

Dhaka Day by Day

Sky for Which We Couldn't Care Less

by Neil Ray

For the Dhaka residents the sky above has hardly any appeal. The sky too, conscious of the love lost between them, has turned its face from the otherwise preoccupied 70 million people of this city. It appears to have gone further up. Indeed, one has to be really lucky to see the clear sky from Dhaka. A smoke-screen or smog has reduced the visibility upward or even sideways. The problem arises from improper habits of the Dhakaites. On the one hand, the slum-dwellers burn fuel wood or other organic matters that emit a huge amount of smoke; on the other hand, thousands of defective automobiles belch out black smoke with no qualms about the health hazards caused in the process.

The physical reality and its effects on human health has often been dealt with in various writings but little so far has been focused on the stunted growth of mind. No wonder, the toddlers — almost without exception, are crazy about getting out of the four walls they are most of the time confined in. Gradually however the wandering mind reconciles with the idea of a cloistered life. How unfortunate these little ones are compared with their peers in villages where the sky, sunlight and space are abundant and wide!

The spatial narrowness and the absence of a clear sky have their deleterious impact on the receptive minds of the children. The freedom in a wide space, under a clear blue sky and amidst the bounty of greenery are all a vital nourishment for mind. He who has not pondered in silence lying on his/her back the spherical depth of the sky, has hardly marvelled at the mystery of life. A communion — one akin to a spiritual experience — takes place. The sphere of silence, which the sky is, is the song of mind.

Let alone such an experience, most people do not even know which star is called what. The constellation and their beautiful individual names (in Bangla of course) can serve as a mental treasure. The romantic and mystic associations are enough to fire our imagination. But there are few parents who will take their sons and daughters to the open field — in Dhaka on the roof — to make them acquaint with those beautiful names: a *rundahati*, *satabhisa*, *Rohini*, *Aruni* etc. The only star known to most is perhaps the *shuk tara* or *sandha tara*. Even the *kalpurush* and *saptarshi* are unfamiliar with many.

So the sky has taken leave of us. We have none but ourselves to blame for this.



BNP MPs walking out of the House soon after the beginning of the Parliament session yesterday. — Star photo

HR bodies urge Home Ministry to rescue Kalpana

By Staff Correspondent
Representatives of twelve human rights organisations have met Home Minister Rafiqul Islam and appealed to him to take necessary steps to rescue Kalpana Chakma immediately, says a joint press release of the twelve organisations.

The organisations have demanded that Kalpana be rescued and a judicial body be formed immediately to investigate into the abduction. They also appealed to the Home Ministry to take measures to punish the abductors of Kalpana Chakma. The home minister was also urged to compensate the victim for any physical abuse on her person.

The press release, signed, among others, by Adhikar, Aino-Salish Kendra, Ubining, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, La Revue, Narigrantha Prabantana, Sammalita Nari Samaj, Hill Women's Federation, Pahari Chhatra Parishad and Pahari Gano Parishad, requested the home minister to take the matter to the Prime Minister to resolve it as soon as possible.

The problem can be solved by mutual talks, the organisations demanded. The home minister, in response, assured all-out cooperation on his part.

Police-taxi drivers dispute at ZIA disrupts traffic

Movement of vehicles from Zia International Airport (ZIA) was disrupted for two hours from 10:30 am yesterday following an untoward incident between taxi drivers and armed police in the parking area, reports UNB.

Sources at the airport said the trouble erupted when the on duty police tried to check luggage of some foreign nationals during their departure from ZIA by a taxi at around 10:30 am.

Taxi drivers protested the police bid, saying that after checking by the custom officials they had no right to search the luggage.

President of ZIA Taxi Drivers Union Mukta Mia and general secretary Nur Mohammad alleged that one of their members, Dulal was beaten up by chief security officer of the CAAB during the incident.

Row over Rab's 'thumb showing' in JS

By Staff Correspondent
The alleged 'thumb showing' by an MP sparked uproar compelling the Speaker to promise a ruling for bringing back tranquility in the House when the Seventh Parliament went into its maiden session yesterday.

Newly-elected Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury had to promise a probe into the matter to keep the aggrieved section of the Opposition benches quiet as the BNP deputies threatened a walkout over the finger pointing issue.

