

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

In Search of Roots

by Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury

Being a citizen of one of the poorest countries of the world is not an enviable status by any standard. This predicament becomes all the more difficult when you are a vibrant youth caring all that is happening to your country socially, culturally, economically and politically. It sometimes evokes a feeling of an eternal black-hole tragedy. This is the moment when one looks back to the glorious past of his nation, which like priceless gems removes the sorry facts of life and allows one to face life with renewed vigour and hope.

Bakshi Habibur Rahman, a youth in his late twenties set himself to the strenuous task of finding out the roots of his nationhood. For carrying out this task he followed a rather unusual method. He collected autographs and comments of people from various sections of the society. So whatever his subject matter may have been, ultimately the result was a peoples' verdict. Habib was born in Bogra and graduated from Chittagong University. He is a proud son of a freedom fighter. As a young boy he had the privilege to know Maulana Bhasani from close quarters.

At the beginning of 1980's Habib made up his mind that he would collect comments and autographs of intellectuals and people from various creative professions all over Bangladesh on the issue of language movement of 1952. He says, "I think that the language movement was one of the most vital part of our history and our identity as a nation stems from our individual identities as language soldiers." "I chose intellectuals and creative personalities because they are usually the most conscious ones of the society," he explains.

From the early eighties till now Habib has collected more than two hundred autographs and comments from all over the country.

Habib admitted that, he was a school boy when he first started collecting them. So at first he had probably taken the decision as a

whim. But later when certain amount of seriousness was added to the task, it revealed new horizons to him. Now he knows that his efforts will not go in vain; for, the future generations shall be benefitted from this. At least it will reveal some truths about the language movement which mere text books cannot provide. Actually this is the legacy he wants to leave behind for the posterity.

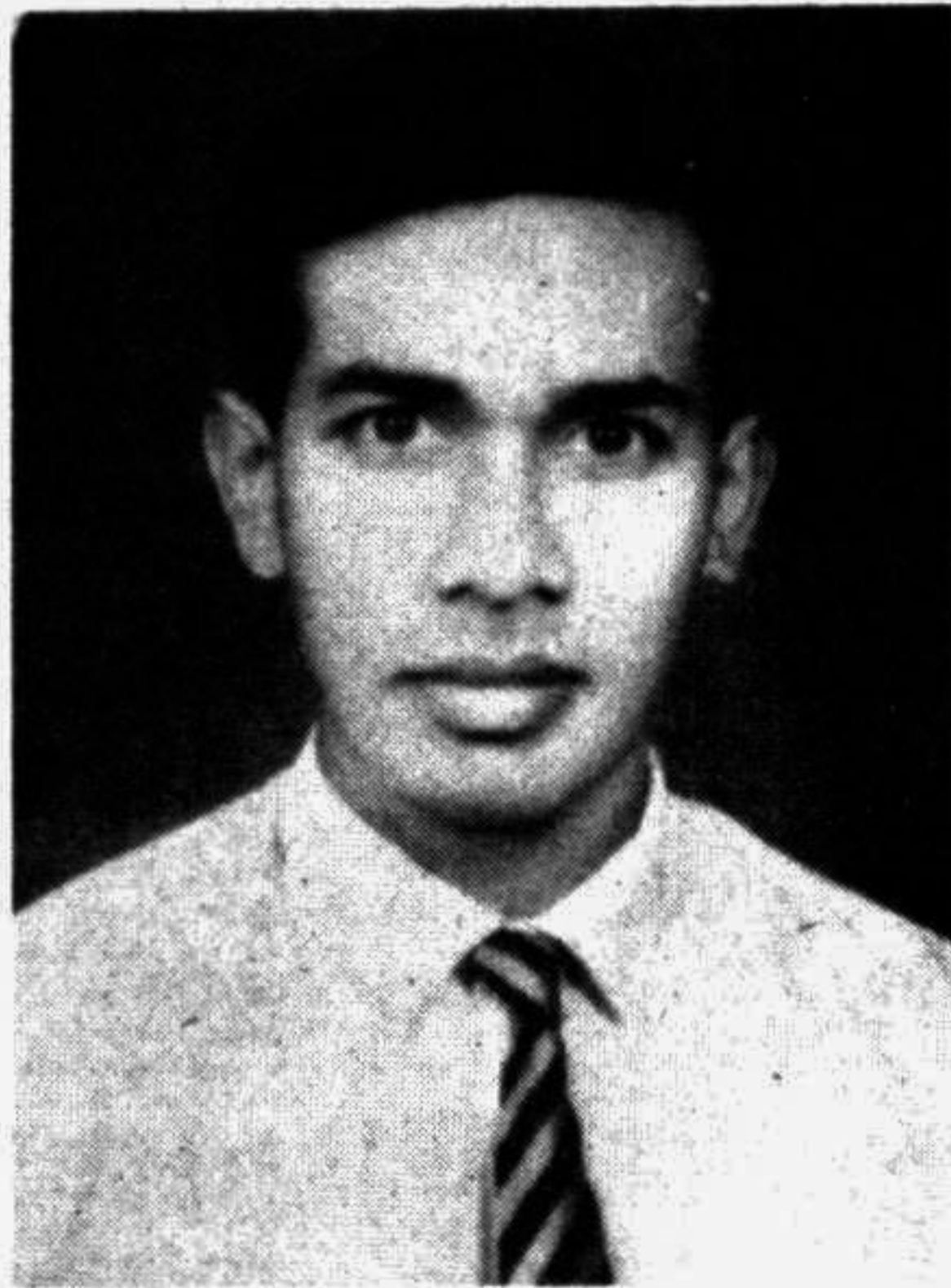
He recalls "At first it was fun. But later as I became more involved in grew difficult. Sometimes the task seemed like pushing a mountain with a feeble shoulder. I also had to face strong oppositions in carrying out my task. But it didn't stop me in anyway."

