

The Gift of a Story

by S. Bari

Morjina is a housemaid. She can read, but world affairs don't interest her, so she shuns newspapers. The fairy tales her employer gets for her can't hold her interest for long. But now, Morjina is engaged in a heated debate with the cook as to the respective merits of the novels Noukadubi and Kapaalkundala. This sudden leap from Tuntunir Galpo to classical literature is possible because of new developments in the simplified novel.

Jostling for space among the hundreds of new publications available at the Bangla Academy Book Fair this year are a series of nineteen abridged novels. The brainchild of BRAC founder Fazle Hassan Abed, the Great Literature Series was launched in February 1991, with the first abridged book Kapaalkundala. Titles in the series now range from Bishaad Shindhu to abridged Krishnokanter Will . "It's no easy job.

Ashoni Shangket, and are selling like hotcakes at the fair.

Two observations led Abed to the idea of abridged forms of literature. As he explains in his preface to the books, "The majority of those who read and write in this country do not have the opportunity to go to secondary school or college." They may have basic literacy skills, but they are only called upon to

read notices or sign their names. BRAC wanted to channel literature into a form comprehensible by the newly-literate, to give them an enjoyable and easy read. This is how Morjina now revels in stories that would otherwise be inaccessible to her.

The educated middle class are buying the literate reader's wavelength. series for younger siblings or children. Just as Lamb's Tales introduced generations of English-speaking children to Shakespeare, BRAC hopes the Great Literature Series will bring Rabindranath Tagore, Mir Musharraf Hossain and Begum Rokeya Sakhawat closer to teen and pre-teenage Bengalis. The idea is spreading like wildfire. Youngsters presented with the books are devouring them at rates that astonish parents accustomed to seeing comics and videos strewn around the house.

BRAC also plans to distribute the books to non-formal schools around the country, so that the reading habit can catch on in villages. "If the teachers themselves read the books," says one stall-keeper, "the stories will spread and the kids will be interested in reading."

The first step was the scary one for BRAC. unsure of the feasibility of the plan. Kabir Chowdhury was asked to condense Bankimchandra's Kapaalkundala; the result impressed both writers and educationists. Having got the green light, BRAC selected titles and contacted other top writers. Choices range from the obvious (Saratchandra and Nazrul) to the politically correct (Begum Rokeya). Folklore was not to be ignored: Mohua and Moluasundari are both available. Still in the offing are Michael Madhusudhan Dutta and Nawab Faizunessa.

The adaptators chosen are all writers in their own right, (Hayat Mahmud, Bashir Al-Helal, Mokbula Manzur) and thanks to this intelligent decision each of the books has a flavour all its own. Says Dilip Malakar, who

> You want to keep the literary taste and the frame of the story. You have to steep yourself in the mentality of the writer's time. And then you have to translate all this into contemporary thought and language."

The feat is not just a literary one: the writer becomes a sociologist as well. Malakar found that words like "Abba" are not as familiar

to village readers as "Baba." Expecting to use "kahil," the adaptator discovers to his or her surprise that "durbol" is better understood. Symbolism and psychological techniques inherent in a writer's work are often the hardest to adjust to the contemporary young or newly-

The cover designs are nakshi kantha stitch es - what else would you expect from a BRAC enterprise? The printing, done at BRAC's own press, is clear and eminently legible. And the price, in these days of inflation, is reassuringly affordable:

Adult middle-class readers can find the language unimaginative, even flat. Much is simplified, much is left out. Important emotional developments are skimmed over. But for its purpose, the series is definitely a sorely needed addition to Bengali literature. For millions of Morjinas, and for teenagers tuned in to CNN, help may be at hand. This new series gives them one of the most wonderful gifts known to mankind - the story.



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder inaugurating a pump station at - Star photo Kalaynpur in the city yesterday.

Top priority to city's drainage system: Salam

Tk 68.45 cr project complete

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday said top priority has given on solving the city's drainage problem to improve urban life, reports

The Minister was speaking at the closing ceremony of a WASA project for storm water drainage system at a pumphouse at Kalyanpur in the city last yesterday - morning.

He said the project, part of greater Dhaka flood control and drainage scheme", has been completed ahead of scheduled time at a cost of Tk 68.45 crore with substantial grants from Japan.

The Minister said with the completion of the project, the people of the Kalyanpur, part of Mirpur, Shyamoli, Muhammadpur, Kalabagan, Kathalbagan, Dhanmondi and

Country's jails had 40,975

This was disclosed by Home

inmates till November 30 last

year, the number being nearly

double their capacity of ac-

Minister Abdul Matin Chow

dhury in parliamentWednesday

while replying to a question

Friday

Morning Session:

Alor Dishary

Ninia Turtles

Khelar Jagat

Opening announcement

Al-Quran Programme sum-

Cartoon: Teenage Mutant

Comedy Show: Candid

Drama series: Sangsaptak

Children's drama series:

The Girl From Tomorrow

Opening announcement

Al-Quran Programme sum-

Cartoon: The Return of

Full length English film

Sangeeta: Programme of

Comedy Show: Perfect

Magazine programme: Bola

Tomorrow's programme

Sports programme .

Shikkhya Dikkhya

Evening session:

The Dogtanium

Heart Sounds

Modern songs

News in Bangla

News in English

Khabar/The News

Drama Series: L A Law

Strangers

11:45 Closing

commodation. reports BSS

the adjoining areas will enjoy its benefits.

Salam said the present drainage system is inadequate for the 7 million people of the metropolis which has undergone rapid cubical and vertical expansion in recent years.

He said the drainage system of the city has further been deteriorated due to unplanned urbanisation and filling of low-laying areas in and around the city for housing purposes

The Minister said the government has taken further schemes to solve the drainage problem of the other parts of the city under Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Development Bank.

The project work has already been started in January 1992 and it will be completed by June 1996 at a cost of Tk 159 crore. Under the project

from Manirul Haq Chowdhury

ity of different jails of the

tary, Chowdhury said the gov-

ernment plans to reform the

jail code and improve the con-

dition of jails and facilities for

Shamsul Huq (AL), the Home

Minister said 168 persons wee

arrested in Dhaka city till

November last year under the

sought notice to give his reply

when the Awami League MP

wanted to know how many of

them belonged to the opposi-

tion political parties and how many belonged to the ruling

In reply to another question

from Azizur Rahman, Matin

Chowdhury told the House that

96 cases were lodged against

541 arrested persons under

the Anti-Terrorism act

throughout the country from

November 1 to December 15

that work on the new central

jail in Gazipur had already

Shakawat Hossain (Jamaat), he

said 2117 persons were ar-

rested in the country under

the Special Powers Act in six

a question from SM Firoz of

Awami League, who wanted to

know how many people were

arrested in Bhola under the

Anti-Terrorism act for the in-

cidents on December 6 follow

ing the demolition of Babri

Mosque in India.

The Home Minister avoided

months from July 1 last year,

He told another questioner

To a question from Maulana

last year.

The minister, however,

In reply to a question from

The accommodation capac-

Replying to a supplemen-

of Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

country is 20,857.

the prisoners.

Anti-Terrorism act.

41 thousand prisoners

in jails, JS told

21 canals of 78 km length will be re-excavated and 51 km underground drainage line will be constructed, he added.

He said 12.5 km underground drainage lines have already been constructed and the work for re-excavation of 7.8 km canals and construction of 4.5 km long box culverts' is going on under the project.

On completion of the project, the drainage problem existing in Motifheel, Dilkusha, Middle Circular Road, 2nd Radial road, Inner Circular road, DIT Extension road, Elephant road, Mirpur road from New Market to river Buriganga, Ibrahimpur and Project" financed by Asian 'also adjoining areas of the city will be solved, he added.

WASA Chairman Nurul Islam, Chief Engineer of WASA Abdul Muqeet and Japanese Ambassador Toshio Saiki also spoke at the function.

Annual confce of Society of Microbiologists February 22

The 11th annual conference of Bangladesh Society of Microbiologists will be held on February 22 at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council auditorium, reports UNB.

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Maj Gen M Majid Ul-Haq (retd) will inaugurate the conference at 9 am, said a press release yesterday.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan and founder-President of the society Maj Gen MR Chowdhury (retd) will be present as special guest on the occasion.

Our lyrics, songs unparallel: Anwar

Commerce Minister M K Anwar yesterday said our art, culture, music and drama have a long tradition of more than a thousand years. The ballads, lyrics and songs composed by our illiterate or semi-literate poets and singers with the accumulation of knowledge and wisdom from their personal lives are almost unparallel in the histry of the world, reports BSS.

