

Dhaka Day by Day

Welfare of Under-privileged Children

By Rahat Fahmida

In the world of non-governmental organizations in Dhaka, directors come and directors go. But Enfants du Monde chief Peter Amacher has been here since 1972, and has seen a new-born nation struggle to its unsteady feet.

As he nears twenty years in this posting, he spoke to The Daily Star.

"I was originally transferred to Bangladesh for an estimated 3 to 4 months," he recalls laughingly, "but as you can see, I am still here. And my intention is to stay for the coming years."

As the Switzerland-based EDM stands for "children of the world", Amacher's initial posting was in order to set up an office to rehabilitate some 4200 children stranded during the war of independence. In the ensuing 19 years, Amacher has assisted in EDM's continuously expanding projects in Bangladesh. Their work covers a range of child welfare programmes, from export-oriented handicraft worth 10 million taka per year to an Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme that targets street urchins, from disaster relief and shelters to training schemes for mothers.

Amacher feels that he has some personal contribution to the progress EDM has made in Bangladesh. "I think I've managed to understand to some extent the traditional and cultural habits of Bengalis in rural areas, as well as cities, which might be a partial key to the relatively successful projects of EDM here." Compared to other NGOs Amacher believes, EDM faces few or

no hitches in its relationship with the Bangladesh government.

The Country Coordinator has travelled to each and every corner of the country. He is reluctant to play Favorites, but does admit to a fascination for the Bogra-to-Rajshahi road. "In winter time, I can admire the thousands of small, medium, and large irrigation schemes, which I personally call 'God spitting water'. This gives me encouragement. Of course, it cannot be hidden that I'm also in love with the beautiful scenery of Srimongol's tea gardens."

When Amacher is asked about his feelings for Bangladesh, he always answers that his staying on for nineteen years speaks for itself. If expanded, he says, "my thoughts would fill volumes." Before his Dhaka assignment, Amacher was working in Nigeria, during the Civil War. He was then with the International Red Cross. "In my earlier work, I was mostly engaged in life-saving and relief; whereas now I have the privilege of working in development."

And what about improvements in the work place here? "For myself, I've no complaint, except that I feel my Bangla should be more polished by now." "If people truly made an effort to communicate properly with one another, with less prejudiced ideas, half the country's problems would be solved," Amacher adds. This puts him in mind of a German proverb, which he translates roughly as, "Honesty lasts for the longest time."



Bangladeshi children carrying on with their routine studies.

Donor countries and agencies have offered 10 million US dollars to set up an Open University in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Donors offer \$ 10m to set up open university

This was disclosed by State Minister for Education, Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan while addressing the concluding session of a two-day workshop organised by Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) in Dhaka Monday afternoon.

BTEB has developed modules for the implementation of Agriculture Diploma Course through distance education. The minister said, the diploma could be included in the courses of the Open University after it was launched.

He hoped that the introduction of the diploma course through distance education

would contribute to increasing agricultural production.

The workshop was designed to train up a group of core teachers from the country's four Agricultural Training Institutes on methodology of producing different types of print and non-print materials necessary for the distance education programme.

The function was also addressed by Abdur Rafique,

Postage stamps on shrimps

Bangladesh Post Office issues today (Tuesday) a set of two commemorative postage stamps of Taka 6.00 (six) denomination each on shrimps of Bangladesh, an official source said in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

Chairman of the Board, M Shahidul Islam, Director General of Agriculture Extension and Dr Shahjahan Mia Tapan of the Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University.

Abdur Rafique said, the distance education programme which would cover 2,000 block supervisors in phases was expected to start by July next.

Cabinet meet held

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held at Bangabhaban Sunday with Prime Minister Begum Khakda Zia in the chair, reports BSS. Ministers, state ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

Foundation of BDRCS HQs laid Prevention more effective than post-disaster programmes : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday called upon all voluntary organisations including the Red Crescent Society for a wider participation in the disaster management programmes to keep the extent of damage and destruction at a minimum level, reports BSS.

She said "We believe more in the scientific development of disaster prevention and management for a meaningful and effective measure than the post-disaster programmes." Addressing a function organised to mark the foundation laying of Headquarters of the Red Crescent Society at Eskaton, the Prime Minister said the present democratic government wanted to involve the people in overall national activities in the changed atmosphere created with the reestablishment of democracy.

Begum Zia said her government would endeavour to make the Red Crescent Society more people-oriented by ensuring the participation of sincere social workers.

The Prime Minister said during the past days the autocratic regime wanted to make the Red Crescent Society ineffective as a part of its plan to destroy all democratic institu-

tions to have firm root in the society.

Begum Zia said shaheed president Ziaur Rahman dream of establishment the society on a firm base. She hoped that an opportunity would be created for carrying out the activities of the society anew in an atmosphere free of autocracy.

