

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Tiniest Books on Display

By Fayza Huq

It is always heartening to have a book fair or a book exhibition in a place like Dhaka. It revives the habit of reading and makes people spend their money on books rather than on other fancies. Persons who believe that books belong to student days only, are persuaded to go through the books with their attractive covers. When the prices are not formidable and the books themselves are tempting they stop to purchase one or two for themselves and their children. When there is a case of rite book display it makes one pause and wonder even longer.

The Central Public Library saw an intriguing display of miniature books this week. This was arranged by the USSR Embassy. It included a tiny copy of the Holy Quran. Less than 1 sq. inch in size it had been published originally in 1677 and had a reprint in the 19th century. The work on the Quran had been done by special lens in Western Europe.

Speaking at the inauguration of the book display professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, President of Education said, "We learn how to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of one's nation from the Soviet Union. He also pointed out that the collection, presented by Mrs. Salakova, was an example of love and affection for cultural heritage.

Addressing the gathering at the opening of the book show Mr. S. Salakova said that she was very satisfied with the manner in which her books had been exhibited and said that she had been longing to visit Bangladesh for some time. "Through books people come to know each other better, and become closer to each other," she said.

The exhibition included the display of 113 books and had been divided into five sections. The different parts included items on Azerba-

jan (the home of the collector), the Holy Quran, oriental poetry, Russian literature and rare publications.

Among the books on Lenin the smallest was 16x16 m.m. in size. One rare book on Olympic oath was 5 m.m. in size.

A major part of the display had been devoted to Russian literature and included books by Pushkin. There was a miniature copy of his book "Captain's Daughter" published in Moscow in 1900. This was a rare copy.



Mrs. Zarifa Salakova, who is born in Haku, is a philologist and is also a member of All Union Section of Lovers of Miniature Books. Her collection comprises 1700 miniature books.

The other absorbing book display was the Chinese book festival, also held this week at the Public Library. This may not have roused the curiosity of the viewers as much as the fascinating miniatures of Mrs. Salakova's collection. However, it offered numerous books for sale at reasonable prices, the cheapest ones being for Tk3. There were books on various subjects to lure the buyer.

In the general information section there were titles such as "An American in China" by Sidney Shapiro and "Wit and Humour from Ancient China". TK 800 was the highest price of books in this section.

There were books on politics, economics and law. "Why China has no inflation" was for Tk 3 only. There were history, geography, literature and medical books as well. Martial arts and poetry had not been ignored either. More absorbing than anything else were the children's books with their gay illustrations.

Book festivals make people think and read more. This encouragement of reading surely results in more flow of knowledge, which is imperative in a place like ours.

## Plea to remove rural-urban disparity in education

Prof. Iazuddin Ahmed, Adviser, Incharge of Cultural Affairs, Saturday called upon the women community to take active part in creating a democratic environment for holding free and fair elections, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day national seminar on "environment and women" organised by Women in Science and Technology in Asian Region (WISTAR) held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium in Dhaka.

Dr. Iazuddin suggested equal standard of education system in both rural and urban areas and said in the cities kindergartens are sprawling where the affluent guardians are spending thousands of Taka for their children but in the villages there are schools without fence and benches. This inequality could not go together in a sovereign country, he added.

He urged the women to be vigilant so that arms could not be used in the polls as he observed, "Arms and free elec-

tion could not go together". He emphasised the need for creating a congenial atmosphere so that women could be integrated into the overall national activities. He said women should be conscious about it and undertake responsibilities for policy making, research, education and industries. He said, "women should also be conscious about environment, politics and the country."

Presided over by Dr. Shahid Rafti, President, WISTAR, the inaugural session was also addressed by the Chairman of University Grants Commission, Prof. M. Shamsul Huq, Physicist, Prof. M. Shamsur Ali, Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC, Dr. M. Sujaytullah Chowdhury, Chief Consultant of Secondary Science Education Project, Dr. A.M. Sharafuddin, Joint Secretary of Science and Technology Division, Mrs. Khodeja Azam, Prof. Sultana Shaif and Prof. Z.N. Tahmid. Prof. Iazuddin said during the last 20 years scientific and technological research and innovative activities could not progress in conformity with

the rural life and one of the main reasons for this backwardness of women community. He said time has come to evaluate the status of women in scientific research and education and analyse our employment and technical policies and development programmes.



