

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Faces Beyond the Politics

by S. Bari



Caring between the generations.

Ministers sit for hours at conference tables, and emerge smiling for the press. Diplomats sift through mounds of white paper and confirm that they have reached an amicable settlement. Far, far removed from all these platitudes, Rohingyas from across the Burmese border wait silently for their fate to be decided. In a very timely exhibition, photographer Shehzad Noorani has presented the Rohingyas as human beings, beyond the political jargon that has swamped their public image.

The theme picture shows a family silhouetted against the setting sun, walking, presumably, away from repression. It is reminiscent of a shot in Satyajit Ray's *Ashani Sanket*, where similar figures plod on single-mindedly, fleeing famine. The frame manages to conjure up such references and link the Rohingyas to all the other dispossessed of the earth.

Noorani, who hails from an Ismaili family, has a light, airy touch to his pictures and sensitivity in his handling of the camera. The 34 frames in the exhibition leave the viewer not so much with an impression of unrelieved suffering as with one of a tired people carrying on with their lives as best they can. Babies are born in a land that is not their own, but the mother's smile is untarnished by past pain. A young woman cuts the nails of her elderly mother-in-law; caring for the family goes on. In one subtle shot, Noorani evokes the slow

devastation of the precious forests around the refugee camps. As the refugees crowd the limited land, they are strangling the forests and chopping down young trees. Instead of the usual blighted landscape, Noorani catches in his lens a young man. He is walking along with his bundle of firewood, oblivious to his effect on the land. The disastrous impact of the refugees on the environment and the urgent need to educate them on this matter both speak eloquently in the frame.

The horror that the Rohingyas have endured is etched on their faces in these photographs. But there is no actual squalor or anguish to be seen. The pictures have a quality that veers away from evoking pathos. This is not a collection of fund-raisers, it is a collection of human moments asserting the fact that lives continue to strive for normality through the greatest of upheavals. Noorani has a knack for locating the normal, the everyday, in the midst of the tragic and the epochal. If the exhibition does not wring the heart, if it even lacks a certain emotional curiosity, it does the world a service by portraying the Rohingyas not as mere victims but also as normal people who suffer, build homes, hope, and smile just like the rest of us.

Shehzad Noorani's 'Images of an Exodus,' sponsored by UNICEF, is on at La Galerie till May 2nd.

## WFP to provide Tk 28 cr aid for Rohingyas

The World Food Programme under its continued food assistance for Rohingyas refugees from Myanmar will provide 18,000 tonnes of rice, 1110 tonnes of pulses and 720 tonnes of edible oil worth Taka 28 crore, reports BSS.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh and the World Food Programme in Dhaka Thursday.

Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Relief M A Hakim and Director of WFP Garston Iden signed the agreement on behalf of the respective side.

## Jahanara Imam demands ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics

Jahanara Imam, convener of 'Ekattorer Ohatak Dalal Nirml Committee' Wednesday called upon the government to ban the politics of Jamaat-Shibir and execute the verdict passed by what she described as 'Gana Adalat' on Prof Golam Azam, reports BSS.

Addressing the opening session of delegates' conference of the Nirml Committee at Engineers Institution in Dhaka Wednesday morning, Jahanara Imam also urged the people to socially boycott the members and associates of the Jamaat.

Presided over by Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, an organiser of the Nirml Committee and a senior commander of the liberation war, the opening session was also addressed by the city convener of the committee Sadek Ahmed Khan.

Jahanara Imam said the second phase of the liberation war had begun and the whole nation was to try Jamaat leader Golam Azam and his associates for their role during the liberation war in 1971.

'The Gana Adalat has passed its verdict on March 26 last in front of lakhs of people, now it is the responsibility of the democratically-elected government to implement it,' she said.

## JCD demands arrest of DU campus terrorists

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in a rally at Dhaka University Wednesday demanded immediate arrest of the terrorists engaged in campus violence, reports UNB.

JCD, the student wing of ruling BNP, 'staged the huge gathering at Aparajeyo Bangla to protest continued terrorist activity on the DU campus by the pro-JSD(Inu) Chhatra League (N-S) and the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-A).

