

Dhaka Day by Day

Regional Weeklies Pitted against Overwhelming Odds

by Tawfiq Aziz Khan

They all came from the four corners of the country. The editors of the regional weekly newspapers were not forgotten by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), despite its more

pressing preoccupation with other urban matters. These editors are attending a 10-day "training course" on various aspects of publication of weekly newspapers in their respective areas. This elite band from far-flung districts is a new breed of journalists-cum-entrepreneurs, the member of which is ever increasing. Looking back, it is

hard to believe that we had such a large fraternity spread all over this country even 20 years ago.

Some of them may have nurtured a dream to become an editor, some may have started a newspaper because they had a printing press, some may have been lured into the field by friends and admirers who had convinced them of the power and influence that go with the post of an editor. Maybe, some of them were rich enough to join the fraternity even if they knew their investments may not at all give any returns.

But there are of course those who wanted to take up journalism as a profession charged with the zeal to do something good for society.

In Bangladesh where survival of even many daily newspapers published from the biggest and richest city is at stake, the weekly newspapers of districts are possibly the last straw on the camel's back. It may sound pretty dismal but one cannot ignore this practical aspect. In spite of the fact that we are a poor country, the improvement in road communication, in places, is amazing. Who could think that people from Teke could visit Tetulia by road even 15 years back? Did the newspapers of Dhaka ever had a chance of reaching Barguna or Jhalokathi without the help of riverine transport? The road network has made it possible for Dhaka-based newspapers and periodicals easier to reach their readers in places of great distance and at the same time made it difficult for regional newspapers to compete and survive. Every daily newspaper of Dhaka has a regular page for district news

which covers all that happens there and the stories are sent by their correspondents, who in many cases happen to be the editor of a regional weekly.

The Dhaka-based weeklies are definitely superior to the regional ones in every respect and they can very well compete with local weeklies by beating their datelines. Their attractive get-up, computer and PTS compose, multi-colour offset and sheetfed printing, machine binding and above all the high quality of reading materials and

photographs make the regional papers look like graffiti drawn by immature hands. The subscribing capacity, the rate of literacy and above all the habit of reading of the people who can afford to buy more than one newspaper are also to be taken into consideration. Today's information explosion, the expansion of satellite and cable TV network have made news gathering easier than before particularly for the big city publications. Since they have a much wider readership than their mofussil counterparts, the bulk of the advertisements — either private or government, is released to this competent and aggressive printing medium.

And without these two main sources of revenue, circulation and advertisement, no newspaper can survive. Unfortunately, for regional weeklies, they cannot even lay a claim on public money because they cannot stand in competition with the largely-circulated papers.

With about a hundred daily newspapers and around 1200 weeklies and periodicals forming a gang eligible for a share of the public money distributed in the form of government advertisement, the regional weeklies have a very slender chance of staking even a feeble claim to their favour.

It is a bleak picture no doubt for the regional weeklies. For their survival they have to innovate new ideas for better production, greater circulation and improved advertisement.

This is a tall order no doubt. They must try to achieve this if they want to see light at the end of the long, dark tunnel.



Pahari Chhatra Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday in observance of its fourth founding anniversary. — Star photo

Biswas for turning masses into resource

A 13-member delegation of teachers and students of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research of Dhaka University called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday and apprised him of their proposed study tour of SAARC countries and their research activity, reports UNB.

Hosneera Kamal, Director of the Institute, led the delegation which met with the President at Bangabhaban.

During discussion, President Biswas stressed the need for turning the vast population of the country into resource by means of proper education and technical training.

For achieving the goal of so-

cial welfare, the literacy rate should be raised, Biswas said, adding the educated section should render valuable service to ensure well-being of commonman.

He said practical learning could help people contribute to nation building activity. The available resources should be utilised for bringing about rapid changes in all aspects of society through research-oriented activities.

