

Dhaka Day by Day

"A Torch in a Dark Room"

by Fayza Haq

Heinz Wilems, a 46-year-old flood researcher, born near Dusseldorf in Germany, speaking about flood and cyclonic controls in Bangladesh, said that the local people in Bangladesh knew how best to cope with the natural disasters. However, he added, that they have failed to adequately protect themselves during the rainy seasons.

Commenting about the canal digging projects in the country, he felt as a Geographer, that if it had been done in a proper way, having held discussions with the needs of the Bangladeshi people, keeping the local environment in mind, it could be done adequately. "It is a pity that BTV does not show interviews of the canal diggers themselves," he said.

"You cannot completely protect the people

against cyclones and floods. However, you can protect yourselves against cyclones and natural disasters by building flood shelters — buildings, which serve many purposes, and not only to combat floods. I know what is done in the Netherlands and Germany, but the people in Bangladesh should know best about how to shelter themselves, as their culture and civilization can be traced down to thousands of centuries. Foreign experts may not be able to guide them adequately. The local government and the local technicians should know best why overseas experts are here to help. I do not think that either the government or the local technicians are inadequate," Heinz remarked.



Heinz Wilems seen at Sunamganj.

What Heinz had been doing was a study of perception of floods. He does not claim to be a specialist in matters such as cyclones, floods and their necessary control. He was in Manipura Island, Cox's Bazar, Mahashkhal Island, places around Chittagong, Sunamganj and specially some villages at Saidpur, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Jessore, Khulna, Barisal, and Bagerhat, and at some tourist sites like Mahastan and Mainamati. "I also travelled on the Padma River on a boat, beginning from Arichaghat, yet what can I suggest to the people? I have lived only for 30 months, and who am I to propound and preach?" the researcher exploded with exasperation.

Heinz proceeded to explain, "As one enters into a dark-room with a torch light, one is trying to light up this room, and finds a lot of

things, which appear disconnected and in order to get a clear image, one can measure the volume and position of the objects by directing the beam on those things that one finds fascinating or problematic. Yet more things remain in the shadows and they are there even though they are not visible."

He added "It takes a considerable amount of time to identify them e.g. I am here in Bangladesh as a foreigner. With my 'western eyes', what can I learn or advise the people in the relatively short time? I do not believe in people who stop for a while, and say sweet nothings. To understand the present culture and tradition requires more time and contemplation."

"Sure, I have lived in Bangladesh and carried

on research on floods in the country and people that I meet say to me, you are here only for a short time and have your retreat in the cool and comfortable house. With my salary I could not do more in-depth research. What can I tell the people when they accost me in that manner? While I am safe in my home, I have left behind individuals, who have become my friends in the interim period," Heinz proceeded to say, in his self-effacing manner.

Asked as to what solution he could offer to control the floods and cyclones, Heinz replied instantly, "The people are squabbling with each other; they have different interests; and there is the power structure in which the

powerful man does not necessarily help the weaker one. The people must learn to work together and help each other," the research worker replied.

"I came to Bangladesh to look, listen and learn. I have learnt that I should be very careful with giving suggestions. The people themselves know best how to survive the floods and natural disasters. When I see the people suffering due to constant rains and several water confluences, I naturally sympathize with the Bangladeshi people, and feel frustrated that I can do little about the situation. The 'bitas' become like islands. There are not enough boats to rescue them, during the flush and monsoon floods," Heinz added about his impressions of Bangladesh, being truthful and to the point.



A sewerage line leak at Daikanagar in the city submerged the entire locality yesterday.

Plea to withdraw order to retrench farm workers

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Bangladesh Agriculture Farm Workers Federation (BAFWF) Tuesday demanded of the government to withdraw the order to retrench 932 workers.

In a statement the Federation President Joydul Abidin and General Secretary Nurul Anwar termed the retrenchment order "a violation of the Agriculture Farm Worker Appointment and Regulation Policy."

They alleged that the Bangladesh Agriculture Develop-

ment Corporation had served the workers with the retrenchment order despite an earlier call by the leaders to arrange voluntary retirement for them.

