance from UNESCO, reports the agency.

The UNB's proposal to set up Bengali Language News Service was approved last November at the Paris meeting of IPDC Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Business Manager

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited is looking for a Business Manager who should have a creative flair and strengths in innovation with strong leadership qualities.

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Certificates awarded to acrobatic team

By Staff Correspondent

"With the right kind of training and motivation, our youngsters can achieve anything." The State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahan Ara Begum said yesterday at a certificate-awarding ceremony at the Shilpakala Academy in the city.

Jahan Ara voiced this belief while distributing certificates among participants of an acrobatic workshop. Some thirty-six underprivileged teenagers, including eight girls, from Rajbari trained under experts from North Korea at the year-long workshop organised by the Shilpakala Academy, under its "Fine and Performing Arts Project."

"At first, nobody would believe that a bunch of unkempt, illiterate children from poor families could be trained to do anything, let alone in the extremely disciplined art of acrobatics. But after only a year's training, through their perseverance and hard work, they have proven everyone wrong and today, they are our pride and joy," the state minister said in her speech, adding "Someday we hope to send these kids abroad as our cultural ambassadors."

After the ceremony, this country's first formally trained troupe of acrobats repeated

their breath taking repertoire of acrobatic feats, as they had done once before back in March. There will be another performance today at 4:00 pm at the Academy's auditorium.

Rafiq attends 'Naton Kuri' function

Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday stressed the need for giving equal opportunity to every child in the country for developing their talents in the fields of dance, music, drama and literature, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion and prize awarding ceremony organised by "Naton Kuri" Shishu Sangskriti Academy held at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium in the city.

The function was also addressed by Jahangir Alam and Mustaq Ahmad, chairman and director of the academy respectively.

The minister said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman used to love the children and his contributions to developing talents of the children was unprecedented.

The minister distributed prizes among the winners in the literary competition.

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Weather

Gusty wind, rain likely

Many parts of the country experienced rain yesterday after a prolonged hot spell across the country, reports UNB. According to Met Office, Madaripur experienced the highest 48mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6:00 pm yesterday. Feni had 35mm, Bhola 30, Patuakhali 28, Comilla 19, Rangamati 17, Sylhet 11, Barisal 5 and Chittagong 2mm shower.

Met Office forecast for the next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today predicted rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and the regions of Khulna, Pabna and Bogra.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Country's highest temperature 39.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 21.0 degrees at Sylhet. The sun sets today at 6:29 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	27.6	78	69
Chittagong	34.0	27.2	69	97
Rajshahi	39.2	27.5	64	34
Khulna	37.6	27.9	78	68
Barisal	35.8	27.3	81	85
Sylhet	28.0	21.0	95	73
Cox's Bazar	34.6	25.6	68	85

Eid Attraction

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