

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Life on the Information Superhighway

by Samia Islam

About four years away from the turn of the century, people are counting on cyber technology to appear as our ultimate deliverance from all worldly perils. Cyber technology as in the internet. Of course it is not all white as people



once thought but still the positive sides far outweigh the negative sides of net surfing. Think about it for a second. It's the world at your fingertips. The information superhighway is a virtual space filled with goodies as diverse as the five fingers on your hands. Be it games, foreign language or sign language or musical instrument tutorials, recipes, children's educational software, literature whatever you want, you just have to grab on to it via your ever faithful, or otherwise, computer.

Don't worry, this is not an e-mail commercial to lure subscribers. On the contrary it's a guideline for the would be netters of Bangladesh. For those of you who are on the

edges of your seats with anticipation and fervor, take it easy. Although internet is like hitting big time, the e-mail connections that you get in Bangladesh leaves a lot to be desired. But any airhead can figure out as much, right? This isn't exactly a home of state of the art technology! So you might decide to go ahead with it.

The first thing you do is call one of the people who provide services in the absence of an internet server. They tell you with supreme confidence that you require nothing else apart from computer (any kind) and a fax modem. They don't ask you about how much harddisk space you have free or how much extended memory you have on Do's or whether the phone is in the same room etc. etc. You are on your own to figure all that out while they come one day to install everything—modern and the software, but stare at you in wide eyed wonder

when the ports get mixed up. They ask you to do what you can with a total stranger of a software and you feel like strangling the smooth talker that sang a sweet song to you over the phone.

Finally after a host of expert (!) service men have fiddled with your computer, you get through to your friends in any corner of the world or you download some entertaining software and spend the rest of the day in bliss. So what it is was a little tough to get started? Every moment of wait pays off. Although downloading is free, the membership charges are a bit high: the e-mail charges are accounted outside of the monthly fee and the political stalemate has pushed the chances of getting an internet server further off but take heart because it can only get cheaper and better in future.

The things you can do with the phone line never cease to amaze you.

All that haggling for a particular software and all the wait to get your hands on a new game now seem to be unreal, insipid and primitive. You are finally equipped for the next non-cooperation or harial phase because this time around you wouldn't go out of your house by choice and not by force. Even in virtual peace time you can work from your home, thereby avoiding your untimely demise in freak traffic accidents which are reaching a new hiatus in the city in these post-non-cooperation days. This technology was invented keeping a society like ours in mind and yet we're the ones berating and belittling it and fighting or putting it off till later. O Authorities, this is a wake up call—Let's not wait till the water runs dry, get a server before the whole world pass us by! Don't make the biggest mistake of our lives, don't say it's a 'maybe'.



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina bedecking the coffin of Naima Chowdhury Lily with party flag at the Elephant road residence of the deceased. Naima, a ward commissioner of DCC, died of cardiac arrest Thursday night.

—Star photo

## Weather

### Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 24 hours till 6 pm Saturday, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Rainfall activities may increase in the next seven days. Sylhet experienced the highest 17 mm rain during the last 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Madaripur had 10 mm shower, Mymensingh 8, Chandpur 6 and Comilla 4 mm during the period.

Country's highest temperature 35.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest 21.0 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:29 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	35.0	25.5	95	69
Chittagong	33.15	27.1	67	72
Rajshahi	34.8	24.2	87	65
Khulna	35.8	27.2	86	78
Barisal	35.0	26.0	78	65
Sylhet	31.2	21.0	97	74
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.5	74	78

## What's on today....

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** The society will screen two films as part of the on-going Satyajit Ray Film Session. 'An interview with Satyajit Ray' and 'Seemabaddha' ('Company Limited') will be screened today. Venue: Indian High Commission Auditorium, Road 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

### Role of homeworkers women in economic dev stressed

Speakers at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Homeworkers Women Association (BHW) to mark the May Day on Wednesday said that homeworkers women could play a vital role in the economic development of the country, reports BSS.

