

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Technology Wins over Tradition

by Sabah Chowdhury

The ancient lane of Shankhari Bazar, once the focal point of Dhaka's rich heritage in crafts has quietly changed without anybody noticing it. The narrow lanes, the tall rickety buildings, on the face it, is the same but from inside the Shankhari Bazar is hardly that anymore.

Shankha (conch shell) was the raw material from which hundreds of artisans fashioned bangles and which testified to the state of marriage for a Bengali Hindu woman. Tradition dictated that she could not take it off so long her husband was alive. In fact so profound is the influence of this practice, that many Bengali women, Hindu and Muslim or whatever will not have bare unadorned wrists fearing for her husband's life. It was not just a symbol of marriage but an antidote against widowhood as well. That kind of belief helped in creating a lot of work for the residents of Shankhari Bazar, and for generations the trade continued handed down from father to son.

A large population was sustained in this 'patti' a ghetto for all that connotes — which became the target of the Pakistani army's genocide programme. For a few months in 1971, the area was deserted, but soon after victory in December, it has thrived again. It seemed that bullets couldn't halt the apparently indestructible Conch Shell Lane. But what bullets were unable to do, technology did. Today a handful of families are at work with conch. They not only provide marriage talismans but cater to the tourist's appetite for souvenirs and local nicknacks as well. The people are there, the product too, but the artisanship has changed for good.

The conch shell saw which was synonymous with the trade, and which has travelled to a poignant Bengali proverb, has suddenly become a piece of obsolete technology. Modern mechanised saws and drills have replaced the



An artisan at work. Photo: Enamul Haque

## Hasina gets 26 golden boats

ON BOARD F.T. SHAH PARAN, Feb 14: Awami League chief and eight-party alliance leader Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that the boat, the popular traditional symbol of the Bengali people was in full sail much ahead of February 27 polls, reports BSS.

Talking to the newsmen on board the Nagarbari-Aricha ferry on way back to the capital from a hectic five-day electioneering in the northern districts Sheikh Hasina said, the boat was capable of moving equally in rough and fair weather with people at the helms. 'Inshahillah, this time the boat will register a landslide victory on the way to its

destination', she added. During her visit to the northern districts she addressed 210 public meetings and wayside gatherings. She travelled 1,620 kilometres covering 40 constituencies of the greater Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra and Pabna districts.

She was given rousing ovations by the rural people who showered floral petals, rose water and chanted slogans wishing her party's victory in the coming elections. In the remote villages, hundreds of people — men, women and children ran fast the meandering alleys in the open meadow to have a glimpse of their beloved leader.

### JP failure to get TV coverage deplored

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Sramik Party in a statement on Thursday said although all the political parties get coverage from radio and television, Jatiya Party (JP) has been eliminated from the programme.

It also lamented the arrest of Ershad and some of his accomplices.

The statement demanded end to such undemocratic measures.

### NDP favours district-based politics

By Staff Correspondent

National Democratic Party (NDP) leader Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury in a public meeting at Chittagong said if elected to power his party would start district-based politics and economy, says a Press release.

The meeting held on Thursday was presided over by Kalumia Shaodagar and addressed by Nurul Alam, Abdul Obah, Ahmed Safa and Jahanir Alam, the release added.

### Special train for Midnapur

Bangladesh and Indian Railways will jointly run a special train from Rajbari to Midnapur in India and back to facilitate the travel of pilgrims from Bangladesh to the Urs festival in Midnapur, an Indian High Commission press release said in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

