

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Cane that Makes All the Difference for the Blind

by Nazme Sabina

For poet John Donne, it is okay to say "why grasse is greene, or why our blood is red, are mysteries which none have reached unto", but along our way whenever we see a person with the white cane, it is hard to console ourselves.

Today, October 15, is the World White Cane Safety Day. In 1969, the International Federation for the Blind decided to celebrate this day as the world white cane day at its Colombo Conference.

The history of the use of white cane goes back to the year 1800 when a blind lawyer of the UK, for the first time used the cane. It was the Lions Club of Pretoria of South Africa that

how to change the beggar's outstretched hand into a working hand," says Mrs Monzu Samaddar, Principal of the Baptist Sangha School for Blind Girls. "The businessmen of the country should consider sympathetically the needs of the blind and arrange to train them in such skills and crafts as they can master such as packing binding, light engineering, painting" she said that they could work in various offices, became telephone operators, teachers, etc. Some are producing handicrafts, if they receive better training and opportunities, then they could become even more productive," says Mrs Samaddar from her experience.



They too are part of us — Star photo

Earlier, voluntary health services society organised a national seminar on disability. On the basis of discussions of different groups and their recommendations on the alleviation of the conditions of the blind, the seminar agreed on some principal points. On blindness, the seminar suggests: A national programme to estimate the number of persons with different kinds of disability, including disability due to blindness, should be undertaken. Greater awareness will have to be created about blindness related to disability and the states of the blind. Prevention of disease should be given the highest priority — particularly prevention of diseases which may lead to development of physical disability. A National Committee with representatives of the blind and other disabled should be constituted. Employment opportunities for the blind should be increased in both the public and the private sector.

According to World Health Organisation, there are more than 40 million sightless people, of whom two-thirds live in the Third World.

In Bangladesh, almost 100 children go blind everyday because of Vitamin A deficiency. More than half of these die within a week of being blinded.

According to the available statistics, 30,000 pre-school-age children go blind every year due to malnutrition and Vitamin A deficiency. Disability due to blindness is also multiplying every year.

Besides the financial obstacle, during the post-war relief and reconstruction activities for socio-economic development of Bangladesh, a few NGOs along with the government devoted their work for the blind in different fields at various stages. National Federation of the Blind, Bangladesh National Society for the Blind, Vocational Training Centre for the Blind, Baptist Sangha School for the Blind girls, assistance for blind children, fellowship for the advancement of visually handicapped are the pioneers of their kind.

"We have distributed about 550 white canes in 1993. Most of the canes are imported. Now, a blind man, Zakir himself produces white cane. A piece of imported cane costs about Taka 400-460 whereas for the local one, it is only Taka 150-160. I think, it is quite useful for the blind," says Mustafizur Rahman, Vice President of the Associates for Blind Children.

"The citizen of our country should think

Biswas for more dynamic role to eradicate blindness

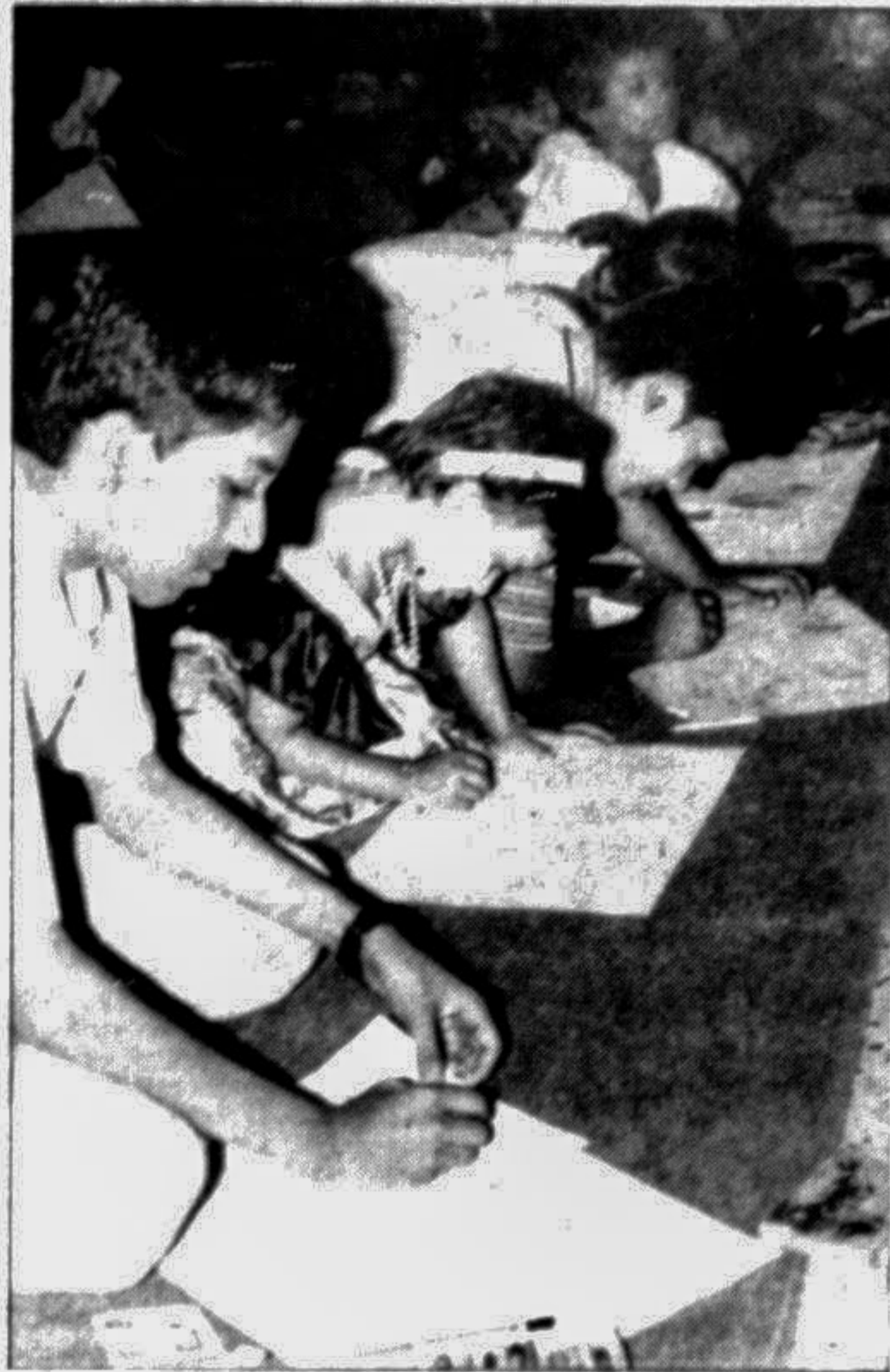
President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the need for giving an integrated thrust to prevent the curse of blindness and turn the blind people into a well-organised working force, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of "World White Cane Safety Day," President Biswas said it was our social responsibility to ensure education, health, shelter and other basic needs of the blind.

Highlighting the needs for expanding proper facilities to the blind the President sought more dynamic role from both the government and private sectors in eradicating the blindness as well as improving the condition of the blind.

He said the blind people were not the burden of the society. Rather, he added, now-a-days they were contributing in the national development activities after having higher education. They can even make more significant contributions in the social and national progress if proper and necessary incentives are provided to them," he observed.

Explaining the significance of the day, the President said on this occasion everyone should have to take a fresh pledge to give light to the blind. "Social security have to be ensured for the blind," he added. With this objective in view the day is being observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world, he said.



These tiny-tots, offspring of the Press Club members, in a painting competition organised to mark the 39th founding anniversary of the Jatiya Press Club at its premises in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'Change in mind-set of policy planners needed'

By Staff Correspondent

Policy planners and decision-makers have to change their mind-set to tackle poverty and to build a self-reliant Bangladesh, observed State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday.

"We must be able to address the overall poverty in this country and not only the poverty of resources but also poverty of the mind," he told a group of participants at a workshop on "self-reliant Bangladesh: need for transforming the mind-set?" at the Banisoc auditorium.

Organised by the Hunger Project Bangladesh the key-note presentation at the workshop was made by Dr Badul Alam Majumder while the Global Director of programmes of the Hunger Project Dr. John Coonrod and the managing director of its Indian chapter Lalita Banavali were present as resource persons.

In his address as the chief guest the state minister for planning asked: "Transformation of whose mind-set are we really talking about?"

He reasoned that the vast majority of the people living in the villages are "very conscious citizens and understand the issues much better than us" and thus their mind-set does not need to be changed.

"I am more and more convinced that it's high time to change our own mind-set," he added while singling out the policy planners, decision-makers, academicians and intellectuals.

