

Dhaka Day by Day

Pen, Whither Thou?

by Parveen Anam



Man's greatest invention since sliced bread, is the creation of the 'ball-point pen'. It is cheap, it is convenient, it is available and it is handy. Hairs are not plucked and sleepless nights not spent, when one loses a 'ball-point pen' and accusing fingers not pointed at each other when one misplaces the said 'pen'. Everybody seems more relaxed with the ball-point pen.

Yet, there is a wee bit of problem with making the eternal pen stay where it is meant to stay. And that is by the telephone. Why is it that billions and billions of pens are made and produced in endless factories and circulated the world over, but never, ever, do we find a pen by the telephone? Perhaps the masters of science and researchers of great inventions should put all their might together and worry their little heads till they come up with an answer to this mysterious problem.

Oh, we start off with noble intentions undoubtedly, and a bundle of pens are kept by the telephone to jot down the number or address in a hurry. But, come the times when we desperately need one, for instance when there is a long distance call and, gosh, the pens have all vanished. Not a single 'ball-point pen' is to be found around. And while the other party hangs on, with his bill going up by the second, we rush around in circles, trying to locate a pen. When we ultimately do find one, it is invariably 'dry' and no matter how hard we scratch, will not produce a single mark. Hence the renewed search for another pen. And all the while, the

language of the 'searcher' would make a sailor blush.

There are some amongst us who would smile knowingly, nod their wise heads even more knowingly and claim it is 'Murphy's Law'. Only, you are somehow not interested in either Murphy or his laws; your only interest lies in trying to locate that blasted pen!

Of course, the telephone companies could come up with some ideas how to make the pens stay by the telephones, short of hiring musclemen to keep an eye on them. In fact, perhaps the ingenuity of the Bangalee may triumph yet, and maybe he will come up with some sort of brilliant idea to provide employment for the unemployed in the guise of hoodlums whose sole aim in life will be to prow from house to house to make sure the 'ball-point pen' is where it should be, i.e. by the telephone.

In the meantime, the makers of telephones would do well to hit the brilliant idea of having a slot or something on the telephone itself, from where it would be impossible for the pen to either slide down or be taken out unless some sort of magical words were used. Words which would put Ali Baba to shame, perhaps. Or a code word which would be used in dire emergencies only like when the ink has run out and the pen needs to be replaced. That and that alone seems to be the only way, to make that pen stay where we want it to stay and that is by the telephone.

Biswas, Khaleda greet President, PM of Singapore

President Abdur Rahman Biswas felicitated Wee Kim Wee, President of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of the National Day of Singapore, reports BSS.

In a message to the President Wee, President Biswas expressed hope that the existing bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened.

President Biswas wished good health, happiness and long life of President Wee and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Singapore.

In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia greeted Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on the occasion of the National Day of Singapore.

In the message to the Prime Minister of Singapore, Begum Zia expressed hope that the existing close bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened.

Begum Zia wished him good health, happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Singapore.



Justice Sultan Hussain Khan

'Police can be sued for neglecting duties'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at the concluding session of the Second Dr Z I Chowdhury Memorial Law Lecture said that police could be sued for their negligence of duty.

Organised by the Law Review, University Students' Centre for Legal Research, the jurists, lawyers and educationists revealed this at a lecture-workshop, held at the National Museum auditorium Sunday evening.

In the open discussion Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman, Justice Ebadul Haq, Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif and Advocate Sigma Huda took part.

Justice Rahman and Advocate Huda highlighted different aspects of compensation laws and legal facilities, while DAG Hasan Arif said that illegal arrest could also be sued under compensation laws.

Earlier, discussing on 'Implementation of Tort Laws in Securing Women's Rights', Barrister Sara Hossain said, "A woman can earn compensation by using Tort Laws".

Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, chairman, Bangladesh Press Council who inaugurated the workshop as chief guest spoke on Law of Torts and Professional Negligence.

Medical college, agri varsity in Jessore demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Some two thousand members of the Jessore Samity in Dhaka demanded government allocation as per size and population of the respective area.

At the annual conference of the Samity on Friday, its general secretary Abu Bakar Shaikh also demanded setting up of a medical college and an agriculture university in the district.

