

Dhaka Day by Day

Help for Cross-eyes

by Tulip Chowdhuri

When five months' old Prama could not focus her both eyes correctly, her parents became very worried. According to their doctor, she had 'Strabismus', also called cross-eyes and squint. It is caused by the imbalance of the muscles of the eyes. Following the doctor's advice Prama's parents used glasses and eye-patches for her for long four years. But at the age of six Prama's left eye was crossed and she was far-sighted and had poor vision in one eye. At this stage the doctor suggested surgery for her to correct the squint.

Prama's parents finally had to take her to Rutin Eye Hospital in Bangkok. There she

was given special glasses for the improvement of her muscles of the eyes and was recommended Pleoptic exercise, an exercise for the eyes with the aid of a machine.

Unfortunately at that time there was no machine for Pleoptic exercises in Dhaka. Prama's eyes improved with regular use of the special glasses and eye patching but she still required the exercises.

Now, much to the relief of Prama and many patients of Lazy-eye

the machine for muscular stimulation is available in Dhaka. Eye specialist and surgeon Dr S M Munirul Haq, who is also a child eye-specialist, has come forward with help for the cross-eyes sufferers. He has set up an eye exercise machine at his chamber at Road No 27, Dhanmondi. With all other problems of the eyes he receives a number of children with Squint, Lazy-eyes and other child-eye problems. Besides other treatments, glasses, eye-patching and muscular stimulation exercises are recommended by him for the correction of the lazy-eye. With-



A patient receiving pleoptic exercises.

In a week of the exercises marked improvement takes place in the visual acuity of these children. The exercise machine has moving figures on various forms of light designed to help in the improvement of the neural mechanism responsible for vision. Exercises and eye-patches are the best cure for cross-eye in the early stages of a growing child. This exercise causes no harm to the eyes. It can only help the eyes to get back normal vision.

In the past many superstitious people believed that cross-eyes were signs of good-luck. They never imagined that it needed any correction at all. Even up to this day many people are ignorant of the fact that cross-eyes can be corrected. Many people in our country who have children with cross-eyes are heard to sigh and say, "There is nothing to do, Allah has sent them like that."

The arrival of the Pleoptic exercise machine is bound to change the idea. Now people have started realising that there is much that we can do to help the sufferers.

— Photo: the writer

Babies are apt to be cross-eyed, but they should begin to lose this tendency by the time they are three months' old. We should not put off consulting doctors if a child is cross-eyed. His vision may be seriously impaired unless he is given timely attention for its correction. Sometimes glasses and exercises will correct the condition but sometimes a fairly simple surgical operation is needed.

Let the children understand, "Your eyes are your world". So take good care of them.

Bandarban peace confce today

Bandarban hill-District Peace Conference begins at the district Town Hall auditorium today to bring a perpetual peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), reports UNB.

Chittagong Hill Tracts National Coordination and Peace Council (CHTNCPC), has organised the conference.

Chairman of Local Government Council Shaching Proo Jerry will attend the conference as chief guest while President of National Executive Committee of CHTNCPC Md Saiful Islam Dilder as special guest.

Aung Shru Pru Chowdhury, Mamaching Marma, Deputy Commissioner Abdul Haque, President of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission Kazi Abdur Rezzak and tribal leader Nubina Chakma will join the conference as special guests.

After the conference, a peace rally will also be brought out in the town.

Condition of DU teacher improving

By DMCH Correspondent

The condition of Dhaka University teacher Noban Ahmed who is under treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) is improving, according to the doctors.

Noban Ahmed, a lecturer of the Department of Economics, was admitted to the DMCH Sunday night with injuries in the right eye and head. Some unidentified persons had stabbed him near the south plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban.

According to doctors yesterday, Noban's condition was improving gradually but he was not out of danger as his injuries in the head was severe.

None was arrested so far in connection with the incident, said Tejgaon thana police.

Prize giving ceremony

By Staff Correspondent

The Prize distribution ceremony of children's Painting Competition organised by the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held on Friday at 10 am at the Art Institute premises.

Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will be the Chief Guest and distribute prizes.

Bangladesh book fair ends

A week-long Bangladesh book fair, sponsored by Export Promotion Bureau in co-operation with the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Calcutta, held at the Calcutta Information Centre, concluded on Monday, reports BSS.

The fair was inaugurated on December 14 by Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, government of West Bengal.

The book fair has generated a great deal of interest among Indian readers for Bangladeshi books.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman visited the fair during his recent visit to India.

He appreciated the initiative taken by Export Promotion Bureau for the promotion of Bangladeshi books in India.

Obituary

Freedom fighter Ka Kha Joardar died in the city yesterday. He was 49, says a press release.

He was suffering from prolonged cardiac ailments. He left behind his wife and two daughters.

He will be buried after Zohr prayers at the Mirpur martyred intellectuals graveyard today.

