

## Dhaka Day by Day

### How Not to Develop the Reading Habit

by Parveen Anam



A city full of book-worms, but nothing to nibble at leisure.

"I have travelled the world twice over — and all with one library ticket, to the wonderful world of books." Or so said a wise man, sometime, somewhere.

Happily the man, who said it. For it is a pleasure that is certainly denied us, in Dhaka. At this very moment, this city, must be absolutely leading the civilized cities of the world, in its total lack of a very basic civic amenity: a good library, for the academically starved citizen, to perhaps spend a few quiet moments, in the late afternoons, or returning home from work. A place, where he can lose himself, in the wonderful world of books.

But our 'city fathers' of course, would rather we lost ourselves, elsewhere, preferably permanently.

What reason can they ever drum up, for not even attempting, to have one, single, good library, catering to the requirement of the public?

It's not that we do not have a reading public.

If the 'city fathers' would bother to take a small ride, at any given time of the day, in their airconditioned comfort, around the city precincts, they would be surprised to see crowds of people, around the walls, mostly at the intersections of the Science Laboratory, Nilkhet, Chandni Chowk, etc with newspapers plastered on them, courtesy some or the other daily.

Perhaps these people cannot afford to buy the paper, but the thirst for information cannot be quenched, hence the crowding around the wall, for a glimpse of the 'daily'.

Let the 'city fathers' please not stop there; if he has the time to go a bit further, perhaps up to the pavement outside the Govt. New Market, he would be astonished to see the mob, leafing through the pages of second-hand magazines, journals, you name it, for hours on end, again because perhaps he can ill afford to invest the few odd takas needed to buy them.

It never fails to surprise one, how power somehow makes these 'fathers' so blind, that they can hardly see beyond their noses, or the rims of their glasses or the windows of their airconditioned vehicles, and think on the lines of at least one good library in the city.

Oh, there are those who will jump up in indignation and inform you that there is the British Council Library, catering to the taste of the city-dweller, or the public library, or the 'varsity library'. All very well stocked, we are sure, but somehow, out of bounds for ordinary mortals. The 'gun game' is a very lethal game, we delicately like to point out. The city dweller likes to read, but not at the expense of his life, he has decided.

Of course, there are the other odd library or two, tucked away here or there, the USIS included amongst them, but has anybody, i.e. the 'powers that be', ever managed to find time, to take a ride and visit any one of these so-called libraries? Even an avid reader, more often than not, shies away from these 'libraries'.

Perhaps our 'relevant authorities' would like to make some visible effort to construct at least a couple of libraries, with books available for the masses? Making tall statements at the book fairs, with clockwork precision, every year, about 'encouraging the reading habit', somehow has started to sound too hollow for even the Dhakaites.

The commercial aspect rather than the 'reading habit' aspect of the book fairs, has begun to strike all. Except the 'city fathers' of course, who are of the considered opinion, that their responsibility ends with the rhetoric of the 'reading habit' repeated every year, at their endless book fairs.

The reader likes to read beyond the month of February, too, if he can lay his hands on books, which miraculously seem to vanish with the month. The 'reading habit' is a difficult to curb, and certainly does not come and go with particular months.

Believe it or not.

## Deportation of Father Tim demanded

KHAGRACHHARI, May 18: The tribal and non-tribal leaders of Chittagong Hill Tracts today jointly demanded deportation of Father R W Tim from the country for his alleged involvement in sending distorted information abroad, reports UNB.

In a joint press release, the leaders alleged that Father Tim, in collusion with a couple of organisations, is engaged in activities contrary to national interests.

Referring to the Golam Azam issue they said if existing law of the country forbids any foreigner to head a local organisation, the same law should be applicable for Father Tim, who is also a foreigner.

They said Father Tim not only supplied fabricated information regarding Chittagong Hill Tracts but also provided financial assistance to Pahari Chhatra Parishad, a sub unit of the outlawed Shantibahini and their unauthorised newspaper Radar.

"These activities of Father Tim are a threat to the independence," the leaders said.

They also warned that if action were not taken as per law of the country against Tim, they will opt for a greater movement.

## Dalia Nausheen leaves for US

Dalia Nausheen, a noted Nazrul Sangeet singer of BT & Radio Bangladesh left Dhaka Monday for United States to participate in the 2nd North American Nazrul Conference (NANC) scheduled to be held in Boston on May 23-24.

She is accompanied by her husband, Azad Hafiz, a regular Tagore and modern Bengali song artist of BT & Radio Bangladesh, a press release says.

During their 8 week stay in the USA both Dalia Nausheen and Azad Hafiz will also perform in private cultural functions to be held in other states.

## HERE and THERE

### Biman Officer's Association

The Biman Officer's Association Election '92 which was held on May 14 has elected Md Yousuf Hiarun and Md Shah Alam its President and General Secretary respectively for the period of two years term.