An estimated 30,000 workers have launched a strike since February 23 protesting the government order to retrench 932 workers in 72 BADC farms across the country. The farm sector would suffer a serious damage if the strike was forced to continue, they added.

BFUJ protests retrenchment of journalists

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday expressed deep concern over the harassment of working journalists by a section of owner-editors and sounded strong note against such repressive measures, reports BSS.

In a joint statement here yesterday BFUJ Acting President Al Haj Zahurul Haq and Secretary General Amanullah Kabir said that in various newspaper establishments the managements had resorted to large scale termination and retrenchment of the working journalists. In the meantime, they said, a number of journalists were terminated by some managements including Daily Rupali, The Millat and Dainik Lal Sabaui.

They said that they have come to learn that managements of some other organisations have threatened to take such repressive measures against the journalists working there. Meanwhile, they said in different newspapers being published from Dhaka and other parts of the country, salary and other legitimate benefits were not being paid to the working journalists.



Garments workers brought out a procession in the city yesterday seeking release of their colleagues.

Strike in Orthopaedic Hospital continues

By Staff Correspondent

The fourth class employees of the Orthopaedic Hospital have continued their strike till yesterday beginning from Friday last following a dispute with the doctors.

The Director of the Hospital Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star that the Health Ministry was yet to take steps against the striking employees causing miseries to over 400 patients in the hospital.

On Thursday last, a fourth class employee tried to take possession of a doctor's room illegally and was restrained by the police.

The fourth class employees

went on strike from Friday alleging that two doctors had beaten up wife of a fourth class employee. They also demanded punishment to the said doctors.

The doctors went on treating patients with the help of police since then.

Presently, the nurses are doing most of the job of the fourth class employees with the help of attendants of patients.

There are atleast 250 attendants of the patients who have been rendering untiring services, the Director of the hospital said.

The scheduled operations have totally stopped since Friday, the Director further said adding, the sterilization unit could not be utilised in absence of the fourth class employees usually, about 20 to 25 scheduled operations are performed by the doctors.

Bangladesh to observe Int'l Year of Family

International Year of the Family will be observed next year in the country as elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at the first meeting of the National Committee of the International Year of the Family held at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday (Tuesday).

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam presided over the meeting.

The proclamation to observe 1994 as the International Year of the Family was adopted in 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly.

The objective of observance of the International Year of the Family is to stimulate local, national and international actions as part of a sustained long-term effort to increase awareness of family issues among government as well as in the private sector.

It is also to highlight the importance of families, to increase a better understanding of their functions and problems, and to promote knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members.

Identification of social problems of children, youths, women, aged and the handicapped people, and the ways of identification were discussed in the meeting.

The meeting also discussed formulation of a plan of action and sub-committees at the division, district, thana and union levels regarding the International Year of the Family.

Organisation of meetings, seminars and publication of leaflets, booklets and posters besides use of national mass media were also stressed in the meeting.



Abul Mansur Ahmad's death anniversary tomorrow

The fourteenth death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the subcontinent will be observed tomorrow (Thursday) in a befitting manner by Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Committee in Dhaka and Mymensingh, says a press release.

On this day, Ziarat at the mazar and Quran Khwani will be held at the Dhanmondi and Mymensingh residence of the late leader. Feeding of destitutes will also be held, the press release added.



Table with BTW logo and a list of program schedules for Wednesday, including times and program names like 'Operating announcement', 'News in English', etc.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says, rain or thunder shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Mymensingh and weather will remain dry elsewhere over the country.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. The minimum temperature of 17.5 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi yesterday (Tuesday) and the maximum of 35.7 degree was reported from Jessore.

The sun set today (Wednesday) at 6.09 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6.05 am.

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

Table showing weather data for various cities including Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, and Dinajpur, listing temperature in degree Celsius and humidity in percentage.

Facilities deptt builds 5,685 pry schools so far

Facilities department has so far constructed 5,685 primary schools, 189 secondary schools, 50 madrasahs and science building of 1650 high school throughout the country, reports BSS.

This was pointed out at a discussion meeting on the role of Facilities Department in education sector here yesterday.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar spoke on the occasion as chief guest. Presided over by President of Facilities Department Diploma Engineers Association Sirajul Islam, the meeting was addressed by Executive Director of the department SMM A Mannan and President of Institute of Diploma Engineers of Bangladesh Shafiuddin Sarker as special guest. General Secretary of the Association Selim Hossain presented key note in the meeting.

