

## Dhaka Day by Day



## Of Love and Fire

by Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury

The cardinal difference between any other creature and Man is that the latter has to go through a lot of ordeal to become human. It is with a lot of care and nursing that one becomes human and language plays a vital role in this transformation from a creature to a human being," said Dr. Mostafa Nurul Islam — the veteran academician, writer and flamboyant media personality of today who was an active specimen of the language movement years back.

Some events of national history have the potential of becoming a legend. Legend that is often told and handed down to posterity. Legend that continually inspire a nation and its people and become a heritage of its very own. 'Ekushey' is such a legend for our people. It remains to be a single event that germinates our national growth, gradual enlightenment and rebellion.

As a consistent part of the collective strength that liberated our mother tongue Dr. Islam had his share of pride during the language movement. Settling himself somewhere between the nostalgic past and the glories of the by gone days he shared his memory over an interview with The Daily Star.

Dr. Islam thinks that the process of the language movement started after the partition. The emergence of Pakistan was a wish fulfillment for both West and East Pakistanis alike. But right after its independence, the nascent government began to show step mortherly attitude towards East Pakistan. The political vovs with were made by the West Pakistani rulers were repeatedly violated.

A growing annoyance was clouding the atmosphere. But it did not get its momentum till 1948. Person's who raised voices against West Pakistani indifference were young student leaders like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Oli Ahad, Abul Hashem, Habibullah Bahar, Abul Mansur Ahmed who was the editor of 'Ittehad', a progressive newspaper founded by Suhrawardy. A little later it included people like Ataur Rahman — politician from Rajshahi who was later involved in the famous 'Nachol Trial', Akhlakur Rahman the famous economist of today, Dr. Islam himself who came from Dinajpur and host of other political and cultural activists and intellectuals all over the country.

An important publication on the language issue 'Pakistaner Rashtia Bhasha Bangla na Urdu' was brought out by the 'Tomuddun Majlish'. 'Ittehad' also played a stellar role in moulding the sentiments of the mass. People like Abul Mansur Ahmed, Ahsan Habib, K. G. Mustafa worked ceaselessly towards this endeavour.

Till March 1948 what happened in this part of Bengal could be called a general annoyance, but it was not what is more popularly known as a movement or a mass up heaval. But everything changed after March 1948 when Mohammad Ali Jinnah came to Dhaka and de-

clared in a mammoth public meeting that only Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan. On 11th March a Dhaka University oriented students league was formed in order to defend the rights of students in particular and nation in general. It was from here that the movement leaped from its infancy towards its maturity and final culmination in February 21, 1952.

Dr. Islam related that even though the language movement started with the students and intellectuals at its inception it soon enveloped the whole range of people in the movement. For the common people, the movement did not only stand for the rights of language, but it had a vast symbolical implication.

This movement was the common flag or platform under which the depriving people united. It stood against everything that was chained and oppressing. That is why the language movement even though a cultural revolution at the beginning was rapidly transformed into an inspiration for any other national movements.

It is true that the memory of the language

movement is rapidly turning into a ritualistic observance, losing the real warmth and emotion that accompanied it. Dr. Islam mentioned that any event of the past through lapse of time transforms into rituals. This practice is needed to keep history alive. But if it lacks the passionate intensity the event itself becomes non-existent and lifeless.

Dr. Islam was seriously involved with the first 'Ekushey' publication which came out in 1953. It was edited and financed by the eminent poet Hasan Hafizur Rahman. We learnt from Professor Islam that Hasan Haf-

izur Rahman 'borrowed' (without asking) his mother's ornaments in order to finance this publication. We wonder how much love it claims to give away one's mother's precious possession for the motherland! Surely the gift did not go in vain. Among other persons who contributed to this publication are Shamsur Rahman, Abu Zafar Obaidullah, Abdul Gaffar, Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir, and M. R. Akhter Mukul.

'Ekushey' paved the way through which Bangladesh finally achieved its independence — said Dr. Islam. It is true that 'Ekushey' failed to provide us the desired economic and social emancipation. But it surely paved the way for a new nation, a new flag, a constitution and above all, a rich heritage to be absolutely proud of.

