

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Publisher with a Difference

by Nancy Wong

In this world of unabashed commercialism, with its attendant lure of vast profits, enters the errant knight of publishing trade — Chin Saik Yoon who has just formed his own publishing company in Penang, Malaysia, not with the sole intention of making a fortune, but with that of providing public service in his own chosen fields.

Having been involved in various development projects in the past in Bangladesh, Mr Chin is here once again in connection with a UNICEF participatory approach to development which is called "social mobilisation". When we met the other day, he talked a bit about his consultancy for UNICEF. But, soon, we turned to his publishing venture and Mr Chin provided The Daily Star with some fascinating details.

The first publication of South-bound Sandirian Berhad, the name of Mr Chin's company, is "A Family Guide to HIV & Aids", the profit of which will be donated to organisations involved in the creation of public awareness about this killer disease. The marketing strategy is also quite unique as the book is handled by organisations and individuals fighting the spread of AIDS. The process thus eliminates the commercial middleman, notorious for hiking up the price of books.

Mr Chin's book is primarily meant for Malaysia and Singapore. However, it certainly deserves a wider distribution, perhaps in Bangladesh.

Mr. Chin does not seem so concerned with making money out of the project as with spreading the facts of AIDS far and wide. He is also prepared to apply the same formula to subjects which may not have a huge readership but the nature of which would benefit millions — such as the jute industry. Obviously, the readership of specialised books may be confined to those experts and students involved, but their actions based on the information in these books would benefit a large sector of the populace.

A publishing company with a difference, Southbound Sdn. Bhd. was established as a result of many years of interacting with various publishers in Asia while Mr. Chin was the Senior Programme Officer for Asia and the Pacific in the field of Communications for IDRC (Inter-

national Development Research Centre). Keenly committed to development in this part of the world, he sees his company as a vehicle for increasing South-South flow of books. More often than not, a famous writer would have his or her works published in the West. "Why not have Asian authors' works published in Asia?" asks Mr. Chin. "I am looking for authors in the South, not just in Malaysia," he continued. There has been enough brain drain from the South to the West — especially in the form of migration. South-bound aims to increase the preservation and protection of intellectual properties of the South and developing coun-

tries. So much of Asian authors' works have gone to the West, published there, and exported back at exorbitant prices. A book like "A Family Guide to HIV and Aids" would probably sell for more than double its price had it been published in the West. Which is why Mr. Chin intends to exploit the latest technology in printing techniques so as to keep costs low. On the subject of "brain-power", Mr Chin adds, "the general thinking in this information age is that intellectual property has become a nation's most precious commodity — the tiny but successful island-state, Singapore, being a prime example. Why is South-bound keen to promote this South-South flow of information?"

In Mr Chin's opinion: "We have very similar experiences, problems, interests which enable us to relate to each other. We also have sympathetic and reinforcing cultures which prevent us from being overwhelmed by foreign values and cultures. In development, I don't think we can catch up on the North's terms — we should look inside our own region and develop on what we have, i.e. our own systems and values." Being Southbound's "first-born", "A Family Guide to HIV and Aids in Malaysia and Singapore" is unique not only in its philanthropic approach but in its packaging as well. While its "core" contains universal facts pertaining to the illness, individual sections have situations particular to different countries. Should a co-publisher so desire, the author, Clive Wing — a much respected Information Scientist in Asia, is prepared to do research on any particular country including Bangladesh.

# A FAMILY GUIDE TO HIV & AIDS in Malaysia & Singapore

Clive Wing



## Release of Mala, Pinku demanded

Awami League-backed Chhatra League in a rally yesterday (Monday) demanded immediate and unconditional release of its activists Md Golam Mawla Mala and Ashraf Hayer Chowdhury Pinku, reports UNB.

Police picked them up from Alpana Plaza Shopping Centre at New Elephant Road on Sunday, for their alleged involvement in terrorist activities.

Addressing the rally in front of National Press Club on Monday morning Chhatra League leaders blamed the BNP government for harassing the opponents.

Referring to the democratic movement against autocratic regime of Ershad they said Khaleda Zia herself has been behaving like an autocrat.

The rally was addressed by Chhatra League leaders Kamruzzaman Ansari and Golam Mostafa Sujon.



