

Dhaka Day by Day

A Keen Sense of Document Collection

by Shankar Bihari Nath

He is passionately in love with collecting documents on political and cultural activities. Nobody dictated him. But an irresistible urge from within drives him to collect documents on socio-political importance.

Amidst the tumultuous political events of mid 60's Gopal Das came to Dhaka University campus. When he was barely 15 years old, his father handed him to Modhu da, after whom the almost legendary Modhu's canteen is named. Modhu da took him as a canteen boy and afterwards sent him to a city school at Azimur where he could study only up to class IX in the night shift. By this time, like other canteen boys Gopal also was drawn to the student leaders. But Gopal got a bit more favour from the leaders mainly for his serious attraction for student movements both in political and cultural arena of the university.



Gopal Chandra Das at DUCSU collection centre

Gopal, who is now very familiar to the DU student leaders, used to collect political leaflets, posters or literary publications of different student groups. Immediately after his joining the DUCSU office as a peon in 1970, he prudently sorted out the documents of political importance from the huge old and torn file there. He had a very sharp sense, who could gauge the gravity of even a press release. Now his collection is really amazing.

Very few among us can show so many old documents of the period dating back from 1952 to the present time. Most of his collections are at political importance. Of course, there are a lot of issues of literary publications of the time of our language movement. Since there was no fixed room in the DUCSU office, Gopal Das an ordinary peon with an ardent zeal, kept the documents under his care. But he has always cherished the desire to build up a collection centre at DUCSU. Only two years back a collection centre was opened in the DUCSU Bhaban.

"DUCSU collection centre is my dream. I have encouraged one Tuhin Amin to make a written proposal to the DUCSU leaders. You know, I am simply a peon. So, I thought it would be more effective if a student moved it. I kept myself behind the screen. But I helped in the best possible manner to expedite the process. Now, I'm really very happy, my dream becoming a reality in 1991."

If one steps into this heavily packed tiny centre at the DUCSU Bhaban, one can easily get a broad view of different movements of Dhaka University students. There are a good number of posters, leaflets, pictures of the student martyrs of the great events in '52, '66, '69 and of recent years. If you ask Gopal Das about these things, he would smile and show the collections chronologically.

"Look, I have kept the duplicate copies of these rare documents, mainly of the declarations of different student organisations in my little house at Azimpur." Gopal would tell you.

Another reason of his keeping the photostat copies in his own house is, he is always afraid of clashes on the campus.

"Who can ensure security to the centre where a student's life is always in danger. Those who know me, may not ransack my dearest centre but the outsiders will never realise what these things are. So, I'm very cautious and fiercely on guard to protect them," Gopal explains.

Besides, he has an exquisite sense of fine arts. He has brought out some posters projecting socio-political movements of the country. On the last December 16, he arranged an art exhibition on behalf of DUCSU collection centre.

Gopal Das, by nature a man of progressive ideas never hesitates to help others who want to bring out a poster or smarantika (memorabilia) on any important event of DU history. He is truly cordial to the political and cultural activists and provides with necessary photographs or commentaries made

by the ex-student leaders, poets, educationists. "It's highly delightful for me if students seek my humble cooperation," Gopal adds, "leaders come and go but I am here for nearly three decades. I have met many student leaders.

Now many of them are national figures. I believe many of them still love me. Because I served their interest with sincerity. If a little help of mine can please others why should I behave like a small man? When I see an individual or a student organisation brings out a poster or a booklet with the documents collected by me, I enjoy it very much."

"Yes, all these are quite true for Gopal. He is really a man of enthusiasm. He always try to make a new idea and discuss with us. His ideas are constructive and above all bear the stamps of his energetic mind. He has a cooperating attitude. Suppose, we want to print a poster on mass movement, then we go to him and he would manage a good photograph for us. Really, he loves us, and we love him too." Robel Khan an ex-BCU leader of the DU had this complement to make about Gopal.