The Education Minister said, the present government had taken steps towards improving the standard of education in the country. He said

the diploma engineers of the department must come forward to improve the quality of construction work in the interest of education.

Mannan to receive Zakat money Saturday

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan will receive 'zakat' money on Saturday at 3 pm at the Islamic Foundation from the intending payers many of whom could not pay it to the Prime Minister last Sunday for lack of time and communication, reports UNB.

A PID source said yesterday Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia received zakat money at Sugandha on Sunday.

All zakat payers have been requested to pay their money on Saturday to help rehabilitate the helpless people of society under the guideline of Quran and Sunnah.

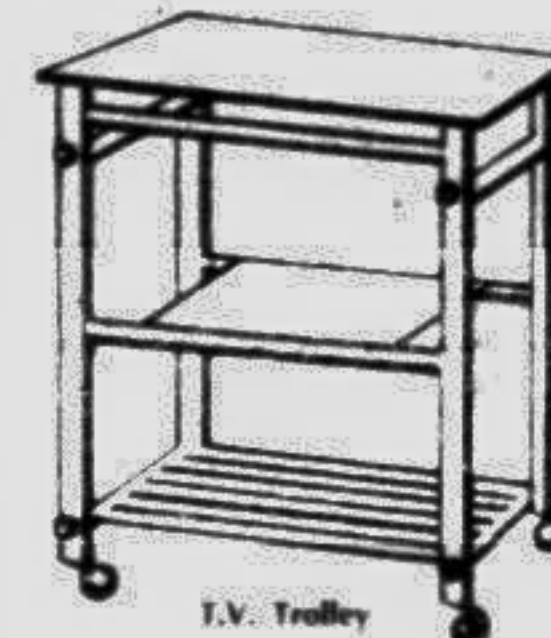
Secondhand Generator Wanted

One 150 KVA Secondhand Diesel Generator in very good condition is wanted for immediate purchase. Please contact: Sabinco, Steel House (5th Floor), Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. Phone: 815883-6 D-214

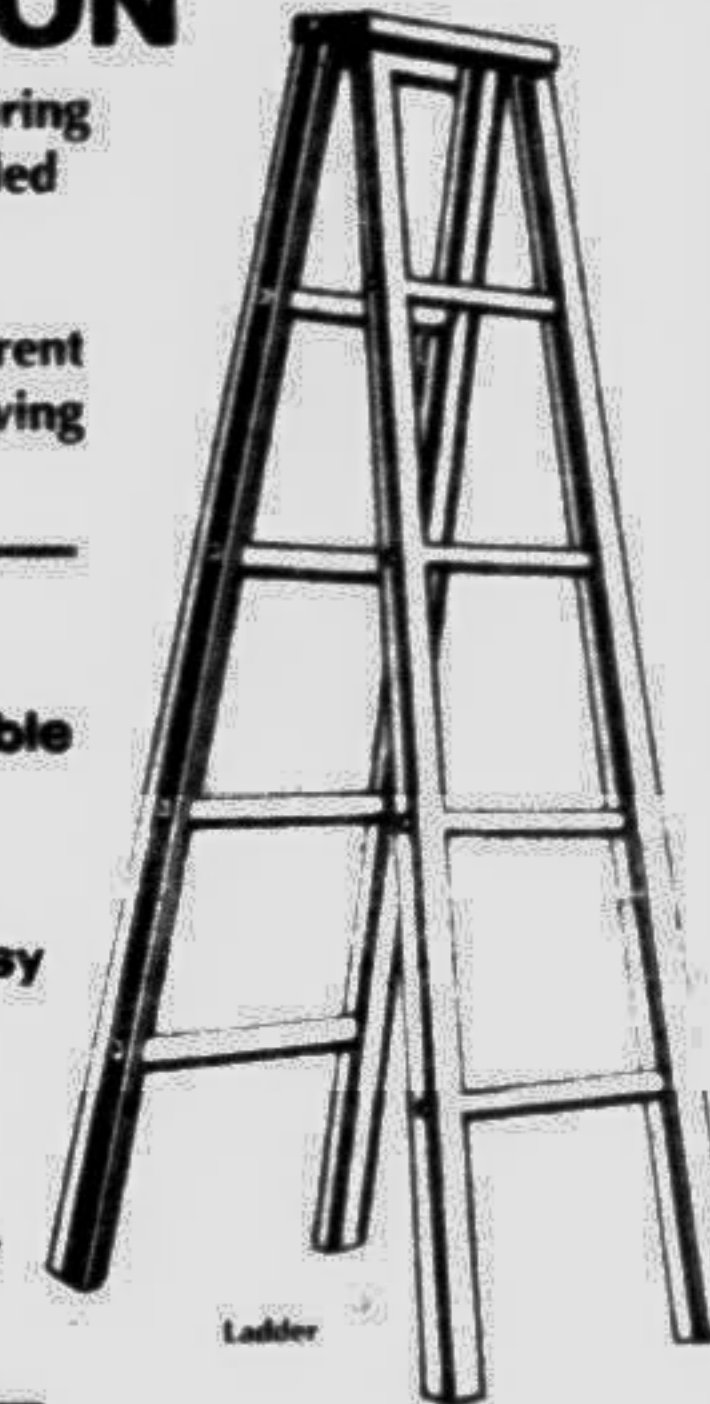
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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর প্রকৌশল বিভাগ জোন-৩

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

পুনঃ টেঙার নোটিশ

নিবেদিত কার সমূহের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত সকল শ্রেণীর টিকাদারদের এবং পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকার উর্ধ্ব ক্ষমতার জন্য সরকারী, আধা সরকারী, স্বল্পের তালিকাভুক্ত ব্যবসায়ী টিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ করম নং-২১১১৩৩ সীলসহায়কৃত বামে টেঙার আবেদন করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ২১-৩-১০ই/০৭-১২-৯৯খঃ তারিখে কোলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় বিদ্যমান কলিকাতা, ঢাকা, মেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কক্ষ মন্ত্রণালয় করা হইবে এবং ৫ দিনই কোলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত মালতী অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে বোলা হইবে। পত্রিকা হাতে সর্ব সোট টাকার উপর উর্ধ্ব বা নিম্ন হাতে নয় অথক এবং উভয়ই লিখিতে হইবে অন্যথায় দপ্তর মালিক বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুমোদিত বালাসেপের যে কোন শিডিউল হাৎকের বাবে জার্ম/১-৭-অর্ডরের বাধ্যমে বাসার ঢাকা হিসাবে মন্ত্রণের সঠিক করা দিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তরে এবং হিসাব বিভাগে পোষাকের নিকট (প্রতি সের) নির্দিষ্ট নম্বর অর্ধের বিধিমে (অক্রেডেটড) দপ্তরের সর্বজনীন শিডিউল ইয়াদি করা যাইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ মন্ত্র চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের কলম-৩ এর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তরে জান যাইবে।

যে কোন সরকারী/আধা সরকারী/স্বল্পের পত্রিকা পাঁচ তাশের অধিক বা নিম্ন মন্ত্র প্রশাসক কর্তৃক উক্ত দপ্তরে স্বপক্ষে দায় বিস্তরণ সম্বন্ধে ক্রটি হইবে। ৫% শুল্কের পাঁচ ডকা-এর অধিক নিম্ন সরকারী/আধা সরকারী মন্ত্রণালয়ে কর্তৃক দপ্তরে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে সে ক্ষেত্রে নির্দিষ্ট বাসার ঢাকা বিধি পরিধান করা দিতে হইবে। দপ্তর বেলার তারিখে দপ্তরে কোন দপ্তর বিচার করা হইবে না। যে কোন সম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রণালয় কোন কার্য লগ্নীমে ব্যতিক্রম হইবে বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃকের সম্বন্ধিত থাকিবে।

Table with 5 columns: ক্রমিক নং, কাজের নাম, প্রাকৃতিক টাকা, বাসার টাকা, সমস্যা. It lists various work items and their associated costs and issues.

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী জোন-৩ ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন