

Dhaka Day by Day

Living without Light

by Rahat Fahmida



Anyone walking into the Helen Keller International office in the city, would not miss her working away smartly at the switch board. Without having a closer look, it is difficult to figure out that she has lost her eyesight. Lina Parveen Chowdhury, now 24, did not lose her vision in just one go.

At the age of two she was struck by very high fever for two days, which left Lina paralysed. Her father Golam Rab Chowdhury, then working with the Navy was posted in Karachi, where he lived with the family. Hence she was treated at Al-Shefa clinic in Karachi, where she recovered quite quickly.

Lina, eldest amongst her four sisters, after coming back from clinic, often played with marbles with her younger sister, and her father at times gave them company. It was then he noticed Lina's difficulty in tracing the marbles. Her parents immediately took her to an eye-specialist, who luckily enough diagnosed it as a problem in the brain. So, they were advised to take her to a neurologist, who again reconfirmed their doubt about it being an eye problem.

In the beginning of 1973, Lina had the first operation in Karachi, which was said to be a minor one, of her right eye, under Dr T H Kirmani. There was no improvement. This operation affected her left eye, for which there was no previous complaint. After her first operation in January, Lina had to undergo three more operations by July of the same year. She then lost vision of her right eye completely.

After these horrendous operations her family returned to the newly-independent Bangladesh. Lina's left eye was still working.

Her father who then joined the Bangladesh Civil Aviation, where he is still working, did not give up on his eldest daughter. 'My parents always treated me as an equal to my other sisters. Along with my studies, I too, learnt to cook and sew. My mother was very particular about these,' said Lina smilingly.

Lina's battle lines were not drawn up. It continued to be an agonising fact. In Bangladesh she was treated in vain by all the well-known eye specialists. It all reached an anti climax, when in 1985, under Dr Ahmed Sharif, Lina underwent cornea grafting of her left eye. This took away the very little vision she had and left her totally sightless. Though before this operation, the doctor was quite confident about its success.

Now, Lina does not blame anyone. She is grateful to her parents and family. A new line of hope has emerged for her. A final year student of masters at Dhaka University in the department of political science, she is aiming for trainings in Brail computer. This specialised computer is designed for the visually handicapped.

These long years of failure has not left Lina shattered. There is a sound of triumph in her voice as she wishes to take up rehabilitation project, once she has the opportunity. Slogans like "Education for all", "Full participation by all members of the society" and "Integration of the handicapped into the community" appear in the mass media now and then. They may be conclusions at seminars, objectives of organizations or policy of the Government. But we rarely enjoy the fruits of such lofty discussions. The reason may be that they are too ambitious or too resource demanding, sub-goals and step-by-step implementation have not been planned carefully enough, or perhaps, conservative attitudes among people create barriers.

Training is the key for the welfare of the people. If such a programme is going to be successful, the handicapped cannot be excluded since they represent about 10 per cent of the population. Remaining neglected means that they will be an obstacle for general development, instead of a contributory factor.

In Bangladesh the foundation for training for the blind has already been laid. Recently the "Curriculum for primary education for the blind" has been approved. In this respect Bangladesh is ahead of many other countries.

However, the goal "education for all", will have little chance to be reached without a total change of attitudes of the society. Campaigns and slogans are important for a wide impact. But you and I should not hesitate to start our personal field-work in order to create a society where all inhabitants are accepted on equal terms and are given a role to play for the development of the country. We should act on a personal slogan on "Self-reliant people, a necessary goal".

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Biswas condoles Altaf Hossain's death

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of the veteran politician Syed Altaf Hossain, reports BSS.

In a condolence message the President said that at the death of Syed Altaf Hossain, the country had lost a dedicated politician who always fought for the cause of the people and democracy.

The President also recalled the late leader's contribution.

Saifur
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of veteran politician, former parliamentarian and founder President of Ganatantri Party Syed Altaf Hossain.

In a message of condolence Saifur Rahman said, Syed Altaf Hossain was a politician of stature and integrity. In his long political career, since the forties, Syed Altaf always fought for socio-economic and political emancipation of the people. The nation will remember him for his contribution.

The Finance Minister prayed for the departed soul and conveyed his heart-felt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Sadeque
State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of Syed Altaf Hossain, founder President of Ganatantri Party.

In a condolence message the State Minister expressed his deepest sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Muslim League
Bangladesh Muslim League President Muhammad Ayen Uddin yesterday expressed deep condolences at the death of elderly politician Syed Altaf Hossain.

In condolence message, the Muslim League leader said the vacuum created in the country's political arena in the death of Syed Altaf would not be easily filled up.

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

CPB
President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and General Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid in a joint statement condoled the demise of Syed Altaf Hossain.

