

Dhaka Day by Day

'All the People all the Time'

By Parveen Anam



At times it gets a bit difficult to understand the workings of superior minds. And superior minds is one thing, the country seems to have a surplus of, for the time being at least. Or till the time, when we have all managed to send away the brilliant brains to the foreign land in what is termed as the 'brain drain' by the more educated of the elite. Some of our dear country men are of the very considered opinion that their problems will all be solved, if they just manage to reach the distant shores of the distant lands. The honey and gold is just there for the taking.

However, what at the moment seems to be attracting the intellect of the superior beings, is the beautification of the roads and the abodes for various reasons. The reasons are obvious to all but the very dim-witted. So far so good. The good begins to turn 'not so good' when these same superior authorities also try to convince the simple minded beings like our humble selves, that all the activity taking place in the beloved city is only 'routine work' meant for our sole good. The audacity of the superiors leave you speechless, actually. Perhaps they can start rotating this 'routine work' to the far flung areas, which would develop in the bargain too with tiled pavements and glittering fountains. All ROUTINE WORK, mind you. The grammar teachers would love these fellows, for their very appropriate use of words and the comedian in us would enjoy a chuckle at the expense of the superior beings. Plenty of reasons the general masses have for laughing at 'the powers that be'. This is only an addition, really. It might be a fair idea to administer an IQ test to incumbents for public office. After all, if the tax payer is going to pay for all the facilities enjoyed by the public office holder, he might be relieved to discover he has not voted a moron into power. Either that, or you land up

taken for a ride. Because that is the very distinct impression one gets when he opens the daily newspaper, early in the morning eager to satisfy his lust for information and the news. It hits him like a physical blow, opening up the first page and being informed in no uncertain terms that the tiles on the pavements, the sparkling clean walls and the plane sitting atop a ridiculous concrete structure, are all part of work meant for his welfare and he should accept it as such. For if he does not, he falls into the imbecile category, which is the minority while the ones giving him the regal information, are all part of the elite majority. So either you put on your most intelligent expression and pretend to believe him when he tells you what he wants you to believe. Or, you just sit back and ask for an explanation. Which would promptly make you enormously unpopular with the superiors. Ask no questions, and you will be told no lies, is the motto of the entire exercise. All the glamour that the city has put on, is for no specific purpose; all part of the usual development work, which the city fathers undertake from time to time, to satisfy their aesthetic taste and to justify their time in office. Also to justify spending the tax payers money.

The expenditure of public money, seems to be their business in the name of development work. If it coincides with other happenings in the city, that is not their lookout. What also they have apparently not been told, the City Fathers, is that you can fool some of the people some of the time; but certainly not all the people all the time. In their frenzy for developing us, they have forgotten this very basic fact it seems. Happy lot, these fathers. Life is pretty uncomplicated for these people. It should be. They are of the distinct impression they are the only ones left with the brains.

Biswas tells students to help expand edn facilities

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon all including the teachers community to help expand the education facilities for building a sound illiteracy-free nation, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a three-day centenary festival of the Jagannath University College at the College premises here yesterday morning.

President Biswas said education was the driving force, which could help any nation to keep its head high and called for making all-out efforts in materialising the government programme of Universal Education System in the country.

He referred to various nation-wide programmes taken by the present democratic government in expanding the education facilities and said education sector had been given the highest allocation of funds in the national budget.

President Biswas pleaded for giving a new impetus to the mass-education programme to get rid of the nation

of illiteracy. Recalling the contribution of the Jagannath college in the field of expanding education since it was established in 1894, President Biswas paid tributes to its founder, Kishore Lal Roy Chowdhury, a zamindar of Baliati village under Manikganj district.

Earlier on his arrival at the college, President Biswas was received by the Principal of the college Dr. Q.I.T.M Habibur Rahman, teachers and students.

President Biswas hoisted the national flag at the college premises and took a salute from the college unit of the Bangladesh National Cadet Corp. He released pigeons and multi-coloured ribbons and balloons marking the centenary of the college.

Hundreds of teachers and students including ex-Principals, Professors and student leaders attended the inaugural function.

President Biswas in his speech recalled the contributions of the students of the college in all progressive and

democratic movements including those of the historic Language Movement in 1952 and the Liberation Struggle in 1971 and advised the students to follow the path of their predecessors in the struggle of making a decent and sound society.

