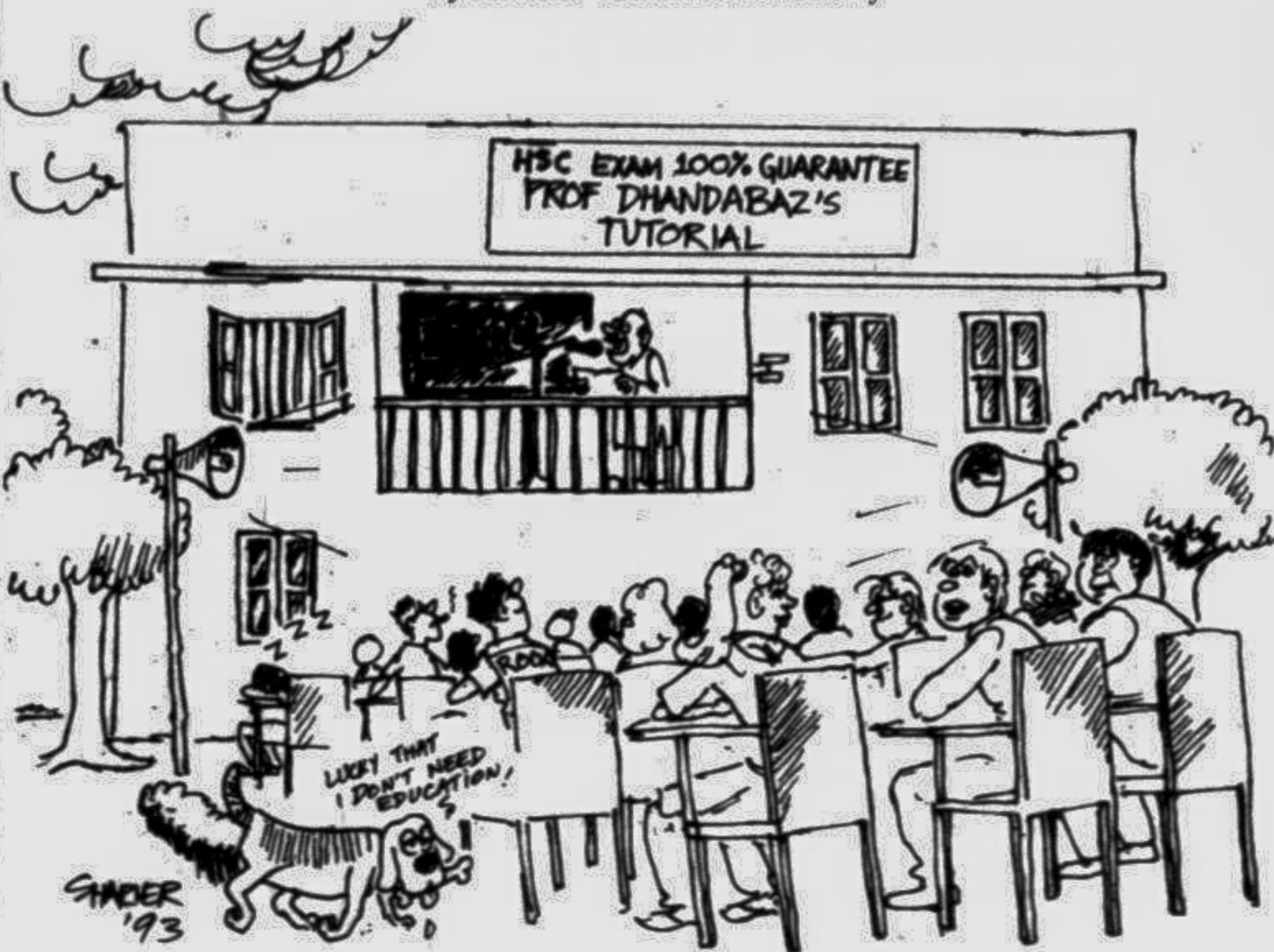


Dhaka Day by Day

Where Teachers Fear Not to Tread

by Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury



There was an air of unusual affluence all about the place, which didn't quite match our expected standard of living of a school teacher. The mystery behind the material success of this man, who demanded total anonymity, was later revealed when flocks of students were seen to be crowding the front door of his house. It was 3:30 in the afternoon and time for the coaching class to begin. Obviously, the teacher had to excuse himself for attending to his 'extra-school classes', which he seemed to be favouring more than his tasks at the school.

