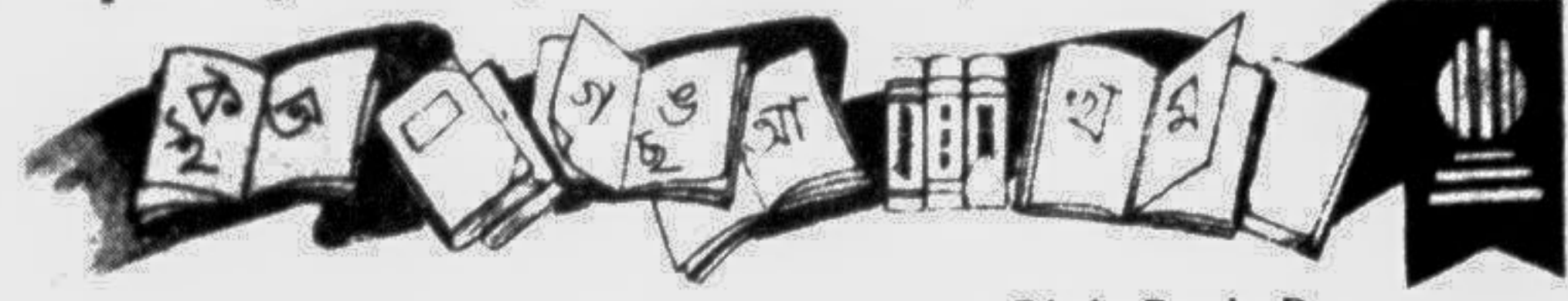


Spirit of Ekushey Lives On



Dhaka Day by Day

Language Movement: Down the Memory Lane

By Rahat Fahmida

Sophia Hossain, 80, an ex-college teacher, vividly recollects her memory of 1952, and its background. Hossain was then a 29-year-old high school teacher, who was a revolutionist, but a silent one. Around 1955 she moved into Mofassil colleges and now in her old age lives a recluse in her village home in Barisal. February is the only month she visits the capital, to see for herself how Ekushey is observed and the memory of the language movement is treasured.

Talking to *The Daily Star*, she said referring to the language movement, "when a momentous event starts taking shape in the womb of history, it is only an indiscreet means through which the ignition of the fuse takes place."

Looking down her memory lane she recollected, 1947 saw the first seed of language movement being sown on the 27th of November of that year, when a conference on education was held in West Pakistan. This was inaugurated by the then education minister of Pakistan - Fazlur Rahman. His speech along with the speeches of two other ministers of East Pakistan government - Habibullah Bahar and Abdul Hamid reached the people undistorted. In this said conference it was proposed to the Pakistan National Assembly, that Urdu should be the state language and the medium of communication between the provincial governments. It was also suggested that Urdu must be compulsory for a year at the primary level.

Taking this issue seriously into account, the student of East Pakistan started the language movement at the end of 1947. We have seen, that the first meeting to make Bengali a state language, was held on the Dhaka University premises on the 6th of December of the same year. The editor of 'Tamuddun Majlish', Abul Kasem presided over the meeting. Among others this meeting was also attended by Munir Chowdhury, Abdur Rahman, Kalyan Dasgupta, A.K.M. Ahsan, and S. Ahmed.

Farid Ahmed, the vice-president of the student's union of Dhaka University, formally put forward the proposals for according this recognition to Bengali. And this was followed by many significant incidents and large demonstrations through out the country, in favour of the language movement.

Sophia Hossain explained, that the movement of 1948 was influenced by a number of incidents. The National Assembly was resuming its session in Karachi. There had been a debate on February 23, that the official medium of correspondence in the National Assembly should also include Urdu, alongside English.

Dhirendranath Dutta, a member of the East Bengal Congress then demanded in the parliament, that Bengali should also be included. "Later we have noticed, that his demand for Bengali was rejected by Liaquat Ali Khan, Khaja Nazimuddin and Tamizuddin Ahmed. They argued, hardly anyone in this part of the country could accept such a decision." NRECA selects every year one country in the annual conference to represent the rural electrification network of that country and this year selected Bangladesh.

An occasion presented itself even before the movement of 1952. The language movement seemed to have come to a halt after March 1948, with the students only observing 11th March. The language movement survived in such a flickering hope. "This movement for the Bengali language was not confined to the cultural context only, and this was amply manifest in 1952," said the elderly educationist. She stressed, that it should be remembered, that in 1952 the first ones to leave the government offices in protest of the firing on students, were the third and fourth grade employees of the government. All this should be recorded for a true appraisal of our language movement and the subsequent ones leading up to the Liberation War.



Red Crescent to get Tk 24 cr IFRCs aid annually

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will receive an annual assistance worth about Tk 24 crore from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, reports UNB.

The project assistance will come under an agreement signed here yesterday between BDRCS and IFRCs, officials said.

BDRCS Chairman Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal, MP, and visiting under Secretary General of IFRCs Stephan Davey signed the 80-year accord (1993-2000) on behalf of their respective organisations.

