

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Man of Multi Dimensions

By Abdur Razzaque Khan

He is a philosopher, a theologian, a linguist, a priest, a renowned scholar on Islamic studies, a teacher and above all a good friend. The tall, bearded and smiling face with beaming eyes Father Dr Francesco Zannini, can easily attract one's attention with his multi dimensions.

You will become astonished when you notice that Dr Zannini is talking to you in fluent Bangla. Not only that, he is evenly fluent in 13 languages. Besides his mother tongue Italian, he knows English, French, Arabic, Latin, Greek, Persian, Hebrew, German, Sanskrit, Spanish and Bangla.

At present he teaches Italian language in Modern Languages Institute at Dhaka University. It is he who first introduced Italian language course in the Institute as well as in Bangladesh. In addition, Dr Zannini is the Professor of Islamic Studies at National Major Seminary — a Post Graduate Institute for Philosophical and Theological Studies in Dhaka.

Since 1979 Prof Zannini has been in Bangladesh and working for the good of humanity with missionary assignment. But before that Bangladesh was known to him. His first visit was in 1973 with an Italian relief team which came to help the war-torn country and stayed for a month. For Zannini Bangladesh was love at first sight, because of its similarity with Italy in nature, and friendliness of its people and so on.

"Actually there is a lot of similarities between my childhood Italy and Bangladesh. When I go to villages I become nostalgic. It helps me to recall my childhood memory in Italy," Zannini said.

"If you see my childhood picture you will notice a boy with bare body playing in the courtyard of a village house which is very commonplace in Bangladesh," he went on.

He learned Bangla in Oriental School in Barisal. "But after the class we talked in English. As I decided to learn Bangla more effectively, I became a paying guest of a family and requested them to teach me the language. And they taught me Bangla like a child and of course I grasped the language more quickly than children," Father Zannini told with a very roaring laughter.

He stayed with the family of Arun Malakar, a local tailor for a year. Besides Prof Zannini stayed three years at Shimulia village in Jessore. During his stay in Shimulia he taught in Saint Luis High School and associated with various social welfare activities.

After finishing studies when he was offered to come to Bangladesh he did not miss the chance but accepted. He chose to come down here against Indonesia where he had another offer for work.

Speaking on the issue Dr Zannini said "... not only so, I was also associated in the struggle for independence of Bangladesh. I worked in support of your liberation and was seriously beaten up by police for organising opinions in favour of Freedom Fighters in Italy." Dr Francesco Zannini went on with a smiling face while talking about Bangladesh and her people.

In 1971 Prof Zannini was a student of Theology at the Urbaniana Pontifical University in Parma in Italy. He took an active role in favour of Bangladesh which went against Italian Government's policy. Students of all universities in Parma city did protesting and brought out procession in support of Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Not only so, defying police order they brought out big procession in the biggest street in Parma city for Bangladesh under the leadership of Dr Zannini.

"Actually we were in the dark about Bangladesh. We didn't know Bangladesh. It was only known to us that people are struggling, fighting and dying for their freedom. And our government is supporting Pakistan by giving aid and arms."

He went on "So we, the students took decision to organise opinion in support of the independence of Bangladesh. We threw different programmes which included protesting, procession, rally and meeting. In addition we collected money for the freedom fighters and sent it to Bangladesh," he added.

Throughout his academic life Prof Zannini maintained a brilliant career. Educated in prestigious universities in Italy and other countries Father Zannini studied Philosophy in Pontifical Latranense University, Fano; Theology in Urbaniana Pontifical University, Parma; Languages in Catholic University of Milan and did his PhD

on Tafsir Ul Quran from Sacred Heart University, Milan in Italy.

The Title of his PhD Dissertation is: Tafsir al-Galalayn prima traduzione in Lingua Europea (Commentary of the Quran of the two Jalal, first translation in a European Language, in Italian).

He also studied Arabic Language in "Istituto per l'Oriente" in Rome, Tunisian University in Tunis and Al Azhar University in Egypt. Dr Zannini did his Post-Doctoral studies from the American University at Cairo.

A Post Doctoral Fellow at Yale University of USA, Father Zannini is now doing a research work on "Tafsir Moqatil Ibn Sulayman". A book on this issue will be published in English from the Yale University for which he will have to leave for Yale in June.

Explaining the reason of taking up missionary life Father Zannini said a real man can not be selfish. He has some duties towards the downtrodden. We have to stand in favour of poor and have nots for the sake of humanity, he added.

"The sorrows and miseries of the poor and the have nots all over the world are the same. They belong to the same class and suffer from the same agony. So what I can do for them in Italy I can do the same in other countries through missionary. And in this way I can serve humanity. That's why I have become a member of the missionary," said Father Zannini.

"But sometimes we do not want to serve the humanity even if we are paid for it," said Prof Zannini while telling one of his bitter experience. Prof Zannini said once he went to a Chinese restaurant along with three street children. He asked the waiter to serve the boys food. Having seen street urchins in such a restaurant the waiter became annoyed and did not want to serve them.

Father Zannini noticed it and told the waiter "don't you think these boys are human being? Why don't you want to serve them food? You need not to pay the bill. I will pay it. Please do what I say."