The teacher with an apologetic smile defended himself, "Just the job at the school isn't enough to lead a decent life". A ready excuse, probably with all professional groups in our country for justifying their wrong actions. Then why doesn't he give up his job at school and become a full time private tutor? You must be joking. My job at the so well known school, adds to my qualification as a teacher. Although private teaching can fetch more, I am not willing to part with my permanent job at the school.

Private teaching has become a common practice with most of the school and college teachers, which is not probably an unlawful means for earning some extra money too. Officially some of the leading schools and colleges of the city have restrictions on imparting private tuitions by their teaching staffs. But the irony is that, the teachers of those very institutions are precisely the 'heavy-hitters' of the game.

One may very justifiably argue that private tuitions leave no harmful effects in general. But an in-depth analysis of the matter would definitely prove that all is not well with it. Saleheen Ahmed, a second year student of a reputed college of the city, who has made it till now by dint of his own merit and hard work relates, "I come from a poor family and pay my college fees with great difficulty. So I cannot even dream of availing of the benefit of private tuition. What I have to do each day is to get the most out of a class during the college hours. But the teachers now-a-days have become so reluctant to give their best! Probably it's because they know that most of the pupils in the class will later on go to them for private lessons. There, these very topics will be hammered into their brains, and they will be

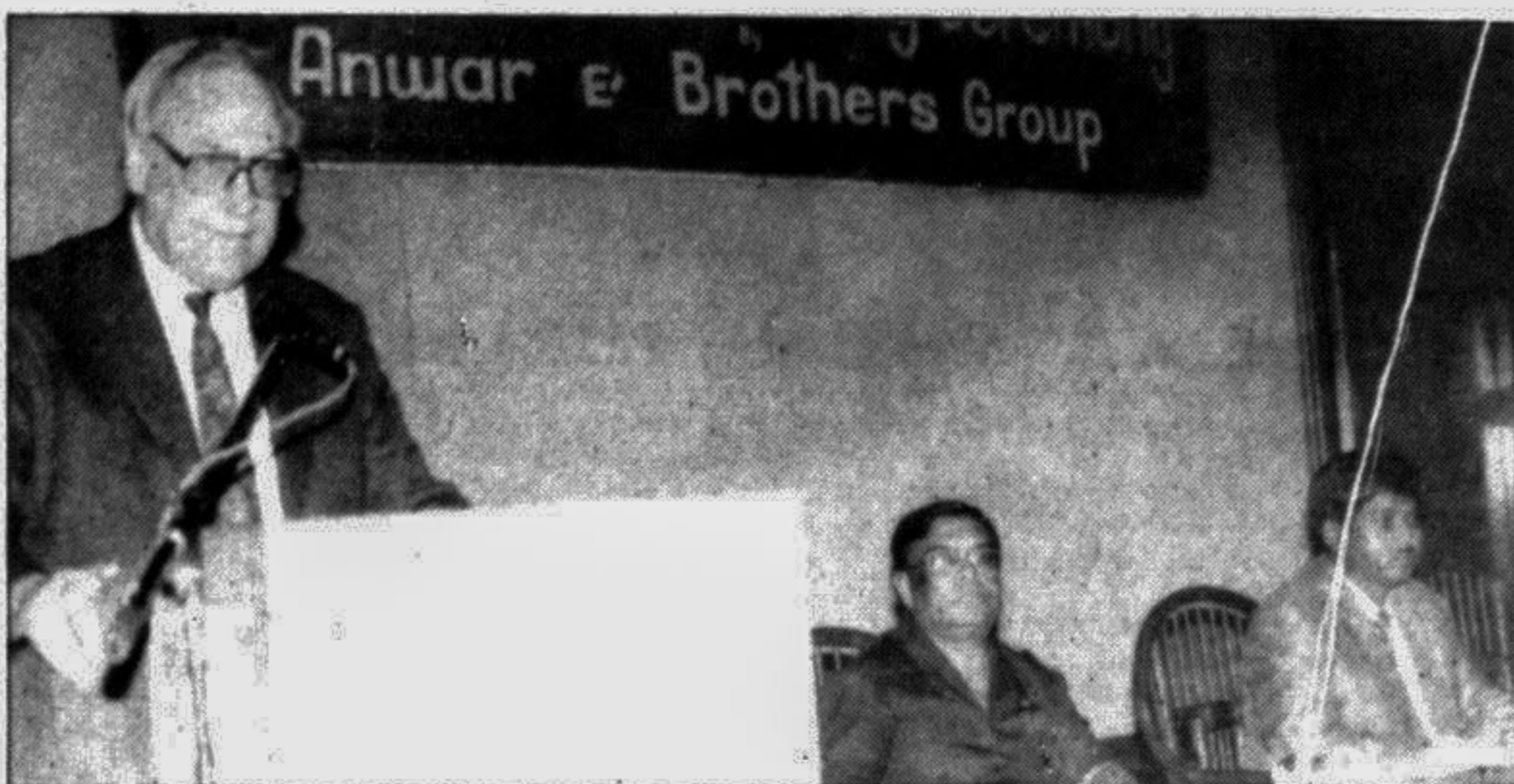
supplied with excellent notes by the teacher and with his able guidance some of the students will even make it to the top in the exams. Where does it leave poor students like me, who might also cherish a dream to do well in the final exams?"

