

Dhaka Day by Day

Caring for the Old

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The moment you cross your mid-fifties, almost instantaneously your youthful agility, keen perception, sharp acumen and robust physique seem to tire out easily. You tend to prefer peaceful, quiet days rather than the hectic, almost 12 hours' working days.

Your younger generation by now has overtaken you and you feel defeated and left out. You are beginning to consider yourself as a weary, old being. But in case you need some solace, it simply comes from the fact that you have gained the experience of time and age, and is much wiser now. Instead of spending your time, reading all the city dailies in the mornings, sleeping throughout the afternoons and lying on an easy chair, smoking pipe all through the evening, you can make good use of your knowledge to enlighten the new generations.

However reality speaks totally of a different situation. Old people, who almost forgotten that they are someone's parents, are simply regarded as burdens. Particularly those who have neither the ability to earn nor enough savings to have to suffer neglect and rejection of a dehumanising kind. After investing a lifetime on them (children) this is indeed a pathetic realization, specially in the twilight of their lives. Lonely and forsaken as they are, it is the duty of conscious and enlighten people of society to help the helpless old people on humanitarian ground.

Bangladesh Association for the Aged and the Institute of Geriatric Medicine is one such place that caters to the need of people in their old age," says Dr M A Wahid, Secretary General of the association.

"Established in the year nineteen hundred and sixty, it just examined the poor and gave

away medicines at the initial stage. "The 70's and 80's were very turbulent for us, we tried to help improve the socio-economic status of the old, ensure proper health care for the elderly and presently in Agargaon we run a full-fledged geriatric centre for the old," Wahid explains the proper role of the association.

One thing must be clear it is not a home for the aged, rather it can be described as a day-care centre that extends home service arrangement. It helps the old people to spend more healthy, restful days so that these people can in turn help society with their knowledge and experience earned throughout their youth," says Wahid, a dedicated member of the association.

The institute at present has a modern medical department with a 50 bed hospital and advanced physiotherapy, ENT, cardiology, pathology facilities. "The only thing lacking is proper propaganda which would help bring in patients and money as well," he says.

The association that has approximately 1,700 members since 1960 runs solely on membership fees and some individual donation. "We are expanding our present building and making arrangements for further accommodation," he informed.

With 18 branches all over the country and starting its activities long before the liberation, this organisation couldn't make a discernible impact on society as yet. It surely needs the support from the younger people, who can invest their time, money and energy for the organisation to develop and contribute meaningfully to the campaign for restoring the respectability of our senior citizens.



City Awami League Chief and DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif addressing a meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday in observance of the 32nd birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel, youngest son of Bangabandhu.

What's on today

Berger paints Bangladesh Ltd: Berger has arranged a 3-day exhibition of the 243 paintings competition which will be inaugurated by the Managing Director of the company. Venue: Charukala Institute, Time 10 am.

Government Laboratory High School: A reception will be accorded to the distinguished students and debaters. Venue: School premises, Time: 9.30 am.

Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee: Durga Puja celebration. Venue: Dhakeswari Mandir Melangan. Time: Day-long.

Conference on AIDS: A 3-day conference on "The global challenge of AIDS: Together for the future", organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and UNICEF, will begin. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 11 am.

IUB seminar: Independent University, Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Japanese Management'. Speaker: Prof R de Maricourt of the French Graduate School of Management (ESCP). Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Dry spell may prevail

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period throughout the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Kutubdia yesterday and the lowest 18.1 degrees at Srimangal.

Sun sets today at 05:29 pm and rises on day after tomorrow at 05:59 am.

Maximum and the minimum temperatures and humidities recorded in some major cities and town yesterday were:

