

Dhaka Day by Day

Absent in the Spring

by Samia Islam

It must have been at least four years ago that I last saw a flock of birds flying to their nests at dusk. The ethereal time of the day that was greeted with such gusto by the avian that one had to stop and take in the beauty of the fading day. However, for the last couple of years it is just me or has it really changed for the worse? I mean what is dusk if there is no twittering of birds in the air or the wild rushing to the nest for the night as if life depended on it. Even the daily office commuters were often compared to these wonders of nature in their flight homeward. Now with the advent of new technologies, skyscrapers, the modern way of living etc. this city with a population of 86.99 lakhs can hardly harbour themselves let alone make space for symbiotic relationship with other animals. Imagine the situation from the victim's point of view. Say, you are a bird flying home to a tree somewhere in town to tuck in for the night. You reach home and lo and behold, it is not there. Some wise nut has felled your humble abode to make room for a multi-storied apartment complex — the way to quick money in the 90s. How do you feel, where do you go from there? Only one option remains for you. You try to fly as far away from the likes of these inhumans as you can because you sense with your animal instinct that the end of their illustrious days is nigh.

The recent release of the batman movie got me thinking about bats as well. It is amazing that these exotic creatures still find the space to co-exist with the animal called man in this city of hustle and bustle. Once in a blue moon you see one flying across the night actually like a bat out of hell. The children of past knew these mammals and about them but all that the children of tomorrow will know about bats perhaps is that they wear mask and a peculiar mauve costume.

For all that matters Robin will cease to be anything but a sidekick to a wall-climbing, batmobile driving bat. In my alley there are almost twelve multistoried apartments and possibly just as many trees. Never fear

though. At the rate the rest of the inhabitants are demolishing their family houses to construct more such sky-is-the-limit wonders of science, soon the number of trees will reach zero the amount that apparently yields optimal utility for this unscrupulous live-for-the-present generation. This is no place for birds, this country. When other nations are hurrying to build bird sanctuaries for their preservation, we go on mock shikars in the Chandrima Uddyan in the centre of the city and take potshots at these innocent creatures to show off our prowess with an airgun. The reader might wonder what brought on these sudden musings about our fine feathered friends and their winged kin. Well, have you noticed the recent invasion of the insects that we have encountered? They are everywhere. They make appearances as if on que in front of your guests causing ineffable embarrassment. Now pause to reflect for a moment. The increase in their population is due to the decrease in the number of their predators. That in turn is associated with the apathetic felling of trees where these predators once lived. This is causing the depletion of the ozone layer and as a consequence — global warming. Remember the story that goes for the want of a nail?

It's a chain reaction like the ecological chain that once disturbed will bring about irreversible detriment to the world. But who cares, right?

Yes, there are some who care despite all odds. Like the owner of a sweetmeat shop in town who instead of throwing away the left over sweets from the previous day, feeds hundreds of birds every morning. It's a sight — the man throwing the sweets on the road and all sorts of birds, mostly the notorious crow, vying for the morsels. Regardless of the motive it's the gesture that counts — of doing something for the world in which we live; to preserve the lives of others in the eco-chain, lest they be absent from our lives changing the world as we know it forever.



A sight becoming rarer in Dhaka. — Courtesy: Bangladesh



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a high-level meeting held at her office yesterday to review the flood situation in the country and rescue and relief operation in the affected areas. — PID photo

Serious food crisis in 10-15 yrs predicted

By Staff Correspondent

The head of the Social Science Division of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Dr Mahub Hossain has viewed that unless there are further technological breakthroughs, Bangladesh will face serious food crisis within the next 10 to 15 years.

"Bangladesh is one of those countries in Asia that is likely to face serious challenge in achieving and sustaining food security," he said, speaking at a seminar yesterday at the DUTSC.

Organised by the Economics Department of Dhaka University, the seminar on "Rice Production and Food Security in Asia: Lessons for Asia," was presided over by the chairman of the department Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud.

Dr Mahub said that although food production in most of the Asian countries has been doubled over the past 30 years, the crisis for food cannot be overlooked as populations grew at the same rate.

He said, as the demand for food continued to grow with the increase in population and economic prosperity, many small Asian countries would find it difficult to sustain the gains they have made in achieving food security.

He noted that in the next 30 years, the population was expected to grow by 53 per cent in Asia, so the demand for rice may increase by 69 per cent by the year 2025.

