

Dhaka Day by Day

When Poetry is On a Par with Oxygen

by Fayza Haq

The frail and gentle 60 years old Gauri Ayyub, who was here in Dhaka during the recent elections, has been involved in the Language Movement of Bangladesh since the early fifties. At that time in Santiniketan, there were development "melas" to take stock of the literary movements of the two Bengals.

During that period literary figures from Bangladesh like Dr. Kazi Motahar Hussain and Shamsur Rahman gathered at Calcutta. Gauri helped organise the Shahitya "mela" which was a historical fair. It was her first exposure to Bangali literary activities in a big way. In Patna, where she was born and educated, there was no such literary scenes to captivate her mind.

Gauri had landed in Santiniketan to study philosophy, when she got arrested after being involved in Communist students' politics. She was packed off by her Gandhian father to get rid of her "wild ways".

She did further sympathetic work for the Bangladeshis on the other side of the border in '64 when the holocaust began in Khulna and Dhaka with the excuse of the loss of the Hazrat Bal in Sri Nagar. Since the Hindus in Bangladesh were being punished there were repercussions in Jamshedpur and Rourkela.

"It was my husband Abu Sayeed Ayyub who encouraged me to work for the council for promotion of communal harmony. He was too involved in 'shadhana' and left that task of helping Maitrye Devi — who was one of the chief counselors — to me."

Dressed in a delicately hued grey sari, with her hair tied tight in a knot behind her, Gauri spoke with compassion and humour. She had no airs about her, although she was the widow of a renowned litterateur, and was herself a writer of repute.

By the sixties and seventies Gauri made contacts with individuals like Col. Zaman and his wife Dr. Sultana Zaman who were involved in the Mukti force then hellbent to liberate Bangladesh.

Although very much a West Bangali today, her father's home is in Mymensingh, and she took great delight in going down memory lane in the "pilgrimage to the ancestral village."

Gauri believed that while in West Bengal "Radindra Charcha" was taken for granted and in West Bengal "people did not have to make a sacrifice for it, because it was always freely available, like some supply of oxygen. But in Bangladesh people have had to struggle tooth and nail for it. I was always impressed to see

the sincerity of the singers and those who cultivate Tagore's literature. It is here that you find the real sense of dedication which is often lacking in West Bengal."

Apart from helping her ailing husband assimilate his writings in the last ten years of his life, when he suffered from tuberculosis and Parkinson's disease, the author has written articles on social problems in daily papers and magazines from Calcutta. On October 30th for instance, she wrote on the Babri masjid issue.

She has also written a collection of short stories "Tuchho Kichu Shukh Dukho". Now that she has retired from teaching philosophy at the college, she hopes all her work is ahead at 60 and not behind.

Dwelling on Muslim Bengali culture the aesthete commented, "There are peripheral differences between the culture of West Bengal and Bangladesh. As you penetrate deeper the inner sources are the same. There are the same sentiments, interests and involvements which keep the two Bengalees together."

Individuals from Bangladesh have been close friends of her late husband such as S. Mujtaba Ali. "My husband enjoyed S. Mujtaba Ali's writings. He was always a warm-hearted and generous friend. We once even lived in the same house in Park Circus."

Gauri is at the moment trying to edit a volume which includes a number of her husband's articles which did not come out in a book form so far. Subjects of the book varies from intellectual freedom in Soviet Russia to Hindi as Lingua Franca for India.

As an observer from India, Gauri was impressed by the manner the recent elections were held. "I was not expecting so much of maturity," she commented. "There was enthusiasm but no excesses of ugly scenes at the polling stations. The common man showed a lot of political sagacity. Just because he is illiterate does not mean he is ignorant. He can make an intelligent choice."

Had her marriage not been a difficult one due to the age and religious barrier? Gauri replied with a spontaneous and gracious smile. "Some of it was inevitable. But psychologically there appeared no age barrier. He was very young at heart, creative and full of joy de vivre. I was 19 and he was 44 when we married. There were family oppositions but we overcame that. Pushan Ayyub, 33, a successful research scientist at the Tata Institute, is surely a living proof of that abiding and overwhelming love."

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Aeronautical test for civil engs

Relieve it or not — Biman Bangladesh Airlines has called building makers to appear in a test for aeronautical engineers.

More than 90 percent of applicants for three posts of Non Dangerous Testing (NDT) Engineers left their examination hall Thursday after sitting helplessly for more than two hours and fruitlessly awaiting a tangible decision from the Biman authorities.

Disappointed applicants told UNB that Biman in its advertisement invited applications from those possessing degree in mechanical or civil engineering or applied physics.

They said the questions in the test pertained to electrical engineering and more than 50 out of 63 applicants were unable to answer them. Only those with applied physics could answer the questions.

In order to calm the situation the Director Engineering assured the disappointed applicants that they would be called back later.

Sources in Biman said the post required electrical engineers or candidates having degree in applied physics to check frame defects of aeroplanes. It was a mistake in the Biman advertisement calling for mechanical and civil engineers, they said.

Another source, however, said the advertisement was totally a hoax and the test was only to cover the formalities for promoting a particular Biman employee to a vacant post.