Held at Rose-Bank Club, Dhanmondi here, the meeting was presided over by Dilruba Anguri. President of the BHW, A K M Mznul-Nul Haq, director, Department of Women's Affairs was the chief guest on the occasion while ILO director in Bangladesh, Paul J Bailey, was the special guest.

Dilruba Anguri, general secretary of BHW presented a report on status of homeworkers in the ILO convention.

The speakers said that the women homeworkers should be given equal rights along with their male counterparts in the greater interest of the society and the nation. All women workers should be given maternity allowances, they demanded.

The function was followed by a procession which paraded the city streets.

### BCCR apex body

Sanaul Hossain and Dr ASM Hossain have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce in Russia (BCCR) for the year 1996-97, according to a faxed message received here yesterday.

The other elected office-bearers are: Vice president — Rafiqul Islam Arzoo; assistant general secretary — Dr Manjur Chowdhury; treasurer — Premanandha Devnath and members — M Zahid Hossain, DA Rahman Tuhien, Dr Nasim Ahmed, Dr Shaiful Islam, Salam Khan and Ibrahim Karim. BCCR was formed in 1994 with the objective of promoting and enhancing Bangladesh's business interest in Russia.

### 31 held, 32 arms recovered

Police recovered 32 firearms and a large number of ammunition and explosives from various parts of the country during the last 24 hours till yesterday evening, reports UNB.

The arms and ammunition included three revolvers, five pistols, 14 pipeguns, six single-barrel guns, a double-barrel gun, one cut-rifle, an LG, a shutter gun, 53 bullets and cartridge, and 38 bombs and other explosives.



Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman signed the condolence book at the Indonesian Embassy in the city in connection with the death of Madame Soeharto on Tuesday.

—PID photo

## Create job opportunities for the retarded: SCEMRB

The Society for the Care and Education of Mentally Retarded Bangladesh (SCEMRB) in its annual general meeting held yesterday called for expansion of educational and training programme rehabilitation and creation of employment opportunities for the persons with mental handicap throughout the country, reports BSS.

The meeting held at the auditorium of the national institute of mentally retarded at Eskaton Garden with D P Barua, president of the SCEMRB in the chair, was participated by some 70 delegates from the branches across the country.

Secretary-General of SCEMRB J I Mamun presenting annual report for 1995-96 informed the meeting about various activities in its 36 branches, programmes for rehabilitation by creation of re-

volving fund, holding of the 13th Asian Conference on Mental Retardation in Dhaka in 1997 and cultural, social and recreational activities of the mentally retarded boys and girls during the year.

Treasurer of SCEMRB G W H Chowdhury presented the audited statement of accounts for 1995, revised budget of 1996 and proposed budget estimate and annual plan for 1997.

Delegates from the branches made lively discussion on organisational, financial and other issues relating to the welfare of the mentally retarded.

The day-long meeting decided to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the national council on July 5 to work out programmes for holding the 13th Asian Conference on Mental Retardation in Dhaka in 1997.

## Former minister yet to vacate official residence

Star Report

Former deputy minister for health Md Sirajul Hoque is yet to vacate the official residence at Dhanmondi in the city.

Hoque, who was dropped from the then BNP cabinet on March 19 during a reshuffle just 11 days prior to the BNP government's departure, was residing at the government allotted house at Dhanmondi Road No 3 till yesterday.

When contacted last night, Hoque's personal staff at the residence confirmed that a notice was served recently from the Directorate of Government Accommodation to vacate the house and the telephone line has been disconnected.

Sirajul Hoque could not be contacted last night.

## Bring back stability in politics: NAP

National Awami Party (NAP) president Prof Mozaffar Ahmed yesterday said the country is now facing the crisis of ideal-based politics, reports UNB.

The only ideal of the present politics is to capture power at any cost, he said in his inaugural speech at the party's extended meeting at the National Book Centre auditorium.

The NAP chief called for bringing back stability in national politics for the sake of continuing the trend of country's overall development.

Party general secretary Advocate Nurul Islam presented his report at the meeting. Leaders from different districts discussed the report and spoke about the ensuing election.

