

Dhaka Day by Day

Images that Talk and Touch

by S.Y. Bakht

If a picture can tell a thousand stories then newspaper photographs of major events perhaps can speak volumes about the times we live in.

An exhibition of a collection of newspaper photographs taken by photo-journalist Pavel Rahman depicts some of the major national incidents of the past few years.

About 150 photographs taken for national dailies are currently on display at the conference room of the Sir Salimullah Medical College in the city. The exhibition is organised by the SSMC chapter of the Rotaract Club.

A major portion of the exhibition space is occupied by photographs of the movements against autocracy in 1987 and 1990. Photographs of the aftermath of the Shauria tornado disaster and the recent cyclone affected coastal areas are also on display.

Some poignant pictures of Rajiv Gandhi's family during his recent funeral and a few of Benazir Bhutto's shots taken when she visited Bangladesh are also included in the exhibition. Also on display are some action photographs.

Pavel Rahman has been associated with various national dailies since the mid-70s and his photographs have often attracted the readers' attention over the years. An avowed action photographer, he says, "My priority is to be there where an incident or event occurs."

As for holding an exhibition of his work, Pavel notes that he never thought about it before as most of the negatives are given away to the news agencies he works for. But, since he is doing this one, he says that he would like to hold one exhibition in his hometown of Rangpur and he has two other offers of holding exhibitions in Chittagong and London.

His collection on the movement against autocracy tells a sad story, showing killings, violence, burning cars, exploding crackers, processions and police-beatings.

The highlight of the collection at the exhibition is a colour blow-up of the body of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Haq

some photographs of gun-toting individuals were published in the paper. "I always wanted to show readers photographs of individuals carrying weapons, as you hear or read about them frequently but hardly any photographs come out in the newspapers."

Once when a photograph of a sten-gun carrying individual at the Dhaka University campus came out in the newspaper he received threats on his life. Although he personally assured that the identity of the individual is kept hidden by putting a black band around his eyes, Pavel says he fled from home until things cooled down.

Another time when a photograph of a group of people shooting at a procession came out in the newspaper his life was threatened again.

On both occasions, he says, his late father—a ranking police official in Dhaka at that time—was furious with him for taking such provocative and risky photographs which threatened his life and confiscated his camera.

On the lighter side, his photographs of a man hiding in a dustbin with police standing in the background and a photograph of numerous abandoned sandals and shoes left behind by protesters after being chased away by police are remarkable. Photos of victory celebrations and processions also found place at the exhibition.

His images of the devastations wrought by the tornado in Shauria and the cyclone in the coastal areas are vivid and descriptive. Photos of grotesque corpses were not included in the exhibition. Instead there are some excellent aerial shots depicting the magnitude of the devastations and destructions caused by the

natural disasters and some close-ups capturing the pain and sorrow suffered by the survivors.

In one frame, a young boy is seen sitting atop the ruins of his high school. Another vividly depicts the anguish and despair on the faces of the survivors of a family sitting amidst the ruins of their homestead. Yet another shows the joy in the

faces of some off-shore islanders in welcoming Operation Sea Angel volunteers coming with relief materials.

The photograph which appeared in the cover of the Newswatch magazine this year shows the anguish in the faces of a group of women in the coastal areas. Pavel Rahman is the first and only local photographer to have his work highlighted in an international magazine in such a manner.

As far as covering disasters and human miseries are concerned, Pavel says that the frequency and overwhelming nature of the incidents often make him somewhat dispassionate.

The photographs of Benazir on display at the exhibition, taken at the Savar National Monument, are sharply focused on the individual. Benazir complimented him for his work and requested him to send her some prints, he notes.

There are some photographs in the exhibition of Priyanka, Rahul and Sonia Gandhi at the funeral of Rajiv in New Delhi. Pavel covered the ceremony for the Associated Press.

Khan Milon being picked up by by-standers from the side-walk where he was brutally shot. The organisers have dedicated this exhibition to his memory.

The now famous photograph of Shaheed Nur Hussain with "Gonotantiro Mukti Pak" written on his back taken just before he was shot at in a procession is also included in the collection.

The collection goes on to portray violence in the form of crackers being placed by young kids, exploding crackers and tear-gas shells, protesters being beaten-up and dragged by police, petrol being poured into burning cars, police being beaten-up and so on.