Actually, there are so many like this hapless student who have merit, want to give their best but are finally deprived of the opportunity by none others than their own teachers. Saleheen further vents his anger, "Teachers who value their private tuitions more than their classes in the college, should be sacked. I don't mind what they do privately as long as my own academic needs are met by the teachers."

Actually what happens is that a teacher who is heavily involved with his private classes cannot give the required attention to his pupils at the school or college where he works. Not only the attention, the loyalty too, becomes divided. And since private tuition can fetch him twice or thrice the amount he gets paid for in the institution where he teaches, we can surely guess where he shall remain loyal to.

Then what is the remedy for this situation? For this private coaching should be stopped and totally objective types of questions should be introduced. As long as students keep on getting prepared notes by their tutors and vomit forth this knowledge in the exam papers, real knowledge would remain a far cry," comments a genuinely agitated student.

Private coaching imparted by the teachers are not only contributing to the ultimate division among two opposing student groups, the rich and the poor. It is in a way barring the individual growth of a student's mind. Because students who avail private tuitions often become highly dependant on them. What is more, it is also creating a sharp division among teachers too. Not that teachers from all subjects have a potential private practice. Only teachers from some of the science subjects, some from selected commerce subjects and a few good teachers of English have large slices. For others, the picture is quite gloomy. And obviously, one cannot expect too much from a disoriented teacher. So, sooner or later something has to be done to salvage the poor students from this crisis.



President of American Bangladesh Economic Forum Dr Forrest E Cookson addressing the launching ceremony of Gold Crown — a full cream milk powder alternative, at a local hotel. Seated from the left are consultant M Mossarraf Hossain and M Anwar- ul-Haque, Managing Director of Anwar and Brothers Group. — Star photo

'Prospect of US investment in Bangladesh bright'

By Staff Correspondent

President of the American Bangladesh Economic Forum Dr Forrest E Cookson yesterday stated that the prospects of American investment in Bangladesh were getting brighter as the buying capacity of the common people of the country had increased drastically over the last few years.

He was inaugurating as chief guest the launching ceremony of an alternative type of full cream milk powder "Gold Crown" organised jointly by the manufacturer of the product, Protein Technologies International, USA and its agent in Bangladesh Anwar and Brothers Group.

Dr Cookson observed that inflation and financial deficit had decreased significantly in

Bangladesh. "Taka has also become a strong currency," he said and added that in this context the launching of "Gold Crown" was appropriate as the buying capacity of the people had also increased.

Consultant for Gold Crown M Mosharraf Hossain introducing the product said that Gold Crown which was being made from soyabean, had all the qualities of other standard powder milk while the price would be much cheaper than that of the powder milk brands available in the markets.

Managing Director of Protein Technologies J H Ritzen in his speech revealed that Gold Crown was rich with Vitamin A, low with saturated fat and easily digestible.

MO Ghani Memorial Lecture

Country free from latherism

By Staff Correspondent

"Don't swallow so many tantalising Chinese delicacies regularly, which can make you suffer from Chinese restaurant disease syndrome," a nutrition scientist said Wednesday.

