Dhaka Day by Day

Of Accounts and Accountability

by Parveen Anam

Money is a wonderful thing. It makes you feel on top of the world. It boosts your morale and your confidence. Our existence in this world is justified if we have managed to make millions for ourselves which of course very few actually achieve. Most of us manage to scrape past on the bare minimum. Others have a great big ball. The ball is somehow always better when the person enjoying himself is doing so at somebody else's expense.

On a national level, it seems to be the favourite pastime to be enjoying ourselves at somebody else's expense. We ought actually to be holding seminars and workshops on orientation courses as to how to enjoy ourselves to the capacity on somebody else's budget. And in this lovely city of ours, we fortunately do not have to go far. It is brought to us at our doorstep. And by none other than the 'powers that be' themselves.

Tree-Plantation Week in progress

Again, before we proceed further we must elucidate what exactly we mean by 'somebody else's expense'. It is common knowledge of course that the public servant is there at the pleasure of the tax payer. Or so the tax payer likes to think. And or hope. Unfortunately for him the public servant thinks distinctly otherwise. And that is where the real problem begins. On the one hand we have the tax payer in the elevated role of the lord and master and on the other we have the harassed official determined not to be outdone by the tax payer or anybody else for that matter.

He (the official) begins his regal day by issuing forms or some sort of printed instructions be it at the immigration line at the airport or the radio office, on bits of paper he has the gall to address as 'official'. The tax payer is furious at some of the questions he is being asked to answer and after a right royal tussle between the 'supreme authority' and the lowly tax payer, the form is withdrawn at some point or the other. But in the meantime who has paid for it ? Ah ha. The taxpayer of course. And there is nothing the 'harassed official' loves more than spending the money on a futile set of forms which are ultimately sold by the weight to the 'ferry-walla' vending old papers and stuff.

Next, come the aesthetic entertainment. One fine morning the tax payer finds the road in front of his house being dug up in the middle for the inevitable 'tree plantation week' or the installation of the drain pipe. Whatever be the reason, the fact remains that the road is dug up; the tree planted or the pipe installed and all is well. For the next two and a half days. On the morning of the third day he beholds the glorious sight of the same road being dug up. This time for the telephone wires. The pipes are thrown to one side and the trees look pathetically vulnerable as they are wrenched out of mother earth and thrown on the other side. So much for public money, you mutter. Who or what is responsible for this malady is your heartfelt question. Someone, somewhere along the line is paying for all this. With no accountability on anybody's part. Surely, it is a malady which needs to be treated with the utmost haste and urgency, this squandering of public funds in the interest of the public. The public unfortunately is never consulted. Not when the trees are planted and not when the pavements are ripped up. It is only taken into account when the money has to be squeezed out. The rest of the time it is apparently 'finders keepers.' The finders in this instance are, woe befall us, the public servants themselves. And they are the keepers as well it seems. Of funds which never belonged to them.

Biswas for unity of nationalist forces for self-reliance

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the need for spreading the knowledge of law to the people for the establishment of rule of law and consolidating democracy in the country, reports BSS.

The President was talking to a 62-members delegation of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ain Chhatra Forum when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, led the delegation.

President Biswas said the organised and united effort of all nationalist forces were essential to make the country self-reliant in all aspects.

He advised the law students to devote themselves in study so that they could uphold glorious tradition of legal profession and establish justice, fair play and legal rights of the common man.

Recalling the contributions of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to the nation, he said by implementing his 19-point programme the desired result of prosperity could be achieved.

The delegation apprised the President of various problems of the law students. The President assured them to look into them.

Among others, DUCSU AGS Najimuddin Alam, advocate Iqramul Bahar Majumder, President of the forum Keramat Ali Siddique and General Secretary Borhan Mia spoke on the occasion.

A sequence of Jatra presented by 'Rajsheela' group of Faridpur on the occasion of National Jatra Festival at Shilpakala Academy yesterday. — Star photo

RAKUB to disburse Tk 18 cr loan for boro paddy

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has undertaken a programme to disburse loan amounting to Taka 18 crore for boro paddy cultivation in Rajshahi division during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

The bank has already disburse Taka 2 crore 25 lakh and the loan distribution programme will continue till March 15.

Target has been fixed to cultivate boro paddy on about ten thousands hectares of land during the current season in 16 districts of the division and the bank has undertaken the loan distribution programme to achieve the target.

RAKUB has disbursed agricultural loan of Taka 33 crore on various programmes during the first six month of the current fiscal year among 46 thousands farmers as against Taka 23 crore disbursed during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. Taka 35 crore of loan was also realised during the time.

Meanwhile, RAKUB has given top priority to disburse loan on cattle and poultry farming and pisciculture on easy term. Directive has been given to the branch offices for smooth implementation of loan distribution programme for the sector.

