

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

An Instantaneous Love Affair

by Fayza Haq

Martin Kampchen who recently gave a lecture on German writers on Rabindranath Tagore at the Goethe Institut, talking about how he was drawn to Tagore explained, "I came to India twenty years ago as a teacher of German language at the Rama Krishna Mission Institute of Culture. I was interested in the spiritual literature of India. There a student gave me an English translation of 'Gitanjali' and that was my introduction of Tagore. And I must confess it was an instantaneous love affair."

He continued, "Several years later I began to learn Bengali and became a student of Shantiniketan. In course of my studies I began to read Tagore. I then compared the English version of 'Gitanjali' with the Bengali one. I found a world of a difference between the two. This made me interested in studying Tagore thoroughly in order to master the Bengali version. It took me five years to do this. I then compiled translations of 50 of Tagore's poems into German."

He added, "When I came to India it was only to stay a couple of years and to return to Germany to be a journalist. At Shantiniketan, however, I began a PhD programme. I began to write on India. It was necessary to learn one of the modern languages of India. I took up Bengali. My PhD was in comparative religion, comparing Rama Krishna, the Hindu saint with the Christian saint Francis of Assisi. I had to read Rama Krishna in the original."

Talking about the aspects of Tagore's writing that attracted him most, he replied, "The poetry is my first choice. This is the part of his work that I know most immediately and like best. I am also drawn to his village work and educational philosophy. For the last ten years I am living among Shantals 10 km from Shantiniketan. The inspiration for this is Tagore. In one of the villages I began a school and a training programme. I wanted boys and girls to be exposed to the education based on Tagore's own philosophy."

Asked if he had any difficulty in translating Tagore, he said, "It is not only translating from one language to another, it involves translating from one culture to another, one religion to another, and from one emotional context to another. To do this was extremely difficult. To accomplish the work effectively,

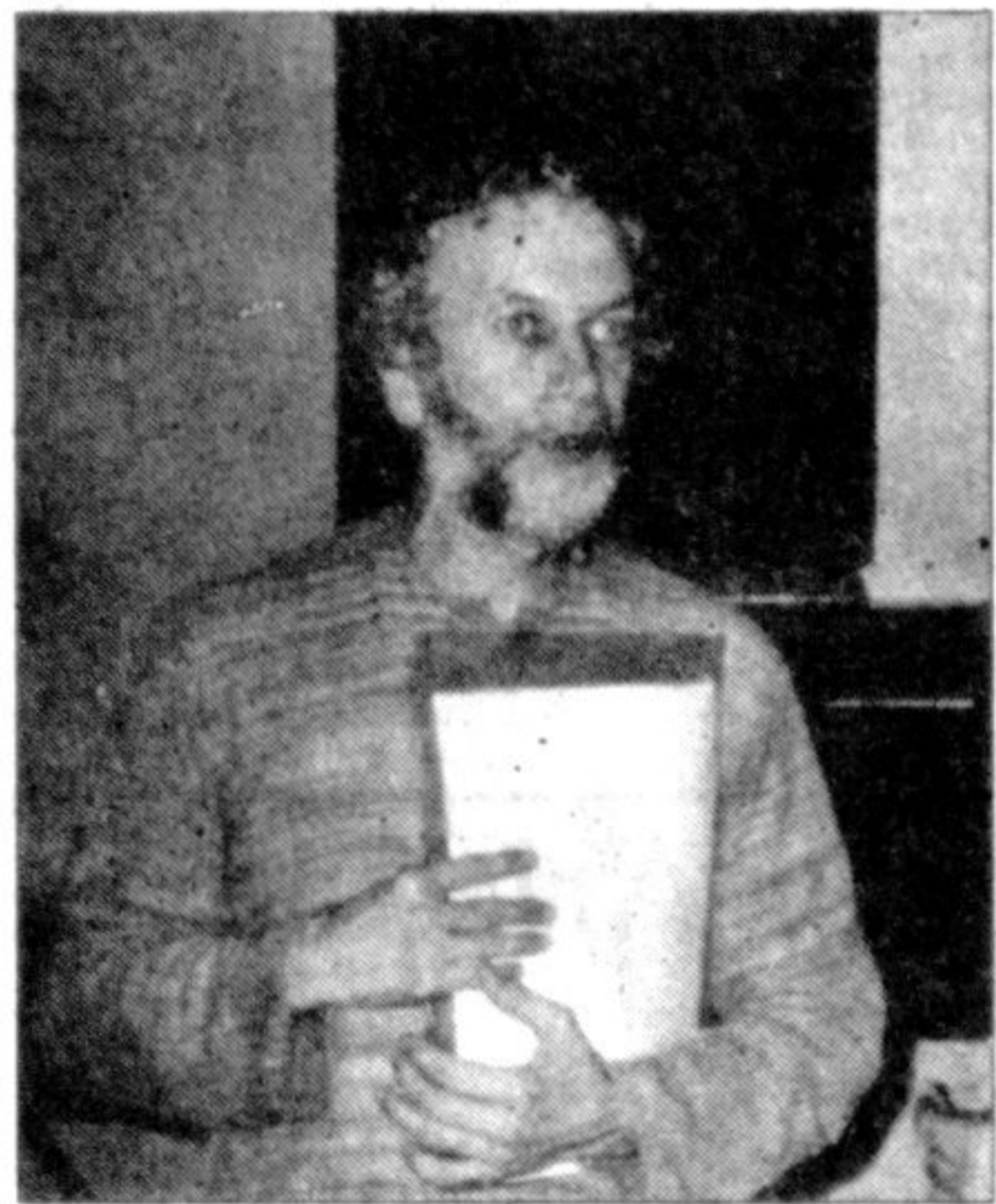
wrote introductions to each poem I translated, made footnotes, and line by line commentary so that the German reader would understand fully through the annotations and introductions. The poems and aphorisms formed two books, the first published in '89 and the next in '90. These have been quite successful from a commercial point of view."

