

Dhaka Day by Day



February 21, an Identity Solution

by Rahat Fahmida

"The language movement gave us a national identity", said Iqbal Ansari Khan. Now a prominent advocate and politician, he was involved in the language movement and the Liberation War of 1971. He said that language itself was a political issue and not an end in itself. He is the son of Ali Anwar Khan, an eminent politician, lawyer and Member of Pakistan National Assembly (1964), and Begum Anwar Khatun, who was one of the earliest Muslim women to receive LLB degrees, became the first Muslim lady member of Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1946 and re-elected in 1952. As a result Iqbal Ansari had access to some of the most important political figures and exposed to their views and opinions. The general impression nowadays is that the movement meant to make Bangla as the 'only' state language of Pakistan. Mr. Khan said, "This is far from the actual state of

movement for democracy and fundamental rights. Language was an issue: it could as well be any other issues for a democratic movement. Had Jinnah said, instead of language, that no one from East Pakistan would be taken in Pak military or no industry would be developed by Bengalis in East Pakistan, I am certain, instead of writing the posters I wrote for the State language movement, I would have switched over to write on the military, or industrial issues, and then going to jail for whatever issue would have been as painful and as glorious". Iqbal Ansari Khan expressed strong

Jinnah's first very visit to Dhaka, as the Governor-General of Pakistan in 1948, sparked so much heat, that it twisted, turned and twisted not only the face of Pakistan, but changed the whole gamut of India-Pakistan-Bangladesh history.

I regularly wrote posters during this time. Recalling, I can categorically jot down that the first series of posters I wrote carried chants like this:

"Urdu-Bangla Bhai Bhai Rashtra Bhasha Dui-e-Chai", which meant that we wanted both Urdu and Bangla as state languages. If the minority West Pakistan wanted to impose their will, the East Pakistanis behaved like a responsible majority, in not trying to impose their will on the West Pakistanis merely because they were minorities. This could be clearly located, even at much later a time. In 1954,



Although Jinnah had announced in 1948 about Urdu being Pakistan's state language, he never pressed the matter or implemented his declaration.

In addressing a mammoth public rally at the Dhaka Gymkhana Race Course (now Suhrawardy Uddyan), Jinnah made a fateful declaration: "Urdu shall be the only state language of Pakistan."

Iqbal Ansari Khan said, that is true. Jinnah ought to have waited and assessed public opinion before he made that controversial pronouncement. His unilateral declaration on such a vital issue as state language of Pakistan, it would seem, was dictatorial in manifestation.

Mr. Khan concluded, "the underlying essence of the language movement was the element of domination of the majority East Pakistanis by the minority West Pakistanis. From the very beginning of the creation of Pakistan, this feeling proved rather penchant and swaggering. The first indication of this was the making of Karachi as the Capital of Pakistan. For the majority Pakistanis dwelling in East Pakistan, it proved to be a cruel blow. As a result, the rich and intellectual Indian Muslims migrating to Pakistan went straight to Karachi and began to invest cash and efficiency for business and other activities there. Being the seat of the Central government, naturally, all the booty and favours went to the people of Karachi and its adjacent areas. East Pakistan separated by over one thousand miles of Indian territory, was very much relegated to the subaltern spot."

'Objective journalism a must for consolidating democracy'

By Staff Correspondent

The importance of independent and objective journalism to consolidate democracy in the country was underscored by the speakers at a discussion to mark the fifteenth death anniversary of late journalist Abdus Salam.

Organised by Sriha Shamajik-Shangskritik Andolon, a socio-cultural organisation held at Press Institute of Bangladesh auditorium on Thursday speakers at

the meeting described the late editor as a secular, humanist, progressive-minded person who upheld democratic values and human rights.

His courageous and forceful writings for upholding human values and democracy would serve as a source of inspiration for journalism in future, they added.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz describing

late editor of Bangladesh Observer as a simple man with an exceptional personality pointed out that Abdus Salam was an uncompromising voice dedicated fully to his profession of freedom of the press.

Recalling his association with late Salam as a member of the Jukto Front in 1954, as a young legislator in the Provincial Assembly and the time they shared in jail together, the Law Minister paid rich tribute to him for his service to the nation for making people aware of democracy and human rights.

Mirza Hafiz called for taking steps to compile late Salam's works properly in its true historical context.

Presided over by National Professor Shamsul Huq, Editor of the Daily Star SM Ali, Editor of Daily Newsday ABM Musa, Director General of PIB Ahmed Humayun and Razia Khan Amin of the English Department of Dhaka University also spoke on the occasion.

