

Dhaka Day by Day

The Midday Blues

by Muneera Parbeen



SHARIK '96

The hot midday hours are the longest. It's a period that seems to arrive pretty soon in a day but seems reluctant to pass by. The heat and the very time of the day make everyone lazy and sleepy. For busy people, it is not a very significant time of the day, though business does slacken down a bit. Then they get to lean back on their chairs and afford to think about a sandwich or a cup of tea.

At midday, which we commonly call 'noon', the entire city wears a sleepy look. The streets look deserted and no one likes to venture outside unless absolutely necessary. Some of the rickshaw-pullers are seen trying to take a nap on their own vehicles. Even the stray dogs doze off under whatever shade they can find.

These sleepy hours bring to the housewife a healthy repast into their usual hectic work. After a cool bath and lunch, with lazy bodies (and perhaps lazy minds) they sit down to chit-chat and exchange news ie 'gossip' with friends or neighbours. Housewives from a few neighbouring houses or flats come together in any one of the houses and they exchange all the new and views of the day. A few hours are thus laced away in quiet fun and frolic. Some others utilise this time to catch up on their lost sleep by taking a nap. Still others, especially those with smaller children find this the ideal time to watch a new movie on the VCR or cable TV. Some find reading books or talking on the phone more interesting.

For most children, the midday is a resting

period. Whether they like it or not, they are forced to their beds only to keep them quiet. For older children, meaning adolescents and teenagers, it's the ideal time to chat on the phone, read or write their 'secrets' or even to dabble in their hobbies.

Many people try to treat these hours as any other time of the day. They try to avoid sleep as it tends to become a habit and makes one lazy. It then becomes a silent fight against weariness, sleep and the temptation to sleep! An hour from lunch and their eyes start to droop as they become sleepier and sleepier. Cups of tea (or coffee) are gulped down to no use. Watching television at this time is a sure killer as it can guarantee to put anyone to sleep!

The lower middle-class people stay away from their beds, at times even from their bedrooms but it doesn't really help their sleepy limbs such. They indulge into a variety of activities (very much to the annoyance of their sleepy system) from reading books to dusting their tables or arranging the already-well-arranged books. Most methods however fail.

The hot scorching sun is right over the head and there is hardly any sound on the streets or else. The midday hours are a lazy repast and it is greeted by many as a welcome break from the usual hectic schedule of a day. Every action seems to make most people yawn..... it's the time to... aaahh... be... aaahh... sleepy!!

Biswas' tribute to Manik Mia

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the dream of Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia could be materialised by consolidating the hard-earned democracy and giving it an institutional shape, reports UNB.

"Manik Mia always dreamt of a democratic system," he said in a message on the eve of the 27th anniversary of death of the renowned journalist, to be observed today.

"Manik Mia is an unforgettable personality in the history of our political movement and journalism" said the President paying tribute to the memory of the late journalist.

President Biswas said Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia was an uncompromising personality who struggled single-mindedly for establishing democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of press and the fundamental rights of the people.

He recalled that Manik Mia suffered imprisonment several times for his honest and courageous journalism against all sorts of exploitation and discrimination as well as the undemocratic system.

President Biswas said his sharp writings made the people aware of their rights and inspired them to participate in the movements to realise those rights.

He also prayed to the almighty Allah for the peace of the departed soul.

Jatiya Party

The Jatiya Party has planned elaborate programme on the occasion, says a press release.

The programme includes placing of wreaths at the Mazar of the deceased at 8 am, Fataha and special prayers.

Party leaders will speak at a discussion on the life of Manik Mia at the central office of the party at 5pm.

Phones conversion postponed

The analogue telephones under 31 group in the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Telephone Exchange, scheduled to be converted into digital yesterday, could not be changed due to technical problem, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board said the conversion of some 3,000 telephones could not be completed as faults have been detected in the computers set up by Japanese experts for the task.

The telephone numbers from 313000 to 315999 were converted into digital on test basis, but it was found that the CPU could not bear the load. The numbers were immediately brought back to 31 group.

The T&T Board said these analogue telephone numbers will be converted again to digital ones soon after completion of the works by the Japanese experts.

Vote for Zaker Party: Faisal

Chairman of the Zaker Party Mostafa Amir Faisal said that the 25 years history of Bangladesh is marked by failure, deprivation, anarchy and abuse of state power, says a press release.

He said this while addressing the party activists at its central office yesterday.

He also said that only the Zaker Party can save the nation from the grip of these vicious circles.

He called upon all to give their verdict in favour of the Zaker Party candidates in the upcoming JS polls.

Chehlum held

By Staff Correspondent
Chehlum of Nafis Sadik Kanak was held in the city yesterday.

Kanak, a first year (honours) student of Accounting Department of Dhaka College, was murdered on April 21 in the city's Elephant Road area.