The President said through integrated programmes, SAARC nations could contribute substantially to the well-being of millions of underprivileged in the region and change their socio-economic condition.

Bailey bridge to be built on river Shibu: Aminul

RAJSHAHI, May 22: State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Haq has said the BNP government laid utmost emphasis in constructing roads and bridges to improve the communication system, reports BSS.

He was addressing a gathering at Chowbaria Mahastha High School ground under Tanore thana of the district yesterday.

Pointing to the various problems of Chowbaria Hat, one of important business centres of the area, he said, all problems would be solved in phases soon. He mentioned that construction of 12 kilometre metalled road from the hat to Tanore thana headquarters had already been started and a Bailey bridge would be constructed on river Shibu by the side of the hat.

Earlier Haq visited various ongoing development work at Tanore and Godagary thana.

Engineering Adviser of LGRD Kamrul Islam Siddique, Adviser of local Rural

Development Project-7 Michel James and member of RDA Shish Mohammad accompanied him during the visit.

The State Minister also visited re-excavation work of Karimpur-Moyenpur canal.

Works Minister assures raising allocation for education

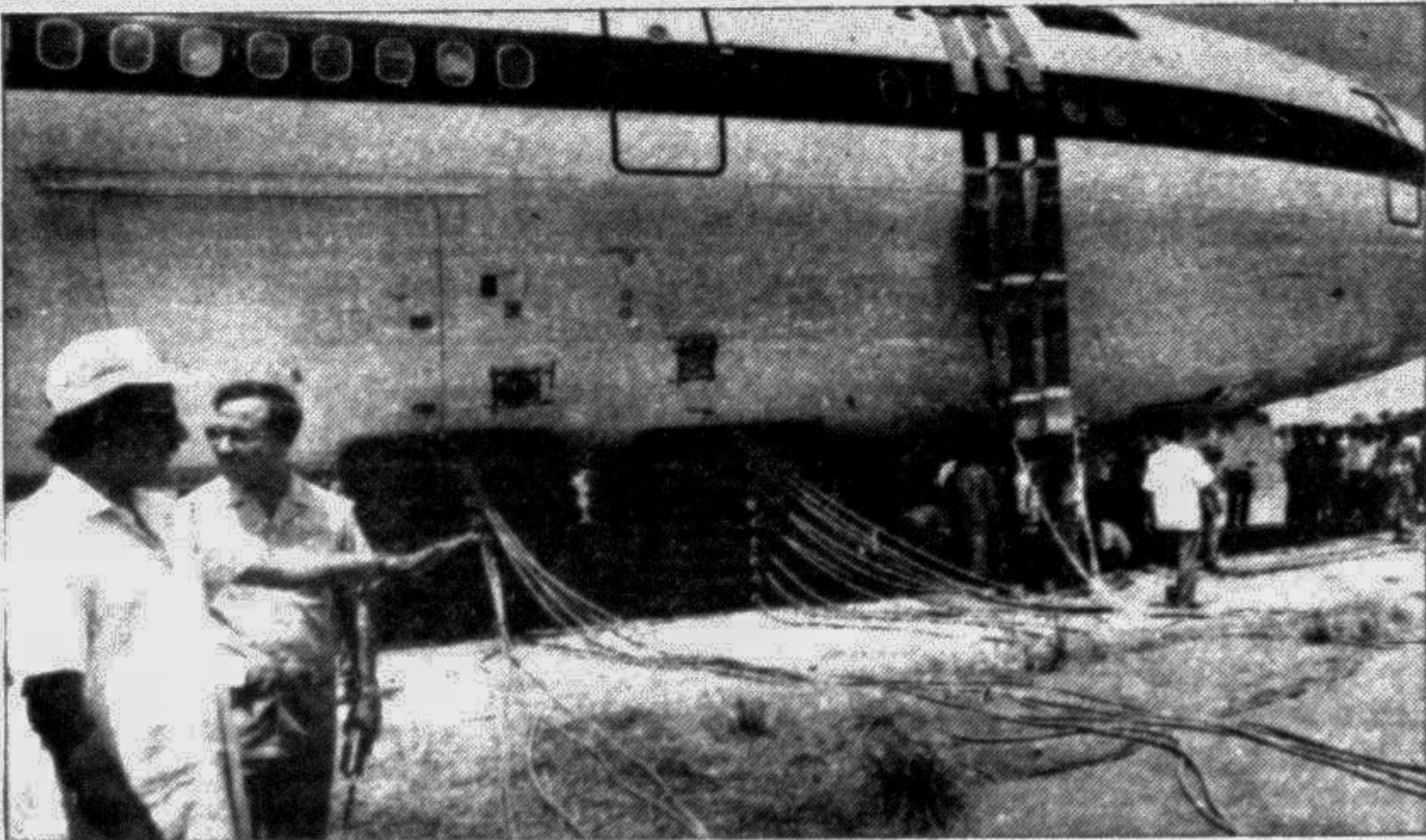
Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian yesterday said the government had made maximum allocation for the education sector and would increase the level in future to ensure education for all by the year 2000, reports BSS.

