

Dhaka Day by Day

Pencils and Erasers Please!

by Tulip Ibrahim

LIFE in the Metropolis is like a kaleidoscope. People play in their own ways to the games of survival. The busy wheel of life whirls endlessly. Colourful lines are drawn to the picturesque vision by school children and their guardians. Under sun or rain they weave through the traffic queue, taking whatever transport is available. To them school admissions, examinations and regular school attendance itself is marked by success, failure, hope and frustration. Reaching the goal of education is indeed a great challenge to them.

School admissions are the most difficult part of receiving education in the city. The better the school, more complicated the process.

Admission to schools do not depend on merit tests alone. Some schools have quotas for admissions upon donations. The amount of such donations range from ten to thirty thousand taka or presentation of material goods to the school authority. There are coaching centres and private tutors with assurance of admission to the best schools in the city. These private tutors and coaching centres are very expensive. Government school teachers engage themselves in these as a source of extra income. The time and energy spent outside the school hour gives them little chance to be sincere to the schools.

The number of schools in the city is no doubt inadequate for the huge flow of students. Government schools take admissions in class six and class one. Thousands of students apply for only forty or fifty seats. Tests of merit among these students are an hard assessment. If a student gets admission to a good school on merit test alone, without any money or backing to support the test, then the thanks must go to some supernatural forces working behind the success.

Private schools, kindergarten or high schools leave the students overburdened with too much homework, classwork and periodical tests. Government schools on the other hand place the students on only two examinations throughout the year, the half yearly and the annual. Even these are quite easy for students who engage private tutors from the respective schools.

Beside school fees, school-uniform, books and notebooks, school children need innumerable pencils, erasers, pens, pencil sharpeners, water flasks and lunch boxes. If counted one by one they may not cost much. But children are constantly losing their belongings at the school. The water flask's drinking pipe or the handle comes loose after a week's use. The lunch boxes arrive home without the covers. The annual expenditure for these miscellaneous are quite a lot.

The school children are very fanciful about the snacks they carry to schools. Some insist on taking the same thing throughout the year while others demand regular changes. Fast food is very favourite among them. Give the school children potato chips, potato crackers or chocolates. They will hug their Mummy for the wonderful treat. Quite often they get infectious diseases from eating unhygienic pickles, "chanachur" and low quality ice-creams sold around school gates.

Attending schools in the city is no easy job either. The city streets are full of unpredictable dangers. Children have to be accompanied by their guardians. Auto-rickshaws demand high fares during busy school hours. Public buses or tempos are cheaper but difficult for the children with their overloaded passengers. The car is, however, a safer mode of transportation to schools. But if the school is near Dhaka College, Dhaka University or City College then the car too is not the answer. Every now and then the police will not allow cars in those areas



Schooling of the little ones: A major problem

because of some students engaged in violence in that area. So walk the rest of the way to school. Ptiabile is also the condition of the guardians who have to stay back during the school hours. Hundreds of guardians wait for their little charges outside the schools.

One cannot let a school girl alone on the streets. Street Romeo are omnipresent and then there are hijackers stalking the streets.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the difficulty of attaining education in the capital city stands as a challenge to overall socio-economic development of the country.

Fresh DU exams schedule

Dhaka University Authorities Sunday announced fresh dates for different annual course system examinations which were postponed earlier, reports BSS.

The dates were announced at a joint meeting of the Deans and Chairmen of the different faculties and departments of the university with the Vice Chancellor. Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah, in the chair. The detailed schedule would be announced soon, a university press release said here.

According to the new announcement, the examinations will begin on August 7. The 1st year B Sc (hons-90) will be held on August 7, 1st year B Sc (subs-90) on August 17, final part (MA/MSS-88) on August 11, 3rd year hons (BA/BSS-89) on August 10, 1st part (MA/MSS-89) on August 10, final part (MSc/M Pharm-88) on September 14, 3rd year (B Sc/B Pharm-hons-89) on September 21, and 1st part M Sc (89) on September 21.

BCCI depositors' rally July 31

Star Economic Report
BCCI (O) Ltd Depositors Association in a meeting on Sunday decided to stage protest rally in front of Bangladesh Bank on July 31 to get back their deposits in BCCI.

The depositors will also stage a token hunger strike in the premises of BCCI.

The Association urged the government to refund their deposits and said failing to do so may lead to consequences for which the authority will be responsible.

The depositors also alleged that there is no action or contingency programme under taken by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) to help protect the export-clients of BCCI. They also alleged that the EPB did not contact any export oriented unit banking with BCCI to ascertain their position and problems arising out of BCCI's closure.

Chhatra Front holds rally

Dhaka City College unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front on Sunday held a workers' rally at college auditorium.

Directive to take drastic action against criminals

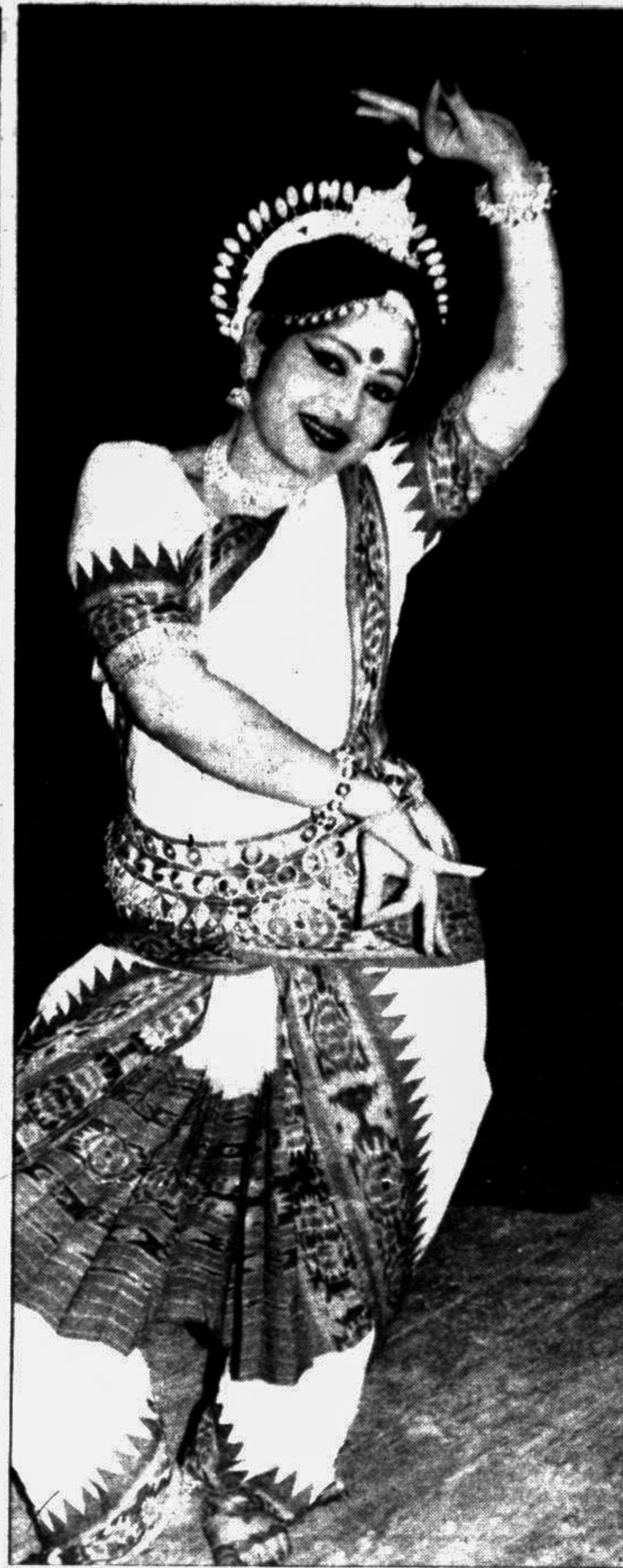
Inspector General of Police Tayebuddin Ahmed Sunday directed the police personnel to take drastic action against the criminals to maintain law and order in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the fortnightly regular meeting of the senior police officials at the police headquarters here the IG asked the officials to immediately crack down on all anti-social elements, criminals and possessors of illegal arms who were involved in dacoity, murder, hijacking, vandalism and illegal toll-collections.