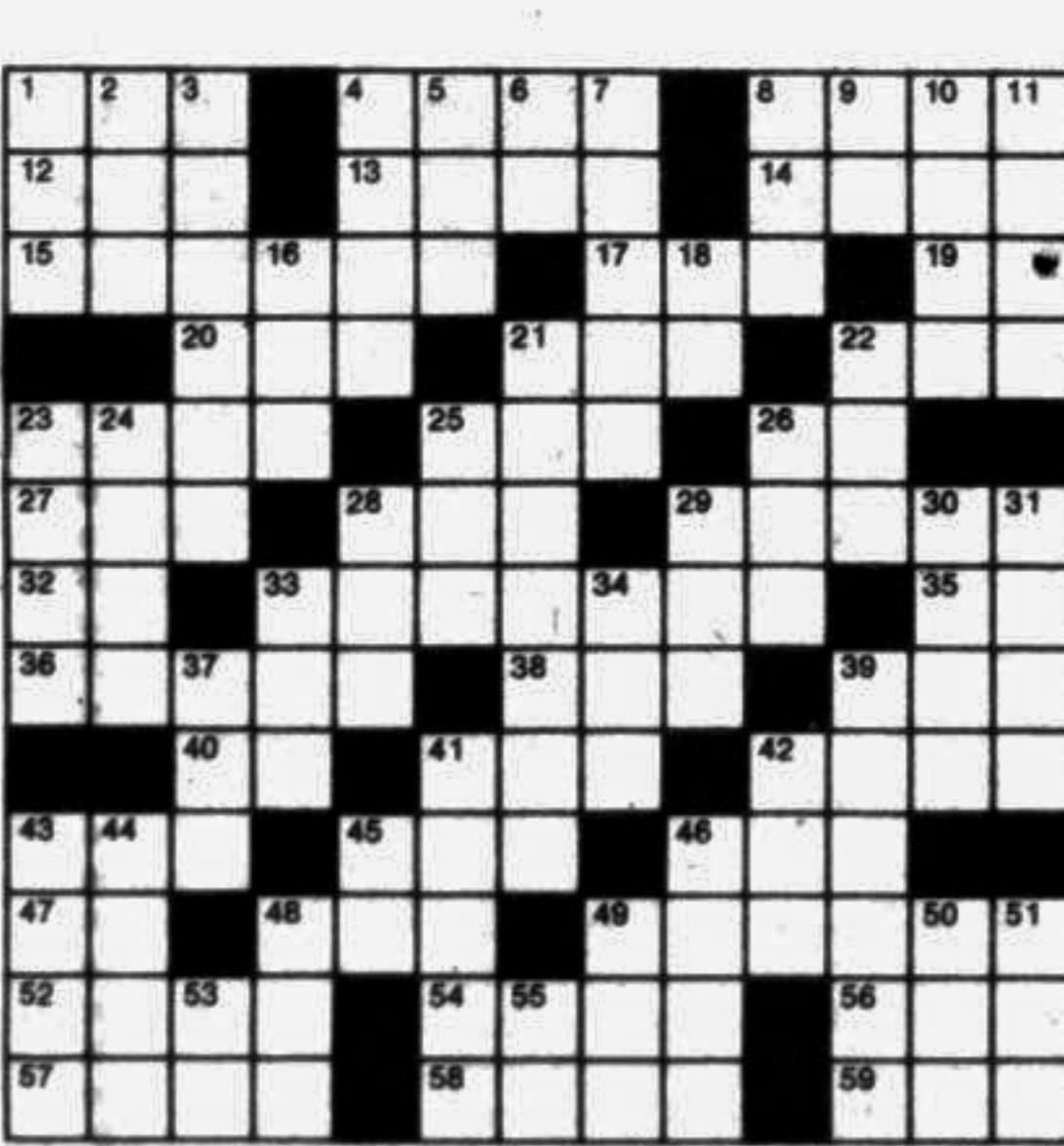
The special train will leave Rajbari today (Friday) at 10 p.m. and enter India via Darsana

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

BET	DENSE	SEE
APE	ELITE	HIM
TILLS	BORDERS	
LEIS	PIE	
ASSERTS	EARTH	
RE	REAPS	NERO
GAG	DRIPS	PAR
UTAH	STALE	IS
ESSED	ETAMINE	
CONDORS	PRATE	
ABE	MEESE	LEA
PIT	STAID	YET