"Without a continuing growth in rice yield, it will be difficult to ensure the growth in rice supplies of this magnitude," he adds.

Describing the rice as a political commodity, Dr Hasten, who was the director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said maintaining self-sufficiency in rice production and stability in prices have become important political objectives in South and South East Asia.

He forecast that even if Bangladesh succeeds in reducing its population growth rate to 0.5 per cent per year by the year 2000, which is highly optimistic supposition, the population will increase to about 165 million.

To meet their demands, Bangladesh will have to increase food production by about 70 per cent.

In his presidential speech Dr Mahmud said, Bangladesh can tide over the future food shortages if the government takes the right kind of policies in supporting the cereal sector.

Mannan visits ailing secy

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan visited the ailing Secretary of his ministry, Nooruddin Al-Masood, who is undergoing treatment at Suhrawardy Hospital, reports UNB.

During the visit on Sunday, Mannan stayed beside the secretary for sometime and inquired about his condition. He advised the concerned doctors to take care of his health.

SEARCC software competition

The SEARCC International Software Competition '95 will be held in Colombo from September 5 to 10, says a press release.

The South East Asian Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) will host the competition. The Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) will select and send two 3-member delegation to participate in the competition.

Each team will include students under 17.

Students, having proficiency in Programming Language UBASIC, have been requested to contact the society's office at House 31/A, Road 6, Dhanmondi by July 15 for details.

BRCS to rush relief

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, in view of the worsening flood situation of the country, has decided to undertake relief operation in the affected districts, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, at the directives of BDRCS Chairman Shahidul Haq Jamal, MP, the Society has dispatched emergency relief supplies to six worst-hit districts, said an official announcement yesterday.

The relief materials were sent to Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Jamalpur and Sherpur districts.

The supplies include rice 6 metric tons, pulses 1 MT, 3625 packets of readymade foods, 9000 pieces of soap, 1912 pieces of saree and lungi, and 2500 pieces of old clothes.

SPGRC stages hunger-strike

Stranded Pakistanis yesterday staged an eight-hour hunger-strike in front of the National Press Club to protest the terrorism raging in Pakistan, reports UNB.

The Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC), led by M Nasim Khan, organised the token fasting from 6 am to 2 pm also to oppose the political philosophy of Mohajir Nationalism and press for their early repatriation to Pakistan.

"We will resist any move to divide Sindh which will hasten the disintegration of Pakistan," SPGRC leader Nasim Khan said. "We hold MQM fully responsible for the delay of our repatriation," he added.

Khan urged the government of Bangladesh to protect the stranded Pakistanis from the hands of social parasites and make the arrangement for their repatriation to Pakistan, said a press release.

Happy Birthday to FAHIM



Anis-Ferdousi (Baba)-(Maa)

UNB joins AsiaNet

United News of Bangladesh (UNB) has become a member of AsiaNet, a wireservice network to disseminate corporate and government news and press release around the world, reports UNB.

AsiaNet, which was formally launched yesterday, is a co-operative of Asian and Pacific news agencies headed by Australia's AAP Information Services and the Japanese news agency, Kyodo.