"The present democratically elected government is determined to see that no one

remain uneducated in the country," he told a grand rally of teachers, guardians and students of Kakoli High School of the city at a community centre here.

State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Haq, Amanullah Chowdhury MP, eminent journalist Gias Kamal

Choudhury, Principal of the school and Secretary of the newly elected governing body Khaleda Habib and Vice-Chairman Gamrul Alam Kabir also spoke on the occasion. Khan, E-E-alam Khan, Chairman of the newly elected governing body was in the chair at the function which was followed by a colourful musical voice



State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan supervising the salvage operation of the DC-10 aircraft of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines at the ZIA yesterday. Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) seen on his left. — Star photo

Photo show in Ctg May 30

A day-long Chinese photo exhibition organised by the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will be held on May 30 at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy, reports BSS.

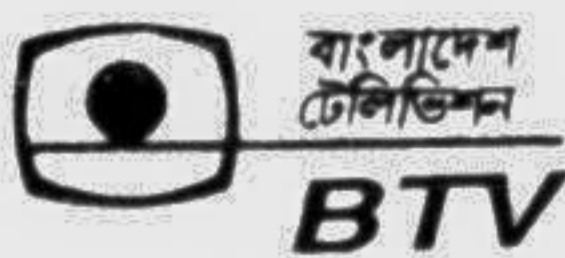
Dutch official meets Hasina

Head of South Asia Division of Foreign Ministry of The Netherlands de Jong called on leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Nat'l Prof Nurul Islam honoured

National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam, founder President of the national anti-smoking organisation 'Adhunik' has been nominated by the Gujarat State Consumers Protection Centre of India for the highest honour of the Consumer's world and Golden Grahak Sewa Award for 1993 for his invaluable contribution in the field of research, health and tobacco control, says a press release.

The other recipients of the award this year are: Nelson Mandela of South Africa, General Consumers Council and Federation of Red Cross Societies of Switzerland.



Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Cartoon: the Secrets of Drawing
- 5.35 Sports: Cricket
- 6.10 Maeder Jannya
- 6.45 Open University
- 7.20 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Antarakal Amr
- 9.00 Raven
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.35 Surobanee
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Rise in temperature likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday) says rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over the Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore and Sylhet while weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded in Saikhra yesterday (Saturday) and the lowest 21.3 degree was reported from Dinajpur.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:38 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:12 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	34.2	25.0	60	59
Chittagong	33.5	25.3	75	73
Rajshahi	34.8	23.8	71	67
Khulna	35.0	25.7	70	67
Barisal	34.5	25.8	84	73
Cox's Bazar	32.5	25.5	69	71
Dinajpur	33.0	21.3	75	63
Sylhet	33.7	23.8	62	58

