

# Dhaka Day by Day

## What the Students and Teachers Face

by Fayza Haq

Speaking to Azfar Hussain, of the Department of English, Jahangirnagar University, one gathered that both the teachers and students at the universities in Bangladesh were facing overwhelming problems.

"The unpredictable closure of universities interrupting the required course of finishing a given course does not suffice. The reason of the closure is not sufficient to clarify the problems faced by both the teachers and the students. As a consequence of the closure, the teachers and students remain in the middle of their course if the university suddenly shuts down. Meanwhile the announcements for the schedules of the examinations appear to be dramatic, because this results in the course not being finished," Azfar explained the situation at the campuses.

The universities have not been able to evolve a mechanism whereby the teachers can have access to necessary resources required for the teaching their courses effectively. These resources include books, journals, laboratory equipments etc, the teacher, who also happens to be a contributor to various national newspapers, added.

"Both these are major problems," he continued, dwelling on the same subject. The teachers, themselves, are not adequately trained. They might be having a 'first class first certificate in his subjects, but he has not been trained to teach. There is a debate on the issue as to whether one teaching at the universities requires such a training, which is otherwise imparted to the college and school teachers. However, some young teachers feel that apart from developing research expertise in a particular area, such training is necessary. A Ph. D. degree may not be adequate for the required functions," he added.

"Speaking on the same theme, Azfar continued, "We have a massive problem in that young teachers do not receive encouragements and incentive from their superiors, the professors, who are supposed to train and build them."

"Usually," he added, "the professors remain so busy in activities, mostly nonacademic, that they do not have the time to spare for either the students or the young lecturers. They are involved in consulting business, and other public activities, which have virtually no reliance to the academic life of the universities where they teach," he said, furthermore. "The contributions of many eminent professors would have immense if



Azfar Hussain

the university administration had a mechanism to regulate their mechanism to control and regulate their activities. It maybe, mentioned here, in passing, that there is no adequate accountability system in the universities."

"Quite a number of the young teachers find it rather compelling to get themselves involved in what has been come to be known as 'teacher's politics'. Some of the young teachers have come to consider it as a survival strategy, while some have taken it as a kind of incentive. For competent teachers it is a survival strategy, despite competence: while for others, those ones who have come to the universities without required qualification, this 'group politics' is a means to quick promotions and other facilities. It would not be an exaggeration to maintain that 'group politics' in the universities is largely responsible for creating frustrations and tensions, particularly for those teachers who want to study and teach and build themselves as true academicians."

Talking about the students themselves and the problems they too face, Azfar commented, "It would not be too radical to say that the students are the worst victims of the state of the universities. The other day, one of the students said, 'the university is a prison.' This metaphor of 'prison' is apt enough to indicate the shackles of conventions, to which students are drawn as 'prisoners', more appropriately scapegoats."

A number of students feel that the universities which are supposed to be more democratic than other institutions, and more experimental than

other establishments, do not accommodate space for creative breakthrough, he added.

"The question which we can rightly ask," he continued about the subject of the students, "is: are our universities giving birth to new ideas and ideas originating new values which can change the 'form of thinking and living? It is true that the initiatives for most of the remarkable political and social revolutions (not a social revolution, but at least movements and upsurges) came from the universities, but in most cases they have been sporadic and momentary."

At the age of 29, Azfar contributes to the editorials of "Sunday Express", a local daily, and is included in the editorial board of "Sachintro Somoy". He published his first book of poems, "Chromatones" at the age of 18, and his book "A Reading of Jimenez" is scheduled to be published shortly.



Ransacked election camps of BNP (top) and Awami League (above) at Mirpur (Story on Page 1). —Star photo

## Biswas for spreading library movement

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday emphasised the need for growing reading habits to acquire knowledge by spreading the library movement in the country, reports BSS.

He said age is not the factor of earning knowledge by reading potential books to enrich the horizon of an individual.

President Biswas was talking to a 15-member delegation of the 'Ganarjan Pathagar' when they called on him at Bangabhaban Tuesday morning. AFM Salahuddin, President of the Pathagar led the delegation.

The President said the nation could be more prosperous by acquiring skills and knowledge through the devotion of reading of books on different aspects of life.

He said ambition of the human being should be to render valuable services to the society and make the nation profitable despite limitations.

Referring to the concept of people of the developed society, he advised them to be resource personnel, it was only the way to follow the path of pursuing knowledge.

He called upon them to build an atmosphere of reading habits throughout the country by setting up new libraries having sufficient stock of knowledgeable books.

He advised the younger section to come forward in an

organised manner to spread the library movement and utilise their prime time in this essential field.

The delegation apprised the president of their activities and their problems.

The President assured them to look into their problems.