### Urs Mobarak

The holy Urs Mobarak of the great Peer Shaheb of Midnapore Qutub Aqab Hazrat Syedana Syed Shah Murshed Ali al-Quaderi al-Bogdadi Mou-lapak(R) was celebrated with due solemnity and religious fervour under the auspices of Khanka Sharif Bazme Quaderia Dhaka, recently.

The worthy grandson of noted Peer Shaheb of Midnapore and Talota, Calcutta Hazrat Syedana Syed Shah Ershad Ali al-Quaderi al-Bogdadi (R) Hazrat Syed Shah

Ainul Zamil Quaderi-Bogdadi (Peer Shaheb) graced the occasion. Prof Dr S S M A Khorasani conducted the mahfil.

BASC training course BASC (Business Advisory Services Centre), a project of MIDAS (Micro Industries Development Assistance Society), began a training course on entrepreneurship development on Sunday in Dhaka.

GTZ (German Technical Cooperation), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and Bangladesh Bank are jointly sponsoring the course. 20 selected officials from the Kurigram unit of MSFSCIP (Marginal and Small Farm Systems Crop Intensification Project), a project of GTZ, IFAD and Bangladesh Bank, are being given training at the workshop.

## Need for opening new chapter in Dhaka-Delhi ties stressed

The High Commissioner of Bangladesh Farooq Sobhan presented his credentials to the President of India, R Venkataraman Friday last at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, according to a delayed message received here yesterday (Monday), reports BSS.

Speaking on the occasion Venkataraman expressed the hope for a meaningful bilateral cooperation between his country and Bangladesh.

He stressed the need for opening a new chapter in relations between the two countries through a constructive dialogue and a desire to find mutually acceptable solutions to all bilateral problems. India views its future relations with Bangladesh in a forward looking and positive perspective, he said.

Referring to the ties of his-

tory and culture between Bangladesh and India Venkataraman said, "we must live up to the expectations and desire of our peoples to come closer together and to realise fully the potentials that exist for expanding cooperation between our countries."

The Indian President said his country's policy towards Bangladesh was based on friendship and good neighbourly relations.

He also conveyed his greetings and best wishes to Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas. He said he was looking forward to the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia later this month. He hoped the visit would further cement the friendship between the two countries.

## JCD BUET unit resigns 'BNP patronizing armed hooligans'

By BUET Correspondent

All leaders of Jettayabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) BUET unit including the leaders of all hall units resigned en masse protesting what they termed "for showing irreverence and negligence to the departed souls of three BUET students including EUCSU VP Mir Ruhul Kabir," who were drowned in a boat-capsize in river Buriganga on May 14.

In a statement the leaders Monday bitterly criticised the central BNP and JCD leaders for not attending the namaz-e-janaza and the condolence meeting for the deceased. They pointed out that the BNP leader were patronizing the armed hooligans instead of the potentials. They also condemned that BNP leaders arranged for a helicopter for sending the dead body of Mirza Galeeb, an armed cadre but shown negligence in case of EUCSU VP Ruhul Kabir.

The leaders also said that Engineering University was the first to present JCD a VP in university level and influenced the whole student community a lot in bringing JCD to such a position. "But instead they even didn't bother to pay a little respect to Ruhul Kabir and two other JCD

workers, Shovon and Arif" said the President of JCD, BUET unit, Jahangir Alam.

Ruhul Kabir, a brilliant student secured first position in the combined merit list under Rajshahi Board in both the SSC and HSC examinations held in 1983 and 1985 respectively.

The leaders said that they upheld the ideals of late President Ziaur Rahman and never encouraged terrorism. But this time they had to decide to resign in a ground to pay homage to the departed souls of the deceased who were the exemplary identities of all the student leaders and BNP ought to be the proud of a brilliant student leader like Ruhul Kabir.

Earlier, DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam came in the BUET campus to express sympathy and to donate Taka 10,000 for the Gulshahawati of the deceased students. But the students refused to receive the money and rebuked him and the central leaders for showing negligence. At one stage the agitated students made Alam run off the campus. Two crackers were blasted following the incident, but none was reported to be injured.

## Country's image will be tarnished if rule of law denied: Mustafiz

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman, yesterday urged all to show respects to the rule of law for maintaining peace, progress, stability and democracy, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest a rally of the 'Soldiers of Zia' who participated in the anti-autocracy movement of 1990, here yesterday afternoon at the Dhanmondi Club Ground. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman MP also spoke on the occasion. Former student leader Jamal Sharif Hiru presided.

Pleading for the stabilization of the rule of law in the country, the Foreign Minister said, even during the anti-autocracy movement of 1990 we had not taken laws in our own hands. We have shown respects to the courts of law and did not try Ershad and his associates in the so-called people's court, he said, adding, we also wanted the trial of Professor Golam Azam but maintained that it should be held in the court, not in the so-called people's court.

Bangladesh's image would be tarnished if we could not show respects to law, he said, adding, internationally we had earned reputation as a nation for our peaceful anti-autocracy movement and people's upsurge of 1990.

Blaming a political party for

playing a dubious role, he said this political party did not raise the Golam Azam issue in 1979 Parliament. This party even took part in the controversial Parliamentary Election of 1986 with the Jamaat-e-Islami and kept silence on the Golam Azam issue. Why this party is now raising this issue after 20 years of independence, he asked.

The Foreign Minister said this political party had no political issue now at hand and was trying to be on the streets using the so-called people court initiators as ladders.

But people would foil their conspiracy and added that the BNP would run the country for more years as people voted the BNP to do so.

The Foreign Minister said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is determined to build a self-reliant Bangladesh.

Education Minister Sircar said the present government is pledge-bound to restore the rule of law in the country as it is a precondition to stability and democracy.

The Education Minister warned the conspirators and said stern actions would be taken against them in cooperation with the people of the country. Sircar said Parliament makes laws and the High Court and the Supreme Court conduct trials according to those laws.

## Tuesday

5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
5:10 News in Bangla  
5:20 Recitation from the Geeta  
5:30 Documentary  
6:00 Shikshangon  
6:30 Programme on Mother and Children's Health  
7:05 Nazrul songs  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:30 Shapner Shahar  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Mini Series: To be the Best  
11:30 Khabar/The News  
11:40 Wednesday's programme summary  
11:45 Closing

## FM of Uganda due today

Kirunda Kivejinja, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Uganda will reach Dhaka today (Tuesday) on a two-day visit on his way back to Kampala after attending the NAM Coordination Bureau meeting in Bali, Indonesia, reports BSS.

During his stay here he will call on Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman and Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar and hold discussions on bilateral, regional and international matters of common interest.

He will also visit the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) at Gazipur.

## Weather

### Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office in a weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Tuesday) forecasts, rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Chittagong division, at many places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division.

Day temperatures are likely to fall by 3 to 4 degree Celsius over Chittagong division, 2 to 3 degree Celsius over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and 1 to 2 degree Celsius over Rajshahi division, forecasts Met office.

The maximum temperature in the country, 38.6 degree Celsius, was recorded in Rajshahi while the country's minimum 18.5 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet Monday.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6:36 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5:14 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature	Humidity
	Max	Min
Dhaka	34.8	27.8
Chittagong	34.8	26.7
Rajshahi	38.6	27.0
Khulna	35.8	26.0
Sylhet	28.3	18.5
Rangamati	36.1	26.0
Barishal	34.2	27.4
Faridpur	36.0	26.2

## 11 rly officers retire

Eleven officers of Bangladesh Railway have been retired on completion of 25 years of service under provision of Article 9 (2) of Public Servant Retirement Act, 1974, according to official source in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

The officers, who were retired are: Additional General Manager, West Azmal Hoq, Chief Engineer, East, A K M Saiful Alam, Senior Statistical Officer, CRB, Chittagong, Khawja Ahmud, Divisional Estate Officer, Lalmonirhat, Firoz Ahmed, Senior Establishment Officer, CRB, Altaf Hossain, Mechanical Engineer, R and F Mohammad Harun-ar-Rashid, Commandant, Security Force, Lalmonirhat, Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Section Officer, CCS Department, Baranatali, Mohammad Ismail Hossain, Assistant Engineer, Projects, Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Assistant Engineer, colony, Siddiqur Rahman and Assistant Estate Officer, Lalmonirhat, A N Wahid Afendi.

The retirement order of the officers comes into effect immediately.

## BNP to observe Zia's death anniversary

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will observe the 11th death anniversary of its founder, President Ziaur Rahman, on May 30, reports BSS.

A coordination meeting of the BNP held Monday at its central office directed all units of the party and front organisations to observe the day with elaborate programmes.

The day's programme will include discussion meetings, milad mahfil, Quran khwani, placing wreaths at the Mazar of the late leader and hoisting black flags and party flags.

The central programmes will include quran khwani at the Mazar of Shaheed Zia at 6 am placing wreaths at his Mazar, fatcha and milad at 9 am, keeping the party flag at half-mast, hoisting black flag atop the party's central office and discussion meeting at 4 pm at the Institute of Engineers on the day.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar presided over Monday meeting. It was attended, among others, by State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Begum Sarwar Rahman, Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, Whip Ashraf Hossain, Dhaka City BNP President Mir Showkat Ali MP, Begum Ahsanullah MP, Salaudinn Ahmed MP, Iskandar Ali, Nazrul Islam and Mafiqul Hasan Tripti.