At the beginning, the meeting condoled the death of NAP leaders and workers, and of the people who sacrificed their lives in the movement.

## নোটিশ জারীর বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জিলা ডাকার সাবজজ তৃতীয় অর্থ স্বর্ণ আদালত, ঢাকা

দেওয়ানী ডিক্রীজারী মোকদ্দমা নং ১২/৯৫ইং

ব্যাংক ইন্ডোস্ট্রিজ

৪৭, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা

থানা-মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

ডিক্রীদার:

বনাম

১। জোসান (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ

৫/৪ এ, ইকবাল রোড, থানা: মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।

২। রেজাউর রহমান

ব্যবস্থাপক পরিচালক, জোসান (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ

৪/৬, ব্লক নং ডি, লালমাটিয়া, থানা-মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।

৩। মিসেস সামছুন নাহার হক, স্বামী জনাব মনিরুল হক

হাউজ নং ১৪০-নি, রোড নং ১৩

বনানী, থানা-কলশান, ঢাকা

৪। মিসেস রোকিয়া বেগম, স্বামী রেজাউর রহমান

৪/৬, ব্লক নং ডি

লালমাটিয়া, থানা-মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা। ... দায়িত্বপনঃ

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত তফসিলভূত সম্পত্তি উপরোক্ত আদালতের অধীনে মোকদ্দম আছে। আদালতের আদেশানুসারে উক্ত তফসিলভূত সম্পত্তি আদালত গ্রাসে প্রকাশ্য নিলামে বিক্রয় হইবে। দায়িত্বপনের নিকট ডিক্রীদার ব্যাকের পাতনা ৩১-১২-৯৫ইং টাকা ৬,৭৫,৪২,৮৫৫.৪৬ (ষে কোটি পঁচাত্তর লক্ষ বিয়াটিন হাজার আটপত পঞ্চান্ন টাকা হযাটিন পয়সা) বিক্রয়ের জন্য ১৮-৫-৯৬ তারিখ বেলা ১২ ঘটিকায় নির্ধারণ করা হইয়াছে। ক্রয় ইচ্ছুক ক্ষেত্রপনকে উল্লিখিত তারিখে ও সময়ে ঢাকা জেলা আদালতের নেছারতের সম্মুখে নিলাম ডাকে অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

তফসিল

জিলা-ঢাকা, থানা-তেজগাঁও, মোজা-তকরাবাদ, জে.এল. নং প্রট নং ৪/৬, ব্লক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া হাউজিং এস্টেট ঢাকা। মোট জমির পরিমাণ ৯২৮ বর্গশত। বাহার উপর দালানকোঠাসহ অন্যান্য কাঠামো যাহা কিছু নির্মাণ করা হইবে তৎসহ সমস্ত অধিকার, সুবিধাধার (ইজমেন্ট) বার্ষিক বন্ধ ইত্যাদি সকল কিছু।

আদালতের আদেশক্রমে

এস. এম. আবু বকর সিদ্দিক

সেক্রেটারী

সাবজজ, অর্থ স্বর্ণ আদালত নং-৩, ঢাকা

## BANGLADESH MEDICAL COLLEGE

H # 35, Rd # 14/A, (new), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209.

(Near Sanker Bus-stand). Ph: 816699, 815843, 318202.

## Admission Notice

Applications are invited for admission to the first year MBBS class of Bangladesh Medical College of 1995-96 session.

### Eligibility:

- Candidates must have at least 60% marks combined in S.S.C. & H.S.C. Examinations.
- Candidates who got third division either in S.S.C. & H.S.C examination are not eligible.

Applications forms will be available from 5th May 1996.

Last date for receiving applications is 16th May 1996.

Written test will be held on Friday 24th May 1996.

Dates for viva voce will be announced on 6th June 1996.

- Free studentship will be awarded to Five meritorious but financially handicapped students.
- Eligibility for free studentship will be determined by interviewing candidates and Guardians on 20th May 1996.
- Applicants for Free studentship will not be permitted to transfer to the open list.