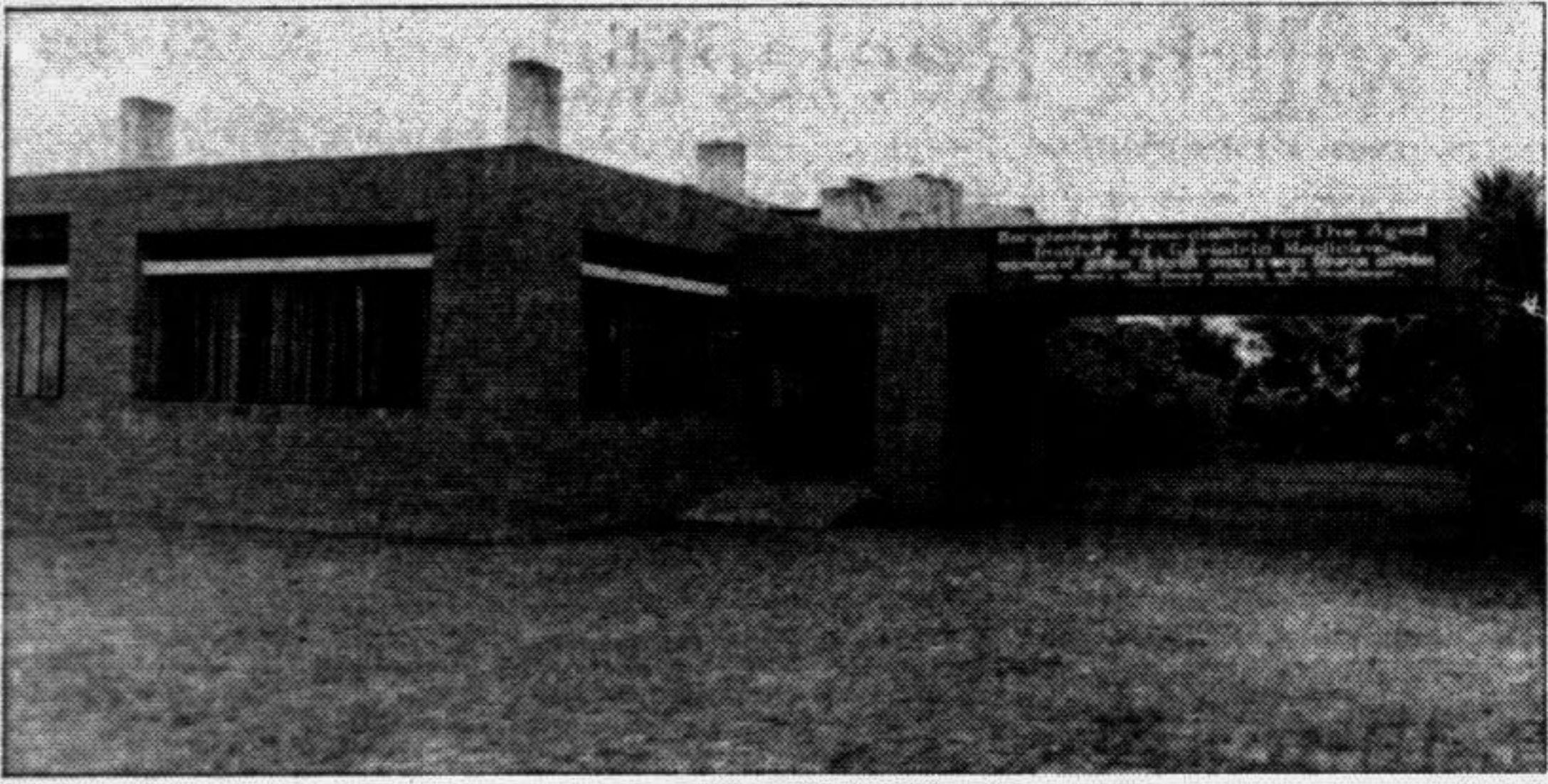
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.2	21.6	71	77
Chittagong	33.8	24.5	80	70
Rajshahi	31.8	21.8	77	77
Khulna	33.0	23.0	68	77
Barisal	33.0	22.0	77	78
Sylhet	33.3	21.4	70	70
Cox's Bazar	33.5	26.5	71	77

BNP seminar Oct 31

The National Revolution and Solidarity Day Observance Committee of BNP will hold a seminar on October 31 at the Engineers' Institution auditorium, reports UNB.

A meeting of the committee Wednesday formed a 18-member sub-committee headed by Mahbul Alam Tara for holding the seminar in observance of November 7, party sources said.

Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Ehsanul Kabir, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Fazlul Huq Milon, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Mojibbar Rahman, Jamaluddin Khan and Dr Alauddin Masud are among the committee members.



The house that looks after the old.

— Photo: Mostafa Jahangir Alam.

Govt determined to break barrier created in media, says Abu Sayeed

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said that the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was determined to break the barrier created in mass media including television and betar during the last 21 years in the way of flourishing of intellect and creativity, reports BSS.

The State Minister was inaugurating a workshop on "Proper pronunciation, speaking skill and recitation" organised by a Literary organisation "Drishiti" at the TSC here in the morning.

Educationalist Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Panna Kaiser, MP, Director General of Shilpakala Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan and student leader Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan were, among others, who spoke at the inaugural session which was chaired by Mosharrat Hossain.

Prof Sayeed said the present government had taken steps so that the hopes and aspirations of the masses were reflected in television and betar.

Willes Little Flower school team leaves for India, Nepal

An eleven-member team of meritorious students of Willes Little Flower School left here yesterday night by road on a week-long study tour of India and Nepal, a press release of the school said, reports BSS.

The delegation will visit Siliguri and Darjeeling in India's West Bengal state and Katmandu and Pokhra in Nepal.

The members of the delegation are Kazi Saidul Hasan, Mirza Saad Andalib, Tanviruzzaman Khan, Faisal Kabir Pasha, Salma Akhtar, Popy Rani Roy, Nawshad Haider, Aparna Saha, Mohammad Wajedur Rahman Rahat, Saiful Asif and Tamal Saha.

Headmaster of the school Mohammad Shah Alam, Assistant Headmistress Salma Rahman Sweetie and teachers Rawshan Ara and Tapan Bardhan are accompanying the delegation which is expected to return here on October 26.

Dress as you like competition held

A colourful Dress As You Like competition was held yesterday at Dhanmondi Abahani ground in observance of the Tourism Month '96, reports UNB.

More than 100 participants, divided in two groups, took part in the competition. Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Dr AKA Mubin opened the competition.

Farid Ahmed secured the first prize in group A (above 15 years). Mohammad Siraj got the second prize, and Khandaker Parvez and Sabina Shawkat jointly won the third prize.

In group B (below 15 years), Amiruzzaman Khan Sajib, Munir and Dipta won the first, second and third prizes respectively. Eight consolation prizes were also given in the competition.

A panel of judges comprising noted drama artiste Afzal Hossain, dancer Zinat Barkatullah, a teacher of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University Muniruzzaman and Director of Parjatan Corporation Abul Bashir selected the winners.

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