Dhaka Day by Day

'Reader-Paper Gap Should be Narrowed'

by Rahat Fahmida

It is indeed a difficult task to paint an authentic portrait of the Indian journalist Chanchal Sarker, because it demands a lot of artistry to highlight the facets of his personality and do justice to his career.

The world of journalism is quite fascinating. "Comment is free, facts are sacred," C.P. Scott, a great editor of the 'Manchester Guardian', made that much-quoted statement of a main principle of journalism. Who are journalists? A journalist informs and communicates with the world around him/her. He conveys the events of the day distilled into a few words, sounds or pictures, processed by the mechanics of communication to satisfy the human curiosity of a world that is always eager to know what's new!

Chanchal Sarker was recently here on a brief visit in a two-member delegation representing the Editors Guild of India. This was to express the Guild's solidarity with the people and media in the aftermath of April 29, cyclone.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Chanchal Sarker was asked, "Why do you think that the standard of journalism especially in English, has dropped in South Asia? What is the solution?"

He answered with an expert view, "In India, it has certainly not dropped. Special areas have developed. There are more business journals and economic papers now, for example, 'The Economic Times', 'Business Standards' are widely circulated. The other big step forward is the magazine journalism, and it is progressing well in other languages in different states. Video magazine is another side of journalism which has now by passed our otherwise dull television. They have given a new light to the news world.

"If you look at the Indian press, every one has been wrongly predicting the decline or death of English papers. Hard, serious, journalism is what we see in English press. There are a number of new newspapers which introduce new bylines. This is, in fact, quite encouraging and promising for young journalists. The number of women journalists has shot up. They are undoubtedly enterprising.

"There is a tremendous expansion in language papers in India, which offer a light reading compared to the English ones. It must not be ignored that things are changing very fast even in the technological sector. Though it cannot be at the same pace with that of the Western world, as it involves large investment."

Chanchal Sarker went on to put forward a few relevant suggestions for the improvement of journalism not only in India but in the neighbouring countries, too. "Yes, I do agree that the standard of journalism could be much better. The big step is through training and readership study. One thing I think which is lacking in our press is that our readers are very undemanding. Newspaper people should be in greater touch with the readers, by holding periodical meetings. This would narrow the gap between the two sides. There should be more stress in investigative journalism, though it is going on in full swing in India."

Asked "What are the training facilities for young journalists"?, Mr Sarkar said : "The world is becoming so much complex and mechanised. One needs a lot of training, more so as our universities are inflexible institutions. In anyway, training in the job is an essentiality, especially for journalists. They should be trained to express themselves well and concisely. It has to be taught and learnt thoroughly. And definitely it is not an easy job.

Chancal Sarker

"One of the main factor is that the industry mush play a bigger/greater role in training. They must set up institutions or should be able to arrange courses for longer time for specialisation. Exchange programmes with the press of neighbouring countries should be encouraged and programmed.

"It should be realised that smallest amount of money is spent on journalists. This attitude should change. As media is a very important part of life in other countries, and we only recognise it carelessly. At times media also changes the way the country functions politically."

Chanchal Sarker was educated in St. Xavier's school and college and the Presidency College, the most reputable institutions of India. He later went to Claire College of Cambridge University. But he did not stop there. He also completed his Bar-at-Law in England. His inclination to journalism from his student life, influenced him to join the Statesman on returning to Calcutta.

On leaving the Statesman a few years later, Mr Sarkar became the founder and the first director of the Press Institute of India (PII), where he served for eighteen years. After retirement he is now a regular columnist with two top English dailies of India — the Hindustan Times, and Indian Express and various other papers outside the country.

8 JCD students expelled

JU Correspondent

SAVAR, May 21 : The Central Committee of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) expelled eight students from the party for their alleged involvement in the attack on the halls of Jahangirnagar University on May 20.

They are Md. Saiful Islam, Abul Kashem Rani, Arshad Ali, Md. Yusuf, Saiful Islam, Jiban Shafiq, Harunur Rashid and Ilim Md. Nazmul Islam.