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ALBUM 1: IMMORTAL BENGALI MELODIES OF GOLDEN ERA

Side A: Q Ami Bhule Gecchi Taba Parichaya Q Nai Ba Ghumale Priya Rajani Ekano Baki Q Bhuli Nai, Bhuli Nai Q Jani Jani Go Mor Shunya Hritbhaya Debe Bhone Q Hai Chhala! Tum Phuler Arale Thako Kanta Hoyo j

Side B: Q Adho Rate Jodi Ghum Bhenge Jai Q Michhe Patha Chawa, Michhe Gan Gawa Q Ki Chhande Bendhecho Kabari Go Priya Q Tumi Ki Ekhan Dekhichho Shapon Amare Q Ghumero Chhaya Chandero Chokhe Ei Madhu Rat Nahi Bakul

ALBUM 2: HINDI FILMI HITS OF GOLDEN DAYS

Side A: Q Bahe Ankhun Se Dhaar Q Apni Kaho, Kuchh Meri Sono Q Dil Jalta Hai To Jaine De Q Balma Bara Nadan Re Q Mai Dil Hon Ek Arman Bhara j

Side B: Q Jab Dil Hi Tut Gaya Q Ab Raja Bhojye More Balam Q Mohabbat Aisi Dharkan Hai Q Lakh Sahi Hum Pee Ki Batian Q Seene Me Sulagte Hein Arman j

ALBUM 3: STYLIZED BENGALI SONGS OF ALL TIMES

Side A: Q Chahu Atapta Nayane Tor Mukha Pane Q Amay Rakhte Jodi Apon Ghare Q Bal Ma Amr Daras Kotha, Amar Jemi Mata Temni Pita Q Katara Radhika Dekha Adhika j

Side B: Q O Go Amar Nabin Shakkh Q Tumi Madhur Ange Nacho Go Range Q Tumi Amar Antastar Khabar Jano Q Mon Tui Bhul Korechhush Mule j

ALBUM 4: VINTAGE GEET-GHAZAL (Nostalgic)

Side A: Q Jo Khoosh Se Chot Khaye Q More Balapan Ke Sathi Q Nuktacheen Hai Ghamo Dil Q Mushkil Hai Bahut Mushkil j

Side B: Q Sono Sono He Krishna Kala Q Ma Ra Bagamzah Kusht Q Tansken Ko Hum Na Royen Q Nain Mele Nain Hue Bewre j

ALBUM 5: DEVOTIONAL SONGS

Side A: Q Tumi Amar Antastar Khabar Jano Q Mon Tui Bhul Korechhish Mule Q Aapje Bayasha Mor Shyam Raabe Jara Jara Q Ma Hawa Ki Mukher Kaha, Shudhu Proshab Kore Hoyna Mata j

Side B: Q Ma Go Muchhiye De Mor Ei Duti Nayan Q Ma Amay Ghurabe Kata, Kahur Chokh Dhaka Balader Mato Q Chhalake Gagari, Gori Chalo Dhoeri Dhoeri Q Bandhu Aneka Kandaye Aneka Shadhaye j

ALBUM 6: URDU-HINDI CLASSICS (Geet-Ghazal)

Side A: Q Meri Ankhun Me Bus Gaya Kot Re Q Hungamaye Gham Se Tang Aa Kar Q Dil Se Teri Nigah Jigar Tak Ujar Gayee Q Bichhua Bap Re Ho Balam j

Side B: Q Mera Pevar Mujhe Laita Teri Chand Lambe Teri Mehli Me Guzar Aya Hon Q Tasveer Teri Dil Mera Bahla Na Sekegi Q Ay Karbe Tasveer Mujhe Etna Beta De Q Hum Se Aya Na Gaya, Teri Se Bolaya Na Gaya j

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17/1 Umesh Datta Road, Bakshibazar, Dhaka-11
Phone: Dhaka-500832, Chittagong-203796