

Dhaka Day by Day

Getting Into Grips With French

by Fayza Haq

The French to Bangla dictionary by Gurusada Chakrabarty of Chittagong, launched this month, contains 3,500 words, scientifically selected, with coherent lexicographical approach. This is certainly a definite intellectual achievement.

There are dictionaries from French to English and English to French available at bookshops in places like New Market, Sobhanbagh and the Alliance Francaise, but this one is specially suited more proficent in the Bengali medium, those who wish more than just the text and to use the Alliance Francaise library fully would want to read magazines, books, and newspapers with the help of dictionaries. It is not always that the teacher is at hand to help with the difficult words and phrases, and you cannot limit yourself to the text alone.

Since the first trading post was set up at Chandernagur in 1690-22, Indian studies was more on commerce and defence and territorial matters rather than cultural ones. August Aussenant may be said to have compiled the first French-Bangla dictionary of a sort with 12,000 French words, and 30,000 Bengali synonyms. The work, never published, is at the National Library at Paris.

Manuel da Affumpeam compiled the first Bengali to Portuguese dictionary in 1743 on which Aussenant's work was based. The first Bengali dictionary to use Bengali characters was done in 1793 and was known as Upjohn's dictionary. "It is very useful to use to teach the locals English and to assist the beginners in learning Bangla" was said about it. William Carey too made remarkable contribution with his Bengali to English dictionary in 1815.

In the Middle Ages, in Europe, after Latin the Church language, French was the second international language. In England it was the official language from the Norman conquest till the fifteenth century. The use of French was so common in Europe that Marco Polo wrote his accounts of his travels in French in 1298.

It was also in French that Gibbon, the historian of "The decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" published his first work in 1761. In the years leading to the French Revolution in 1789 Europe's high society of the educated, fashionable and elegant all spoke French,

Fredrick II of Prussia and Catherine the Great of Russia made it a point to speak French as did the royalty in Germany and Italy.

The French language also made great progress as French settlers and explorers went to the corners of the globe. A first phase of expansion began in the sixteenth century, when the French settled in Canada and other parts of North America, in Africa and the Indian Sub-continent.

The eighteenth century wars led to the loss of French possessions, except overseas territories. However, the nineteenth century saw a new and unparalleled wave of colonial expansion, France gradually became the heart of the huge African and Asian region; in this manner schools were established in various far-flung areas to teach French.

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles which put an end to World War I, was written both in French and English. In 1945 the French language acquired the same position as English in the United Nations.

French and Bengali belong to the same group of languages, the Indo-European group. The most ancient Indo-European language which can be studied is Sanskrit and, even if the idioms diverged as centuries elapsed, significant cores of words with same root exist. The figures are a good example of this shared ancestry.

Deux = dui
Six = chhoy
Sept = shat
Neuf = noy
Dix = dosh

When I asked a student of the Alliance Francaise Dhaka about his opinion of the dictionary, he replied that he was happy enough with his English to French version but was pleased to know that some progress had been made for his colleagues who have had Bangla as their medium of instruction. Another student of French that I came across was delighted to have this book because his comprehension of Bangla was far superior to that of his understanding of English.

Thanks to the first edition of the French Bengali dictionary 300 million people have now a lexical bridge between them. However a considerable distance exists for the bridge to be a much used passage.

DICTIONNAIRE FRANÇAIS-BANGLA

ফরাসি-বাংলা অভিধান



Alliance Francaise de Chittagong

আলিয়ঁস ফ্রসেজ চট্টগ্রাম

BTV
Wednesday

5:00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary
News in Bangla
5:20 Recitation from the Quran
5:30 Campus
6:00 Sports programme:
Gillette world sports special
6:30 Samachar
7:05 Hijaal-tamal
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Sangbad Parikrama
9:00 McCyver
10:00 News in English
10:25 Sangsad round up
10:35 Shilpa O Shahitya
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:40 Thursday's programme summary
11:45 Closing.