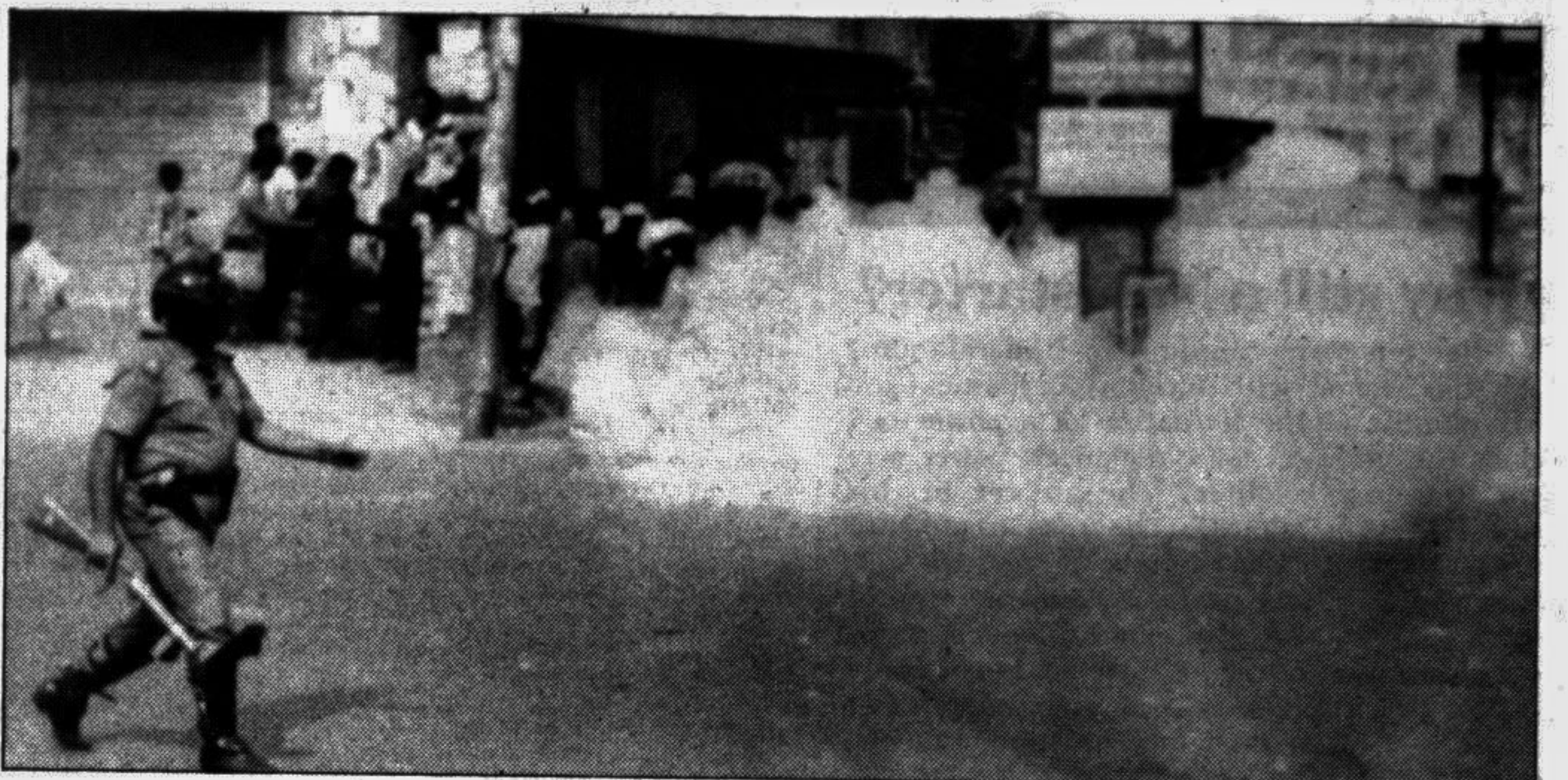
Urs

About 600 Muslim pilgrims left city last afternoon for Calcutta by special buses to attend the annual ursekul majlis (urs) of the renowned Muslim saint of the sub-continent Shah Sufi Hazrat Moulana Azangachhi (RA), reports BSS.

According to a press release of haqqani anjuman here the ten-day ursekul majlis of Sufi Hazrat Moulana Azangachhi (RA) will begin on Friday (December 22), at Bagmati in Calcutta.

Several hundred pilgrims from other districts of Bangladesh will also join the majlis.

Thousands of disciples of the holy saint from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and other countries usually attend this ursekul majlis every year.



A cocktail exploded at the Purana Paltan intersection in the city yesterday when an anti-hartal procession was crossing the area. — Star photo

What's on today

Asiatic Society lecture: Professor Dr Abdul Ghani of Jahangirnagar University and national fellow, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will deliver a lecture on 'Chemical Constituents of Medical Plants in Relation to their Therapeutic uses'. Venue: Asiatic Society seminar room. Time: 3:45 pm.

Hindu, Buddha, Christian Oikya: The Bangladesh Hindu, Buddha, Christian Oikya parishad has organised a discussion on Victory Day and Human Rights Day. Publication ceremony of some books by the parishad will follow. Venue: TSC auditorium, DU. Time: 4:30 pm.

Drama show: The 14th production of Dhaka Little Theatre 'Biggo Nathan' by G E lacing will be staged. Venue: German Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 6 pm, Translation: Abdus Selim, Direction: Morshedul Islam.

Bangladesh Agricultural Institute: An orientation class for newly admitted 1st year B.Sc Ag students of the session 1994-95 of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute, Dhaka will be held. Venue: Institute auditorium. Time: 11 am.

BCAS seminar: The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies(BCAS) has organised a seminar on 'Shrimp Cultivation and Hatchery Management in Bangladesh'. Venue: BCAS library room. Time: 3:30 pm. Speaker: BCAS research officer Sarder Shaiful Alam.

VVA meenabazar: A two-day meena bazar jointly organised by Women Volunteers Association (VVA) and Sonargaon hotel will begin. Venue: Sonargaon hotel poolside. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Special guest: Fishery and Livestock Minister Abdullah-al-Noman.

and tomorrow

French film show: French cinema 'La Femme de Ma Vie' by Regis Wargvier will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

Dry weather may prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets today at 5:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37 am.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 27.2 degree Celsius at Satkhira and the lowest 9.6 degrees at Ishurdi.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.7	12.0	87	77
Chittagong	25.7	15.3	83	68
Rajshahi	24.7	10.0	89	77
Khulna	26.5	12.3	83	77
Barisal	26.6	12.0	85	79
Sylhet	24.6	14.8	89	79
Cox's Bazar	26.0	15.8	68	77

Training course on Hajj

A five-day Hajj training course begins at Baitus Salam Jame Mosque in the city on December 26, reports UNB.

Organised by Tahfiz-E-Haramine Parishad, the course will be conducted by President of the Parisad Mawlana Sadeq Ahmed Siddiqui after Maghrib prayers everyday till December 30.

The training course is being arranged to familiar the rules and regulations of Hajj

BATC to conduct aviation training

Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC) will conduct international aviation training for other airlines and travel agents with support from American and European organisations under bench marking survey developed by the Airlines Association for Human Resources Management (AAHRM), reports BSS.

Biman Director (Administration) Raisuddin Ahmed recently attended the executive committee meeting of AAHRM held in Kuwait city

Seminar on importance of Sundarbans

Need for integrated resources management stressed

Speakers at the inaugural session of a seminar in the city yesterday stressed the need for integrated resources management to help the forestry sector play its due role in the process of poverty alleviation and income generation, reports BSS.

The day-long seminar on "importance of the Sunderbans Reserved Forest" was held at Hotel Sonargaon with participation of experts and officials of the ministry concerned as well as those from the foreign agencies which prepared a draft report on the Sunderbans.

The inaugural session was presided over by Sayed Marghub Murshed, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Emi Watanabe, resident representative of the UNDP, was the chief guest while Dr S. Mutiah of FAO headquarters in Rome was the special guest.

Chief conservator of forests Dr Shamsur Rahman gave the welcome address.

The speakers, however, referred to the draft report prepared with FAO and UNDP assistance and said it had suggested a number of options and modified strategy of action programmes to be evolved by national and expatriate experts for integrated resources management with sustainability in the core of all development initiatives.

In view of the ecological

change in the Sunderbans brought about by the reduction of upstream fresh water discharge, a contingent of local and expatriate experts were deployed under FAO/UNDP assistance about four years ago.

The team worked hard in gathering information, drawing up a management plan and indicating different course of action in their draft report which is now under scrutiny, the inaugural session was told.

Emi Watanabe described the Sunderbans a unique mangrove eco-system which is not only a cause of national pride but equally an international heritage.

The UNDP resident representative said the global community was eagerly awaiting the way the management of the Sunderbans would be undertaken.

"There is thus a wider community that eagerly looks forward to learning about the recommendations of this seminar with regards to our possible future action," she also said.

Sayed Marghub Murshed in his presidential speech said 30 expert reports had been combined together to prepare the draft report which would hopefully provide a set of directions for proper management of the world's largest mangrove forest.

He said the Sunderbans would help a lot in the process of poverty alleviation as well as income generation for the ever increasing population of the country.

Dr. S Mutiah of FAO said the Sunderbans as the world's largest mangrove forest had become a familiar identity around the globe. "The eco-system management of natural forests is now a need of the time," he also said adding that the new forest policy of Bangladesh had offered fresh challenges and opportunities of the future plans.

The Sunderbans reserved forest is harbouring numerous terrestrial and aquatic resources since time immemorial in addition to protecting hinterland from ravages of natural calamities.

With the rising population, pressure on the Sunderbans to cater to basic needs has increased manifold and obviously resource is pushed to critical stage due to rapid exploitation from the view point of sustainability.

This situation has been further aggravated due to reduction of upstream fresh water flow and it has prompted the agency to undertake a study with FAO/UNDP assistance to make suitable recommendations for integrated and sustainable development of all forest resources.



Kuwait returnees brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding immediate payment of compensation. — Star photo

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