Tayebuddin urged the police personnel to work with more devotion and dedication for upholding the image of the police force. He directed them to take stern action against those police personnel who were engaged in various corrupt practices.

The meeting, first Mr Tayebuddin with the senior police officials after taking charge of the IGP for the second time, also reviewed the overall law and order situation of the country particularly the performances of the police during the last fortnight.

The meeting was informed



A noted Indian dancer Sainee Mahapatra in a dance sequence at a function of Bangladesh Radio and TV Sangsad held in city on Sunday in aid of cyclone victims.

— Star photo

'Bangladesh technicians more efficient abroad, not at home'

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Sunday called upon the principals of the technical colleges to put in their best efforts for improving the quality of technical education for achieving the goal of the national development, reports BSS.

Addressing a three-day conference of the technical institutes as the chief guest the minister said, "inspite of having abundance of resources we are poor due to lack of mobilisation of our available resources."

Presided over by Director General of Technical Education Mr R Mallik, the conference was addressed by State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan and Education Secretary ANM Yusuf as the special guests.

The Education Minister said, though we have profusion of the resources like solar energy, gas, water and sea resources, we cannot make use of them due to lack of appropriate technology. It is said that our technicians prove themselves most efficient whenever they work abroad, but they are not so at home," the minister said.

Chowdhury further said that the teachers must find out the drawbacks of their teaching and they will have to put in concerted efforts to make

technical education fruitful for the students.

Referring to the ongoing campus violence in the technical education like general education, the Education Minister said a vested quarter has been creating violence in the name of politics.

The minister urged all teachers and parents to come forward unitedly for fighting terrorism in the greater interest of the nation.

S and T team off to Delhi

A three member Bangladesh delegation led by Habibur Rahman, Additional Secretary in charge, Science and Technology (S and T) division left Dhaka Sunday for New Delhi to sign an accord on science and technology protocol assistance between S and T division of Bangladesh and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) of Indian government, reports BSS.

Other two members of the delegation are Dr M Waliuzzaman, Chairman, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and Professor Nurul Islam of the Institute of appropriate Technology, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.



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OPEC to finance 8 UZ health centres

A two-member delegation of OPEC Fund for International Development led by Mr. Osama Faquih, chairman of Governing Board of the Fund, arrives in Dhaka on Monday on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The other member of delegation is the Fund's Director-General, Dr. Y. Sayeed Abdulai.

During the visit the delegation will exchange views with the officials on the economic situation in Bangladesh and explore further avenues for continuing the fund's cooperation in the country's development activities.

An agreement for construction of eight upazila health complexes will be signed between the government of Bangladesh and the OPEC Fund during the visit.

The OPEC Fund has so far extended economic assistance to the tune of 181.33 million US dollars to Bangladesh.

The delegation is expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Finance and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman, and Health and Family Welfare Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne-Yousof.

BIBM course on fraud, forgery concludes

An 18-day regular course on fraud, forgery and malpractices in banks and financial institutions concluded in Dhaka on Saturday, reports UNB.

Organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), the course was designed to familiarise the participants with the nature and causes of frauds, forgeries and malpractices in banks and other financial institutions.

It also aimed at developing skills and knowledge to curb fraud and forgeries in those institutions.

A total of 37 participants from nationalised and private banks, government commercial audit and police department attended the course, said a press release.

BIBM Director ABM Mahbulul Amin Khan presided over the concluding session and gave away certificates to the participants.