The Prime Minister said the nation would forever remember the significant role of the Red Crescent Society in assisting the distressed people in times of calamities.

She also thanked the society for coming forward in the relief and rehabilitation work in the coastal belts after the recent devastating cyclone. She also lauded the activities of the society for distributing blankets and winter clothes among the destitute and poor in different districts of the country during the current winter season.

Headquarters building of the society will have 17 floors. The building will be built at a cost of about Taka 30 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf lauded the role of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society during the natural

calamities. He particularly referred to the services rendered by the BDRCS during the last cyclone in the coastal areas of the country.

The chairman of the BDRCS Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal said that the society would very soon announce a date for the election of the Managing Board. He said that the society would always hold high the principle of the movement and added that partisan policy would not be encouraged in the society.

Speaking about the international support and assistance he pointed out some difficulties faced by the society during clearance of relief goods coming from abroad.

He urged the government to remove or ease some of the customs restrictions on relief materials received from abroad.

The function was also addressed by MA Jinnah MP member of the Managing Board and Major (Retd) Ali Hassan Quorashi Secretary-General of the society.

It was attended by the ministers, state ministers, members of Parliament, diplomats and high civil and military officers.

Plea to maintain communal harmony in CHT

Diponkar Talukder MP Monday condemned the killing of seven fishermen at Bagaihat under Bagaihat Upazila of Rangamati district by the terrorists Sunday, reports BSS.

In a statement he expressed his shock over the killing and said at a time when

a process was underway for a permanent and political solution to the problems of Chittagong Hill Tracts peacefully, a quarter seemed to be involved in a conspiracy to forestal the process in a planned way by indulging in kidnapping, killing and plunder.

Congratulation

Born to Mr and Mrs Mustapha Khaid, Architect, their first loving child on 17th December, a healthy son weighing 7.50 lbs. Mother and child doing fine.

— Sumon and Saleh
The Daily Star

Birthday Greetings

To our loving
Tanzila Rahman
Happy Birthday
from
Mum & Dad

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

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Thai Crown Prince due Jan 16

Crown Prince of Thailand Maha Vajiralongkorn is expected to pay a five-day state visit to Bangladesh beginning January 16, official sources said Monday, reports UNB.

During the visit, Vajiralongkorn will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khakda Zia.

JS Business Body meets Jan 2

The eighth meeting of the Business Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held at 7 pm on January 2 at the office room of the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali will preside over the meeting.

The members of the committee are, Prime Minister Begum Khakda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Matur Rahman Nizami, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hussain, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Farida Rahman, Mahiuddin Ahmed, Munirul Huq Chowdhury, Shamsudouha and Deputy Leader of the House Dr. Badrudouza Chowdhury.

Two lakh become blind every year

State Minister for Religious Affairs, Prof M A Mannan Monday called upon the private organisations to come forward to make "Health for All by the Year 2000" programme a complete success, reports BSS.

He gave the call while inaugurating a week long free eye camp at Uttarkhan Primary School premises in Dhaka organised by Rangdhanu Sangsad with the assistance of Lions Club of Dhaka Solidarity Monday morning. Dr Mafizul Islam Bhuiyan, a social worker, among others, spoke on the occasion.

About 2000 patients will be treated during the period.

Three doctors and 10 assistants will work in the camp, while medicine and spectacles would be provided free of cost by Lions Club, and Rangdhanu Sangsad will bear the cost of food and accommodation.

The state minister said, every year, about two lakh people become blind which need to be checked through concerted effort of the government and private initiatives. He emphasised launching a movement of holding such camps in the remote villages for the poor and helpless people. Later he formally inaugurated the camp and witnessed the treatment of some patients.



Prof Ayesha Noman dead

Prof Ayesha Noman, former Director of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University died of heart attack in Dhaka at the Suhrawardy Hospital in the early hours on Monday. She was 60, reports BSS.

Mrs. Noman will be laid to rest at the Azimpur Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza for her at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque following Johr prayer today.

Prof Ayesha Noman had been a litterateur and a social worker besides being an educationist during her long career at Dhaka University.

Prof Ayesha Noman left behind 4 sons and one daughter as well as a host of relatives who include Ministers, Secretaries, diplomats and high military officials.

Stranded Pakistanis' confce Jan 8

Second Conference of the Supreme Council of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) will begin January 8 (Wednesday) at Khalsipur in Khulna, reports BSS.

The three-day conference is likely to decide and formulate plans, proposals and formulae concerning survey of the stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh awaiting repatriation to Pakistan, says a press release of SPGRC today (Monday).

