

Dhaka Day by Day

Khalek's Ferry-boat

by Shahrier Khan

Sixteen years old Khalek is a serious type of boy. I have seldom met such a smart and confident boy of his socio-economic level. He is the sole navigator-driver of a 25-feet long engine ferry-boat. He is very proud of the boat; because he owns it.

At the northern part of the Dhaka city, the river Turag runs deep connecting the Buriganga. A dam made few years ago on this river behind the Mirpur zoo, has formed a mini-zoo. Peasants and traders of adjoining villages who come to Mirpur by river have to cross this lake. Boats which previously reached the banks of Turag near Pallabi, now stops at the dam. Traders take a second trip from the dam to the bank on engine boats. Khalek transports them on his boat.

"There are only 6 engine boats running in this lake from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening," Khalek says. "Anyone can join this business if it suits him." Khalek has invested Taka 85,000 on his boat which can carry 50 persons at a time. Yet he needs no helper. He has tied a nylon rope with the shallow engine near the boat's hull. While driving, he maintains right direction by the hull and to control the speed, he pulls the rope with his feet.

At the barren dam, you will always meet some traders who come from distant parts of the country. I met some traders coming from Pabna, Rajshahi and Faridpur. This journey by river is better than by road," says one trader from Pabna while getting aboard Khalek's boat.



Shahabuddin, Khaleda greet Gen Conte

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has greeted General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea on the occasion of the National Day, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitation Justice Shahabuddin wished long life, good health and happiness of General Conte and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Guinea.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also greeted General Lansana Conte on the occasion of its National Day.

Begum Zia wished good health of General Conte and happiness and increasing prosperity of the people of Guinea in the coming year.

BAU Part III exams from Oct 6

The suspended Part III examinations of the B. Sc. (Hons), 1988, of Bangladesh Agricultural University, that could not be held due to unavoidable reasons will commence from October 6, reports UNB.

According to a press release, the special examinations on some subjects of different agricultural colleges, suspended earlier will also begin on the same date.

According to new schedule, Agronomy examination will commence on October 6. Statistics on October 10. Horticulture on Oct 20. Entomology on Oct 24. Agriculture Chemistry on Oct 28 and Plant Pathology in November.

Students asked to maintain academic atmosphere

State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan called upon the students to maintain academic atmosphere on the campus for making them worthy citizens of the country, reports UNB.

The State Minister was speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of the newly elected members of the students' union of RIM Degree College in Sirajganj Tuesday.

He said the students are the vital force of the society and they must come forward to help improve the conditions of the people.

The present government aims at utilising the potentials of the students through building up their career, he added.

Eunus Khan said it is sad that only a few students are resorting to violence in the campus.

The students, teachers and guardians must come forward united to identify them and assist them, he added.

JU classes begin Oct 26

JU Correspondent The classes of the first year honours students of Jahangirnagar University of the 1990-91 Academic Year will begin after the Durga Puja vacation on October 26.

This was disclosed Tuesday by the university authority.

HERE and THERE

Bangabandhu Parisad

CDR,B

Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, a renowned scholar and Chairman of the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDR,B) has left Dhaka for Kathmandu on Monday to represent Bangladesh at a two-day International Seminar at the Nepalese capital.

Organised by the Society for the Promotion of International Peace and Understanding, of which the President is the former Foreign Minister of Nepal, Dr Dilli Raman Regmi, began on October 1. The theme of the Seminar is South Asian Economy.

Dr Shelley, in his key-note paper commented: "No form of cooperation, economic and or otherwise, can even take off, far less succeed, in achieving the desired goal, unless and until the political, intellectual and business elites and opinion-shapers reach a consensus that cooperation and concerted action is the only means to effectively offset the impact of the adversities threatened by a transforming International Economic Order. In that emerging dispensation the dispossessed, deprived and poor South will be assigned the lowest priority. If South Asia wants to survive and prosper even in these grim times, it can and certainly will."

The meeting was also addressed by M A Gafur, Anwara Begum, Strajul Islam, Azizul Huq, Nurul Islam Ratan and Omar Faruk.

The meeting also demanded immediate and unconditional release of former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and criticised the return of Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed to his previous post.

Hossain Ali Smriti Parisad

Hossain Ali Smriti Parisad on Tuesday urged the people and parties to help electing Abdur Rahman Biswas as the president of the country.

In a statement by the president of the parisad Syed Anwar Hossain and General Secretary Abdur Rouf Ahmed said that opposition candidate Badru Haider Chowdhury was an associate of deposed Ershad regime.

Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal

Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal on Tuesday condemned BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina for not granting minimum wage at Taka 1,400 though both the leaders once supported the demand of the workers.

In a meeting at the Shantinagar central office with party President Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar in the chair also demanded Taka 2,000 as the minimum wage of the workers considering the present situation.

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MA leader Ayenuddin and MA Salam in a statement urged the concerned groups to consider the national interests first. Otherwise the future of the nation would be clouded.

Bangabandhu Lawyers Assoc

A new organisation named 'Bangabandhu Lawyers Association' was formed on Monday with Dewan Ziauddin as its convener.

A 29-member committee with seven joint convener was also formed by the lawyers who are the followers of ideals of Bangabandhu.

Rotary Club of Buriganga

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm in Sonargaon Hotel. Dr Towfiq Ali, Director General, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will be the guest speaker.

Members of the Club have been requested to kindly attend the meeting in time.

Muslim League

Muslim League on Tuesday expressed concern for creating political smoke-screen in the country over the presidential election by a certain quarter.

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Barisal 66-67

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The newly formed committee would organise a conference on October 18 at the Hotel Sheraton. Eligible members have been requested to attend the conference.

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