2 killed, 5 hurt in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and five others injured, three of them seriously, when two taxi-cabs collided head-on Sunday at Dhaka-Narayanganj road near Alganj.

Lakshminaryan Karmakar, 47, died on way to Narayanganj Hospital while the other victim succumbed to injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Pak military goodwill team meets Army chief

The four-member military goodwill delegation from Pakistan led by Lieutenant General Muhammad Ashraf on Sunday called on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan at the Army headquarters, reports BSS.

According to an ISPR Press release, members of the delegation also called on Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury, Defence Secretary Mr Anisur Rahman and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Commodore Fakhruddin Ahmed.

During their stay in Bangladesh, the delegation is scheduled to call on the Acting President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Office. They will also visit Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur here.

The delegation arrived in Dhaka on July 27 on a six-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. They were received at the Zia International Airport by Chief of General Staff Major General Muhammad Abdus Salam. Acting PSO to the Supreme Commander and other senior military officers.

DMCCSU polls tomorrow

By DMCH Correspondent

Elections to the Dhaka Medical College Central Students Union (DMCCSU) and the hall unions will be held tomorrow (Tuesday).

Candidates from three panels will contest the polls. The panels are: the combined panel of Jattayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (N-S) and the combined panel of Chhatra League (S-A) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union. Chhatra Shibir also submitted another single panel.

Sarful Islam (Boby) and Kamrul Huda (Shohel) are contesting from the JCD and Chhatra League (N-S) panel for the post of Vice-President and General Secretary respectively while Khasruzzaman and Ishfaq Ahmed are contesting from the BCL and BCU panel for the post of VP and GS.

According to the rules of the Election Committee all campaigning will be stopped from Monday afternoon

Weather

Heavy rains likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower with a few moderately heavyfall accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Sunday, reports Meteorological Department.

The day temperature till Tuesday morning may fall by one to three degree Celsius over the country. On Sunday the highest temperature recorded at Sylhet was 36.5 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature was 25 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

Meanwhile, Srimangal witnessed the 14mm rainfall on Sunday while Khepupara and Teknaf experienced 11 mm and 8mm respectively.

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

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6.44pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5.27am.

The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	9am	6pm	9am	6pm
Dhaka	33.2	27.7	70	70
Chittagong	34.2	26.7	71	68
Rajshahi	34.6	27.3	72	72
Khulna	31.5	26.5	63	66
Dinajpur	35	27.6	75	64
Srimangal	34.5	25.8	82	95
Sylhet	36.5	25.6	60	64
Bogra	35.1	27.8	73	63

Introduction of buses for women praised

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Ganoangkar Shamaj and Btkrampur Nari Mongol Samity on Sunday hailed the introduction of more passenger bus services for women in the city and also lauded the hiring of women conductors for the buses.

Nothing the inconveniences faced by women passengers, the organisations in a joint statement urged the authorities to introduce similar bus services in other parts of the country.

Begum Kazi Azmeri Zaman, Faizul Huq, Abdul Jabbar Mehman and other leaders of the Bangladesh Ganoangkar Shamaj and Rashida Begum, Mahmuda Kabir and office-bearers of the Btkrampur Nari Mongol Samity signed the statements.

