

Dhaka Day by Day

Training in Hospitality

by Rahat Fahmida

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In 1978 assistance from ILO/UNDP was requested and was granted within a short time. It then worked out its massive plan in three phases. After this, many international experts and consultants were assigned under an ILO chief technical advisor. During this first phase with ILO/UNDP assistance which lasted until 1982, the Intercontinental Hotel became Dhaka Sheraton and was completely renovated and the Sonargaon Hotel was built. The pre-opening and the post-opening training for the two new international standard hotels was conducted by the staff of this institute.

The present building, housing the institute, was built in 1982 with modern amenities and incorporates the Hotel Abakash on the top floor of the same building. It also has the facility of a restaurant and coffee shop which offer the trainees to gain practical experience under realistic commercial conditions.

From 1986 the second phase of the assistance commenced under which there has been great leap in the activities of the institute and the application hotel.

It goes without saying that the institute is well-equipped to offer a variety of professional training courses for aspirants wishing to have a career in a hotel, catering and tourism sector. The institute, therefore, offers full-time professional training at different levels conducted by highly-qualified and trained instructors/trainers, in the following areas: food and beverage production (professional cookery), food and beverage service, bakery and pastry production, housekeeping and laundry operations, front office/secretarial operations, tourism specialisations including travel agency, tour operation, information and guiding and short courses in duty-free retail shop operations, English language for special purpose, etiquette and protocol for junior executives.

All these courses have strict application formalities. Scheduled courses are advertised in the press some weeks prior to their admission test. It was reported that though the minimum qualification for applying in any course is Secondary School Certificate examination, they often receive applications from candidates who have a Master's degree, or an MBA or even professionals, such as doctors or engineers. The institute offers scholarships depending on the student's merit.

G. M. Chowdhury, the efficient principal of this reputable institute, when asked about the feed-back of their different courses said, "We have so far trained above 7,000 people since 1974 and more than 30 national instructors have been developed in various specialisations. Many of our graduates have been absorbed in the hotel and tourism industry at home and also in reputable organisations abroad, especially in Middle East. Chowdhury was proud to mention that financially the institute is self-sufficient, that is it has enough income from both outside and inside catering, including their lavish accommodation facilities.

We all look forward to such progressive national institutions. Chowdhury encouragingly concluded: "We hope the institute in its third major phase will progress in faculty and personnel and develop higher-level to diploma standards and have regional application in the SAARC countries."

He further added that the eight most common forms of cancer are stomach, lung, breast, colon-rectum, cervix, mouth and pharynx, oesophagus and liver. Globally, eight per cent of all deaths are caused by cancer.

The other speaker urged the government to transform the only cancer institute and research hospital of the country into an international standard. It was cited at the conference that if anyone of the signs and symptoms like—mild cough and husky voice, delayed wound healing, excessive bleeding, lump in breast or any other part of the body, dysphagia & indigestion, alteration of bowel habit, remarkable change of mole or acnelingers for more than two weeks doctors should be consulted immediately.

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Baksal protests Gazette omission

A press release issued in Dhaka Friday night by Bangladesh Krishak Samik Awami League (BAKSAL) said doubt and confusion have been created following the mentioning of BAKSAL nominated candidate, Advocate M Abdur Rahim, elected to the Jatiya Sangsad from Dinajpur-3 (Sadar) constituency, as Awami League candidate in different mass media reports BSS.

The press release said, Advocate Rahim presently a President member of Baksal Central Committee, was a Baksal nominated candidate who won as an alliance candidate with 'Boat' symbol.

After informing the matter to the Election Commission, it said that party identity of the elected candidates were not mentioned in the official gazette.

Book on '71 war presented to Hasina

A book written on Liberation War by Lt. Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury was handed over to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on Thursday at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The book entitled 'Ebarer Sangram Swadhinatar Sangram' contained valuable documents on the Liberation War.

Morshed's solo art exhibition begins

By BUET Correspondent. The solo art exhibition of promising young artist Morshed Chowdhury began at the Fine Arts Institute premises on Thursday.

It was artist's second solo exhibition which was inaugurated by Abdul Matin Sarker, Director of Fine Arts Institute. The exhibition was adorned with 17 oil paintings. In them, he expressed mystery, local traditions and philosophy of life.

The 8-day long exhibition beginning from March 7, will end on March 14. It is open to all from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

TV programme Saturday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al Quran
- 5-20 Esho Gan Sikhi
- 5-55 Cartoon : Bopeye and Son
- 6-15 Programme on population problem
- 7-00 Beshuri : Programme based on folk songs
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-30 Special discussion on population census 1991
- 9-00 Shiropa
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Important events of the Asian Cup TT Tournament
- 11-30 News
- 11-45 Closing

1.5 lakh die of cancer every year

By SSMC Correspondent

about two lakh people fall victim of cancer and one and a half lakh die every year in Bangladesh.

Prof Syed Fazlul Huq, President of the Bangladesh Cancer Society, told this at the annual conference of the society held at the auditorium of Ibrahim Memorial Diabetic Hospital in Dhaka on Friday.

Prof Huq also mentioned an international investigation team recently surveyed that about eight lakh people have been suffering from cancer-related diseases in Bangladesh.

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60 DU teachers plead for a BNP govt

Sixty teachers of Dhaka University in a joint statement Friday called on the Acting President to form cabinet with Parliament members-elect from Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), reports UNB.

They said since BNP had emerged as the single majority party in the election and received support of the members-elect of other parties, it would not be at all difficult to identify BNP as the majority party.

They also expressed concern over post-election wrangling of the leaders of the two mainstream political parties.

Signatories to the statement include Dr. Nurul Islam, Dr. Abdul Wadud Bhuyian, Sadrul Amin, Dr. Abul Kashem Fazlul Hoque, Dr. Tofazzel Hossain Khan, Dr. Mobarak Hossain Khan, Dr. Syed Jamaluddin, Dr. Delwar Hossain, Dr. Zahidul Hoque, Azizul Hoque, Rasheda Ishrat Nasser, Syeda Firoza Begum, Munirul Hoque, Shafiqur Rahman, Dr. Abul Bashan and Dr. Syed Rashedul Hasan.

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'WERE HERE' - Women from all walks of life converged on the Sangsad Bhavan on Friday on the occasion of International Women Day possibly to remind the newly-elected MPs that the Parliament session, due to begin April 5, should devise ways and means for women's welfare. — Star photo.

'Poorest women earn most foreign exchange'

by S. Bari

A placard held aloft during the International Women's Day procession in Dhaka yesterday read: "The poorest women earn the most foreign exchange for Bangladesh."

The procession, counting over 3500 women, was in commemoration of the internationally-recognized day. Participants proceeded from the Dhanmondi Club premises to converge on the Sangsad Bhavan compound.

One of the aims of the march was to create an awareness in the minds of city-dwellers of the large presence and importance of the sex which constitutes more than half the population. "We want people to see that women have flooded the streets of Dhaka. We are here," said Shireen Huq, one of the organizers.

The procession was formed of various women's and development groups. Among the banners spotted were Naripakkho, Phulki, Proshika, Nari Maitri, BRAC, Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, and Bangladesh Women Journalists Society.

Bands like those of the Women Ansar's Bagpipes and the Kamrunnessa Giris' High School livened up the