

Dhaka Day by Day

Soaring Demand for Caffeine

by Muneera Parbeen



Drinking Caffeine, i.e. through tea and coffee is very popular, fashionable and a very common part of our every life. There was a time when it was not so popular in this city but now, drinking tea or even coffee, is very much an integral part of our lifestyles. In fact, for many, it's quite difficult to think of a day without any tea at all. Coffee perhaps is not so popular with us yet.

The early mornings start with a pleasant cup of bed-tea and if it is not, then tea at breakfast is a must. Comes any break during a day and many a person reaches for a cup of tea first.

If any guests arrive, their hospitality is not complete until tea is offered, no matter how many other items (traditional or else) are presented. In fact, tea is so popular and accepted all over, that the afternoon 'tea' is an entire meal in honour of tea is a way.

Stepping outside the house, we come across this drink yet again. Teastalls are ever popular all over the country and in this, it is only more so.

Even hawkers, meaning small boys or men are seen moving around with large thermos selling tea (and very popular too) in any part of this city — the park, or shopping centre or a busy street — any place, just name it and we are sure to find a street vendor there.

Drinking tea is no fad, rather it is very much the cause for social gatherings. When a few friends get together, the obvious excuse they find

to sit together for a while is to have a cup of tea. From students to their fathers or grandfathers — all do so. Besides having so few public places in the city where people can sit for a while, tea stalls or restaurants become an obvious excuse to stop for a while. During the break from a class, all students again run to the canteen for a cup — again a lame excuse to enjoy a break from studies.

Drinking tea is also a bad habit with some. It's such an addiction that they can hardly work until and unless they have had some. Bad as it may be, the number of such persons is not very small in our city. We hear so much about the bad effects of caffeine and the extent of the damage that it can do and yet, we do not actually bother very much about it. Besides, most doctors tell us that drinking relatively 'cool' tea reduces its adverse effects by a good proportion. This provides us with enough excuse to stick to the drink!

How much caffeine is good or bad for us is of course still debatable. But the habit of drinking tea at least, is gaining popularity. The Chinese may have started it. The health conscious may have tried to alter its style by introducing green tea or milder still, 'camomille tea', but drinking the 'real' thing is ever so popular. In fact, its now is very good humour to rephrase the words 'I need some tea' into the more fashionable, 'I need some caffeine'!

Over 100 JP leaders join AL

Be alert against conspiracy by vested quarters: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to be alert against a conspiracy by vested quarters to frustrate the June 12 verdict of the people, reports BSS.

"A party ousted from power is out to create chaos and confusion in the country to achieve its very own ulterior motive," she said.

She was addressing a gathering at the Awami League's Central Office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday evening, marking the joining of over one hundred leaders of Jatiya Party and its front organisations led by former JP district president and parliament member and sitting president of Chittagong Samity in Dhaka, Absaruddin Ahmed.

The Prime Minister said that the BNP, in view of the forthcoming Paris consortium meeting next month, was trying to create lawlessness and instability in the country so that the donors became reluctant to help Bangladesh generously. She said that BNP, even when in power, cared little for the well-being of the people. "Rather, they were busy plundering national resources and making their own fortunes," she added.

The Prime Minister said that BNP in a very planned way instructed its cadres to create terrorism in bus terminals, universities, medical colleges and other educational institutions and important organisations to create divisions from where it could derive political gains. In this connection, she said, during the BNP regime each of its 154 MPs selected five of their cadres, who were given job in police services. Besides, they have left their own men in various key positions who were also helping BNP to attain its objectives, she added.

The Prime Minister warned that stern action would be taken against any failure of the concerned authorities to maintain law and order in the country and ensure safety and security of the people. In this connection she referred to the Boga incident in which the persons responsible were taken into task forthwith.

Party General Secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry Zillur Rahman also spoke on the occasion, while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan and party senior leaders including Abdul Mannan MP, Amir Hossain Anu, Fazul Haq, Mozammel Hossain Chowdhury (Maya) Birbikran MP, Siddiqur Rauf, Prof. Fazul Haq, Rezauddin Ahmed, Akhterul Alam and Feroz Ahmed were present.

The Prime Minister said that her party believed in people's power. "We have returned the people their voting rights which were snatched away successively by military and autocratic rulers," she said and added that the people gave her mandate to serve the nation. "We shall not be in power if we fail to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people and are voted out by them," she added. But she categorically said that the forward march of the people could not be interrupted through conspiracy. "We shall put an end to the trend and culture of changing governments through coups and conspiracies," she added.

The Prime Minister said that her government had given priority to ensure the participation of the people in the government. "As pledged in our party's election manifesto, we have already started implementing the process of running the government through national consensus," she said adding that even her party had chosen most respected and neutral personality of the country, Justice Shahabuddin for the highest seat of the presidency of the republic.