When we walk in the solemn procession towards the 'Shaheed Minar' on the morning of 21 February we should always remember that every inch of that way is wet with the 'rich' blood of our martyrs. Only then we would know from where the crimson 'Krishnachura' found its colour.

## 'Book on Hasina to help people know intrigues against AL'

By Staff Correspondent

Critics on the book 'Sheikh Hasina: Ekti Rajnolitik Alekhyia' (Sheikh Hasina: a political portrait) held the common opinion Friday that the book would help the people know the intrigues in the contemporary political history of the country centering the Awami League and its Chief Sheikh Hasina.

Addressing the publication ceremony of the book written by Abdul Matin at the National Museum auditorium in the city, they termed the book a 'document' of the happenings including the conspiracies, designed at home and abroad, in the national politics since the murder of Sheikh Mujib in 1975.

The London-based Radical Asia Publications organised the function to release two books, sponsored by it, another book published at the same occasion was 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, Bangalee Jatiyatadab, Muktabuddhir Charcha' (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, Bengalee Nationalism, thoughts on liberating ideas) by Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

The Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina attended the function. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abul Samad Azad and MPs belonging to the party were also present.

Chaired by Dr Anisuzzaman, Begum Sufia Kamal was the chief guest, Abul Samad Azad, former Justice KM Sobhan, Sardar Fazlul Karim, Santosh Gupta and the authors of the book Abdul Matin and Prof Kabir Chowdhury spoke on the occasion.

## Two boys hurt in city blast

By Staff Correspondent

Two boys were injured in a bomb explosion at a playground in the city where they were playing football.

According to hospital sources, the bomb blasted at the football hit it at the Tejkonipara Railway Colony field in the afternoon.

Aala (13) was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injuries while Majnu (10) was given first aid there.

## What's on today . . .

## Shibir Conference

The two-day central associate conference of the Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir will be inaugurated today (Saturday) at 9 am at Uttara Model Town Maidan in the city.

The Parliamentary Party leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami will be present at the inaugural function of the conference as chief guest.

## Cultural show of Ansar

Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party has organised a cultural show and dinner today (Saturday) at 6-30 pm at its headquarters in Dhaka on the occasion of its 15th national rally.

## Seminar

A three-day national seminar on disability and community based rehabilitation begins today (Saturday) at 9-30 am at Hotel Sheraton.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the inaugural function of the seminar as chief guest while Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf will be present as special guest.

## Rotary Club of Uttara

The 52nd regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Saturday) at 5-30 pm at Chilling Chinese restaurant, Uttara.

The meeting will discuss club affairs.

## Solo painting exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the third solo painting exhibition of Rezaur Karim will be held today (Saturday) at 4-30 pm at the National Museum.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will open the 11-day exhibition while Begum Farida Hossain MP and noted artist Mustafa Monwar will be present as special guests.

## . . . and tomorrow

## Photographic exhibition

Narayanganj Photographic Society has organised a four-day photographic exhibition beginning from tomorrow (Sunday) at the local Al Ahmed Community auditorium.

## Weather

## Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and the regions of Sylhet, Comilla and Noakhali and wether is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere in the country till 6 pm today (Saturday).

The maximum temperature recorded in the country Friday was 29.8 degree Celsius at Jessore while the minimum 10.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in Dhaka Friday were 27.5 and 16.0 degree Celsius respectively.

The percentage of humidity recorded in Dhaka on Thursday was 77 at 9 am and 75 at 6 pm.

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

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.5	16.0	77	75
Chittagong	26.2	14.8	73	71
Khulna	29.7	15.0	87	66
Rajshahi	27.4	11.0	79	89
Rangpur	25.2	11.0	80	70
Sylhet	29.0	11.5	91	77
Cox's Bazar		14.0	64	



Begum Sufia Kamal speaking as the chief guest at the publication ceremony of two books at the National Museum Auditorium in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## CIRDAP regional training course from Feb 16

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) will hold a special regional course on training methodology for women trainers of IRD functionaries in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, from February 16 to 29, reports BSS.

