

Dhaka Day by Day

'We are Bengalee —!

By Rahat Fahmida

"The journalists from Bangladesh were stunned to see the objective reports about their country on the Indian newspapers. There was a misconception, which still needs to be clarified further through regular communication," said Hiranmay Karlekar. A conference for the Editors was held in New Delhi, which was attended by quite a few journalists from Bangladesh. According to this well-known Indian journalist, the conference was a good eye opener, especially for the younger editors.

Working for about three decades, with some of the most reputable newspapers of India, Karlekar pointed out that there were and still are some misconceptions which are mainly 'communal'.

While talking to The Daily Star during his recent visit to Dhaka, he sounded depressed as he mentioned that both India and Bangladesh were under the umbrella of 'sub-continent'. Religion did not overshadow the cultural linkage then, which is now happening. With enlightened views and clear conception about his ideas, Karlekar strongly feels that such religious bias and communal feelings can be outgrown. Religion is a personal belief.

A close relative of Satyajit Ray, Hiranmay Karlekar looked

more like a hero from one of Ray's films, than a journalist. Discussing Bengali cultural life and the intensity of the literary works influencing the life in both Bengals, Karlekar said, "We read a poem or a story or a play and discover that we knew more than we suspected, about loyalty and identity, love between men and women. It also says about courage in the face of difficulties, about the desperation of men and women frightened by great events, about what it feels like to meditate upon a great idea. The feelings are very much same about the way in which comedy dissolves our anxieties and refreshes our presence of mind. The fact that we are Bengalees, should come first."

There are writers, poets and scholars

whom we cannot claim to be from a particular Bengal. Their words give us meanings that we can never quite shake off. For they give us meanings that enrich both our awareness of ourselves and our sense of a background of values without which we could not be 'selves' at all."

Since Bengal has been divided and there are misconceptions mainly arising from the so called 'communal' feelings. So Karlekar feels that communication between these two countries is essential. Journalists are considered to be one of the main communicators.

The key factor in establishing communication is the establishment of trust. That is why the Editors Guild of India, of which Hiranmay Karlekar is an active member,

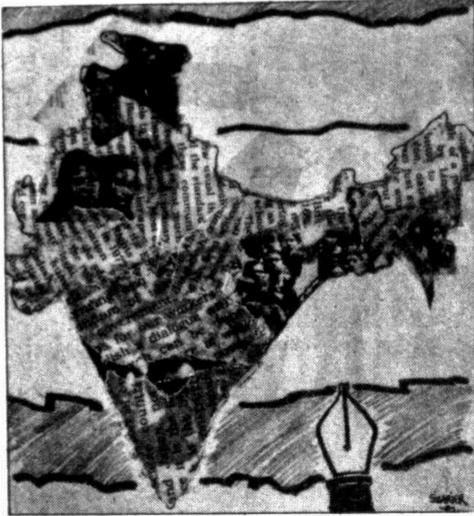
arranged a conference for a selected group of editors from both the countries. The task taken up, is to try and keep the reality of the situation alive and relatively unclouded.

"Journalists in both the countries should avoid unauthentic responses and communicate with authentic ones," said Karlekar. "When a journalist's messages are vague or confused he/she can not respond with specificity and concreteness."

"These two qualities, which help in sharpening a reporter's awareness of expression, serve complementary functions to empathy enabling him/her to deal specifically with areas of concern. "We are looking forward to our meeting in December this year, that is editors from both India and Bangladesh, and this time in Dhaka."

Hiranmay Karlekar, 52, was confident and articulate throughout his conversation. Starting his career with the famous Statesman of Calcutta, he is now Senior Editor of Indian Express, based in New Delhi.

Correction: The designation of Dr. M. D. Husain, which was inadvertently printed on this column on 1.7.92, as Assistant Vice-president should be actually Vice-president of Bangladesh Public Health Association. We regret the error.



Draft voters list to be published July 12

Election Commission will publish the draft voter list of four city corporations and 103 pourashavas on July 12, reports UNB.

A press release of the Commission issued yesterday said, objections or demands concerning the voter list should be sent to the concerned Revising Authority or Registration Officer or Assistant Registration Officer on or before July 28 through filling scheduled forms.

Revising Authorities will finalise the objections or demands within August 13 after proper investigation and hearing, the press release said.

EC has appointed 918 Revising Authorities to finalise the voters' demands and objections. Of them, 103 officers for 103 pourashavas each, 14 off-

cers for 4 city corporations and one for Dhaka Cantonment Board.

Additional District Magistrates of 60 pourashavas in district headquarters and Upazila/thana Nirbahi Officers of other pourashavas have been appointed as Revising Authority.

Chief Executive Officer of Tongi Pourashava and Executive Officer of Dhaka Cantonment will work for Gazipur district and Dhaka Cantonment Board.

