

Metropolitan

Letter from Chittagong

The Beauty Queen of the East

by Khurruq Malik

Chittagong, the gateway to Bangladesh with its lush green hills, sprawling landscapes and jade coloured lakes, once known as the beauty queen of the East, now resembles a dilapidated garden house. A pall of gloom seems to be pervading the region, particularly so, after the devastating cyclone of the 29 April last year, which lay waste of the entire place.

With the collapse of the Karnaphuli Bridge, built in 1990 from the Dutch grant, in two halves during the cyclone, development across the river has come to a grinding halt. Land purchase for industrial and residential purpose by speculators have run into personal loss and uncertainty. Reportedly, complete repair of the bridge this year is uncertain. Although the Dutch Government agreed to finance the repairs of the bridge, modalities for floating of tender and repair works are yet to be

here. The growth of multinational companies was the natural outcome. Glaxo, Lever Brothers the Tea trading houses stand witness to this.

The only noteworthy development after liberation was the setting of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ). Today the EPZ is the only centre humming with commercial activity and employing a large number of workers.

Foreigners now seen in the City are mainly the Koreans and Japanese. The University located 14 miles away from the City is in a shambles where politics has entered and academic activities taken leave. For nearly a year there have been no classes except the change of the Vice Chancellor. Guns and violence have replaced books and higher learning at the campus.

Primary and secondary education in the city is also in doldrums. The established schools,



A Shampan still reminds one of the typically Chittagong way of life.

undertaken. Understandably, the people living in the region feel neglected and deprived. The Chittagong Development Committee in the past called for hartals and blockades to make their voice heard. Their charter of demand includes the excavation of Chaktai Khal. Siltation over the years and unauthorised construction on the canal have caused regular water-logging problem alarmingly flooding even posh residential areas of Nasirabad and Katalanj in monsoon.

Construction of roads which are now in deplorable condition, is a long felt demand of the people. The narrow and potholed roads have caused continuing obstacle to movement of traffic. The infrastructure is a legacy of the past. The red-coloured Court Building, railway station and Kalurghat Bridge are what the Britishers had left behind.

The partition of 1947 have seen Chittagong developing in many aspects. Because of its easy access to the sea and the natural scenic beauty, foreigners choose to establish their business

including the missionary ones, are unable to offer admission to a vast number of pupils every year. So the alternative is to get their wards admitted into makeshift kindergarten and so-called English medium school with their assortment of syllabus, exorbitant fees and ineffective teaching method. Consequently, the rich and the elite have taken recourse to packing off to Dhaka with the entire family, where the schools have relatively better standard and the society more broad-based.

Previous development funds were primarily invested in doing the road patchworks and decorating traffic island, ignoring the infrastructure improvements. The urgency now is more in the line of building the infrastructure in totality, the broadening of roads, setting up of secondary and high school, rebuilding of the old airport into an international one, excavation of Chaktai Khal and repair of the damaged Karnaphuli Bridge. Unless these are done on priority basis, even the shredded glory of the Beauty Queen of the East still remaining will be gone for ever.

Vested quarter fuelling terrorism : DCC Mayor

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and President, Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal Mirza Abbas, MP yesterday called upon the youth and the students to resist all sorts of conspiracies, indiscipline and terrorism for consolidating democracy in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting held under the auspices of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Taltala, Khilgaon, he said that a section of known quarter was spreading terrorism in the society to cover up their isolation from the people. They were in fact trying to belittle the popularity of BNP, he said.

The city Mayor said that instead of serving the nation and the people, this known quarter misappropriated national wealth and amassed black money in the past. Now they were patronising the terrorists under a blue print to jeopardise the national independence and sovereignty, he said.

Death anniversary of Ruhul Quddus today

The first anniversary of death of Ruhul Quddus, the first Principal Secretary of Bangladesh government, will be observed on Monday, reports UNB.

A member of the first batch of CSP officers of Pakistan, Quddus was one of the accused in the 'Agartala Conspiracy Case'.

He drafted the historic six-point demand of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and was the Secretary General of Mujibnagar exile government.