## Irshad's sitar recital today

A sitar recital by Irshad Khan will be held at Sonargaon Hotel today Sunday at 7 p.m. says a press release.

The recital is being organised as a fund raising campaign by the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation. The Protibondhi Foundation is a trust dedicated to the cause of the mentally disabled children and adults.

## Steps to ensure oil supply for irrigation

Government has taken effective measures to ensure normal supply of lub Oil and diesel during the current irrigation season throughout the country to increase country's food-grain production, reports UNB.

Supply of diesel and lub will not be hampered in any part of the country especially in the irrigation-intensive areas due to these steps, say a PID hand-out.

Farmers have been advised to produce optimum quantity of foodgrains by continuing use of their irrigation pumps and by conducting their farming activities with full enthusiasm. price of aman, says a PID hand-out.

The decision was taken in the meeting of the Council of Advisers held on January 24 at the Bangabhaban with the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the Chair.

several important issues such as the reported 'black-listing' of some newscasters by so-called 'jote' which has been allegedly intimidating the TV authorities since the fall of the Ershad regime.



A CITY OF RICKSHAW — Dhaka has turned out to be a city of rickshaws, which ease the sufferings of the people in the absence of adequate number of mini-buses, buses and auto-tempo. But then, the number of rickshaws has swelled in the city as most of them are without licences and the drivers are just freshers in the field. As a result, they flagrantly flout traffic rules as they are unaware of those and come from rural areas due to lack of employment opportunities there.

## Call to ensure safety for foreigners

The Chairman of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, Saturday called upon all to help ensure safety of all foreigners working in Bangladesh in the interest of country's economic growth, reports BSS.

He said the Bangladeshi people, famous for their traditional hospitality, should be more careful about the safety of foreigners working here and who may visit in future. Lauding strong government measures in this regard, the BGMEA Chairman urged the law enforcing agencies to be more vigilant so that free movement of the foreign guests are not disrupted in any way.

The 100 per cent export-oriented garments industries in Bangladesh largely depends on frequent contacts with the foreigners for many reasons, he added.

## Body to probe MBBS admission test incident

A three-member inquiry committee has been set up to probe into the incidents which led to the abandonment of the M.B.B.S. admission tests in Dhaka Friday, it was official stated, reports BSS.

Prof. Habibur Rahman Ansari, Director of Medical Education, Training and Research has been made the chairman of the committee which was the principals of Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salimullah Medical College as the two other members.

The committee is to submit its report within three days, it was further stated. Friday's M.B.B.S. Admission Test Examination had to be suspended as some outsiders created troubles at some examination centres.

## Five-party rally in front of Foreign Office January 29

The five-party alliance will hold a rally in front of the Foreign Ministry on January 29 at 11 a.m. demanding the withdrawal of Bangladesh troops from Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

A party press release said the interim government should bring back the troops from Saudi Arabia since the despatch of the soldiers was not in line with the "world opinion and the position of Bangladesh people on the issue."



## SUNDAY

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran.
- 5.10 News in Bangla.
- 5.20 Programme summary.
- 5.22 Recitation from the Bible.
- 5.25 Hasikhusi.
- 5.55 Educational programme - Perspective.
- 6.20 Sports programme.
- 7.05 Tagore songs.
- 8.00 News in Bangla.
- 8.30 Sampratik.
- 9.00 Drama serial - Against the Wind.
- 9.50 Tomorrow's programme.
- 10.00 News in English.
- 10.30 Shilpa-o-Sahitya.
- 11.30 News in Bangla.
- 11.40 Monday's programme, verses from Al-Quran, National Flag and National Anthem.
- 11.45 Close down.

## Anarchy on city roads, no end in sight

By Nazmul Ashraf

Gross violation of traffic rules is mainly responsible for traffic jam on city roads and the violation has mounted specially after the recent political changes in the country. The drivers seem to be no respecter of law and whims dominate when they drive their vehicles. As a result, there are traffic jams more often than not, on the city roads and streets and it takes hours for the police to clear away. Thus the plight of the city dwellers knows no bound.

