

### Metropolitan

# Dhaka Day by Day

## IML: A World of its Own

by Abdus Shahid



Languages in myriad forms

The Institute of Modern Languages (IML) of the University of Dhaka can really be called a world of its own. True, there are some other language-teaching institutes in Dhaka, like the British Council, the Goethe Institut or the Alliance Francaise, but none of those teaches more than one language while IML can boast of offering courses in as many as 11 languages.

The IML was established soon after our independence by some visionary academicians of the University of Dhaka who understood the importance of command of languages for an independent nation if it were to take its rightful place among nations. They hurried to start the institute in 1974, undaunted by the severe resource constraints of a newly independent country the struggle of which for freedom caused all kinds of economic dislocations.

They started with only two office rooms and a handful of students, and boundless zeal. Classes used to be held only in the evening, in the Arts Building, if any room could be found unoccupied at that time.

Today IML offers courses 35 to 54 groups of students in 11 languages: Modern Bengali, English, Chinese, Japanese, Persian, French, Russian, German, Arabic, Spanish and Italian. It offers Junior Certificate, Senior Certificate, Diploma and Higher Diploma in those courses, each one year's duration. In addition to these courses, the institute arranges short intensive courses of a few weeks' duration in some languages as and when required.

The institute moved to its own premises in 1981. Its classes are now held from eight in the morning to eight in the evening. It now has 20 full-time teachers, including some well qualified foreign teachers, and more than 1,000 students.

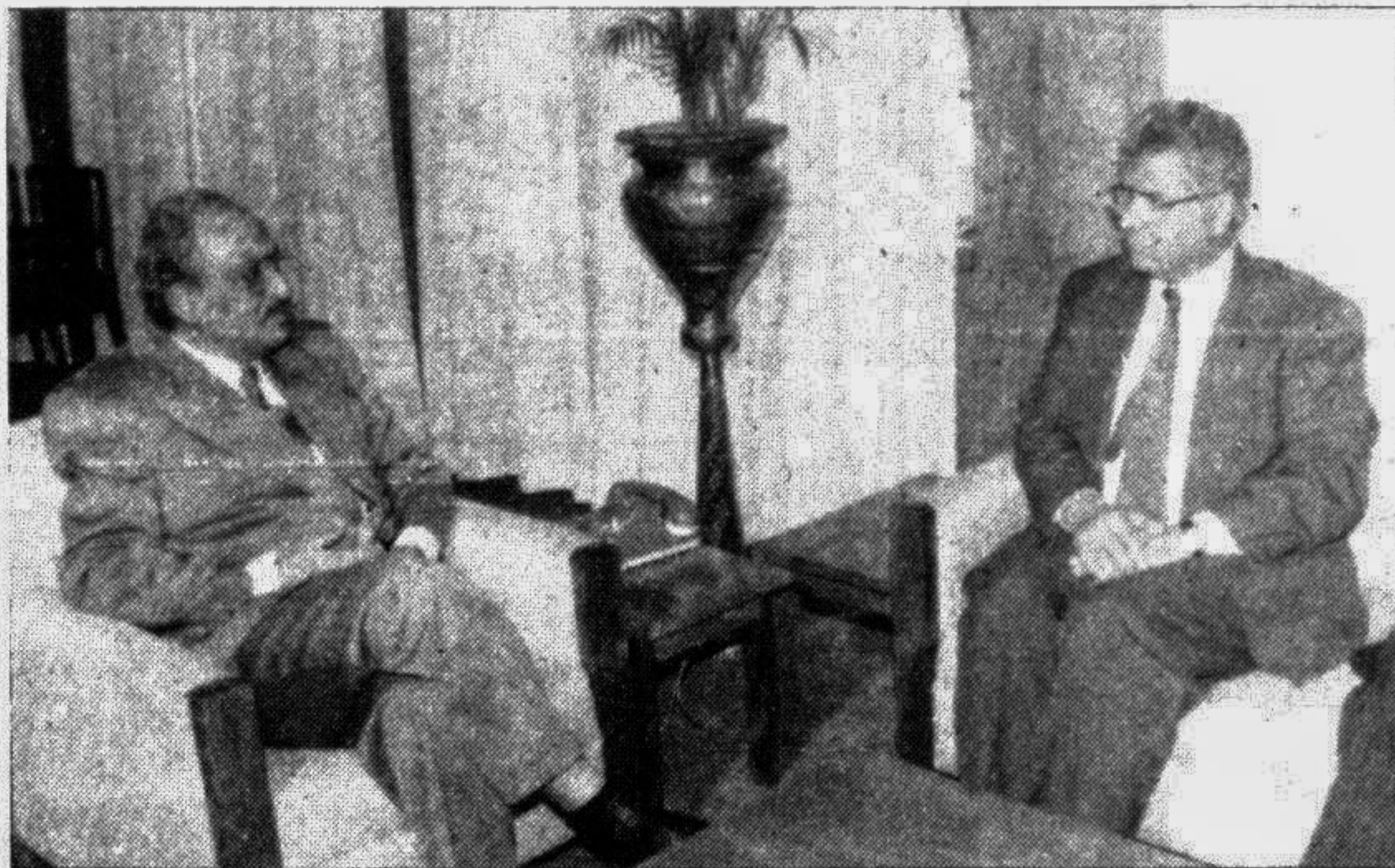
Foreign embassies and organisations in Bangladesh now accept only IML's translation of various documents as authentic. IML-trained military personnel are now working in a several Middle East countries. Some of its Chinese students who came here to learn Bengali now work in the Bengali Service of Radio Beijing and in the Foreign Language Department in China. IML-trained Bengali interpreters now accompany Chinese delegates who visit Bangladesh.