Chhatra League (S-A) brought out a procession in the city on Monday demanding release of its leaders Mala and Pinku. — Star photo

## Raghunath next Indian envoy

The government has accorded agreement to the appointment of K Raghunath as the next Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, an official release said Sunday, reports BSS.

Raghunath, now Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, will succeed the incumbent, K Srinivasan, who has been posted in New Delhi as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, an Indian High Commission press release said.

Born on November 11, 1939 Raghunath joined the Indian Foreign Service in May 1962 and held various diplomatic assignments in Hong Kong, Beijing, New York, San Francisco and Moscow.

He was the Ambassador of India in Berlin from April, 1979 to 1980 and in Manila from June, 1986 to November 1989.

## Two new DU halls soon

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Monday urged the freshers to help resist violence saying the university was being ruined by the monster violence, reports BSS.

He was addressing the orientation ceremony for the new First Year Honours students of the Faculty of Biological Sciences at TSC Auditorium.

Presided over by Mrs Meherunnesa Chowdhury the ceremony was also addressed, among others, by the Dean of the Faculty and DUTA president Dr SMA Faiz, Dr Md Shaif, Dr Md Shahadat Ali, Dr Sirajul Islam Khan and Prof AZM Nowsher Ali Khan.

The VC said, "I want those youngsters who will fight against injustice and terrorism". He also said, "We must be committed to root out the 'giant' violence untidily."

The VC hoped that it would be possible to lay the foundation of two new residential halls for the students soon.

DUTA President SMA Faiz urged the newcomers to hate violence.

## Truck driver with stolen aluminium arrested

Police arrested one truck driver and his two helpers while they were loading stolen electric aluminium wire worth about Tk 35,000 near Hortoki village in Kaliakoir upazila on Dhaka-Tangail highway, reports UNB.

According to police, the driver Abdul Hamid with the help of his two helpers Haroon and Golam Mostafa while loading the wire measuring 1800 feet in his truck (No Dhaka Da 516) was caught red handed on December 15.

The miscreants when stopped the transmitter and cut off electric wire of Dhaka Rural Electric Society-1, the power supply suddenly went off. At this the line supervisor became suspicious and informed the police. Police then rushed to the spot, arrested the miscreants and seized the truck.

A case has been lodged with the police.

## TV Tuesday

5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary  
5.10 News in Bangla  
5.20 Reading from the Geeta  
5.30 Cartoon: The Challenge of the Gobbots  
6.00 Shikhanigan  
6.30 Remarkable events of the 5th SAF Games  
7:05 Nazrul songs  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 Drama serial: Project No-202  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 War and Remembrance  
11.30 Khabar/The news  
11.40 Wednesday's Programme  
11.45 Closing

## Khaleda invited to North Korea

Korean ambassador in Dhaka Kang Dal Son called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office on Monday, reports BSS.

The ambassador handed over a letter of North Korean President Kim Il Sung to Begum Khaleda Zia. In the letter the North Korean President invited Begum Zia to visit his country.

He also felicitated Begum Zia on her party's victory in the elections and her assumption of the office of the Prime Minister.

Begum Zia requested the ambassador to convey her greetings to President Kim and said she would visit North Korea at a mutually convenient time. She invited President Kim to visit Bangladesh.

They also discussed matters of mutual interests and measures for further strengthening the existing relations between the two countries.

## Cabinet meet held

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held at Bangabhaban Monday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

Ministers and state ministers in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

Principal Finance Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, Secretary to the Prime Minister's office and concerned secretaries were present.

**Happy birthday to dearest SHATHE**  
24 December '91

## 87 pc suffer from 'iron-deficiency anaemia' Pilot project for supplying nutrients formulated

Experts have formulated a four year pilot project for supply of nutrients to the poor people to help them make up an alarming shortage of nutrient intake.

Officials told UNB Monday the Integrated Homestead Nutritional Development Programme, designed to ensure basic nutrition for the needy, would cost 15 million US dollar.

It will be placed before the government shortly for approval and mobilisation of necessary funds, said the officials at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC).

The scheme is planned to go into implementation in 1993 in all upazilas of the country for adequate nutrient production under a package programme encompassing agriculture, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors.