As the first Principal Secretary of the Bangabandhu government, he made significant contribution in formulating administrative structure of newly independent Bangladesh.

On August 15, 1975 he resigned from the office of the Principal Secretary protesting the killing of Sheikh Mujib.

A 105-member committee was formed with Prof Kabir Chowdhury as Chairman and former Secretary Mohammad Strajuddin as Member-Secretary to observe Quddus' death anniversary.

ence and sovereignty, he said. He urged upon all to be cautious about the conspiracy of this so-called friends of the people who were conspiring against the country.

The meeting was also addressed by the leaders of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal.

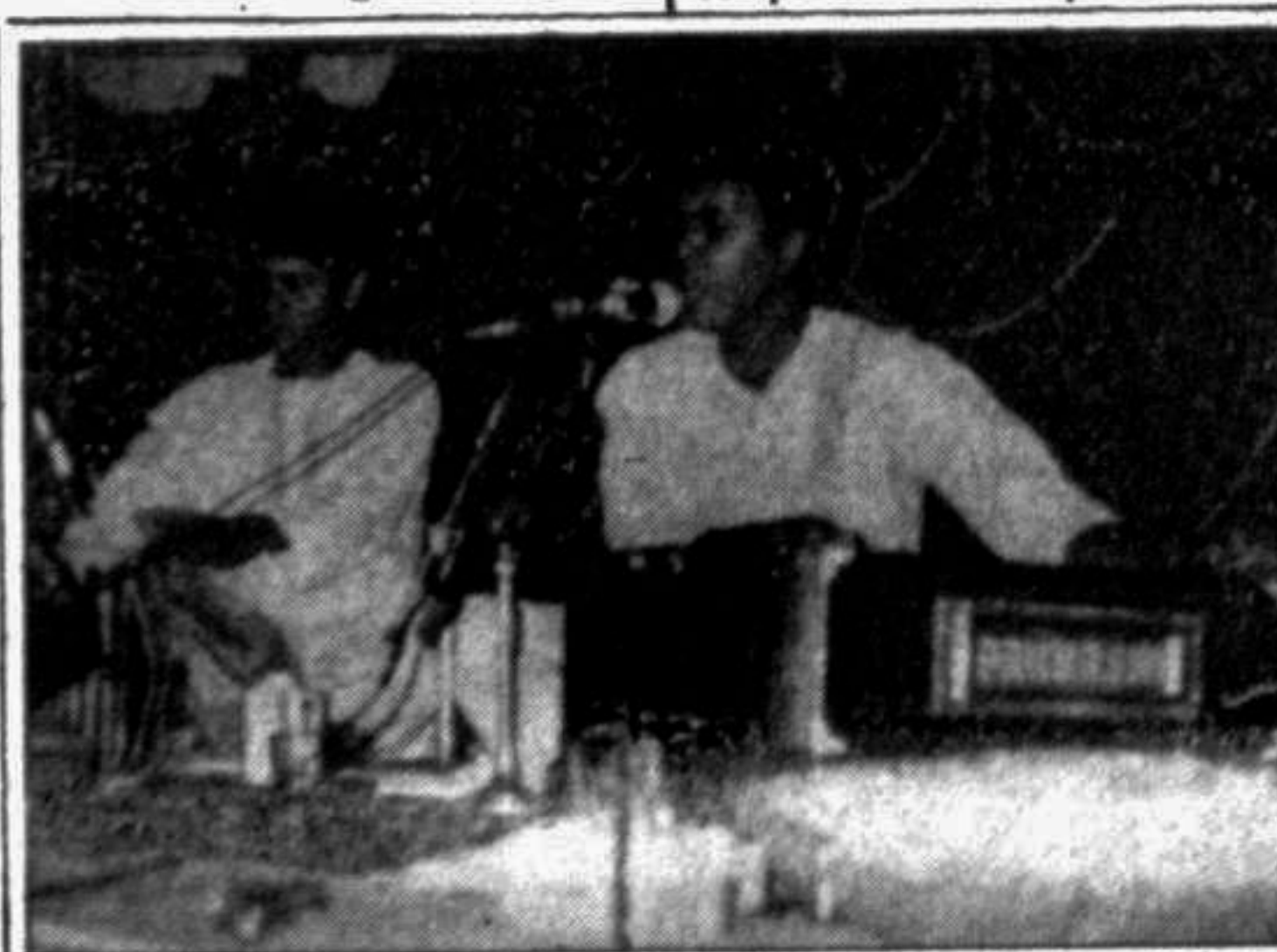
PNP calls for hartal Sept 24

Progressive Nationalist Party (PNP) yesterday (Sunday) called for a countrywide half-day hartal on September 24 to demand resignation of the government for failing to curb terrorism and to press for its 11-point demands, reports UNB.

The hartal programme was announced by PNP Joint Secretary Salahuddin Latifi who read out a written statement at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club last afternoon.

The PNP called upon all nationalist forces to form an alternative front due to 'failure' of the present government which uses the name of nationalism.

The demands include abandoning 'subservient' foreign policy to consolidate independence and sovereignty, and cancellation of referendum for changing the constitution and holding of 'yes-no' vote afresh under a neutral government.



Amit Dey rendering songs at a musical soiree at Dhaka Club arranged by Josta International Club Friday.

Tk 3.27 crore sanctioned for modern hospital in city

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) sanctioned a loan of Taka 2.27 crore including foreign exchange equivalent to Taka 87 lakhs for a modern private hospital in the city.

The sanction was given at the meeting of the BSB Board of Directors with Chairman of the bank, A T M Alamgir, MP, in the chair. The hospital will have 120 beds and is expected to create employment for about 168 persons.

The project is likely to contribute worth Taka 2.44 crore to the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country.

Saifur condoles Hossain's death

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman expressed shock at the sudden and premature death of General Manager of Sonali Bank, London office, reports UNB.