The two-week long course will be held at the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Kotbari, Comilla during the first week and at CIRDAP, Dhaka during the second week.

Eighteen women participants from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga are going to attend this special training of trainers course.

These participants from the Asia and the Pacific region will be given training on system approach to designing training, training cycle, training needs assessment, training objectives, content analysis, selection of methods and techniques, planning and management of training programmes, adult learning and motivation, communication skill and monitoring and evaluation of training programmes, through participatory teaching methods, a CIRDAP press release said.

## Ties with Bangladesh excellent: China

Members of Bangladesh-China Friendship Association, accompanied by some ministers, Chinese diplomats, stationed in Dhaka and the visiting Chinese acrobatic troupe went on a river cruise Friday to mark the Spring Festival in Bangladesh and China, reports BSS.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khondakar Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Deputy Minister for Shipping ABM Zahidul Huq and Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Chen Songhu joined the day-long pleasure voyage.

The cruise, marked by festivity and merry making, on board BIWTC-owned vessel 'LCT Kajal' covered the

Buriganga, Dhaleshwari, Shitalakkha and Meghna rivers.

Speaking briefly on the occasion on board the vessel, Mirza Golam Hafiz said friendship between Bangladesh and China is very old and it is running like the flow of the river Jumuna.

Mirza Hafiz, who is also the President of Bangladesh-China Friendship Association, expressed the hope that the relations between the two friendly countries would be strengthened further in the days ahead for the benefit of the two peoples.

Termining the relations between Bangladesh and China as 'very excellent', the Chinese Ambassador said, 'our friendship is traditional and it is deep-rooted in the minds of people of both the countries'.

Secretary General of the friendship association Nazmul Huq Nannu also spoke.

## Ekatturer Dalal Nirmool body renamed

By Staff Correspondent

The Ekatturer Ghatak, Dala Nirmool Committee has been renamed as the 'Muktibodder Chetana Bastabayan O Ekatturer Ghatak Dala Nirmool Jatiya Samannoy Committee'.

This was decided at a meeting of the committee held in the city with its Convenor Jahanara Imam in the chair Friday.

The meeting also called upon all concerned to form units of the committee all over the country.

The meeting also appointed Selim Omrao Khan as the Secretary of the organisation.

Syed Hassan Imam, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Golam Kuddus and Mahfuzur Rahman have been made central committee members of the organisation. The meeting decided to hold the committee's next meeting on February 17 at 3 pm at its central office at 33, Topkhana Road in the city.

## SCF rally today

By DU Correspondent

The two-day meeting of representatives of the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) began at the Dhaka University Friday.

The meeting was addressed by the SCF General Secretary Razekuzzaman Ratan. Organising Secretary Naimuddin with its President Belal Chowdhury in the chair.

Later, in the evening session the district representatives addressed the meeting.

The concluding session will begin today (Saturday) at 9 am at the seminar room of Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University.

Meanwhile, the SCF announced its today's (Saturday) programme of grand rally in front of the National Press Club at 11 am demanding immediate trial of Golam Azam.

## Diabetes disease

## Blood of 100

## people examined

Bangladesh Diabetes Forecasting Centre Friday examined the blood of more than one hundred people in a mobile camp at Narayanganj College premises as a part of its countrywide campaign to identify diabetic patients, reports BSS.

Organised in cooperation with a social organisation 'Shetpala', the camp was inaugurated by Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Dr Ashraf Siddiq.

Of the persons examined, five were found with the symptom of diabetes.

Presided over by Kazi Tarek Ahmed, the function was also addressed by Principal of Narayanganj College Shamsul Huda, former MP Afzal Hossain, Aminul Haq Bhuiyan, Kamal Hossain and Mohsin Reza.