The need of the moment is to create an environment enabling people to nourish the latent talent they have, he pointed out. In his key-note presentation Dr Majumder, the country representative of the Hunger Project touched on the glorious past and the "not so" glorious present of Bangladesh.

He went on to identify some of the possible missing factors, responsible for the poor state of affairs pertaining in the country, as: missing is a powerfully articulated and widely held vision for a self-reliant future; absence of a boaled, well-informed and committed moral

elite; interaction between the government and the NGOs; lack of any internal forums and advocacy groups that can look into the 'big picture'; absence of an effective investment in developing the skills of the people; and the lack of accountability for the administrative services of government.

He proposed to start a genuine movement for achieving what he termed something positive — to transform the mind-set of dependency and hopelessness of our people. Earlier, Dr Coonrod said that his organisation is "deeply privileged" to be working with the Bangladesh chapter, which he described as an organisation formed by a committed group of volunteers.

Later, Professor Habibullah and Khushi Kabir, chairman of the Association of the Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB), commented on the key-note paper which was followed by a question and answer session.

Khaleda greets Papandreou

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a message has congratulated Andreas Papandreou on his assumption of the high office of Prime Minister of the Republic of Greece, reports BSS.

In the felicitation message the Prime Minister wished that under his dynamic leadership the excellent bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened.

She wished good health, happiness and long life of Papandreou and the people of Greece continued peace, progress and prosperity.

Mostafiz greets FM of Greece

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman has greeted Carlos Papoulias, Foreign Minister of Greece on his appointment as the foreign minister of his country, reports BSS.

In a message Rahman expressed the confidence that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened in coming days.

Press Club lecture series ends Democracy can ensure people's welfare: Shamsul

National Professor Shamsul Haque said yesterday democracy should be consolidated for the protection of human rights, reports UNB.

"Democracy can play a vital role in accelerating the development process and ensuring welfare of the people," Haque said while presenting a paper on "Human Rights and National Hopes and Aspirations" at the concluding session of a three-day lecture series of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

Narrating a brief history of preservation of human rights, the former foreign minister regretted that most of the world population was still far from having the taste of human rights even in this post-Cold-War period.

He said the big powers had never had any sincere attitude towards developing a world order based on justice for protection of human rights.

Prof Haque pointed out that the United Nations and the mighty nations had failed to stop the continued violation of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the heart of Europe.

He maintained that human rights were also being violated in Punjab and Kashmir in India, Afghania in Georgia, Ireland in Britain and northern region of Sri Lanka and Mindana province of the Philippines.

The former foreign minister called on the United Nations and all nations to work unitedly for the protection of human rights.

Participating in the discussion, former minister Barrister A R Yusuf said the definition and interpretation of human rights are clearly laid down in all the divine books.

Muslim League leader Ayen Uddin alleged that India has commissioned the Farakka barrage in violation of human rights depriving Bangladesh from its legitimate share of water of an international river.

He said the activities in Chittagong Hill Tracts of Shanti Bahini having sanctuary in India are also violation of human rights.

Happy Birthday

To

My Manik

My Computer

Your

Nutun Bou

Happy Birthday

To Dear

Abbu

From:

Labush & Fushu

Competitions end today

The painting and recitation competitions of the children of the members of the Jatiya Press Club began at the club premises in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

A good number of children of the members took part in the competitions organised by the club marking its 39th founding anniversary.

The competitions ends today.

ATTENTION EX SUNBEAMS

On the occasion of our 20th anniversary we are planning to bring out an album. We would appreciate your co-operation by lending any school photographs to the school office by the 31st of October 1993 in a sealed envelope with your name, address and contact Phone Number on it.

SUNBEAMS

House-51, Rd. 16 (New), 27 (Old)

Dhanmondi R.A, Phone: 816311.

Tree plantation programme

Forest and Environment Minister Lt. Col. (Retd) Akbar Hossain yesterday called upon the school children to grow a habit for tree plantation in order to maintain ecological balance as well as to increase national resources, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a tree plantation drive at the Willes Little Flower School premises in Dhaka the minister said besides providing oxygen, a vital ingredient for our survival, the trees also help the people in different ways.

School Management Committee Chairman and Additional Tax Commissioner Syed Mohammad Hedayetul Islam, Headmaster of the school Mohammad Shah Alam also spoke on the occasion.