Lawmakers belonging to BNP strongly protested JSD (Rab) MP and Shipping Minister ASM Rab's alleged showing of thumbs while a BNP MP got the floor to felicitate the Speaker. They urged the Speaker to ask Rab for begging an apology for his 'indecent gesture'.

The dispute over 'thumb showing' continued for nearly an hour as AL deputies and their allies denied the incident. BNP MPs, however, stuck to their gun and demanded apology from Rab.

As soon as the House sat for session again after a 30-minute recess for evening prayers, the Speaker assured the House that he would give a decision in that regard after an investigation some other day of the first session of the Parliament.

Earlier, the pandemonium ensued when BNP legislators alleged that Rab had shown his thumbs towards Jaina Abedin Farooq, a BNP MP, while Farooq got the floor to felicitate Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury on his taking office of the Speaker.

Rab denied the allegation saying, 'I hadn't shown my thumbs, I had just corrected him (Farooq) by showing seven of my fingers that not two, as he mentioned, rather seven cases were lodged against me while BNP was in power.'

The Speaker said that he had not seen Rab making the reported gesture as he was looking at the BNP deputy that time, and would give his ruling after a probe into it later.

IPDC approves Tk 60m for shoe, cement factories

The 46th meeting of the board of directors of the Industrial Promotion and Development Company of Bangladesh Limited (IPDC) was held in the city yesterday with Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Industries in the chair, an IPDC press release said, reports BSS.

The board approved investment of Tk 35 million for setting up a cement clinker grinding factory and Tk 25 million for an export-oriented leather shoe manufacturing unit. The projects, when completed, will create additional job opportunities for 253 persons.

Lankan HC calls on Abul Hasan

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, SB Atugoda paid a courtesy call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

The Sri Lankan high commissioner congratulated Chowdhury on his assumption of office and expressed hope to work together for further expansion of bilateral cooperation, says an official handout.

The State Minister said Bangladesh attaches much importance to further strengthening close and friendly relations with Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is also committed to fostering relationship between the two countries, he added.

TUTOR WANTED

A female teacher having good teaching experience of English medium schools is required to coach students of class VI & VIII. Preference will be given to teachers of Scholastica. Attractive remuneration will be offered to qualified teacher. Please contact: Mr. Hafizul Islam Phone: 9562371 or 9562367

Happy Birthday

To **Nabiha** with lots of love Dada & Dadu

Royal Orchid

Reopens from July 15, 1996

For Reservation: 870949, 605373

Your satisfaction is our Pride

60, GULSHAN SOUTH AVENUE, DHAKA-1212

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1996 of World Bank On Sale in MIDAS

World Development Report - 1996 : From Plan to Market has just arrived and is on sale now.

The Report steps back from the bewildering tumult of events and policies now transforming economies in Central and Eastern Europe, the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and East Asia and assesses the progress and prospects of these economies in transition. It identifies which approaches work and which do not. It also describes how public agencies, legal systems, financial institutions, etc. can enhance the success of market economies.

This Report offers in newly revised format, current data on some 120 indicators of social and economic development for more than 130 countries and territories, with basic indicators for some 70 more.

Price Tk. 200 per copy. Please contact:

MIDAS
House 5, Road 16 (New)
Dhanmondi R.A., Dhaka-1209
Tel: 816186-7, 816094-5, 816125

Chittagong Office: Phe View (1st Floor), 100 Agrabad C.A., Chittagong-4100. Tel: 716231, 711017
Khuina Office: 76, KDA Avenue, Khuina-9100. Tel: 21857

STUDY IN U.K. AT BELLERBYS COLLEGE

in Hove & Cambridge, 1 hour from London. Interviews at The British Council Dhaka

Every year Bellerbys College helps students from all over the world including Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Pakistan to win places at UK's top Universities to study Textiles, Medicine, Engineering, Business, Law, Economics, Accounting & many other degree subjects.

BELLERBYS COLLEGE OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

a) **FOUNDATION COURSES:**
For guaranteed entry to a British University programme at one of the Bellerbys College partner universities.