Agriculture and Water Development Minister M Majidul-Huq and Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam were present at the function chaired by samity President Dr M S Akbar.

Halima-Sharafuddin award announced

Professor Jamil Nazrul Islam of Chittagong University and Professor Harun K M Yusuf of Dhaka University have been jointly selected for the 'Asiatic Society Halima Sharafuddin Award 1993', reports BSS.

Prof Islam was selected for his book 'An Introduction to Mathematical Cosmology' while Prof Yusuf for his book 'Understanding the Brain and its Development: A Chemical Approach'.

Financed by the Halima Begum and Shaikh Sharafuddin Trust fund the award carries Taka 40,000 to be divided equally between the two winners together with a certificate of commendation.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating Cellular Telephone System by making a call from Cellular set to T & T Minister Mohammad Keramat Ali from her office yesterday. — PID photo

FSSAP will help reduce population boom: Sircar

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday highly appreciated the newly undertaken 'Female Secondary School Assistance Project (FSSAP)' funded by the World Bank and said it would fulfil the desired goals through its methodological approaches, reports BSS.

The project will go a long way towards reducing child mortality, improving healthcare, bringing down population increase and raising literacy rate in the country," he said.

The Education Minister was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of the two-day project Launch Workshop of the FSSAP at Sonargaon hotel here with Education Secretary Md Irshadul Huq in the chair. The FSSAP and the World Bank resident mission in Bangladesh jointly organised the function.

The inaugural function was also addressed by State Minister for Education Principal Muhammad Eunus Khan, chief of World Bank resident mission in Bangladesh Christopher Willoughby, Director General of

Sattar gets bail

Abdus Sattar, former minister of former president Ershad, who was convicted and sentenced for 7 years imprisonment in the Janata Tower case was granted bail yesterday by a High Court Division bench, comprising Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Justice Muhammad Abdul Mannan, reports BSS.

The prayer for anticipatory bail for the accused former MP and Jatiya Party leader Hasanuddin Sarker was however rejected by the same High Court Division bench. Sarker was arrested on August 3 on charges of terrorist activities. He was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) on August 4 who sent him to jail.

The case in brief is that two drivers lodged cases with Tongi police station on July 15 under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1992, against some 200 to 300 people including workers and leaders of Jatiya Party for breaking and ransacking a number of vehicles on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway at Tongi.

Bank holiday Aug 10

The Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks will remain closed on August 10 on account of Janmastami, reports BSS.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6:00 am today (Monday) says light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal divisions and one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Met office forecasts, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded in Jessore and lowest 22 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:37 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:31 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.4	26.8	72	82
Chittagong	30.2	24.8	97	85
Rajshahi	32.8	26.7	79	86
Khulna	32.6	28.4	84	87
Barisal	33.4	27.4	90	84
Sylhet	28.6	24.8	97	89
Cox's Bazar	29.0	26.5	97	95
Dinajpur	31.2	26.4	92	79

EC, SAARC ties to be closer, hopes Biswas

The outgoing head of the delegation of the European Community (EC) Jacques Bailly yesterday assured continued support and assistance for socio-economic development of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

While paying a farewell call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban he referred to the recent visit of Manuel Marin, Vice-President of European Economic Commission, and hoped that it would help develop closer relations between the countries of the European Community and Bangladesh.

The European Economic Commission, the President hoped, would establish closer links with the SAARC headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as its chairperson and render technical assistance and institutional support to the SAARC countries.

He also hoped that Bangladeshi products would continue to have access in the EC countries.

Programmes on Janmastami in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: The five-day programme in celebrations of Janmastami — the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna, begins at the J M Sen Hall here tomorrow, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the Janmastami in the afternoon. Janmastami Udjapon Parishad, General Secretary, Mridul Kanti Dey said here today.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Forest, Fisheries, Livestocks and Environment Minister, Abdullah Al Noman and Planning Minister A M Zahir Uddin Khan will attend the function as special guests.

The five-day programme of Janmastami includes grand procession, Janmastami conference and prayer, Ila pradarshani, discussion on the life and philosophy of Sri Krishna and a concluding day function.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN BRAC

BRAC is seeking Senior Researchers to carry out research on its multifaceted interventions in poverty eradication and empowerment of the poor.