Meeting of JS Committee on Health Ministry held

The 10th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare Ministry was held at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, who is the chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the district health services development committee and thana health services development committee, implementation of annual development projects of health sector. It also discussed encaderement of Family Planning officers of Family Planning Department.

Zia Forum asks Nirmul body to discard politics of destruction

Speakers at public rally yesterday called upon the members of the Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee to engage themselves in the nation building activities, discarding their politics of destruction and chaos, reports BSS.

They were addressing a public rally organised by the Zia Forum in front of the National Press Club. Presided over by the Zia Forum, President Professor Dr. M. Shahabuddin, the rally was addressed among others by the Forum General Secretary Khondoker Abul Quashem, Vice Presidents Hedayetullah Babul, A O Jami and J A Sarker and joint secretary M O Gani.

Killing of Long Marchers condemned

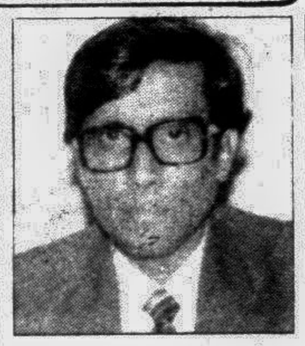
Different political parties and organisations have condemned the killing of three people and injuring of several hundreds in police firing Monday in Jessore on the "long-march", demanding the reconstruction of Babri Mosque, reports BSS.

The central executive committee of the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh at a meeting yesterday with its acting Ameer Abbas Ali Khan in the chair adopted a resolution, demanding punishment of those responsible for the incident. It also urged the government to provide compensation to the affected families and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

Secretary General of the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) Advocate Sigma Huda yesterday expressed deep concern and indignation over the untoward incident in Chittagong in which several persons were killed, some injured and a large number of people rendered homeless.

The society has also formed a one-man inquiry committee with its director (investigation) Saiful Islam Dildar, who had already reached the place of occurrence for conducting the investigations.

Other organisations, which issued statements condemning the incident, included federation of Islamic Organisations, Pragotishil Party, Bangladesh Muslim League, Islamic Oikkyo Jote, Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam and Bangladesh Islamic Parishad.



Anniversary of Prof Kamaluddin's death today

By Staff Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University has chalked out a number of programmes to mark the fifth death anniversary of former Vice Chancellor AFM Kamaluddin beginning from today (Wednesday).

The Department of Geography will place floral wreaths and offer prayer for the departed soul today at 10 am at Kamaluddin's memorial.

Milad mahfils will be held at the university's central mosque on Friday after the Juma prayer and at Bishmile Mosque.

Besides a milad mahfil will also be held at the former VC's residence on Friday.

Obituary

Khandkar Majharul Haq Chand Miah, former Member of the Constituent Assembly (MCA) and founder President of Manikgonj district Awami League, died of old age complications at his Majikganj residence, Monday. He was 80, reports BSS.

A Veteran politician of the district, left his two sons, wife and a host of relatives and wellwishers to mourn his death.

Chehlum

Chehlum of eminent Journalist Alhaj Shams-ul-Huda will be held on Friday after Asr prayer at his Asad Gate residence, reports BSS.

Colleagues, friends, and relatives have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the peace of the departed soul.

'Govt striving to transform women community into work force'

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman yesterday said that the present government had been putting its best efforts for transforming the women community into a viable work force for national uplift and self-reliance, reports BSS.

Different vocational training programmes have already been launched by reconstituting Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, to attain that objectives, she pointed out.

The state minister was addressing the inaugural function of a two-day national workshop on "Appropriate technology in socio-economic development" being held under the auspices of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha.

The inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by executive committee member of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Dr Shahida Rafiq and social worker Sufia Rahman. Chairman of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Begum Selina Rahman, MP, presided over the function.

Dr Quader hospitalised

Eminent historian Dr MA Quader was hospitalised Monday in serious condition, reports BSS.

Dr Quader, a litterateur and former Bengal civil service official, was admitted at Samarita Hospital and now is under the treatment of Professor Dr MN Alam.

IUB seminar suggests appointment of fit faculty members

Participants at a seminar on higher education, trends and direction here yesterday suggested appointment of right kind of faculty members in the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) so that the desired standard of education could be maintained, reports BSS.

IUB is a private university sponsored by Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) which intends to offer four-year honours course in Humanities and social science, and business and technology. The academic programme will begin from this year.

President of IUB Dr. A Majeed Khan informed the seminar that recruitment of faculty members including the rector was in process and that they were trying to recruit the best possible scholars from home and abroad.

The seminar reviewed the draft prospectus of IUB and widely acclaimed the mission and strategy of the university which aims at producing graduates with theoretical grounding and field exposure so that with their problem solving experience they could be ready to assume responsibility.

