

Dhaka Day by Day

A College in Trouble

by Lutfor Rahman Belayet



The by-lane of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue has business centres and residential buildings on both sides. House No 76 (East Testuri Bazar) is of no exceptional appearance. A bush of cglantine stooped over the gate of a two story building gives a more residential air. But the signboard above indicates it is Tejgaon Girls' College. Different kinds of institutions have been mushrooming in the residential areas of the city. This college is one of them.

But it is with a difference. The college has not been established by any posh lady in her own flat to earn enough money as it is done today in the name of spreading education. This is the result of tireless struggle of a philanthropist lady — Shafnaz Begum, wife of late Shafi Ahmed, ex-DUCSO General Secretary and later influential leader of Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Shafnaz Begum had a long cherished desire to establish a college for the girls of middle and lower-middle class families who cannot afford their education in the much advertised noted colleges of the city.

Shafnaz Begum started her long day's journey into night with the college on a government allotted land at Mondpuripara in 1972. But when she was in the process of establishing the college she was evicted from the property in 1976, with no alternative house. Shafnaz Begum did not stop. She got hold of the present (rejected) property and restarted her journey on November 9, 1976.

The main problem of the college is with the settlement of the property. In 1982 the government fixed the value of the property with building at Tk 2,650,004 with monthly rent Tk 9474.47. Being unable to pay the amount Shafnaz Begum applied repeatedly to the then government for exemption of rent. But her appeal was not accepted. In 1987, in an ordinance the government decided to sell the rejected property having educational institutions of only 20 per cent of the market value. The college availed the opportunity and got another opportunity to pay the rent of the period between November 1982 to September 30, 1989 (Taka 156855.28) in nine installments.

Accordingly the college deposited Taka 17428.37 — the first installment with the Bangladesh Bank on May 25, 1990. But to the surprise of all, immediately after paying the first installment the government refused the rent of the said period at Taka 298875.17 and when the Shafnaz Begum was running from door to door to cancel the new rent order she got another notice fixing the rent again at Taka 378533.

On August 26, 1992 she got the last notice of the government saying unless the college paid Taka 464208.80 within 15 days they would take legal action. Like before she has been applying time and again to let her pay the rent at the earliest fixed rate. But she has got no positive reply.

There are so many examples where government has allotted rejected property to different socio-cultural organizations at a nominal price. Late president Ziaur Rahman gave 2.63 kathas of land to the Siddeshwari Girls' College on November 16, 1980 at only Taka 4000 per year in higher purchase system. Muktijoddha Sangsad got its 88, Motijheel property at Taka 101. Muktijoddha Command Council got its 393.

The college, having about 800 students and 40 teachers, is not only for the girl of middle and low middle class families, it is also a shelter for the students with poor results who have no access to famous colleges. Students from too remote areas like Airport, Demra and Mirpur, Uttar and Dakshin Khan find their last college to study here.

But the problem of property settlement is hindering the progress of the college. The two stories small building is also quite unable to accommodate the 800 student of IA, ISC, ICom and BA. Dhaka city has not enough educational institutions to accommodate its thousands of students. Personal initiative is the only way to help solve the problem and without partial government cooperation it is difficult to go ahead. From that point of view the question astonishes everyone why this college is getting step-mother behaviour from the government. The matter of rent exemption is still hanging, causing uncertainties to the college. The government should respond to a humanitarian call like this in the question of devoted public interest.

Pharmacists to be appointed in hospitals

By Staff Correspondent

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf Friday announced that the government has decided in principle to appoint pharmacists at all the hospitals of the country for better health-care services.

The government has also decided to appoint five pharmacists at the central medical stores, he said.

Opening a three-day National Pharmaceutical Conference at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka, the minister said that the pharmacists would be appointed with a view to improving the procurement, storage and distribution of medicines at the central medical stores.

The pharmaceutical conference organised by the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society (BPS) is being participated by about 450 Bangladeshi pharmacists from home and abroad.

Besides, international experts from 12 Commonwealth countries including the members of the executive committee of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA), and senior officials of the World Health Organisation from Geneva and Dhaka are also taking part in the conference, first of its kind in the country.

