

Dhaka Day by Day

Season of Ripeness

by Tulip Chowdhuri

These days the early mornings hold a delicate touch of coolness. It reminds one of the advent of the hemanta or the late autumn days. Gone are the heavy down-pour of the rainy days. The sparkling sun and the blue sky with white clouds stir the chain of thoughts momentarily.

The early mornings seem to herald the coming winter. The far away sky looks hazy with a thin blanket of fog. The grass blades remain wet from the night's dew. One of the favourite flowers of the sharat and hemanta seasons, shefalli can be found lying in carpets of white under the trees. A most favourite flower with many, shefalli has a soothing scent. But for the floating children who sell flowers and garlands, shefalli is an addition to their array of wares. The tube of this flower is of bright orange colour. This orange portion was dried and used for colouring food by people in the past.

Fashion conscious ladies start adding to the latest fashion of their collection of warm clothes. It is also time to check with the children's winter wardrobes. Growing children always find the clothes sizes too small for them with the passing of the years.

Some of the city shops have already started displaying their winter apparels.

The changing season is not without some banes for people such as coughs, colds and running noses.

Small school children are specially susceptible to these effects of the changing weather, and are forced to remain out of school from time to time. And at home, people sharing the same room enter into arguments over how cool they want their rooms. These days are rather warm but the nights are relatively cooler. So the differences begin when one wants the air cooler or the fan low and the other wants it high.

Garden lovers are already busy acquiring new plants. Around the city the schools are preparing themselves for coming final exams. And of course, it is also almost time to start planning this winter's vacation and sight seeing within or out of the country.

Autumn, according to John Keats, is the seasons of ripeness. In this land too the sheafs of paddy turn golden in colour and the farmers ready themselves for the harvest of their main crop. But the Dhakaites are deprived of such a big seasonal event.



YEAH YEAH I KNOW THE AUTUMN IS HERE... THE LEAVES FALL, SO DOES MY HAIR!

African nations replicating BRAC pry education model

The non-formal primary education model innovated by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) is now being replicated by many African nations.

A BRAC official, after attending the three-day West African Education Conference in Dakar, Senegal told UNB that the spotlight at the meet was on the BRAC model. "More and more countries now want to replicate the model," he said.

In Zambia, 40 free primary schools based on BRAC model have already been set up under Zambian Open Community (ZOC) school programme. Another 50 schools will be opened in January next year.

Uganda and some other neighbouring countries in the region, are also likely to replicate the BRAC model.

Such widespread interest was generated after a number of delegations from the continent visited Bangladesh last year to see the BRAC model schools.

Later, at the request of the Eastern and Southern African countries and with the assistance of UNICEF, a BRAC Education Cell was set

up in Nairobi, Kenya, for one year.

With the help of two education specialists from BRAC, the Cell prepared the curriculum for the BRAC model schools in Zambia, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi, Botswana and Lesotho.

Udichi's quiz contest on '71

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshti, a cultural organisation, will hold a country-wide quiz competition for school children on the history of the Liberation War.

At a press conference in the city yesterday, members of the organisation said that the competition would be open to students of Class Eight to Class Ten in 450 thanas of the country to create awareness about the history of the Liberation War among the younger generation.

The Goshti has formed a 103-member national committee in this connection. Entry for the competition begins from November.

What's on today....

Maxim Gorky Drama Society: The society will hold a memorial lecture on 'Gerasim Lebedev and Bengali Theatre'. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre.

Japanese art exhibition: The solo print exhibition of Japanese artist Eriko Uchiyama will begin. Venue: La Galerie, Banani. Time: 5 pm. Shuhei Takahashi, Minister, Embassy of Japan will inaugurate.

French film show: The film 'Nul N'est Parfait' will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 8:30 pm.

BIDS seminar: A seminar on 'Nutritional Status in Rural Bangladesh: What do We Know About Variation by Region and Time?' will be held. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 11 am. Speaker: Dr Gillian Hall, Australian National University.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Photo exhibition: The Konica-BPS Colour Photo Exhibition '95 will begin. Venue: Indian High Commission Art Gallery. Time: 5pm. Chief guest: Artist Mustafa Manwar.

Workshop on Int'l Refugee Law: The three-day workshop jointly organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit and UNHCR will begin. Venue: Planning and Development Academy, Nilkhet.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

British Council: A display panel exhibition and a video show on 'Working With the Women of the World' will be held. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 11 am.

3 expelled BCU names DU committee

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) has expelled three of its activists for anti-organisational activities.

The expelled members are Jayanta Kunda, Apurbo Das and Frabir Biswas. They all were members of BCU Jagannath Hall unit.

Meanwhile, the convening committee of Dhaka University unit BCU has been formed on Saturday at a workers' meeting with Sajjad Jahir Chandan, the central president in the chair, says a press release.

Nazrul Islam has been made the convenor while Abdul Hal Tutul, Keshob Chandra Shil and Sharifuzzaman Sharif have been made joint convenors.

Earlier on October 13 BCU dissolved its DU committee following a disagreement between the central committee and university committee.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and at some regions of Khulna, Barisal and Patuakhali during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly unchanged elsewhere in the country, predicted the Met Office.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

Little change is likely in the next two days. While giving an extended outlook for another five days weathermen said dry weather is likely to continue.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 33.2 degrees Celsius at Dhaka and the lowest 21.3 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5:26 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01 am.

