

Dhaka Day by Day

L'homme est ne libre!

by Samia Islam

A man is a motor bike saw the light turn red at a busy cross road in the city but possessed by some ridiculous notion about his invincibility he plunged head first into the mayhem that most cross roads at Dhaka face when the light on some side turns green. In all the commotion, risking his own life for which he might not have much respect and that of others for which he should be put away somewhere to rot he continued to maneuver his way at considerable speed when the traffic policeman motioned him to stop. Needless to say that a man of his credibility would never dream of doing a thing like obeying an order from any mortal, he went past the traffic attendant. When a second officer positioned somewhere

As if he were imposed to restrict freedom? What would happen if these people were given a fortnight of anarchy to live through when all these potential human bombs would explode in each other's faces? It's a pity that something like this cannot be arranged to teach the delinquents a lesson.

We take our garbage to the garbage bin and invariably throw it just outside its perimeters. We cross roads but never along a zebra crossing or an over bridge. There are people in the elite intelligentsia who seriously enjoy haggling with a shopkeeper or the baby-taxi driver or a rickshaw walla over prices and fares. They write stories about how they missed all the fun while spending time in the land of opportunity, how it takes the colour off life!



IT WORKS! YOU PUT A DECOY CAN IN THE MIDDLE AND TWO AT BOTH SIDES... & PEOPLE DUMP PROPERLY!

along the route ran after his vehicle and got hold of his shirt sleeve in a Herculean effort. However, with the advantage of being on a mechanized vehicle, the menace-to-society accelerated and wheezed past his adversary. The citizens on the road applauded at his accomplishment as this man turned around to throw one last look of contempt at the police officers who had dared impede the path of royalty.

To many readers this might not seem to be an incident of any significance since this is happening every minute, every day, at every road but it does because we are not talking about an illiterate rickshawpuller here, we are talking about an educated, responsible citizen of this country who is going to determine the fate of his nation in the years to come. He is the symbol of the people of this country whose approach towards life has degenerated beyond cognizance. What is more painful is the carelessness of the people who remained uninvolved where justice was concerned and instead sided with the criminal by cheering. What a peculiar fascination with lawbreaking!

We hate standing in line. Allowing someone to go first is a blow to our egos. These complexes would vex any psycho-analyst. Our universities are full of police vans. The Bangla new year is heralded in festivity but of course under the watchful presence of thousands of vigilantes so that we don't go overboard like we do on the 31st of December. All this gives you a feeling of a city under siege but it's by all means better than a city without policeman at every corner as we are afraid of our fellow compatriots and what we might do to each other without supervision.

The way we are constantly fighting against some shadow foretells a grim future ahead for all of us. Complete lack of trust in people coupled with death of belief in a better tomorrow could sound the death knell for any nation. Problem with us is that most of us think that being born in this place was a curse to begin with and this disrespect for one's own fate expresses itself through the reflexes of the mind in interacting with others.



A delegation of the Comilla Press Club called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Baingobhakan in the city yesterday. — PID photo

6 get Zainul Abedin gold medals

The Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Smiti Parishad has announced the names of the recipients of the Smiti Parishad Gold Medal '95 yesterday at a discussion marking the 19th death anniversary of Zainul Abedin, reports BSS.

The recipients are: M Kibria and Quyum Chowdhury (paintings), Hasnat Abdul Hye (literature), Dr A T M Shamsul Huda (banking), Yusuf Haroon (herbal medicine) and Altob Hossain Bhuyan (industrial development).

The gold medals will be formally handed over on December 29 at a function on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Zainul Abedin. Speaking on the occasion, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday said Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin had portrayed the socio-economic, political and cultural scenario of this part of the world through his art works in the 1940s.

Advertisement for 'পরিষ্কার ও উন্নয়ন একাডেমী' (Cleaning and Development Academy) with contact information and details about their services.



Death anniversary

The 24th death anniversary of Shahid Kafil Uddin Talukdar will be observed today, says a press release. Dr Kafil Uddin Talukdar, a renowned physician and politician was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces on May 29, 1971 for organising a free medical aid centre for the freedom fighters. He was picked up and shot dead at Majhira near Bogra town.



Mostofa Nurul Islam speaking at a discussion organised by the Shilpakala Academy to mark the 19th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin at its auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Tk 49cr okayed for agri development in CHT

A massive agricultural development programme for the three districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts named 'Integrated Agricultural Development Programme for Hilly Districts' has been approved for implementation at a cost of Taka 49 crore, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the 27th standing committee meeting on Ministry of Agriculture held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M Majid-ul Haq in the chair.

The programme will be included in the next Annual Development Programme (ADP) which has already been decided in principle. The main objective of the programme is to enhance agricultural production in the hilly districts by supplying HYV seeds and seedlings, Fertiliser and agricultural inputs and providing irrigation facilities.

CSE team's visit to 3 countries

By Staff Correspondent A high powered team of the newly-formed Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) left Dhaka yesterday for a week-long visit to Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

During the visit, they will observe the operating systems of different stock exchanges and share views with the top share market executives of those countries, it is learnt. Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the second capital market in the country is expected to start operation from next month.

Ethiopian team meets KCC Mayor

KHULNA, May 28: The visiting six-member health and family planning team of Ethiopia headed by Dr Thomas Golber, project director of the Futures Group International, Ethiopia, today called on Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation at his residence here, reports BSS.

They discussed various aspects of family planning, polio eradication and EPI programmes in Khulna area. The participants were from the Swedish Free Mission, DUS, Prodiplan, SARPV, Save the Children (UK), GK, Nigera Kori, ADAB, Japanese Red Cross, BPHC, Oxfam, Sha-gorika, Action-Aid, CARE, PACT-PRIP, IFRC, UNICEF, UNDP, IVS, World Vision, EDM, RIC and VERC.

UNICEF to help NGOs fight diarrhoea

The UNICEF has agreed in principle to help NGOs gear up the water and sanitation intervention in the country's tidal surge-affected areas where diarrhoea has broken out, reports UNB.

Another UN body, UNDP, offered to hold a meeting among relevant government agencies and NGOs to facilitate cooperation and coordination in tackling the situation.

This was decided at the second emergency meeting of Disaster Forum held in the city yesterday, which reviewed the field reports on the situation prevailing in the country's coastline, affected by the recent tidal surge.

The meeting, chaired by G Nayeem Wahara, was attended by representatives from various national and international NGOs and donor agencies, meeting sources said.

WASA to sink nine tubewells in city

Work on sinking nine deep tubewells at different places of Tejgaon and Ramna police stations have been taken up by the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) to remove the acute water problem in the areas, reports BSS.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan formally inaugurated the sinking work of a deep tubewell at Manipuri Para at Tejgaon in the second phase of the tubewell installation.

With the sinking of this deep tubewell at a cost of Taka 45 lakh, acute water shortage problem faced by about 30,000 residents of Manipuri Para Farm Gate, Indira Road and Raja Bazar area will be removed to a great extent, an official handout said.

The state minister directed the WASA authorities to complete the sinking work within the time schedule to alleviate the sufferings of the city dwellers. He also urged the local people to extend their cooperation to the WASA authorities in this regard.

Weather Rain with gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur over the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet during the 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office said the weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Day temperatures are likely to remain nearly unchanged.

In its outlook for today and tomorrow, the weathermen predicted rainfall. The country's highest temperature yesterday was 43.3 degrees Celsius recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest was 25.2 degrees at Comilla.

The sun sets today at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in degrees Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Mymensingh.

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