

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-foot 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.

"I started from Pabna last night on an engine boat, and this morning I'm here."

"This lake is not much deep... hardly 15 feet at its deepest," Khalek adds. "But the water remains all through the year." Smoking a cigarette like an adult he says, "I transport people seven days a week, sometimes my younger brother assists me, or sometimes I do the job alone."

Khalek's father died long ago. He is the second of his three brothers. His father was a farmer and left them one 'kan' of land on the edge of Mirpur.

"That land brought us almost nothing until we sold it for one lakh eighty thousand taka three years ago. I made this boat then with the part of my money and I've been making a fairly good living ever since."

Khalek never took his boat out of this lake. He starts his day early every morning from the unofficial Pallabi ghat near the Mirpur Cantonment and makes a 15 to 20 minutes' journey across the lake. But one day he will break this routine, he hopes, and make a bigger boat and drive that in a big river.

This small lake is rather calm most of the times. The view is fresh. It will remind you of your village. If you are looking for a place to go to get away from the maddening crowd of the city, you may consider having a boat ride here one of these days.



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 his 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 unitedly 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

Bangabandhu Parisad on Tuesday expressed concern over the reports that 75 coup leaders were hatching another conspiracy to kill Sheikh Hasina in England.

Chairperson of the Parisad Begum Sufia Kamal and General Secretary SA Maleq in a statement said that during by-election in the city another attempt on her life was taken.

The Parisad also criticised the government decision of reducing the security of opposition leader.

Jatiya Sramik Party

Jatiya Sramik Party on Tuesday expressed 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.

The meeting was also addressed by M A Oafur, Anwara Begum, Sirajul 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 Badrul Haider Chowdhury was an associate of deposed Ershad regime.

Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal

Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal on Tuesday condemned the ruling party for creating controversy over the presidential election by fielding a controversial man for the presidency.

In a statement party Chairman GM Ibrahim and Secretary General Bengir Ahmed said that after assuming power the BNP gave up its ideals to cling in power.

They urged the workers to continue movement to gather the nationalist forces together for struggling against anomalies.

Barisal 66-67

A social organisation named Barisal 66-67 was formed at Dhaka recently at a meeting of those who passed the SSC examinations in 1966-67 batch and also completed their college educations from Barisal.

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

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 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."

Muslim League

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

ML 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 convenor.

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

Wednesday

5.00	Opening Announcement, Al Quran, Programme Summary
5.15	Reading from Geeta
5.20	News in Bangla
5.30	Campus
6.00	Programme on S. Korean National Day: Speech by Ambassador and a documentary
6.30	Sports programme
7.05	Hijal Tomal (Songs programme)
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Writter Tale Tale (Dance programme)
9.00	Film show: MacOyver
10.00	News in English
10.30	Shilpa-o-Sahitya
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Thursday's Programme summary
11.45	Closing



Old people brought out a silent procession in the city Tuesday on the occasion of the International Day of the Elderly—Star photo

Law to protect rights of elderly likely

Bangladesh Tuesday observed the International Day for the Elderly to express its solidarity with the UN General Assembly decision and reiterated its commitment to ensure welfare of the elderly people or the 'senior citizens' of country, reports BSS.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafez, addressing a discussion in this connection, declared that if necessary the present BNP government would enact a law to protect the rights and privileges of the elderly citizens.

The discussion was organised jointly by Ministry of Social Welfare and Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha and presided over by former presidential adviser and social worker Azizul Huq.

Former presidential adviser and renowned social worker M A Kabir, State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Begum Sarwar Rahman, Deputy Minister for Law and Justice A B M Zahedul Huq, Additional Secretary of the concerned ministry Md Faizullah and Secretary of the Probin Hitoishi Sangha Dr M A Wahid also spoke.

The Law and Justice Minister said the society has many things to do for the elderly people, the number of whom is increasing gradually.

He pointed out that the present government is aware of the problems of the elderly

UNB adds: Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) and the Institute of Rural Journalists Association (IRJA) jointly organised a discussion meeting on the occasion at IRJA's office this morning.

Mosharrat Hossain, Director of IRJA presided over the meeting.

The Speakers urged the government to increase the pension rate and set up recreation centres similar to those of the developed countries.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Secretary-General of BHRC, Md Saiful Islam Dilder, Advocate S N Goswami, Mrs Rokeya Nurun Nesa, Abdul Halim Bhuiyan, Nazrul Islam, Khodeza Begum, Kazi Lina Laila and Monir Hossain.

What's on today . . .

Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal

Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal will hold a press conference today (Wednesday) at 5 pm at Hotel Plaza, 62, Motijheel.

Jana Parishad

A meeting of the central committee of Bangladesh Jana Parishad will be held today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at its temporary office at 115, New Circular Road, Siddeswar.

Theatre School

The students of "Ka" branch of Theatre School will stage the drama by Abdullah Al Mamun, "Our children" today (Wednesday) at Guide House.

Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental

Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental have chalked out a week-long service activities beginning today (Wednesday) to mark the "World Lions Service Day". The week long programme will be inaugurated by State Minister for Textile Major (Rtd) M A Mannan at Kapasia Darul Ulem-Madrasha orphanage premises.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka South will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm at hotel Purbani International. Ashraf Ali, DGM of Milk Vita will be the guest speaker. He will speak on "Dairy management".

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. He will speak on environment.

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

... and tomorrow

Bahadur's death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Ustad Bahadur Hossain Khan will be observed tomorrow (Thursday). Ustad Ayet Ali Khan Sangket Niketan, Dhaka, has arranged a Milad Mahfil and a discussion meeting on the maestro on the occasion.

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecast Tuesday that rain or shower may occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius.

Little change would be marked in weather during the subsequent two days. Met Office also said adding that monsoon was less active over the country.

Eight millimetre rainfall was recorded while it was only 5 mm at Rajshahi.

Sunset at Dhaka on Wednesday at 5.46 pm and sunrise Thursday at 5.51 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.5	26.6
Chittagong	32.4	26.2
Khulna	34.4	26.0
Rajshahi	34.6	25.0
Dinajpur	33.5	26.0
Bogra	32.7	25.1
Barisal	33.5	25.6
Satkhira	34.2	26.2
Sylhet	33.2	24.6
Chandaga	36.0	26
Mymensingh	34.1	24.4

Bangladesh benefitted most from OP-1 : US

By Staff Correspondent

The Consular Office of the US Embassy in Dhaka in a statements on Tuesday clarified the position of the OP-1 visa programme following observance of the three-day token hunger strike by the lottery winners who have failed to get visas.

Termining the OP-1 visa programme "a great success for Bangladesh" a consular official said that ordinarily nearly all available immigrant visas are granted to applicants in preference categories — those whose close family members have already immigrated to the United States. The OP-1 legislation was designed to offer immigration opportunities to applicants not fitting into preferential categories by providing 20,000 non-preferential visas to citizens of more than 100 countries, including Bangladesh.

The number of such visas available was fixed by law and cannot be increased. A lottery format was developed, to ensure that there would be a random and unbiased selection of possible visa recipients. The Department of State issued a world-wide announcement inviting people to enter the lottery.

"The results were astounding," said the official in Dhaka. Over 3 million requests were received in Washington. The official pointed out that less than one one-thousandth of these people would eventually be able to go to America. When the names were drawn, he continued, "a full 25 per cent were from Bangladesh. Right there, Bangladeshis had a huge advantage over those of other nations." He explained that those whose names were drawn were advised of the procedures to follow to formally apply for a visa.

The official acknowledged that these procedures were detailed and time-consuming, but said, "the best indication of how well the system worked is that 6324 Bangladeshis have received immigrant visas under OP-1. That's 31 per cent of all the special visas issued world-wide. This is a great success for Bangladeshis applicants." Once these Bangladeshis acquire US citizenship, he noted, they will be able to bring other family members to the United States. Commenting on reports that some Bangladeshis are dissatisfied with the process, the official expressed regret that the mandated 20,000

Australian envoy calls on Sircar

The Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, R K Gate, called on Education Minister Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar at the latter's office in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS.

JU Provost withdraws resignation

JU Correspondent

Provost and House Tutors of A F M Kamaluddin Hall of Jahangirnagar University have withdrawn their resignation after the student leaders involved in Thursday's incident, apologized.

They have resumed work from Tuesday after a four-day work-stoppage.

Earlier, seven teachers attached to Kamaluddin Hall resigned en masse in protest against their confinement in the hall offices by a group of students.

Dhaka to export telecom hardware to Poland

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh will now export telecommunication hardware like PABX and digital exchange to Poland.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Gulf Bangladesh Associates and Rolmex of Poland on September 29. Rolmex and Gulf Bangladesh Associates will jointly set up telecommunication producing industries in Poland. Gulf Ltd will also provide material and technical services to Poland on telecommunication.

The agreement between the two companies was signed by Adnan Vitriski and Stephan Ogied of Rolmex and Maj(Rtd) M Jahangir and Major (Rtd) T M Nurun Nabi of Gulf Ltd.

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমী সঙ্গীত ও নৃত্য শিল্পী সন্মেলন উপলক্ষে
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অংশগ্রহণে :
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খুরশীদ আলম, সুবীর নন্দী, রফিকুল আলম, শবনম মুন্সারী, পানিয়া
সারোয়ার, শামি আখতার, কিরণ চন্দ্র রায়, লিলুবা খান, মিতা হক,
তপন চৌধুরী, শুভ দেব। নাটক : আলী যাকের, ফেরদৌসী মজুমদার।
আবৃত্তি : গোলাম মোস্তফা, সৈয়দ হাসান ইমাম এবং বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা
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নৃত্যনাট্য : নকসী কাথার মাঠ।
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প্রবেশ মূল্য : টকা-২০০.০০, ১০০.০০, ৫০.০০
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ভ্যাট ১৫% ১,৩৮৩.৯০
বিক্রয় মূল্য প্রতি মেট্র টন ১০,৬০৯.৯০
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আন্তর্জাতিক মানের দেশীয় এসিড ব্যবহার করে মূল্যবান ও কঠোরিত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বাঁচান।
চিটাগাং কেমিক্যাল কমপ্লেক্স
বাড়বকুড়, চট্টগ্রাম।
(বিসিআইসিএর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
দূরাল্পাণী - ২২৪৩৪৩।