- 9 months (3 terms) foundation courses for Bangladeshi students with Intermediate (10+2).
- 15 months foundation course for Bangladeshi students with Matriculation (10th Class).
- BEST, British Education Study Programme. From 1 Term to 3 Term for those who have the required degree entry qualifications but weak English Background & lack confidence for higher studies.

b) **A-LEVEL COURSES:**
British A Level (one or two years) prepares students for entry to a wide range of honours programmes at any British University.

SOME OF THE BELLERBYS PARTNER UNIVERSITIES ARE:
University of East London, Liverpool John Moores University, South Bank University, University of Wales, Anglia Polytechnic University, Bolton Institute, University of Buckingham, University of Sheffield.

We are now enrolling for September, 1996 Start FOUNDATION & A LEVEL Courses for students aged 16+ MR. S.A.H. ABIDI Regional Manager, Bellerbys College will be pleased to talk to anyone requiring further information Individual interviews will take place on:

Date: Thursday 18 July & Saturday 20 July 1996
Times: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Venue: The British Council Seminar Room
5 Fuller Road Dhaka.

For a personal appointment please call
Mahmuda Akhter on 968905-7

Seen from the Gallery

Dr. Baddrudouza when he said that speaker's ruling could be postponed for the following day. The Speaker quickly took advantage of the opportunity and said he would rule after looking into the accusation as he had not seen the incident himself.

The new Speaker looked extremely elegant in his all white attire, but was quite obviously uncomfortable as he was constantly harassed by opposition BNP members with all sorts of requests for points of order and permission to speak. His UN General Assembly experience did not seem to do him much good on the first day as he quickly realised that the niceties of the diplomatic world could hardly be compared with that of our parliament. He made a mistake in allowing too many speakers to congratulate him, which all MPs took advantage of, and veered into contentious issues which brought in unnecessary and avoidable debates.

The man most comfortable throughout all the commotion, and one who seemed to be enjoying himself no matter what was going on in the House, was obviously the former President and twice elected MP from five constituencies, Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Looking tall, lean and well kept, he made most of the opportunity by mingling with the photographers who were given special permission to be inside the House on the first day. In a leisurely style he shook hands with all the ministers providing photo opportunity in every turn he took and every hand he shook.

In a regrettable continuation of Khaleda Zia's tradition, Sheikh Hasina also deprived the Deputy Leader of House, Zillur Rahman, of his seat next to the Leader of the House. Instead, she preferred to seat Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad next to herself, in the same tradition of Khaleda Zia who denied that seat to Dr. Baddrudouza and kept Mirza Ghulam Hafiz at her side instead.

The first speeches of the two leading figures in our parliament, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, fell far short of expectation. Khaleda sounded bitter and acrimonious much like Hasina in '91. Her repeated reference to the fact BNP had actually won in the 12 June '96 elections, and that it was the caretaker government, the election commission and the rigging and rough tactics of other parties that deprived her of her definite victory, sounded childish. It made her look like a very poor loser. Her reference to a shopping incident connected with Mayor Hanif's wife was unbecoming of a former Prime Minister, and definitely inappropriate for the occasion. There were sparks of eloquence in her speech, but most of it got washed away by her obvious bitterness.

Sheikh Hasina sounded more like she was still in the opposition bench, rather than a Prime Minister. She made the classic mistake that many of our politicians do, in trying to reply to all the questions raised by her opponent. Most of our leaders do not realise the power of ignoring something, especially statements that are made in bitterness and in acrimony. By trying to answer them, she brought herself to the same plain and looked defensive and small. She must get used to the idea that every accusation need not be replied with counter accusations, and that every criticism does not have to be answered. If there is such a need, let others do it for her. She, as the Prime Minister, must necessarily always be Prime Ministerial in every thing she says and does.

Overall, it was poor start a parliament from which the nation expects a lot.

'BNP to resist move to jeopardise democracy'

BNP will work ceaselessly for maintaining continuity of the democratic process and resisting any attempt to jeopardise democracy in the country, said Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the party secretary-general, reports UNB.

He was addressing the leaders of Mymensingh (North) district unit of BNP when they called on him at the party's central office in the city yesterday.

Bhuiyan alleged that leaders that leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations were being attacked and repressed by the ruling party across the country immediately after the June 12 election.

"Carry forward BNP's politics despite all adversities," he asked the party leaders and workers.

The meeting discussed the overall situation of the country and reviewed the latest political situation.