The money is to finance ongoing programmes and projects, including those under the Disaster Preparedness Programmes of BDRCS.



Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat yesterday. —PID photo

Huda addresses Tejgaon College JCD confce Some parties trying to disrupt congenial educational atmosphere

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday gave a clarion call to the students to dedicate themselves for materialising the dream of an affluent Bangladesh saying "read and read only was the reply to the politics of terrorism, hartals, anarchy and violence, reports BSS.

Barrister Huda said the students should prepare themselves by acquiring knowledge for leading the nation to the path of development.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest the freshers reception and conference of Tejgaon College Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit here yesterday morning at the college ground. JCD leader Fazlul Hoq Milon, Quamruzzaman Raton, Nasiruddin Pintu, Saiful Alam Nirob, S M Jahangir Hossain, Abu Sufian Dulal and Syed Shamsheer Alam

also spoke. Ferdous Alam Shaheen presided. He regretted a section of political forces were now trying to disrupt the healthy environment in the educational institutions resorting to the politics of violence, terrorism, anarchy and hartals.

But, he said, JCD as a front organisation of BNP, had faith in democracy, sovereignty of the country and power of the people and that was why both JCD and BNP had never resorted to the politics of violence, terrorism and anarchy. Barrister Huda said the national economy was ruined by the most corrupt autocrat Ershad during his nine years of misrule creating vacuum in every sphere of life. He called upon the students to study hard and acquire knowledge for preparing themselves to fill in that void in politics, administration and other affairs.

JCD leader Milon presented the JCD nominated full panel for the forthcoming Tejgaon College Students Union and called upon the students of the college to cast votes in favour of Dulal-Shamsheer Panel of the JCD.

Mosharrarf off to USA

The Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Khandaker Mosharrarf Hossain, left Dhaka yesterday morning for London on way to Dallas to attend the annual general conference of the US National Rural Electrification Cooperation Association (NRECA), reports BSS.

Member countries under rural electrification network will participate the conference to be held tomorrow.

NRECA selects every year one country in the annual conference to represent the rural electrification network of that country and this year selected Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Energy Minister will represent the total rural electrification network of Bangladesh highlighting its progress.

'Mass edn centre to be set up in every village'

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar laid emphasis on spread of female education for achieving national development, reports BSS. The Education Minister was speaking as chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony of Ispahani Girls' School and College at Maghbazar, yesterday.

Presided over by Chairman of the managing committee of the college Amena Ispahani, the function was addressed by State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan and Principal of the college Mobina Khatoun.

The Education Minister said, the government had already taken pragmatic steps towards spreading education among the masses through implementation of compulsory primary education and mass education programmes. It will establish mass education centres in every village for educating those who have no access to formal education, for eradicating illiteracy by the year 2000, he added.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar said, the present government aims at bringing a qualitative change in the system of higher education and steps have already been taken to establish private university, open university and national university for this purpose, he said.



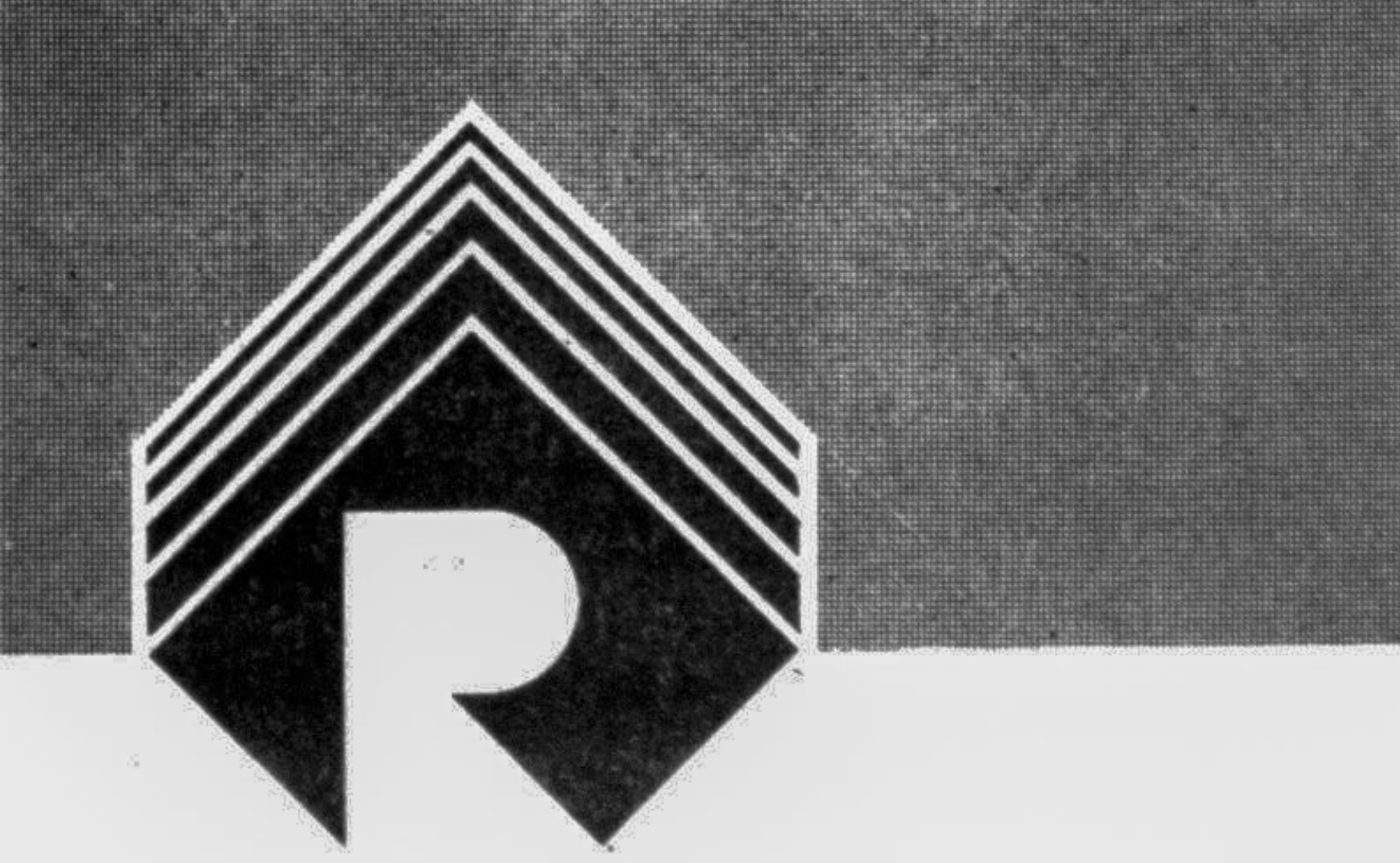
A section of employees of the CSD gheraoed the 'Khaddya Bhaban' yesterday demanding payment of their fifteen month's arrear salaries. —Star photo

