

Dhaka Day by Day

Papers Galore

by Saifur Rahman

A huge number of newspapers and magazines are now seen at the newspaper stalls. This was somehow unthinkable a few years back, when only a few people took interest in papers and magazines. Not so long ago there were only four or five weeklies, which could attract the readership. But within the last three/four years, a rapid development took place in the newspaper industry, which could be compared to a revolution. It gave birth to a large number of newspapers and magazines in the market. The revolution was, however limited to the quantity of magazines, not quality. As learnt from the latest information, three more dailies and nearly 10 weeklies are waiting to start publishing.

The expansion of newspapers led to increase in the number of journalists, proof readers, computer operators etc. So, a large number of journalist have developed in a row, with a lot of young people coming up rapidly in the profession. Some university students are now actively involved in reporting or writing features.

One of the major causes of the increase in the number of newspapers is perhaps heavy in-flow of cash into



A book stall overflowing with new publications.

the industry. The involvement of the upper class caused the cash flow, which boosted the industry. A few years back, it would have been difficult to find a reader among the upper classes who admitted the local press. But things have changed a lot these days. Now, people know the power of the newspapers.

It is found that sometimes it is more profitable to be the owner of a newspaper or a magazine, than to be the owner of an industry. The hidden power of newspapers came out in recent days, by influencing political movements, forming political opinions, influencing or even misguiding the voters in elections. So, political parties, as well as professional groups, naturally saw possession of a newspaper as an effective means with which to indirectly influence the public.

As a result, the governments newspaper declaration number raised up to about one thousand, alone in Dhaka, as per recent informations, which is going to exceed the

mark of one thousand, shortly.

A joke currently popular among young people these days runs like this:

"If you see three persons in a street in a row, you will find a government employee, and an advocate or a marketing personnel among them."

"What about the other one?"

"A journalist"

But a lot of these people take this profession very seriously, and depend on it for a secure future. To some of them, it is a mean of survival.

Amir Hossain, who recently completed his Masters degree from a university, started his struggle by joining a weekly, finding no other way. As an unexperienced guy, after facing a lot of problems, Amir continued with his efforts to build a future. Now, working with the "Weekly Drishtikon" Amir has almost settled himself, even though he is very much aware of his future in journalism. Coming from a middle class family in Mymensingh, Amir lives with a lot of liabilities as he is the eldest son in the family. As such, Amir is expected to contribute towards his family's upkeep now that his education has been completed.

But Amir has not produced the goods for the family as yet, no matter how hard he tries. Like him, there are lot of Amirs in this industry trying hard to build a future.

Now, there are some young and energetic talents who are producing some really extra-ordinary things in the newspapers and magazines popular in all section of society.

Newspapers have become more popular than they were before. But the quality still has not developed except for a few exceptions. One of the reason for that is that most of the owners are not professional journalist and consequently don't have a professional outlook.

Many new newspaper owners produce their paper for some particular purpose, especially some owners use these as a ladder, a staircase to change their fate. So the newspaper industry is finding it difficult to flourish as an institution, and journalism is struggling to establish itself as a dependable profession.

Some functions of BADC to be privatised

The government has no plan to privatise the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) but some of the BADC functions will be transferred to private sector, reports UNB.

This was stated by Agriculture Minister Maj Gen M Majid-ul Haq (Retd) in parliament Tuesday.

Replying to Haroon-ur-Rashid Khan of BNP and Asaduzzaman of Awami League, Haq said the BADC functions like distribution of chemical fertilizer, power pumps and shallow tubewells would be done by private dealers.

For obvious reasons, the corporation programme will squeeze following privatisation of its marketing systems, the Minister told the House.

There are presently 22,353 officers and employees employed in BADC. He said there are 84,935 power pumps and 1,39,054 shallow tubewells under the disposal of the corporation.

The government has no knowledge as to how many irrigation tools have been inoperative across the country, nor has it any plan to repair those.

Haq said the corporation sell out pumps to farmers, and it's the owners' responsibility to maintain those.

He told the House BADC had necessary spare parts in godowns for open sale.

DU officers' ultimatum to realise demands

The Dhaka University Officers Association Monday warned the authorities that it would go for a week-long abstention if its 13-point demand is not met by October 22.

The decision was taken at a special meeting with Mohammad Selim, president of the association, in the chair.

Its demands include revision of pay scale, implementation of promotion rules, representation of officers in the Senate, the Syndicate and other bodies of the university, recruitment to vacant posts and creation of new posts and solution of residential problems.

The officers earlier observed 11 days' work abstention on five occasions to press the demands.

In the meeting, the association leaders vehemently protested the varsity authorities' alleged indifference in solving the problems.

