

Dhaka Day by Day

Looking at Bangladesh from USA

by Nancy Wong

A distinguished scholar in the area of international relations, Dr Choudhury M Shamim is on a visit to his native land, Bangladesh, after a decade in the United States. During this decade, he has garnered one academic honour after another. He is currently Professor of International Relations at the California State University, Fullerton, as well as Director of the Model United Nations Programme at University of California, Riverside. He earned his PhD from the School of International Relations, University of California under the supervision of world renowned authority in the field, Professor James N Rosenau. Just prior to his return home, he received the prestigious John Henry Professor Award for outstanding research and publications from the California State University, Fullerton. One of the posts he held in Bangladesh before his departure for the United States was an unofficial foreign policy consultant to the late President Ziaur Rahman.

Having spent all his time in the American groves of academia, Shamim spoke to The Daily Star about the role of Bangladeshis there: "There has been a great deal of progress in this area. Whereas ten years ago one could hardly find a handful of Bangladeshis holding full-time jobs in the American universities, today there are over a hundred scattered across the continent. Considering the fact that the penetration of Bangladeshis into American intellectual life is such a recent phenomenon, this is a startling figure."

To prove his point, the soft-spoken professor revealed that a group of 26 young Bangladeshis (most of whom have completed their PhD programmes) have joined hands in bringing out a publication on various aspects of Bangladesh economy, ranging from taxation, agriculture to economic philosophy. His contribution will be a chapter on the philosophy of the Bangladesh military towards socio-economic development.

Although placed in universities across the country, these Bangladeshi faculty members have formed a cohesive community by establishing two major networks — the Bengal Studies Conference and the Bangladesh Development Forum — both of which are active in organising meetings of like-minded countrymen and women. "In fact," Shamim adds, "the next Bengal Studies Conference will be held in May '93 at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, where Dr Zilur Khan is Chairman of the Political Science faculty. Academicians from Bangladesh will also be invited to attend."

Bereft of the moral support provided by the "extended family" system, the feeling of homesickness is to a certain extent lessened by the strong feelings of comradeship and "helping each other out", which exist in this circle of fellow travellers. "For example, right now, there is a recession in the United States and academic positions are quite difficult to land, apart from the fact that it is so competitive. Consequently, Bangladeshis get in touch with each other and those with jobs try to help others without in whatever way they can," Shamim explained.



Dr Choudhury M Shamim

Considering the fact that Bangladesh is a relatively young country, American interest is surprisingly keen. There are six universities, among them being California State, Long Beach, the University of Washington, Seattle and the Library of Congress, Washington DC, which have large libraries with vast numbers of books on Bengali literature, art, culture and anything to do with the Bengali people — in both English and Bengali. These have become veritable depositories of all subjects related to the Bengali psyche.

Owing to his decade-long relationship with the American people, Shamim observed that the perception of Bangladesh being "an international basket case" no longer prevails. This attitude has given way to a better view mainly due to the following reasons: 1) Bangladesh has moved from autocracy to democracy; 2) in the most recent human rights assessment by Freedom House, Bangladesh has been upgraded from the category of "not so free" to "partially free" and 3) the fact that economically innovative programmes implemented by organisations such as Grameen Bank has been duplicated not only in Third World countries but also in less well off American states such as Arkansas and Mississippi and poorer sections of Chicago, Illinois. Economically, Bangladesh is seen as progressing from mere stagnation to "the verge of taking off".

Tagore fans will surely be pleased to note that a festival of the celebrated Nobel Prize winner's works was held under the auspices of the University of Illinois last year.

Despite the fact that Shamim and his compatriots have made new lives in the United States, they feel that they are in some ways "unofficial ambassadors" of Bangladesh. "We all try to give a positive image of our country in our classes," he said. And what better image than that of themselves as learned, motivated educationists doing their bit for a better world?

JU dean polls today

By JU Correspondent

About 200 teachers of Jahangirnagar University will exercise their franchise today (Tuesday) to elect the three deans and 33 teachers representatives to the Senate.