B Choudhury off to London

Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury left Dhaka for London yesterday, reports BSS. He is expected to return home on October 27.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

The sky will remain partly cloudy over Bangladesh. Light rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and the region of Kushtia. The weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Met Office forecasts day temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 32.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Cox's Bazar and lowest of 22.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:33 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:57 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degrees Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.5	24.0	95	87
Chittagong	31.7	24.0	83	84
Rajshahi	30.4	23.0	95	86
Khulna	32.1	24.8	82	95
Dinajpur	31.5	23.0	86	88
Sylhet	28.0	23.6	88	91
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.0	72	90

The City Bank Limited

HEAD OFFICE
ESTABLISHMENT DEPARTMENT
10, DILKUSHA COMM. AREA, DHAKA.

TENDER FOR CAR / JEEP SALE

Sealed quotations are invited from the bona-fide purchasers for sale of Bank's following Cars / Jeeps. The quotation must accompany 10% earnest money (refundable) on the quoted value and reach this office on or before at 12-00 noon of 23 October 1993.

Sl. No.	Description	Registration No.	MNF/Model	C. C.
01.	Toyota Coralla G.L.	Dhaka-Met-Ka-03-1949	1990	1300
02.	Toyota Coralla G.L.	Dhaka-Met-Ka-03-2089	1990	1300
03.	Toyota Coralla G.L.	Dhaka-Met-Ka-02-1619	1989	1300
04.	Nissan Sunny	Dhaka-Met-Bha-6540	1986	1000
05.	Toyota 4 Runner	Dhaka-Met-Gha-02-1015	1990	2237

Tender schedule with terms & conditions can be obtained from the Establishment Deptt. The City Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka, 10, Dilku-sa C/A, Dhaka on any working days from 10-00 A.M. to 1.00 P.M. at a cost of TK. 100/= (One hundred) only (Non-refundable).

ANWARUL AZIM
VICE PRESIDENT

BTB

Friday

Morning session

8:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary

8:25 Alor Dishari
8:40 Natun Kuri
10:00 News in English
10:05 Moner Mukurey: Drama
Pathar Samoy

11:25 Film show: Tarzan
11:50 Shahstha Katha
12:05 Film show: Border Town

Afternoon session

3:00 Opening announcement,
Al-Quran
3:15 Cartoon: Teenage
Mutant Ninja Turtles
3:40 Movie of the week: The
Prisoner of Zenda

5:10 News in Bangla
5:55 Al Desh Al Maati
6:50 Open University
7:15 Malancha: Programme
of modern songs

8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Comedy series: Perfect
Strangers

9:00 Magazine: Uphar
10:00 News in English
10:30 Special Programme on
World White cane Safety
Day

10:55 Film: LA Law
11:30 Khabor/The news

Congratulations

to
Successful Candidates
of
H.S.C. Examinations, 1993

It is also an occasion to congratulate the Government for its bold and innovative measure to complement higher education through private community philanthropic initiative.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
(authorized under the Private University Act, 1992)

- * IUB offers 4-year Bachelor of Science Honours degrees in as many as 14 fields selected on the basis of their applied needs in the country and international job prospects.
- * It's curriculum, course method, guidance and counselling are carefully designed and monitored at all times to equip graduates with theoretical knowledge and methods of logical thinking, team work, decisions-making, flexibility and crisis management skills needed for the leadership in an extremely competitive world of tomorrow.
- * The University has a highly qualified national faculty and internationally recruited visiting scholars. This year the visiting scholars are from France, Russia and the USA.
- * At IUB admission is open to all eligible candidates without regard to year passed and credits are allowed for previous study.
- * The University has an academic calendar with two semesters of approximately 17 weeks and an optional summer session. The Autumn Semester starts in mid-October - within days of the publication of H.S.C. results and the Spring semester, in late March - within days of the publication of A level results. Candidates are allowed pre-registration to avoid admission delay.
- * A curriculum of international standard scholastic requirement approved by the University Grants Commission, modifiable on the basis of individual initiative and commitment, allows IUB students to graduate on time or, with an effort, before time and therefore eliminates any chance of "session jam."
- * IUB offers full tuition scholarship (Tk. 48,000 per semester) from the first semester to the first 20 students in combined merit list, and first 10 merit lists of Science, Humanities and Commerce groups of all 4 Boards. Besides, it offers generous financial assistance and campus employment to meritorious and deserving students.

In Winter 1994 IUB proposes to hold a national Symposium emphasizing students viewpoint on Higher Education, Youth and Economic Development.

Few places are still available in the Autumn Semester.

Enquiry: Admission Counsellor
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
119F Road 1, Banani, Dhaka
Phone: 604129, 602086