The rickshawpullers are frequently found plying their vehicles even on the roads where there are restrictions already. Besides, road dividers were conveniently broken at some places and the vehicles cross roads through the broken dividers. Rickshawpullers are often seen to cross over the dividers as the diversions are at a long distance.

### Plight of people

To add to the miseries of the people slow-moving vehicles such as rickshaws and pushcarts ply on wrong tracks causing traffic jam. Overloading, overtaking, more than one row for unfair competition, haphazard and unauthorised parking and stoppage of heavy transport at the will of the drivers are a common scene in the city now-a-days.

Traffic jam has become a regular feature during the peak hours (6 am to 10 am and 3.30 pm to 7 pm) in city areas like Gulistan, Motijheel, Jatrabari, Sayedabad, Tikatuly, Purana Paltan, Malibagh, Farmgate, Science Laboratory, Sadar Ghat and Tipu Sultan Road.

Other worth-citing causes of traffic jam, as identified by the Police (Traffic) Department include: plying of unauthorised rickshaws, ever increasing number of vehicles, roads in bad shape and condemned vehicles, plying of trucks during the peak hours, rash driving by the inexperienced drivers, piling building materials and trading by hawkers on the road-sides, frequent digging of roads by different departments like Telephone and Telegraph and Titas Gas and inadequate measures to cope with the situation.

### Recommendations

Recommendations to overcome the situation were placed before the higher authorities several times, but all those are yet to be implemented, traffic police sources told.

Among the recommendations are: repair of roads in poor shape, replacement of out of order and non-effective traffic signals, strict maintenance of road-divider everywhere, the construction of flyover at the level crossings, pushing out the unauthorised rickshaws and pushcarts and from the roads and forming a national consensus of withdrawal of slow-moving vehicles like rickshaw and pushcart.

Mr. Ahmedul Huq Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) of Police told 'The Daily Star' on Thursday hoping the situation would improve with an elected government in the power. He, however, took over 'only recently'.

Terming traffic jam on the city roads alarming, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the

need for a coordinated effort by all concerned to improve the overall traffic system in the country.

When his attention was drawn to the anarchy in the vehicular traffic, Mr. Ahmedul Huq admitted there were incidences of violation and he commented, maybe, these people still feel they enjoy the victory in the recent mass upsurge and ply their vehicles indiscriminately.

The Deputy Commissioner admitted that lapses on the part of a section of traffic police sometimes cause traffic jam and appropriate action is normally taken in such cases, he told.

He also underscored the need for increasing the police force to cope with the abnormal anarchy in road traffic.

## Steps for return of tribals from India sought

A 10-member delegation representing professionals and students belonging to Chittagong Hill Tracts called on the Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at President's Secretariat Saturday, reports BSS.

Led by agriculturist Subodh Bikash Shakma, the delegation congratulated the Acting President for various steps taken by the interim government to hold peaceful,

free, fair and impartial parliamentary polls on February 27.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to the Acting President demanding removal of the Chairman and Members of the three hill District Councils and suspension of the councils in the interest of free and fair polls.

Members of the delegation said that in case there was any difficulty to remove the chairmen or to suspend the District

## 'Iraqi embassy funding rallies'

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday expressed concern over the continued alleged violation of diplomatic norms by the Iraqi Embassy in Dhaka, reports UNB.

"It is very unfortunate and undesirable", an official of the Ministry said.

The Ministry on Thursday lodged a protest to the Iraqi embassy about its alleged involvement in acts of inciting and funding rallies and demonstrations against countries friendly to Bangladesh to serve its country's political purposes.

The Iraqi mission was also requested to desist from doing anything prejudicial to the established diplomatic norms.

Fazlur Rahman, Director General of the West Asia Desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regretted that the Iraqi Embassy had not refrained from activities which was in contravention of diplomatic behaviour despite the request.

"Necessary action will be taken in due time if the Iraqi mission does not stop the activities repugnant to the diplomatic norms", the official said.

## PROGRAMME

### Muktijoddhas' meet

A meeting of the Bikrampur Muktijoddha Kalyan Sangthata will be held on February 1 (Friday) at 10 a.m. at the Sangthata's office at 28/1 Tophkhana Road in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Muktijoddhas of Bikrampur have been requested to attend meeting.

