Dhaka Day by Day

A New Faith for Unity and Peace

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

May 29th is a special day for over 5 million Bahais all over the world. On this day they commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the passing away of their spiritual leader Bahaullah. This year, which, started according to the Bahai Calendar from April 1992, has been declared as a holy year during which significant events will happen in the world. But what ever the year is, the Bahais are concerned with one main objective: to create a world of peace and bring about the unity of mankind. This is to be done not by making a melting pot of the world. Rather, this objective will be accomplished by the acceptance of those very charac teristics that make people different, through love of God and humanity.

The Bahai Centre on Circuit House road has been operating in this particular building since 1970 although the faith itself came to this part of the world about 120 years ago. Entering the building, which is quite easy, since there are no guards to stop you, one immediately experiences a sense of peace and tranquillity in the

spotlessly clean library and cool mosaic floors. The pc ople at the centre warm and gracious, speak ing in soft tones as if in a church. At the Bahai Centre anyone is welcome, no mat ter what his her religion. ethnicity or political affili-

ation. The Bahai Faith is one of the youngest and fastest growing religions of the world. It was founded in the mid-nineteenth century by Bahaullah, a Persian prophetic figure who devoted his entire life to impart the doctrines of the faith to the world. Although it has its origins from an Islamic matrix, the Bahai Faith is an indepen dent religion

and not a sect of Islam as is often believed The Bahai Faith is unique in that it universally accepts the validity of all other faiths - whether Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism etc. The Bahais believe that all religions are an integral part of one divine plan. This stems from the idea of evolution of religion that is, every religion has its relevance for specific periods, the Bahai Faith being the latest, appropriate for the present age the world is in.

This acceptance of all religions, ethnic groups, nationalities possibly accounts for the wide spread of the faith all over the world. One-third of the 6 million Bahais live in one or the other of the two largest national communities: India and Iran and they are still being persecuted in the latter country. In spite of persecution and skepticism, the Bahai Faith has managed to become a recognized, independent religion. Today there are 30,000 elected local spiritual assemblies functioning in over two hundred independent states and major territories. It is estimated that its membership represents over two thousand areas of the world. Bahai literature has been translated and pub-

lished in over 800 languages.

The Bahai Centre in Dhaka is only one of the 120,000 centres worldwide. In Bangladesh there are about 4000 localities where Bahais live with around 50,000 registered Bahai families from all social and economic backgrounds. This centre like all other Bahai centres, has a 9-member local spiritual assembly that is elected by the Bahai community. Every 19 days the centre arranges a feast held on the first day of each Bahai month. It may be mentioned that there are nineteen months each having nineteen days in the Bahai calendar, the number 9 having special spiritual significance.

The Bahai Centre also involves itself in social activities. Universal education being one of the main themes of the Bahai Faith, the centre has established a school for slum children. With a nominal fee of Tk 5 per month, these children get primary education, periodic medical check-ups and health education. Bahais do not believe in handing out alms to people; they believe the only way to help is to make people

self-reliant. In Rajshahi permanent medical clinic has been set up for women and children. line with another basic Bahai theme the equality of and women. According to Bahaullah women have not been able to exercise their full potential because they have not got adequate educational and social opportunities. With education, it is predicted, "women will abolish war-

fare among per said To the brave Thats mankind." who dared to challenge the With a large machine guns with their bare pool of dochands. Thai Ambassador in tors in the Ba-Bangladesh were among the hai community, the Centre has also arranged medi cal camps to help victims

cyclones. Seminars and awareness

of floods and

programmes on social issues such as drug abuse, disarmament and equality of sexes are

also a preoccupation for the Centre. All these activities are carried out with pure altruistic motives and there is no attempt made to convert anyone through obligation, a practice that is strictly prohibited by the faith. Acceptance of the religion has to be through free will without any kind of coercion.

The Bahai Faith advocates three basic principles - the oneness of God, the oneness of mankind and the fundamental unity of religions. With these three themes forming their foundation, the Bahai world community has embarked upon a crusade to bring about universal peace and security. At the local level the Bahai Centre works forward bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and guiding them towards a path of peace through humanity and tolerance. This preoccupation with peace, in itself, seems to justify the claim of the Bahai Faith as a progressive religion for today's turbulent world.

'Zia's ideals won't perish'

The emerging global religion.

Illustration : Helen Rutherford.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury Thursday called for projecting and upholding the ideals and philosophy of Shaheed Presi dent Ziaur Rahman, reports

He said "it is President Zia

Tender No.