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Haque, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed, CPA president Brian Tidswell, Acting Representative of the World Health Organisation Myo Thwe, BPS president M K Choudhury and general secretary Nasser Shahrear Zahedee also spoke.

Nat'l statistical confce begins

The two-day fourth national statistical conference and seminar began here yesterday reports BSS.

The national conference and the seminar on "Population, health and environment in Bangladesh" being held at the auditorium of the academy for planning and development here was sponsored by Bangladesh Statistical Association (BSA).

What's on today . . .

Workshop on 'Medical Aspects of Torture'

Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) begins a two-day workshop on "Medical Aspects of Torture" at Hotel Purbani International in the city today (Saturday) at 3:30 pm.

Dr Kamal Hossain will attend the inaugural function as chief guest.

Attorney General Aminul Huq and Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) President Dr M A Majed will be the special guests on the occasion.

Chairman of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission Justice K M Sobhan will preside.

Seminar on business law

A three-day seminar on International Business Law will be inaugurated today (Saturday) at 9:30 am at the auditorium of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Jointly organised by the Export Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh Law Institute in Cooperation with the United Nations International Law Commission.

Commerce Minister M K Anwar will be the chief guest on the occasion while State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Aminul Huq will be the special guest.

Aggression Protirodh Jatiya Committee

Aggression Protirodh Jatiya Committee has organised a seminar to be followed by film show at the Public Library auditorium in the city today (Saturday) in observance of its founding anniversary.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz will be the chief guest on the occasion.

The seminar scheduled to begin at 3:30 pm will also be attended by the Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Environment and Forest Goyeshwar Roy.

Opening of community centre

Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mirza Abbas will formally open a newly-constructed Community Centre at Islambag in the city today (Saturday) at 4:00 pm.

The opening function will be attended by Lt Col (Retd) Mir Shauqat Ali, MP, as chief guest.

Chief Executive Engineer of the DCC M A Abdul Jabbar will preside.

Sports Photo Journalists' Assoc

The first general meeting of the Bangladesh Sports Photo Journalists' Association will be held at 10:00 am today (Saturday) at the Jatiya Press Club.

The meeting will be followed by lunch, sponsored by The Daily Star.

Jatra at Shilpakala Academy

New Protima Opera Natya Sangstha of Manikganj will stage "Mayer Chokhyc Jal", written by Ranjan Debnath and directed jointly by Golam Mowla and Tapan Kumar Pal, at the Shilpakala Academy today (Saturday) at 6:00 pm.

. . . and tomorrow

Women for Women

Women for Women, a research and study group, has arranged a three-day national conference on "Reproductive Rights and Women's Health" which begins tomorrow (Sunday) at the auditorium of National Museum in the city.

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf will attend the inaugural session beginning at 10:00 am as chief guest. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum will be the special guest while Dr Hamida Akhter Begum, president of the organisation, will preside.

Lions Club of Dhaka Golden

The first regular monthly meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Golden will be held on tomorrow (Sunday) at Sonargaon Hotel at 6:00 pm.

Renowned journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury will be present as guest of honour.

Weather

Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6:00 am today (Saturday) says, mild or moderate cold wave will sweep over the country and weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi division today.

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over Rajshahi and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The Met office adds, the mild cold wave will continue tomorrow.

The minimum temperature of 5.2 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi yesterday (Friday) and the maximum of 26.0 was reported from Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 5:33 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44 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	23.1	8.4	69	60
Chittagong	24.0	13.0	73	56
Rajshahi	23.8	5.2	70	69
Khulna	24.9	9.8	78	64
Barisal	24.5	9.4	77	75
Cox's Bazar	25.4	14.4	64	50
Sylhet	20.5	9.5	88	66
Dinajpur	20.0	6.9	95	70



Recipients of awards in the Metropolitan Tagore Songs Competition organised by Dhaka city unit of Tagore Songs Conference Council at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University. — Star photo

Some parties envious of BNP's politics : Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda today said a massive development programme was now on throughout the country for the uplift of the people of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Barrister Huda was distributing clothes and relief goods among three thousand destitute families badly affected by the river erosion of Padma here at the Nayabari, Nayabari Union Parishad Chairman Sirajul Islam Bulu also spoke.