Looking at the action snapshots one wonders about the risk involved for the photographer covering such incidents.

"There is a tremendous risk involved in this profession," Pavel notes. He says occupational hazards are many besides being accidentally hurt. He was severely beaten up on two different occasions, once by law enforcing agents and the other time by a group of protesters, he recalls.

On two other occasions he had to flee from his home for personal security reasons after



Pavel's images on display.

Agitation plan for lifting cases against 60 RU students

RAJSHAHI. July 16: The newly-formed Chhatra Oikya Parishad on Tuesday announced action programme to press its 5-point demand including withdrawal of 'false' case against 60 students of Rajshahi University, reports UNB.

The agitation programme

includes student meeting on the RU campus on July 18, demonstration in the city on July 19, student-mass rally in the city on July 20, gherao of the Vice-Chancellor office on July 25 and token hunger strike in front of the VC and the DC offices on July 27. Its other demands are soju-

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS: 1 Talk idly, 6 In front of, 11 More contemptible, 12 One who makes loans, 14 Lashed, 15 "Destiny" - Agnir, 17 Iron symbol, 18 Young boy, 19 Pealed, 20 By way of, 21 Griffin ID, 22 Place for worship, 23 Connery role, 24 Forbear, 26 Partners, 27 Secular, 28 Withered, 29 Don Adams role, 31 One who moves. DOWN: 1 Coat of a mammal, 2 Forry, 3 Emmet, 4 Tellurium symbol, 5 Eccentric, 6 Birch family tree, 7 Pay attention, 8 Abstract being, 9 Paid notice, 10 Explain, 11 Pertaining to the cheek, 13 Peruses, 14 Tehran's country, 15 Foot, 16 Cast a ballot, 17 Macaw, 18 Reversis, 19 Unsteady, 20 glistening light, 21 Encounters, 22 Round, tapered stick, 23 Goes by water, 24 Grumble, 25 Certain, 26 Omitted from pronunciation, 27 Lassoed, 28 Surfeit, 29 Wisery, 30 "Win" - or "Draw", 31 Sever, 32 Insane, 33 Calcium symbol, 34 Printer's measure.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-31.

What's on today . . .

JCD rally at DU

Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) holds a rally in front of the Arts Faculty building of the Dhaka University today (Wednesday) at 10 am in demand of withdrawal of expulsion orders on some students.

The DU authorities expelled 11 students including nine belonging to JCD in late 1987 on charge of creating terrorism on the campus.

DU Seminar

Centre for Higher Research in Human Studies of Dhaka University will hold a seminar on "ruidyard kipling at the Indian moment" at the seminar room of the centre (lecture theatre room no. 434) of the university today (Wednesday) at 4.30 pm.

Associate Professor of English Department Dr Fakhrul Alam will present a note-paper on the issue. Dr Khan Sarwar Murshid will chair the function.

DUCSU literacy week

The prize-giving ceremony of DUCSU literacy week will be held today (Wednesday) at 5 pm at the Teacher-Student Centre of the Dhaka University. Vice-Chancellor Prof M Miniruzzaman Miah will attend the function as chief.

After the ceremony a drama — "Bichehu" will be staged.

HBFC borrowers' meet

A joint meeting of the Association of the Borrowers of House Building Finance Corporation and all its units at districts and upazilas will be held today (Wednesday) at 5 pm at the association central office at 246, New Circular Road, Maghbazar in the city.

Nabaddhani Theatre

Nabaddhani Theatre will stage a drama named 'Surjanahal', directed by MAA Zaman, today (Wednesday) at 6 pm at the Guide House auditorium in the city. Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, will attend the inaugural session as chief guest.

Rotary Club meeting

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon. Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, an eminent economist will speak on restructuring education for development. Members of the club have been requested to attend the meeting.

Confce on industrial policy

Government's faulty industrial policy was leading many industrial units to destruction, a press conference on this theme has been called today (Wednesday) at 5 pm at the National Press Club.

Managing Director of Anamika Private Limited, Moazzem Hossain Khan has convened the press conference on behalf of the country's sick industries' owners.

. . . and tomorrow

BISIC workers' drama

A drama "Meheg Dhaka Tara" written by Sree Ranjan Debanath will be staged at the Shilpakala Academy in the city tomorrow (Thursday). BISIC Workers' Union will stage the drama, directed by Meer Mosharraf Hossain.