Name of Work

Estimated Cost

Earnest Money

Time for com-

Eligibility of

contractor

to be had at

pletion of work

Name of offices the

Tender and schedule

Name of officers

and offices to receive

Tender and schedule

Last date of receiving

opening sealed tender

who gave us separate identity through his conception of Bangladeshi nationalism. He will be remembered by the people of this country, so long it exists."

Prof Chowdhury, who is also the Vice-Chairman of

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion marking the 11th death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman in the

> Organised by the Eden University College students union, the discussion was presided over by the college Principal

> > union Jahan Ara Begum. State minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman attended the discussion as the special guest while acting editor of the Dinkal Syed Zafar, convenor of the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) Amjad Hossain, poet Mosharral Karim, president of city Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Abul Khayer Bhutyan and Vice-President of the Eden University College Students Union Helen Zerin Khan took part in

and President of the students

the discussion. Prof Chowdhury said the Bangladeshi nationalism covered all the aspects - language, culture, history and geography of the country.

The deputy leader of the house said Shaheed Zia was a successful soldier, freedom fighter, politician, president and above all an honest person.

The BNP leader said Ziaur Rahman entered into politics to ensure the rights of the common people and safeguard the independence of the coun-

State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman paid high tributes to President Ziaur Rahman and said he would be remembered for ever for his ideals.

Though President Zia was killed, his ideals cannot be eliminated, Rahman said.

Int'l smugglers.engaged in illegal trading of ivory, elephant bones

international smugglers group is allegedly engaged in illegal trading of tvory and elephant bones in Bangladesh and a number of wild elephants were killed in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar forest areas during

the past months, reports BSS. A well informed source connected with Wild Life Preservation and Nature Conservation Society told BSS today that the ivory smugglers group had been operating in Chakkirani forest and of Bara hatiya under Lohagara upazila and Dulahazara forest of Cox's Bazar for quite some time and the group had already succeeded in their illegal trade.

The source mentioned that four wild elephants were shot at in the Chakkirani forest recently of whom one died and three others fled away The killers extracted ivory from the dead elephant. Some elephants were also shot and killed in Dulahazara forest re-

the last few weeks.

parted souls.

dren attired in black mourning

suits lighted candles at the

Dharmarajika Monastery at

Basabo and prayed in solemn

stlence for salvation of the de-

They also placed wreaths at

the altar of Buddha on which

letters on a black piece of pa-

One kilogram of tvory sells at Taka 4000 while one kg of bones sells at Taka 2000 lo-

cally, the source said. The source said the smugglers group and its local accomplices are very powerful and they even went to the extent of threatening the informed sources with dire consequences if their illegal elephant hunting was divulged to the appropriate authority. The tvory smugglers maintain link with some smugglers in Hong Kong. Some fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal are allegedly engaged in transporting the ivory and bones from Bangladesh to their destina-

The source said some forest officials are aware of the illegal killing of elephants in Dulahazara and Chakkirani forests, but they dared not to take any action against the illegal elephant hunters.

According to Wild Life

Preservation Act-1974, ele phant killers can be jailed for seven years with a fine of Taka

The source said the ivory smugglers and their accomplices had been operating in Chunati, Harbang, Chakkirani, and Dulahazara forest areas but the concerned authority had remained as silent observers. The elephant hunters reportedly used guns and rifles while killing the elephants. The tvory smugglers, the source alleged, were also involved in illegal heroin and cocaine trades in those areas.

Blaming the concerned of ficials the source repented that Chunati Wild Life Sanctuary covering an area of 19,177 acres land was gradually destroyed by a group of unscrupulous people by cutting trees, bamboos etc. and hunting deer, serrow (wild goat), wild foul, black cat and other wild animals and birds. Dochalta range in the sane

tuary was gradually deforested by a section of unscrupulous

people, the source added. The Chunati Wild Life Sanctuary established 1986 is not taken necessary care and its destruction rate is

increasing alarmingly, the so-

urce further added. There are 20 to 50 elephants in the sanctuary but these elephants do not find their food as bamboos are indiscriminately extracted. Elephants prefer eating bamboo plants. The elephants are leaving the sanctuary because of the fear from the hunters as well as shortage of food, nay, other wild animals and birds are leaving the sanetuary because of constant disturbances by hunters and illegal timber extracters.

The source was of the opinion that if legal actions were not taken against elephant killers immediately they would go on killing elephants.