Amir Hossain died in London Saturday following a massive heart attack, an official handout said yesterday. In a message Saifur Rahman said in the death of Hossain the country has lost a promising banker.

He conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

'New generation to be imbued with ideals of Ibrahim'

The third death anniversary of Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, the late National Professor who founded the Bangladesh Diabetic Association now turned into a huge national complex, was observed in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Paying rich tributes to Dr Ibrahim, centenarian journalists-writer and Sawgat editor Mohammad Nasiruddin called upon the people to give due honour to the late social worker by translating his dreams into reality through further, development of the diabetic complex.

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion meeting organised in honour of the great social worker, Mohammad Nasiruddin said the only way to put in hard work with sincerity so that people are served well in the institution which was established by the National Professor.

Terming Dr Ibrahim as a great personality with a exemplary dedication for serving the humanity, Mohammad Nasiruddin said the new generation should be made aware of the struggling life of Dr Ibrahim so that they imbibe with his humanitarian ideals.

Presided over by Acting President of the Diabetic Association Mujibul Huq, the

memorial function was attended by Dr Ibrahim's widow, Mrs Shakina Ibrahim, as the special guest. It was addressed, among others, by Dr Anwar Hussain eldest son of the late national Professor, Syed Ahmed Mehar Kabir and Abu Syed Chowdhury, who paid tributes to the great personality for his untiring efforts to build up the advanced treatment centre in the country for the service of millions of diabetic patients.

Secretary-general of the association Prof Wahiduddin Ahmed, paying tributes to Dr Ibrahim, said that once the tin-shed Diabetic Association established by Dr Ibrahim in the fifties has now turned into a huge national complex with immense international reputation. He said the Diabetic Association has now one lakh eighty thousand patients and the number was increasing day by day.

The Diabetic Association has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the death anniversary which includes placing of wreaths at the Banani graveyard of the deceased, distribution of special diet among the patients of the Diabetic Hospital and holding of a milad mahfil at the outdoor of the Diabetic Hospital at Shabagh.