[Major General Anis Waiz (Retd.)]

MBBS; FCPS; FRCP; FRCP; ED;

Principal

Bangladesh Medical College.



Despite DCC's waste cleaning drive after the Eid-ul-Azha, this photograph, taken yesterday, shows a heap of garbage lying in front of the Mahanagar Community Centre in city's Dhanmondi area.

—Star photo

### Fahd greets Biswas

King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia Thursday conveyed his best wishes to President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

In his message King Fahd said: "On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha I express to your honour on behalf of the people and government of Saudi Arabia and of my own behalf the heartiest felicitations and sincerest brotherly wishes and pray that the almighty Allah brings it back to your honour and brotherly people of Bangladesh with progress and welfare and with good luck and blessings to the Islamic Ummah and my best regards to your honour."

In another message, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud felicitated President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the occasion. In his message Prince Abdullah said: "I have the pleasure to avail of the opportunity of the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha Al-Mubarak to forward to your honour sincerest friendly felicitations and best brotherly wishes with more health and more happiness to your honour and the brotherly people of Bangladesh and Arab and Islamic Ummah with more welfare and good luck and blessings and to your honour my best and respectful regards."

### One feared drowned

By Staff Correspondent

A boy was feared drowned when a boat capsized in the river Buriganga yesterday noon. Three members of the boy's family who were on board saved their lives by swimming ashore but the boy might have been drowned, fire brigade sources said.

Immediate after the family boarded the boat from Sadarghat it capsized when hit by a launch. The identity of the boy was not available. Kotwali Thana also could not confirm the incident.

### UP chairman, 2 others held for killing rickshawpuller

A special squad of Narayan-ganj police yesterday arrested three people, including a Union Parishad Chairman, from Siddhirganj in Narayan-ganj for their alleged involvement in a killing, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Siddhirganj union parishad chairman Nur Hossain, his brother Nurul Haq and an associate, Selim. All three belonged to BNP, local sources said.

Police said the arrested were involved in the killing of rickshawpuller Mohammad Ali (20) during the countrywide non-cooperation on March 21. Ali, was said to be an activist of Awami league-backed Samik League.

Meanwhile, Narayan-ganj special squad police today (Friday) recovered a single barrel gun and 10 bullets from a pond near the home of Akram who was among the six people arrested on Thursday. The recovery was made following the confessional statement of Akram.

On Thursday, police unearthed a bomb manufacturing factory near the Deobhog overhead tank in the town. They also seized 30 live bombs, one double barrel gun and huge bomb-making materials during the Thursday's operation.

### Rab in Singapore for treatment

JSD Secretary General ASM Abdur Rab went to Singapore on April 29 for treatment of heart ailment, reports BSS. He has been admitted to Mount Elizabeth Hospital there under the supervision of Dr Richard N. G. press release said here Thursday.

### Leading exponent in constructed wetlands now in city

There lies an opportunity for the environmentalists, scientists and engineers engaged in wastewater treatment to discussing the design and management of constructed wetlands with a leading international exponent of this technology. Dr Peter Nuttall, who is presently working in Dhaka on the environmental component of the Inland Water Transport Project for the World Bank, has promoted the use of constructed wetlands around the world since the early 1980s, says a press release.

A constructed wetland is a low-cost, engineered system designed to simulate a natural wetland for wastewater treatment or some other purpose. Constructed wetland technology can be used for the treatment of intermittent,

episodic or continuous low or high volume flows of wastewater from domestic, agricultural or industrial sources, as well as for the treatment of grey water, storm overflow wastewater, landfill leachate, sludge and run-off from highways and urban areas.

They are robust, cost-effective systems which are simple to construct, operate and maintain, said Dr Nuttall. Any organisation, industry or authority concerned about protecting the environment from wastewater pollution but without a commitment to conventional treatment systems would do well to consider constructed wetland technology.

Dr Nuttall can be contacted through Mott MacDonald International at 122 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka during work hours at phone 8802 884026 (fax: 883393) or phone after hours on 884480.