He pointed out that the current rate of literacy in the country was not satisfactory and called for increasing investment in the education sector.

President Biswas stressed the need for institutionalising education in the vast rural areas for developing human resources. In this connection, he pointed out that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in 1979 had directed the concerned authorities to formulate necessary recommendations making the best use of the services of 1.75 lakh primary school teachers.

But he regretted and said that programme could not be materialised as the autocratic regime created obstacles on the way of expanding education in the country.



Lutfur Rahman Khan, State Minister for Relief speaking as chief guest in the certificate awarding ceremony of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) on Monday.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. CHOYANG PARK V-EE250 From Hamburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam, ex. M.V. CARLMETZ V-24/92 from Istanbul, ex. M.V. PANAMA SENATOR V-WM-301A from Hong Kong have been relayed to M. V. FONG SHIN V-9239 Import Rotation No. 967/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 23-12-92 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.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.
103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS: DSR SENATOR LINES, GERMANY.
PHONES: 503317, 500686/88.

Prequalification Notice

BPDB intends to engage contractor for laying 33 KV XLPE single core cable to cross Tetulia river in two channels in the Barisal area from its own source. All major materials and equipment will be supplied by the Department. All payments will be made in local currency only.

Applications for prequalification are hereby invited from bonafide contractors having A Class Civil & Electrical enlistment in BPDB for the aforesaid work.

Prescribed application forms detailing pre-requisites for pre-qualification may be purchased from the office of the Chief Engineer, Projects, BPDB, 47, Siddheswari, Dhaka up to 31/12/92 during office hours on written request and payment of Tk 200/- (non-refundable) per set in the form of Bank Draft /Pay Order issued in favour of Dy Director, A/Cs RAO (P&Co), PDB, Dhaka.

Applications will be received by the office of the Chief Engineer, Projects, BPDB, Dhaka up to 12.00 Noon of 14.1.93.

A panel of qualified contractors will be made after evaluating the particulars submitted with the application. The Chief Engineer, Projects reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Engineer (Projects) BPDB
Biddul/Jan-691 (3) 92-93
DFP (BA) 12327-20/12 47, Siddheswari Circular Road G-1659 Dhaka.

'Nation can survive thru' drastic economic reforms'

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday focused on the redeeming features of market economy and pleaded for privatisation for speedy development of the country, reports UNB.

A group of economists, businessmen, lawyers, academicians and trade union leaders who took part in the discussions maintained that the nation can only survive with honour and dignity and achieve progress through a drastic change in the economic policies by switching over to laissez-faire.

Presided over by Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, a teacher of Economics Department of the Dhaka University, the meeting was participated, among others, by Prof. Abdullah Faroque, Kamrul Islam, Abdus Salam Khan, Abu Mohammad Yusuf, Faisal Siddique, Sardar Mosharraf Hossain, Afroza Begum and Nizam Ahmed.

MORE (Making Our Economy Right), an economic forum, organised the discussion at the auditorium of National Scout Bhawan to highlight the principles of market economy, individual freedom and consumer sovereignty.

Underlining the merits of liberal policies with regard to trade, services, agriculture, finance and investment, Prof Abdullah Faroque pointed out that in a market economy appropriate persons, fit for business, will come out in respective fields through competi-

tion. Criticising the economic policies and systems followed in the country over the last 20 years, he said in the name of national development, only group interests were served during the period.

"As a result, political followers were provided loans instead of real entrepreneurs... and permit businesses were rampant hampering the process of economic development", Dr Faroque said.

Drawing a realistic picture of national economy, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said years of bureaucratic interference hindered economic development instead of lending support to new entrepreneurs.

"They inhibited and obstructed the liberal economic thinking by serving coterie interests," he said and urged all to serve the country rising above party interests.

He said absence of market economy, proper economic management, rule of law and government support to entrepreneurs aggravated the situation.

He recommended more liberal economic policy and equal opportunities for the nascent entrepreneurs in economic development activity and urged the government to be more accountable in this regard.

Criticising the major political parties for their role in economic field, Dr Mahmud urged them to come forward with concrete economic pro-

grammes without any vagueness.

Abu Mohammad Yusuf said over the last 20 years, country's economy had been seized by a vested group which accumulated wealth with the help of dishonest politicians and state hierarchy.