### Dahgram Angorpota Sangram Parishad

A two-member delegation of the Dahgram Angorpota Sangram parishad called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

They apprised the President of their problems. The President gave them a patient hearing.

The members of the delegation are, Mohammad Abdul Kader, Chairman of the organisation and Mohammad Tafizul Islam Sarkar, local Chairman of the Union Parishad.

### PATA chief stresses infrastructural development of tourism

Bangladesh will have its share in tourism in the Asia Pacific region if the infrastructure and marketing are developed, Inder Sharma, President of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) said here yesterday.

Sharma, now on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, told BSS that the country have vast scenic beauty, coupled with criss-crossed rivers and an uninterrupted sea beach which could easily attract tourists. "If the infrastructure is developed why Bangladesh would not get a share of tourism", he said.

He said beach tourism had developed both in Thailand and Indonesia. An agreement from these countries to promote beach

tourism, a chairman of a Delhi-based travel agency, held wide range of discussion with Bangladesh officials and tour operators on promotion of tourism and how PATA could contribute to it.

## Biswas greets Premadasa

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated Shri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on the occasion of the National Day of Sri Lanka, reports UNB.

In a message, President Biswas hoped that the existing bond of friendship and cooperation between the two SAARC countries would be further strengthened in the coming years.

President Biswas also wished him good health, happiness and long life and the friendly people of Sri Lanka peace, progress and prosperity.

## Biman fetches Tk 32.84 cr profit

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday said that Biman Bangladesh Airlines earned a profit of Taka 32.84 crore during 1991-92, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from M Abdur Rahim (AL-Dinajpur) the state minister said that in the preceding year (1990-91), Biman incurred a loss of Taka 3.25 crore.

He said that since its inception in March, 1972, the

national flag carrier made profits, during the fiscal years of 1972-73, 1975-76, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1988-89 and 1989-90.

To another question from Enamul Hoq (Jamaat-e-Islami), the state minister said that works had been progressing on the improvement of Cox's Bazar airport. The airport development programme included expansion of runway by 1500 feet in length and by 150 in width.

## Mirza Hafiz elected VP of AALCC

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz was elected vice-president of Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) on February 1. At the thirty-second session of AALCC being held at Kampala, according to a message received here yesterday, reports BSS.

This is the first time that Bangladesh has been elected to this highest post of the AALCC, a 42-member Afro-Asian organisation.

Law and Justice Minister is leading a three-member Bangladesh delegation to the 32nd session of the AALCC now being held at Kampala Uganda from February 1, to February 6.

## Corruption case filed against 56

The Anti-corruption Bureau yesterday filed a case in Savar thana against 56 persons, including two former sub-registrars, for 'stamp forgery' causing a loss of Tk six crore to the national exchequer, reports UNB.

A task force at the head office of the Bureau filed the case against two former sub-registrars of Savar, 38 deed writers, 10 vendors, one TC Mohrar, one stamp assistant

and four others, said a press release.

It found that former sub-registrars Salamati Ullah and Ahsanul Karim and an organised gang of employees and others were involved in making deeds with forged stamps.

They erased print of the value of stamps by using liquid and chemicals and reprinted much higher value on those, the press release said.

## Shahid Nazir's contribution recalled

The Tamaddun Majlis has recalled the contribution of Shaheed Nazir in the freedom movement against the British, reports BSS.

Speakers at a discussion meeting held here Tuesday in observance of the fifth death anniversary of Shaheed Nazir called for compiling the true history of freedom struggle that stretched over a period of more than two centuries.



Babupura dwellers brought out a procession in city yesterday protesting violation of a minor girl Nazma and demanding trial of culprits. —Star photo

## Johns Hopkins Varsity programme Feb 8

The country representative of the Johns Hopkins University, centre for communication programmes, is going to hold the inaugural ceremony of the "South Asia Population Communication Conference" at Sonargaon Hotel in city on February 8 at 5:30 pm, says a press release.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare will be the chief guest of the function while Strajul Haque, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare, and William R. Goldman, Director, Office of Population and Health, US Agency for International Development, will be present as special guests.

Syed Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will preside over the inaugural session.

## Memorial meet on Dr Mahfuz held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: Speakers at a memorial meeting here yesterday paid tributes to late Dr Mahfuzul Haq, an educationist and writer, reports BSS.

The meeting held at Fieringheer Bazar ward committee auditorium in observance of Dr Mahfuzul Haq's 2nd death anniversary with Mahfuzul Haq Smriti Committee President Ataur Rahman Khan Kader in the chair was addressed by Dainik Azadi Editor Prof Muhammad Khaled, social worker Kazi Akramuddin Ahmad, Advocate Muhammad Kamal, journalist Syed Mustafa Jamal and Principal Muhammad Hussain Khan.

**বিশ্বাস**  
**BTB**  
**Thursday**

5.00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary.
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	TV debate
6.10	Echo Para Shikhi
6.35	Address of Shri Lankan High Commissioner on the occasion of its National Day
7.18	Jibsoner Alo
8.00	News in Bangla
8.35	Drama of the week: Shahj Belatey
10.00	News in English
10.35	Parliament roundup
10.40	Film show: Custody
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.40	Tomorrow's Programme
11.45	Closing

## HERE and THERE

### SEECAOR

A week long workshop on advancement of environment and culture organised by SEECAOR was held at 15/1 Zikatala in the city. Abdulla Sharir and Chowdhury Jahirul Islam conducted the workshop. Md Jannatul Islam Chowdhury chief executive of the organisation inaugurated.

### Publication ceremony

A book entitled "Panch Dashaker Smriti Katha" written by former Public Service Commission Chairman Faruddin Ahmed was launched at a ceremony held at the Jatija Press Club yesterday afternoon.

Reazuddin Ahmed Editor of The Telegraph and former President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) presided over the function while Prof Rathin-Sharif attended it as the chief guest.

The author of the book, Faruddin Ahmed, narrated his experience in administration and War of Liberation in the book.

### Seminar on pottery

A seminar on "pottery in Bangladesh" was held at the auditorium of National Museum on Wednesday with a call to take measures to save the industry.

Dr Shahjalal presented the key-note paper at the seminar which was addressed by, among others, Tofael Ahmed and Abu Syed Tahkder. The seminar was chaired by Imdad Hossain.

The speakers said pottery industry carried our heredity but we passed a long time leaving behind this glorious past.

### Chemical Engg Alumni convention Feb 11-12

The fourth convention of the Chemical Engineering Alumni of BUET will be held on February 11-12 on BUET campus, says a press release yesterday.

A seminar entitled "Prospects and Problems of industrialization in Bangladesh" will be held on this occasion.

## Weather

### Dry weather may prevail

Dry weather with clear sky is likely to prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

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

The minimum temperature of 9.8 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday (Wednesday) and the maximum of 28.8 degree was reported from Rangamati and Satkhira.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.47 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.38am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/towns	temperature in degree Celsius		humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.5	13.5	73	57
Chittagong	27.8	15.2	80	64
Rajshahi	27.6	10.1	72	65
Khulna	28.2	13.5	85	63
Burisal	28.2	12.8	86	-
Cox's Bazar	28.5	15.5	74	71
Sylhet	28.0	15.2	72	60
Dinajpur	26.7	11.5	78	70

## BANGLADESH RETIRED GOVT. EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited for the work: "CONSTRUCTION OF 2-STORIED BUILDING WITH 5-STORIED FOUNDATION OF BANGLADESH RETIRED GOVT. EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION AT SATMASJID ROAD, DHANMONDI R/A, DHAKA" from experienced Construction Firms owned and managed by Bangladeshi Citizen and registered in Bangladesh, who have successfully completed building project of similar nature with RCC Cast-in-Situ Pile Foundation for any Govt., Semi-Govt., Autonomous Body, Bank, Insurance Companies or similar type of Organisations, costing not less than Tk. 100 lacs in a single tender during the last 3 (three) years.

Intending firms may apply for tender schedules along with the attested copies of certificate of satisfactory completion of project as mentioned above (from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer), upto-date enlistment/pre-qualification certificate, income tax clearance certificates, Bank solvency certificate and ABC licence/letter of association with electrical firm List of Technical Personnel with Curriculum Vitae and consent letters and construction equipment list of the firms will also have to be submitted along with the application. No JOINT VENTURE will be allowed for bidding the tender.

The application will be received by the Consultant, Design Associates Ltd., House No. 45, Road No. 9A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 upto 10.02.93 during office hours and the Tender schedules will be sold to only qualified & eligible firms on receipt of non-refundable cash Tk. 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) only from the office of the undersigned upto 15.02.93. Tenders will be received upto 12.00 O'clock on 25.02.93 in the tender box placed at the office of the undersigned and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 P. M. in presence of tenderers who may like to remain present.

The tenders must accompany an earnest money of 2% (Two percent) of the quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any local scheduled Bank in favour of "BANGLADESH RETIRED GOVT. EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION" Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

The Authority reserves the right not to accept the lowest tender and to reject any tender or part thereof or all tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

### Convener

Construction Sub-Committee  
Bangladesh Retired Govt. Employees Welfare Association.  
74, Dhanmondi R/A.  
Road No. 21 (Old) 11-A (New)  
Dhaka.