Last year Habib decided that he would exhibit his collections and put them to display for common people to see. But the greatest difficulty was finding a venue for this exhibition. To his utter dismay he saw that ... "In this capital city, arranging an exhibition of pet dogs of the affluent people was much easier."

But for his noble purpose no one was willing to sponsor or even allow a congenial place. At last he exhibited his collections under the open sky of Dhaka Press Club in February this year. Similar was the situation when he exhibited in Bogra.

At a time when our history is being continuously 'used' for political reason; when after twenty years of our independence some politicians and intellectuals argue whether it is right to point fingers at the conspirators against our liberation — Habib's was a very timely effort.

Did Habib make a great contribution to our history? Probably not. To many what Habib did may not matter much. But this is wrong. Habib's is a beginning and all beginnings are made but on a minuscule scale. What is important in the efforts is a quest for one's roots. That is generally wanting in the whole of our society. This situation lends importance to Habib's continuing work.



Bakshi Habibur Rahman

Bangladesh can get solar power at low cost : scientist hopes

The application of a theory developed by a Bangladeshi Scientist Teaching in the United States can help Bangladesh go for low cost solar power generation, reports BSS.

Professor M Zahur Anwar, and eminent scientist working as a Professor in the Department of Physics-Astronomy, California State University, Long Beach, has to his credit a theory based on thermal interaction which might help improve solar cells. Such solar cells can be made from silicon (common sand) at a low cost for solar power generation, ideal for use in Bangladesh.

Prof Anwar, who is here on a holiday, gave a talk Tuesday

on "High field effects and plasma instabilities in solid state devices" at the auditorium of BAEC.

Prof Anwar's theory is applicable in some important solid state and electronic devices like tunnel diode, gun diode and high field transistors. These devices are used in modern day computers, microwave and other modes of communications including medical imaging system such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

In his talk, Prof Anwar detailed the theory of a new type of microwave oscillators, capable of generating extremely high frequencies (10 to 100 giga hertz) using intrinsic

semiconductor materials like gallium-arsenide, silicon and germanium.

Prof Anwar's investigation is concerned with the appearance of "Negative differential resistance (NDR)" in the intrinsic semiconductors caused due to electro-thermal effect. He hoped the theory would enable researchers to determine the nature of heat flow from the measurements of the electrical characteristics of semiconductor devices.

Dr M A Mannan, Chairman, BAEC, Dr M A Wajed Miah, Director, BAEC, teachers of physics of Dhaka and Jahangirnagar Universities and researchers from several institution attended the seminar.



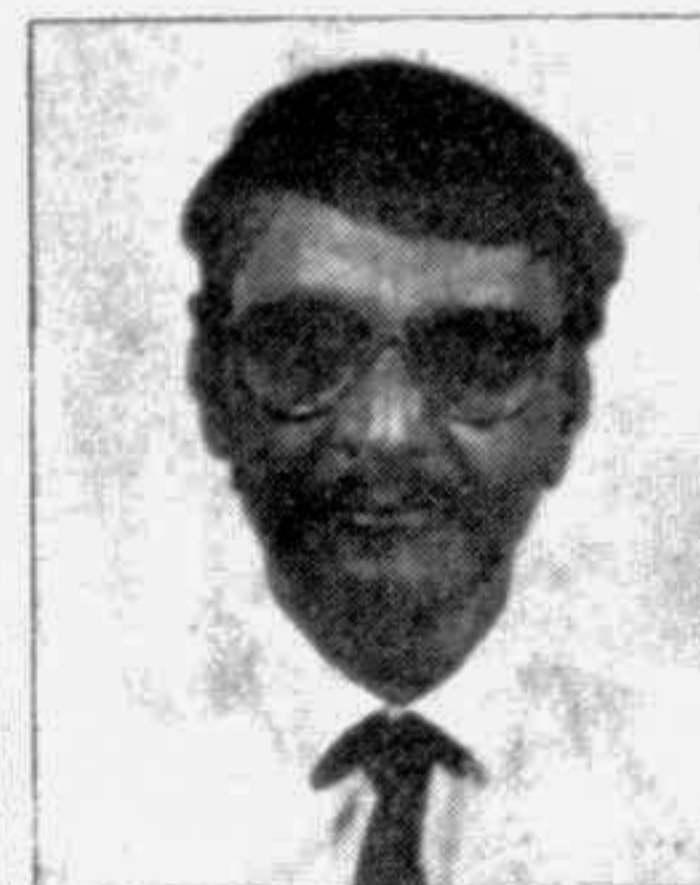
Imamuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman, Board of Directors of Janata Bank planting a sapling in the premises of Janata Bank local office in Motijheel. A H Mofazzal Karim, Director of the Board, Mohammad Taheruddin, Managing Director and General Manager of the bank also seen in the picture.

