

Dhaka Day by Day

Challenge is to Beat the Time

by Rashed Mahmud Titumir



"Newspaper is the university of the common mass" said Ford N Burkhardt, an American Professor of Journalism at a workshop on "Reporting on Complex Issues."

This first-ever USIS, Dhaka workshop for journalists was led by Dr Ford who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism, at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona, USA and participated by 19 newsmen of local press.

Professor Burkhardt's four-day workshop from July 26-29 examined how journalists can report complex issues with uncertainty in a way that is understandable to readers and accurate and complete at the same time.

Dr Burkhardt, recipient of 1993-94 Fulbright professorship at the University of Kampala, Uganda stopped in Dhaka on his way to Africa from the US to lead this seminar.

Like most Americans, Burkhardt, 51-year-old, went to Malaysia for two years during 1967 and 68 as a member of the peace corps, where he started his career as teacher and also began to understand what Third World is.

"It represents an unknown factor in the international equation and also represents the people — people who have not yet really achieved what they should have done," said Prof Burkhardt.

Referring to America's wealth and visualising the future of the Third World, the American Professor explained: "They have perhaps achieved, what they intend to achieve. But the future of the Third World is really the future of the entire earth."

During his covering the UN affairs as AP correspondent, Burkhardt developed a diversified personality with a strong sense for international community.

He described those seven years of his life as his real graduation — practical, intensive and comprehensive.

One afternoon, having a cup of coffee, after launch, he was sitting at his international desk. The telephone rang and a man on the other end was a young man from Santiago, Chile. He said that tanks were moving, planes were flying over the President's palace and they have just started the coup.

Burkhardt hurried to take notes and put a piece of paper on his typewriter and asked "what else?"

"My supervisor, who was the international editor, walked over to my typewriter. He looked down and said 'good goo,' and put 'Bulletin Chile-1' on the top and passed it to the telecommunication operator," said Burkhardt.

"Burkhardt, this is not tea party. Suddenly I started typing. This was the day I learnt that you don't ever have to be trained to read a book or to do some research how to write a coup in Latin America. So, get it — type it and send it within 30 seconds," said Burkhardt sharing his first great lesson as a journalist.

Another Sunday morning, very early, when the sun was just coming up, Burkhardt was all alone in the AP. He was supervisor, but no one to help him, because of the holiday. A cable came in saying that some terrorists had begun to shoot at the Olympics in Munich, Germany.

"So again a major story, I had to call the editor at home and ask what I had to do. He said, 'you better get somebody there and prepare the story. I will be in the office within an hour,'" said the Professor, who was then only a new supervisor at the AP desk.

Meanwhile, he called the nearest office in and around Germany and asked them to get

better photographs with good reporting covering the shoot-out.

"Suddenly, within minutes, I just did it. Therefore, you learn things by doing them," said the Professor who naturally has a tendency to favour the practice experiences.

During his tenure in the UN, he had talks with Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for a couple of hours in 1970.

"I was very sad, that a gentleman and really quite well-spoken and educated person like Bhutto was put to death. This is really a shame."

"I never met Sheikh Mujib but I wrote many stories about him. The journalists in the street send fragmented pieces. In New York, it is the editor, who can write, as he gets all the pieces. So, I had the privilege of writing a member of stories, that had to do with the emergence of Bangladesh," said Burkhardt, a former editor of the AP.

"I think I have a feeling that I almost knew the man and was aware of the fact, how beloved the guy was," said Burkhardt.

During his assignment with AP, Burkhardt met Salvador Allende of Chile, and got to chat a bit.

"A very soft face, with a nice white moustache looking like somebody's uncle, he was a very friendly fellow. But the US was quite afraid of his idea of Marxism spreading in Latin America and so there was a coup d'etat."

Burkhardt felt that all of them were working too hard to create new nations and were put to early death, at the peak of their career.

Burkhardt pointed out that a journalist has to respond as promptly as possible to a fluid situation.

"Time is your enemy. You are always watching the clock and trying to do your best. The sooner the better," said Burkhardt. "This is the challenge of the profession."

Moving on from professional to academic life, Burkhardt found it different, because one can respond to events as a journalist, but as a teacher, he has to create them.