But Gopal Das, a valiant freedom fighter is not a happy man. His dreams have not materialised yet. "We fought against Pakistanis for a better society which could meet our basic demands. But all these are still beyond the reach of our unemployed hungry millions. Such failure has compounded our problems. Now, we are fighting against our fellow people. And by this time the anti-liberation forces are gathering strength against us. But we should not get frustrated. If time calls me, I will stand against fundamentalism at any cost. If we fail to preserve our basic human principle, we will die."

"My mind will never get old. I am lucky enough that I have had opportunities to see the historic movements of DU students. I am here to share the spring of life with the students. I always hope that someday my children will study in this university and become popular faces by their performance." Gopal Das, father of three daughters and only son elaborated.

Programme to observe Zia's death anniversary

Bangladesh Nationalist Party has drawn up an elaborate programme to observe the 12th death anniversary of the founder of BNP late President Ziaur Rahman throughout the country on May 30 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

All units of the party including Dhaka metropolis have been advised to observe the day all over the country with due respect, according to a party press release.

In this connection Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal have arranged voluntary blood donation programme today. A discussion will be held at the Central Office of the party today in the afternoon under the auspices of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder will attend the function as chief guest.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha has drawn out a two-day programme in Dhaka and Chittagong on May 29 and May 30. Its programme in Dhaka will be inaugurated at Shilpakala Academy at 4:30 pm on May 29. The programmes include photo exhibition and discussion. Deputy Leader of the House Prof. AQM

Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the inaugural function as chief guest.

Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal will distribute cloths among the distressed women and children on the occasion.

On May 30 the party flag will be flown at half mast at all offices of BNP including its Central Office. Quran khwani, ziarat and milad mahfil will be held at the Mazar of Late Zia on the occasion under the auspices of Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal.

Fateha will be offered and wreaths will be placed at his mazar at 9 am on the day.

The poor will be fed at all wards and thanas in the city at the initiative of city BNP.

The National Executive Committee of the party will hold a discussion at Shilpakala Academy at 4 pm.

In Chittagong the city unit of BNP and JASAS will open a photo exhibition on the life of Late President Ziaur Rahman at Chittagong Circuit House premises at 9 am on May 30.

Homage will be paid to the first mazar of Late Zia at Rangunia at 9:30 am. Besides, painting competition of the children, exhibition of documentary picture and discussion will be held at Chittagong Circuit House premises.



Chief Whip of Opposition in Parliament Md Nasim addressing a meeting in the city yesterday demanding the withdrawal of cases against Akhtaruzzaman Babu, MP.—Star photo

'Meena' can help popularise cause of girl child : Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said the UNICEF project 'Meena' was an innovative approach to disseminate the information about an ideal girl whose contribution to the family and society was as worthy as that of a boy, reports BSS.

exciting joint initiative for the South Asian region and the countries concerned, where situation of the girl children are the most acute, are taking lead role in it.

Bangladesh, the Information Minister said the present government had given a special thrust on education of girls through exemption of tuition fees upto class eight.

"Now Meena is becoming an advocate for the girl at all levels demonstrating how it can reach out across the region to popularise the cause of the girl child and communicate essential health and development messages," he said.

Barrister Nazmul Huda said female children in South Asian countries, where 1990s has been declared the decade of the girls, were facing various disadvantages.

"Besides, there is a fixed quota for women in civil service of the government," he said.

The Information Minister was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'The future of the project Meena. The girl child in South Asia' at Hotel Sonargaon here. UNICEF, Bangladesh organised the day-long seminar which was being followed by a workshop to discuss how Meena activities could be integrated into government, NGO and private sector programmes. State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman, local UNICEF officials Neill Mcke, Dr Dilwar Ali Khan and Begum Jawshan Ara Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

"The future of this region depends on improvement on the situation of girls so that they can play an active role in developing their families and communities," he said expressing the confidence that the Meena project would immensely contribute to this regional initiative.

