

Dhaka Day by Day

Fortune-teller with no Answer to His Own Problems

by Shamsad Mortuza

When Abul Mansur starts another working day, he plans for a good business. He hopes to meet people whose fate he will read in their palms. He will caution about the stars that muddle in human affairs and he will inform of stones that can avert the impending evil. And, of course, his service is not without money. For only Taka 10, one can earn the touch of Mansur's hands that aided by his eyes can read the lines of the palms. Paying even more one can get some stones to safeguard oneself from the 'evil gaze' of the stars.

'Fortune depends on your deed, stones can only help you in your crisis,' said the man in his late forties. The keen eyes that have been studying faces for the last seven years caress the feature of his client and in an alarming voice he declares, 'you seem to have a very 'intimate' problem.'

A Solamant stone can help you out, said he while passing down the orange coloured piece of thing. 'King Solomon used this stone' said he clarifying the nomenclature. 'Wearing it with a four-ounce Neela will give you the best result.' 'Of my 'intimate' problem?' Somehow, he managed to notice the disbelief in my eyes and said, 'You don't believe me, but it's in the Holy book Neamul Quran.'

The orange stone that cost Taka 50 went back to its original place, a small wooden box with a glass lid. A leaflet of an eminent palmist and psychiatrist was attached to it.

'See, this is the paper of my 'guru', even he will prescribe you the same.' There might be

resemblance in prescription but a huge gap lies between the 'guru' and his protegee.

A three feet by six feet cloth is all Mansur has to use for his working place opposite to the Gullistan inter-city bus terminal. In the blessing of the Almighty, I earn Taka 100 to 150 a day' reported Mansur, though totally

taken aback by the question of his income. But blessings of the influential are not for free. The on-duty police constables take 30 every-day to look after us. Besides there are the horsemen (mount police) and the club people to be paid. But the highly professional man did not dwell long on his personal problems and said, 'I am telling you the stones will be of great help. Asked why he himself does not wear stones, he said 'I left them at home' and showed the scars that lie round his fingers.

Though he has a very little education, Mansur longs to learn more about psychology and astronomy. Perhaps to match the status of his 'guru'.

The famous palmists know how to study faces, they have studied a lot and they have practiced a lot... you too can become a palmist. There are some good books by Cheroe and some other Indian writers, you can read them.'

Time was up for me. The ten-taka note has earned me the chat. I was in no mood to wear any stones as suggested by him.

However, one single question remains unsolved, why does this man not use a stone to change his own fortune?



The fortune-teller has no answer to his own misfortune.

Dakhil exam begins tomorrow

The Dakhil examination, 1993 under the Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board begins tomorrow. About 56 thousand candidates will appear at the examination to be held at 238 centres, reports BSS.

The government has taken all measures to hold the examination in a proper and corruption-free atmosphere. Section 144 will be in force within 200 yards of the examination centres banning general entry.

A vigilance team will be engaged in each centre which will look into, if any, irregularities, negligence and failure and report those to the Deputy Commissioner.

Pak qawwals in city

Noted Pakistani qawwals Ustad Raziuddin and Farced Ayaz and their group are now here on a private visit, says a press release, reports BSS.

'They are expected to perform in Dhaka and Chittagong. Ustad Raziuddin was awarded Pride of Performance by the government of Pakistan in the field of music and qawwali, the press release added.

Anti-Terrorism Act

Four get 10-yr RI each

CHITTAGONG, May 3: The third Additional Sessions Judge, Mofizul Islam, yesterday awarded ten years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) to four persons and fined them Taka five thousand each on charge of terrorism and looting, reports BSS.

The four accused persons sentenced and fined were Sharafatullah of Noapara, Jalal Uddin of Kachua, Muhammad Selim of Noapara and Muhammad Sayed of Niramishapara under Raizan police station.