The five Parliament Members of CPB in separate statements also expressed their heart-felt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Housewife commits suicide
A young housewife allegedly committed suicide in the city's Gandaria area on Thursday afternoon, reports UNB.

The body of Jesmin Akhter Lopa (19) was found hanging to the ceiling fan with her saree wrapped around the neck at her Satish Sarker road residence in Gandaria.

An unconscious Jesmin was taken to the National Hospital where the attending doctors declared her dead. Later the body was taken to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital (Mitford Hospital) for post mortem.

Jesmin's father has filed an unnatural death case with Sutrapur police in this connection.

Abul Ehsan's chehlum tomorrow
Chehlum of Abul Ehsan, former Secretary and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at his residence (House No-CES (B) 26, Gulshan, road No-119) after Asar prayer, reports UNB.

All his friends, admirers and relatives are requested to attend the function.

Discussion on Bhashani Nov 17
Jatiya Krishak Party will hold a discussion at 4 pm on November 17 (Tuesday) on the 16th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, reports UNB.

Central leaders of the Jatiya Party will also be present at the discussion meeting to be held at 4 pm at the Jatiya Party central office at Kawran Bazar.

In a joint statement yesterday (Friday), Jatiya Krishak Party President Serajul Hossain Khan and General Secretary Azad Sultan have called upon all the party units to observe November 17 across the country in a befitting manner commemorating the death anniversary of Moulana Bhashani.

Also present on the occasion are City Mayor and BNP Chittagong North District chapter President Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and General Secretary Golam Akbar Khandaker.



Commitment, a musical group organised a concert at the Abahani Club gymnasium hall in the city yesterday.

Mujib's role till March 24, '71 to unite people undisputed: Oli

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed yesterday called upon all to sink petty differences for greater interest of the nation, now poised for progress and prosperity, reports BSS.

He was addressing a largely attended rally of Dhaka district unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktojoddha Dal at BCIC auditorium here.

Presided over by Quazi Azizul Huq, he rally was addressed, among others, by Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Food Minister Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Environment and Forest Gayeshwar Roy and eminent freedom fighters of the country.

Oli Ahmed Btrbikram, himself a freedom fighter and chief patron of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktojoddha Dal, said 'The role played by Sheikh Mujib till March 24, 1971 to unite the people of the country is undisputed, but, unfortunately he could not guide the nation rightly at the right moment'.

He said Sheikh Mujib had to clear plan in his mind to lead the nation to fight for freedom. It was Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who called the nation on the evening of March 27, 1971 to join a battle for free-

dom and gave the nation a clear-cut direction when the people were at a loss not knowing what to do.

Oli Ahmed said it would neither be judicious nor conscientious to divide the nation after 22 years of freedom into pro and anti liberation forces. It would bring no good to the nation, he added.

Referring to the demand of the Awami League to repeal Indemnity Bill, he asked why they had not raised the issue in the previous parliaments where they had been in the opposition bench. He called upon the Leader of the Opposition to think for the welfare of those who are alive and not to be indulged in acts aiming at dividing the nation.

Speaking on the occasion Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said, 'freedom fighter' has become a brand name for certain quarters now-a-days, he called upon those who have become very high sounding in the name for freedom fighters and War of Liberation to come to see where the most of the freedom fighters have assembled.

It is none but BNP which has won the confidence and support of most of the freedom fighters as they believe in the politics of nationalism, Barrister Huda added.

The Information Minister

AL, JP out to destabilize country, says Rafiq

Works Minister and BNP Joint Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday made a double-pronged attack on the Awami League and the Jatiya Party saying these forces were now out to destabilize the country and wanted the return of autocracy, reports BSS.

The Minister said the party which was reluctant to accept the people's verdict in the last parliamentary polls and those which had resorted to plundering people's wealth and looting in the nine-year autocratic rule had joined hands to disrupt peace and stability.

He said the party which had forged an entente with autocratic Ershad regime in 1986 had now been threatening to paralyse the elected parliament. This force was inducing the extra constitutional forces to take over power. The Minister said adding that the people would resist intrigues against democracy.

He was addressing an anti-terrorism rally organised by Ward No. 47 BNP of Dhaka City at Muradpur Madrasha road at Demra yesterday afternoon.

Presided over by Sheikh Shahabuddin the rally was addressed by Mir Showkat Ali MP, President Dhaka City BNP, Salauddin Ahmed MP, General Secretary Dhaka City BNP and

AM Maimuddin, Office Secretary Dhaka City BNP.

Rafiq said the people would thwart the design of paralyzing the Jatiya Sangsad by the forces which had wanted to keep autocratic Ershad in power by forging secret entente with the former autocrat.

