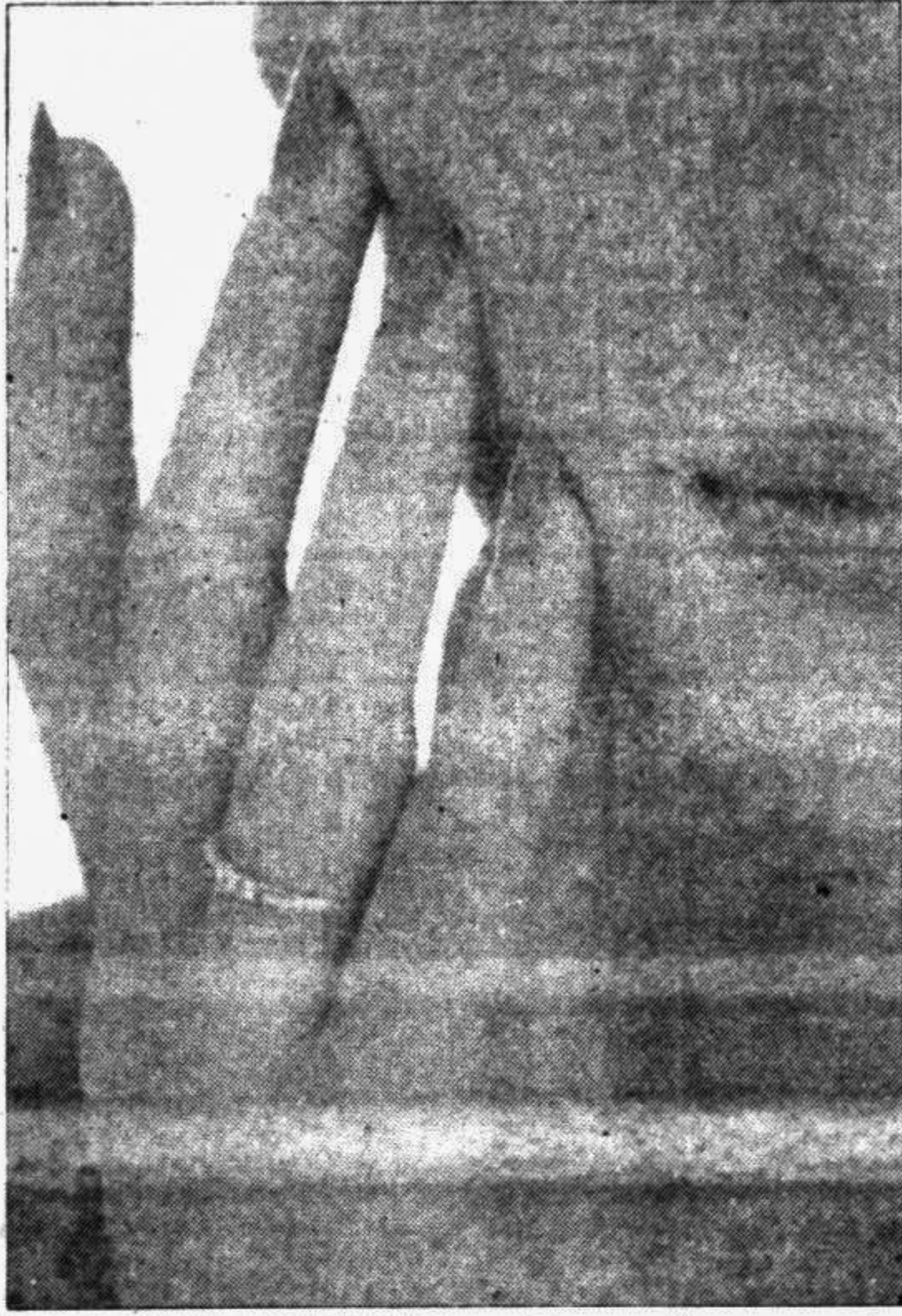


Dhaka Day by Day Fairness Fetish

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Mirror mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of us all? The answer to this question is: 'The fairest of us all is the one who is the most fair skinned'.



Tactful! It is with great restraint that one does not retort to such concern 'Oh, I just have a rare form of epidermal disease that alters pigmentation!'

An interesting sentiment is expressed in statements such as 'Oh, she is not badlooking, has nice features but a little on the dark side.'