Despite such impressive achievements, IML is still far from meeting its set goals. It is yet to offer courses for Bangladesh professionals which would enable them to compete for UN and other international jobs where proficiency in languages other than English is a pre-requisite. It still cannot offer courses meant for professional translators and interpreters. Bangladesh is losing these jobs to her neighbouring countries like India and Pakistan which use the positions not only to provide employment to some people but also to enhance their national image and international relations.

IML's inability to offer such courses, however, is not caused by any lack of imagination on the part of its staff. It does intend to introduce master level courses in all UN languages. It also is eager to start professional courses for interpreters and translators. But its plans are frustrated by resource constraints. While several countries have offered to provide full-time teachers free of cost, IML is unable to provide them with even modestly furnished quarters during their stay in Dhaka. Some embassies in Dhaka have offered to furnish at least one room with various items which would reflect their own culture. IML's severe crisis for space has forced it to shelve such offers, for the time being.

IML's plan to install a language laboratory is also shelved for 19 years for lack of funds. As no language institute can run properly without such a laboratory, IML came up with a less expensive alternative plan for an audio visual and listening centre. Again, shortage of room stands in its way to realise the plan.

The institute, however, continues with its efforts to convince the university and University Grants Commission about the need and importance of a full-fledged language institute. "We are working for the day when Bangladesh interpreters will accompany our delegates and teams abroad and when visiting foreign delegates won't have to worry about finding competent translators here. Only then we will feel a sense of achievement," says Professor Abdul Haye, the present director and one of the founding fathers of the institute. He probably speaks for all the teachers and students of the IML.



The seven-member IMF delegation led by its Director for the Southeast Asia and the Pacific region Kadhim A-Al-Eyd called on the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the latter's office yesterday. — PID photo

## We must ensure women's role in development: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for concerted efforts to consolidate the position of women towards achieving development and welfare of the society, reports BSS.

The President was inaugurating a seminar on "Women in the Evolution of Century" at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday morning.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the seminar. Organised by the Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Ministry and the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, the seminar was also participated by Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, Minister of State for Social Welfare Sarwar Rahman and Chairperson of the Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Salima Rahman, MP.

Dr Shaidur Rahman, an Associate Professor of Applied Physics of Dhaka University read out a keynote paper on the subject. The function was presided over by Secretary of the Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Ministry Inamul Haq.