Facilities for exporters sought

CHITTAGONG, May 28: Speakers at a seminar on "export incentives and facilities and the role of auxiliary organisations' called for extending increasing facilities to the exporters to enable them

to boost export, reports BSS. They said the exporters needed loan for shipping and packing of export goods, exemption of taxes, allocation of adequate fund for businessmen going abroad and more facilities for importing raw materi-

The seminar held under the auspices of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Chittagong as part of national export training programme was inaugurated by MKM Salehin, director of policy and planning, EPB, Dhaka while local director Abdul Majid Bhutyan presided NK Bharduaz, export development and promotion project coordinator, UNDP, was the guest speaker at the seminar. Thirty representatives from bank. autonomous bodies and export houses attended the seminar.

Thais pay homage to martyrs of democratic movement

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the Thai com-

At least 48 people were munity in Dhaka Thursday killed and hundreds injured as prayed for those who died on troops violently suppressed the Bangkok streets during a pro-democracy demonstration pro-democracy movement in in down town Bangkok, capital of Thailand. That men, women and chil-

However, according to an unofficial tally, the number of deaths might be in the hundreds. s

Thai civilians, particularly the country's middle class, which was fed up with the military dominance of politics, took to the streets after a coalition of pro-military parties on May 7 named Suchinda Kraprayoon as the country's Prime Minister. Suchinda (58). a former chief of Thai army, led a military coup which top-

for Dhaka city in the first week

of August and the annual con-

ference of the association in

Dhaka mahanagar branch of

the association with principal

Abdus Shaheed as president,

and Kafiluddin as general sec-

A 25-member committee of

pled an elected government in February last year.

Talking to the Daily Star, a That citizen in Dhaka, Kannika Marco said the mourning was arranged "to express our soltdarity with those who sacri ficed their lives.

However, she declined to comment on the present political situation in Thailand or the role of the coalition during the movement. There are about 50 Thai citizens living in

A message from the Thai community in Dhaka said Sunday that 'although the fighting has stopped, the hatred and pain remain, and a true democracy in Thailand is still a far cry."

Creation of new posts in govt colleges demanded

October next.

retary was formed.

The Executive Committee of the BCS General Education Association at a meeting held in the city Wednesday demanded immediate implementation of the decisions that were taken in a meeting of the Education Ministry and the association on March 23 last, reports BSS.

The meeting held with the association president Professor Naziruddin Ahmed in the chair said that the teachers directly recruited by the Public Service Commission have been suffering in case of promotions as new posts could not be created in the newly nationalised col-

The meeting demanded the creation of necessary posts in the newly nationalised colleges, initiative of the authorities to promote 20 per cent reserve posts through PSC immediately after June 30 next, recruitment of lecturers in 3,000 vacant posts immediately and ensuring of the promotion of lecturers before June 30 and creation of promotion opportunities for the gazetted librarians. The meeting decided to

hold the regional conference



Last batch of Army personnel belonging to the Infantry Battalion of the Bangladesh Army leaving Zia International Airport for Bangkok Thursday on their way - ISPR photo

Morning Session: Opening announcement

Friday

Al-Quran Programme summary News in Bangla Cartoon: Mutant Ninja

Turtles Documentary film on 9:00

The Spectacular World of Guiness Records 10:00 News in English 10:05 Moner Mukurey

11:15 National Geographic Explorer 12:15 Evening programme

summary 12:30 Closing. **Evening Session:**

3:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary

3:12 Recitation from the Tripitak 3:15 Alore Dishari (Religious programme)

Movie of the Week News in Bangla Sports programme: Football Anu Paromanu

(Songs Sangeeta programme) News in Bangla

8:30 Eurotops Antaranga (Magazine programme) 10:00 News in English 10:30 Special programme on

Nazrul Jayanti 11:30 Khabar/The News 11:40 Saturday's programme summary 11:45 Closing.

Civil Aviation meet held The fourth meeting of the

JS body on

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism was held at the Jatiya Sangsad in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS. State Minister for Civil

Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan presided over the meeting.

DFP(G) 10184-24/5 G-659

to Cambodia.

Weather

in percentage

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally

wind is likely at many places over Khulna division, at a few places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over

the country during the period. Meteorological office forecast Thursday.