There are thousands of gorgeous women in Bangladesh with dark to very dark complexions. A woman's facial beauty lies not in the colour but in the texture of her skin.

fairness? Why the preoccupation with finding ways to lighten or 'brighten' (as they call it) the skin — bleaching, applying face creams and concoctions made of various items from the breakfast table?

One of the most favourite conversation openers in some of our circles is 'Oh my God! Why have you become so dark? Whatever happened to your fairness?' Thanks a lot Miss

go into any village we can find scores of women with beautiful faces. Their loveliness untouched by make up of any kind, except perhaps a hint of kajal, lies in their dark sparkling eyes and shy, seraphic innocence on their faces.

So let us not take this Bengali modesty to extremes by epitomizing beauty only in fair skinned. Our national heritage includes not only our language and culture but also the colour of our skin. Can we not broaden our vision a little and see the true beauty around us? Can we not be cured of this strange 'fairness fixation'?

What's on today . . .

Discussion on Ershad regime

A discussion on the book 'Shorasasoner noy bachar 1982-90' (nine years' autocratic rule-1982-90) written by Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, PSE a former Advisor of the Acting President will be held today (Thursday) at 4.30 at the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University.

Prof Khan Sarwar Morshid will preside over the meeting while Barrister Syed Ishtaq Ahmed, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Dr. Emajuddin Ahmed, Dr K M Mohsin, Dr. Anwarullah Choudhury, Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Fayz Ahmed, Syed Shamsul Haque, Sree Santosh Gupta and Hasanul Huq Inu are expected to participate in the discussion on the book.

Freedom fighters' conference

The Central Command Council of Bangladesh MuktiJhodha Sangsad will hold a press conference today (Thursday) at 5 pm at the National Press Club.

Chairman of the command council Principal Abdul Ahad Choudhury, Secretary General M A Aziz will explain the present state of the Sangsad.

F K Choudhury's death anniversary

Bangladesh Muslim League will hold a discussion followed by a milad mahfil today (Thursday) at 4 pm at its Central office at 28/1, Tophkhana Road in the city in observance of 18th death anniversary of the then Pakistan National Assembly Speaker and Pakistan Muslim League President Fazlul Kader Choudhury.

Party convenor M A Hannan will chair the discussion meeting.

Dolly Anwar's Memorial meet

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies will hold a memorial meeting to show respect to the National Award winning actress Dolly Anwar at the auditorium of Soviet Cultural Centre today (Thursday) afternoon.

Noted personalities in various fields are expected to participate in the discussion.

The discussion will be followed by screening of Bengali full length film 'Surja Dighal Bari' for which late Dolly received awards at home and abroad.

Jessore Zila School reunion

A re-union of the ex-students of Jessore Zila School will be held today (Thursday) at 5.30 pm at the Eskaton Ladies Club in the city. The reunion is expected to be attended by a large number of ex-students with their families.

Remembrance of old days by the ex-students, cultural function, games and goodwill dinner will be part of the reunion. The former students who have registered their names are requested to kindly attend the function in time.

Discussion on Siraj-ud-Dowla

A discussion on 'Siraj-ud-Dowla and Bangladesh' will be held at the National Press Club auditorium today (Thursday) at 4 pm.

Bangladesh Cultural Academy has arranged the discussion on the last Emperor of Bengal in observance of his 234th day of assassination. The discussants include: Akhter-ul-Alam, Khan Ataur Rahman, Gias Kamal Choudhury, Choudhury Mohammad Faruk, Prof K Ali, Dr S M Lutfur Rahman, Anwar Hossain and Obaidul Huq Sarkar later, a Bengali film 'Nabab Siraj-ud-Dowla' directed by Khan Ataur Rahman will be screened.

Puja Committee meeting

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee and Advisory Council of Mahanagar Sarbajamin Puja Committee will be held today (Thursday) at 5.30 pm at its office at the Dhakeshwari Mandir in the city.

Joyanta Sen Dipu General Secretary of the Committee has requested all concerned to attend the meeting.

Blood donation

A voluntary blood donation programme will be held today (Thursday) at 4 pm at the blood donation centre of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Aurangajeb road, Mohammadpur in the city.