China tested friend of Bangladesh: Hafiz

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz yesterday reaffirmed that China is one of the most trusted and tested friend of the people of Bangladesh irrespective of political affiliations and opinions, reports BSS.

He was addressing a reception accorded by him to the visiting five-member delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries at a local hotel. Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tarique Islam, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Haq and Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh Zhu Lu Chang were present on the occasion.

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Weather

No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent
Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday) says, weather may remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi division and the regions of Tangail, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet.

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, says the Met office. The minimum temperature of 14.0 degree Celsius was reported from Rangamati yesterday (Saturday) and the maximum of 32.3 degree from Rajshahi.

The sun sets today Sunday at 5.53 pm and rises tomorrow Monday at 6.32 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns recorded yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	29.5	19.6	72	70
Chittagong	27.2	17.4	87	75
Rajshahi	32.3	18.5	84	59
Khulna	31.6	17.8	87	61
Barisal	30.5	18.5	87	78
Sylhet	27.6	17.5	85	68
Cox's Bazar	27.7	17.5	80	75
Dinajpur	28.6	16.6	90	69

BANGLADESH EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES AUTHORITY CHITTAGONG EPZ

RE-TENDER NOTICE

No-8/92-93

Sealed Re-tenders are hereby invited from bonafide contractors as per eligibility stated below for the undermentioned work at Chittagong EPZ at South Halishahar, Chittagong.

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (in lac)	Eligibility of Contractors	Time for completion (in month)	Cost of tender document (Non-refundable)
Extension of 2 Nos. Custom Check Posts in CEPZ	Tk 11.35	i) Enlisted Contractors of IWD/Housing & Settlement/MES having experience of building construction amounting to a minimum of Tk. 6 lac in a single work order during last 3 years. ii) Contractors previously worked in CEPZ and now working in DEPZ building construction having a minimum contract value of Tk. 6 lac.	4 (four)	Tk. 300.00

Each tender must accompany earnest money as mentioned in the tender documents in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn on any scheduled bank in favour of BEPZA. The contractors shall have to submit the original and photocopy of following papers/documents along with the application addressed to the undersigned for purchasing of tender document :

- 1. Uptodate Trade licence.
- 2. Current enlistment document.
- 3. Uptodate income tax clearance certificate.
- 4. Work Order and completion certificate of work from an officer not below the rank of executive Engineer in support of contractor's eligibility for purchasing tender document.

The originals of the above mentioned papers/documents will be returned later on after verification.

Tender documents may be purchased from the Accounts Deptt. of BEPZA's Head Office at 222, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka on all working days upto 23-2-1993. Tender may be submitted to the Office of the undersigned at 222 New Eskaton Road, Dhaka up to 12-00 Noon on 24-2-1993 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 p.m in presence of the tenderers (if any).

The Authority reserves the right to accept any or to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

MD REZA HUSSAIN
Chief Engineer
BEPZA, Dhaka

D.F.P (54) 2244 - 11/2/93