## Happy Birthday

to

## Dear Kaiser Bhai

from

Imran, Faiza, Sizza, Wasu &amp; Farisa

## It's new just for you

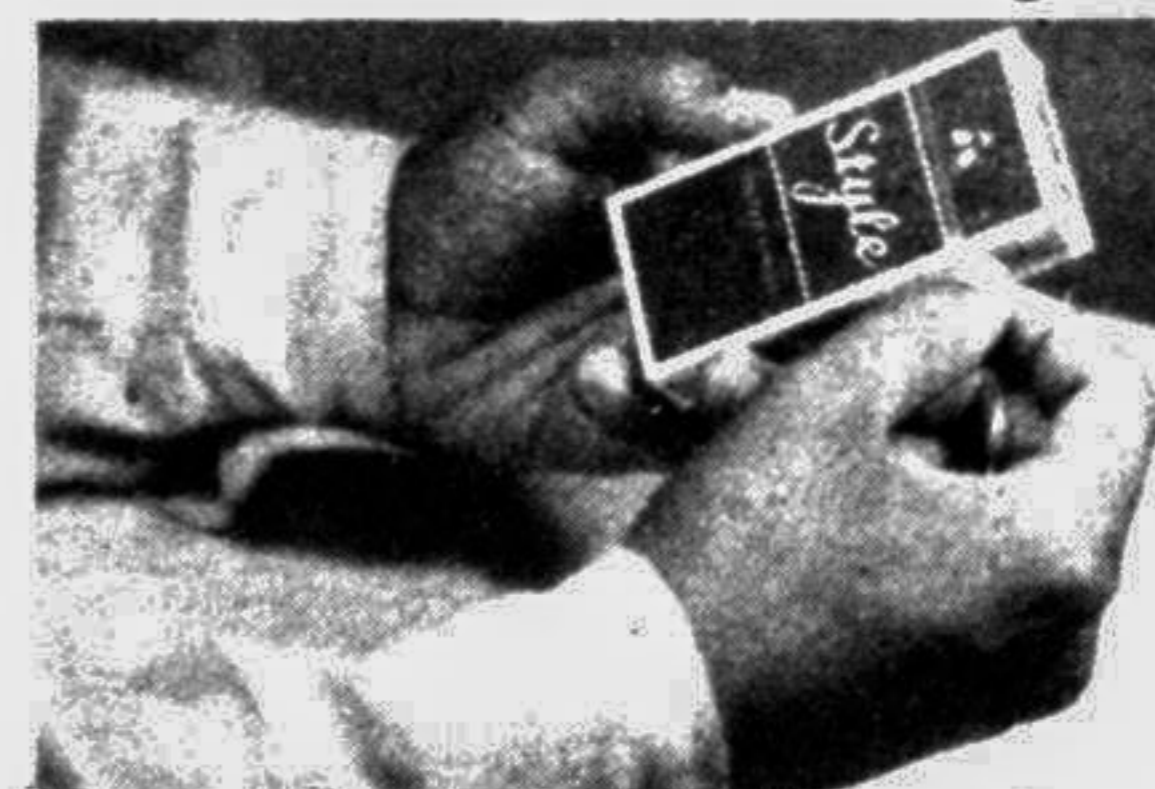
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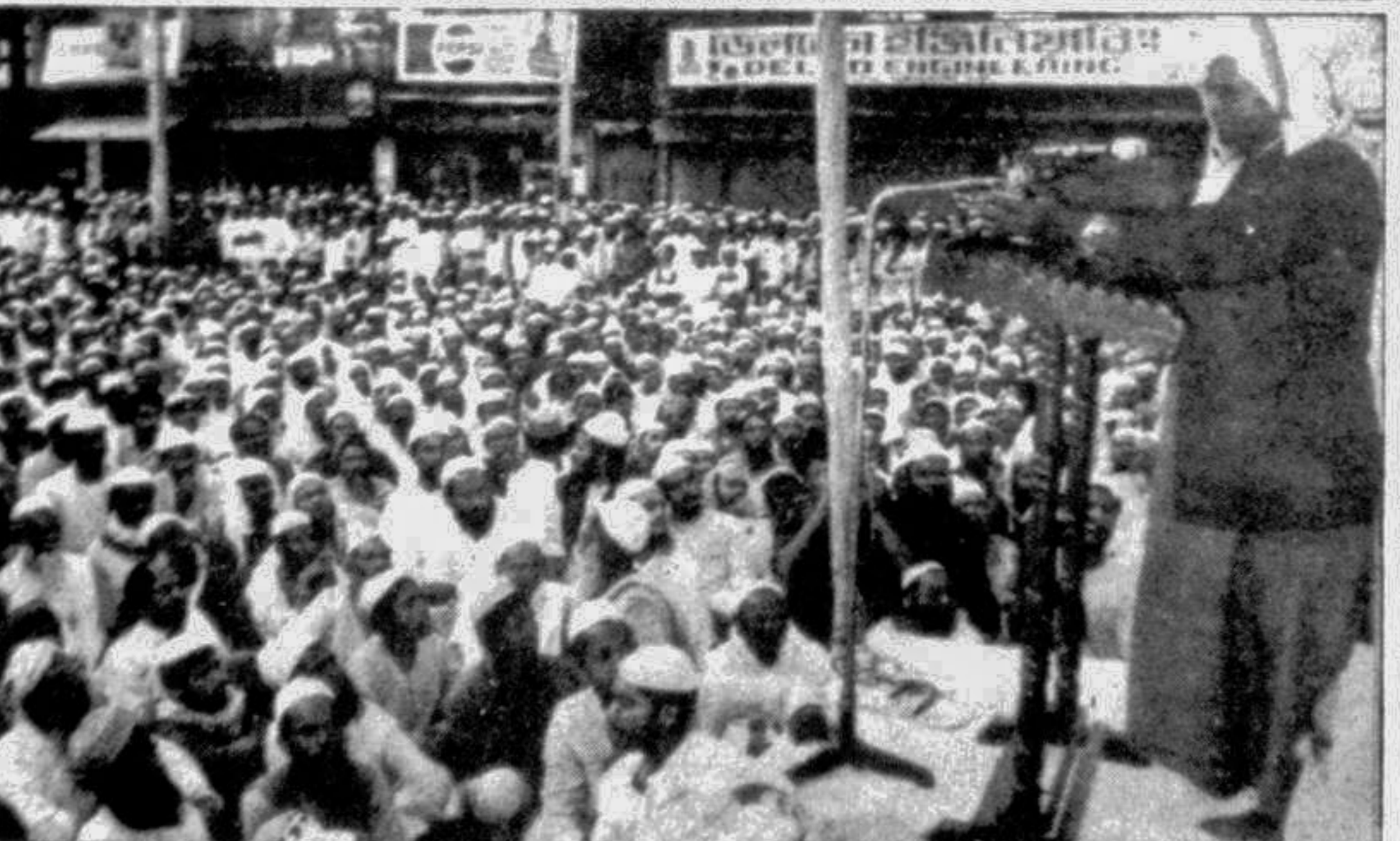