Little change in weather would be noticed in subsequent Rainfall was reported from nearly 20 places over the country during the last 24 hours ended 6 pm Thursday.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Friday) at 6.41 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.11 am. The highest temperature of 35.3 degree Celsius was

recorded in Chuadanga. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Thursday were: Temperature in degree Celsius Humidity Cities/Towns

6 pm 9 am Min Max 74 25.0 87 32.9 Dhaka 77 24.0 31.8 Chittagong Rajshahi 23.6 34.5 75 24.2 34.0 Khulna 23.0 Barisal 31.0 31.0 25.0 Cox's Bazar 22.0 31.8 Sylhet 33.5 24.0 Rangpur 24.0 35.3 Chuadanga

High Commission of India presents

A Retrospective of Satyajit Ray's Films at the High Commission Auditorium

(House No. 25, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi R.A.) Shatranj Ke Khilari (Hindi) Sonar Kella (Bengali) 7-11 Ganashatru (Bengali) 14-18 Samapti (Bengali) 21-25 28-30. Ghare Baire (Bengali)

Show time: 6.30 pm. Passes are available at the Information Wing of the High Commission (Phone No. 507743) for the film shows on first-come-first-served basis. D-292

याशिया विद्यार्थ

গ্রামোলয়ন ও সেবামূলক কাজের জন্য কর্মসূচী সংগঠক পদে ব্র্যাক বাংলাদেশী মহিলা নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে দরখান্ত আহ্বান করছে। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা স্রাতকোন্তর। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩৩ বংসর। বেতন সর্বসাকুল্যে ৩,১২৫ টাকা।

মহিলা কর্মীদের জন্য ব্র্যাকের সব প্রকল্পে নিধরচায় থাকার ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। নিবাচিত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই সাইকেল ব্যবহার করতে হবে। চাকরীতে স্থায়ী হলে গ্রাচুইটি, প্রতিভেন্ট ফাল্ড ও ইন্সিওরেন্সের সুবিধা পাবেন।

প্রার্থীদের আবেদন পত্র, এক কলি ছবি এবং নাম, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, বয়স, বৈবাহিক অবস্থা, শিকাগত যোগ্যতা (সাল, ক্লাস/ডিভিশন) সম্বলিত জীবনবৃত্তান্ত আগামী ৩০শে জুন ১৯৯২-এর মধ্যে পার্সোনেল ডিপার্টমেন্ট, ব্রাক ৬৬ মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ এই ঠিকানায় পৌছতে হবে। আবেদন পত্রের সঙ্গে সার্টিফিকেটের অনুলিপি সংযুক্ত করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

ঢাকা, মন্নমনসিংহ, রংপুর ও যশোর এই চারটি কেন্দ্রে নির্বাচনী পরীকা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। প্রার্থী যে কেন্দ্রে পরীকা দিতে ইচ্ছুক খাম ও আবেদন পত্রের ওপর সে

Office of the Tax Commissioner

Tax Zone-6 2nd 12-storey Govt Building (1st Floor) Segunbagicha, Dhaka

House Wanted on Rent

Wanted more or less 17000 Sq ft space (in one or more houses) at Segunbagicha, Kakrail, Shantinagar, Malibag, Maghbazar and adjacent area for the offices under Tax Zone-6, Dhaka. Houses on main road and with parking facility are preferred. Please contact the undersigned immediately with expected rent.

M A Wazed Mia Sub-tax Tax Commissioner (Sadar-Admin) Tax Zone-6, Dhaka Phone: 416351

BCIC **Tender Notice**

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamgonj invites sealed tenders from job related experienced parties for supply, installation and commissioning of one 10+100 Line Digital PABX including a telephone network. Tenders shall be received up to 11-00 hrs. on 08-06-92 and opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders/ representatives, if any. Tender documents available from (I) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 and (II) Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd., Chhatak, Sunamgonj and upon cash payment of nonrefundable cost of Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred) only. No tender document will be sold on the opening date.

CCCL will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation or submission of bids including cost and expenses related to any visit to the Project Site.

BCIC 417-19/5

DFP (BA) 4541-20/5

G-626

DFP(G) 10088-23/5

sealed tender

10. Date and time of

232/EE/1991-92. Supply of spare parts and materials for repair to Asphalt plant of Road Division-1, Dhaka. As per schedule.

R&H Tender Invitation Notice

Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Dhaka). 20 (twenty) days from the date of issuing of Work Order.

2% of estimated cost (in favour of

'A' to 'C' class contractor, R&H, 'D' class contractor. Workshop Circle, Dhaka and 'E' class contractor of this Division.

Per set including Bangladesh Form No 2908 can be purchased at Tk 20/= (non-refundable) from Workshop Division/Equipment Control Division, Dhaka/Equipment Control Division/Planning and Programming Division, Dhaka

during office hours. Superintending Engineer, R&H, Workshop Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division Dhaka/ Executive Engineer, R&H, Equipment Control Division, Dhaka. 8-6-92 up to 12-00 Noon.

8-6-92 at 12-30 pm.

Md Golam Mostafa Executive Engineer, R&H Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.