

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Encounters with the 'Mad' Kind

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

There are few things the blaze Dhakaite is afraid of. Killer trucks, the price of essentials, tax penalties and phoney telephone bills are some of the things that may play see-saw with the Dhakaite's blood pressure. But nothing like the pathological fear towards those of our fellow citizens who have for want of a better phrase, lost it in less polite terms they may be referred to as roaming mad men or mad women since quite a few of them are female. They can be seen every now and then, walking along the streets shaking their dead looks, muttering inaudible curses before suddenly accosting a hapless passer-by who may experience a cardiac arrest at such an encounter.

Here one is forced to digress a little to mention that specifically it is those mad persons who have a fondness for roaming around in their birthday suits, that at evoke the most terror, among their clothed fellow citizens. One may argue here that being naked does not necessarily indicate one has lost one's marbles. This may be true of say, Berkeley, California where nudists — both the sane and insane variety — can be met at every corner but in prudish Dhaka, generally speaking, a man or woman wearing nothing but their skin, can be categorized as being a bit lunny.

This strange but lasting fear of mad people begins at a very early age when grown ups threaten their toddlers that the 'pagla' (madman) will come and take them to mad land (as if they weren't already there) if they didn't finish their porridge. With a kid's imagination such threats would conjure the most horrific of images — of contorted faces with big yellow teeth and sharp nails, snarling and clawing at the child, ready to devour him or her like some kind of crazed Godzilla. Funny enough, even after such a child has grown up and realized that the 'monsters' so vividly imagined are actually just unfortunate people who just couldn't bear some painful shock and so lost their sanity, the fear is just as strong. Take for example, the young business executive, a victim of such blood curdling madman stories. Even in her late twenties, this other

wise very confident and pragmatic young lady recoils and screeches with sheer terror when she spots anyone who even remotely resembles a mad person.

But even the most reasonable Dhakaite is wary of the roaming mad person. After all, who can be calm when you are alone in a car (stupidly with the window down) when a naked Bob Marley look-alike starts rapping at the windows demanding money while grimacing menacingly? The first reaction is to grow completely numb with apprehension of what this unpredictable person might do. The second is to mumble as many prayers as one can remember in such a state of agitation while helplessly rummaging through one's bag for some money to hand over and make the travelling 'mad hatter' go away.

In most cases they do go away — if you've given the right amount; otherwise you may be subjected to some very loud and not very flattering verbal abuse. There are of course the absolutely harmless ones who just look at you vacantly and move away if you say you don't have any money.

The number of these mentally disturbed people on the streets makes one wonder why it is on the increase. There is a strong rumour that this is because the mental asylums not being able to cope with so many patients are releasing them before they have completed their treatment. This no doubt, would be a dangerous move since mentally disturbed people do not have the sense of right or wrong and could easily cause physical harm to other people as well as to themselves. But then again there is the possibility that they are worse off in the asylum where they may be treated with neglect or even cruelty. The streets, therefore, may be a better refuge.

For those of us who would like to believe that the screws on our heads are tight perhaps we should tone down our paranoia of 'mad people' on the street and treat them as persons who need extra sensitivity and understanding. After all in the final analysis who knows what is sane and what is not.



Does he look like a madman? — Star photo



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a party rally at the Panthapath in the city yesterday before starting its procession towards the Election Commission office. — Star photo

### Grameen reception for Konare

Aparna was extremely delighted to receive President Konare of Mali and his wife in her corrugated tin house at Burchang, Comilla yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The middle-aged woman constructed the house with a loan from the Grameen Bank, a specialised financial institution, set up for helping women in rural Bangladesh change their lot.

On way to Mainamati and BARD, President Alpha Oumar Konare, and Madame Konare visited 'Mokam Burchang Grameen Bank Centre,' close to the house of Aparna.

The bank's Deputy Managing Director, Khaled Shams, and Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Shaiful Islam received the Malian President and the members of his entourage.

A group of children, sons and daughters of women who get loan from the bank, staged physical display in honour of the distinguished guests.