Presided over by JCD DU unit President Habibunnabi Sohel, the rally was addressed, among others, by DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, AG Nazimuddin Alam, member Rafiqul Islam Jaglu, DU Senate member and JCD joint convener Fazlul Huq Milon, central leaders Kamruzzaman Ratan and Abdul Malek.

They condemned the violent activities of the two factions of Chhatra League (N-S) for the last four days and demanded of the government to track down the terrorists.

The JCD leaders also demanded exemplary punishment of those activists of Chhatra League (A-A) who are responsible for ransacking VC office and residents of Zahurul Huq Hall Provost as well as attack on the teachers.

## Friday

**Morning Session**  
8.00 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran, Programme summary  
8.10 News in Bangla  
8.15 Chena Kahini  
8.40 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
9.10 Taka Pasa  
9.30 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records  
10.00 News in English  
10.05 Moner Mukurey  
11.15 Documentary  
11.25 Classical Guitar  
12.05 Closing

**Evening Session**  
3.00 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran Programme Summary  
3.12 Recitation from the Tripitak  
3.15 Alore Dishari  
3.40 Movie of the Week  
5.10 News in Bangla  
5.30 Sports programme  
6.45 Special programme on May Day  
Sangeeta  
7.05 News in Bangla  
8.00 SAARC Audio Visual Exchange programme  
9.00 Antarranga  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Drama Series: LA Law  
11.30 Khabar/ The News  
11.40 Saturday's programme Summary  
11.45 Closing



Jatiya Sramik Jote arranged a cultural function Thursday at Taher Auditorium in the city on the occasion of historic May Day. —Star photo

## 'Canals will help bring changes in agriculture'

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Maj Gen (Retd) Majid Ul Haq Thursday expressed the hope that a revolutionary change could be brought about an agriculture through expeditious completion of the canal digging programme, reports BSS.

He said it has been historically proved that canal digging is a scientific method, which could contribute to attaining development and growth. The epoch making canal digging programme, initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman for irrigation and solving drainage problem is also the goal of the present democratic government, he added.

Haq was inaugurating the 25th annual conference of Bangladesh Water and Power Engineers Association in Dhaka at the WAPDA auditorium. Minister for Energy and

Mineral Resources Dr Khandakar Mosharruf Hossain was the special guest on the occasion.

The inaugural session were addressed by Syed Qamrul Alam, Md Faizur Razaque and Abdur Razaque. Chairman of DESA, PDB and WDB respectively.

Chaired by Q M Khaled, President of the Association, it was also addressed by Jalaluddin Md Abdul Hyc. Secretary of the association.

The Agriculture Minister expressed his firm belief that the engineers were sincere and devoted to completing the unfinished task of canal digging. Besides irrigation, he said canal digging would facilitate drainage and water preservation and thereby bring about revolutionary change in agriculture.

Haq said Bangladesh econ-

omy, which is severely affected due to annual flooding, drought and tidal wave, has its problems further compounded with the withdrawal of water by India in the upstream. The minister said desertification has freshly started in the northern areas as a result of the withdrawal of water at Farakka and at other barrages. Besides environmental imbalance has been located in south-western areas. In the light of these issues, the expert engineers of Water Board should come forward with appropriate and timely recommendations, he opined.

The Agriculture Minister stressed that the present government believed in merit and competence and assured that proper guideline would be followed so that the meritorious get their due places in jobs. He, however, said since the government has inherited a degraded economy afflicted by autocracy, it would take some time to solve many professional problems of engineers and others.

Referring to Association's opposition to the appointment of non-engineer as Chairman of PDB, Gen Haq said this is a temporary posting and engineers should not be so touchy. 'You should overcome narrowness and contribute your mite to expedite development,' he added.

## Plea to materialise spirit of May Day

Speakers at a discussion meeting in Dhaka Thursday called upon the working class to make united efforts for materialising the spirit of great May Day, reports UNB.

White panel of Dhaka Union of Journalist (DUJ) organised a discussion on the eve of May Day at the Jatiya Grantha Kendra Auditorium Thursday evening.

Former Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury spoke at the function as chief guest. Presided over by journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury, it was addressed among others, by labour leader Abul Basar, Nazrul Islam, Alamgir Majumder and journalist Borhan Ahmed.

They alleged that a section of owners in Bangladesh were treating the workforce in their industries in contravention of the International Labour Law.