The scholars from Holand, France and the United Kingdom and the host Bangladesh participating in the seminar put their brain together to improve the draft porspectus containing aims, objectives and curriculum of IUB and suggested three sources from which teaching staff could be pooled.

Some of the foreign participants pointed out that though the cost put in the prospectus was high in Bangladesh context but in international context it was too small to attract the world class scholars.

The draft prospectus stated that IUB had formed an international advisory committee to provide information and guidance to the IUB Board of Studies and Faculty on curriculum matter, course requirements and academic performance with the objective to maintain an high academic standard.

The concluding session of the two-day seminar organised by the trust was held at the conference room of ICDDR'B at Mohakhali. Dr A Majeed Khan chaired the session while Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad was the moderator.

Sunday's incident

Judicial body begins probe

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin today said that the situation at Bandartila and South Halishahar, the scene of last Sunday's violent incident was gradually becoming normal and the government had undertaken a relief and rehabilitation programme for the affected people, reports BSS.

The Mayor also said that the judicial committee headed by a Supreme Court Judge had already started probe into the incident.

Addressing a press conference at his office here this evening the Mayor said 650 affected families had already been enlisted out of an approximately one thousand affected in the incident.

He said government has sanctioned Taka five lakh in cash for distribution among the affected people. CI sheets, blankets, rice and other relief materials have already been distributed.

'Development of nation depends on proper growth of children'

National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Haq yesterday said the development of a nation is dependent on the proper growth of its children spirited with the values of goodness and fellow feelings, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a prize distribution ceremony for paintings and recitation arranged on the occasion of 78th and 90th birth anniversaries of Shilpachariya Jainul Abedin and poet Jasimuddin respectively by Kendrio Kachi Kanchar Mela here.

Poet Sufia Kamal presided over the function.

Prof Haq said the more creative attitude among the children could be generated the more the national development would be ensured.

Appreciating the activities of Kachi Kanchar Mela he said this organisation since the long 36 years has been working for building up the children as the worthy citizens.

BTV

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন

Wednesday

5.00	Opening announcement Al-Quran
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	Sports Programme
6.00	Desh O Biggan
6.30	Open University
7.05	Programme of new artistes: Unmesh
8.00	News in Bangla
9.00	Film show: The Fall Guy
10.00	News in English
10.30	Ujjiban
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.45	Closing

Hasan Ahmed made envoy to Netherlands

The government has decided to appoint Syed Hasan Ahmed as the ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of the Netherlands with residence in Brussels, an official handout said yesterday, reports UNB.

Visit of Dutch Prof to IUBAT

Prof. Jan P. Van Bergen of Academy of Man-Labour-HOZN, Tillburg, The Netherlands, will arrive today as a short term Visiting Professor at the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Dhaka, says a press release.

Weather

Weather may remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says, dry weather will prevail over Bangladesh and thick fog is likely to prevail over the country from midnight today till 10 am tomorrow.

The Met office forecasts, partly cloudy sky is likely over Rajshahi division and the region of Kustia.

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5.26 pm and rises tomorrow at (Thursday) 6.43 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	9am	6pm
Dhaka	22.5	14.6	95	83
Chittagong	27.6	15.2	83	70
Rajshahi	22.0	13.0	89	89
Khulna	25.4	14.2	100	70
Barisal	24.5	15.5	98	90
Cox's Bazar	27.0	16.0	70	76
Dinajpur	17.5	13.0	91	84
Sylhet	23.2	13.0	100	87
Isurdi	23.5	12.0	95	80

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International Re-Tender

REF : S & P/FP/INT'L TENDER/004/92/68 Dated : 28th December, 1992

Sealed re-tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines from Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents/Indentors for the supply of the following tools, equipment, Polaroid camera and accessories:

SN.	Description	Tender No & Date	Cost of Schedule
01.	Polaroid camera and accessories.	S & P/FP/CS-496/ Camera/92 dt. 28-12-92	Tk. 500.00 or US$ 15.00 per set.
02.	Borescope for DC 10-30 engine inspection, tools/equipment, bonding tester of ATP and Central Programming Unit.	S & P/FP/DC10-30 tools/ equipt/003/92 dt. 28-12-92	-do-

Tender schedules containing detailed specification, terms and conditions will be available with Accounts Officer, Cash and Banking, Biman, Admin Building, Zia Int'l Airport, Dhaka as well as with Accounts Manager, Biman, Singapore, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, London and Manager Biman, Tokyo on cash payment (non-refundable) on all working days up to 20th January, 1992.

The last date of Tender submission is 21st January, 1993.

DFP (BA) 23-2/1
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Dy. General Manager S & P (Technical)
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