Prof Kamaluddin Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) told a seminar that "Tasting salt which is much used in cooking Chinese dishes, can cause a latherism-like syndrome, if consumed regularly."

He did not elaborate the tasting salt issue but said that the country was now free from latherism as the people gave up eating Khasari.

People in the North Bengal had been affected with the disease on a large scale that cripples legs and hands but after detecting harmful ingredients in

Khasari, the people also stopped eating it.

Professor Ahmed was delivering the MO Ghani Memorial Lecture on "Development of Biochemistry and Nutrition in Bangladesh," at the auditorium of the Institute of Food Science and Technology at the BCSIR.

He mainly described his personal experience in different research works without mentioning the current nutrition situation in the country and the possible measures to improve it.

Dr MO Ghani was the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and contributed a lot to the development of science and technology in the country. He had served the government in different capacities and after retirement he was elected the Member of Parliament in 1979 as an independent candidate.



Prof Kamaluddin Ahmed, Prof S D Khan and Prof Aminul Islam (from left to right) seen at the M O Ghani Memorial Lecture on 'Development of Biochemistry and Nutrition in Bangladesh' yesterday at BCSIR auditorium. — Star photo

Weather

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6am today (Thursday) says, moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy to heavy fall at places over Chittagong division.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 20.5 degree was recorded at Kutubdia.

The chief amounts of rainfall during day-time yesterday across the country were: Sylhet 95 mm, Srimangal 58 mm, Bogra 53 mm, Tangail 32 mm, Dhaka 27 mm and Chittagong 25 mm.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.47 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.24 pm.

The maximum and 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	31.5	23.5	93	91
Chittagong	29.0	26.4	91	95
Rajshahi	32.3	25.8	90	86
Khulna	31.2	26.0	98	-
Barisal	32.0	27.8	89	92
Cox's Bazar	29.6	28.0	85	92
Sylhet	24.5	23.3	98	100
Dinajpur	31.6	25.4	88	77

Reporter's house robbed

By Staff Correspondent

Goods worth Taka about 50,000 were stolen from the Crescent Road residence of Shyamol Dutta, a senior reporter of the Daily Bhorer Kagoj on Monday night.



Thursday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-25 School debate
- 6-30 Esho Para Shikhi Programme on mass education
- 7-00 Jiboner Alo
- 7-25 Nagrul songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-40 Drama of the Week: Cross Connection
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Film show: China Beach
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11-45 Closing

JS body on Energy meet held

The adjourned meeting of the 16th Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhavan with Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain in the chair, reports BSS.

Security week at ZIA ends today

The "Security Week" at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) ends today (Thursday). The law enforcing agencies deployed at the airport have been practising the aviation rules to ensure security at the airport as well as airlines and other commercial organisations.

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Prepare for future leadership, Kabir asks students

State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain yesterday called upon the students to devote themselves to studies to be worthy citizens for shouldering future leadership of the country, reports BSS.

The state minister was addressing the students on the occasion of the annual prize-giving ceremony of the Tejgaon Polytechnic Government Girls High School here.

Hossain said an educated mother could give an educated child.

General Notice

With reference to our previous public notice published in the daily New Nation newspaper on 24/01/93 it is notified for the information of all concerned that a meeting of the proposed "Marine Surveyors Association of Bangladesh" will be held at 28, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong on 04/08/93 at 14 hrs in order to form an Association for whole of Bangladesh. The aims and objectives of the proposed association are given below:

- 1) Welfare of the members.
- 2) To derive common benefits of the surveyors and the principals.

All Marine Surveyors and other interested persons are requested to please attend the meeting.

Capt. M. L. Rahman
Convener
Marine Surveyors Association, BD
Chittagong.

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd. International Press Tender Notice

Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Limited, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka invites Tender in two envelope System for Import on C & F (C) Dhaka by Air basis under any suitable source as well as on site delivery basis against Tender Enquiry No. PD-II/KCC/662/301(F) Sandal Wood Oil. Tender will be received on 16-8-93 up to 11:00 a.m. and opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents available at Tk. 50.00 (Non-refundable) from (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong and (3) Kohinoor Chemical Co. (Bangladesh) Ltd, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of Tender. Earnest money 1% minimum Tk. 1,000.00 only. D-524

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