

Dhaka Day by Day

Yoga and the Policeman

by Parveen Anam

The Oxford Dictionary will solemnly inform you that the word "police" means "public order, or the dept. of govt. or the civil force charged with it". You scratch your head, and wonder where we went wrong. And wonder if you got the whole meaning wrong. As anybody who has watched the little policeman on duty on our busy streets will wonder, anyway. Order, what order, you mumble to yourself. The traffic jams and snarls on the roads, especially during rush hour, is nothing unusual these days, but one can always pray, that the arm of law will solve it and take charge of the situation. But somehow, the arm of the law seems busy otherwise, and you could swear that the arm of the law gives a very distinct impression of being busy with his early morning exercise or yoga, which he considers far more important to keep fit, than to keep the traffic in order.

When you have been stuck in the traffic, for all of an hour and a quarter, with whatever

yoga-master and the traffic in an even more gorgeous knot?

But he has not yet finished with the hapless driver of the motor vehicle; because as soon as he has successfully managed to tie the traffic into this 'Gordian knot' he makes a grand exit. For after all, in the words of the great poet, "We all have our entrances and our exits": he could not have meant the policeman, surely? Never mind the poet, the magician would surely envy the vanishing act put on by "yours truly". One moment he is there, actively participating in creating the chaos, and just when he has finished, and you are hoping he will manage somehow to wave a wand and unsnarl the snarl, he has vanished. Totally. Let the drivers fend for themselves, while he has a quiet cuppa behind the fence on the other side of the road, is his noble idea. And the instinct for self-preservation, because the drivers would happily have him in a pulp in the middle of the road, if he had not



meeting or important appointment you had fixed three weeks in advance in total disarray, you catch a glimpse of that 'arm of law' the trusty policeman, bent on keeping himself in perfect physical condition, regardless of the utter chaos around him. What other reason can he possibly have for waving his arms (and sometimes his legs) in all directions at the same time? He waves the traffic on his left on, the traffic on his right to the left, the traffic behind him, further back, and into the vehicles already crowding forward, thus resulting in an almighty pile-up, and the traffic in front of him further to the right — or a wee bit to the left, maybe. And all at the same time. What other explanation can he have, except that he is practising his yoga? How else could he possibly manage to tie himself up in such a gorgeous knot, the envy of many a

exited so fast. And as for the traffic and the cars themselves, driver and all, adhering to the traffic laws is most certainly the very last thing in the driver's mind, as he embarks on his day's antics. There are moments when you could swear that you could almost sit back and hear him clap and say, "and now for my next trick", such a chaos the traffic scene presents. Surely, you wonder, it's all part of a circus. With the ever-present policeman in the ring-master's role! Or perhaps the clown. But then, perhaps this is what helps us keep our sanity in moments of stress and strain, the underlying ability to see the humour behind all this chaos. And all the while, praying to the Supreme Being, that you can manage to hang on to your patience, wit — and sense of humour.



Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirkar speaking at a seminar on 'Mass Literacy' as chief guest at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. —Star photo

SEMINAR ON MASS LITERACY ORGANISED BY: LIONS CLUB OF DHAKA PROGOTI VENUE: SONARGAON HOTEL, DHAKA DATE: 31ST JANUARY, 1992

Mass literacy centres to be set up in all villages

The government plans to set up mass literacy centres in all the 68,000 villages in the country in phases. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirkar said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The Education Minister said since the rate of literacy is very meagre—around 25 per cent, vigorous efforts have to be undertaken to turn the vast multitude of people into literate human beings so that they can at least sign, write letters, read newspapers and understand programmes in radio and television.

The Minister was inaugurating a seminar on "mass literacy" organised by Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti at a hotel here. Education Secretary Saiful Alam and UNICEF representative in Bangladesh Cole P Dodge were the special guests on the occasion.

Prof S M Saifuddin, Executive Director, Mass

Literacy Programme was the keynote speaker at the seminar which was chaired by Gautam Saha, President of the Club.

Describing mass literacy as a massive affair, the Education Minister said the objective could be achieved only through gradual process. He said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has already embarked upon compulsory primary education from the first of January in the 64 districts of the country. He said initially one upazila was taken from each district for the programme, but later four upazilas would be included, one each from four divisions.

Sirkar said if this year's performance is successful, two upazilas will be taken up next year and this way the number will increase. He said the government is hopeful that with the assistance of donors in-

cluding UNICEF and cooperation of all literate persons the mass literacy programme will achieve its desired objective by the end of the decade.

The Education Minister said besides, 51 thousand primary schools, maktabas and community centres throughout the country will be used as centres for spreading mass literacy. He urged the teachers and literate persons in the villages to involve themselves in the programme to raise the much needed literacy rate.