Khaleque hospitalised

Abdul Khaleque, a senior politician and a journalist has been admitted to the Dhaka National Hospital in the old city following serious breakdown of his health due to high blood pressure, reports BSS.

He is now at ward number 5, bed number 13 in the National Hospital. The condition of Khaleque has remained critical since his admission into the hospital on October 10.

Wednesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Gunan
- 5.15 Programme summary
- 5.20 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.30 News in Bangla
- 5.35 Campus
- 5.55 Sports programme
- 6.30 Samachar
- 7.05 Hital Tamal
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Dance
- 9.00 Film: MacOyver
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament roundup
- 10.40 Nibedan
- 11.30 Khabar/ The News

Weather

Thundershower likely

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Wednesday says rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions. Day temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged.

Meanwhile, rain occurred at most places in all the divisions. The chief amount of rainfalls were: Mymensingh 31.5 cm, Chandpur 8.5 cm and Dhaka 5 cm.

Outlook for subsequent 2 days: Weather likely to improve gradually. Extended outlook for another 5 days: Little change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Tuesday:

City	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.2	24	91	85
Chittagong	28.1	24	92	92
Khulna	27.8	23.8	93	88
Rajshahi	27.2	21.5	95	93
Rangpur	24.8	22.4	95	87
Sylhet	26.2	22.2	100	93



Hazera Nazrul addressing a discussion in observance of the 20th death anniversary of Shaheed Engineer Nazrul Islam at the Public Library auditorium recently. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Lt Gen (Retd) Shawkat Ali and Col (Retd) Shawkat Ali are seen in the picture.

Tributes paid to Engr Nazrul

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion paid tributes to Shaheed Engineer Nazrul Islam who expedited the independence by sabotaging many electric power stations.

The discussion was organised in observance of the 20th anniversary of his death at the public library auditorium recently with Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury in the chair. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Rashid Haider, Mir Swakat Ali, Dr Manjurul Haq, Dr Alam and Dr Hafizur Rahman.

Justice Chowdhury said that the name of late Nazrul should be preserved in our history as a valiant freedom fighter who had sacrificed his life for the cause of country's liberation.

He also said that the damage and destruction to power stations inside the country had crippled the occupied forces.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said that without due honour to Nazrul, the history of the war of independence would remain unfulfilled.

Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said that the life story and the contribution of many of our freedom fighters like Nazrul should be included in the school level syllabus. Otherwise, our future generation will remain in dark about their heroic deeds in the liberation war, he added.

Rashid Haider said that the imposter of freedom fighters are furnishing the prestige of the real freedom fighters, which should be resisted.

Mir Swakat Ali said Shaheed Nazrul had puzzled the then Pakistan Army by detonating five power stations under the critical situation.

The speakers demanded to name a hall of the University of Engineering and Technology after him.

Nazrul Islam had died in harness on September 18, 1971 while he was the Adviser of Electricity Affairs of the then Pakistan government.

Major reshuffle in administration

Hasan made Principal Secretary, Dr Alamgir Tariff Chairman

The Government on Tuesday announced some changes and transfers in the top echelon of the civil administration, a PID handout said, reports UNB.

Textile Secretary Syed Hasan Ahmed has been appointed Principal Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

Dr Ekram Hossain, who was a member of the Planning Commission, has been appointed the Industries Secretary.

Industries Secretary Shaful Alam has been transferred to the Establishment Ministry as the Officer on Special Duty (Secretary).

Commerce Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed has been appointed a member of the Planning Commission.

Jute Secretary Mohammad Asafuddin has been transferred to be Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control.

Labour and Manpower Secretary Manzur-ul Karim has been transferred as Secretary, Roads and Road Transport Division.

Tariff Commission Chairman Aminul Islam has been appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Land.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Azam-

uddin Ahmed has been appointed Vice Chairman of Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge Authority.

Md. Azizul Haq, Secretary of the Shipping Ministry, has been transferred as Secretary to the Post and Telecommunication Ministry.

Roads and Road Transport Division Secretary Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury has been transferred as Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

AZM Shamsul Alam, Vice Chairman of Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge Authority, has been appointed Secretary, Textile Ministry.

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Secretary Mohammad Ali has been transferred as Secretary to the Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

Works Secretary Md. Enamul Haq has been appointed Chairman of the Land Reforms Board.

Post and Telecommunication Secretary A H M Shahjahan has been transferred as Secretary to the Works Ministry.

Additional Finance Secretary Dr. A K M Mashur Rahman has been appointed Additional Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Labour and Manpower.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Officer on Special Duty (Additional Secretary), has been appointed the acting Chairman of the Tariff Commission.