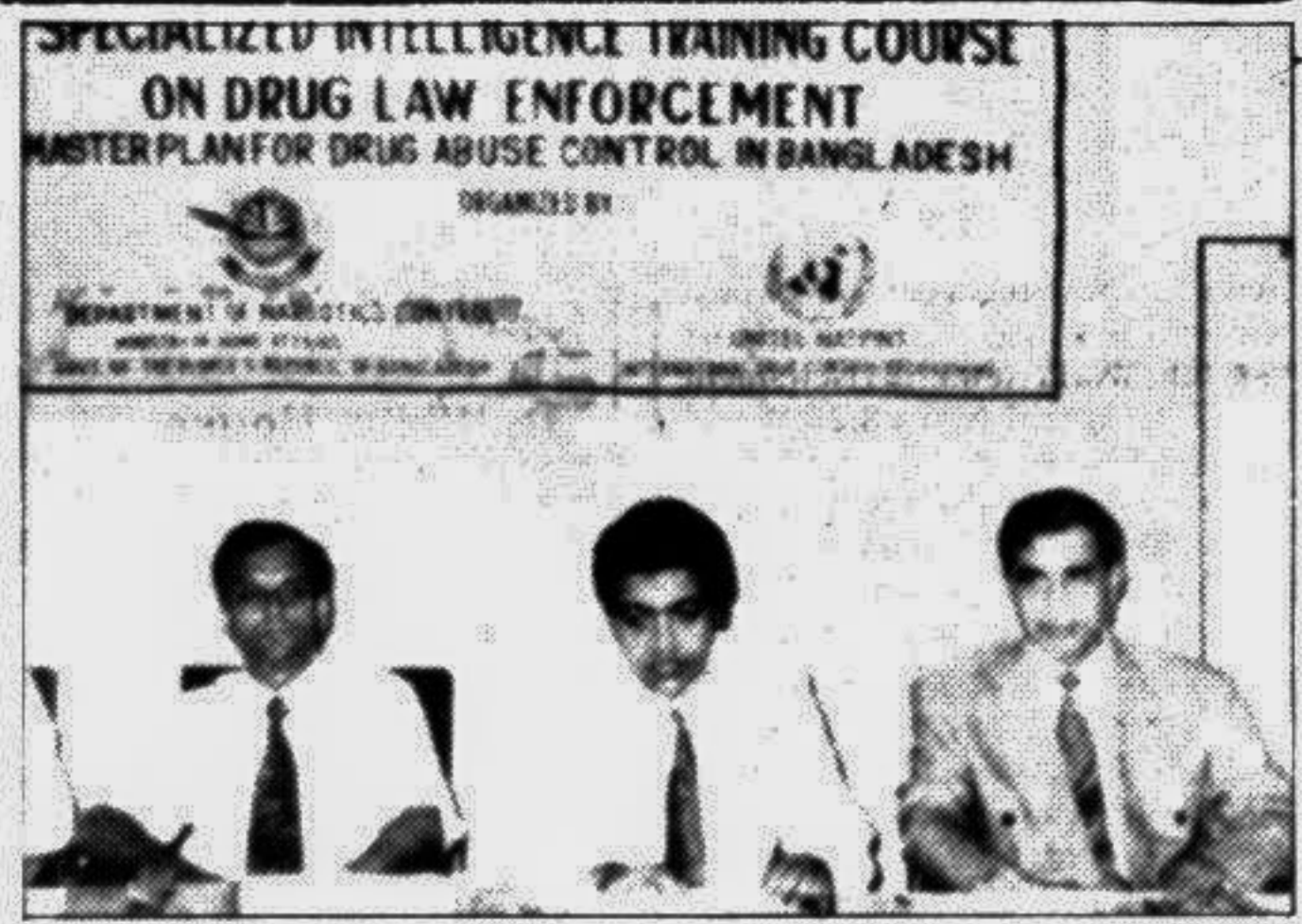
Other members of the network are: Antara of Indonesia, Bernama of Malaysia, Bisnews of Thailand, Pakistan Press International, Philippines News of Agency, Vietnam News Agency, Xinhua of China, Yonhap of South Korea and the Press Trust of India.

With headquarters in Sydney, AsiaNet has developed a communications network designed to handle all press releases directed to the media, including the electronic media, in the Asia and Pacific region.

Besides, the network has exclusive agreements with two of the world's largest news release organisations — the New York-based PR Newswire (PRN) and Two-Ten Communications Ltd (TTC) of London — to handle all their traffic into the region and deliver releases to all media in North and South America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Under the arrangements, a release delivered to AsiaNet's operation centre in Sydney will be transmitted to news agencies throughout Asia and Pacific within minutes for translation into the language of the recipient country before delivery to the media.

"AsiaNet is an important strategic development for all companies in the Asia-Pacific region and any organisation in the region wanting to deliver news releases to the media, said Joint Chairman of AsiaNet, David Jensen.



Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan (extreme right) addressing as chief guest the inaugural ceremony of a training programme on Specialised Intelligence Training Course on Drug Law Enforcement in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Natyashikkhangan convocation tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The first convocation of the students of a certificate course conducted by the Natyashikkhangan, a drama school, will be held at the Mahila Samity auditorium at 5 pm tomorrow.

The last production of the ninth batch of Natyashikkhangan, 'Media', a Greek drama, will also be staged at the function, says a press release.

The Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif will attend the convocation as chief guest and give certificates to the successful students.

The successful students have been requested to contact Natyashikkhangan office at 70, Siddeshwari Circular Road, Malibagh today for registering their names.

Cultural body's convention in city July 14

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, a joint body of cultural organisations, will hold a day-long "anti-communalism and anti-fundamentalism national convention" in the city on July 14, reports UNB.