Sharply criticizing the irresponsible politics of a section of political parties, Huda said they were now envious of the productive politics of the present BNP government.

Listing the various measures and policies undertaken by the present government for the economic emancipation of the people of the country, the Information Minister said BNP government had attached the highest priority to education and allocated the highest amount of money for this sector.

He said Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia had declared free education for the girls upto class VIII and had been pursuing the compulsory primary education for all boys and girls.

Earlier, Barrister Huda addressed a way-side meeting at Banglabazar where he said that the present government believed in the politics of production as against the politics of destruction by a section of political parties.

Happy Birthday

To

Aqmar

From

Nanu Nanabhai Moni

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- MOST SPACIOUS ONE UNIT TWO STORIED HOUSE 4 BEDS, ATTACHED BATHS, DRAWING, DINING, FAMILY ROOM, GARAGE AND SERVANT QUARTER WITH PARKING FACILITIES ON 45 DECIMAL LAND AREA
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WVA Meena Bazar—1993

(For the benefit of underprivileged and disabled children)

22nd January — Friday
From **11 AM to 5 PM**

The Meena bazar will have International and other stalls.

Entry Cards are available at :

Video Connection, Gulshan, Aarong-Banani & Mirpur Road, Kintuki Restaurant, Dhali General Store, Gulshan, WVA Office at 405/A, Rd—27 (old), Dhanmondi and at the venue on 22nd January.

Space Donated by : The Daily Star

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HERE and THERE

Dhaka Law College

Warm reception was accorded to the freshers of the Dhaka Law College on Thursday at the college auditorium. Presided over by the principal of the college, the function was conducted by Luna, a second year student and assisted by Masum and Altaf.

Speakers welcoming the freshers, urged to maintain peaceful academic atmosphere at any cost. The function was rounded off by a musical soiree.

Youth Together

A newly-floated voluntary youth organisation 'Youth Together' held its general meeting on Wednesday at 85, Elephant Road, M. Bazar.

The meeting formed a 21-member central committee with Faisal Hasan and Janial Abdul Naser as president and general secretary respectively.

CPB

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a statement Friday called upon the government to fulfil the demands of the inhabitants of Sylhet.

The statement issued by its general secretary Nurul Islam Nahid criticized a recent statement of Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia at a public meeting at Bhanibazar and said voting for the ruling party might not be a condition to the development of a certain area.

He, however, demanded formation of Sylhet Division and construction of Sheola bridge at Bhanibazar.

Shilpangan

A discussion on the flourishing and trend of arts in the country was held at Shilpangan, the contemporary art gallery, in the city yesterday.

Noted artist Aminul Islam, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dr Sarwar Morshed, Dr Mostafa Nurul Islam, Dr Sirajul Islam Choudhury and Monirul Islam addressed the meeting. Prof Kabir Choudhury was in the chair.

Jamaat

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday strongly condemned the killing of its student activist Yahia at Rajshahi.

Yahia was killed in an armed clash between the workers of All-Party Students Unity and the Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat, near the Rajshahi University College on Thursday.

Outstanding performance by two sisters

Outstanding academic performance by two students, Saffana N Hassan and Saffnaz B Hassan has served to draw Bangladesh into the focus of prestigious attention in the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama, says a press release.

In the recently held graduation ceremony of the University, Saffana was the only Bangladeshi among a handful who qualified as Honour Graduates in Engineering. An all American scholar, an all on the National Dean's list, Saffana was awarded the degree of B Sc (Engg) with distinction (Magnum Cum Laude) in Electrical Engineering.

Her younger sister Saffnaz, a sophomore with major in Electrical Engineering, also on the Dean's list.

Saffana and Saffnaz are the daughters of S Hasan Ahmad, Bangladesh Ambassador to the Benelux Countries and the European Community in Brussels.