President Biswas underlined the important role of women in building the society and said, "We shall have to ensure the active participation of women in the development process of a modern society."

Turning to the advent of

the 1400 century of the Bangla calendar, President Biswas said the people of the country, irrespective of gender would have to follow the path of welfare for building an ideal society, educate new generation and create a progressive social atmosphere.

Tracing history, President Biswas pointed out that Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain had played the pioneering role in awakening the women folk from darkness. He also paid tributes to Nawab Fatmunnisa of Comilla for her role in the expansion of education and social welfare in the country.

The President referred to the presence of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the Chairperson of SAARC, in the seminar and recalled her bold role in anti-autocracy movement in the country, which, he pointed out, would be recognised in the history as a unique role for practising democracy in future.

The President also paid tributes to the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, Sheikh Hasina in the last anti-autocratic movement and hoped that the process of leadership of the women would create a new era of confidence and determination for overall development in the country.

## Country's gas reserve 21.4 trillion cft: Mosharraf

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said, Bangladesh has 10.7 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas reserves and approximately 50 million barrels of recoverable oil reserve, reports BSS.

He said, the proven and probable gas reserve, however, in country's 17 gas fields so far discovered is 21.4 trillion cubic feet, according to an official source.

The minister was addressing the defence trainee officers and projecting the poten-

tiality of energy resources of Bangladesh at Defence Services Command and Staff College here.

Major General Mahbubur Rahman, Commandant of the college, also spoke on the occasion.

Outlining the past, present and future prospects and possibilities of energy and mineral resources of Bangladesh, Dr Mosharraf Hossain said, "We have a great potential and enough prospect in energy and mineral resources and we also have skilled manpower in this sector."

### WANTED

A reputed major textile mills looking for a Manager (Administration). The Candidate should have at least 10 years administrative experience in a major textile industry with knowledge of company and labour laws. Minimum age 35 years. Salary commensurate with qualification and experience. Interested candidate should submit Biodata along with testimonials stating experiences and two recent passport size photographs. Application should reach GPO Box No. 2294 Dhaka before 31st. May '93.

### NEW GENERATOR WANTED

One 150 KVA new Diesel Generator is wanted for immediate purchase. Those who are able to supply readily are requested to contact only: SABINCO, Steel House (5th Floor), Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. Phone: 815883-6 D-341

### Job Vacancy

An international voluntary development organisation requires a PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT OFFICER for one year contract.

Responsibilities will include liaison with NGOs and Government agencies, project assessment visits and assistance in all aspects of programme evaluation, planning and implementation.

Qualifications: A Master degree with at least 5 yrs experience of programme-related work in the development field. A thorough knowledge of the NGO community is essential. Fluent English and excellent writing skills for report writing in Bangla and English. Able to travel within the country for assessment visits.

Applications with complete CV detailing experience & qualifications should be sent GPO Box 406, Dhaka 1000 by May 23. S-167

### NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. MAHA BHUM V-155 from Bangkok, ex M.V. BUNGA BIDARA V-0072N from Melbourne, ex M.V. KITANG V-18414 from Le-Harve, ex M.V. PACIFIC CHALLENGER V-SWA'B from Paragua, ex M.V. OCEAN CENTAURUS V-448 from Karachi, ex M.V. NOUVA TRIESTE V-01415 from La-Spezia, ex M.V. ALLI AMERICA V-15355 from Oakland, Los Angeles, ex M.V. GREAT RIZAL V-30517 from Keelung, ex M.V. LILA BHUM V-02N from Lachabang, ex M.V. BRIFSEN EXPRESS V-10316 from Hongkong, ex M.V. SUCCESS HOPE V-21062 from Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. OPTIMA V-838, Imp. Rot. No. 35793 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 18-5-93 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.

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Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of VAT. — Star photo

### JS body on Relief Ministry meets

The 10th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Relief Ministry was held at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday with State Minister for Relief Lutful Rahman Khan in the chair, reports BSS.

