

Dhaka Day by Day

Being Bengali from a Distance

By Aasha Mehreen Amin

Even after living over 30 years in Britain, Abdul Matin, once a prolific journalist, now a political writer and publisher, maintains the strongest ties to the place of his birth, Bangladesh. He has written numerous books in Bengali — all dealing with politics in this country, taken a leading part in the liberation struggle among the expatriate Bengalis living in Europe, and has published many books in Bengali including a series of translated classics for children. At 68, Matin has the energy of a 20 year old as he talks profusely of his experiences and comments on the trend of journalism in Bangladesh.

Before leaving the country for good in 1960, Matin was an active journalist working for various newspapers and news agencies including the United Press of India. It was an irrepressible urge, he says, to seek adventure, that made him leave for Germany, later settling in England. Soon he became, the correspondent for 'Azad' and later for the 'Pakistan Observer'. In 1961, the matin's first book 'Europe er Deshe Deshe' was published.

In 1967, Matin decided to explore newer territories. He became an information officer for the Commission on Racial Equality in London. This was an organisation geared to educate the public about minority communities. The main aim was to enforce the Race Relations Act and take legal measures to stop racial discrimination in jobs, financing, housing etc. After 22 years in this job Matin retired at the age of 65.

However, working for this organisation was only one of the many high points of his chequered life during this period. When Bangladesh was about to be born in 1971, Matin and his friends who were also living abroad got together to do whatever they could for the independence struggle. One of the things they did was to bring out a 'Bangladesh Newsletter' to tell the rest of the world all about the movement. Matin's group included Tassadduq Ahmed, Rosemary Ahmed, Farid Jaffri, Dr. Prem Addi and others. Liaisons were formed with other groups to accumulate and publicise as much information as possible about the movement. Numerous pamphlets in English and Bengali were circulated. In addition, Matin's Bangladesh newsletter group arranged for

three British MPs to visit 'Mujib Nagar'—the capital of the government in exile and Calcutta to witness the atrocities committed by the Pak Army.

After independence, Matin's career as a journalist began to take on a more definite turn. Being avidly interested in the politics of Bangladesh, it was only natural that he would write on this subject. In 1979 Matin published his book 'Geneva e Banga Bandhu', based on Sheikh Mujib's 1972 visit to Geneva. Later he wrote and published 'kasthe' (a collection of short stories), 'Shadhinata Shrangam', 'Probashi Bangali', political discussion on Sheikh Hasina and other political treatises.

But being a publisher has always been a dream for this lively journalist. This dream started to come true as early as 1957 when he first published a series of children's classics translated in to Bengali. These included Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Robinson Crusoe, Don Q Vixote, Gulliver's Travels and 'sharjher Belar Rupkatha'.

As an experienced journalist, Matin has definite ideas about present day journalism in Bangladesh. Says Matin, "I am very disgusted, for example, at some of our newspapers which flash front page pictures of mutilated bodies of victims. This kind of sensationalism is in very bad taste. It seems these papers have absolutely no regard for the do's and don'ts of journalism that are followed universally. Another thing that I feel very strongly about is that whenever a person is apprehended for some alleged crime, the papers promptly print photographs of the person holding arms or something else quite incriminating."

The person in question may be branded as a criminal for life, even if he is later acquitted. According to Matin the most important asset a good Journalist should acquire is the art of persuasion and the ability to gain trust. "A journalist," says Matin, "must write a story in such a way that the source can never be traced. This is very important since it will ensure future information from the same source. Also, a journalist must be persistent but must be careful that his tenacity does not border on being a pest," concludes the journalist turned writer and publisher.



Abdul Matin

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A group of students of American International School led by Victoria Deppert recently visited the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel's various departments and outlets to get acquainted with the hotel operation. Picture shows them with John L Eaton General Manager of the hotel.

'Crop sector contributes 28 per cent of GDP'

Increased economic development of the country depends upon better and sustainable performance of the crop sector, an expert said Saturday.

Crop sector contributes 28 per cent of the total GDP (gross domestic product) and provides employment to more than two-thirds of total labour force, Member-Director of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Dr S M Elias told UNB.