Additional District Magistrates, Additional District Administrators (overall), Additional District Administrators (revenue), Additional District Administrators (LA) and concerned deputy election commissioners have been appointed as Revising Authority.



Carl Olof Cederblad, Swedish Ambassador in Bangladesh, met Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday. — Star photo

Teesta Barrage to go into operation by '94-95

Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Majed-ul Haq told the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday that by 1994-95 the first phase of the Teesta Barrage project would go into operation, reports BSS.

The construction of Teesta Barrage project would be completed by then, the minister said and added that the construction of canal system of the project was now in progress. He said by 1994-95 the entire area under the project would be brought under irrigation facility.

In this connection, the minister said the project had been divided into two phases paving the way for its implementation. Under the first phase, a total of 3,25,000 acres of land and in the second phase 10,10,000 acres would be brought under irrigation facility, he mentioned.

He said, with the pressing into operation on the first phase of the project 4,40,000 metric tons of additional paddy would be grown annually. He further said with the implementation of the second phase the production of an additional 11,09,000 metric tons of paddy would be possible.

The minister said this in a written reply to a question from Amjad Hossain Talukder (AL-Kurigram).

He said there was no proposal to drop the Teesta Barrage project. The work of

the project is, however, now limited to the phase-1, he said. He said there was an allocation of Taka 39.50 crore during 1991-92.

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Happy Marriage Day to Reza & Samira From Nadeem

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AMMU, ABBU, APU, DULABHAI & BHAIYA

In Remembrance with fond Memories

Dolly Anwar From a

Bangladesh example of communal harmony

Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Haq yesterday said Bangladesh is a unique example of communal harmony where all citizens irrespective of caste, creed and religious belief can enjoy the right of observing religious festivals with full freedom, reports BSS.

He was addressing a religious congregation at Dhamrai, about 40 kilometres from Dhaka, on the occasion of Rathajatra Festival.

The Agriculture Minister said that the people of Bangladesh were traditionally non-communal. People of the

country fought for independence against our common enemy in 1971 and ultimately we got freedom. Haq said that the government would fulfil the commitments of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman by constructing a new and bigger Rath at Dhamrai. The original Rath was destroyed by the occupation army during Liberation War in 1971.

Presided over by Shibsankar Chakrabarty, the inaugural function was also addressed by Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, Chief of Dhaka Ramkrishna Mission Swami Aksharanand Maharaj and Thakur Gopal Banik.

BIWTC to start token card system at ferry ghats

The serial in ferry transportation at BIWTC ferry ghat will henceforth be strictly followed to stop extortion of money by a section of people, a BIWTC press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The serial token for ferry transportation of vehicles will be given under the joint control of police and BIWTC. BDR personnel will also be engaged at the ferry ghat to maintain law and order there.

The serial card programme of BIWTC will be guided as follows: (i) serial card is to be collected from police box, to be controlled by police and BIWTC before entry of vehicle into the ferry ghat.

(ii) the driver of a vehicle is to collect ticket from the ferry counter on presenting the serial card.

(iii) the name of a particular ferry will be mentioned in the ticket and vehicle is to be transported by the pre-mentioned ferry.

(iv) realisation of any unofficial toll or money has been totally banned and is liable to punishment.

The BIWTC press release said it had been noticed for a long time that a section of people had been extorting illegal tolls by force at different ferry ghats in the pretext of giving serial number for transportation of vehicles. The amount of such tolls vary from Taka twenty to Taka two hundred.

Discipline precondition for uplift

State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman said here yesterday that discipline and order was precondition to socio-economic development, cultural creativity and its nourishment, reports BSS.

The state minister was addressing as the chief guest the two-day annual drama ceremony of 'Sonali Bank Drama '92' organised by the Sonali Bank Employees Association (CBA) at Engineer's Institute auditorium.

Director of Sonali Bank board of directors Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury MP was the special guest.

Presided over by president of the Federation of Bangladesh Bank Employees Association and President of Sonali Bank CBA Bakhtiar Hossain, the function was addressed by General Secretary of the CBA Mahmud Ullah Chowdhury.

Transport leaders meet Oli

Some transport leaders led by executive president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation Manzurul Ahsan Khan met the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed Wednesday night and expressed their satisfaction over the withdrawal of transport strike, reports BSS.

The leaders informed the minister about the death of driver Shahidullah, who succumbed to bomb injury, and said all should behave responsibly.

School boy escapes kidnappers

By Staff Correspondent

A school boy, Zahurul Haq Shanta, managed to escape the grip of kidnappers at Narsting Saturday last.

He was kidnapped on last Wednesday and the kidnappers demanded Taka five lakh as ransom, family sources said.

However, Shanta escaped and took shelter at the residence of the principal of Toy-nagar Girls' High School Saturday and the principal brought him to the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shibpur Police Station on the same day.

The police are yet to take action against the kidnappers who, Shanta's family members say, are local.