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Peer of Charmunai Fazlul Karim addressing a rally of the Islamic Shasantantra Andolan in the city yesterday.

— Star photo



## Saturday

- 5:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports World
- 6:00 Drama Series: Alice in Wonderland
- 6:30 Jibon O Projukti
- 7:00 Selected parts from the one day cricket match between West Bengal Cricket team and Bangladesh Cricket Control Board team.
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Amar Ekushey
- 9:00 Ujiban
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:25 Drama series: Dallas
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Sunday programme Summary
- 11:45 Closing

## Arrear dues to PDB Taka 426 crore

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khondakar Mosharraf Hossain Wednesday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that outstanding dues to Bangladesh Power Development Board upto December 31 last year was Taka 425.82 crore, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice on 'Outstanding Dues to Power Development Board' the Minister said out of the total amount different government, semi-government and autonomous organisations owe Taka 84 crore and the private sector owes Taka 341.82 crore.

Sheikh Haroon-ur-Rashid (AL-Khulna) moved the call attention notice on matters of urgent public importance.

The Minister said Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) also has an outstanding dues of Taka 209 crore.

He said the Titas Gas Company outstanding dues has to get huge from both public and private sectors.

He said the government had taken a number of measures to realise the outstanding dues and sought co-operation of all concerned in this regard.

He said mobile task forces had been created to enforce the measures and disconnect the power lines of the defaulters.

The Minister agreed with the mover of the notice that if the outstanding dues could not be recovered, the donor agencies would suspend their aid.