This sector provides food, feed, fodder and fuel as well as financial support for purchasing daily necessities and also earns foreign exchange for importation, he said.

The share of crops in the total GDP has reduced from 32.7 per cent in 1981 to 27.8 per cent in 1990. But the GDP growth rate of crops has increased during 1973-90 period at the rate of 3.13 per cent per year.

He said this rate of growth was not uniform. The rate of growth was 2.53 per cent per year during 1973-77 period and 4.30 per cent during 1981-85 period. But after that the rate of growth slowed down to 0.64 cent only per year during 1986-90 period.

Country's overall economic development depends basically on better performance of the crop sector, he said and adding that during last several

years, the performance of this sector were mixed in nature. Foodgrain crops, where policy support prevails, have shown better performance compared to other minor but important crops where policy support is absent, he said.

Awami League leader dead

CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Dr M A Mannan, freedom fighter and Awami League leader died of prolonged illness in a private clinic here last night. He was 62, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a large number of relatives to mourn his death.

Weather

Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Kalbarishakhi Nor'wester and light rain accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind are likely over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Saturday.

Meteorological office identified the regions as Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Tangail, Dhaka, Sylhet and Comilla and said weather would remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Temperature is likely to remain mainly unchanged over the country during the period. Little change in weather would be noticed in subsequent two days.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Saturday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	38.2	26.0
Chittagong	34.6	26.6
Rajshahi	38.2	24.2
Khulna	37.7	23.7
Barisal	37.8	25.4
Sylhet	34.3	22.7
Dinajpur	36.5	23.6
Jessore	40.3	23.5
Ishurdi	36.8	24.5

The highest temperature on the day was at Jessore. Sunset in Dhaka on Sunday at 6-25 pm and sunrise Monday at 5-28 am.

Satyajit's death condoled

By Staff Correspondent

More organisations have expressed their deep shock at the demise of world renowned film maker Satyajit Ray.

Ray, 71, died at a Calcutta clinic on Thursday.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in a note of condolence, said that the culture of the sub-continent has suffered a really great loss at the death of this popular film maker.

The academy will organise a discussion on April 29 in the memory of Ray.

Bangladesh Radio-television Artists Association in a note said that Bengali film, literature and culture will have to wait for long to fill in the vacuum created with Satyajit Ray's demise.

Dhaka City Theatre said that the world lost an outstanding film maker. Ray's death is an irreparable loss to world film-dom.

Bangla Academy in message of condolence said Ray with his creativity established Bengali films in the international arena.

Bangladesh-Bharat Mottree Samity Saturday met in a condolence meeting on the death of world renowned movie-maker Satyajit Ray. The samity in its condolence-resolution stated that departed Satyajit Ray was the most outstanding man on the cultural arena of the sub-continent, an author of rare talent and a vigorous supporter of humanism. He was the front-rank architect of Friendship-bridge between Bangladesh and India.

Hindus demand ban on Radha-Krishna

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Bangladesh National Puja Committee have demanded the banning of the Bengali feature film, 'Radha-Krishna,' for the sake of communal harmony in the country.

In a joint statement Saturday, the Advisor of the committee, Sunil Chakravarty, and General Secretary, Chitta Ranjan Das Gupta, also demanded exemplary punishment to the director and producer of the feature film for hurling the religious sentiment of the Hindu community.

They said the story of the feature film, which was released Friday, eight years after production, cast aspersions on the Hindu religion, that sparked off resentment in the Hindu community.

Foreign Secretary leaves for Colombo

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman left here Saturday for Colombo to attend a special session of the Standing Committee of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), reports UNB.

He will lead a three-member Bangladesh delegation at the three-day meeting beginning Monday in the Sri Lankan capital.

Indonesian envoy calls on Energy Minister

The Ambassador of Indonesia to Bangladesh, Soemakno Iswadi, called on the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at his office here Saturday, reports BSS.

They discussed various issues of mutual interest particularly about the assistance and cooperation of Indonesia for the promotion and development of Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh.

Obituary

Shamsul Anam Khan, son-in-law of Moulana Akram Khan, died of old age complications at his residence here Saturday afternoon. He was 82, reports BSS.

