

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Doctor's Relentless Crusade Against Blindness

by Masud Hasan Khan

Professor Saichi Mishima is a four generation eye doctor. Ophthalmology, the science of eye and eye-sight treatment, is a profession handed down to him, and even later to his son, by his great-grandfather Kenryu Mishima, who was also an eye specialist.

"Eye is the most important organ of the human body. Without eye, all activities in human life become restricted and helplessly depended. The challenge that now lies in front of the younger generation of ophthalmologists is to combat eye diseases and prevent the growing number of blindness," he believes.

Mishima is the president of Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) which is currently holding its 14th congress in Dhaka.

Besides, being the APAO president, Mishima is the director of Tokyo Kosei Nenkin Hospital, vice president of the Japanese Medical Association and president of the Japanese National Society of Prevention of Blindness.

He was also a former chairman of the Eye Department of Tokyo University Medical School for 16 years and former dean of the university.

The 55-year-old physician is typically a Japanese — shy, soft spoken and courteous — who has firm faith in himself and on the potentiality of the youthfolks.

Mishima is not a stranger to Bangladesh and its bleak scenario where 30,000 kids go blind every year because of high Vitamin-A deficiency. In fact, all the Bangladeshi participants in the on-going APAO congress seemed to be his acquaintances while many were highly appreciative of his contribution in the field of Ophthalmology.

"Professor Mishima is a great friend of Bangladesh. His feelings and what he has done for the country for the last 1 or 11 years is remarkable," commented Professor Martin, a renowned ophthalmologist of the country.

"My relation with Bangladesh and its people grew in 1977 when I performed a corneal transplant operation on a Bangladeshi patient who travelled to Tokyo," recalled Mishima. The grateful patient invited the doctor to visit the

world's largest deltaic plain with immense problems and potential.

Accordingly, Mishima came to Bangladesh for the first time in 1979 and visited Dhaka and Chittagong.

"From the first visit, I made a lot of friends which includes the eminent Ophthalmologists of the country. I liked the people's frankness and friendliness," he said.

Later, he visited Bangladesh twice, once in connection with the Alim memorial lecture he was invited to deliver at Barisal Medical College in 1981.

The friendship between the Japanese Ophthalmologist and his Bangladeshi colleagues became deeper when he proposed Japanese assistance for the blindness prevention movement in Bangladesh.

He also played a very crucial role in help organising the 14th APAO congress in Dhaka, which he terms "an Olympic for the ophthalmologists of the region."

Saichi Mishima was born in March, 1927 in Osaka. He received his medical graduation degree in 1949 from the Tokyo University Medical School. In 1950, he became a licensed physician and took the doctor of medical science degree in 1957.

Two years later, young doctor Mishima went to the United Kingdom and joined the Royal Institute of Ophthalmology. He moved to the United States and got admitted at the Harvard Medical School in 1960.

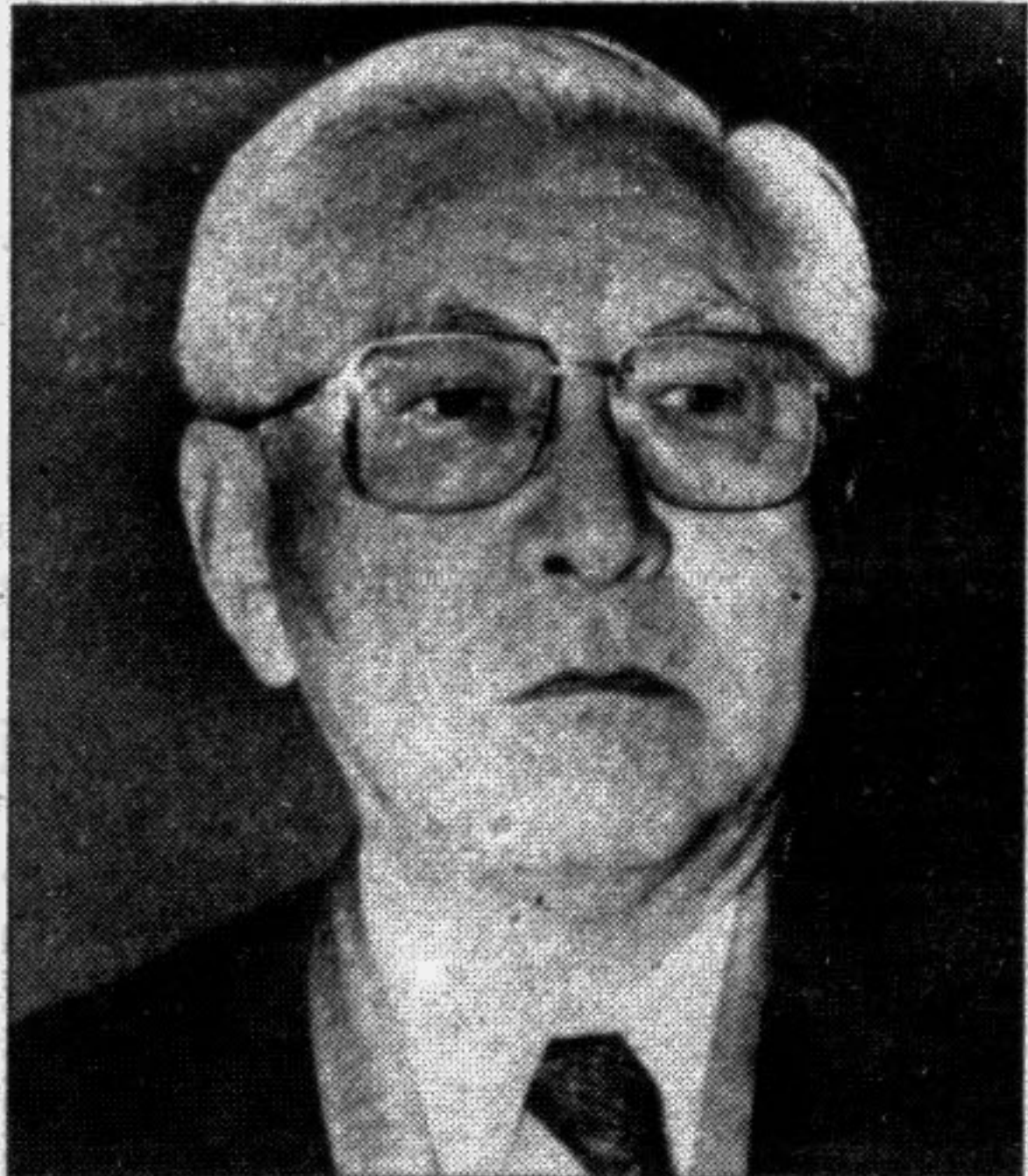
After specialising on eye, Mishima joined the Columbia University Medical School in 1965 as an assistant professor and worked there for three years.