Qualification

- Masters or Ph.D. from recognised foreign university in any discipline of Social Science, preferably in Economics, Sociology or development-oriented discipline.
- Ability to design and carry out research studies that meet a high professional standard.
- Ability to work with a multi-disciplinary team.
- Good command of English language and ability to express complex ideas lucidly in written English is essential.
- Maximum age limit 40 years.
- Must be prepared to undertake extensive travel in rural areas.
- Salary will be negotiable.

Interested candidates both male and female should apply with complete bio-data and one recent passport size photograph by August 23, 1993 to:

BRAC
Personnel Department
66 Mohakhali C/A
Dhaka 1212.

Standard Knitting Industry Ltd

Off Add: 51, Bania Nagar
Sutrapur, Dhaka- 1100

Tender Notice

Tender No: SK/001/93 Dated: 9/8/93

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide and reputed supplier(s)/Manufacturer(s) for supply of brand new machinery and equipments and other necessary services for setting up a knitting unit to be financed by Sonali Bank out of Bank's industrial credit scheme.

Tender documents may be obtained from the company's Head Office at 51, Bania Nagar, Sutrapur, Dhaka-1100 during the office hours on cash payment of Tk 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only (non-refundable) per set of tender document of proper money receipt. It may also be obtained from Sonali Bank Local Office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on payment.

No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

Tender in sealed covers in two separate envelopes (one for price offer and another for technical offer each in triplicate) will be received in the company's Head Office as mentioned above within 28 days from the date of publication of this tender notice i.e. upto 10-30 AM of 5th September 1993 and the envelopes containing technical offers will be opened on the same date at 11-00 AM at the above mentioned office of the company. The tenderers and their representatives, if they so desire may be present at the time of opening of the tenders. The envelopes containing the price offers of the technically qualified bidders will be opened subsequently and the tenderers will be informed about time and place in this behalf.

The company reserves the right not to accept the lowest and incomplete tender and to reject or accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Managing Director
Standard Knitting Industry Ltd



Artistes of 'Geetanjali' rendering songs at a function organised in observance of Tagore's 52nd death anniversary at Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

Establishment of National Data Bank likely

The ninth meeting of the 'National Statistical Council' (NSC) was held here yesterday at the Planning Commission to review the activities and programmes of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, reports BSS.

Chairman of the Council, Planning Minister M Zahiruddin Khan was in the chair.

Planning Minister informed the meeting that the government had initiated a programme to establish a 'National Data Bank', he hoped that the government and non-government agencies would also be able to have easy access to National Data Bank on a wider scale.

Raghunath meets Shamsul Islam

The Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, K Raghunath called on Food Minister M Shamsul Islam at the latter's Secretariat office here Sunday morning, reports BSS.

They discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest.

'Harkin Bill aims to obstruct garments industry'

Farida Akhter, executive director, Sram Bikash Kendra yesterday strongly opposed the Child Labour Deterrence Act, 1992 placed before the US Congress by Senator Ms Harkin reports BSS.

The act, better known as Harkin Bill is aimed at imposing restriction on import of commodities from countries employing child labour below the age of 15.

Akhter described it as a design to obstruct the growing garments industry in Bangladesh and not out of love for the children.

She, however, favoured introduction of pragmatic steps for the protection of child rights locally. Akhter also doubted any favourable impact of any programme for the welfare and improvement of condition of children through Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BOMEA).

Akhter was bitterly critical of the arguments given by visiting American consultant Terry Collingsworth of Asian American Free Labour Institute (AAFLI) in support of the Bill. She said AAFLI was working against the interest of workers in different countries.

AAFLI responsible for its role in fanning the labour movement in some countries, Akhter said.

BDRCS condoles loss of lives in Japan

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday sent a message to the Japanese Red Cross Society expressing grief and sorrow at the loss of lives and property in the storm in the southern Kyushu island on Saturday, reports BSS.

The message was sent by the acting Secretary-General of the BDRCS to his counterpart in the Japanese Red Cross Society.