They turned the economy stagnant misappropriating state money, he said, urging the young generation to bread the unholy culture to free economy from their clutches.

Trade union leader Roy Romesh Chandra, however, called for building national consensus to protect national interest, investment and industries.

"Uncontrolled market economy might destroy the national economy," he said, adding there must be government control over the affairs to protect national interests.

Nizam Ahmed, Member Secretary of MORE, underscored nation's switch-over to a liberal economic system, a must for rapid economic development of the country.

Correction

The caption of a picture published on page 12 of our December 19 issue was inadvertently mentioned as 'arranged by the Women Volunteer Association' in place of 'arranged by the Gulshan Ladies Club'. The mistake is regretted.

Russian Fed team meets Speaker

The visiting four-member parliamentary delegation of the Russian Federation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy F. Kunadze called on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Razaque Ali at the Sangsad Bhawan yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on bilateral and parliamentary issues, an official handout said.

The Speaker explained to the Russian delegation the present parliamentary system of democracy in Bangladesh along with the accountability of the government through parliament.

During the discussion, the Speaker recalled the positive role of the then Soviet Union during Liberation Movement of Bangladesh.

Biswas, Khaleda greet Akihito

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted Japanese Emperor Akihito on the occasion of his birthday, reports UNB.

In a message to Akihito President Biswas said that the warmth, closeness and cooperation that characterise friendly relations between the two countries would acquire greater dimension in the coming years.

In a separate message to the Emperor, Begum Khaleda Zia said that the bonds of friendship and close cooperation that exist between the countries would further strengthen in the years ahead.

Both the President and Prime Minister also wished him good health, happiness and long life.



Sonargaon Hotel carried out a Fire Drill on Monday which incorporated the evacuation of all guests, tenants and staff of the hotel.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today Wednesday.

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The minimum temperature of 9.0 degree Celsius was reported from Ishurdi yesterday (Tuesday) and the maximum of 27.2 degree was reported from Teknaf.

The sun sets today Wednesday at 5.17 am and rises tomorrow Thursday at 6.28 pm.

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	9am	6pm
Dhaka	25.8	10.4	72	67
Chittagong	25.5	13.6	93	67
Rajshahi	25.1	9.6	79	85
Khulna	26.0	12.0	84	77
Cox's Bazar	27.0	14.8	87	74
Sylhet	26.5	12.5	79	66
Dinajpur	24.6	10.0	91	77
Barisal	26.2	10.6	83	80



Viewers at the 1st solo pastel painting exhibition of Artist Hasan Mahmud at the Galerie De L'Alliance Francaise.

Tender Notice

No 112-10/Engg. Dated: 20/12/92

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "tender for works" are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors (Bldg.) of Dhaka University for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned & Registrar/Director, Planning and Development, D.U. (for item No. 2) up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned against each work & opened on the same day at 12.15 p.m. in presence of the contractors who may remain present & Director, Planning & Development/Registrar, D.U. Tenderer may also drop their tender (for item No. 2) in the tender box kept in the office of the Chief Engineer and the Treasurer of Dhaka University. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of Taka as stated below in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender after depositing the cost of tender forms & schedule as stated below against each work to the Janata Bank, T.S.C. branch (non refundable) after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned.

S1. No.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Price of Tender	Time Allowed for Completion	Opening Date
1.	Construction of Shaheed Minar within the compound of Kabi Jashimuddin Hall.	Taka 31,142/31	Taka 625/-	Taka 30/-	15 days	29th Dec 92
2.	Construction of Herring bone bond north side of Surja Sen Hall	Taka 2,68,568/18	Taka 5371/-	Taka 150/-	30 days	3rd January 1993
3.	Repairs to garage in between Bldg. No. 24 & 25 at Nilkhet area, D.U.	Taka 38,970/16	Taka 780/-	Taka 30/-	21 days	3rd January 1993
4.	Providing fitting & fixing partex partition in the Deptt. of Bio-Chemistry (Teacher seating room) 2nd floor, D.U.	Taka 51,550/58	Taka 1032/-	Taka 45/-	30 days	3rd January 1993
5.	Construction of Mahrub in the Mosque of F.H. Hall, DU	Taka 17,077/79	Taka 342/-	Taka 20/-	21 days	3rd January, 1993

Muklesur Rahman Executive Engineer University of Dhaka
D-699