Meanwhile, the situation of Jahangirnagar University has returned to normal. Police are still remaining at the campus.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 "The Golden —"
6 Floats in air
11 Public speaker
12 Powerful persons
14 Iron symbol
15 "The — Cuckoo"
17 Near
18 Cooling device
20 Goes by water
21 To and —
22 Kind of collar
24 Witty remark
25 Leak through
26 Negligent
28 Dinner courses
30 Frozen water
31 Ship channel
32 Showy clothes
35 — Teresa
38 Sandarac tree
39 Guido's high note
41 Half: prefix
42 Hindu cymbals
43 Servants
45 Crimson
46 Paid notice
47 Entrances
49 Neon symbol
50 Vast throng
52 Heaps
54 Omens
55 Small heating vessels

DOWN

1 Bring into being
2 Laughter
3 Possessive pronoun
4 Parcels of land
5 Visions
6 Long-legged birds
7 Lubricates
8 Consumed
9 Sun god
10 Trapped
11 Tender
13 Halts
16 — Grande
19 In name only
21 Plume
23 Keener
25 Narrow, flat boards
27 Indian weight
29 Time gone by
32 "— Attraction"
33 Turkish decrees
34 Longs for
35 French lady
36 Corrects, as manuscript
37 Is borne
40 Illuminated
43 Earth's satellite
44 Narrow opening
47 Hog
48 Bright star
51 Enlisted man: colloq.
53 Sodium symbol

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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Cultural contest ends

The four day long Annual cultural contest of Jahangirnagar University ended on Tuesday at the social science gallery of the University.

Organised by Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) the contest was formally inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed.

The cultural contest included Tagore song, Nazrul's song, classical song, patriotic song. The Vice-Chancellor of the university distributed prizes among the winners.

Display of naked bodies condemned

A group of twenty teachers of Jahangirnagar University on Tuesday in a statement urged the press and TV to stop showing or publishing nacked human bodies specially those of women of being victims of devastating cyclone.

The statement was signed by Prof. Syed Shaftullah, Prof. Jamaluddin Ahmed, Prof. Abdul Awal, Prof. Azizul Haq, Prof. A. M. Rehman, Prof. Rabiul Islam, Prof. Mirza Aminul Haq.

Terrorist attack stated

Acting Convenor of Ganatantrik Chhatra Kendra Raju Ahmed in a statement on Monday condemned the terrorist activities at Jahangirnagar University on Sunday

Hearing of newsmen Wage Board continues

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the implementation of the Wage Board Award for journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies continued before the Division Bench of the High Court Division Tuesday.

The court comprises Justice M. Abdul Jalil and Justice Badruzzaman.

The counsel for the petitioner was still arguing before the court the hearing will resume today.

Ban on Ershad's song criticised

President of the Central Committee of Jatiya Sramik Party Shah Md. Abu Jafar expressed resentment over the ban of singing of Ershad's song in the city. In this regard he said Monem Khan also once banned singing of Tagors songs but he had to withdraw it, a press release said.

Abu Jafar was addressing a worker's rally held at Tejgaon party's regional office on Monday. President of the Tejgaon regional committee of the party Abdul Malek presided over the meeting.

PROGRAMME

Rotary Club

Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held on Wednesday at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon.

Optional English course at CU

CHITTAGONG, May 21: Chittagong University offers an opportunity for studying 'optional English' for 100 marks at degree pass and honours courses from the next academic session, university sources said, reports BSS.

Students of degree pass course and degree honours courses obtaining marks in excess of 30 in English optional subject will be added to the total marks obtained which may be helpful for securing division class.

Qul khwani of Ilias today

Qul khwani of Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury, MP, will be held today (Wednesday) at his Dhanmondi residence after Asar prayer, reports UNB.

Awami League leader Chowdhury, who was also the Chairman of the daily Banglar Bani editorial board, died of heart attack on Sunday.

He was elected member of Parliament from Madaripur -1 (Shibchar constituency) in the February 27 election.

Friends, admirers and relatives have been requested to attend the Qul khwani at House no 38, Road No 11, Dhanmondi.

JU Senate meet June 21

By Staff Correspondent

The 10th session of the Jahangirnagar University Senate will be held on June 21 at 9.30 am.