Industry Secretary Shafiq Alam will inaugurate the two-day programme at the academy's auditorium tomorrow (Thursday) at 6 pm. BISIC Chairman Moniruzzaman Choudhury will be the special guest on the occasion. The drama will be staged at 7 pm tomorrow (Thursday) and at 6 pm on Friday.

Directive to look after orphans well

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam Tuesday advised the inmates of orphanages run by government to make best use of the facilities provided to them, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing the inmates and employees of the Shishu Sadan at Faridpur. Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare was present.

The State Minister said that the purpose of orphanages was to rehabilitate the orphans both socially and economically. He added that the government was spending over a thousand taka per inmate monthly including overhead cost.

He told the inmates of Shishu Sadan to attend to their lessons and prepare themselves for self-reliant become worthy citizens.

He instructed the employees of the Sadan to take care of the inmates properly and treat them as their own children. Islam observed that the whole purpose of the Shishu Sadan programme would be frustrated if the inmates were not brought-up properly and cannot be turned into human resources.

Weather

Low over Bay

A well-marked low has formed over north-west Bay off Orissa-West Bengal coast which may concentrate into a monsoon depression and move in north-westerly direction, reports UNB.

Met office said that south south-easterly squally wind in likely to affect Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla port. These three ports have been asked to hoist local cautionary signal number 3.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north bay have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution.

Meanwhile, Met office in its forecast for the next 24 hours till 6 pm Wednesday says, rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind with a few moderately fall is likely at most places over Khulna division and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-3 degrees Celsius over the country.

Tuesday maximum temperature in Dhaka was 31.5 degrees Celsius and the minimum 27.9 degrees. Rajshahi experienced the highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius while Sylhet the lowest 23.6 degrees.

Percentage of humidity was 73 in the morning and 77 in the evening. Sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6-49 pm and rises on tomorrow (Thursday) at 5-21 am.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The capital experienced intermittent rainfall on Tuesday while the Met Office has forecast more rain with gusty or squally wind during the next two days all over the country.

Rainfall recorded in different parts of the country were: Kutubdia-8cm, Rangamati-2cm, Sandwip-3cm, Srimangal-2cm, Matjdicourt- 5cm, Chandpur-12cm, Chuadanga- 16cm, Mymensingh-6cm, Tangail-1cm, Faridpur-3cm, Bhola-5cm, Satkhira- 14cm and Jessore- 5 cm.

Day temperature remained unchanged on the day. Temperature and humidity recorded in major cities and towns of the country were:

Table with 4 columns: Cities/Towns, Max, Min, Humidity in percentage. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Dinaipur, Bogra, Srimangal, Sylhet.

Attendance in JS thin as MPs busy on Amendment Bills

The opposition in parliament on Tuesday described the budget as aid-dependent while the treasury bench members said it was designed to check tax evasion, reports UNB.

As the House with thin attendance was debating the budget late in the evening, the 15-member Select Committee was locked in

the conference room scrutinising the constitution amendment bills for changing the form of government.

Taking part in the discussion on the budget, Farida Rahman (BNP) hailed the budgetary measures including VAT which she said would check evasion of taxes and custom duties. She noted with satisfaction the withdrawal of surcharge.

Mrs Rahman suggested stern action against the leading bureaucrats who acted as the inner-wheel of the autocratic government. She opposed import of condensed milk for which Tk 88 crore was earmarked.

Abdur Rouf (AL) was critical of VAT. He urged the government to reconsider the newly-imposed tax to give relief to the commonman.

He said country's economy is heavily burdened with accumulating foreign loans annual interest on which mounted to about Tk 560 crore.

ATM Alamgir (BNP) hailed the budget and the measures proposed by the Finance Minister for discipline in the economy. He, however, demanded appropriate measures to check the loss in public sector that runs into Tk 200 crore every year.

He also demanded more funds for rural areas in an effort to alleviate poverty.

Others who took part in the discussion are Maulana Obaidul Haq (Islami Oikya Jote), Shahidul Islam (BNP), Maulana Nasiruddin (Jamaat), Sharfuddin Khasru (JP), Zainal Hazi (AL) and Aatur Rahma (BNP).