Sirkar lamented that the mass literacy programme initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman was abandoned by the autocratic regime. He said had the programme continued uninterrupted, the situation would have been completely different now. Eighty lakh people were lettered in 1980 under that literacy programme, he pointed out.

'UNESCO eliminates threats to peace'

Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka Friday expressed the hope that UNESCO would continue its laudable role in invigorating the essence of world peace, reports BSS.

Held under the aegis of the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), former Foreign Minister National Professor Shamsul Huq was chief guest at the seminar in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the UNESCO.

Among others educationists Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin, Acting Director of the UNIC W Fischer, Secretary of the Bangladesh National Commission for the UNESCO Professor Selim and Secretary General of the UNAB Syed Ahmad Hossain spoke on the occasion. Professor Innas Ali.

President of the UNAB presided. Professor Shamsul Huq recalled the role that the UNESCO had been playing since its inception in creating a happier and richer world and said the body had succeeded to a great extent in eliminating the threats to peace by promoting the messages of peace.

In a world riven by hostilities and antagonism, the UNESCO has been striving to embellish the human beings with its noble principles of education, culture, science and information, he said.

Other speakers were unanimous in their views that the UNESCO had taken up the challenge to spread its noble messages to counter the threats of brutalisation and dehumanisation and had accomplished its goal to a large extent even though much more remained to be done.

VITA RICH FOODS LIMITED
Please take notice that the present owners/management of the above Company have entered into agreement to transfer their interest in the Company to our client free from all liabilities and encumbrances, except the liability with Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Ltd. If any person has any claim against the said Company, he may please inform us in writing with necessary proof within 7 (seven) days, in default no claim shall be entertained by the new owners/management.
M. C. Debnath, Advocate
For Huq & Papan
47/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
Phones: 232196 & 235953.

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.
For booking details, please contact:
Advertisement Manager
Phone: 245063
PABX: 245061-2 & 246023-4. Ext: 20

What's on today

- Bangla Academy**
The month-long Ekushey celebration of the Bangla Academy will be opened at 9 am today (Saturday) at the Academy premises through painting competition of the children.
Veteran painter of the country Kazi Abul Kashem will formally inaugurate the function.
- Seminar on Japanese business management**
A two-day seminar on "Japanese Business Management" will be inaugurated today (Saturday) at 9 am at the auditorium of Bangladesh Management Development Centre in Dhaka.
Jute Minister Brig (Retd) ASM Hannan Shah will open the seminar.
- Awami League meet**
An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the Awami League will be held today (Saturday) at 4 pm at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at Mintu Road.
- Rangana Natya Gosthi**
Rangana Natya Gosthi Dhaka will hold a function today (Saturday) at 10 am at Mahila Samity stage in observance of its 16th founding anniversary.
State Minister for Culture, Prof Jahanara Begum will be present as the chief guest.
- National Awami Party**
National Awami Party (NAP Bhasani) will launch its nationwide signature collection campaign to demand raising the Farakka issue at the United Nations.
The leaders of NAP will address a rally at 2-30 pm today (Saturday) at the Jatiya Press Club.
- Begum Mujib Smriti Sangsad**
Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Smriti Sangsad will organise a protest rally at 4 pm in front of the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue today (Saturday). Central leaders of Awami League will address the rally.
- Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union**
Dhaka Metropolitan Hotel and Restaurant Workers' Union will organise a meeting at T&T crossing today (Saturday) at 4 pm.
- Finance Minister meets entrepreneurs**
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman meets the entrepreneurs and the loanees today (Saturday) at the NEC auditorium to exchange views on the over all economic condition of the country.

Khaleda opens Biman Hanger Complex today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will open the newly-built Biman Hangar Complex at Zia International Airport today (Saturday) at 10 am, reports UNB.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan will attend as special guest while Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Richard K. Gate will represent his government at the ceremony.

Art exhibition begins in city

A two-day art exhibition of some noted artists began at Gulshan in the city Friday, reports BSS.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain inaugurated the exhibition.
About sixty fine arts of twenty artists including Qamrul Hasan, Quyyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan and Rokeya Sultana have been put on display.

The Energy Minister said the artists were the carrier of the socio-political and cultural heritage of any country. He said the artists predicted the real life and harmony of the common people and the society through their works and thoughts. He said the artists play a vital role in checking moral degradation.

Razaque Ali invited to Iran

The visiting 3-member Iranian Parliamentary delegation, led by Deputy Speaker Asadullah Bogat, called on Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali at his office chamber, in Sangsad Bhaban on Friday, reports BSS.