The session will approve the verbatim report of the 9th annual general meeting of the Senate, revised budget of 1990-91 and recurring budget of 1991-92, annual report of 1989-90, revisionary proposals by the Syndicate to the Jahangirnagar University Act, 1973 and statute for management of the Institute of Computer Science.

Jamaat's call to seek help from Allah

Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh and its group leader in parliament Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami has said we have to seek help from the Almighty Allah to save us from calamities and at the same time stand by the distressed people, reports BSS.

Nizami was addressing a gathering on Monday at Chawkpara under Bera upazila in Pabna after visiting the areas devastated by recent tornado, a Jamaat press release said.

He said no government relief had yet reached the distressed people.

The Jamaat leader said we have to help the distressed people unitedly to overcome the loss.

Kuwait urges recruiting agencies to help return of Bangladeshis

By Staff Correspondent

The Kuwaiti Embassy in Bangladesh has urged all recruiting agencies here to help send back all Bangladeshi workers, earlier employed in private sector, to Kuwait as early as possible.

In a clarification on re-entry of Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuwait, the Embassy said on Tuesday

"First, it is not factually correct that Bangladeshi expatriates who were working in Kuwait prior to the brutal Iraqi invasion are not being re-employed. In fact, quite a number of these repatriated expatriates have been issued new entry permits by their respective sponsors.

"Second, regarding recruitment of new manpower by recruiting agencies, the Embassy would like to state categorically that it has no hand in the recruitment policy of the concerned recruiting agencies. The Embassy cannot interfere in the affairs of any recruiting agency nor can it influence their policies.

"The Embassy feels that since these recruiting agencies are all Bangladeshi agencies, there are relevant authorities here who can look into the matter and do something. Besides, the various groups of the repatriated Bangladeshi expatriates could directly take up the matter with these recruiting agencies to impress upon them that they have a moral obligation and resolve the problem amicably.

"However, this Embassy has emphatically requested the concerned recruiting agencies to give preference as well as priority to the repatriated Bangladeshi expatriates as a humanitarian gesture keeping in view the tremendous loss incurred by each of them as a result of the brutal Iraqi aggression."

Bar on setting up of industries to go

The government will remove all restrictions in the way of expediting rapid industrialisation of the country, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said in city on Tuesday, reports BSS.

He said, the government will ease the procedural hazards so that more entrepreneurs could come forward for establishing new industries in the country.

The Minister was addressing the members of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the planning commission on Tuesday.

He said establishment of more and more industries would create increased job opportunities as well as accelerate the economic development of the country.

"We have to continue our economic development with our limited resources and internal resource mobilisation is a must to achieve the goal," the Minister said calling upon the industrialists to cooperate with the government in this respect.

Saifur Rahman also said that the government would give incentive to the export oriented industries so that the country could earn more foreign money.

The Minister also heard various problems from the members of DCCI and assured them that the government would look into the problems with due attention .

Bail petitions of Hawlader rejected

The two separate ad-interim bail petitions of former Minister Ruhul Amin Hawlader was rejected Tuesday by the Division Bench of the High Court Division, reports BSS.

The court comprising of Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice Habibur Rahman Khan issued rule upon the government and fixed June 3, and 4 for hearing of the cases.

Former Vice President Moudud Ahmed moved the bail petitions for Ruhul Amin Hawlader, while Alhaj M. Shamsul Alam appeared for the state.

Khaleda to visit Egypt

The Egyptian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mostafa Al Badr, Tuesday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, reports BSS.

The envoy informed the Prime Minister that Egypt had sent relief materials worth one million Egyptian dollars for the cyclone affected people of Bangladesh.

Badr also extended an invitation to Begum Zia to visit Egypt.

Begum Zia thanked the Egyptian Ambassador for the invitation and said the date of visit would be fixed at a mutually convenient time.

Begum Zia thanked the Egyptian Prime Minister, the government and the people for extending help to Bangladesh during the disaster.

She described Egypt as "our good friend" and hoped that the existing friendship between the two countries would grow from strength to strength for the benefit of the two peoples.

Referring to the message of felicitation by the Egyptian Prime Minister, Dr. Atef Sedky, on Begum Zia's appointment as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the envoy said the two countries had common traditional friendship. The foundation of this friendship is to stand by the side of each other during the hours of need.