The prosecution story is that the accused persons entered the house of the complainant Laila Begum of Raizan on October 20, 1989 and decamped with valuable articles including gold ornaments, colour TV, Honda motor cycle etc. worth Taka 1,55,000. A case was filed with Raizan police in this connection. During police investigation accused Sharafatullah confessed that he and others implicated in the case looted the articles.

Another report says: Anti-terrorism Tribunal judge Abu Bakar Siddique today sentenced one Muhammad Babul

to five years Rigorous Imprisonment and fined Taka one thousand in default to suffer six months more RI for snatching away money from a kerosine hawkers.

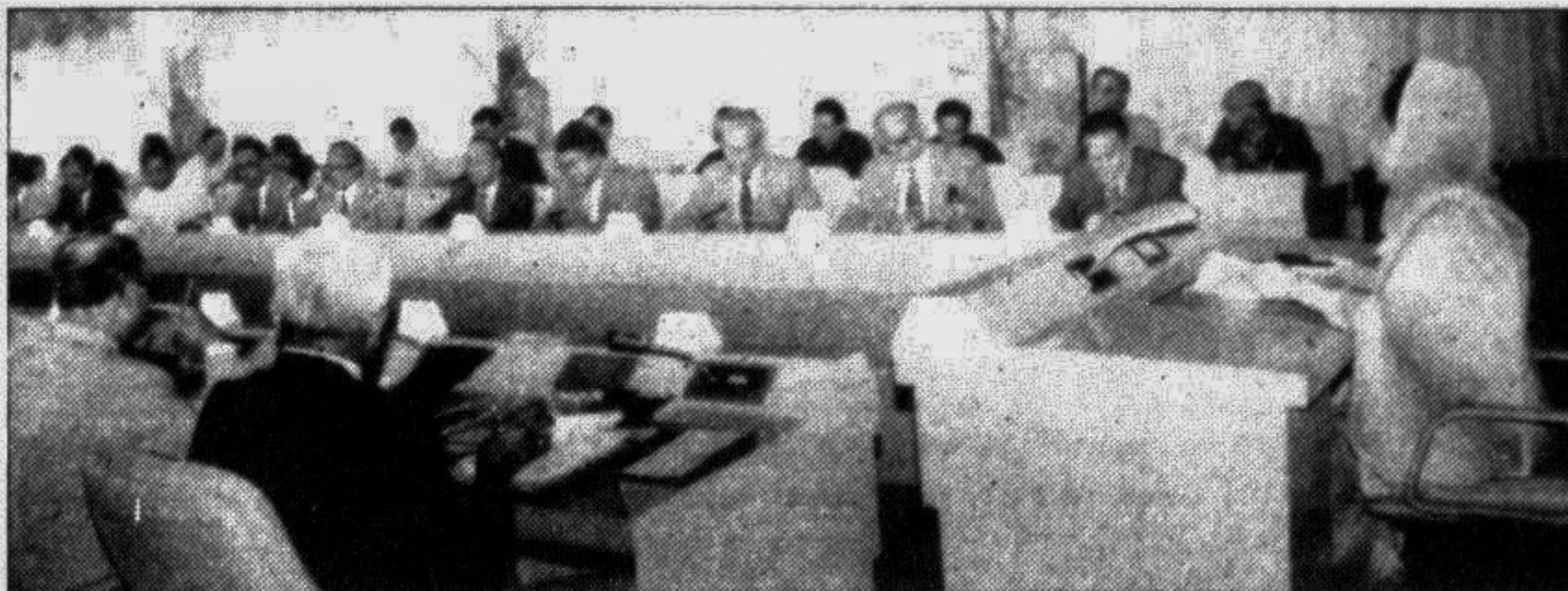
Two girls killed in mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Two girls — a six-year-old girl and a teenager, were killed in two separate road accidents in Dhaka and its southern outskirts on the Dhaka-Mawa Highway Sunday.