STAR TV
BBC
WORLD SERVICE TELEVISION
Wednesday

00:00 World News
00:25 World Business Report
01:00 World News
01:25 News from London
02:00 World News
02:15 Panorama
03:00 News Headlines
03:05 Documentary
04:00 World News
04:25 News from London
05:00 World News
05:25 Network East
06:00 World News
06:25 Newsnight
07:00 World News
07:25 World Business Report
08:00 World News
08:25 Newsnight
09:00 World News
09:15 40 Minutes
10:00 World News
10:25 Wogan
11:00 World Headlines
11:05 Inside Story
12:00 World News
12:25 Open Space
13:00 World News
13:30 Business Morning
14:00 World News
14:25 Kilroy
15:00 World Headlines
15:05 Inside Story
16:00 World News
18:00 World News
18:25 Wogan
19:00 World News
19:25 Open Space
20:00 World News
20:25 News from London
21:00 World News
21:15 40 Minutes
22:00 World Headlines
22:05 Inside Story
23:00 World News
23:25 Wogan

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

STAR plus
Wednesday

00:00 120 Minutes
03:00 Music Videos
05:00 The Day in Rock
05:30 Rockumentary: John Mellancamp
06:00 Awake on the Wild Side
09:00 MTV Power Pack
10:00 MTV's Most Wanted
11:00 Classic MTV
12:00 Awake on the Wild Side
15:00 Music Videos - VJ Danny McGill
18:00 Music Videos
20:00 The Day in Rock
20:30 Rockumentary: John Mellancamp
21:00 MTV Power Pack
22:00 MTV's Most Wanted
23:00 Classic MTV

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

STAR plus
Wednesday

00:00 St Elsewhere
01:00 Movie: Night Elevator
02:30 Beyond Tomorrow
03:00 Newhart
03:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
04:00 Donahue
05:00 Santa Barbara
06:00 Attitudes
07:00 Everyday Workout
07:30 Smoggies
08:00 Animated Classics
09:00 Terrahawks
09:30 Return to Treasure Island
10:30 Jupiter Moon
11:00 Attitudes
12:00 Parent Survival Guide
12:30 Mother's Day
13:00 Santa Barbara
14:00 Donahue
15:00 Eye on Asia
16:00 Madeleine Cooks
16:30 Mac & Mutley
17:00 Adventures on Kytara
17:30 Cartoon Classics
18:00 Jupiter Moon
18:30 Beyond Tomorrow
19:00 Whose Line is it Anyway?
19:30 Big City Metro
20:00 St Elsewhere
20:50 Hollywood Stars
21:00 Movie: Love All Summer
22:30 Newhart
23:00 The Bold & the Beautiful
23:00 Fame Fortune & Romance

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

CCC completes Chaktai Reexcavation Project

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has completed Taka 3.5 crore Chaktai Re-Excavation Project and with this vast areas of the city will be saved from frequent inundation by rains waters during the rainy season, reports BSS.

City Corporation Mayor Mir Muhammad Nasir Uddin today told newsmen that successful completion of the Chaktai Re-excitation Project was possible because of the whole-hearted cooperation of the people, members of the City Development Committee comprising leaders of different shades of opinion and the engineers and employees of the corporation.

The Mayor expressed his deep gratitude to all concerned saying people's cooperation for implementing any development programme is indispensable.

Mayor Nasir Uddin said that more than ten lakh city dwellers of Muradpur, Bibirhat, Chaktai, Khatunganj, Agrabad, Nastrabad and some other areas would now be safe from frequent inundation by rain waters during the rainy seasons.

Biswas, Khaleda greet Duke, PM of Luxembourg

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has greeted Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg on the occasion of his country's national day, reports BSS.

In a message to Duke Jean, President Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Luxembourg continued peace, progress and prosperity.

In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Jacques Santer, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the occasion of national day of that country.

Dr Matin's death anniversary today

The 11th death anniversary of Dr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Bose Professor of Physics, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka and founder Chairman of Bangladesh Parishad will be observed today (Wednesday), says a press release.

