

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Self-taught Artist

by Sharier Khan

At a corner of New Market of the city you may meet Syed Enayet Karim. He sits on the footpath with visible traces of poverty. This man wearing torn shirt and lungi has something special in himself. He draws remarkable portraits for money.

"You want your portrait done?" he would ask you, "I can draw you a foolscap size for 300 taka." Then he would pause, probably to judge whether you could afford more. "I can draw a 22 inches by 28 inches for you, it would only cost you 1500 taka." Karim's specialty is pencil sketch. He earns his bread and butter from drawing lines of faces on different sizes of art papers. "I have been using my drawing ability since 1970 for money," he says, "I am 46, you know." Karim was born poor in a village of Barisal. His father took him to school in those early days of Pakistan. He started drawing things at the age of five.

"In my childhood, my neighbours appreciated my talent," he reluctantly recalls, "when I was able to draw portraits in those days, many villagers paid me to draw their faces."

"But the local 'mollah' and my father and uncles did not like my habit," he adds.

The traditional attitude cultivated by many 'mollahs' of the country was that drawing picture, specially that of human beings or creatures is sinful because Allah prohibited so, Karim said.

"But once drawing went into my blood," Karim says, "nothing could stop me."

While many others in Karim's economic status would have dropped such luxurious habits like drawing under the sheer pressure of poverty, Karim came to pursue his liveli-

hood in Dhaka with a pencil and hopes before the liberation war. He chose his business spot at New Market.

"Life was better in those days," he says, "many were interested in portraits in pencil. Nowadays, I just hope to get drawings orders suffice for the bottom-line of living." Presently on an average, Karim gets four to five orders a month worth Tk 1200 to 1500.

Karim got married in the seventies. But his wife left him some ten to twelve years ago, thanks to poverty.

Yet Karim is content with his self-made profession. The art college students know me," he would smilingly say, "and they sometimes share my opinion about their own art bringing along their pieces to me."

"But sometimes, even nowadays, peculiar guys come to ask me not to draw," he complains. Some five months ago, a young chap of 25, bearded and wearing toupee, visited him more than twice and advised him not to draw pictures. "So I asked him why, what's wrong with drawing?" Karim recalls, "It's the same old story: drawing is sinful. Then finally he was convinced I was ignoring him and he stopped advising me."

Side by side with Karim, his brother Habibur Rahman also chose this profession. Karim taught him to draw. But unlike Karim's sole attention to pencil sketch, Habib draws and sells water colours.

"Some day," Karim expresses hopes, "I will make a better life, you will see. I am learning to paint now, I will expand the range of my skill."



Baul Akbar Sain from Kushtia rendering Lalon songs in the Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday in observance of Bangla new year. — Star photo

## 9600 Rly men respond to voluntary retirement

Bangladesh Railway expects that at least 10,000 of its employees will respond to the offer for voluntary retirement, a key scheme under the Railway Recovery Programme, reports UNB.

According to a review report on Railway's performance, the authorities have so far received 9,600 applications and expect more.

Authorities estimated that retirement of 10,000 employees would cost some Tk 250 crore. The programme, however, is expected to enable Railway to save Tk 40 crore a year.

Authorities have already okayed retirement of some

6,000 applicants and spent Tk 100 crore for handing out benefits.

The Ministry of Finance allocated Tk 100 crore to Railway as bridge financing and pledged another Tk 25 crore to finance the voluntary retirement.

Railway, however, cautioned that the programme might be threatened unless it gets an additional Tk 125 crore by December.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) earlier pledged 80 million US dollar in credit to finance the Railway Recovery Programme, but approval of the credit is being delayed.

## 600 telephone sets dead in Mohammadpur

More than 600 telephone sets in the greater Mohammadpur area remained dead for a week for what the Telephone Department officials said snapping of underground cables during unplanned earth digging by the Dhaka WASA personnel, reports BSS.

The officials said that all these 600 lines remained cut since April 14 as WASA workers dug earth for their own purpose.

About 2,200 telephone sets became victim of similar earth cutting since January this year in Mohammadpur area. While maximum number of connections were restored after weeks of cable repair, the officials said, the latest 600 connections could not be restored as yet.

## JS body on Shipping discuss on-going projects

The 17th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Shipping was held at the Jatiya Sangsad here yesterday (Wednesday), reports UNB.

The meeting chaired by State Minister for Shipping and Chairman of the Committee, Harun-Al-Rashid discussed the on-going development projects under the ministry.

Committee members Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahidul Hoque, Syed Ohidul Alam (BNP), Alamgir Haider Khan (BNP), Begum Selma Rahman (BNP), Mesbahuddin (AL) Abdul Khaleque Talukder (AL), Nazir Hossain (CPB), Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury (JP) and Advocate Dharendra Debnath Shambhu (AL) attended the meeting.

## Chehlu

Chehlu of Syeda Sufia Rahman, wife of Assistant Librarian of BUET, Mohammad Habibur Rahman, will be held at her residence 11/C, BUET staff quarter colony after Jumma prayers tomorrow (Friday), reports UNB.

She was the representative of the then National Investment Trust of Pakistan in the sixties and later Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

Sufia Rahman left behind husband, two sons, two daughters and a host of relations to mourn her death.

**BTV**  
Thursday

5:00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	School debate
6:10	Eso Para Shikhi
6:40	Jiboner Alo
7:15	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Drama of the week Sparsha
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: China Beach
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:45	Closing

## Weather

### Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over the regions of Comilla, Mymensingh and Sylhet during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Thursday. Met office forecasts.

Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, it adds. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius across the country, during the time it says.

The highest temperature of Wednesday's 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest, 19.1 degree Celsius was recorded at Mymensingh.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6-23 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:31 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday were as follows:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.0	21.6	53	52
Chittagong	31.8	24.5	90	76
Rajshahi	33.9	21.0	51	46
Khulna	34.1	23.5	77	56
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	78	78
Barisal	33.5	22.5	87	78
Sylhet	33.5	22.0	51	97
Rangpur	29.8	19.8	70	63

## Genesis members meet Biswas

A 26-member delegation of Genesis, a film-making and cultural organisation, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Led by Noor Hossain Rana, president of the organisation, the delegation explained their activities which included holding of seminars on late President Ziaur Rahman and children's competition on different subjects. They mentioned about making of a film "Redoy Komal" — on the life and achievements of late President Ziaur Rahman and sought President's help.

While talking to them, President Biswas said culture is the mirror of the society and the people of Bangladesh has a distinct cultural and national entity.

The President advised them to work in such a way that the national culture and tradition were upheld and reflected through their activities and programmes.

## Gaibandha pourasava

A five-member delegation from Gaibandha Pourasava called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of the certain problems of the pourasava area.

They mentioned about the protection of the town from erosion by Ghagot river, construction of ferry ghat at Balashi and improvement of the municipal graveyard, a PID handout said.

The members of the delegation included Wahiduzzaman Khan Titu, Chairman of Gaibandha Pourasava and local leaders Khaliquezaman Dudu, Nazrul Islam, Shamsuddoha Khan and Abdus Samad.

## Seminar on women of SAARC states concludes

A three-day seminar on women and socio-educational-cultural development in SAARC countries concluded last week in New Delhi, according to a message received here yesterday, reports BSS.

The seminar was jointly sponsored by All India Federation of Teachers Organisations (AIFTO), SAARC and Education International (EI) to discuss and make recommendations on development of women in social, educational and cultural fields, educational ecology, women and unions and AIDS.

Besides Nepal and most India, a five-member Bangladesh teachers association delegation took part in the seminar. They are: Zakera Rahman, Sabikun Nahar Hashamat, Hasina Parveen Razzaq and R N Shaha (coordinator).

### SONGS FOR LIFE

Tasneem (12) and Taskina (7), two sisters needing open heart surgery and they need YOUR HELP.

With a view to raising fund for the expensive operation, artiste Sadi Mohammad will hold charity show at the Engineers' Institute on 28 April, 1993 at 6 P.M.

Cards are available at Khabar Dabar, Bangabandhu Avenue, Sagar Publishers, Bailey Road and Film Fair Video, Sobhanbagh. Please make the fund raising charity a grand success. YOUR generous support will help to SAVE TWO YOUNG LIVES.

Space donated by The Daily Star.

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## JP ruined economy, AL buried democracy: Rafiq

RAJSHAHI, Apr 21: Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah has called upon the people to extend their whole hearted support to BNP government for implementing the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

He was addressing the fourth biennial conference of Rajshahi district and city BNP at Monbazar auditorium here yesterday.

He was critical of both Jatiya Party and Awami League governments and said the Ershad regime had ruined national economy by plundering the country's wealth.

Narrating the misuse of Awami League, he said that party had buried democracy by setting up one party rule—

BAKSAL. The Minister said Shaheed Zia had restored democracy and people's right. He urged all to extend their support to the government for giving democracy an institutional shape.

Presided over by advocate Ekhlauque Hossain, the conference was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Haq and Divisional Organising Secretary of BNP Rezaul Haq Rana.

The Works Minister said the present government had been working hard for the progress and prosperity of the country.

## Chinese delegates visit BARC

The visiting four-member Chinese delegation on livestock farming study in Bangladesh headed by Professor Jiu-Qi-Guang of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science yesterday visited Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and met Dr M Sujat Ullah Chowdhury, Executive Vice-Chairman of BARC, reports BSS.

During the discussion, members of the team discussed various matters relating to overall agricultural research in particular reference to livestock research and development in Bangladesh.

The team arrived here Tuesday and will stay for ten days to visit different government and private poultry and dairy enterprises of the country.



A section of hawkers brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting attack on them near Shiehu Park. — Star photo

## Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

অবৈধ পানি সংযোগ আজই বিচ্ছিন্ন করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class civil contractors for sewerage connection to senior staff quarters of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute at an allotted cost of Taka 1,65,000/-. Tenders will be received up to 12.00 Noon on 26.4.93 and opened on the same day at 12.30 p.m. in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka & all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address: Md. Abdul Kadir  
Mohakhali TB Gate, Dhaka Executive Engineer  
WASA-P.1-156/93 (Current Responsibility)  
DPP(G) 5961-17/4 MODS ZONE-5  
G-537 Dhaka WASA

## Special train stoppage for Haj pilgrims

The Dhaka bound inter-city trains will stop at Tongi Railway Junction for three minutes from April 25 to May 20 for the convenience of haj pilgrims, reports BSS.

This special arrangement has been made for the haj pilgrims who will start coming to temporary haj camp at Uttara Model Town from April 25.

The inter-city trains which will stop at Tong Junction are Teesta, Ekota, Padma, Jamuna, Jainika, Egaroshindhu, Upakul and Urmil.

The out-going inter-city trains along with other mail and express trains from Dhaka will stop at the Dhaka airport railway station for three minutes from June 4 to June 26 to facilitate the return of the haj passengers to their respective destinations.