He was addressing an inaugural ceremony of the drama 'Dewana Madina' adopted from an old ballad of East Bengal, at the Shilpakala Academy audi-

State Minister for Establish ment Md Nurul Huda and Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed and the Director General of Shilpakala Academy also spoke on the occasion.

Attack on health RU incident technologists condemned slated

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Class Three

Some students reportedly

attacked on some central lead-

ers of Health Technologist Association at the auditorium

of the Institute of Health

In another statement 23

medical technologists from PG

Hospital, Diabetic Hospital,

Dhaka Medical College

Hospital and TV Control and

Training Institute urged the

government to take stern mea-

sures against the persons re-

sponsible for the attack.

persons involved.

Technology.

kers at a rally held at Shaheb Bazar Square yesterday stro-Medical technologists and ngly condemned the atrocities other employees from differcommitted by Jamaat-Shibir ent hospitals in separate activist on Rajshahi University statements Thursday concampus on February six and demanded ban on the demned the attack on some fundamentalist politics in the leaders of Health Technologist Association on last Sunday. country, reports BSS.

Employees Welfare Association The rally was organised in a statement expressed their jointly by all the parties exconcern over the attack and cepting the Jamaat-e-Islami demanded punishment of the and Jatiya Party.

RAJSHAHI, Feb 18: Spea-

It was presided over by Kamrul Munir, General Secretary of Rajshahi district

The rally was addressed by Fazle among others, Hossain Badsha of Workers Party, Shafigur Rahman Badsha of CPB, Mujibul Haq Baku of JSD, Khairuzzaman Liton of Awami League, Abdur Rouf Manik of NAP, Nurul Huda of Ganatantrick Party, Ruhul Quddus Babu of BSD and Salahuddin Baby of BNP.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. OCEAN SINCERITY V-52B from Karachi, ex. M.V. KURAMA V-20304 from Busan, Hong Kong have been relayed to M.V. SHENTON V-13W Imp. Rot. No. 102/93, is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 20-2-93 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.

103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG. AS AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K LINES LTD., TOKYO. PHONES: 503317, 500686/88

মোকদ্দমার সমন

(দেঃকাঃবিঃ আইনের ৫ অর্ডার ১ ও ৫ রুল) জেলা-ময়মনসিংহের সাবজজ (অর্থ ঋণ) আদালত, ময়মনসিংহ। মোঃ নং ১২ ৭/৯০ অর্থ ঋণ (টাকা)।

व्यक्षेणी व्यारक, हाउँ वाबाद गाथा, मग्रमनिष्ट, थाना-रकाठग्रानी, (बना-भग्नभनिश्इ।

১। মেসার্স রেজা সোপ এও ক্যামিকেল ওয়ার্কস, ক্টপুর, ময়মনসিংহ শহর, থানা- কোতয়ালী, জেলা-ময়মনসিংহ এর মালিক ২ নং বিবাদীনি মোছাঃ ময়মুনা রেজা কর্তৃক প্রতিনিধিত।

२। याष्ट्राः भग्नभूना खिष्ठा, ১ नः विवामी यामार्भ खिष्ठा मान এও ক্যামিকেল ওয়ার্কস এর মালিক, স্বামী-জনাব এফ, এম, ह्माउन त्राक्षा, कृष्टभूत, मसमनिश्र हाउन, एक्ना-भसमनिश्र হাল সাং+ডব্লিউ/৫, নুরজাহান রোড, মোহামদপুর, ঢাকা মহানগরী, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

্ও। জুনার এফ, এম, হুমাউন রেজা, পিতা মৃত-আদুল করিম ফাজলুল হক, সাং-আগিয়া, থানা-পূর্বধলা, জেলা-সাং-ভব্লিউ/৫, নুরজাহান হাল মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা মহানগরী, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