Huda said the Meena project would help create awareness about disparities between boys and girls, produce dynamic role-model for girls to attain self-esteem and skills and communicate information regarding the survival and development of the girl child.

Referring various measures for development of girls in

He appreciated the project and said it would also help spread the messages of health, nutrition and education among the girls of the region.

Imray presents micro-computer, photocopier to Bar Council

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sir Colin Imray yesterday presented to the Bangladesh Bar Council a micro-computer and a photocopier, reports UNB.

Handing over the equipment on behalf of his government to Vice-Chairman of the Council Dr Kamal Hossain, Sir Imray said "great importance is attached in Britain to human rights and ways in which they are preserved and enlarged through a country's political and legal institutions."

"My government regards the observation of human rights and their protection as an important element of its foreign policy and aid programmes," said the British envoy.

Indian HC library to reopen June 6

The library of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka will reopen next month in a new premises, a high commission press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

It said the library will now be housed at 754 Satmasjid Road and will start functioning on June 6.

Meanwhile the high commission has cancelled all previous membership of the library and will issue new membership forms shortly, the press release added.

Office-bearers of BSP

A 13-member committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) was elected unanimously for 1992-94 with Kazi Shahid Ahmed as President and Enayetullah Khan as Secretary General, reports UNB.

The election was held at the biennial conference of BSP with its outgoing President Barrister Maimul Hossain in the chair. Kazi Shahid, retired from Bangladesh Army (Engg Corps) in 1979, is the Editor of Ajker Kagoj. Enayetullah Khan, a former teacher of Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Department, is Chief Editor of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Editor of Dhaka Courier.

A press release said Barrister Maimul Hossain had refrained from contesting the election for the sake of unity and solidarity of BSP but a representative of his publications — the daily Ittefaq and The New Nation — would be co-opted in the new committee.

Barrister Hossain headed the BSP for more than a decade. The new committee includes Mizanur Rahman Mizan (Khabor) - Senior Vice-president, Abdul Malek (Dainik Azadi) - Vice-president, Liaqat Ali (Daily Tribune) - Joint Secretary General, Anwarul Islam (Dainik Desh) - Treasurer, Ahmedul Kabir (Sangbad), Fazlul Karim Selim (Banglar Banl), Z Anam Khan (Azad), Anwarul Islam Boby (Morning Star), Mahfuz Anam (Daily Star), Alhaj Moqbul Hossain (Al-Amin) and Saber Hossain Chowdhury (Bhorer Kagoj) members.

Dr Kasiruddin's anniversary of death today

Dr Kasiruddin Talukder embraced martyrdom at the hands of Pakistani occupation army at his home town in Bogra this day in 1971, says a press release.

He led a procession of doctors during non cooperation movement in March 1971. He was arrested on May 1971.

After a short trial he was executed in the outskirts of Bogra.

Dr Talukder Memorial Committee has organised a milad mahfil and distribution of alms to the distressed in Bogra and Dhaka districts, the press release added.

Ctg Urea factory earns Tk 75 cr thru' export

CHITTAGONG, May 27: Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory, a subsidiary of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) earned Taka 75 crore by exporting 170,000 tons of fertilizer till May 25 of the current financial year (1992-93), reports BSS.

The source also said that the export-oriented Karnaphully Fertilizer Company (KAFCO) now under construction would produce 561,000 tons of granular Urea per annum. The construction works of the factory will be completed by 1995.

According to an official source here Wednesday the factory produced 453,000 tons of Urea worth Taka 225 crore during the same period against its annual production target of 505,000 tons.

The Tripple Super-Phosphate (TSP) complex at north Patenga here produced 143,000 tons of fertilizer till May 25 of the current financial year against its annual production target of 140,000 tons. The installed production capacity of the factory is 153,000 tons.



General Manager of Sonargaon Hotel Andrew McBurnie with Professor Kazi Abdul Baset, Director of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University confirming the latter's agreement to exhibit paintings for Sonargaon Hotel recently.

DESA Tender Notice

Tender No. HVL/3.62/1332 dt. 3-5-93 is invited from Pre-qualified Electrical Contractors of Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project for Re-habilitation & Re-inforcement of 11/0.4KV distribution lines at O and M Division, Tongi under HVL Division, GDPDP, DESA, Road No. 135, House No. 47, Gulshan, Dhaka. Details schedule/Tender documents is obtainable at cost of Tk. 400/00 (Four hundred) per set only from The City Bank Ltd Gulshan Branch, Dhaka Office of the Addl. Chief Engineer (P&D), DESA, Dhaka and office of the S. E. Extension & Implementation, GDPDP, DESA till 7-6-93. The Estimated Cost of this work is Tk. 12,16,720/00 only.

Chief Resident Engineer
Ewbank Preece Power & Water Ltd.
Road No. 135, House No. 47, Gulshan, Dhaka

DFF (BA) 4508-22/5
G-71

BTV

Friday Morning Session

8:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran Programme summary

8:10 News in Bangla

8:40 Natun Kuri

10:00 News in English

10:05 Moner Mukure

11:15 Moder Garab Moder Asha

11:30 Film Show: Dany Wilson's Family Collection

Evening Session

3:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran Programme summary

3:15 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

3:40 Full length Bangla film

5:15 News in Bangla

5:20 Remaining portion of the film

7:25 Malancha

8:00 News in Bangla

8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers

9:00 Magazine: Ittadi

10:00 News in English

10:30 Film show: Dallas

11:30 Khabar/The News

11:40 Tomorrow's programmes summary

11:45 Closing.

Weather

Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over Khulna, Barisal and the southern part of the Chittagong division and fall by one degree Celsius elsewhere over the country.

The Met office adds, rainfall may increase gradually after two days.

The country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was reported from Bogra yesterday (Thursday) and the lowest 23.0 degree was reported from Rangmat.

The amounts of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday across the country were: Sathkira 22mm, Ishurdi and Jessore 7 mm each, Barisal 5 mm, Rangpur 3mm and Bogra 1mm.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:40 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:11 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	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	31.2	27.2	72	72
Chittagong	32.6	24.0	76	76
Rajshahi	33.6	25.6	72	66
Khulna	29.7	27.6	73	82
Barisal	31.6	26.5	90	89
Cox's Bazar	32.0	23.8	71	80
Sylhet	33.5	25.3	73	68
Dinajpur	34.4	25.1	74	54

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board
Office of the Divisional Engineer, Telecom, Narayanganj

Tender Notice

No. 199/36 BPH/92-93/6 N'ganj Dt 22-5-93 8-02-1400 BS

Tenders in sealed cover are hereby invited by the undersigned from "C" class enlisted contractors of the office of the Director, Building Construction under Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board for the undermentioned work. Schedule of work will be available at the price (non-refundable) mentioned against the work everyday during office hours after publication of the notice of work. No tender schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.

Tender schedule will be received by this office up to 12-00 Noon on 31-5-93 and opened on the same day at 12-15 PM before the tenderers or their representatives (if any) present. Tenderers should distinctly superscribe the name of work on the envelope containing the tender.

Earnest money equivalent to 2% (two & half per cent) of the total amount of quoted rate must be submitted with the tender through Pay Order, Bank Draft or Govt. Savings Certificate from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned as mentioned against the work.

The authority, in the interest of Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board, reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or full and to waive any irregularity of the tender without assigning any reason.

Serial No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost	Price of Tender Schedule	Time Limit for Completion of Work	Earnest Money to be Deposited in Favour of
1	Reconstruction of the damaged boundary wall of Savar New Telephone Exchange Compound (Old Microwave Station)	3,51,480/=	300/=	27th June 1993	Divisional Engineer, Telecom/Narayanganj

Md. Majibur Rahman
Divisional Engineer
Telecom, Narayanganj

DFF (BA) 4523-23/5
G-713