I am fond of study specially teaching. It gives me pleasure. As a teacher I can teach the teaching of religion that is peace and humanity and other things to every body irrespective of creed, caste and colour. Dr Zannini uttered in an emotional choked voice.

"Actually there is divine light in every religion. Orientation to a religion can be easily availed through studying culture of a nation and come to close contact with others. Which helps us both spiritually and mentally to make a happy and peaceful world," he went on "On the contrary it destroy communalism — which destroy human being for a narrow cause."

Elaborating the recent trend of Catholic thoughts and objectives, Prof Zannini informed that new ideas have emerged in Catholicism. Now they do not believe in conversion.

The Catholic try to understand other religions by reading and exchanging views with non-Christian people instead of converting them. It helps to build a happy and peaceful world, he added.

"A Bengalee can never be an extremist and fundamentalist. Because Bengalee means a person with soft and great heart," elaborating the characteristic of the Bengalee Father Zannini — a life member of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh made this remark.

He is also a member of the American Oriental Society, New Haven and "Istituto per l'Oriente", of Rome.

Elderest child of his parents Dr Zannini has two brothers and one sister. His father is no more but his mother is in her eighties. One of his brother is a teacher of Marianum University in Rome and younger brother works in the museum of Ancona. His only sister is a doctor of a university clinic in Ancona.

To his students Father Zannini is a symbol of energy and spirit. "Teacher like Dr Zannini is very rare in the world. If you attend in his class you will be compelled to learn Italian not by force but with joy and amusement. That's why we do not miss Italian language class," said Saiful Islam Shaheen, a senior certificate course student of Italian language.

"I have been learning different languages for the last 14 years. But I did not find any teacher like Father Zannini. Really he is great," said Liaquat Ali Khan, who is fluent in French, Spanish, English and German.



World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Secretary General Gudwin Olu Patrick Obasi speaking at a press conference at Hotel Sheraton prior to his departure. Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury (R), Director of Meteorological Department of Bangladesh and Lars E Oleson (L) are also seen. — Star photo

## Efforts on to attain food autarky: Hafiz

The present government has been making sincere endeavours to achieve food autarky and institutionalise the democratic process to better the lot of the toiling masses including the farmers the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Gholam Hafiz said yesterday, reports BSS.

He was exchanging views on the present state of political, economic, agricultural, educational and property ownership systems in both Bangladesh and Russia with the Ambassador of Russian Federation Mes Shevchenko at his secretariat office.

The minister as well as the ambassador expressed their happiness that very cordial and friendly relations between the two countries proved to be not only sustaining but was also being strengthened day by day.

In the recent days, they observed, the people of both the countries were very eagerly experiencing the democratic norms and values recently under the prevailing congenial atmosphere.

Both of them agreed in principle that the condition of vast farmers community could not be improved without making positive reforms in the existing systems of land owner-

ship and cultivation. The Law and Justice Minister asserted that the programme for re-excavation of canals had been initiated in Bangladesh as inadequacy of financial resources did not permit carrying out bigger mechanised or more sophisticated irrigation programmes and the canal digging programme, he said, started yielding positive results.

The intention to bring welfare of the people, they both agreed should justify the form and existence of government.

Referring to communal harmony ever prevailing in Bangladesh, Mirza Hafiz reaffirmed that those who destroyed places of worship of people of other religious beliefs, only destroyed their own traditional cultural heritage.

## Hannan off to London

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah left here yesterday for London to explore the possibilities of expansion of markets of jute goods with assistance from the European Community, reports BSS.

The minister is leading a six-member delegation.

## Justice Mohammad Hossain's death anniversary today



The seventh death anniversary of Justice Syed Mohammad Hossain will be observed today (Friday).

Justice Syed Mohammad Hossain is the eldest son of late Syed Tasadduq Hossain, the then District and Sessions Judge in undivided India during British rule and was also a judge during early period of Pakistan, says a press release.

Justice S M Hossain was an eminent judge of the Bangladesh Supreme Court who was illegally removed under Martial Law.

Justice Hossain was Chairman of the International Law Association and was Chairman of the Amnesty International, Bangladesh branch. He was also the Chairman of the International Commission of Jurist, Bangladesh branch and attended several international law conferences in different countries of Asia, Europe and America.

Till his death Justice Syed Mohammad Hossain boldly upheld the spirit and the values of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. As a freedom fighter he intensively worked for Bangladesh in the United States of America in 1971 upholding the cause of war of liberation of Bangladesh.

On the occasion of his death anniversary Quran Khwani will be held at the residence of Begum Syed Mohammad Hossain at 38, Dilu Road, Moghbazar.

## Weather

### Temperature may remain unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says, rain or showers may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions and the regions of Sylhet, Noakhali and Comilla and weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature of the country recorded yesterday (Thursday) of 36.8 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and the minimum of 14.0 degree was from Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:15 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:49 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	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.5	19.0	59	45
Chittagong	32.8	18.5	63	55
Rajshahi	36.8	17.2	55	35
Khulna	35.0	20.2	71	54
Cox's Bazar	34.4	20.0	62	63
Barisal	34.0	19.0	80	65
Sylhet	31.5	17.3	96	37
Dinajpur	35.4	16.0	44	39

## Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka

### Wanted

No. D-3231 (2) Dt. 1-4-93

Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualifications and fitness for appointment to the following posts of this University.