Additional Cabinet Secretary Md. Abdul Hakim has been made acting Additional Secretary, Ministry of Relief while the Additional Secretary in-charge of Relief Ministry Md. Akhter Ali has been transferred as Additional Secretary in-charge of the Jute Ministry.

President visits Aman

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Tuesday visited the ailing MP and Vice-President of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU), Amanullah Aman, at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, reports BSS.

President Biswas talked to the ailing MP and wished his early recovery.

Prof Abu Zafar, Director of the Institute and Nazimuddin Alam Assistant General Secretary of DUCSU, were present.

Later, the President visited Justice Maksudur Rahman who is also undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

One lakh tourists visited from 20 states BPC earns Tk 51 cr

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) earned Tk 50.79 crore in fiscal 1990-91. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Abdul Mannan said in Parliament Tuesday, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Mosharruf Hossain (AL) he said BPC earned Tk 1.12 crore from its seven motels during the period.

The Minister told Sarder Shekawat Hossain (BNP) that foreign exchange earnings from tourists in the first 11 months of the last fiscal year (1990-91) stood at Tk 25.06 crore.

A total of 1,04,569 tourists from 20 countries visited

Bangladesh during the same period.

The highest number of 29,145 tourists came from India followed by 9,602 from Pakistan, 6,540 from USA and 5,107 from UK.

Other countries are Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Japan, China, Korea, Holland, Australia, Canada, Italy, Germany, Iran, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Soviet Union.

Replying to another question from Begum Lutfunnessa Hossain (BNP) the minister said BPC earned the 12.48 crore from 51,597 tourists during the first five months of 1991.

He said a UNDP funded

Master Plan for tourism development has been formulated in cooperation with World Tourism Centre.

The government is actively considering setting up of tourism centre in attractive spots as recommended in the plan, he said.

He said new facilities are being added to the existing tourist centres in the country to make them more attractive.

Besides, he said, work on projects recommended by special committee for Tourism Development in Cox's Bazar has already been started.

The Minister told Sheikh Afzar Ali (Jamaat) that formulation of a national tourism policy is in final stage. Tourism industry has been identified as a sector in the industrial policy for the first time this year, he added.

Under the Fourth Five Year Plan (FFYP) he said BPC has planned to set up tourism centres in Dhaka, Mongla, Sundarban, Cox's Bazar, Moheshkhali, Sonadia, Teknaf and Sylhet and other historical places with archaeological importance.

Foreign exchange earnings from tourist stood at Tk 28.88 crore in 1988-89 and Tk 28.79 crore in 1989-90, he informed.

Chehlum

Chehlum, former parliamentarian, freedom fighter and former senior vice president of Awami League Kazi Zahurul Qayyum will be held after Magreb prayers at his residence here (7/2, Shanti Bagh) on October 18 (Friday), reports BSS.

What's on today . . .

Rotary Club meet of Dhaka mid-town

The 681st regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka mid-town will be held today at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sheraton in Dhaka.

Certificate awarding ceremony

The certificate awarding ceremony of the workshop on VAT organised by Survey Research Group of Bangladesh and a Management and Industrial Consultancy House will be held at Hotel Purbani today.

Rotary Club Buriganga meet

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today at Sonargonj Hotel at 5.30 pm.

Christopher Willoughby, Resident representative of World Bank Resident Mission in Dhaka will be the guest speaker. He will speak on stagnation and revival of Bangladesh economy.

Family Planning project inauguration

Delta Life Insurance Company will inaugurate its project on Family Planning through insurance today at Gazipur office.

The Director General of the Family Planning Directorate, Md Nazmul Haq will be present there as the chief guest while the Managing Director of Delta Life Insurance Co, Safat Ahmed Chowdhury will be the key discussant at the inaugural ceremony.

Birth anniversary of Rudra

Rudra Sangsad has taken a day-long programme at Art College today to observe the birth anniversary of late poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah. The programme begins at 8 am with children's painting competition. Eminent poets will take part in the recitation of the poetry. Book fair and handicraft exhibition will also be held.

. . . and tomorrow

Discussion on garments industry

A discussion on the garment industries of Bangladesh and human rights will be held tomorrow (Thursday) at Jatiya Grantha Kendra auditorium at 4 pm.

Information Minister, Barrister Nazmul Huda will attend as the chief guest.

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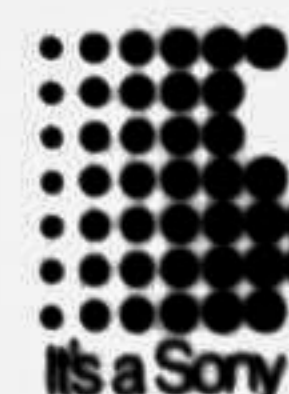


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