### 43 arrested in city

Police rounded up 43 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

### NU admission date extended

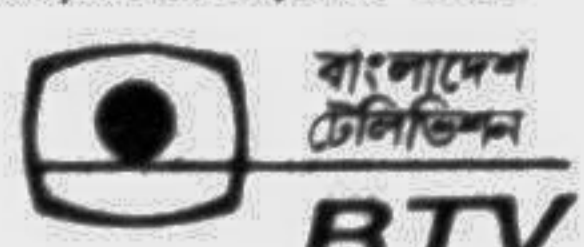
The last date for admission in BA Pass and Honours classes of different colleges affiliated to National University (NU) has been extended up to June 15, reports UNB.

An UN press release said yesterday the decision was taken on special consideration of frequent appeals by students and guardians.

It asked all the affiliated colleges to complete the admission process within the revised timetable.

### DU exam postponed

Examination of 3rd paper Subsidiary of BA (pass and subsidiary) of Dhaka University scheduled for May 17 has been postponed, reports UNB.



Monday TV Schedule: 5:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary; 5:10 News in Bangla; 5:25 Sports programme; 6:20 Special programme on Telecommunication Day; 6:50 Open University; 7:20 Nazrul songs; 8:00 News in Bangla; 8:25 Sukh Neer; 8:50 Musical programme; 10:00 News in English; 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown; 10:50 Disco Rally; 11:30 Khabar/The News; 11:45 Closing.

### Corrigendum to Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

The following corrections have been made in the tender Notice for the work "Back fill of the Saidabad site" published in The Daily Star and the Dainik Sangbad on 16.5.1993.

Sl. 1. Tender Notice no. will be : SWTP/2B/93.

Sl. 5 (a) is replaced by "1st class contractors enlisted with at least two Govt. Departments or autonomous bodies of which one must be enlisted with Bangladesh Water Development Board or Roads and Highways Department for at least 5 years". Last para of Sl. 5 (c) is replaced by "up-to-date renewal certificates of enlistment with at least two Govt. Departments or autonomous bodies of which one must be enlisted with BWDB or R&HD."

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

K M Sheesh Project Director

Saidabad Water Treatment Plant Project

WASA-P.1.197/93 96, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka-1215.

D-340

### What's on today . . .

#### Conference on Flood Action Plan

The inaugural ceremony of the third conference on 'Flood Action Plan' will be held today (Monday) at 8.45 am at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, Maj Gen (ret'd) M Majid-Ul-Huq will inaugurate the programme.

#### VHSS discussion

A discussion meeting on 'HIV/AIDS status in Bangladesh', organised by Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS), will be held in the city today (Monday).

The meeting will analyse how AIDS epidemic affects development work and make plans on what to do for preventing the disease, as it is a development issue.

Bangladesh lies in the crossroad of the Asian AIDS epidemic as among 1,250 AIDS victims in Asia, 95 per cent are from India and Thailand, said a WHO report in 1992.

#### Workshop

A three-day workshop on 'Bangladesh National Building Code' will begin in the capital today (Monday).

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia will inaugurate the workshop as chief guest at 9:30 am at the Institution of Engineers.

The three-day workshop will be divided into 16 sessions.

#### Graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony of the 5th batch ESP graduates of the Quantum Method Foundation course will be held today (Monday).

The ceremony, organised by the Yoga Foundation and conducted by Yoga Guru Mahajataq will be held at Shams hall of Jatiya Scout Bhawan at 4 pm.

#### Seminar on Telecommunications

A seminar on 'Telecommunications and Human Development' will be held today (Monday) at 4:00 pm at the Hotel Sheraton on the occasion of the World Telecommunication Day.

Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tarikul Islam will attend the function as chief guest while Secretary of the Ministry Dr A M M Shawkat Ali and Chairman of T&T Board Fazlur Rahman will be present as the special guests.

### Weather

#### Temperature may not change

By Staff Correspondent

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

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country, it adds. The highest temperature of the country 32.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Kutubdia and Khulna while the lowest, 18.8 degree Celsius was at Faridpur.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6-35 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5-15 am. The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (9 am, 6 pm). Data includes Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Rangpur.

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