The House was adjourned to meet at 4 pm today (Wednesday).

Wine shops, bars holiday

All wine shops and bars of the country will remain closed from July 22 Sun set to July 23 Sun set on account of holy Ashura, a government notification said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The license-holders of wine shops and bars would not get any compensation for the closure of their shops and bars, the notification added.

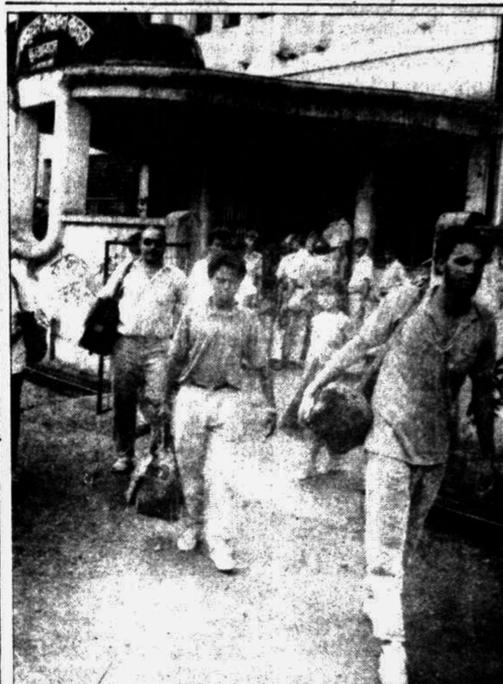
FBUTA demands elimination of terrorism

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA) Monday placed their demands to the Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC), reports UNB.

The demands were placed when FBUTA President Dr Enamul Haq and General Secretary Mahfuzur Rahman called on UGC Chairman Professor Shamsul Haq at his office.

The demands include restoration of academic atmosphere in all the universities by eliminating terrorism from the campuses and introduction of university ordinance in Agriculture and Engineering universities.

UGC Chairman assured them of taking initiative in solving some of their demands, a press release said today.



Students of Sir Salimullah Medical College vacating hall on Tuesday following an incident of violence which occurred on Monday.

Firoz Rashid granted bail

A Division Bench of the High Court Division on Tuesday granted bail to former minister Kazi Firoz Rashid, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Mr Justice Anwarul Haq Chowdhury and Mr Justice Muhammad Abdul Mannan.

Earlier, the bail prayer of Rashid was rejected by both the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Sessions Judge Court, Dhaka.

Anti Corruption Bureau filed the case against former minister Kazi Firoz Rashid.

Khan Saifur Rahman and Mohammad Mustafa appeared for the petitioner while Alhaj M Shamsul Alam, Deputy Attorney General appeared for the state.

Housewife allegedly commits suicide

By DMCH Correspondent

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Mirpur on Tuesday.

Shirin Aktar (19) wife of Kaji Abdul Haq took endrin following an altercation with her husband at her residence at 515 Kajipara, Mirpur, around 10-30 pm.

She was brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital by her husband where she died at 1.30 am.

A case was filed with Mirpur police.

3 policemen hurt in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

Three police personnel on patrol were injured when a speeding minibus rammed them near Assadgate Bus Stand on Sunday.

Police said, the three from the special armed forces of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police were on patrol duty when the minibus struck them by the roadside. They were immediately rushed to the Pangu Hospital where the condition of one is stated to be critical.

The injured were identified as Constable Obaidur Rahman, Constable Wasuzzaman and Constable Shahidullah.

Police seized the minibus bearing registration number Dhaka Metro-Cha-4746. The driver managed to escape. A case was filed with Mohammadpur police.

Sonali Bank recovers loans of Tk. 154.34 cr

Sonali Bank realised Tk. 154.34 crore against a total overdue of Tk.1206, reports UNB.

This was informed to the State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman when he paid a surprise visit to the head office of the Bank today.

The state minister saw files of the defaulters and asked the officials to gear up loan recovery drive through stringent legal measures for the greater interest of the country.

He also asked the concerned officials to abide by the rules of procedures in recovering the loans.

The Bank provides loan for specific projects, working capital, import and export trade and in rural development.

Advertisement for Norquest The Modern Pill for Today's Woman, Singapore Airlines, and Purbani Annexe Building. Includes contact information and a small illustration of a woman.