"To be a great teacher, I am not as yet, one has to be 90 per cent entertainer and 10 per cent formal and educator," said the American Professor.

"When I say 90 per cent entertainer, I don't mean a tribute, I mean making every minute full of drama, which a student can listen carefully," added Burkhardt.

He found an apt analogy between a journalist and a teacher saying "to that extent, a good teacher shares a journalist's worries in which he has to build a significant impact upon his readers so that they consider the topic important for them."

Focusing on the people of Bangladesh and their grappling with the stark poverty, Professor Burkhardt pointed, "Perhaps the most difficult challenge in terms of international development in the whole world may be right here in Dhaka."

Professor Burkhardt still nourishes the hope to revert to his earlier profession after completing his Fulbright professorship.

Professor Burkhardt boasts having students under his guidance who achieved quite a number of laurels — one got the Pulitzer prize and one became editor of a daily in Uganda, throwing a daunting challenge against government-owned media.

"What a delight it would be, if I also find any of you rise to the eminence of an editor here," said Professor Burkhardt about his students in Dhaka.

Biswas, Khaleda greet President of Burkina Faso

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Captain Blaise Compaore President of Burkina Faso on the occasion of his country's National Day today, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitations President Abdur Rahman Biswas said, "I have great pleasure to convey to you our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the occasion of the National Day of Burkina Faso. "Please accept my best wishes for your good health, happiness and long life and for the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Burkina Faso."

In a similar message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted Captain Blaise Compaore President of Burkina Faso on the occasion of his country's National Day today.

In the message of greetings Begum Khaleda Zia said, "On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in conveying to your excellency and through you to the government and the people on Burkina Faso, our warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of your National Day."

Kerosene oil, tea for Nepalese flood victims

Bangladesh will send 30,000 litres of kerosene oil and 5,000 pounds of tea as gifts for the victims of the recent devastating floods and landslides in Nepal, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Earlier, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was among the first to send a message of sympathy to the Nepalese Prime Minister. In her message she had offered to provide all possible assistance.

Speaking as the special

Solution to problem of breastfeeding suggested

Working women of different government and non-government organisations and mass media at a seminar here yesterday suggested three formulas for the solution of problems of breast feeding of the working mothers, reports BSS.

The formation of creches (nursing room for children) facilities at the working place, expression of breast milk and increase of maternity leave will solve the problems of breastfeeding for working mothers to a great extent, they said adding the measures would also help increase their working efficiency.

At the beginning of the seminar on "breastfeeding and working women" a survey on the subject was released.

The survey jointly conducted by Dr Rukshana Haider and Dr Syeda Begum among 238 working mothers of 20 organi-

sations including government institutions NGOs, banks, schools and factories revealed that 99 per cent working mothers fed their babies colostrum, while 20 per cent of them fed breast milk exclusively for the first month.

Intellectual inertia grips country: Justice Kamal

By Staff Correspondent

Justice Mustafa Kamal yesterday underlined the need to look ahead instead of harping back to the past to ensure national prosperity.

He was speaking at the 56th Installation Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Dhaka, attended by the Editor of The Daily Star S M Ali, District Governor of the Rotary International Magfur Uddin Ahmed, diplomats and other Rotarians at the Sheraton Hotel Tuesday evening.

Justice Kamal of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, a former Rotarian, conceded that the country was suffering from intellectual inertia.

"We cannot afford to be inward anymore... now is the time to think for the future development of the country," he said in his lively speech as the Chief Guest.

Speaking as the special

guest, Editor S M Ali pointed out why Bangladesh was left out from the ongoing mainstream of development marked in other South Asian countries.

"What we need right now is economical planning based on national consciousness and growth of productivity," Ali remarked while noting how countries in other parts of Asia cooperate for the sake of development.

"Only through mutual understanding we can sort out our problems," he added, wishing to see Bangladesh in the mainstream of the development process in Asia.

Earlier, Rotarian Ozair Farooq took over the charge as the President of the new executive body of the Rotary Club, Dhaka.

Ambassador of Egypt and the High Commissioner of India were also present at the meeting.