New DRR of Rotaractors

Rtr A K Mojibur Rahman, past president of Dhaka North-East recently has been elected as District Rotaractor Representative (DRR) of R I District 3280, Bangladesh. He took over the responsibility on July 1, 1992. He has got his new assignment from IPDRR Rtr A N Fazle Rabbi Mopasha of Jessore on June 27 on 9th Rotaractor District installation held at Narayanganj, says a press release.

6,775.89 metric ton wheat allotted for clearing silt

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan told the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday that under Food for Work programme 6,775.89 metric tons of wheat had been allotted for clearing silt of 60.05 km rivers to improve navigability locally, reports BSS.

In this connection, the minister said annually 2.40 billion metric tons of silt is carried by the rivers of the country resulting in loss of their navigability.

Int'l community urged to help build sound global economy

Ambassador Humayun Kabir, leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the Economic and Social Council and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, called upon international community to take all necessary steps to maintain a sound and supportive global economic environment which should be conducive to the development efforts undertaken by the developing world, reports BSS.

Expressing grave concern at the growing marginalisation of the least developed countries, ambassador Kabir stressed the utmost need for increased and concessional financial flow to the LDCs from their development partners.

Addressing the economic committee meeting yesterday of the on-going ECOSOC representative said that the priority goals like eradication of poverty and hunger, human resource development, slowing population growth and environmentally sound and sustainable development of developing countries are yet to be realised due to serious resource constraints. He expressed concern at protectionist policies of the industrialised countries, and in this context referred to the lack of progress in the negotiation at the Uruguay round of talks.

Saudi Minister visits KSFL

His Excellency Abdulrahman Al-Suhabani, Assistant Deputy Minister for National Economy, K S A, Turki Mohammed Al-Sudairi, Director, SABINCO and Director, Kader Synthetic Fibres Ltd. and Md Kutubuddin, General Manager, SABINCO, visited Kader Synthetic Fibres Ltd. (KSFL) on July 2, 1992, says a press release.

Alhaj Abdul Kader Mia, Chairman and Md Sahabuddin Ahmed, Managing Director, KSFL received the guests and showed them around.

Kader Synthetic Fibres Ltd., a joint venture with Netherlands' Development Finance Company (FMO), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Finance and Investment Corporation (AFIC), Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial & Agricultural Investment Company Ltd. (SABINCO) and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) is the first polyester filament yarn manufacturing plant in Bangladesh and is now under construction. The process and production technology is from TORAY, Japan. SABINCO's investment in the project will be around Taka 250 million.

Swedish envoy meets Anwar

The Ambassador of Sweden in Bangladesh, Carl Olof Cederblad, called on Commerce Minister M K Anwar at his office Thursday, reports BSS.

During the discussion, they dwelt on different matters relating to bilateral trade facilities and increasing the volume of trade between two countries.

The minister said that Bangladesh was maintaining good relationship with Sweden in trade matters, which would be more strengthened on the basis of cordial and mutual co-operation and understanding.

Int'l meet on population, fertility issues in Ctg

Senior family planners and eminent doctors from all over South Asia will gather in Chittagong this week for high-level meetings on population and fertility issues, reports BSS.

The South Asia Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is holding its regional council meeting in Chittagong, from July 6-8. It will be attended by more than 40 delegates from the Family Planning Associations of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Electronic goods worth Tk 5 lakh seized

The Customs officials Thursday seized some illegally imported air-conditioners, colour televisions, cameras, video cassettes and school bags from the Surma Mail train coming from Sylhet at Dhaka rail station, reports BSS.

According to a Customs press release, the value of these unclaimed items was estimated at Taka five lakh.

A departmental case has been registered in this connection, the press release said.

Death condoled

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Thursday expressed his deep shock and grief at the sudden death of Mohammad Abdul Bari, District Registrar of Munshiganj, who died in Dhaka yesterday in a road accident, reports BSS.

The Law Minister in a condolence message, said that late Abdul Bari was a sincere and honest official of the registration department.

Weather

Day temperature to remain unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am today (Friday).

The Met office forecast, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. Rainfall activities may increase within five days, observes the Met office.

The country experienced rainfall at few places yesterday (Thursday). The highest of 38 mm rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm was reported from Bhola while Cox's Bazar recorded 29 mm, Patuakhali 26 mm, My-mensingh 19 mm, Sitakund 15 mm, Fenl 14 mm, Kutubdia 9 mm and Dinajpur 2 mm.

The highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was reported from Jessore and the lowest of 23.6 degree was reported from Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6.51 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.16 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	33.5	27.8	86	67
Chittagong	31.0	25.5	76	92
Khulna	35.4	26.0	89	86
Rajshahi	35.3	24.5	73	81
Dinajpur	33.2	23.6	95	72
Jessore	35.5	25.0	-	-
Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.6	96	93
Sylhet	29.8	24.0	95	86

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