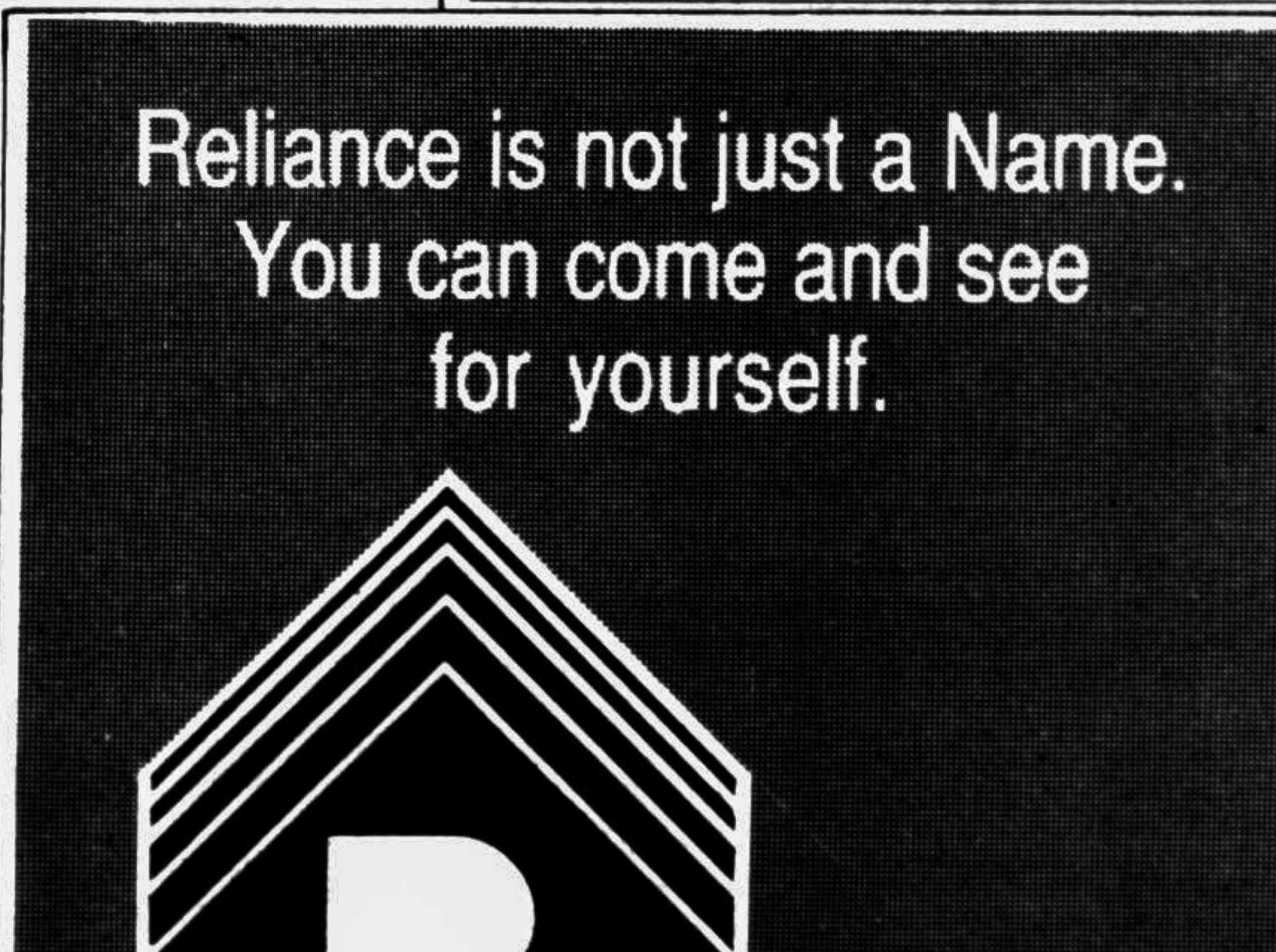
Obituary

Lt. Colonel (Rtd) Matiur Rahman, former U O T C Chief and Director of Physical Education, Dhaka University died in Dhaka Sunday. He was 84.

His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held today (Monday) at Battul Mukarram Mosque after Zohr prayer.

Monday

- 4.30 Opening announcement Al Quran
- Programme summery
- 5.00 10th Astan Club Cup Coca-cola, '90
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 7.00 10th Astan Club Cup Coca-cola, '90 (Final)
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 9.00 Sanglap (Dialogue)
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament Roundup
- 10.40 Film show: Man from U.N.C.L.E
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Programme for Tuesday
- 11.45 Closing



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