Two panels one belongs to the Motry Jote and the other Shammillito Otkya Jote (SOJ), are contesting in the elections.

The MJ is reportedly backed by the incumbent Vice Chancellor of the university, while the SOJ, is backed by the anti Vice Chancellor groups.

Dr Ataur Rahman of history department and Prof Mirza Mozammel Hoque of economics department and Prof Saifullah Khan of physics department are contesting for the Dean posts from the MJ panel, while Dr Nurul Islam of English department, Prof Md Masum of economics department and Prof Md Amir Hossain Khan of physics department are contesting from the SOJ panel.

Meanwhile, the aspirant candidates and their supporters were seen passing busy day in last hours campaigning, and lobbying in support of their candidates.

According to sources, both the groups are equally hopeful about their victory and are using anti fundamentalism and anti corruption as electoral pledges.

Govt urged to involve UN, OIC in Rohingya repatriation

CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: Two hundred thirty advocates of Chittagong Bar Association in a joint statement Monday urged the government to involve the international bodies including UN and OIC in the process of repatriation and rehabilitation of the Rohingya refugees, reports BSS.

Terming the Rohingya refugee problem as an international humanitarian issue they said it was indispensable to create a sense of security and confidence in the minds of the refugees so that they could go back to their ancestral homes with full assurance of security and safety.



Group picture of Skal Club of Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Bush greets Biswas

President George Bush has felicitated President Abdur Rahman Biswas for the thoughtful message of congratulations on the 216th anniversary of independence of the United States of America, reports BSS.

Biswas assents to two bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Monday assented to two more bills passed by the Jatiya Sangsad during its recently concluded session, reports BSS.

The bills are the Jamuna multi-purpose bridge (surcharge and levy) amendment bill 1992 and the Jamuna multi-purpose bridge authority (amendment) bill 1992.

361 persons arrested

Police arrested 361 persons on various charges from different parts of the country during the last 24 hours ending yesterday afternoon, a police press release said, reports BSS.

Police also recovered 18 unauthorised firearms and 67 rounds of ammunition during the period. The recovered firearms included 10 pipeguns, two rifles, one revolver, two pistols and three guns, the press release said.

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ATTENTION: Manufactures Technical Team will be present at the Showroom from 11 A.M to 8 P.M. between 18th - 22nd August '92 to give an indepth demonstration of the system.

Janmastami August 21

"Janmastami, the birth day of Lord Sree Krishna" will be celebrated on August 21 in the city as elsewhere in the country in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee has formed a preparatory committee with Nirmal Chandra Dey as its convener to celebrate the occasion.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out to mark the two-day festivity. The programmes include "Gita Yagna" at Dhakeswari Mandir melangan premises at 8 am. Seeking peace, prosperity and communal harmony of the country, a colourful procession at 3 pm from the mela-Angan, puja of Lord Sree Krishna and special prayer at night on the first day.



Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.25 Cartoon
- 6.00 Sikkha Dikkha
- 6.30 Programme for mothers
- 7.05 Nazrul Songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama Series: Ashroy
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Mini series: All The Rivers Run
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Wednesday's Programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or thundershower may occur over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Patuakhali, Jessore, Faridpur, Dhaka and Sylhet during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Monday. Met office forecasts.

Weather will remain dry elsewhere, it adds. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the same period.

The highest temperature of the country Monday 34 degree Celsius was recorded at Comilla and Sylhet while the lowest temperature 23.8 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6-29 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5-35 am.

The 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	Mfn	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.4	27.0	72	71
Chittagong	33.2	25.0	70	71
Rajshahi	33.3	26.0	80	77
Khulna	31.4	26.3	93	82
Dinajpur	32.4	26.5	84	75
Sylhet	34.0	23.8	88	68
Cox's Bazar	31.8	25.5	74	85
Bartisal	31.0	25.4	89	95

Ban on Jatra to go

The ban on Jatra (opera) will be lifted soon to encourage life-oriented performance in line with the national tradition, reports UNB.

This was stated by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury when a delegation of Jatra Shilpa Unnayan Council met him at his residence Sunday night.