Branding the terrorists as the enemies of the people, democracy and civilization, he said those engaged in terrorist activities were out to curb the people's rights, disrupt peace and rule of law.

The Works Minister said the Anti-terrorism Bill was passed to deal with the terrorists and to protect the lives and properties of the people from their clutches.

He refuted opposition's allegations that the law would be misused and said there was no scope to fear the Anti-terrorism Law as it would not be applied to oppress the political opponents.

Rafiq said those who did not want to see peace established in the society were opposed to this law and added democratic rights did not allow anybody to resort to terrorism and toll collection. He said the passage of Anti-terrorism Bill would help consolidate democracy.

Weather Night temperature may fall

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday). The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius across the country.

The maximum of 32.3 degree Celsius was reported from Satkhira yesterday (Friday) and the minimum of 13.8 degree was reported from Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5.13 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6.14 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.7	17.8	76	62
Chittagong	30.3	20.4	82	80
Rajshahi	30.9	16.8	77	81
Khulna	30.7	19.6	77	79
Cox's Bazar	30.0	21.8	70	77
Sylhet	29.5	18.0	70	68
Dinajpur	29.4	14.8	77	78
Iswardi	30.6	16.4	77	80

Tender Notice

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

Name of work: Carrying of (ADB) allotted goods for Annual Development Work during 1992-93 financial year for different areas under this Division, from different godowns of PDB to Hathazari Divisional godown. Estimated cost: Taka 2,99,500/- Eligibility of contractor: PDB enlisted contractor/bonafide transporter. Price of tender: Taka 200/-. Place & date of tender availability: Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, PDB, Chittagong/Superintending Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle, Ctg South, PDB, Chittagong/Manager, Sonali Bank, Hathazari branch, Hathazari, Chittagong up to 22-11-92. Date of receiving & opening of tender: 23-11-92. All formalities of the tender must be complied with.

Executive Engineer
Distribution Division-1
PDB, Hathazari
Chittagong

Biddat/Jan-519(3)92-93
DFP (BA) 10742-4/11
G-1432

BJMC Advertisement International Tender Notice

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

General Manager, Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd, Paribahan Bhaban (5th Floor), Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh invites sealed quotations from the bonafide Indentors/Commission Agents/Manufacturers/Representatives of Foreign Firms on FOB, C&F and C&F (C) Chittagong/Zia International Airport, Dhaka basis for Import of 1 set High Speed Pump for FLTM Press Pump No. 26680-28514 (Electric) against next available fund.

Tender will be received up to 11:00 A.M. on 20-12-92 and will be opened in Public, if any, at 11:30 A.M. on the same day at the Office of Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd., Paribahan Bhaban (5th Floor), 21, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Dhaka Zone, Karim Chamber (6th Floor), Motijheel C/A., Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Tender documents with full details of requirement, Specifications, terms and conditions will be available (excepting opening date) from the office of the (a) General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Dhaka Zone, Karim Chamber, Motijheel C/A., Dhaka-1000, (b) General Manager (A&F), BJMC, Chittagong Zone, 99, Agrabad C/A., Chittagong and (c) General Manager (A&F), BJMC Khulna Zone, Town Khalishpur, Khulna, Bangladesh on payment of Tk. 370/= per set. The Management of Bangladesh Jute Mills Ltd., reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender partly/fully without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BJMC: 1109
DFP (BA) 10828-8/11
G-1439

Tender Notice

- Tender No : 07/1992-93.
- Name of work : Supply of Filter Element & Cartridge Filter for different equipments.
- Earnest money : 2 1/2% of the quoted amount.
- Place of work : Main Store, Teesta Mechanical Division, BWDB, Doani, Lalmonirhat.
- Date and time for receiving and opening of the tender : a) Receiving on 23.11.92, 24.11.92 and 25.11.92 up to 12.00 Noon.
b) Opening on 25.11.92 at 12.30 PM.
- Class of Contractor : 'A' & 'B' Class Contractors for 1992-93 of BWDB/Bonafide Suppliers.
- Cost of Tender document (Not refundable) : Tk. 400/- (Tk four hundred) only.
- Date up to which tenders will be sold : Up to 22.11.1992.
- Name & address of the bank where the tender document will be available : a) Sonali Bank, Main Branch, Rangpur.
b) Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, WAPDA Building, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
c) Rupali Bank Ltd., Dalia Branch, Dalia, Nilphamari.
- Name of office where the tender will be received : a) Executive Engineer, Teesta Mechanical Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari.
b) Executive Engineer, Quality Control Division, BWDB, Alamnagar, Rangpur.
c) Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O & M Circle, BWDB, Rupali Sadan, 156/157, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Executive Engineer, Teesta Mechanical Division, BWDB, Dalia, Nilphamari.