অপর জামিনদার মোছাঃ রাবেয়া খাতুনের মৃত্যু হওয়ায় তাহার ওয়ারীশান ৩নং বিবাদী এবং

8। এফ এম কামাল রেজা, পিতা মৃত-আবুল করিম ফজলুল হক, এসিস্ট্যান্ট ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ কমার্স এও ইনভেস্টমেন্ট লিঃ, তরঙ্গ কমপ্লেক্স-১৯, রাজউক এভেনিউ, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা মহানগরী, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিবাদীগণ এতদারা আপনাদিগকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, উপরোক্ত বাদী অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, ছোট বাজার শাখা, ময়মনসিংহ আপনাদের বিরুদ্ধে অত্র মোকদ্দমা দায়েরক্রমে মং-১,৮৮,০৮৩.০০ টাকা দাবীক্রমে আপনাদের বরাবরে সমন প্রেরণ করা হয়। উক্ত সমন জারী গডজারী অবস্থায় ফেরত আসায় আমার মনে বিশাস জন্মিয়াছে যে, আপনারা উক্ত সমন জারী এড়াইয়া ঘাইতেছেন। তদবস্থায় অত্ৰ সমন মূলে আপনাদিগকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে. অত্র মোকদ্দমায় আগামী ইং ২২-২-১৩ তারিখ ধার্য আছে। অত্র মোকদ্দমায় আপনাদের কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে তাহা আগামী নির্ধারিত দিবসে স্বয়ং বা কোন প্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তি দ্বারা আদালতে হাজির হইয়া সকাল ১০ ঘটিকায় দাখিল করিবেন অনাথায় আইন মোতাবেক কার্য করা হইবে।

অত্র সমন অদ্য ০১/২/৯৩ তারিখে আমার দস্তখত ৫ আদালতের সীলমোহরযুক্ত দেওয়া পেল।

ভাজ সাবজ্ঞ অর্থ ঋণ আদালত

ময়মনসিংহ

Rain, gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

may occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Dhaka divisions and the regions of Bogra, Rangpur, Jessore and Kustia and weather will remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am todays (Friday).

remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature of the country of 33.6 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi yesterday (Thursday) and

The sup sets today at 5.57 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.28

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country vesterday were:

Rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to

the minimum of 15.0 degree was reported from Dinajpur.

ties/Towns	1121 #22 (0.2)	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm	
heika	31.3	23.4	77	70	
hittagong	28.5	23.0	81	76	
nulna	32.2	23.2	82	77	
ajshahi	33.6	20.8	89	46	
arisal	29.6	23.2	89	88	
ox's Bazar	* 28.6	22.9	77	77	
/lhet '	23.4	16.5	96	96	
inajpur	29.0	15.0	97	70	

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলীর কার্যালয় স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর, নাটোর। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

16-120

नং-09/**৯২**-৯৩

নিয়বর্ণিত প্রকল্পটি বারুবায়নের শক্ষো স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদর্ভর এর আওতায় তালিকাত্ত নিয়বর্ণিত শেণীর ঠিকাদারণণের নিকট হ**ইতে বালোদেশ ফরম নং** ২৯১১ এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউলের প্রতি আইটেম এর বিপরীতে "দর" উল্লেখ পূর্বক সীলমোহরক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

দরশত্র দলিলসমূহ নিম্নত্তকারীর কার্যালয়ে ও থানা প্রকৌশলী লালপুর নাটোর এর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরশত্র বাবে আশামী ২৮/০২/৯৩ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১-০০ (এক) ঘটিকার মধ্যে গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১-৩০ মিনিটে দরশত লাভাগণ অথবা ভাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে যেদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হইবে। দরপত্র দলিল সীলমোহরকৃত অবস্থায় ও খামের উপর কাজের নাম উল্লেখ পূর্বক দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্র দলিল নিমস্থাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় ও থানা প্রকৌশলী লালপুর নাটোর এর কার্যালয় হইতে আগামী ২৭/০২/৯৩ ইং ভারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত নগদ মূলো ১০০০/-(এক হাজার) টাকার (অফেরডযোগ্য) ঠিকাদার কর্তৃক নিজে অথবা তাহার দ্বারা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির মাধ্যমে ক্রয় করা যাইবে

বাছনার টাকা "বাাংক ভাফট" অথবা "শে-অর্ডার" আকারে নিম্নত্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে দরশতের সহিত দাবিল করিতে হইবে অতিরিক্ত শর্তাবলীসহ অন্যান্য তথাদি নিম্নাক্রকারীর দশ্ভর এবং শালপুর থানা প্রকৌশদীর দশ্ভর হইতে জানা যাইবে। গ্রকাশ থাকে যে, কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যক্তিয়েকে যে কোন নরপত্র গ্রহণ কিবো সকল নরপত্র ব্যক্তিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন

কাজের বিবরণ						
ক্রমিক লং	কাজের নাম	বায়নার টাকা	কান্ধ সম্পাদনের নির্ধারিত সময়সীমা	ঠিকাদারের খেশী		
>	8	٥	8	e		
21	থাল খনন কর্মসূচীর আওতায় (২য় পর্যায়) নাটোর জেলার লালপুর থানাধীন নান্দাইল বিল পাড়াহারা খালের উপর ১ ভেন্ট বিশিষ্ট ১,২২ মিঃ X ১.২২ মিঃ রেগুলেটর নির্মাণ গ্রক্ষ।	ঠিকাদার কর্তৃক উদ্বৃত দর অনুযারী দরপত্রের মোট মূলোর শতকর। ২.৫% হারে।	≽७ मिन्	বিশেষ ক এবং খ শ্রেণী		

वर्ष क्रमत १ ३৯५५-५७ মোঃ খলিলুর রহমান

Gaziul Haque addressing a discussion meeting organised by Bidrohi Ekush Udjapan Committee at Press Club auditorium yesterday - Star photo

133 lakh metric tons of Aman paddy produced

Some 133 lakh metric tons of Aman paddy were produced on 143.48 lakh acres of land in last Aman season, the Agriculture Minister told parliament yesterday.

In reply to Manirul Haq Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Agriculture Minister Major Gen (Rtd.) Majid-ul Haq said the cost of production of per maund of Aman paddy was Tk 184 in 1991-92.

The minister said the gov ernment started procuring paddy and rice from the very beginning of the Aman scason at the rate of Tk 210 and 323.40 per maund.

210 employees dismissed since '72

Some 210 employees and one officer of the forest department were dismissed from their jobs on charge of corruption in 20 years since 1972.

This was stated by Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al-Noman in parliament yesterday while replying to a question from Ataur Rahman Khan of BNP.

In reply to Col (Rtd) Sawkat Ali (Awami League), the Minister said Tk 5 erore 7 lakh 6 thousand were spent for afforestation programme during the current fiscal till January

2,24,500 acres plantation plan underway: Noman

The government has a plan to bring 2,24,500 acres of land under four afforestation projects to expand the forest area in the country, the Forest and Environment Minister told parliament yesterday, reports

in reply to a question from Shrikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat), Forest Minister Abdullah Al-Noman told the House that there are 36,17,168 acres of forest area in the country.

The minister said a programme was also undertaken to plant saplings on about 18,000 kilometers of land beside the roads, highways, ratiways and barrage.

Discussion on

Dr. Shamsuzoha held

A discussion was held yesterday in observance of the 24th death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Shamsuzoha under the auspices of former Rajshahi University Students Association here, reports BSS,

Chaired by the President of the association Moslem Ali Khan, the function was also addressed, among others, by Keramat Ali, Sikandar Abu Zafar, Khairul Alam Noman, Subrata Chowdhury, Jahangir Kabir Rana, Habibur Rahman and isfakul Islam.

served forests on 29,41,466 acres of land in the country. Urs

Replying to Sarder Sakawat

To a question from Mirza

Azam (Awami League), the

minister informed the parlia-

ment that 5,52,06,200 CFT

wood were cut from the gov-

ernment owned forest in the

Chittagong Hill Tracts in last

17 years since 1975. Besides,

9,63,50,000 CFT of fuel wood

acres of land were brought un-

der the new afforestation pro-

gramme in the hill tracts dur-

Hossain Bakul (BNP), the min-

ister said there are five re-

ing that period.

reports BSS.

The minister said 1,88,357

were cut during the period.

The annual Ursekul Majlis (Urs) of Shah Sufi Hazrat Moulana Azangachhi (RA), a renowned Muslim saint of the sub-continent will be held on February 21 (Sunday) at Aagcharan under Kalihati police station of Tangail district.

Distinguished Haqqani Ulema of the country will participate in the majlis and speak on the light of the Holy Quran-and Hadith.

Special prayers will be offered for the peace, prosperity, welfare and solidarity of Muslim ummah.