HERE and THERE

Patkal Sramik Karmachari

Jatiya Patkal Sramik Karmachari Federation in a statement Saturday strongly condemned and protested the arrest of the President of Sarak O Janapath Sramik Karmachari Union Arzul Huq.

The statement issued by its President Anwara Begum and General Secretary Noor Hossain termed the arrest as conspiratory and demanded his immediate release.

BSD

The Convenor of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Khalequzzaman in a statement Sunday demanded the setting up of jute purchasing centres immediately and fixing the price of jute at Taka 500 a maund.

He said if the farmers could not get their just price for jute, the golden fibre would face crisis of existence.

JU Nirmul body protests attempt on Menon

By JU Correspondent

Speakers at a meeting at the Social Science gallery of Jahangirnagar University protested the assassination of Ratan Sen and attempt on Rashid Khan Menon Sunday.

Criticising the fundamental forces the speakers urged all to fight anti-democratic forces to give democracy a firm footing.

The speakers alleged that the anti-liberation forces were continuing violent activities as before.

They stressed fighting back the fundamental forces ideologically. Organised by the Nirmul Committee, Jahangirnagar University into the protest meeting was attended, among others, by Secretary General of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front Kazi Shahedul Islam, President of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) Md Mahbulah, Bangladesh Chhatra Union leader Shyamol Chowdhury.

Siemens donates books to BUET

Siemens, a German company, has donated a large number of valuable text books to Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), reports UNB.

The books worth Tk 4 lakh will be used by the faculty of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the university, according to a BUET press release issued yesterday.

M S Alam, Managing Director, Siemens, Bangladesh Ltd, handed over the books to Vice-Chancellor of BUET Prof M Shahjahan at a simple ceremony at his office yesterday morning.

Boost production in mills to attain economic autarky: Hafiz

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golaam Hafiz yesterday called upon the workers to put in their best efforts for increasing production in mills and factories for building self-reliant economy of the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a rally of Workers and Employees Union of Kohinoor Spinning Mills at Narayhat.

State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Al-Haj Niamatullah Sabu MP, Secretary General of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal Nazrul Islam Khan and former vice-president of JUCSU Ashraf Uddin Khan also addressed the rally.

The function was presided over by Moazzem Hossain, president of Kohinoor Spinning Mills Sramik Karmachari Union.

One killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A middle aged woman was killed near BG Press at Tejgaon when she attempted to cross the road Saturday evening.

Samtron (40) was run over by a speeding coaster and was immediately rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The fatally injured woman succumbed to injury at 10 pm. Police has seized the coaster but the driver managed to escape.

A case has been filed with the Tajgaon police station.



Jahanara Imam addressing the representatives' conference of Nirmul Committee held at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

Govt keen to ensure smooth administration : Nurul Huda

The government is sincere to solve the existing inter-cadre problems to make the administration more effective and people-oriented, Huda Commission Chairman and State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

He was addressing a joint meeting held at the Cabinet Conference Room of the leaders of the 29 cadre associations.

The leaders of Engineers, Agriculturists and Doctors Coordination Committee, Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Committee and representatives of the cadre-controlling ministries were

present at the meeting. Establishment Secretary Md Hasinur Rahman was also present.

Huda asserted that the present government was very much keen to ensure smooth functioning of the administrative machinery. He sought all-out cooperation of all cadre members in the process of making proposals of the commission.

The Commission Chairman reiterated the government's commitment in establishing equitable, democratic and justified administrative system and categorically urged the leaders of the association to shun activities which may create confusion and frustrate

the spirit of a good administration.

The meeting discussed the service structure of different cadres.

The state minister assured the leaders of the association that he commission would meet the individual cadre associations shortly to find out solutions to the inter-cadre problems.

The government had constituted the one-member commission on October 9 last with State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda as Chairman. The Commission was to furnish a report on how to increase the scope of promotion in different cadres and improve the efficiency of the civil servants.

Refresher course for PROs begins

A ten-day refresher course for the Public Relations Officers (PROs) sponsored by Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in co-operation with Asia Foundation began at PIB in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Fifteen (15) Public Relations Officers from different government, semi-government and corporations were participating in the course.