DOWN		
1	Edible seed	7. Earn
2	Sea eagle	8. Cover
3	Collect;	9. Article
4	assemble	10. Cleatix
5	Pronoun	11. Domestic
6	Audience	16. Young boy
7	Teutonic	18. Spanish
8	deity	article
9		21. Speech
10		22. Play on
11		words
12		23. Pinocchio
13		term
14		24. Great Lake
15		25. Choose
16		26. Three-toed
17		28. Slope
18		29. Let
19		30. Kind of
20		collar
21		31. Lease
22		33. " of
23		Palace"
24		34. Parcel of
25		land
26		37. Fruit seed
27		39. Lose
28		freshness
29		41. Instructor
30		42. Encountered
31		43. "Death —"
32		44. " —"
33		45. Greek letter
34		46. Bundle
35		48. Native metal
36		49. Obsess
37		50. Summer: Fr.
38		51. Knock'
39		53. Near
40		55. Concerning



## Metropolitan

### Dhaka shocked at killing of Iraqi civilians

Bangladesh Thursday expressed shock at the reports of casualties and deaths of civilians in Baghdad due to bombings, reports UNB.

A Foreign Office spokesman expressing the reaction told UNB, Bangladesh wants liberation of Kuwait and not destruction of Iraq.

The spokesman reiterated the country's call "for avoiding civilian targets by all sides."

Bangladesh stands for implementation of the UN resolutions seeking withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of the tiny Sheikdom.

Responding to a question on the outcome of the NAM meeting in Belgrade Tuesday, the spokesman said, "Bangladesh always supports move for a peaceful solution of the problem".

### Hasina's 6-day election tour

Awami League president and leader of the 8-party Alliance Sheikh Hasina leaves for south and south-western districts today (Friday) on a six-day election campaign, reports UNB.

Hasina will start her journey this morning by Mawa road.

During her tour, she will address a series of public meetings and wayside gatherings in the districts of Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur.

The Awami League chief will address rallies at Shabbar, Srinagar, Mawa Ghat on February 15, Bhanga, Madaripur, Kalkini, Gournadi and Uzirpur on February 16, Banaripara, Swarupkathi, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, on February 17, Gopalganj and Tungipara on February 18, Mollarhat, Kotalipara and Bhangarhat on February 19 and Alamganda, Boalmari, Narkanda and Rajbari on February 20.

She is expected to return to the capital on February 20.

Thursday was the Pahela Phalgun, heralding the advent of spring, the king of the season.

With the coming of spring, people welcome the new season in the villages and urban areas.

In the capital city, the women students in Dhaka University and the book fair at Bangla Academy moved about clad in Basanti saree and mehedi in their hands to welcome the day.

Male students, literary and cultural activists and young people were found in



A group of Dhaka University female students in colourful saris and palms balmied with 'mehedi' celebrating on Thursday the advent of Spring, the king of all seasons.

— Star Photo

### Ershad must be sent to jail: Dr Kamal

Awami League and 8-party Alliance leader Dr Kamal Hossain called upon the authorities for immediate shifting of deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to jail, reports UNB.

He was speaking as special guest at the opening session of the National Homeopathic Grand conference 1991 at the Engineers' Institute in the city on Thursday morning.

The inaugural session was presided over by former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof. Abdul Mannan while National Professor Dr Nurul Islam was the chief guest.

Among others, Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Khabar Editor Mizanur Rahman Mizan, BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed, and journalist Oias Kamal Chowdhury were also present as special guests.

It must be answered why Ershad is being kept in a posh Gulshan house instead of being sent to jail, despite the fact that he is accused in three criminal cases," Dr Kamal said. He also said that it was violation of Article 23 of the Constitution.

Dr Kamal, also the President of Supreme Court

Bar Association, demanded trial and punishment of Ershad and his accomplices according to law.

He said during Ershad's rule, the annual expenditure in the health sector was minimum whereas huge amounts were spent for unproductive purposes in a country inhabited by majority living under abject poverty and deprivation.