Describing late Salam as one of the greatest editors the country has produced, SM Ali pointed out that the three things that made him great were his courage arising out of conviction, editorial independence and his strong sense of liberal humanism.

Recalling the encouragement, incentive and patronage he received at the Bangladesh Observer from the late editor about forty-years ago, Ali lauded his role for highlighting a strong sentiment of Bengali identity through his writings.

Termining late Abdus Salam as a secular-humanist and a progressive-minded person, Ahmed Humayun lauded his role against a regimented society.

Termining late Salam as a courageous and objective journalist, National Professor Shamsul Huq said that the example he set out is rare in the world. He also called for the proper evaluation of late Salam.

DU poetry festival held

About 100 "budding poets," prompted by the sweet symphony of the approaching spring, recited their own composition at a day-long poetry festival at the lush green premises of Dhaka University Thursday, reports UNB.

The festival entitled "Craving to open my heart" also echoed the whispers of the dying winter. It paid glowing tributes to the memory of the heroic sons of the soil who laid down their lives in the great historic language movement in the month of Falgun, 42 years ago.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Wakil Ahmed and teachers including Dr Anisuzzaman and Dr Syed Monjurul Islam attended the occasion.

Those who participated in the festival included Farhad Mazhar, Helal Hafiz, Asim Saha, Musharraf Karim and Hasan Hafiz.



Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr. Wakil Ahmed speaking at the Winter Poetry Festival at the Dhaka University yesterday.

Pathokali school teachers will get allowances

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Thursday laid emphasis on imparting education to the destitute children of the society, reports ISS.

The Education Minister was presiding over a meeting of the Pathokali Trust in Dhaka. The meeting stressed on better utilization of the Trust money for benefits to the destitute children.

The meeting decided to provide Taka five hundred for each teacher of Twenty Pathokali schools located at the districts. It was pointed out that a total of Taka six lakhs would be required annually for providing this allowance to the Pathokali teachers.

Education Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the Trust Shaiful Alam, members of the Trust FH Abed, Rukunuzzaman Khan, Dr Mahub Hossain, Director-General of Primary Education, Director-General of Health, Director-General of Technical Education attended the meeting.

British photo exhibition begins in city

A ten-day long British photo exhibition began at the Shilpakala Academy Wednesday, reports UNB.

British High Commissioner Colin Inray opened the exhibition titled "Meadow Well" organised by the Bangladesh Photographic Society in collaboration with the Shilpakala Acad.my, said a press release.

Theft poses threat to power supply

Power supply in the country is facing serious problems of transmission and distribution on account of frequent thefts of equipment, wire and accessories, reports UNB.

Official sources said seven transformers, transformer oil and 10,000 feet of electric wire worth about Tk 30 lakh had been stolen at Narail, Kalta and Magura areas of Jessore district alone during the first week of this month.

A tower of Ashuganj, Ghorashal-Stiddhganj 132 KV

line at Jagannathpur near Bhairab collapsed and two others were damaged by a light storm in August last year as 50 bracings of the tower had been stolen earlier. The loss has been estimated at Tk 7 lakh.

Five towers of the same line worth about Tk 35 lakh also broke in April 1990 after their bracings were stolen.

Such thefts are rampant in Ashuganj, Jamalpur and Ghorashal lines and about 1000 bracings from 32 towers were lost during last one and a half years, officials said.

Considering the magnitude of this problem joint inter-ministerial action was needed to tackle it, they said.

\$ 3.80 lakh Japanese aid for ICDDR, B

The Government of Japan made a contribution of US\$ 380,000 to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) on Thursday, says a press release.

The total contribution of Japan to the centre amounted to US\$ 2,950,000.

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**
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What's on today . . .

City Awami League

The extended meeting of the City Awami League will be held today (Friday) at 10 am at 91 Nawabpur Road. Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina will attend the meeting.

Publication ceremony

Radical Asia Publications will organise the publication ceremony of two books written by Abdul Matin titled "Sheikh Hasina: Ekti Rajnaitik Alekhhaya" and "Bangabandhu, Bangalee Jatiyatad, Muktiujddher Garcha" at the National Museum auditorium at 4 pm today (Friday).

Poet Sufta Kamal will attend the function as the chief guest while Dr Anisuzzaman will be the special guest. Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina will also attend the function.

Rally on drug abuse

Lions Multiple District-315 will hold a rally on drug abuse today (Friday) at 8-30 am from Shishu Park to Jatiya Press Club.

Blood donation

Carmichel College Former Students' Union will organise a blood donation programme today (Friday) at 9am at the Red Crescent Society office at Mohammadpur in the city.