BNP joint secretary-general Ashraf Hossain and Jubo Dal general secretary Goyeshwar Chandra Roy were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, BNP joint secretary-general Ashraf Hossain has strongly protested what he called, the Awami League sponsored terrorism throughout the country.

In a statement yesterday, Hossain alleged that BNP leaders and workers at different places of the country were coming under attacks by the terrorists, backed by the ruling party.

He demanded of the government to immediately stop all such acts of repression, harassment and filing of false cases against the BNP men.

One electrocuted in city

By DMCH Correspondent
A labourer of a plastic factory was electrocuted at Islamabad under Lalbagh thana in the city yesterday morning.

Mohammed Manik Miah, 22, was electrocuted while working at the factory. He was immediately sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, a housewife reportedly committed suicide at her residence at Boro Moghbazar on Saturday night.

Humayun Begum, 22, became very sick by taking poison. She was rushed to the DMCH where doctors declared her dead.

CMC reopens

CHITTAGONG, July 14: Chittagong Medical College was reopened today after 13 days of unscheduled closure, reports UNB.

What's on today

- Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka:** The installation ceremony of the club will be held. Distribution of RCMD Foundation Award will follow. Venue: Sheraton hotel. Time: 7:15 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka North:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time: 4:45 pm.
- Rotary Club of Gulshan:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sajna restaurant, Gulshan. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka Central:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:50 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dilkusha:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Mahakal founding anniversary:** Mahakal Natya Sampradaya, a drama group, will observe its 13th founding anniversary today. A re-union and discussion meeting will be held on this occasion. Venue: DUCSU cafeteria. Time: 6 pm.

DU halls celebrate platinum jubilee July 19

By DU Correspondent
The residential halls of the Dhaka University will arrange a day-long colourful programme in observance of 75 years of the university July 19.

The programme will be inaugurated by releasing 75 pigeons at 9:30 am at the mall area of the university, adjacent to the Arts Building.

After the inaugural ceremony, a memorial discussion will be held with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair. National Professor and former Provost of Mohsin Hall Dr. M. Innaas Ali and Prof. Emeritus and former Provost of Salamullah Hall Dr. Mahfuzuddin Ahmed will attend the function as chief guest and special guest respectively.

National flag, flag of the university and flags of the respective halls will be hoisted at the programme venue. In the evening, Arts building Curzon Hall of the university and the VC Bhawan will be decorated with colourful lights.

In the second session, (12 noon to 3:30 pm) former students, guests and office-bearers of the Dhaka University Teachers Association will visit the residential halls of the university. Improved diet will be served in the halls on the occasion.

In the third session (4 pm to 7 pm) a cultural function will be staged at the Mall Chattar Manoh.

Teachers, students, officials, employees, former provosts of the halls and DUCSU officials, all incumbent provosts, house tutors, journalists, and prominent leaders of the society and all former students of the university have been invited to attend the function.

6 annual audit reports submitted to President

The Comptroller and Auditor General M. Hafizuddin Khan called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday and submitted six annual audit reports, two appropriate accounts and nine finance accounts, reports UNB.

Accepting the reports, President Biswas said that proper auditing of government expenditure is helpful for financial discipline in the public sector.

Extended

CHITTAGONG, July 14: The last date for admission without late fee into Masters degree final year for the session 1993-94 of University of Chittagong has been extended upto July 20, a university press release said today, reports BSS.

Weather

Light rainfall forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Khuina and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions.

In its outlook for subsequent two days weathermen forecast increase in rainfall activity. Giving extended outlook for another five days Met Office predicted little change.

Meantime, Dinajpur experienced country's highest 103 mm rain in the last 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Rangpur had 56 mm, Mymensingh 36, Barisal and Comilla 11 each and Sylhet 6 mm shower during the period.

The country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Chittagong yesterday and the lowest 24.6 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21 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	33.0	28.0	81	69
Chittagong	35.0	27.2	72	77
Rajshahi	34.5	27.3	64	83
Khuina	33.4	26.6	77	87
Barisal	31.6	26.2	81	86
Sylhet	30.4	25.4	92	97
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	75	68



State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader inaugurated a three-day photography exhibition on Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah at the National Museum in the city yesterday. — Star photo