The Prime Minister, while explaining the principles of

What's on today . . .

BFUJ meet: Special delegate conference of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Special guest: Prof. Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10 am.

Seminar: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust will hold a seminar on 'Public Interest Litigation.' Chief guest: Justice Mozammel Huq, Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed will preside. Venue: WVA auditorium, Road 27, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

Bhawoya music: Narigrantha Prabartana has arranged a function of Bhawoya music (A kind of folk song of North Bengal region). Vocalist Hafizur Rahman will render songs. Venue: Narigrantha Prabartana, 2/8, Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4 pm.

Theatre: Theatre will stage 'Spordha' as part of the ongoing theatre week presented by the High Commission of India. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, 754 Satmasjid Road. Time: 7

. and tomorrow

Fish Fortnight '96: The inaugural ceremony of Fish Fortnight '96 will be held. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council campus, Farmgate. Time: 10 am.

Workshop on violence against women: A national workshop on 'Violence against women: Analysis and action' will be held. Venue: CIRDP, Chameli House, 17, Tophkhana Road. Time: 9:30 am-5 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

Light to moderate rain is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong, Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi yesterday and the lowest 24.0 degrees at Sylhet.

Meantime, Sylhet experienced the highest 110mm rain in the last 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Dhaka had 41mm rain, Barisal 35, Dinajpur and Rangpur 15 each, Cox's Bazar 14, Khulna and Rajshahi 13 each, Ishurdi 9, and Srimangal and Mymensingh 6mm each during the period.

The sun sets today at 6:15 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41 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	32.1	25.2	85	92
Chittagong	32.5	25.7	—	86
Rajshahi	32.8	27.0	95	90
Khulna	33.4	25.3	—	89
Barisal	32.1	24.5	—	83
Sylhet	28.0	24.0	100	90
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.8	—	85

NGWF demands holiday on Friday's

The National Garments Workers Federation (NGWF) has threatened to announce an agitation programme if the garments owners did not immediately announce Friday as holiday for the workers.

At a convention of the garments workers in the city, the federation formulated an eight-point charter of demands in the face of the problems of garments workers.

The convention was addressed, among others, by Left Front leader Nirmal Sen, Nayem Jahangir, Sirina Akhter while it was presided over by Mujibur Rahman of the Federation.

By Staff Correspondent

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Garments Workers and Employees Federation yesterday organised an advisory meeting on 'Multilateral Trade Agreement: Social Trend and National Interest' in the city.

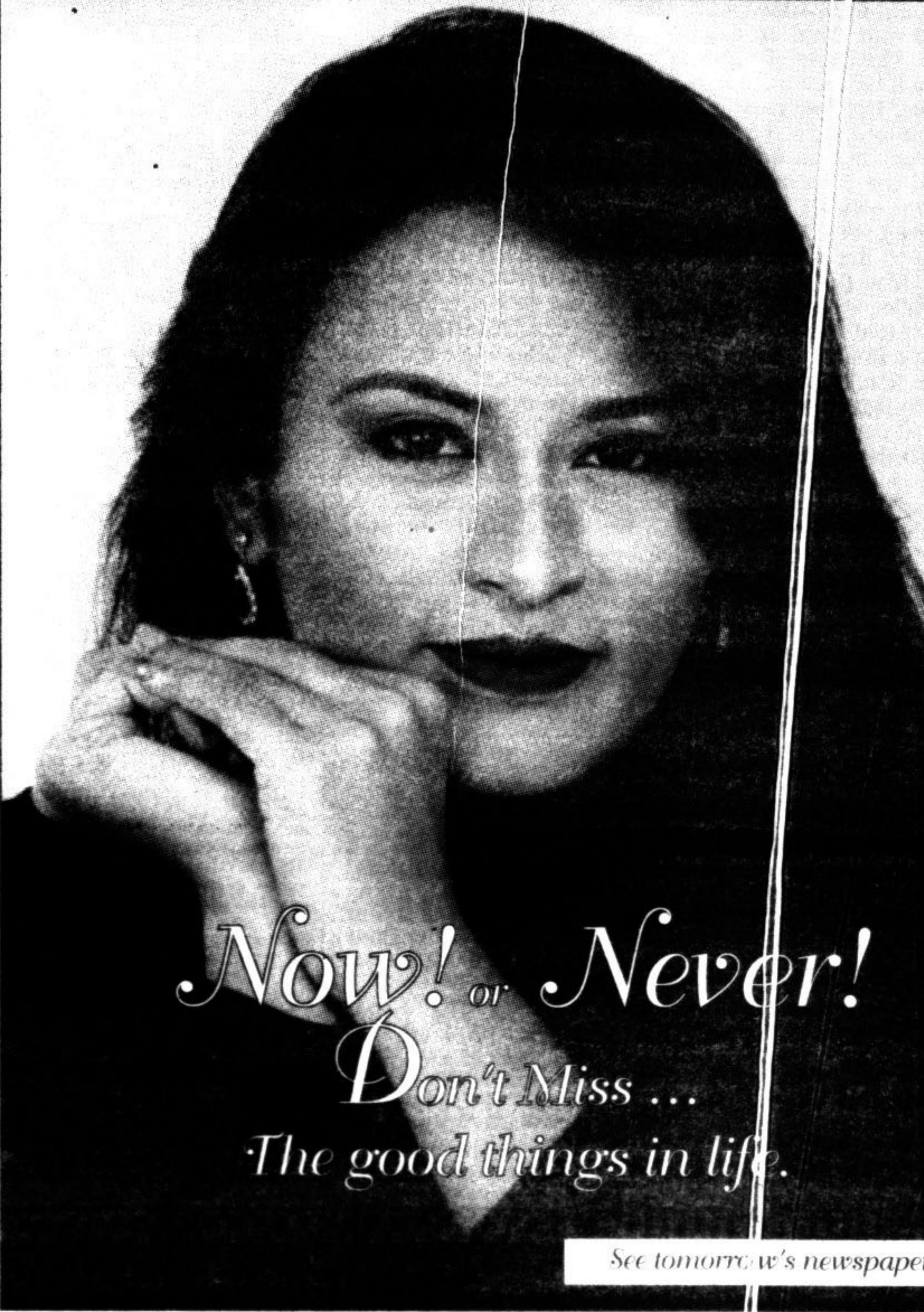
Presided over by the organization's president Abul Hossain, it was addressed by Abul Basar, Dr Tahera Yasmin, Shimu Das, Dil Afroze, Abdullah Al Muzmun and others.