Nilufar, 6, daughter of one Sirajul Islam, was run over by a speeding truck at Matuail, Demra, at around 7 am Sunday and died immediately after admission to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another accident, a First Year student of Tejgaon Degree College, Mukti Rozario, died when she was crushed between two passenger buses at Kuchiamara Ferry-ghat on the Dhaka-Mawa Highway Sunday afternoon.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a cabinet meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Technical education imperative for self-reliance : Sircar

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Sunday called upon the polytechnic teachers to put in their sincere efforts for improving the standard of technical education in the country, reports BSS.

Technical education is an imperative for achieving self-reliance, he said while addressing the installation ceremony of Dhaka Polytechnic unit of Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association and dis-

cussion meeting on technical education here.

Presided over by Haripada Dev, newly elected president of the unit, the function was addressed by director-general of technical education Rafiqul Hoq, chairman of Technical Education Board Abdur Rafiq, president of Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association Khandoker Shahabuddin Mahmood, out-going general secretary Shamsur Rahman and newly elected general secretary Mostafa Hossain.

The Education Minister said the present government had given due importance to improve technical education for increasing skilled manpower. The government will patronise all efforts of the teachers and students towards making polytechnic education free from session jam and violence, he said.

He assured the teachers that proper steps would be taken to solve the problems of the polytechnic teachers.

'Govt firm to implement global shelter strategy by 2000'

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah who led a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the 14th session of the Commission on Human Settlements held in Nairobi on April 26 said the situation of human settlements was deteriorating in Bangladesh due to natural disaster like cyclone and floods, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

He reiterated the government's commitment to the implementation of the global shelter strategy by the year 2000 despite severe resource constraints.

Barrister Rafiq called upon the UN agencies and the international organisation and the developed nations for financial and technical assistance for boosting government's efforts to improve the shelter conditions of the urban and rural poor in Bangladesh.

'He also said that the government of Bangladesh had initiated formulation of a national housing programme to provide house for urban and rural poor by the year 2000.

The session of Human Settlement Commission was inaugurated by the Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

Barrister Rafiq called on the Under Secretary General and Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Elizabeth Dowdeswell and exchanged views on the programme in Bangladesh.

IEB opens its first overseas branch in Qatar

Star Report

The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) opened a branch office in Qatar on April 30.

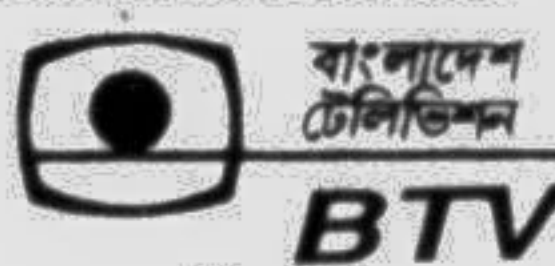
The newly opened 'Qatar charter' of the IEB is the first overseas branch of the organisation since its inception in Dhaka in 1948.

Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh High Commissioner in Qatar, inaugurated the branch office while IEB President Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury addressed the opening session.

S M Reza and Hassan Iqbal were selected President and General Secretary respectively of the Qatar chapter of the IEB.

IEB sources said, the institution would also open overseas chapters soon in Thailand and Singapore.

The IEB decided to open overseas branches across the world with a view to providing Bangladeshi engineers working in different parts of the world with forums for exchange of technical information and expertise, IEB sources said.



Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Guran, Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Esha Para Shikhi
- 6.00 Debate
- 7.00 Open University
- 7.25 Programme of modern songs: Sangeeta
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama series: Kothao Keu Nei (1st episode)
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film show: ENG
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over many places at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna division with moderately heavy fall at places elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 pm Monday, according to Met office.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period.

The highest temperature of the country was 36 degree Celsius recorded at Rajshahi yesterday and the lowest of 20.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Barisal.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6:29 and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) 5:22.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.6	21.8	85	87
Chittagong	32.5	21.6	74	72
Rajshahi	36.0	24.3	78	73
Khulna	33.2	22.9	81	81
Barisal	32.0	20.6	89	84
Cox Bazar	32.2	21.5	73	77
Sylhet	23.5	23.0	100	97
Dinajpur	30.0	24.5	92	84

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