Director General, PIB, Ahmed Humayun inaugurated the course this morning.

JS body on Public Accounts meet held

The sub-committee number one of the parliamentary standing committee on Public Accounts at a meeting held at the committee room yesterday discussed in detail the audit objections on the accounts of different city corporations for the fiscal 1984-85, a Jatiya Sangsad press release said, reports BSS.

Presided over by the sub-committee Chairman Mebahuddin Khan, MP, the meeting was attended by Syed Manzur Hossain, MP, and Maulana Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain, MP, Auditor and Controller General Khandker Moazzem Hossain was also present.

Nepalese team due today

A four-member Nepalese parliamentary delegation arrives in Dhaka today (Monday) on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

During their visit, the members of the delegation will call on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golaam Hafiz.

They will also exchange views with the parliamentarians on parliamentary procedures and practices in Bangladesh.

The members of the team are Taranath Rana Vhat, Tek Bahadur Chokhal, Bisnu Bahadur Raut and Sindu Nath Pyakuryal.

The teams also includes Krishna Prashad Pandey, Secretary of Nepalese Parliament Secretariat.

Borrowers allege HBFC realises interest higher than simple rate

By Staff Correspondent

The borrowers of House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) has formed a five-member 'experts' committee' entrusting it with the task of recommending measures aimed at removing 'complex-acies' regarding interests against the sanctioned loan of the borrowers.

The association of the HBFC borrowers constituted the committee at its meeting held yesterday.

Headed by Prof Moinuddin Khan, the committee members are: Lutfor Rahman Sarkar, Executive President of the Islamic Bank of Bangladesh Ltd, Kazi Abdus Sattar, Deputy General Manager of Sonali Bank, Shaiful Islam Khan, noted Chartered Accountant

and member of the National Cadre Service and Mohammad Fazlul Haque, leader of the association.

The meeting alleged that although the HBFC had introduced simple-rate of interest but the authorities were realising the interests, several times higher than the simple-rate under an 'unusual method'.

Chaired by Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, the meeting was also attended by the president of Bangladesh Editors' Council Sanaullah Noori, former chairman of the HBFC Kam-uddin Ahmed, Barrister K S Nabi, member of the Power Development Board Utan Ali Mia and Associate Professor of the Dhaka University's Mathematics Department Dr Mobarak Hossain.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. "Success Hope" V-11046 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama & Hongkong, ex. M.V. "Anro Asia" V-38625 from Melbourne, ex. M.V. Hoechst Express" V-05432 from Belfast, ex. M.V. "Kaga" V-25334 from Hongkong, ex. M.V. "Great Rizal" V-28383 from Keelung and Containers from Singapore have been relayed to M.V. "NEWGENLORD" V-8292, Imp. Rot. No. 676/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 9-9-92 from Singapore.
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs act.
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Weather
Moderate rain likely
By Staff Correspondent
Temporary light rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Dhaka and Faridpur during the next 24 hours ending at 8:00 pm Monday. The weather is likely to remain dry elsewhere in the country, says a Met office forecast.
The highest temperature on Sunday was recorded at 35.6 degree Celsius at Chuadanga.
Outlook for subsequent two days: rainfall activities likely to increase.
Extended outlook for another five days: little change.
The temperature and humidity of some cities on Sunday were:
City Temperature Humidity
Max Min 9 am 6 pm
Dhaka 33.5 27.2 85 69
Chittagong 33.7 26.4 70 88
Rajshahi 33.5 26.4 71 69
Khulna 32.5 26.4 78 88
Jessore 32.9 25.4 78 88
Rangpur 33.0 27.4 86 81
Sylhet 32.4 22.5 100 75

BTV
Monday
5:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran Programme summary
5:10 News in Bangla
5:20 Recitation from the Geeta
5:25 Avnandan
6:30 Sports programme
7:05 TV debate
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Janamat
9:00 Barnali
10:00 News in English
10:30 Film: Hill Street Blues
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:40 Tuesday's programme summary
11:45 Closing