President Konare and Madame Konare were taken to a tiny straw hut where they were greeted by Delwara Begum, in charge of the centre, and her 34 colleagues. "Unity, Work, Discipline," "Mother With Two Children" and "No Dowry," they slanted.

Then Khaled Shams briefed the Malian President and his companions on the objectives and functions of the bank.

He informed the President that the bank had already reached 45,000 villages out of the total 68,000 in the country.

President Konare with a rapt interest enquired about all aspects of the alternative rural banking institution, particularly the systems of lending for pisciculture, poultry, cottage industries, farming, housing and projects for family planning and non-formal education.

He also saw some products of cottage industries, being run with the credit of the bank, put on display there.

### Highest Malian accolade for late Quayum

Late ambassador Abdul Quayum was decorated with the highest gallantry award of the Republic of Mali by visiting Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare in the city on Saturday, reports BSS.

Konare handed over the award to Suraiya Quayum, widow of the ambassador, when she along with her children called on the Malian President at the State Guest House Karotoa.

Ambassador Quayum, who was Bangladesh envoy to Morocco, was concurrently accredited to Mali.

Malian President recalled Quayum's devoted services to promoting ties between the two countries and said, "He (Quayum) would have been very happy had he been alive to see his visit taking place so successfully."

He said the government and the people of Mali would always remember the contribution of late Quayum for further strengthening the ties between the two friendly countries.

### Outgoing Egyptian envoy calls on Biswas

Mohammed Kamal el-Gohary el-Miligy, ambassador of Egypt, made a farewell call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Talking to the outgoing ambassador President Biswas recalled his contribution to further strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.

He said the bilateral cooperation between the two countries have increased and strengthened over the years.

### What's on today . . .

**Discussion on Nazrul:** JASAS, the cultural wing of the ruling party, has organised a discussion titled 'Poet Nazrul and Dhaka University' in observance of the 19th death anniversary of the poet. Chief guest: Monsur Musa, DG, Bangla Academy. Venue: TSC seminar room. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Lecture on highway design:** Dr Henry Keral, University of Birmingham, will deliver a lecture on 'Highway Design and Maintenance Model (HDM), organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, BUET. Venue: Seminar room, Civil building, BUET. Time: 10:30 am.

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** The society has organised the four-day Indian film sessions. Today's Film: Khandahar (The Rains). Film-Maker: Mrinal Sen. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

**Publication Ceremony:** The publication ceremony of a bilingual book of poems by late Sumon Momen will be held. Rokonzaman Khan (Dada Bhai) will preside. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 5:30 pm.

### Weather

#### More rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary seasonal gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Sylhet divisions, at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Barisal and Khulna divisions in the 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Chittagong, Sylhet divisions and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days Met Office predicted no appreciable change. Giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen forecast increase in rainfall activities.

Meantime, Dinajpur experienced the highest 27mm rain yesterday. Rangpur had 26 mm and Dhaka 10 mm shower.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Bhola and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Rangpur.

Sun sets today at 6:21 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39 am.

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	34.0	26.9	86	74
Chittagong	34.3	27.0	78	87
Rajshahi	34.8	27.0	87	82
Khulna	34.2	26.5	87	—
Barisal	33.8	26.4	85	79
Sylhet	33.6	26.0	79	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	82	82

### Call for holding all deptt DU convocation

Speakers at a mini convocation organised by the English Department of Dhaka University emphasised holding a fulfilled convocation for all graduates of the university, reports UNB.

"This is the right time to look forward to holding a fulfilled convocation as the university is now running well," observed Dr Fakrul Alam, chairman of the department at the convocation arranged for the English graduates of 1991 and 1992.

Some 80 graduates of the

### Blind, orphans fare well in SSC exams

A total of 63 blind and orphan students got first and second division in Secondary School Certificate SSC examination held in '95 out of 87 students who appeared in the SSC examination from government Shishu Sadans, Shishu Paribars and Integrated Blind Education Project, reports BSS.

Of the successful eight blind students seven got first division with letters and one got second division.

Out of the total orphan students 31 secured first division and 24 got second division.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়**  
 নারায়ণপল্লী গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, নারায়ণপল্লী

**সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র অফিস স্বাক্ষর নং-১০৪০ তাঃ-১২-৮-৯৫ ইং মোতাবেক জারীকৃত দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নে উল্লিখিত সংশোধনমূলে সংশোধন করা হইলঃ ইহা ছাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে। ইহা দরপত্রের অংশ বলিয়া অধ্যয়নই বিবেচিত হইবে।

ক্রমিক নং	কার্যের নাম	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধিত তারিখ	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সংশোধিত তারিখ	দাঁড়ির সংশোধিত তারিখ
১।	নারায়ণপল্লী বি, আই, এম, টিতে প্রাসঙ্গিক ভবনের ওর ভলার উপর নব-নির্মিত ৪র্থ ভলার হাউসে কন্সট্রাকশন কাজ। নারায়ণপল্লী গণপূর্ত বিভাগ, নারায়ণপল্লী এর দরপত্র নং-৩/১৯৯৫-৯৬ ইং।	১০-৯-৯৫ ইং	১১-৯-৯৫ ইং	১৮-৯-৯৫ ইং

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী  
 নারায়ণপল্লী গণপূর্ত বিভাগ  
 নারায়ণপল্লী

DFP-21645-24/8  
 C:12/5

### Artist honoured

Bangladeshi painter Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed has been awarded an honourable mention at the 10th Annual Georgia Miniature Art Society's international exhibition held recently in Marietta, Georgia, says a press release.



**Mr Latifur Rahman**  
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The Containerised cargo ex. M.V. XETHA BHUM V-111 from Bangkok, ex. M.V. BUNGA DELIMA V-0226N from Sydney, ex. M.V. SUCCESS HOPE V-62003 from Kobe, Nagoya & Yokohama, ex. M.V. NEDULLOY OCEANIA V-3325 from Kaohsiung have been delayed to M.V. MENG YANG V-9515 Import Rotation No. 775/95 Which is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 29-8-1995 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing. If the cargo is not cleared within 45 days from landing then the disposal of the cargo will be governed by the relevant Customs Act.

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 ৮৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা

**বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

গনচীন থেকে আমদানীকৃত ৫৬ "ওয়ান" সিলিং ফ্যান বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১০/০৯/৯৫ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১টা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। প্রতিদিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সকাল ৮টা থেকে বেলা ১টা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% অত্র ব্যাংকের অনুকূলে ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাকট (ফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। ১০/০৯/৯৫ ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩-৩০ মিঃ (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। বিক্রয় সামগ্রীর পূর্নবিবরণ ও পরিদর্শনের জন্য নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার অনুরোধ জানানো হইল।

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 ৮৮, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।

**দি সিটি ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**

টানবাজার শাখা,  
 ৫২ এস, এম, মালহে রোড, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।

**নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

'যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে' ভিত্তিতে ব্যাংকের অত্র শাখায় নিম্নে বর্ণিত মালমাল বিক্রয়ের জন্য আর্থী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। মালমাল পরিদর্শন ও বিক্রয়িত বিবরণের জন্য নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বা শাখার স্টেট বিক্রয়গে সাথে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। দি সিটি ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর অনুকূলে দরপত্র উন্মোচিত মূল্যের ৫% আনুমানিক সহ (অনুগ্রহ করে ফেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন তফসীলী ব্যাংকের ডিডি/পিও এর মাধ্যমে ৬-৯-৯৫ তারিখে ১২-০০ ঘটিকার ভিতর দরপত্র শাখায় পৌছাতে হবে। ঐ দিনই বেলা ৩-০০ টার সময় দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ থাকে) খোলা হবে। যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কোন কারণ দর্শন ব্যতিরেকেই ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে। দরপত্র অনুমোদনের তারিখ থেকে ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে কৃতকার্য দরপত্রদাতাকে অবশ্যই ৯৫% টাকা জমা করে মালমাল ডেলিভারী নিতে হবে অন্যথায় জামানতের টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত হয়ে যাবে।

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