

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Visitors in Troubled Times

by Fayza Haq



The Filipino group.

A group of six Filipino youths, ranging from 21 to 33 years, was here in Dhaka for a fortnight. The young men and women arrived on March 27 and were looked after by Bangladeshi-Spaniards based in Banani.

By 3 April, the group had seen Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Sonargaon, Savar and Barisal. Talking about his experience, Ranilo Sorongan says, "We find our stay here inspiring and meaningful. We feel the oneness of the Asian people, and we join with the Bangladeshis in the struggle for stability in the future." Ranilo is an English teacher in the Philippines.

Dexter Gaptatan, also a school teacher, who teaches music and theatre arts at Ilo, in central Philippines, comments about his stay. "The climate, the people and their sense of values, like their hospitality to strangers, are similar to that back home. The tribal Garo looked similar to us. We learned of rituals like the offering of rice-wine as a symbol of hospitality. Travelling in a van, the six of us had the opportunity to get to know the birds, animals and insects of the country, along with the trees, flowers and plants."

Anne Eugenie Palines, who is a psychology graduate and a staff of research documentation, giving her views, says, "What was significant was that matters were not settled and people were voicing their opinions. This was similar to what happened in the Philippines in '86, when Marcos was removed. However, in our country, we see more involvement of women in the political sphere."

"We have been to the Fine Arts Institute, the National Museum, the Shaheed Minar. The

National Assembly, the Dhaka University and the Ramna Park. We were also greatly impressed by the film 'Mukti Gaan'."

Vincente Cahis says, "When we first arrived at Dhaka we were shocked at the number of soldiers seen at the airport and along the road. This was even though we were aware of the disturbed socio-political situation in Dhaka and Father Klaus Beurle had assured our parents that we would be well cared for. The CNN and The Asiaweek had also informed us of the situation in Bangladesh. We were not all that disturbed by the volatile situation as we are used to such political situations in our own country."

Genrich Garachico, who hopes to be a marine engineer, says, "We were touched by the struggle of the rickshaw-pullers. They are hard working but the opportunities to better themselves are limited. They have no way to improve themselves and their children. At the same time, we saw developments along the roads and are aware of multi-national corporations in the country."

Josette Miltante, a coordinator in the Youth

Ministry, says, "while we ourselves wear jeans and skirts, back home, we admire Bangladeshi women for preserving their culture and wearing saris to work. We found the staple diet of rice and fish similar to what we ourselves eat."

All the group members were bright-eyed and enthusiastic about their visit to Bangladesh and were going home with armloads of souvenirs. Incidentally, all of them were Roman Catholics, who were looking forward to celebrating Easter in a foreign country.

## • What's on today . . . .

**Rotaract Club of Notre Dame College:** The 120th regular meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Room 201, Notre Dame College. Time: 5 pm.

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

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

**Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: White Castle, 20 Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Course on management:** A three-week training course on Office Management will begin. Venue: Seminar hall of Raport Bangladesh Ltd. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Film show:** Russian film 'Anna Pavlova' by E Lottman will be screened. Rainbow Film Society, Bangladesh Film Society and International Film Critic Association of Bangladesh have jointly organised the screening. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 6: pm.

## Weather

### Rain in Sylhet likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or equally win is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

The Sun sets today at 6:19 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44 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	35.0	24.5	76	51	
Chittagong	32.0	23.5	73	69	
Rajshahi	38.2	23.1	24	21	
Khulna	37.3	25.0	78	50	
Barisal	36.0	24.0	76	60	

### Envoy to Bosnia named

The government has decided to concurrently accredit

Khurshid Hamid, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, reports UNB.

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### Entrepreneurs urged to boost production

Textile, Jute, Industries and Commerce Adviser Shegupta Bakht Chowdhury urged the entrepreneurs to increase production in mills and factories with a view to boosting national economy, reports UNB.

The adviser had three separate meetings with high officials of Ministry of Textiles, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB), Bangladesh Sericulture Board (BSB), Department of Textiles, office bearers of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and Bangladesh Specialised Textiles Mills Association (BSTMA) at the conference room of Textiles Ministry.

Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Dr Mohammad Abdur Rashid apprised the Adviser of various activities of the ministry and its front organisations. He also informed the Adviser of various hindrances in running different development projects.

Shegupta, giving them a patient hearing, assured them all possible help. He called upon the officers to discharge their duties sincerely for the overall development of the textiles sector.

The non-party caretaker government is committed to hold a free and fair election in the country, he said.

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