Peace For All

The weekly meeting of the 'Peace For All' will be held today (Friday) at 4 pm at organisation's office.

National Baha'i Centre

A seminar on 'Mothers: First educators of the future generation' will be held today (Friday) at 5-30 pm at the National Baha'i Centre, 7 Nawratan Colony, Shantinagar, in the city. The seminar is sponsored by the National Women's Committee of the Baha'is in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh-Libya Assoc

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh-Libya Brotherhood Association will be held today (Friday) at 5 pm at 1-15, New Circular Road, Siddheswari in the city.

Seminar on tissue banking

A seminar on tissue banking begins today (Friday) at 10 am at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) in the city.

Dr Yongyudh Vajaradul, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Director of the Bangkok Bio-material Centre, Thailand will speak at the seminar, organised by the BAEC.

Chittagong Association

The joint meeting of the newly elected Trustee Board, Advisory Council and Executive Committee of Chittagong Association-Dhaka will be held today (Friday) at Chattagram Bhaban, 32 Tophkhana Road in the city.

Sufi Conference

The Fourth World Sufi Conference will be held today (Friday) at the T&T College Matdan at Motijheel in the city. Sponsored by Dewanbagh Pak Darbar Sharif, the conference will begin after the Jumma prayer.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Thursday forecast rain or thundershowers likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Sylhet and Comilla while the weather likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere in the country till 6 pm today (Friday).

Night temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office forecast.

The maximum temperature recorded in the country Thursday was 25.8 degree Celsius at Jessore and Khepura while the minimum 9 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal.

The maximum and the minimum temperature recorded in Dhaka Thursday were 23.8 and 13.5 degree Celsius respectively.

The percentage of humidity recorded in Dhaka yesterday were 75 at 9 am and 56 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:53 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:32 am.

Temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns yesterday were:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature | | Humidity | |
|--------------|-------------|------|----------|-----|
| | Max | Min | 9am | 6pm |
| Dhaka | 23.8 | 13.5 | 75 | 56 |
| Chittagong | 23.8 | 13.5 | 73 | 57 |
| Rajshahi | 24.2 | 9.4 | 78 | 58 |
| Khulna | 25.1 | 10.6 | 79 | 63 |
| Dinajpur | 23.7 | 9.9 | 88 | 55 |
| Barsal | 24.8 | 11.2 | 87 | 80 |
| Sylhet | 24.0 | 10.4 | 81 | 65 |
| Comilla | 24.0 | 12.0 | 80 | 64 |

BCIC Short Tender Notice

General Manager, Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd., Ctg. invites single envelope system quotation for supply of MAIZE/CASSAVA STARCH against Press Tender No. PT/KPM-34(A) delivery up to mill stores, Chandraghona. Quotation duly supported by 1% Earnest Money will be received in the tender box kept at KPM Purchase Deptt. 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong up to 11-00 AM on 23.2.92 and will be opened in public immediately thereafter. Tender document with detailed specification will be available for sale on cash payment of Tk 200/- per set (non-refundable) from (i) BCIC Accounts Division, BCIC Bhaban, Dilkusha, Dhaka and (ii) KPM Sales A/C, Deptt. 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong on all working days during office hours. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC-106-9/2
DFP(BA)997-10/2 G-153

BCIC Tender Notice

Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Co. Ltd., Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur hereby invites sealed tender from the bonafide Manufacturers/ Suppliers/Traders for supply of Sewing Thread (Cotton) and Jute Twine against our tender enquiry No. JFCL-7/8.003/714/143 dated 05-02-92 and JFCL-7/8.002/711/142 dated 05-02-92 respectively. Tender document with detailed terms and conditions will be available on payment of Tk 100/- (One hundred) against tender enquiry No. JFCL-7/8.003/714 and Tk 25/= (Twentyfive) against tender enquiry No. JFCL-7/8.002/711 in cash (non-refundable) during office hours from the office of the General Manager (A&F), Jamuna Fertilizer Co. Ltd., Tarakandi, Sarishabari, Jamalpur. Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka and BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.

Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM on 27-02-92 and be opened immediately thereafter the same day.

No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

BCIC 111-10/2
DFP(BA) 1000-10/2 G-150

EVERGREEN NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

FEEDER VESSEL M. V. A. CLIPPER VOY 9203 IMP. ROT NO. 106/92 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 14.02.92 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX. FOLLOWING VESSEL :-

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CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR THEIR CARGOES IMMEDIATELY ON DISCHARGE. CARGOES UNCLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE ARRIVAL DATE OF THE VESSEL WILL BE DISPOSED WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE CONSIGNEES, AS PER CUSTOM RULES.

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