## JS LGRD Cooperatives body meet held

The sixth meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry reviewed the rules, regulations and policy for undertaking the projects by the ministry, reports BSS.

The meeting, presided over by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, also reviewed the progress of implementation of the decision and recommendations made at the last meeting held on March 28.

Besides, the members of the committee expressed their views on some of the projects of local government and rural development.

The meeting was attended by A Sattar Haji Rashid Mos-harraf, Abdur Razzak, Mansur Ahmed and LGRD Secretary Mushfiqur Rahman.

## What's on today....

### Workshop on Garments Export

A two-day workshop on garments export research, business expansion and company development planning process, jointly organised by the UNDP, Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association and Bangladesh Hosiery Association, begins today (Tuesday) at 9 am at Hotel Purbani International in the city. Commerce Minister M K Anwar will inaugurate the workshop as chief guest.

### Rotary Club of Ramna

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today (Tuesday) at 5.30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel.

### Anniversary of Motijheel School

A discussion meeting has been arranged in celebration of 20th founding anniversary of Motijheel Night School today (Tuesday).

Information Minister Nazmul Huda will attend the meeting as chief guest scheduled to begin at 6.30 pm at the school premises.

Editor of the Weekly Holiday A Z S Enaetullah Khan and former Minister A K Faizul Haque will be the special guests on the occasion. Abul Hossain will preside.

## ILO team in city

A two-member team from ILO headquarters, Geneva comprising of MS Karin Ask and Ms Amy King arrived here Sunday on a two week trip for the evaluation mission of the ILO executed project 'Technologies for rural employment with special reference to women,' reports BSS.

During their stay in Bangladesh, they will visit different locations of the project which is being implemented by Ministry of Women's Affairs, government, according to a press release.

They are also expected to call on Sarwar Rahman, State Minister for Women's Affairs.

## Workshop on Irrigation begins

A four-day South Asian Regional Workshop on 'Groundwater Farmer-Managed Irrigation System and Sustainable Groundwater Management' began at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) here yesterday, reports UNB.

The workshop has been jointly organised by BARC and International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI).

About 60 delegates and experts from China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh are participating in the workshop, said a press release.

## "NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES"

The Containerised cargo ex. M.V. California Venus V-66367 from Keelung, ex. M.V. Asia Venture V-04264 from Genoa, ex. M.V. Alligator Columbus V-09303 & M.V. Leverkusen Express V-06317 from Hongkong M.V. 'Nanta Bhum' V-47 from Bangkok, M.V. 'Pacific Arrow' V-24030 from Kobe Yokohama, Hongkong, Nagoya, have been relayed to M.V. 'FONG YUN' V-9211 Imp. Rot. No. 347/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 18.5.92 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

## Green Delta Insurance Company Limited

HADI MANSION, 2, DILKUSHA COMMERCIAL AREA, DHAKA-1000

## Notice of Sixth Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Sixth Annual General Meeting of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd., will be held in the BCIC Auditorium, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A Dhaka on Sunday 28th June 1992 at 3.30 P.M. to transact the following business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Company.
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Audited Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December 1991 and the Auditor's Report thereon.
3. To declare the final dividend for the year ended 31st December 1991.
4. To elect Directors in place of retiring Directors as per the Articles of Association of the Company.
5. To appoint Auditors for the year 1992 and fix their remuneration.
6. To transact with the permission of the Chairman any other business which may be transacted at general meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

G. M. Shariful Ala  
Executive Vice President  
& Company Secretary

18th May 1992

## NOTES:

1. The Register of Members of the Company will remain closed from 20th June 1992 to 28th June 1992 both days inclusive.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend the meeting and vote on his behalf. Such proxy need to be a member of the Company.

## Tender Invitation Notice

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from Public Works Directorate approved building contractors, as per their financial solvency, for the undermentioned work/works. Tenders will be received by the undersigned/Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Sirajganj/Joipurhat & Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle, Bogra at their respective offices up to 12-00 noon on 26-5-92 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 hours in presence (if any) of the intending tenderers.

Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Class of contractor eligible to submit tender
1.	Construction of 3 (three) unit employees' residential quarters (two units ground floor & one unit 1st floor) of 800 sq ft attached to Betbari Customs & Excise complex in Bogra town 1991-92.	Tk. 15,37,758/=	Tk 30,156/=	Public Works Directorate approved special 1st class, 1st/2nd class building contractors.

Tender schedule of work, additional terms & conditions & tender form etc. can be seen at the offices of the undersigned/Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Sirajganj/Joipurhat/Sub-Divisional Engineer, Public Works Sub-division-1/2, Bogra & E/M sub-division, Bogra during office hours and can be purchased at the prescribed price (non-refundable) up to 5 pm of 24-5-92.

DFF (G) 9370-11/5  
G-595

Md Amzad Hossain  
Executive Engineer  
Bogra Public Works Department, Bogra.