A series of programmes will be taken at the convention to create a mass movement against the anti-liberation forces," said the Jote president Fayed Ahmed.

Jote general secretary Golam Quddus informed about 1,000 representatives from all over the country are expected to attend the convention to be held at Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

As part of the convention Sangskritik Jote will hold a views exchanging meeting at TSC Seminar Room on Wednesday at 5 pm.

PM hailed

M Anwaruzaman, president, Zia Academy, yesterday hailed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's assertion not to renew the 25-year treaty between India and Bangladesh, reports BBS.

In a statement, he termed the declaration as a bold step in the context of world politics.

Photo show

A fortnight photography exhibition by Anwar Hossain will begin at the Alliance Francaise at Dhanmondi on July 14, reports UNB.

French Ambassador in Dhaka Jean-Michel Lacombe will inaugurate the exhibition at 4 pm.

It will remain open from 5 pm to 8 pm everyday, excepting Saturdays.

Weather

Heavy rainfall likely

Heavy rainfall is likely at a number of places over Rajshahi division during the 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office said moderate to moderately heavy rain or thunder-shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and moderate rain or thunder-shower may occur at a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions during the period.

The weathermen said no appreciable change in day temperatures is expected over the country.

Rainfall may continue in the next two days. In its outlook for the subsequent five days, they predicted a little change.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was 33.8 degrees Celsius recorded at Jessore and the lowest was 24.2 degrees at Rangamati and Rajshahi.

The sun sets today at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max.	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	25.8	93	73
Chittagong	33.0	26.4	82	85
Rajshahi	30.8	24.2	82	89
Khulna	33.4	26.5	82	85
Barisal	31.5	25.3	82	77
Mymensingh	29.8	-	78	89
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.8	78	93

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons, regarding the house property described in the schedule below the original owner of the house Mrs. Masuda Rahman Chowdhury, W/O. Mr. Wasiur Rahman Chowdhury make an irrevocable power of attorney in favour of my client Mr. A. S. M. Ali Khair, S/O. Mr. Abdul Wadud Semeabat 146/3, Green Road, Dhaka, vide irrevocable power of Attorney being registration No. 6590, under receipt No 6654 dated 09/05/1995 at Gulshan Sub-Registrar Office, Gulshan, Dhaka, which is mortgaged in a scheduled Bank.

In this regard Mr. A. S. M. Ali Khair is only the legal person who can sell, hire or transfer the schedule property.

So any person transacting any business with anybody except Mr. A.S. M. Ali Khair will do at his own risk as to consequences.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY:

District Dhaka under P.S. and Sub-Registry office, Gulshan being the House No.-13, Road No- 87, Gulshan, Dhaka.

A.K. M. Mohiuddin,
Advocate Supreme Court
(High Court Division)
Sharif Mension Ground floor,
56/57, Motijheel C/A. Dhaka.
phone: 868091, 231774.

Tender Memorandum No. 2/CCF/EQ/(FRMP)/1995-96 Date: 4.7.95

Tender Notice

Tenders are hereby invited from authorised/distributors/dealers/in sealed envelope for purchasing and installing the goods mentioned in the schedule below:

Short Schedule

Sl.No.	Name of Goods	Short Description	Quantity	Amount Earnest Money	Place of Delivery and Installation	Delivery Time
1	GIS software	a) PC-Arc/Info for windows with manuals	2	2% of the quoted money	Ban Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka	15 days from the date of work order
		b) Arcview manuals	2			
		c) Mapinfo manuals	1			
2.	Image Analysis Software	ERDAS Imagine for windows NT with manuals	1			

Under Forest Resources Management Project (Resources Information Management System Component) as per detail schedule of requirement and specifications embodied in the relevant tender document.

Tenders will be received in the name of undersigned on 20.7.95 till 12-00 noon at the office of the Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (General) and on the same day the tenders will be opened in the presence of tenderers (if anyone remains present) at 12-30.

Name of work, tender memorandum number and date have to be mentioned on the envelope while submitting the tender.

Details about the tender i.e. the Tender Document with schedule of requirement specification, instructions, general conditions etc. can be collected on payment of a non-refundable price of Taka 400/- only from the office of the undersigned up to 19-7-95 during office hours except Fridays and other Government Holidays.

M Anwarul Islam
Asstt. Chief Conservator of Forests,
for Chief Conservator of Forests,
Bangladesh.

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টেলেক্সঃ ৬৩২১৩৩ INTMT B.J, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৬৩৪৮০

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