The programme will be jointly organised by the Dilkhusha Junior Chamber, Roratac Club of Dhanmondi and Radio Japan Listeners' Club in Dhaka.

IEB Eid reunion

Dhaka Centre of the Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh (IEB) will hold its Eid reunion at the IEB auditorium today (Thursday) at 5.30 pm. All members have been requested to attend the function with family members.

Rotary Club meeting

The 23rd regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Thursday) at 5-15 pm at Chilling Restaurant, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka.

Qul khwani

The Qul khwani of Alhaj Bande Ali Mridha of village Sundima under Louhajang upazila will be held today (Thursday) after Asr prayer at his Basabo residence in the city.

Relatives and wellwishers of late Mridha have been requested to attend the function.

. . . and tomorrow

CMM Convocation

The second convocation for diploma in management and diploma in marketing of the Centre for Management and Marketing will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 4.30 pm at the Sonargoon Hotel.

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Dr. Badruddoza Choudhury will be the Chief Guest on the occasion and distribute diploma certificates among the passed out students. M Lutfozzaman MP will be the special guest while M Mosharraf Hossain, President and Executive Director of the centre will offer the address of welcome.

Forty passed-out students will receive diploma certificate.

BCS Cadre general meeting

The half-yearly general meeting of Bangladesh Civil Service (Information-General) Cadre Association and reception of the new entrants in the cadre will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 9 am at the auditorium of the Department of Films and Publication (112, circuit house road) in the city.

State Minister for Information Nurul Huda will attend the meeting as Chief Guest while Information Secretary Nuruddin Al Masud will be the special guest.

5 pc subsidy for cottage industries

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to give five per cent subsidy to small and cottage industries sector. Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank ASM Fakhruul Ahsan said on Wednesday.

Ahsan was speaking at the certificate awarding ceremony of a two-week training course on 'Establishment of small industry' at the Training Institute for Small and Cottage Industries.



A musical soiree was organised by Abbhudoy, a cultural group, in city on Wednesday to welcome rains. Participants were Anup Bhattacharjee, Aminul Huq, Krishna Dutta, Gitaashree Ghose, Nargis Chowdhury, Gouri Chakravarty, Nilufar Sultana Khuku, Farzana Ahmed Keya, Farhana Ahmed Piya, Shreyashi Roy, Kiriti Ranjan Barua, Shymal Chowdhury, Mushtaq Ahmed, Naresh Roy, Ziaul Haq Zia, Arif Chowdhury, Arif Iqbal and Pranab Saha. Director of the organisation Ajit Roy conducted the function.

Each sodium light cost Tk 19,000 in installation

LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry Abdus Salam Talukdar told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday that the number of sodium lights in the capital city was 7,793 and the installation cost per light on an average was Taka 19,096.50, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna) the minister said the minimum cost for the installation of a sodium light was Taka 11,564 and the maximum was 27,200.

He said the price of a sodium light in the international market was about Taka 3,900.

The minister said tenders were invited for the installation of the lights on different roads of the capital.

He said the names of the contracting firms and organisations which set up the lights were: Messrs Philips (Bangladesh) Ltd, Daffodil Electric Company, Universal Engineering, Sunflower Enterprise, Combined Enterpr-rise, Micro Electronics Ltd, Eastern Electric Traders, Metro Engineers, Nur Associated

Engineering, Sun Light Electrical and Mechanical Company, Solman Electronics, Master Engineering, Ali and Company, K.F. Traders, Commonwealth Associates, Rawshan, Five Star Associates,

Govt asked to show cause why Ershad be not bailed out

A Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice Muhammad Abdul Mannan Tuesday issued rule upon the government to show cause within six weeks as to why the accused former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad should not be granted bail, reports BSS.

Ershad filed criminal appeal on July 9 against the judgement of the Senior Special Tribunal, Dhaka, before the High Court Division.

Karigar, Mowrasl International Ltd. and Crafton Engineering.

In reply to another question from A.K.M. Fazlul Huq (BNP-Mymensingh) the local government minister said a total of 600 sodium lights would be installed in the Mymensingh town. He said the roads in the town have already been fitted with 300 lights and work on the rest 300 would be completed after receiving the sanctioned money from the government.

Replying another question from Nizamuddin Khan (BNP-Manikganj) the local government minister said 3.40 miles of road islands in the Dhaka city were covered with covered with iron grills at a cost of Taka 73,98,337.