For future expansion, the scheme will initially act as production-cum-demonstration programme all over the country with participation of the vast landless labour force by utilising 1,000 square-foot kash land per sub-project.

The programme will serve three purposes: a) help provide nutrients to the havenots through self-help; b) help the client groups earn money to

maintain their livelihood; and c) raise the nutritional status of the people at a time when it is declining alarmingly.

Of the estimated cost of the pilot project, 2.5 million dollar is earmarked for infrastructure building and another 2.5 million dollar for the cost of milching cows, meat animals, poultry, ducks and fishery.

The rest 10 million dollar will split into 2.5 million dollar per annum for project support to help sustain it.

Currently, operational fund to support research under agriculture, livestock and fishery sub-sectors is provided

under PL-480 programme available since 1983-84.

For effective implementation of the new programme, the officials said, the government should raise the malnutrition issue to the next International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) for funding support from international aid agencies like USAID, CIDA, SIDA, IDRC.

According to a noted nutrition expert, about 87 per cent of the country's population is suffering from "iron-deficiency anaemia" while 10.51 per cent affected with "enlarged thyroid."

## Two stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

Two people were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab injuries by muggers while hijacking a car in the capital on Monday.

DMCH sources said, a gang of four muggers demanded the key from the driver of a car which was parked at Azimur Colony Monday evening.

The driver Belayet Hossain was stabbed on the back when he denied to handover the key to the muggers.

Amrul Islam, a bystander, who came to the rescue of the driver was also stabbed.

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## Help to protect environment sought

Minister for Environment and Forest and Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman has called upon the developed as well as developing countries to come forward jointly to help protect the environment with all available resources, reports BSS.

He was addressing a seminar on "one earth one future: our earth changing global environment" at the second All-India Environment Congress in New Delhi. The two-day Congress began in the Indian capital on December 21.

Abdullah Al-Noman said environmental problems did not remain confined within the geographical boundaries of respective countries.



## Ruksana's heart valves repaired

Rotary Club of Dhaka Burianga has recently organised fund for heart operation of Ruksana Parvin, a student of Banshbaria High School in Natore district, says a press release.

Her heart valves were damaged.

Ruksana was operated upon at the Bangladesh Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases. Fortunately, she did not need the two valves which the Club bought for her. Her heart valves were repaired successfully. Now she is fully cured and living a normal life.

Earlier in the year, the Club arranged and funded another such heart surgery on a college-going girl — Mahfuza Khanam.

The artificial heart valves are available for possible use by the patients who require such treatment.

## What's on today . . .

### Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

The twenty-fourth general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will be held today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the seminar room of the Society.

Noted lawyer Gazd Shamsur Rahman will deliver a speech there on the "Eleventh and Twelfth Amendment to Bangladesh Constitution".

Dr Sharafuddin, president of the Society will preside over the meeting.

### Lions Club of Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at the residence of Lt governor M Shahjahan Khadem.

### Rotary Club of Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at the Hotel Sheraton.

### Rotary Club of Ramna

A meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.

### Jatiya Sramik League

An emergency meeting of the executive body of the Jatiya Sramik League will be held today (Tuesday) at 3:30 pm at its office at Purana Paltan.

### Bulbul Lalitakala Academy

Bulbul Lalitakala Academy has organised a function today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at the auditorium of the Shilpakala Academy as part of its nine-day programme on the occasion of its 36th founding anniversary.

Today's programme include reception to the eminent personalities, a cultural function and a dance-drama titled 'Shyama'.

## Weather

### Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or drizzle is likely at places over Rajshahi division and the region of Tangail, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Kustia, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Monday.

Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Met office also said.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.5	17.5	81	68
Chittagong	27.0	16.0	83	74
Rajshahi	25.4	14.3	92	81
Khulna	26.7	14.8	96	74
Barisal	27.5	15.5	100	84
Srimangal	25.7	13.4	86	86
Mymensingh	25.5	16.7	80	77
Cox's Bazar	27.0	18.0	74	82
Dinajpur	23.2	14.5	84	83

The lowest temperature of the day was at Srimangal. Sunset at Dhaka today (Tuesday) at 5.18 pm and sunrise tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6.39 am.

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