The meeting observed that the formation of the World Trade Organisation had helped the multinational companies to expand their influences over the least developed countries.

It observed that by including Social Clause with the world trade in the GATT agreements, the developed nations have ensured total control over the world trade while curbing the powers of the developing nations over the trade.

Police rounded up 142 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Of them, 30 were warranted and 28 held on charges of murder, dacoity, snatching, extortion and terrorism, said a DMP press release.



See tomorrow's newspaper... unitrend

Biswas, Hasina greet King, PM of Malaysia

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has greeted the King of Malaysia on the occasion of the National Day of that country, reports BSS.

In his message to Tuanku Ja'alar Ibne Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Yang Di Pertuan Agong of Malaysia (King of Malaysia), President Abdur Rahman Biswas expressed his confidence that the existing relations between the two brotherly countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated the Prime Minister of Malaysia on the occasion of the country's National Day.

Sheikh Hasina in her message to Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, said the close bonds of friendship, mutual understanding and fruitful cooperation that happily exists between the two countries will acquire greater depth and dimension in the years to come to the benefit of both the peoples.

CSE capital market Tk 43.57 b in mid Aug

Chittagong, Aug 30: The market capital in the country's second bourse, Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) stood at Tk 43.57 billion in the middle of the current month, reports BSS.

The chief executive of CSE AGM Shamsul Kamal said this while participating at a discussion on primary concept on share market at Chittagong Press Club here today.

BCU march towards JS tomorrow

Bangladesh Chhatra Union, a left leaning student front, will organise a march towards the Jatiyo Sangsad tomorrow in demand of placement of its Alternative Education Policy (AEP) in the House.

The decision was taken Thursday in a meeting of BCU central committee.

BCU will organise the march as part of its fortnight long programme, to press for the implementation of the 'people-oriented and scientific' education policy before the Education Day September 17.

At the end of the march, a copy of the AEP will be supplied to each of the 330 Members of Parliament.

Besides, BCU will gherao the Ministry of Education, and give a memorandum to the Zilla and thana education officers Sept 17.



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Jalalabad Assoc reception

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday laid emphasis on collective efforts of all for the equal developments of all parts of the country, reports UNB.

He was addressing a reception ceremony at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday. Dhaka-based Jalalabad Association accorded the reception to the Ministers, Whip and MPs elected from Sylhet division.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Whip Vice-Principal Abdus Shaheed, Jalalabad Association President EA Chowdhury, General Secretary Guayoom Chowdhury, MPs Syed Rafiqul Haq, Shah Azizur Rahman, Abu Lais Mohammad Mobin, Enamul Haq, Mostafa Shaheed, Hosne Ara Wahid, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Muhibur Rahman Manik and Shahabuddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.



Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury speaking at a reception hosted by Jalalabad Association in the city yesterday. — PID photo