Time	Programme
5.00	Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Reading from the Ceeta
5.30	Cartoon: The challenge of the Gobots
6.00	Shikkahangon
6.30	Highlights of important events of 5th SAF Games
7.05	Nazrul Songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Drama series: Shantikita Padajatra
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film show: War and Remembrance
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Wednesday's Programme
11.45	Closing

Weather

Moderate cold wave likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast Monday that the country is likely to experience moderate cold wave for another 2-3 days. It said that night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius at places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions Jessore and Kushtia during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today (Tuesday).

Temperature, however, may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere in the country.

Minimum temperature in the capital dropped down to 10.5 degree Celsius from the previous 10.9 degree. And the maximum temperature in Dhaka dropped a little to 20 degrees from the previous 20.3 degree.

Country's lowest temperature was recorded at Rajshahi. Dry weather may continue during the period over the country.

Sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5.22 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6.42 am.

City	Temp	Humidity	Wind
Dhaka	20.0	10.5	77
Rajshahi	20.5	7.5	84
Chittagong	20.9	11.5	83
Khulna	20.7	8.5	88
Bairasi	21.6	8.8	88
Jessore	21.3	8.5	-
Rangpur	18.5	7.8	100
Srimongal	19.5	8.0	88
Sylhet	20.4	9.5	97
Faridpur	19.7	9.0	87
Dinajpur	19.0	9.0	97

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board
Office of the Chief Superintendent (Development)
106, Kakrail, Dhaka

No.GMD/C&W-1419/Tender/90-91 Dated : 18-12-91

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from "A" class enlisted contractors of Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board for completion of the undermentioned work. For electrical works of the building the civil contractors should take contractor having 'A', 'B', 'C' working licence and supervisory licence of Government Electrical Licensing Board as associate and submit attested photocopy of declaration of being associate and licence with the tender. Tender schedule, terms & conditions of contract, drawing and specification can be collected from the office of the Divisional Engineer, Wireless Construction Division, BT&T Board, Bogra and the undersigned during office hours on application.

The fixed Taka 2,41,600/= in the form of Pay Order Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Divisional Engineer, Wireless Construction Division, T&T Board, Bogra must be submitted as earnest money with the tender.

Tenders must produce (i) Financial Solvency Certificate, (2) Evidence of 1990-91 renewal, (3) Income Tax Clearance Certificate and (4) Sufficient documents in support towards completion of the work at the time of purchasing schedule and submit these with tender.

Tenders will be received at the office of the Divisional Engineer, Wireless Construction Division, BT&T Board, Bogra up to 12-00 Noon on 14-01-92 and opened the same day at 12-30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers at the same office. The undersigned/Divisional Engineer, Wireless Construction Division, T&T Board, Bogra reserve full right to accept or reject any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Description of work

Sl No.	Description of work	Price of Tender	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for completion of work
1.	Construction of office building (at TTC compound) at Bogra.	Tk. 500/=	Tk. 96,63,853/=	Tk. 2,41,600/=	150 days

Director
Carrier & Wireless Construction
BT&T Board, Dhaka

DFF(BA) 10548-23/12
G-1145

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Family Welfare Sub-Division
Programme -2 Section

No. MHFW/Prog-2/NIPORT-6/91/274 dt. 24-12-91
09-09-98BS

APPOINTMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for filling the following vacancies of the project titled "National Institute of Population Research and Training" under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Serial No.	Name of post	Pay scale	Age	Vacancies	Required qualification
1.	Lecturer (Medical)	Tk. 2850-5155/=	Maximum 30 yrs	3 (Three)	MBBS or equivalent degree holder from a recognised medical college. Candidates with experience as trainer will be given preference.
2.	Lecturer (Primary Health Care)	Tk 2850-5155/=	Maximum 30 yrs	9 (Nine)	-do-

Terms & Conditions

- Application stating the applicant's name in full, father's/husband's name, permanent and present address, date of birth, educational qualification, experience (if any), nationality should be addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Application must be accompanied with two passport size photographs of the candidate, attested copies of all educational qualification and experience (if any) certificates, Bangladesh citizenship certificate and character certificate from first class gazetted officer.
- Candidates in service of government/semi-government/autonomous organisation should apply through proper authority channel.
- This project-based employment is purely temporary and will be applicable for the tenure of the project.
- In accordance with valid government rules reserved quota for candidates will be complied with where applicable.
- The number of above mentioned posts may be increased and such authority is reserved by the authority.
- Incomplete or applications received after the prescribed time will be treated as cancelled.
- Application should be sent to the following address by 15th January, 92.

Mohammad Alauddin
Assistant Secretary
Programme-2 Section
Bldg No.3, Room No. 312
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Bangladesh Secretariate, Dhaka.

DFF(G) 15929-24/12
G-1148