DU admission test today

The admission test of first year honours class of the Dhaka University for 1990-91 session begins today, reports UNB.

On the first day written test of Gha unit (group change) will be held at 9 am.

A total of 14,200 admission seekers are vying for 475 seats, nearly 30 aspirants for each seat.

In Dhaka University, there are 40 departments — 15 in the Science Faculty, 21 in Arts Faculty and 4 in Commerce.

Written tests of Ka, Kha and Ga will be held on March 15, 11 and 13 respectively, according to an earlier announcement by the university.



TV Programme Friday

MORNING SESSION	
8-00	Opening
8-10	Cartoon: Advancer of the Galaxy Rangers
8-40	Notun Kuri: Children's programme
10-00	News in English
10-05	Sports programme
11-15	Maner Mukurey

EVENING SESSION	
3-00	Opening and recitation from Al Quran
3-15	Alor Dishari
3-40	Movie of the week: The Pursuit of D B Cooper
5-20	News in Bengali
5-50	Sports Programme: Road to Wembly
6-50	Janamat: Programme on family planning
7-05	Madhuchandha: Songs programme
8-00	News in Bengali
8-30	The Cosby Show Magazine programme
10-00	News in English
10-30	Drama Serial: L. A. Law
11-45	Closing

Dhaka Asian Group Chairman at UN

Bangladesh has assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Group at the United Nations Headquarters for the current month, reports UNB.

Cancer Society confce today

Third annual conference of Bangladesh Cancer Society will be held today at 9.30 am at the auditorium of Ibrahim Memorial Diabetic Hospital here, reports BSS.

Short Film Fest councils meet today

By Staff Correspondent

A joint conference of different councils of second International Short-Film Festival Dhaka '90 will be held today (Friday) at 10 a.m. at the German Cultural Centre auditorium, a press release said.

A different aspects of the recent festival will be discussed and the decision on next festival will be taken in the conference.

The annual general meeting of Bangladesh Short Film Forum will be also held at the same venue on the same day at 2 p.m.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Footlike part
- ... showers bring May flowers...
- Playing
- Consumed
- Prepared
- Native metal
- Calling
- Places for combat
- Foray
- Tectonic
- Bridge
- Mira
- Winglike
- Barbie's male counterpart
- Stationary, not migratory
- Negative prefix
- River island
- Dove cry

DOWN

- Mocasin
- Greek letter

Answer to Previous Puzzle

WOOL MAP CHAP
 OGRE IRE ROPE
 READ SER ERSE
 DELAYS MEANER
 URGE TRAVELER
 LEO IRATE ERA
 ESTIMATE DART
 DAMS GO
 SCRIMP DENOTE
 OLIJO ICE AREA
 DAFT NUN TEAR
 APES GET ELLS

Weather

Rains likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature may remain unchanged all over the country.

Rain thundershower occurred at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions. Maximum rainfall recorded is: Chittagong 33 mm, Cox's Bazar 22 mm and Rangamati 13 mm.

The highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Majidi Court and lowest 15.0 degree at Rajshahi. Sun sets Friday at 6.05 pm and rises on Saturday at 6.14 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change.

Temperature and humidity of some cities on Thursday:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity (%)
Dhaka	30.2	44
Chittagong	30.0	77
Rajshahi	30.0	61
Cox's Bazar	29.5	84
Sylhet	29.6	70

Maximum temperature of some international cities:

Beijing	02	degree	Celsius
Hong Kong	24		
Singapore	34		



The Awami League activists making frantic efforts to scale the TV Bhavan at Rampura in city on Thursday in their attempt to force authorities to telecast Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic March 7 speech. Story on Page-1 —Star photo

Lawlessness still let loose in prisons 900 prisoners freed from Dhaka jail alone

By Asiuzzaman

General amnesty and special remission granted by the Government have failed to soothe the agitation among the prisoners of the century-old Dhaka Central Jail, sources said.

"It seems we are the prisoners and they (prisoners) are the wardens," an aggrieved jail employee told The Daily Star.

After the three consecutive revolts, the prisoners are still restless, he said on condition of anonymity and added that the prisoners now do not go to their lock-ups timely.

The first revolt occurred on December 29 following ouster of Hussain Muhammad Ershad. Some 5,000 prisoners then revolted saying that "the days of autocratic rule are over and if a convict like Kader Siddiqui can move freely why shall we be in the jail."

Three prisoners were killed and some 100 others were injured in police firing during the revolt.

The crisis was resolved after fortnight following bargaining between the authorities and prisoners' leaders. The authorities accepted almost all the demands of the prisoners and granted general amnesty and special remission for eight categories of prisoners of country's 76 jails.

Around 900 prisoners have been released only from Dhaka Jail so far, a jail official said.

From those terms and conditions, the convicts were the gainer. This generated revolt among the under-trial prisoners and detenus. As a consequence, the rival groups clashed on January 25 and many were injured. Three of the serious injured were hospitalised.