Speakers said absence of

congenial relationship between the owners and workers was the main reason behind the state of miserable condition prevailing in the country's industrial sector.

'It is not wise to destroy national property in the name of pressing demands... there are so many ways to attain fulfillment of demands,' said Abdur Rahman Chowdhury.

He alleged that particular quarters were trying to divide the nation in the name of pro-liberation force and subvert national independence.

'Erosion has started socially, politically and economically... we are now suffering from indecision', he observed.

Gias Kamal Chowdhury said economic condition of the country was now at a very delicate stage and there was no sign of rapid industrialisation in the near future.

## Palli, Poura rationing system abolished

The Palli and Poura rationing system of the country has been abolished and its activities were postponed from December 16 last, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the fifth meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food Ministry held at the Cabinet Room of Jatiya Sangshad Bhaban Thursday with Food Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair.

The committee has decided for introducing an alternate system of Palli and Poura rationing which would replace the abolished rationing system and asked to formulate a suitable outline of the alternate system within June next.

The meeting was attended by the members of the committee Musarrat Hussain, Md Abdul Hamid, Md Abdul

Khalek, Salahuddin Kamran, Mirza Azam, Md Shah Alam and Md Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, Food Secretary A N M Yusuf, Director General of Food Mahe Alam and other high officials were present.

The meeting emphasised for promoting the Open Market Sale (OMS) activities for keeping market price stable throughout the country.

The meeting was further informed that a total of 57,946 metric tons of wheat has been purchased under internal procurement programme of the current cropping season till Wednesday.

The achievement rate of procurement is about 58 per cent against the national target. It is to mention that 52,736 metric tons has been procured from 16 districts of Rajshahi division only.

## Weather

### Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over the region of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday.

Met office said that weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius during the time.

One millimetre of rain was recorded in Dhaka and two mm in Sylhet Thursday.

The sunset in Dhaka today (Friday) at 6:28 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:24 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius			Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min		9 am	6 pm	
Dhaka	35.5	25.4		75	66	
Chittagong	33.5	22.5		71	68	
Rajshahi	36.8	22.2		67	51	
Khulna	35.9	23.4		68	60	
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.0		68	65	
Sylhet	33.1	20.5		73	67	
Dinajpur	34.0	21.8		69	66	
Chandanga	39.0	23.5		69	40	

## Oli Ahmed visits Wagon Factory in Turkey

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, now on a five day official tour to Turkey, visited Eskişehir locomotive and Wagon Factory.

Tuesday, according to a message received in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

The factory produces one diesel/electric locomotive per week and 500 freight wagons per year.

Oli Ahmed expressed the hope that Turkey could be of very significant assistance in producing spare parts and other machinery for Bangladesh Railway.

Later, he visited Civil Aviation School of Anadolu University and Anadolu Operi University.

## Chief Whip made JS Members' Club President

A 35-member Executive Committee of the Parliament Members' Club with Chief Whip Khandker Delwar Hussain MP has been elected President unopposed, report BSS.

Other office bearers are Vice President — Md Nasim, Chief Whip of Opposition — Shahjahan Siraj and Khurshid Jahan Huq.

General Secretary — Akbar Hussain, Treasurer — Begum Farida Rahman, Joint Secretaries — Jaiul Abedin Faruq, Mustafa Rashidi Suja and Kazi Shamsuzzaman, Deputy Secretary of Parliament Secretariat.

Happy Birthday  
&  
Many happy returns  
to  
**LIRA**  
(HOGLA PUTI)  
AMMU, ABBU, FAISAL  
FLORA, SHAMMI  
&  
PIKKU

**"NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES"**  
The Containerised cargo ex. M.V. "Pacific Arrow" V-23027 from Kobe, Yokohama, Nagoya, Hongkong, ex. M.V. "Piya Bhum" V-2714N & M.V. "Arno Bangkok" V-2609N from Melbourne, ex. M.V. "Prosperity" V-46136 from Kobe, Keelung, ex. M.V. "Elbe" V-10315 from Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. "NGS RANGER" V-2892, Imp. Rot. No. 300/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 2-5-92 from Singapore.  
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
**BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.**  
103, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.  
AS. AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD. TOKYO  
PHONES: 500440, 503317, 500686/88.

**UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED**  
**NOTICE OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Notice is hereby given that the Seventh Annual General Meeting of United Insurance Company Limited will be held at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on Sunday, 24 May 1992 at 3.30 P.M. to transact the following business:  
1. To confirm the Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting held on 27 May 1991.  
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1991 and the Auditors' Report thereon.  
3. To declare Dividend for the year 1991.  
4. To elect Directors of the Company in the vacancies caused by retirement of the Directors as per Articles of Association of the Company.  
5. To consider appointment of Auditors for the year 1992 and to fix their remuneration.  
6. To transact any other business which may be placed before the meeting with the permission of the Chair.  
**SPECIAL RESOLUTION:**  
7. To adopt the following special resolution amending Article 144 of the Articles of Association of the Company:  
'RESOLVED that the word and figures 'Tk. 250' appearing in the second line of Article 144 of the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby substituted by the word and figures 'Tk. 750.'  
By Order of the Board of Directors  
M. Harunur Rashid  
Secretary to the Board of Directors & Executive Director.  
Dated, Dhaka.  
30 April 1992.  
Note:  
1. A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting may appoint another member as his/her proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead.  
2. The Share transfer register of the Company will remain closed from 10 May 1992 to 24 May 1992 (both days inclusive).

## Creation of employment opportunities stressed

Planning Minister AM Jahiruddin Khan Thursday stressed creation of productive employment opportunities for poverty alleviation and economic growth, reports UNB.

'The future of the country looks bleak, if we can not create employment opportunities by developing entrepreneurship,' he said addressing as chief guest the closing ceremony of 'South Asian Regional Workshop on Entrepreneurship Development in Management Education' in a local hotel Thursday afternoon.

A total of 30 participants from home and abroad attended the 13-day workshop organised jointly by the Association of Management

Development Institute in South Asia (AMDISA) and the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University.

The government role is regulative, not supportive, the minister said, adding there is vast scope of development in the cotton sector in Bangladesh, which entrepreneurs should exploit.

'We must glorify our success and wealth, not poverty of our country, to the foreigners,' he said and called on the people to be politically conscious so that politicians could be accountable to them.

'First class people, good people should come into politics for the welfare of the people,' he added.

## Japanese film festival begins today

Japanese film festival jointly sponsored by the Embassy of Japan and Department of Films and Publications will be held from May 1 to 6, says an embassy press release.

The opening ceremony of the festival will be held today (Friday) at Sonargaon Hotel (Ball Room) at 4:30 pm.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, Minister for Information will attend the function as the chief guest. Toshio Saiki, Ambassador of Japan will also be present.

Japanese film Rashomon directed by Akira Kurasawa will be screened following the inaugural ceremony.

## Bangladesh Railway

Project Management Organisation/West Zone

Rajshahi

## Tender Notice

Section-2

Tender Notice No. ENC/WS/46/PW-1 (SFRDP-88/1) Dated: 25-4-92

2.1.1 Sealed tenders are invited from the Enlisted/Registered 'C' class Contractors of Engineer-in-Chief/West/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi for the following work.

Particulars of the works	Approximate Cost (Taka in lakh)	Earnest Money (to be deposited)
2.1.2 At Burimari: Loading of 3.50 lakh Cft. Imported stone ballast from stacking place at any distance into CJKC, B.K.H or any other type of wagons for Second Flood Damaged Restoration Project/88	Tk. 3.68 lakh.	2% (two per cent) of the quoted amount

2.2 Cost of per set tender document is Taka 400/- (Taka four hundred) only (Non-refundable). Tender documents will be sold from the office of the Engineer-in-Chief/West/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi; Executive Engineer/Project/Track/Parbatipur and Khulna on cash payment during the office hours up to 18-5-92.

2.3 Dropping time of the tender is scheduled from 9-00 hrs. to 11-30 hrs. on 19-5-92 in the Tender Box as will be kept in the aforesaid offices. Tenders will be opened at 12-00 Noon on the same date in public.

2.4 Engineer-in-Chief/West/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi reserves the right to accept this tender in full or partly or to reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

2.5 All other terms and conditions will be available in the Tender documents.

Md. Ebrahim Khalilullah  
Executive Engineer/P & D/West/Project,  
For Engineer-in-Chief/West/Project  
Bangladesh Railway,  
Rajshahi.