Giving a written reply to a question from Tabbar Rahman Sardar (AL-Jessore), he said the total length of roads under the district councils of the country was 16,238.09 miles he said, of the total, 3764.82 miles were pucca and 12,473.27 miles were kutcha.

Plea to form National Sight First Committee

Ln PS Ranganathan, international officer, Sight-First Africa and South East Asia regions of the Lions Club International, Wednesday called upon all voluntary and social organisations to launch a united and integrated movement to save the society from the curse of blindness, reports BSS.

Ln Ranganathan, who came in Dhaka Tuesday on a 5-day visit to Bangladesh, was speaking as the chief guest at a function organised by Lions Club of Dhaka progressive at Narsingdi.

Presided over by Ln Brig (Retd) AHM Abdullah, President of the club, it was addressed, among others, by Ln Jalal Ahmed, Ln Engineer M Shahjahan Khadem, Ln M Sirajul Islam, Ln Dr G Mayced and

Ln JI Bhowmik. Sight-First is the most ambitious and far-reaching programme ever undertaken by the Lions Club International to conquer blindness all over the world at a cost of 250 million US dollars by next five years.

Ln Ranganathan suggested formation of a national Sight-First Committee comprising important personalities of the country and make the programme a success.

Lt Governor Ln Engineer Shahjahan Khadem, in his speech, said about 30,000 children were getting blind every year due to vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition and over ten lakh cataract patients were suffering for lack of treatment.

Italy, the land of Michel Angelo, Leonardo di Vinci and Sophia Loren. It is where you find the 'Sistine Chapel, Coliseum, Venice and Florence. It is the land of one of the finest cuisines and the best ice cream in the world. Dolce Vita brings to you Italian cuisine and the ice cream Gelato. Come and experience the 'sweet life' Dolce Vita the only Italian restaurant in town, located on the 3rd floor of 54, Kemal Ataturk Ave, Banani C/A.

Office of the Police Commissioner Dhaka Metropolitan Police Procurement & Supply Wing 27, Park Avenue, Dhaka RE-TENDER NOTICE Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide traders/reputed hotel/ restaurant owners for supply of dry food to Dhaka Metropolitan Police during 1991-92 financial year. Tenders addressed to the Police Commissioner accompanied with the earnest money mentioned in the schedule should be submitted in the Tender Box kept at this office before 12-30 hours on 24-7-91. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 13-00 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Right to accept or cancel any tender in part or whole without assigning any reason will be reserved by this office. Tender schedule containing rules and regulations can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk 400/= (Four hundred) during office hours. No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender. Kazi Nazrul Islam Deputy Police Commissioner (Supply Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Dhaka.

Weather Low crosses Bay

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius, Humidity in percentage. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Dinajpur, Bogra, Feni, Mymensingh, Srimangal.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and a list of words like 'Perch', 'Netherlands', 'Equally', etc.

THURSDAY 5-00 Opening, al-Qu'an; 5-15 Recitation from the Geeta; 5-20 News in Bangla; 5-30 Eso Gan Sikhi; 5-55 Cartoon film — Captain Planet and the Planeters; 6-30 Jibaner alo: Religious programme; 7-05 Katha o-Sur: Songs programme; 8-00 News in Bangla; 8-40 Weekly drama; 10-00 News in English; 10-25 Parliament roundup; 11-40 Mini series — Queenje; 11-30 Khabar/The news; 11-40 Closing

Cases against 10 hotel owners filed A mobile court, conducted by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has filed cases against ten owners of the hotel and restaurants of the city on charges of keeping or selling various uncovered, rotten and adulterated foodstuff and kitchen rooms unhygienic, reports BSS.

Khulna news print mills exceeds production target KHULNA, July 17: Khulna news print mills has exceeded the target of newsprint production during the last fiscal year, reports UNB. According to official sources, the mills has produced a total of 49,475 metric tons of newsprint against the target of 48,000 metric tons during the period. Commemorative postage stamps Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamps of Taka 6 denomination on the occasion of 40th death anniversary of great Poet Kalkobad with effect from 21st July, a press release said, reports BSS. A first day cover valued Taka 5 will also be issued and a special cancellor will also be used.

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