Since then the squabbling among them began widening and the third revolt was fomented mainly by the under-trial prisoners and detenus on February 15 in which the prisoners took the jailer and some wardens as hostages. The jailer was rescued by some convicts afterwards.

During the third revolt, some prisoners demanded to bring back their leader Jashim from Mymensingh jail and sought immediate release of detenus and under-trial prisoners. Jashim had led the December revolt.

From the accounts of convicts, Police recovered body of an unidentified man (70) Wednesday from in front of Kakrail Mosque in the city.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with Ramna thana.

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under-trial prisoners and wardens it appears and the situation inside the jail is tense.

Arshad Ali, an under-trial prisoner who witnessed the first revolt, said that they were confined to a cell and were given scanty food.

He was released on bail after five days in jail on December 31.

He said that he was not allowed to have bath for two days after the revolt.

Abdur Razzak of Barisal, who was convicted for 20 years in a murder case alleged that the jail authority did not provide allotted share of food and other facilities for a long time.

He alleged widespread corruption in the jail. Ali Hossain of Faridpur spoke in the same vein.

Zakir Hossain, jailer of Dhaka Jail, refuting all the allegations, said the prisoners always lie.

He, however, confirmed lawlessness in the jail and said overcrowded prisoners and under-staffing of employees are behind it but he declined to elaborate.

There are now about 4,000 prisoners, which is almost double the capacity, and only 450 wardens to control them.

Another source said that the government's leniency to the prisoners is one of the major causes of the two revolts and present lawlessness.

BNP extended meet Mar 15

An extended meeting of the National Executive Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party BNP will be held on March 15 at 10 am at the Institution of Engineers and Technology in Dhaka, reports BSS.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting.

Secretary General of BNP Abdus Salam Talukdar has requested the presidents, general secretaries, convenors and joint convenors of the Executive Committees of all thanas, towns, and pourashavas presidents, general secretaries, convenors and joint convenors of the Executive Committees of all districts and cities all members of the national Standing Committee, all office bearers and members of the National Executive Committee, all Sangsad Members of BNP and presidents and general secretaries of all central front organisations to attend the meeting.

Egyptian envoy meets Khaleda

The Egyptian Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr. Mohammad Mostafa Hadar, Wednesday called on BNP Chairperson and 7-Party Alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence here, reports BSS.

The Egyptian Ambassador congratulated Begum Zia on her party's obtaining single majority in the Jatiya Sangsad elections.

Begum Zia exchanged views with the Ambassador on bilateral and international issues. She also thanked the envoy for congratulating BNP for its victory in the election.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, SYLHET DIVISION, SUBIDBAZAR (SAGAR DIGHIRPAR) SYLHET

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NO-25 (90-91)

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 are hereby invited from "A" and "D" class enlisted contractors of the Public Health Engineering Directorate renewed for 1990-91 financial year for the installation of 38 mm dia Deep Tubewell under the Rural Deep Tubewell water supply network. Tenders will be received by the undersigned and the Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Comilla Division, Sub-divisional Engineer, Public Health Engineering Maulvibazar, Sunamganj and Habiganj upto to 2 pm on 14-3-91 and opened the same day at 2-05 before the tenderers (if any) or their representatives present. Tender schedule will be sold from the office of the undersigned, Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Comilla Division and from Sub-divisional offices at Maulvibazar, Sunamganj and Habiganj upto 13-3-91 during office hours. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening tender.

Sl No	Description of work	Name of the upazilas	Group	No of Tubewells	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Time limit
Installation work of 38 mm dia Deep Tubewell							
1.	do	Sunamganj	KA	14	1,91,485/-	3,830/-	70 days
2.	do	Sadar	KHA	14	1,91,485/-	3,830/-	70 days
3.	do	Chatak	KA	14	1,91,485	3,830/-	70 days
4.	do	do	KHA	12	1,64,130/-	3,283/-	60 days
5.	do	Taherpur	KA	14	1,91,485/-	3,830/-	70 days
6.	do	Jagannathpur	KA	8	1,09,420/-	2,188/-	40 days
7.	do	do	KHA	10	1,36,775/-	2,736/-	50 days
8.	do	Dharmapasha	KA	8	1,09,420/-	2,188/-	40 days
9.	do	do	KHA	12	1,64,130/-	3,283/-	60 days
10.	do	Dirai	KA	10	1,36,775/-	2,736/-	50 days
11.	do	do	KHA	8	1,09,420/-	2,188/-	40 days
12.	do	Shalla	KA	8	1,09,420/-	2,188/-	40 days
13.	do	Bishambharpur	KA	6	82,065/-	1,641/-	30 days
14.	do	Jamalganj	KA	10	1,36,775/-	2,736/-	50 days

Conditions: Schedule of tender, tender form, schedule of items, special terms and conditions etc. may be purchased from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working days at the prescribed price of Tk 3/- per page. Bangladesh Form No 2911 may be collected by the bidder himself or by his representative on payment of Tk 25/- (non-refundable). The representative must be empowered by the bidder and his signature should also be attested before purchasing any tender document.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING SYLHET DIVISION, SYLHET.

DFF (G) 2623-6/3 G-03