Phone bills for June to be paid by Aug 8

The digital and analog telephone bills for the month of June '92 have been sent to all subscribers under the Dhaka Multi-Exchange by post on July 15 which will have to be paid by August 8, reports BSS.

Telephone bills may be paid to specified branches of the Rupali, Krishi, Janata, UCB Ltd, City Bank Ltd and Agrani Bank.

The telephone subscribers who have in the meantime not received their bills, may obtain duplicate copy of the same from the respective telephone revenue accounting officer or from the concerned telephone exchanges to make payment in due date.



Obituary

Khawja Ahmed S/O Khawja Mohammad Adil and grandson of Nawab Sir Salimullah died yesterday after prolonged illness, says a press release.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at Baftul Mukarram mosque after Asar prayer today and his Qulkhwan will be held at his Paribagh residence on July 31, 1992 after Asat prayer.

Begum Ayesha Akhtar, widow of eminent educationist late A H B Abu Ahmed of Dhap, Rangpur, died on Sunday at the Railway Hospital, Dhaka (Innaillaha... Razeun). She was 87, says a press release.

Her Qulkhwan will be held at House 659A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Road no. 32 old after Asar prayers today (Wednesday).

Alhaj Anwar Ali Miah, noted social worker, died of heart failure on Friday night, says a press release.

Qulkhwan of Alhaj Anwar Ali Miah will be held tomorrow (Thursday) after Johr prayers at his village home.

HERE and THERE

Bhuyanpara Sangsad

A 15-member Executive Committee of the Bhuyanpara Shamaz Kalyan Sangsad was formed on Tuesday with Abu Syed' as President and AKM Shah Alam as General Secretary.

The committee would work for 1992-94.

JSP

Jatiya Sramik Party (JSP) president Shah Mohammad Abu Jafar and general secretary M A Gafur in a statement expressed their solidarity with the anti-terrorism movement.

They urged all political parties including Awami League and BNP, to abandon arms.

They denounced the politicians who did not come forward in the anti-terrorism movement and urged the people to make the movement a success.



Wednesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 5.10 Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 6.00 Sports programme
- 6.30 Samachar
- 7.05 Pallab
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Nritter Tale Tale
- 9.00 MacGyver
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Olympic highlights
- 11.40 Khabar/The news
- 11.50 Thursday's programmes summary
- 11.55 Closing



552 youths trained in self-employment activities

RAJSHAHI, July 28: Youth Development Department (YDD) has provided training on self-employment activities to a total of 552 youths in the district during 1991-92 financial year, reports BSS.

Of the trained youths, 187 have been provided training on poultry and livestock farming while 124 on pisciculture, 65 on dress making, 90 on typing and shorthand and 80 on other trades.

The department also provided motivational training to 505 youths engaged in self-employment activities in different parts of the district during the same period.

IG's call to make police more dynamic

Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan Yesterday called for making police administration much more dynamic and effective in controlling crimes, reports BSS.

Speaking at the senior police officers' fortnightly conference at the police headquarters the IGP told the police that they must prevent crime with all their strength and ensure law and order at all cost.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah planting a sapling at Khilkhet as part of the tree plantation programme jointly organised by Lions Club of Dhaka Oriental and Presidency Lions Club. Ln Jamal T Hossain and La Anjam Maroof also seen in the picture.

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Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says, moderate rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at most places over Chittagong division and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions with moderate heavy falls at places.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The Met office forecast, within two days, rainfall activities may decrease.

The country experienced rainfall at many places yesterday (Tuesday). Chief amount of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm were: Ohuadanga 95 mm, Kutubdia 85 mm, Teknaf 35 mm, Cox's Bazar 20 mm, Khepupara 12 mm, and Shatkhira 10 mm.

The maximum temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet and the minimum of 24.1 degree was reported from Feni.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.44 pm and rises at 5.27 am tomorrow (Thursday). The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.4	25.6
Chittagong	29.2	25.4
Rajshahi	32.1	25.8
Khulna	31.8	24.8
Cox's Bazar	30.2	24.3
Dinajpur	32.0	-
Sylhet	33.0	24.6
Barisal	30.5	24.7
Feni	29.0	24.1
	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	82	77
Chittagong	80	89
Rajshahi	-	85
Khulna	80	85
Cox's Bazar	83	88
Dinajpur	-	71
Sylhet	83	66
Barisal	93	90
Feni	84	84

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