The leader of the delegation Asadullah Bogat handed over to Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali a letter from the Iranian Speaker Mahdi Karrubi inviting the Bangladesh Speaker to visit Iran. Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali accepted the invitation.

The members of the delegation exchanged views with the Speaker on Parliamentary issues and their matters of mutual interest. They also discussed matters relating to the strengthening the existing friendly relations between the two countries with special emphasis on greater unity and closer cooperation among the Muslim countries for solution of their problems.
The Speaker emphasised the need for formation of an Economic Cooperation Council of all Muslim countries like the EEC for the economic well-being of the Muslim Ummah.
Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni and the Iranian ambassador to Bangladesh Ganji Doost were present during the meeting.

Rananashis founding day tomorrow

The Radio Natyakar Natyashilpi Sangsad (Rananashis) will celebrate its fourth founding anniversary tomorrow (Sunday) at 6 pm in Bangladesh Silpakala Academy Auditorium, says a press release.
Rananashis on this occasion has asked all radio enlisted dramatists and actors to attend the celebration. It has also requested persons who have not yet obtained membership of the organisation to collect membership forms from the Silpakala Academy Auditorium Sunday.



M Shahjahan Mia (L) and Altaf Mahmud (R) newly elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ). —Star photo

Shahjahan, Altaf elected DUJ President, Secy

M Shahjahan Mia and Altaf Mahmud have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) for 1992, reports UNB.

Three panels contested the DUJ election held at the Jatiya Press Club on Thursday. Besides Shahjahan-Altaf panel, two other panels — Gazi-Aziz and Borhan-Nizami — fought the election.

Election Commissioner Hasanuzzaman Khan announced the official result at the DUJ office yesterday evening.

M Shahjahan Mia bagged 433 votes to defeat his lone rival Ruhul Amin Gazi by 42 votes while Altaf Mahmud got 387 votes against 339 and 106 received by two other contenders MA Aziz and Masud Nizami.
Shahjahan-Altaf panel won seven posts of office-bearers and eight members while Gazi-Aziz panel secured five seats of office bearers and 11 members.

Other elected office-bearers are Vice-Presidents: Aftab Ahmed, Wahidur Rashid Murad and Khondker Hasnat Karim, Joint Secretary: Akhter Ahmed Khan, Treasurer: Sadrul Hasan, Organising Secretary: Saiful Islam Talukder, Publicity Secretary: Ahsan Hamid, Sports and Cultural Secretary:

TV Saturday

5.00	Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Reading from the Tripitak
5.30	Sports World
6.00	Drama series: Alice in Wonderland
6.00	Life and Technology
7.05	Banshart (Folk songs)
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Probaha
9.00	Bardhan
10.00	News in English
10.30	Drama series: Dallas
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Sunday's programme summary
11.45	Closing

... and tomorrow

International Pen Pals Club
The International Pen Pals Club will hold a discussion tomorrow (Sunday) at 5 pm at the club office in Dhaka on the occasion of its 17th founding anniversary.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today (Saturday), reports UNB.
Met office says weather may however likely to remain nearly dry elsewhere across the country.
Night temperature likely to rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period over the country.
Friday maximum temperature in Dhaka was 27.1 degree Celsius and the minimum 17.5 degrees. Country's lowest temperature 13.2 degrees was recorded at Tangail and the highest 28.5 at Khulna.
Percentage of humidity was 80 in the morning and 72 in the evening.
Sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:45 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6:40 am.

ATTENTION

We are pleased to inform all our valued customers that Kirloskar Electric Co. has appointed us the Assembler and Stockist of Kirloskar vertical Hollow Shaft Motors in Bangladesh. To get genuine Kirloskar Vertical Hollow Shaft Motors please contact us.

Milnars Pumps Ltd.
Zrat Chamber 31, Bangabandhu Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh Phone: 236961, 237346, 257798, 864108

MH MENG HONG SHIPPING PTE LTD
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M.V. WESER STAR V9203 IMP. ROT NO.79/92 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 1ST FEBRUARY, 1992 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 87/92 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, U.K., CONTINENT, MEDITERRANEAN/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

GENERAL AGENTS:
Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.
(A BCSH COMPANY)

DHAKA 19F Sena Kalyan Bhaban 195 Motijheel C/A Tel: 864546, 864547 Tlx: 632105 BOSHJP BJ Telefax: 863734	CHITTAGONG G/F Jiban Bima Bhaban, 1063 St. Mujib Rd. Agrabad Tel: 504313 502123 Tlx: 633027 BOSHJP BJ Telefax: 225625	KHULNA 25 Youssuf Row Mirzapur Tel: 21175 Tlx: 633002 BOSHJP BJ Telefax: 24330
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------