He said that the ban on Jatra, imposed on February 22, will go after a secretariat level meeting to be held within a week, said a press release of the council yesterday.

The Home Minister asked the owners of Jatra groups and artists to inform his ministry of unsocial activities, corruptions and extortion of tolls during the performance of Jatra.



Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Md Azizul Huq, Principal of the Training Institute of Al-Baraka Bank Bangladesh Limited, died of heart failure in the capital Sunday. He was 56.

Huq left behind wife, three daughters, relatives and a host of friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Banani graveyard on Monday. His qul-khwani will be held on Wednesday after Asr prayers at his Banani residence.

Ahsan Ali-Miah, Senior Scientific Officer of BCSIR laboratories Dhaka died of a heart attack at the Combined Military Hospital Monday, according to a press release, reports BSS.

An Executive Member of the BCSIR Scientists Association and Social Organiser Ahsan Ali left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the BCSIR premises after zohr prayers and was laid to rest at the Mirpur graveyard.

Tender Notice

Man-made fibre pollutes environment:
Use natural fibre—Jute

Sealed tenders are invited by Star Jute Mills Ltd, Chandanimahal, Khulna from enlisted suppliers of the mill and from the bonafide suppliers in prescribed form for supply of (1) Electrical goods, (2) Steel Joist (H/W goods) & (3) Rubberisation of pressing Roller Rim & Boss.

Details of materials terms & conditions will be available in the schedule of the tender which may be collected from (a) Accounts Division, BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, (b) Accounts Division, BJMC (CZ), Sattar Chamber, 99, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong, (c) BJMC (KZ), Charerhat, Khulna, (d) Bills Section of the Mills on payment of Tk. 40/- per set of each group except the opening date of the tender. Earnest money in the form of D/D or Pay Order in favour of the Mills must be deposited by the tenderer along with the tender.

Tenders may be dropped in the Tender Box up to 2-30 P.M. on 30.8.92 at the Mill Office and BJMC Khulna Zonal Office, Hafizuddin Road, Town Khalishpur, Khulna which will be opened by the committee at 3.00 P.M. on the same day in presence of the tenderers, if present.

The authority reserves the right to accept/ reject part or whole of any tender without assigning any reason.

BJMC: 826
DFP (BA)8045-13/8

G-1019

Corrigendum

Sub-International Tender No. 531:17/ RE dated 13.7.92 for the supply of "NYLON FILAMENT YARN" A/C- Karilin Silk Mills

Due to some unavoidable circumstances the closing date of the subject Tender has been refixed on 15.9.92 instead of 31.8.92. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall however remain unchanged.

TMC-49
DFP (BA) 8024-13/8 G-1021

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide automobile repairing workshop owners for repair of car No Dhaka Metro-Bha-3820 of HV Sub-Station at an estimated cost of Taka 49,990/= only. Tender will be available at Taka 25/- (twenty five) per set (non-refundable) from the office of (1) Additional Chief Engineer, DESA, Dhaka, (2) Superintending Engineer (M&C), GDESP, DESA, Dhaka, (3) Pubali Bank, Gulshan Model Town branch, Dhaka up to 26-8-92 and will be received with earnest money @ 5% of the offered value at the office of (1) Additional Chief Engineer, DESA, Dhaka, (2) Superintending Engineer, (M&C) GDESP, (3) The undersigned up to 12:00 Noon on 27-8-92 and the tender will be opened on the same day at 12:30 pm (if any contractor is present).

Executive Engineer

HV Sub-Station Division
GDESP, DESA
House No 47, Road No 135
Gulshan, Dhaka

DFP (BA) 8012-12/8
G-1018

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাকল্পিত অংক	সিডিউলের মূল্য	সময়সীমা
১।	ঢাকা-ন-৪০৫৫ মিস্ত্রিবিশি মিনি টাক এর খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহসহ মেরামত।	টাকা ৬৬,৬০২/-	১০০/-	৩০ দিন
২।	৩ টি কমপ্রেসার মেশিন জর সঞ্চার।	টাকা ১,৬৫,০০০/-	২৫০/-	৩০ দিন

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