He assured that the future democratically elected government would take steps for solving the problems of Homeopaths and improvement in the health sector in general.

Chief guest Prof Nurul Islam in his speech said Homeopathy had already been recognised throughout the world as a cheap and effective means of treatment and stressed on its parallel growth in the country.

Leaders of Homeo Peshajibi Samity, Homeo Medical Chikhiya Oikya Parishad and Homeopathic Medicine Manufacturers Association, Dr Mosarrat Hossain, Dr M A Baten, and Amanullah Ziku also spoke on the occasion.

### Revolver recovered from Zahirul Huq Hall VP

The Dhaka University Syndicate on Wednesday expressed resentment and strongly condemned the physical attack on the Provost of Zahirul Huq Hall, Prof. Mansur Musa, and terrorist activities centering a revolver recovered from the possession of the Vice President of the hall, reports BSS.

According to a DU Press release, the Syndicate at a meeting also adopted a resolution reiterating its call to the law-enforcing agencies to free the campus from arms.

The Syndicate constituted a five-member committee headed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law to probe the in-

### Advent of spring celebrated in city

Thursday was the Pahela Phalgun, heralding the advent of spring, the king of the season.

Air was laden with the fragrance of flowers, and the chirping of birds as the dawn broke yesterday.

With the coming of spring, people welcome the new season in the villages and urban areas.

In the capital city, the women students in Dhaka University and the book fair at Bangla Academy moved about clad in Basanti saree and mehedi in their hands to welcome the day.

Male students, literary and cultural activists and young people were found in

this year Phalgun has come to the nation with immense significance as the parliamentary elections are set to be held on February 27

with promises for setting up a democratic government, the cherished dream of the 11 crore people.

The recovered arms were five pistols, two revolvers and five pipe guns while the bullets were of 303 and 7.62 rifles.

### Child killed in road mishap

SSMCH Correspondent

A special police squad recovered 12 firearms and three rounds of rifle bullet after raiding six villages of Keraniganj thana in the city in the early hours on Thursday.

The recovered arms were five pistols, two revolvers and five pipe guns while the bullets were of 303 and 7.62 rifles.

### Discussion

Moijheel night school teachers and students on Thursday held a discussion meeting on late Md. Asaf Uddoula Reza, Executive Editor of the Daily Ittefaq, says a press release.

Headmaster of the school Mr. Mesbah Uddin Sabu presided over the meeting.

The meeting was addressed among others, by Director of Apex Mr. Rahmat Ullah, Assistant Headmaster Md. Iqbal, Mintu, Kazal and Shahjahan.

The body was send to Mithford Hospital and a case was filed with Demra Police.

In a press statement Mr. Sen an Assistant Editor of Dainik Bangla, said the only solution of the problems was to allow the Wage Board take its own lawful and normal course.

The unnecessary interference on the issue would rather aggravate the situation, he added.

Mr. Nirmal Sen criticised the Bangladesh Sangbad Patrika Parishad (BSP) stand on the issue saying that the BSP has always played the same "opportunist" role since the inception of the Wage Board.

In a press statement Mr. Sen an Assistant Editor of Dainik Bangla, said the only solution of the problems was to allow the Wage Board take its own lawful and normal course.

The unnecessary interference on the issue would rather aggravate the situation, he added.

Mr. Nirmal Sen criticised the Bangladesh Sangbad Patrika Parishad (BSP) stand on the issue saying that the BSP has always played the same "opportunist" role since the inception of the Wage Board.

In a press statement Mr. Sen an Assistant Editor of Dainik Bangla, said the only solution of the problems was to allow the Wage Board take its own lawful and normal course.

The unnecessary interference on the issue would rather aggravate the situation, he added.

Mr. Nirmal Sen criticised the Bangladesh Sangbad Patrika Parishad (BSP) stand on the issue saying that the BSP has always played the same "opportunist" role since the inception of the Wage Board.