### Reunion

The X'mas and New Year Reunion organised by Bangladesh Christian Association will be held today (Sunday) at 5 pm at Tejgaon Church Community Centre (Farmgate).

### Ganachhaya meet

A meeting of the executive committee of the Ganachhaya, a cultural organisation, will be held today (Sunday) at its central office.

All members have been requested to attend the meeting.

## Low persists over Bay

## Night temperature to rise gradually

By Staff Correspondent

The night temperature will rise gradually all over Bangladesh during the next two days, according to the meteorological department.

The night temperature on Friday and Saturday remained nearly unchanges, but was still below the normal by two to five degrees Celsius from place to place.

The lowest minimum temperature - 06.9 degrees Celsius - was recorded on Saturday at Srimangal. The highest maxi-

mum temperature 28.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Bogra.

The westerly low lay over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and neighbourhood on Saturday.

The seasonal low lay over south Bay and adjoining Andaman Sea, met office said.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Night temperature may rise gradually. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change.

Councils before the coming parliamentary election atleast their financial power and use of official transports should be restricted so that they could not influence the election.

They also urged the interim government to take measures for the return of the tribal refugees from India before the coming polls.

The Acting President said his government would welcome the return of tribal refugees and added that steps had already been taken for their rehabilitation.

He said the interim government wanted the flourishing of tribal people with their own identity and culture.

The Acting President pointed out that the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation-1900 was still in force protecting the rights and culture of the tribal people.

## 20-member BNP poll conducting committee

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has formed a 20-member central election conducting committee with Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder as its convener.

The members of the committee are: Professor Badrud-Doza Chowdhury, Emran Ali Sarkar, Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Afazuddin Fakir, Barrister Zamiruddin Sarkar, Sarwari Rahman, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Jahanara Begum, Afsar Ahmed Siddiqui, A. K. A. Firoz Noon (member-secretary), Nazrul Islam Khan, Abdul Barez, Selina Rahman, Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah, Abu Zahed, Md Shahjahan, Jahid Hossain, Advocate Abdul Wadud Khandaker and Advocate Surayya Begim.

BNP has also formed a seven-member publicity and publication committee with Lt. Col (ret'd) A. S. M. Mustafizur Rahman as its convener. Other members of the committee are: Farida Hasan, Brig (ret'd) Hannan Shah, Goychawar Roy (Member-secretary), Ahmed Nazir, Major (ret'd) Sayeed Skander and Shamsuzzaman Datta.



Young Buddhist Association distributed on Saturday warm clothes to the destitutes in front of the National Press Club in city. The initiative was indeed commendable as millions below the poverty level could easily be saved from wintry chill if the wealthy Bangladeshis contribute a little for purchase of warm clothes at throw-away prices and distribute them among the poor.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- Beseech
  - Implore
  - Memento
  - Consumed
  - Paddle
  - Choice part
  - Obstruct
  - Stamp
  - Boring
  - Irre
  - Soak, as
  - flax
  - Sham
  - Monty Hall's specialties
  - Sun god
  - Don Adams
  - role
  - Attitude
  - Fed. agcy.
  - Reject
  - Capuchin monkey
  - Tidy
  - Beemirch
  - , R. Q. —

**RAW SPIRE LAW  
ETA ERROR ALE  
SESAME TITTLE  
VISAS ER  
ECCE ERS ONCE  
LAG ANCHOVIES  
EN SIT EDE AS  
COMPLETED ASE  
TEARDIP SLED  
AN ESSE  
PRAYER KITTEN  
ION SATIN ORE  
GET THINK PAW**

- DOWN**
- Comedian
  - Hope
  - Audience
  - Classify
  - Buys back
  - Spanish article
  - Illuminated
  - Roman road
  - Gave up
  - Fuss
  - Type of cross
  - More unusual
  - Along the Mohawk
  - Three-toed sloths
  - Smallest amount
  - Marsh bird
  - Walk on
  - Declare
  - Ingenious; naive
  - Former Russian ruler
  - Irrigate
  - English streetcars
  - Permit
  - Sect
  - Tooth crown
  - Anglo-Saxon money
  - Corded cloth
  - Nahoor sheep
  - Solemn wonder
  - Still
  - Nickel symbol