In 1968, he came back to Japan and joined the Eye Department of the Tokyo University as an associate professor.

He was appointed chairman of the department in 1971 and retired in 1987.

In addition to his research and ophthalmology practice, Mishima designed the slit-lamp microscope which is an essential tool in cornea operation.

He is very fond of Japanese classical music and plays golf at leisure hours.



Professor Saichi Mishima

### What's on today . . . .

#### Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti Greater

The 18th regular meeting of Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti Greater will be held at the Officers Club at Baily Road at 6 pm today (Thursday).

President of the Lions Club Gautam Shaha will preside over the meeting.

#### Orpheus Music Listeners' Club

Orpheus Music Listeners' Club and Goethe-Institut Dhaka will jointly organise the screening of "Madama Butterfly", an opera by Italian music composer Giacomo Puccini at the German Cultural Centre auditorium today (Thursday) at 6.00 pm.

### . . . . and tomorrow

#### Gold Leaf Short Film festival

The closing ceremony of the 3rd International Gold Leaf Short Film festival will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 6.30 pm at the Central Public Library auditorium, Shahbagh.

#### Sociological Assoc conference

Bangladesh Sociological Association will begin its two-day long third national conference tomorrow (Friday) at the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science auditorium, University of Dhaka.

The inaugural session will be held at 10.30 am. Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Professor Emajuddin Ahmed will attend the session as chief guest.

### Weather

## Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

The prevailing mild to moderate cold wave is likely to continue over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore, Kushtia and Sylhet for another 24 hours commencing 6 am today.

The Met office forecasts, dry weather with partly cloudy sky over the country will prevail during this time while night temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius.

Thick fog is likely to prevail over land and river basins till 9 am today commencing late night.

The Met office adds, night temperature will continue to rise from now on.

The minimum temperature of 4.4 degree Celsius was reported from Iswardi yesterday (Wednesday) while the maximum of 25.5 degree was recorded in Jessore.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.43 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.42 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	9 am 6 pm
Dhaka	24.2 9.8	78 76
Chittagong	23.6 10.9	84 67
Rajshahi	25.0 5.3	68 60
Khulna	25.1 8.5	82 56
Barisal	25.5 8.5	83 71
Cox's Bazar	24.9 11.5	58 64
Sylhet	24.0 11.2	91 64
Dinajpur	22.5 8.0	92 78
Iswardi	24.5 4.4	80 58

## Steps suggested to supply pure drinking water in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: The Directorate of Environment, Chittagong division, has advised hotels, restaurants, shops, residences, hospitals and educational institutions to take adequate steps for supplying pure drinking water, reports ISS.

The advise was given after finding harmful bacteria by the Directorate in drinking water, used by the people of several districts of Chittagong division.

The Directorate has set up three mobile laboratories in Comilla, Sylhet and Feni districts to collect the samples of different sources of water supply and made an experiment in the Directorate's own laboratory in this connection.

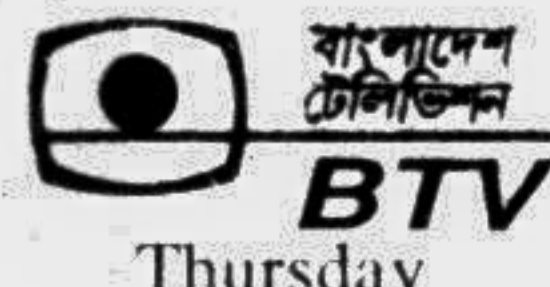
The Directorate found that in Chittagong 42 out of 60 samples of 100 ml-litre water contains ten to 160 harmful coliforms. While, in Cox's Bazar there are 20 to 180 coliforms found in 16 out of 20 samples of 100 ml water.

The survey found the highest number of harmful coliform in Chandpur district which is 60 to 500 in each 100 ml water.

## JDC executives

Joy Alamgir and Jasimuddin Ahmed were elected President and General Secretary of Josephites Debating Club (JDC), an organisation of the students of St. Joseph High School, reports ISS.

Junaid, Shahadat and Mushfiq were elected Vice-President, Joint Secretary and Treasurer respectively in the election held on Monday at the school premises.



5.00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	School debate
6.30	Open University
7.05	Jiboner Alo
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama of the week: Aami O Swatee
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film show: China Beach
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

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Spring semester classes started Jan. 23rd. Details Bangladesh Observer & Ittefaq 24 & 27th Dec. '92 & Inqilab 1st Jan. '93. Late registration possible. Admission going on.

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