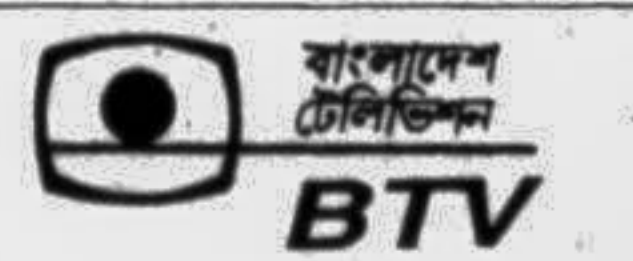
Justice Mustafa Kamal addressing the 56th installation meeting of the Board of Directors of Rotary Club of Dhaka at Sheraton Hotel yesterday. S M Ali, sitting on his right while Md Ozair Farooq, Magfur Uddin Ahmed, Nancy Wong on his left. — Star photo

New assignment for Jalaluddin



Sight Savers Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, UK has appointed M Jalaluddin Khan, FCMA, the Regional Director Finance and Administration of Sight Savers East Asia and the Pacific with effect from August 1, says a press release.

In this capacity he will discharge the responsibility of financial management, administration and financial control of the region comprising of as many as seventeen countries.



Wednesday

5:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary

5:10 News in Bangla

5:20 Recitation from the Geeta

5:25 Tagore Songs

6:00 Live telecast of the Senior Division Football League match between Abahani KC and Mohammedan Sporting Club

8:00 News in Bangla

8:30 Nritter Taale Taale: Dance programme

8:55 Film: The A-Team

10:00 News in English

10:30 Ujibon

11:30 Khabor/The News

11:45 Closing

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday), light or moderate rain or thundershowers by temporary gusty wind in likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

The Met office says, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest 23.4 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati.

Chief amounts of rainfall recorded across the country were: Teknaf 59mm, Patuakhali 48, Barisal 16, Faridpur 15, Srimangal 12 and Tangail 10mm.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:39 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:29 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		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.4	27.4	80	76
Chittagong	32.4	25.0	85	73
Rajshahi	33.4	27.0	83	82
Khulna	31.6	27.4	91	87
Barisal	30.5	26.2	88	92
Cox's Bazar	29.0	25.5	95	92
Dinajpur	32.2	27.0	85	81
Sylhet	32.8	26.2	78	85

JS Works body discusses Hare Road bldg report

The 19th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Works held at the Sangsada Bhaban, yesterday with the Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia in the chair discussed the report on 30 Hare Road building, reports BSS.

The meeting was attended by Mirza Abbas, MP (BNP), ATM Alamgir MP (BNP), Keramat Ali, MP (BNP), Dr Serajul Hoq, MP (BNP), Kazi Abdur Rashid, MP (AL), Prof Abdul Quddus, MP (AL), Shahjahan Chowdhury, MP (Jamaat), Ahsanul Hoq Mollah, (JP) and the senior officials of the concerned ministry.

The meeting also approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the standing committee on the same ministry. The meeting was adjourned till 11 this morning.

Customs Auction Tender Notice

Various kinds of unclaimed, confiscated and unclaimed goods will be sold on "as it is where it is" basis through auction tender by order of the Collector, Custom House, Dhaka on 11 & 12th August, '93 during office hours. Intending buyers can submit tender in the prescribed form in the Tender Box kept at the office of the "Joint Collector (Sadar)," Custom House, Kurmitola, Dhaka and Customs, Excise and VAT, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka by the prescribed time. Tender can be submitted by post but that should reach by 12.30 pm on 12th August, '93. Otherwise that will not be acceptable. Tenders will be opened on 14th August, '93 at 12.00 Noon at Dhaka Custom House in presence (if any) of the tenders. Earnest Money at the rate 25% of the highest value in Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Collector, Custom House, Dhaka from any scheduled bank should be deposited separately with each tender, otherwise tender will not be acceptable. Prior to submitting tender, persons intending to buy the goods can inspect the auctionable goods during office hours by collecting tender schedule with terms and conditions and goods catalogue/lot sheet from the address mentioned below.

The authority reserves the right to accept in whole or reject all tenders or any tender without assigning any reason.

For Collector of Customs
Messrs Al-Amin Traders
(Govt Auctioneers)

28, KP Gosh Street, Kasatuly, Dhaka

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