- Department of Metallurgical Engg**
  - One permanent post of Professor in the scale of Tk. 7800-9000/- ★ Tk. 8600-9500/- ★ Tk. 10,000/- (★ Subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions).
- Department of Mechanical Engg**
  - One permanent post of Associate Professor in the scale of Tk. 7100-8700/-.
- Department of Naval Architecture of Marine Engg**
  - One permanent post of Associate Professor in the scale of Tk. 7100-8700/-.
- Department of Chemical Engg**
  - One permanent post of Assistant Professor in the scale of Tk. 4800-7250/-.
- Department of Chemistry**
  - One permanent post of Lecturer in the scale of Tk. 2850-5155/-.
- Directorate of Students Welfare**
  - One permanent post of Assistant Director (Physical Education) in the scale of Tk. 4100-6500/-.
- Computer Centre**
  - One temporary post of Asstt. Programmer (against the permanent post of Programmer) in the scale of Tk. 2850-5155/-.

Details of prescribed qualifications and terms and conditions for submission of application may be obtained from the office of the Registrar of this University personally or by sending duly stamped self addressed envelope. The candidates obtained degree/degrees from the abroad countries must have furnished the equivalence certificate of their degree/degrees obtaining from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka and to be submitted along with the application.

15 (fifteen) complete sets of applications for the teaching posts & 8 (eight) complete sets of applications for the other posts are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk. 10/- in favour of the Comptroller of this University. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application: 28th. April, 1993  
15 Baishakh, 1400

D-245 Registrar

## Tender Notice

### No. 19/92-93

Scaled tenders are hereby invited for supplying equipment of Field Testing Laboratory at Rajshahi during the year 1992-93. The approximate estimated cost is Tk. 11,61,850/00. The earnest money is 2 1/2 % of the total quoted amount.

The tender will be received during office hours on 11.4.93, 12.4.93 and up to 12.00 Noon on 13.4.93. The tender will be opened on the last date i.e. on 13.4.93 at 12-30 PM.

The enlisted 'A' & 'B' classes contractors for the year 1992-93 under Water Dev. Board/Bonafide suppliers are only eligible for submitting the tenders.

The tender documents and detailed informations will be available from the Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka/Agrani Bank, Naogaon/Nawabganj/Pubali Bank Ltd, Chalan Beel Pay Booth, Natore/Sonali Bank, Ranibazar Branch/Railway Complex Branch/Greater Road Branch/Rajshahi Court Branch/Motihar Branch/Sopura Industrial Estate Branch, Rajshahi in all working days during Banking hours on cash payment up to 12.4.93.

Md. Ahsan Ullah  
Executive Engineer  
Rajshahi W. D. Division  
BWDB, Sopura, Rajshahi  
PANI-473/92-93  
DFP (G) 4395-21/3  
G-425

## Help make city beautiful, clean : Abbas

The Mayor of Dhaka Mirza Abbas yesterday, called upon the city dwellers to help the city corporation's efforts to make the city a clean and beautiful one, reports BSS.

He made this call while addressing the annual conference of scavengers and workers union of the corporation at Sayedabad here.

Terming the scavengers as the true workers the Mayor urged them to remain vigilant so that no quarter can misuse or damage the articles and properties of the corporation. He also announced award for those who will cooperate in this regard.

Abbas said if the corporation can get free from the past debt the officials and employees of all level will be provided with necessary facilities. He assured providing housing facilities for all corporation officials, employees and scavengers in phases to help them performing their duties properly. Presided over by the President of the Union Abdul Khaleq Talukdar, its General Secretary Abdus Sattar.

## Edn Ministry, Agrani Bank sign treaty to implement IDA projects

A participation agreement was signed here yesterday between the Ministry of Education and Agrani Bank for implementation of a IDA-aided female secondary school assistance project, reports UNB.

The Tk 350 crore project aims at increasing status of the girl students through awarding stipends, imparting technical training for the drop out girls and increasing sanitary and water supply facilities for the students.

Some 10 lakh girl students of 2,403 schools will be benefited by this programme by the year 2006.

The programme will cover 118 thanas in its first phase in 1994 and will bring all thanas under it by the year 2002. The agreement was signed by Education Secretary Ershadul Hoq and Managing Director of the Agrani Bank Mostafa Aminur Rashid on behalf of their respective organizations at the conference room of the ministry. Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar attended the ceremony as chief guest.



## Friday

### Morning Session

- 8.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran Programme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Alor Deshast
- 8.30 The Last Crop
- 9.30 Candid Camera
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.05 Moneer Mukur
- 11.15 Shikhyha Dikhyha

### Evening Session

- 3.00 Opening announcement
- 3.10 Cartoon : Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3.45 Move of the week Heart Sounds
- 5.15 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Sports programme
- 6.55 Malanchya
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Comedy show: Perfect Strangers
- 9.00 Bohan Dekhi
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama series: L.A. Law
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing