

Dhaka Day by Day

Ramadan's Sobering Influence on City

by Muneera Perbeen

It's nice to see everyone participating in the holy Ramadan in his/her own way. As a result, the whole city seems to have become quieter and calmer in many ways.

Since all government offices and schools have changed their timings, life begins late in the city. Only a few private schools and offices now open at their usual times. As a result, the roads give a deserted look in the early morning. The cold weather being another factor of course. Some restaurants and fast food shops don't open in the morning though many continue their brisk business as usual. The only difference is that now all such shops are draped by large curtains. People avoid eating on the streets with respect for the holy month. Many restaurants no longer play blasting and damaging-to-the-ear type of music and we all hope that this spirit will last throughout the month.

Ramadan brings in so many changes in the everyday life of the people in this city. Many women stop using upstick for it's said that some of the contain a type of animal fat i.e. lanolin derived from an animal which is not halal for the Muslims. One wonders why then use it throughout the year? Our radio now broadcasts hands and naths i.e. religious songs, female T.V announcers and newsreaders cover their heads. Prices register a rise — be it as essential a commodity as rice or onions or other commercial products as clothes or imitation jewellery. In effect we all are actively

participating in the Ramadan spirit.

In the afternoon, the city wears a festive look as food stalls are set out at almost every strategic points or road corner. One sees this kind of a cloth-draped stall every few hundred yards selling samosas, *chola bhaja*, jalebis, *murt* (puffed rice), *halim* etc etc and many other types of Ramadan delicacies. The stalls in old Dhaka are the ones that offer the best varieties and mouth-watering delicacies. Sales are extremely high though one wonders a bit about the "hygiene" conditions as the salesmen grab the food in their bare hands and pack them and handle our dirty taka-notes with the same. Yet, there is no shortage of happy customers and many of the stalls become overcrowded by 4 pm. The mouth-watering aroma fills up the air and arrests the attention of all the people in the streets, especially those stuck in our ever familiar traffic-jams as almost every one at this time returns home to break their fasts at iftar. Even the poor people return back and the beggars start making their usual rounds around the houses just before iftar. The people, in keeping with the holy spirit, are very generous and hardly any beggars are returned without a fair offering of iftari.

Ramadan is the month of sanctity, the month that we are to test our temptations and the holy spirit more or less brings out the best in every one. How nice it would have been if we all would have shown our better sides all the time!



Delicacies all right, hygiene doubtful. — Star photo



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Mixed reactions over Feb 15 polls

Some 105 teachers of Dhaka University yesterday said people of the country have expressed their no-confidence in the government through boycotting the Thursday's parliamentary elections, reports UNB.

In a statement, the teachers said the autocratic attitude of the government was revealed through holding of the one-party farcical election by denying the demands of the people.

Among those who signed in the statement are: Prof ATM Zahurul Islam, Prof SM Imamul Haq, Prof M Aminul Islam, Prof Shamsul Huda Harun, Prof Shahadat Ali, Prof Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof QAIM Nuruddin, Prof Mostafa Chowdhury, Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Rajib Humayun, Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, Dr Nazmul Hassan Kalimullah, Prof Dalem Chandra Barman, Prof Rangalal Sen, Dr Mridul Kanti Chakkarabirtiya, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Dr Pradip Kumar Roy, Dr Madhab Chandra Dey, Dr Shusil Ranjan Sarkar, Dr Nim Chandra Bhaumik, Dr Rakh Hari Sarkar, Dr Lalit Mohan Nath.

Also urged the President to call for elections under a caretaker administration within 90 days.

Abriti Parishad
Bangladesh Abriti Samanoy Parishad yesterday called upon the Election Commission to cancel the February 15 parliamentary elections, reports UNB.

Asaduzzaman Nur and **Hasan Arif** president and general secretary respectively of the Parishad in a statement demanded fresh elections under a caretaker government.

In a separate statement, convenor and member secretary of Muktiyoddha Chhatra Command (MCC) **Kamal Pasha Chowdhury** and **Azfar Hossain** also demanded cancellation of February 15 polls.

One injured in city

By DMCH Correspondent
A teenaged boy received serious bullet injuries in Gandaria area of the city yesterday, reportedly as a sequel to an altercation with the local youths during Thursday's election.

Hira, 18, son of Monsur Ali of 61 DIT, Gandaria, was shot when he was returning from Dhupkhola mosque after *Juma* prayers at around 2:30 pm, locals said.

Medical sources said that Hira, who received serious wounds in his abdomen and other parts of the body, was under treatment at the Orthopedic Hospital in the city.

Locals alleged that the incident occurred as Hira was involved in brawl with a group of youths after he came out from a polling centre.

Housewife murdered in city

By DMCH Correspondent
Two persons including a housewife were killed in different parts of the city yesterday.

The housewife **Hasina**, 20, who got married to Ripon about five months ago, was found dead in their residence in Matuail under Demra thana.

Hasina's husband was suspected of committing the crime. Injuries marks on the neck and other parts of the victim's body were found, police and medical sources said.

Hasina's brother **Kamal** found his sister dead in her room when he went to their residence at around 10am, shocked relatives explained.

The body was sent to Mitford Hospital. A case has been filed with Demra thana.

Meanwhile, one **Jahangir**, 20, son of **Lokman Hossain** was killed during a clash between two local groups of *mastans* near Alam Market in the area at around 6 pm.

Jahangir, a motor mechanic in a shop, sustained serious head injuries from a stray cocktail. He died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The speakers said, the arrest of an editor of a national daily without showing any cause is not only disrespectful but also an effort to undermine the freedom of the press.

They also alleged that repressive measures were taken against their editor at the jail.