Quran khwani, feeding of destitute and a Milad Mahfil were arranged in this connection after Asr prayers yesterday.

What's on today....

- Khelaghar nat'l confce:** The two-day national conference of Khelaghar, a children's organisation, will begin. Venue: Shishu academy. Time: 10:00 am. Prof Anisuzzaman will inaugurate. Chief guest: Poet Shamsur Rahman. A colourful rally, cultural function and film-screening will mark the opening.
- Poetry recital:** The three-day poetry recital will begin. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7:00 pm. The academy in collaboration with Bangladesh Abriti Samannya Parishad has organised the session. Chief guest: M Shamsul Haq, Adviser for Cultural Affairs.
- Political Science Assoc:** The Bangladesh Political Science Association has organised a seminar titled: "Election 1996 and Bangladesh Democratic Future." Venue: DU TSC auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.
- ICDDR,B meet:** The three-day 34th meeting of the Board of Trustees of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) will begin. Venue: Sasakawa International Training Centre at the centre. Dr Maureen Law will preside. The meeting will review reports of the programme committee for scientific activities and those of the personnel committee.
- BIRRI review meet:** The four-day annual internal review of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BIRRI) will begin. Venue: BIRRI auditorium. Dr Z Karim, Director General of BIRRI, will inaugurate. Some 200 scientists will attend.
- Astronomical Assoc:** The three-month training workshop of the Bangladesh Astronomical Association will begin. Venue: Foundation for the Research of Education Project and Development (FREPD), Sonargaon Road, Plassey. Time: 5:00 pm. Dr Syed Shofiqullah of Chemistry, DU, will present the keynote paper.
- Memorial meet:** A discussion meeting marking the death anniversary of Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia, the founder-editor of the Ittefaq, will be held. Venue: Mazar premises of Suhrawardy. Time: 8:00 pm.
- Narigrantha Prabartona:** The organisation has organised a solo musical programme. Venue: 2/8, Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4:30 pm. Artist: Kanganini Sufia.
- BEA seminar on polls:** The Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) will hold a seminar on "Economic Programmes of Political Parties: Review of Election Manifesto." Venue: Planning Development auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 4:00 pm.



Sultana Zaman speaking at a function organised to mark the 17th founding anniversary of the vocational training centre for women and children founded by Unnayan Sangstha, at the Dip-Shika school in the city yesterday. Dr Hamida Hossain, poet Sufia Kamal, Sultana Akbar and Tahmina Begum seen from right. — Star photo

Study reveals 58pc rural women bank on group media

Rural farm women usually use all the information media which are readily and easily available to them, reports UNB.

A recent study also revealed that most of the marginal farm women communicate with their husbands in getting agricultural information than those of small, medium and large farms.

The study — "Appropriate Information Media for Communicating to Rural Women" — was conducted jointly by the Institute of Post-graduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA), Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

Majority of the farm women (58 per cent) irrespective of their farms size and locality choose group media and 26.25 per cent choose individual media in receiving farm information while the rest 15.75 per cent did not mention their choice.

Among individual media, the most important was husband followed by neighbour son or daughter, Block Supervisor, father/ mother-in-law and NGO worker. Among the group media, the most used was women society followed by group meeting, demonstration meeting and training meeting.

The study further showed that among the available types of groups such as female group, male group and mixed group (male and female), majority of the respondent (73 per cent) like to worked with female group.

In a group, they would like another women as speaker, prefer neighbour's house or a nearby place as the venue of group meeting then a distant place, and the afternoon preferred as the time of meeting. Females prefer to talk with another female than male persons.

About using the conventional media, radio and television were found to be highly used by the farm women in comparison to other mass me-

dia.

Intervention study showed that messages delivered by female Block Supervisors (BS) were more useful to the female while those delivered by male BS were useful to both male and female farmers.

According to the study, the women of Kapasia thana in Gazipur district used more number of information media than those of Iswarganj thana in Mymensingh.

The choice of few particular information media by the women varied between the Kapasia and Iswarganj thanas. Reason: Kapasia was more cosmopolitan than Iswarganj.

The level of education, communication exposure, socio-economic status, marketing facilities and availability of technology were more favourable to the farmers of Kapasia thana than Iswarganj.

According to the study, information regarding home-stead farming were well received then other farming operations by the women. The selected messages delivered by male and female BSs had both intra- and interhousehold movement within a week's time.

Interhousehold movement of information was faster than the interhousehold. About 8.2 per cent of respondents disseminated information to others within a day, 73.5 per cent of them within 2-6 days and others either did not communicate the messages or took longer period.

The study showed that women of modern villages with higher socio-economic status use more cosmopolitan media of information than local media. Cosmopolitan media include radio, TV, extension agent while local sources include husband, friend and neighbour.

Local educational institutions and school teachers, due to their credibility and accessibility in the locality, can play important roles to disseminate farm information.

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