He once served as circulation manager of the Dainik Bangla.

Khan left behind four sons, three daughters, many grand children and a large number of relations and wellwishers to mourn his death.

Dainik Bangla Editor Toab Khan is one of his sons-in-law.

TV Sunday

- 5:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5:30 Makey Ntje
- 6:00 TV series: Rock Sports
- 6:30 Sports programme: Cricket
- 7:05 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Probaha
- 9:00 Drama series: Oshin
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Chhayachhanda
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Monday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing



Admission seekers into medical colleges observing hunger strike programme protesting the leakage of admission test question paper and demanding fresh admission test in front of National Press Club Saturday.

Health care system to be changed

The Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Saturday called for dedicated and sincere efforts in building a sound health care system in the country, reports BSS.

Referring to the resource constraints in the country he said "the doctors are doing good. But the system should be changed."

The minister said that the government was taking effective measures to rectify the loopholes for improvement of the system. "We are not going to allow any more indulgence in corruption, indiscipline and mismanagement in the health and family welfare system," he said.

The present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is busy taking up steps for streamlining the Health Administration and medical service bringing about a radical change in terms of better management and services with in the next five years.

The Minister was inaugurating a 14-day second orientation course on forensic medicine jointly organised by the Directorate of Medical Education and World Health Organisation.

State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Haque also spoke on the occasion.

Presided over by the Director, Medical Education and Manpower Development, Prof A R Shamsuddin Siddiqui, the inaugural session was ad-

dressed, among others, by WHO Representative, Prof. Myo Thwe, Additional Inspector General of Police (CID) Kazi Golam Rahman, Prof M Nurul Islam and Prof M Muzaherul Huq. Over 20 Physicians are taking part in the orientation course.

Dwelling on forensic medicine, the Health Minister said it involved the medical legal system. Underlining its importance in establishing rule of law and justice, the Minister asked the concerned officials for preparing a working paper for the overall improvement of the forensic medicine.

He said since the primary objective of the government was to ensure welfare of the people, it would leave no stone unturned in bringing real culprits into book with the held

Come forward to help poor, says Minister

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan has said, the welfare-oriented social organisations were contributing largely to develop the socio-economic condition and provide medical facilities to the rural people of the country, reports BSS.

He called upon the affluent section of the society to come forward to help the poor.

of knowledge on forensic medicine.

The Health and Family Welfare Minister referred to a news item published in Daily Ittefaq Friday on the condition of Medical Administration and said "It is disgraceful on the part of all involved in the entire system."

The State Minister for Law and Justice in his speech highlighted the important role of forensic medicine and science in the investigating crimes and disposing of fair justice.

Barrister Aminul Haque said that legal aspects regarding correct investigation of crimes should be reviewed for the sake of fair judgement.

In this connection the State Minister said if necessary, the present parliament would enact new laws or amend the existing ones.

WHO Representative Prof Myo Thwe described forensic medicine as one of the important scientific devices to maintain law and order in the society.

He assured that the World Health Organisation would continue its cooperation in developing forensic medicine in Bangladesh.

The additional Inspector General of Police (CID) pleaded involvement of the Criminal Investigation Department of Police in the orientation course for meaningful application of the forensic knowledge towards establishing rule of law.

Production begins at Anannya Printing Factory

RAJSHAHI, Apr 25: A private sector silk printing factory named 'Anannya Printing Factory' set up at the local BSCIC industrial area began its production today, reports BSS. Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi NA Habibullah formally inaugurated the factory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner said there existed bright prospect in the silk industry sector to earn foreign exchange and create employment opportunity.

He called upon the private entrepreneurs to put in their best and sincere efforts to make the sector viable.

UPL to publish book on Satyajit

The University Press Limited Saturday announced the publication of a book entitled: 'The World of Satyajit Ray' written by Bidyut Sarkar, reports BSS.

The book contains exclusive photographs of Satyajit Ray and also some exclusive illustrations by Ray himself and several other eminent artists.

We Remember

With pride the fond memory of our beloved father



who passed away this day in 1972. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Sons & Daughters

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