PANI-122/92-93
DFP (BA) 18764-26/10
G-1370

Anti-terrorism act won't be used for political gains: Hye

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Co-operatives Abdul Hye yesterday said the Anti-terrorism Act would not be enforced to derive political gain, reports BSS.

Those, opposing the act are in fact patronising violence and lawlessness in society, he said while speaking at a seminar as the chief guest on 'Anti-terrorism and its proper application'. Organised by Shet Kapot, a socio-cultural organisation here at Ali Ahmed Paura Pathagar auditorium in Narayanganj.

Presided over by Jahangir Alam Jagu president of the organisation, the seminar was addressed among others by Abul Kalami MP, Sirajul Islam MP, Atahar Hossen Shamsu, vice president Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Moniruzzaman Monir president Narayanganj city unit of Jubo Dal, Jannatul Firdous, office secretary Narayanganj district BNP and Ayesha Satter president Narayanganj Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal.

Peace and tranquility are the pre-requisites for progress in the country, he said and added the act would help establish a violence and terrorism free society.

JCD nominates candidates for EUCSU polls

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) nominated its candidates yesterday for the election of the Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) scheduled to be held November 26.

A JCD meeting held to finalise the candidatures Thursday ended in fiasco following firing of gunshots by a section of aspirants for the EUCSU nominations. Yesterday four bombs were exploded during the JCD meeting held at Shere Bangla Hall of the university.

However, the meeting succeeded in nominating the candidates for the election. Police guarded the meeting venue.

Yesterday's meeting nominated Niamul Huda Khan as candidate for the post of Vice-President while Tariqul Islam Tutul for the General Secretary, Nazmus Saqeb Nipun for Joint Secretary and Mubit for Entertainment Secretary.

Candidates for four other posts of the EUCSU election would be nominated soon, JCD sources said.

Resumption of training of rural doctor demanded

An association of rural doctors yesterday (Friday) demanded of the government to restart the training project for reaching modern medicare facility to the rural masses, reports UNB.

The demand was made by Bangladesh Palli Chikitshak Samity at its central conference at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday noon.

The Samity also put forward an eight-point charter of demands which also include issuance of registration and drug licences to 'palli chikitshaks' (rural doctors) and involving them in family planning and immunisation programme.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq was the chief guest at the conference.

Presided over by the Samity President Dr Mohammad Sabuj Ali, the function was addressed, among others, by its patron Dr. Ahmed Rafiq, adviser Rashida Quraishi and General Secretary Dr. Mohammad Khalilur Rahman.

Some 1250 palli doctors from all over the country attended the day-long conference.

Addressing the function, the Deputy Minister said the

government was considering the resume training of palli chikitshaks for the success of programme "Health for All by the Year 2000".

Dr Ahmed Rafiq said the services of palli doctors could be utilized for greater interest of the nation.

If the government resumes the training programme for the palli doctors, he said, it will help in reaching medicare to the distress humanity.

Dr Rashida Quraishi said the palli doctors were in an ideal position to create awareness among people in rural areas about health care and family planning.

In his presidential speech, Dr Sabuj Ali urged the government to fulfill its earlier commitment by resuming the palli chikitshak, training project introduced by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. But the project was shelved by the autocratic Ershad government, he added.

Dr Ali said the Zia government had announced a decision to appoint at least one doctor in each village. And as part of the plan, some 27,113 palli doctors received one-year training during the period of President Zia.

Press conference of Citizen's Response to WB today

"Citizen's Response to World Bank" will hold a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club today (Saturday) at 4 pm, reports UNB.

The press conferences being held on the eve of World Bank President Lewis T. Preston's visit, is designed to explain the World Bank's policy and its relation to "people choice" policy for Bangladesh, says a press release.

The "Citizen's Response to World Bank" is a network of democratic and environmental and women's rights activists, political workers, students front, youth organisations, development economists and academicians.

Indian cloths seized in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 13: Pahartal police in a special drive seized contraband Indian cloths worth Taka five lakh from a truck at Zolarhat on Dhaka-Chittagong road here today, reports BSS.

Arrest of terrorists demanded

CHITTAGONG, Nov 13: Rajan thana chapter of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) today called for immediate arrest of the alleged terrorists, toll collectors and murderers of the thana to ensure social peace and security as well as help the implementation of development projects there, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Press Club here, Mahiuddin Ahmed and M A Halim President and General Secretary respectively of the chapter claimed that the people of fifteen unions of the thana remained hostage in the hands of terrorists and that implementation of different uplift project was hindered by those terrorists.

The BNP leaders held responsible the Jatiya Party, NDP and Awami League for creating terrorism and repeated violence there.

Also present on the occasion are City Mayor and BNP Chittagong North District chapter President Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and General Secretary Golam Akbar Khandaker.