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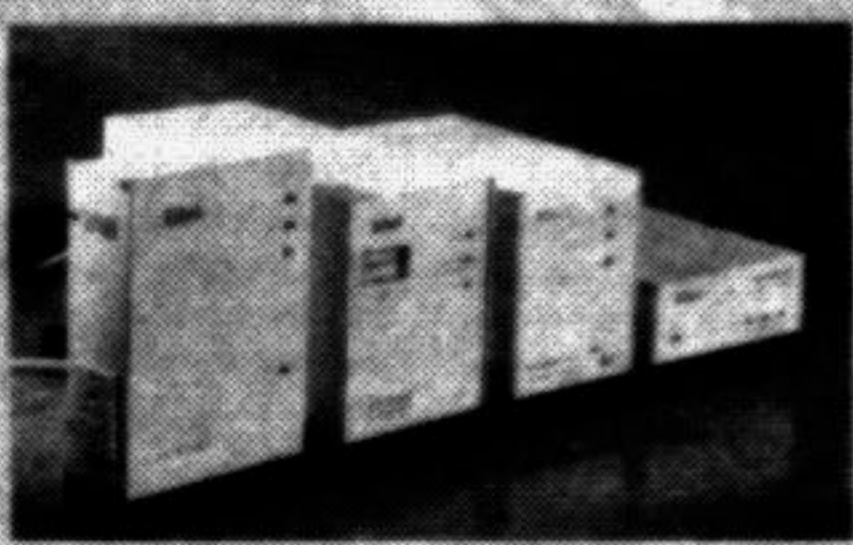
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Police urged to combat crime

By Staff Correspondent

Inspector General of Police (IGP) A S M Shahjahan yesterday directed the members of Armed Police Battalion to discharge their duties with sincerity and courage to curb crime.

He was addressing the officers and members of Armed Police Battalion at its Uttara headquarters.

Shahjahan said, stern action would be taken if any member of the law enforcing agencies break the law.



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Radio wins ABU prize

Radio Bangladesh won the 1995 Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) prize for its cultural documentary, 'Wedlock' produced by its external service, reports BSS.

The board of Jurors announced the prize at the inaugural session of the 32nd general assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union in Tehran yesterday.

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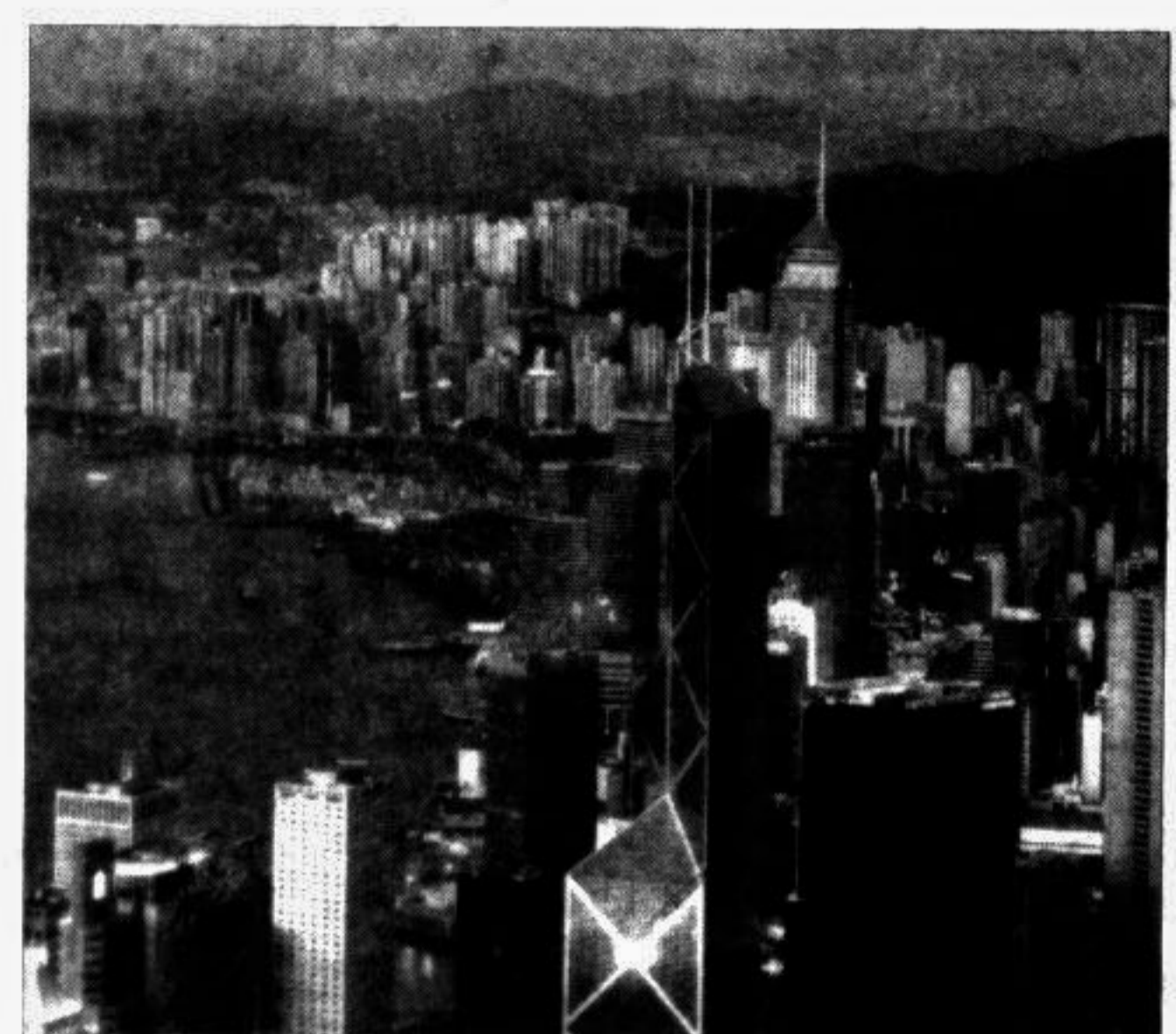
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