Badr expressed the hope that the Bangladesh would overcome this crisis under the able leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Survivors getting on their feet again : Phoebe Fraser

By Staff Correspondent

Phoebe Fraser, daughter of former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, has spent five days in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and participated in a distribution of 500 CARE emergency packets of food, water, and basic shelter materials to men and women in Cox's Bazar .

She reported that it took only five days for emergency relief supplies of high-protein foods, blankets and basic medicines to get from Australia to Cox's Bazar distributions. She noted that "people are beginning to get on their feet again. They are rebuilding their houses and their lives. The damage wrought by the cyclone was so great, however, that outside assistance is required to fill the gap. It will be three months before the next rice crop comes in, so it's important that people have nourishing food until then."

The response of the Australian public to the plight of Bangladesh is extremely encouraging, according to Ms. Fraser. In one day alone — May 13 — $75,000 was donated to CARE Australia by the Australian public, enabling CARE to purchase emergency relief goods.

Ms. Fraser returned to Chittagong and Cox's Bazar on May 21 before heading off of Sylhet to visit flood-affected families there. CARE has already distributed 2,500 emergency ration packages in Sylhet, comprising provisions for a one-week period, with plans for a further 10,000 packets to be distributed over the next few days.

Phoebe Fraser will meet the press at the Sheraton Hotel on Thursday, May 23, to discuss her visit to Chittagong Cox's Bazar and Sylhet.

Friendship assoc formed

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh-Australia Friendship Association (BAFA) has been formed recently.

Barrister M A khaleque and Leonard Shekhar Gomes have been elected President and Secretary General of the Association.

The association gave a reception to the Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Richard Gate at a local hotel. Barrister M A Khaleque, Leonard Gomes and Manoj Kumar Sen spoke at the reception.

Weather

More rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for 24 hours till 6 pm on Wednesday said rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, and a few places over Khulna Division. Day temperature likely to remain unchanged over the country. Kalbaishakhi warning: Temporary gustywind /nor'wester squalls at the speed of 70 to 90 kilometers per hour or more likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, and Rajshahi Divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet during the day.

The temperature and humidity of some cities and towns of the country recorded on Tuesday were:

Cities /Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.6	25.5	94	86
Chittagong	32	25.6	78	62
Rangpur	30.8	22.5	88	72
Sylhet	27	22.5	97	83
Khulna	32.6	22.6	80	70
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.8	-	78
Rajshahi	32.5	22.2	93	73

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from the Manufacturers/Supplier/Dealers/Indentors (enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of 02 line items spare parts for volvo model C-304 for use in Army Vehicles.
2. Tender schedule with detail specification will be available on payment of Taka 20.00 (not-refundable) from 23 May '91 to 18 June '91 on any working day between 0800 hours and 1200 hours. The tender will be opened on 19 June '91 at 1000 hours in presence of all tenderers present (if any).

ISPR-37 (Misc)91/600
DFP(G)5837-19/5
G-127

Lt Col
for Director General

General Information

Our attention has been drawn to a news item published in some local dailies involving our organisation in a deal with Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board about purchase of VVIP Radio Exchange and Spare Parts causing financial loss to the Government. We categorically assert that we have no involvement in such a business deal and have not negotiated and participated in any such deal on behalf of our organisation.

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FEEDER VESSEL M.V. NGS HARVEST VOY1991 IMP. ROT NO. 309/91 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 22.05.91 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX FOLLOWING VESSEL :-

VESSEL	PORT
EVER LOADING 0341RE-069	LEHAVRE THAMESPORT

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR THEIR CARGOES IMMEDIATELY ON DISCHARGE. CARGOES UNCLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE ARRIVAL DATE OF THE VESSEL WILL BE DISPOSED WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE CONSIGNEES, AS PER CUSTOM RULES.

M. V. NGS HARVEST VOY 19W91 WILL ALSO LOAD CONTAIENRS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 290/91 FOR SINGAPORE FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO U.S.A. WEST & EAST COASTS, EUROPEAN, U.K. & MEDITERRANEAN PORTS.

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