Al-Amin DUJ unit protests arrest of editor

By Staff Correspondent
The *Dainik Al-Amin* unit of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) has demanded unconditional release of *Al-Amin* Editor **Alhajj Makbul Hossen**.

The unit in a meeting on Thursday condemned the arrest of the editor without showing any reason.

Presided over by the unit chief **Mufdil Ahmed**, the meeting was addressed by news editor **Rahman Mukhlis**, chief sub-editor **Sudhir Kaborta Das**, special correspondent **Kudrat-e-Khuda**, **Mortuza Haider Lton**, **Nazmul Huq Sarker**, **Monirul Islam**, **Sulaim Mukit**, **Zakir Sikder** and **Azizur Rahman**.

Sgt Zahurul's anniversary of death observed

CHITTAGONG, Feb 16: The 27th death anniversary of **Sergeant Zahurul Haque** was observed by the Bangladesh Air Force yesterday, reports BSS.

A *milad mahfil* was arranged at the Central Mosque of the BAF base **Zahurul Haque** after the *Asar* prayers.

Commanding officer of the base, **Air Commodore Khusrul Alam**, officers and airmen attended the *milad*.

Inter-service qirat competition ends

President **Abdur Rahman Biswas** yesterday laid emphasis on reciting and understanding of the holy Quran for achieving peace and establishing justice and bonds of brotherhood, reports BSS.

"The Quran is the greatest book for human beings and we have to establish social parity and peace following the directives of it," he said.

The President was distributing awards among the winners of the annual inter-service *qirat* and *azan* competition at the Garrison mosque at Dhaka Cantonment after the *Jumma* Prayers.

The three chiefs of services and officers and soldiers of different ranks of the armed forces were present on the occasion.

The Bangladesh Navy team won the championship while the Army became runners-up.

In *qirat*, **M Sarker** of the Navy became first he was followed by **LNK Mohammad Mizanur Rahman** of the Army.

In *azan*, **Subedar Mohammad Abdul Baten** of the Army and **MA Jalil** of the Navy jointly secured the first position while **M A Baten** of the Navy became second.

Weather

Dry weather to continue

Prevailing dry weather is likely to continue across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says no appreciable change in night temperature is expected over the country.

In its outlook for next two days Met Office predicted little change. Giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen forecast rain or thundershowers.

The country's highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 10.4 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 5:55 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30 am.

The 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	30.0	15.8	62	45
Chittagong	29.0	15.6	60	51
Rajshahi	28.8	12.8	65	51
Khulna	29.5	13.0	73	60
Barisal	29.5	14.2	76	55
Sylhet	29.3	13.5	73	51
Cox's Bazar	30.5	17.0	57	48

What's on today

Birth anniversary of Ramakrishna: The four-day programme will mark the 161st birth anniversary of the saint. Venue: Ramakrishna Mission. Time: 12 noon.

Property gutted in Patuakhali

At least 150 shops and 10 dwelling houses were gutted in a fire at Kalapara bazar in Patuakhali on Thursday, reports UNB.

The fire originating in a tailoring shop at 3pm, soon engulfed the whole area.

Security forces with the help of the local people put the blaze out at about 7 am as there was no fire brigade unit in the thana.

Eleven people received burn injuries while fighting the fire.

Shamsul hosts dinner

Minister for Information and Commerce **M Shamsul Islam** hosted a dinner yesterday evening at the Sheraton Hotel, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister **M Mustafizur Rahman**, Minister of State for Establishment **Barrister Aminul Huq**, Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism **Abdul Mannan**, visiting foreign correspondents, editors of local dailies and news agencies and senior journalists attended.

Biswas, Khaleda greet nation on occasion of Sab-e-Qadr

President **Abdur Rahman Biswas** yesterday greeted countrymen and the whole of Muslim ummah on the occasion of the holy *Lailatul Qadr*, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion he said, "this night is full of utmost blessings of the almighty Allah and it is superior to thousand nights."

The President said the importance of this night is the best as the holy *Qura'anul Karim* began to be revealed from this night. "In this auspicious night of the holy Ramadan month, we pray with all our devotion to the Almighty Allah being imbued with the ideals of Islam," he also said.

President **Biswas** said the holy *Qura'an* inspired all of us to build a society of amity, mutual cooperation and welfare.

"A society with Islamic ideals ensures welfare for all including male and female, children and aged, helpless and rich, orphans and destitutes," he said.

The President urged all to pray to the Almighty Allah to enable all of us to consolidate democracy and be able to remain on the path of honesty and justice in the days ahead.

"I pray to Allah that the *Lailatul Qadr* shows the path of peace and progress for my country as well as the Muslim ummah," the President said.

Prime Minister **Begum Khaleda Zia** in a separate message emphasised the need for taking a vow in this holy night of *sab-e-qadr* to follow the path of truth and justice as directed by the Almighty Allah.

In a message on the eve of holy *sab-e-qadr*, she greeted the countrymen describing the holy night of *sab-e-qadr* as far more blessed night than thousand months.

Begum Zia said that on this holy night of enormous blessings, the holy *Quran* majid was revealed with the message of overall welfare and emancipation of the human being.


She said that to the Muslims, the *sab-e-qadr* is an enormous blessings of the Almighty Allah to get his nearness and eternal peace through praying.

"I pray to the Almighty Allah so that he gives us the strength to work in a body for the welfare of the society. Nation and humanity by mutual tolerance, brotherhood and fraternity following the path as directed by the Almighty, she said.



A gayebana janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque yesterday seeking blessings for those killed in election-related violence on Thursday. — Star photo

IN MEMORIAM




The renowned banker Mr. M. A. Rashid breathed his last on this day, 17th of February, 1993 in London.

We, the members of the bereaved family remember him with respect and pray for his departed soul.

Members of the bereaved family.

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