On this occasion a Milad Mahfil will be held at 5-30 P.M. at the residence of Razia Matin Chaudhury, House No. 66-B, Road No.18, Banani, Dhaka.



Obituary

Lifelong teacher and educationist Kazi Nizamuddin Omar of Salar, Murshidabad, passed away on June 19 in Dhaka, a press release says.

Late Omar was former teacher of St. Gregory's High School and later he joined the Shaheen School, Dhaka from where he retired as Vice Principal in 1980. The deceased left behind his wife and three sons and two daughters.

Omar's Qukhani was held on Monday at the residence of his eldest son Prof. K Ikhtyar Omar of BUET.

Philips award for Bangla year 1398

Philips Bangladesh Limited has announced the Philips award for literature and journalism for the Bangla year 1398, reports BSS.

Showkat Ali has been awarded for his novel 'Uttarer Khep' Khairul Anower of Dainik Bangla for his investigative report 'Chadabazder Dourata'.

The award is worth Tk. 50,000 each plus a trophy.



MH MENG HORNG SHIPPING PTE LTD
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. FONG-YUN V9215 IMP. ROT NO. 474/92 TOOK BERTHED CHITTAGONG PORT ON 23RD JUNE 1992 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(B) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 462/92 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA U.K., CONTINENT, MEDITERRANEAN/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

GENERAL AGENTS:
Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.
(A BCS COMPANY)

DHAKA
19/F Sena Kalyan Bhaban
195 Motijheel C/A
Tel: 864546, 864547
Tlx: 632105 BOSHUP BU
Telex: 863734

CHITTAGONG
G/F Jiban Bima Bhaban
105/3 Sk. Mujib Rd. Agrabad
Tel: 504313, 502123
Tlx: 633027 BOSHUP BU
Telex: 225625

KHULNA
25 Yousuf Row
Mirzapur
Tel: 21175, 24330
Tlx: 633002 BOSHUP BU
Telegram: BOSHUP

Be aware of counterfeits

Paracetamol
Glaxo

Glaxo's Paracetamol strips are approved by the Drugs Administration.

Many companies are trying to sell their Paracetamol tablets in strips designed to look just like Glaxo's. The purpose of such unethical practice is quite clear. We would like to ensure that consumers get the good quality product for which they are paying. If you are paying for Glaxo's Paracetamol please make sure you get the right strip printed with the "Glaxo" logo on it.

M.R.P. (including taxes) Tk. 0.53 per tablet.

Glaxo
Glaxo Bangladesh Limited
This advertisement has the approval of the Director Drugs Administration.

Biswas presents bus for students of BM College

President Abdur Rahman Biswas presented a bus for the students of Barisal Government BM University-College at a function held at Bangabhaban Tuesday, reports BSS.

The key of the 50-seater bus was received from the President by the Principal of the college, Professor Mohammad Hanif.

The handing over of the bus at a cost of about Taka 19 lakh would fulfil the commitment of the President as per demand of the students of the college.

At Reliance Your Security Comes First

With its strong back-up of human resources, indepth know-how and wealth of experience, Reliance is fully geared to meet all your general insurance requirements in a fast changing world

EXPERIENCE * STRENGTH * SECURITY
RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED
BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE
DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH
Phone: PABX - 240105-6, 235080
Telex: 671186 RIL BU

SINGER - ALWAYS THE LEADER

Whether the product is leather or spine, SINGER provides the modern sewing technology. It gives the maximum sewing facilities in limited time and guarantees international standard. SINGER assures best sewing performance for all kinds of leather and spine bags, briefcases, belts, shoes, sandals and a wide variety of products. Most leather industries are now using SINGER industrial sewing machines. Use SINGER machines and maximise your export performance.

For detail please contact: Industrial Product Dept. SINGER Bangladesh Limited, 39, Dilkusha C.A. Dhaka-1000. Phone: 247194, 21852. Fax: 880-2, 863662

SINGER
Feeding excellence a step ahead