Talking about what in Tagore appealed to him most — his art, his wisdom or his humanity, he commented, "I would say you should keep him in the level of literature and art and not try to focus on him as a wise man. He himself called himself a 'kobi'. This is how he is known in West Bengal and Bangladesh. Obviously his humanism penetrated his literature."

Evaluating his extra-literary exertions, his music and his paintings, he remarked, "His music and paintings were an outflow of his writings. He set his songs to music. You could not do without the text. Simply the music was not enough. Likewise, his paintings emerged from literature. These were first doodlings and scribbles on the manuscript. Slowly, out of these emerged faces and particular forms. Next he progressed to the canvas."

Discussing the lasting value in Tagore's work as far as the western audience is concerned, he said, "He should be seen as a world poet and his poetry should be seen as something of lasting value not only in his own country but also in the West. Further, his role as an educationist should receive emphasis. His educational experiments in Shantiniketan had similar efforts in Europe in his time. He should be compared to Rudolf Steiner and Paul Gaubert. His role as an internationalist deserves certain attention specially nowadays in Germany. Integrated Germany has many problems. It has created tensions, ruptures and wounds in society which could be overcome if we in Germany adapted a larger vision. Tagore could lead us into a direction of this larger vision."

"Tagore has been compared to Goethe many times, and Alber Schwitzer has called Tagore the Goethe of India. There is certainly a particular validity in that comparison. There is a Tagore Institute in Bonn, which has been doing a lot of work, arranging lectures, songs and doing translation works," he concluded.



Martin Kampchen



British High Commissioner James Fowler called on Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday — Star photo

94 pc of required medicine produced locally, JS told

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that 94.71 per cent of the requirement of medicines worth Tk 813 crore was being produced locally, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Awami League member Professor Abdul Mannan, the minister said only 5.29 per cent of the requirement is met by import.

He said an open policy was being pursued by the government to encourage investment in pharmaceutical sector for attaining self-sufficiency in medicine.

8670 studying in medical colleges

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Huq told the Jatiya Sangsad that 8,670 students were studying in the government medical colleges of the country.

Replying to a question by M Mizanur Rahman Manu (AL), the minister said every year 1391 students were admitted into the 13 government medical colleges of the country including 16 tribal and 50 foreign students.

Replying to a question by Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (JP), the minister said 94 ambulances were supplied to different hospitals of the country since July during the 1993-94 financial year.

No permanent hajj policy now

Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Keramat Ali told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that every year policy for the intending Bangladeshi hajjis is framed keeping in line with the hajj policy of Saudi government.

Replying to a question by Mohammad Neamat Ullah (BNP), the minister said there was no permanent hajj policy in the country at present.

He said the government had taken opinions from prominent religious leaders and Islamic thinkers regarding hajj management for the year 1994. The Religious Affairs Ministry is taking steps in that line.

The Minister said measures were being taken to hire houses close to the holy Kabaa Sharif at reasonable rent for the intending Bangladeshi hajjis of 1994. He said pilgrims, willing to perform hajj under the guidance of the government were advised to deposit Taka 15000 equivalent to Saudi riyal 1500 for the purpose.

He said work had already been taken in hand to build a permanent hajj camp near Zia International Airport for the convenience of the hajj pilgrims.

Islamic Foundation publishes 1481 books

Replying to another question from Moulana Alaur Rahman Khan of BNP, the religious affairs minister said that so far 1481 books were published by Islamic Foundation. Of the published books, 'Al Kuranul Karim' and 'Taisire Mareful Quran' are the best sellers.

To another question from Mohiuddin Ahmed of Awami League, Keramat Ali said that Tk 22.85 lakh was distributed among 151 religious institutions as grant from the ministry during fiscal year 1992-93.

Tk 20 lakh for repair of temples

In reply to another question from the Treasury Bench member Shakhawat Hossain Bakul, Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Keramat Ali told the Jatiya Sangsad here that Taka 20.77 lakh had been distributed during the current financial year for repair and renovation of temples, monasteries and hermitage.

The minister said the amount of grant during the current year is 2.34 lakh more than that of the previous year.

The minister also gave temple-wise allocations of grant of five districts.

The allocation of grant for 19 temples of the district of Jhenidah was Taka 20 thousand while Taka 10 thousand for four temples of Jhalakati.

He said Taka 40 thousand had been distributed as grant for 16 temples of Pirojpur and Taka 2 thousand for four temples of Meherpur.

He said an amount of Taka four thousand had been allocated for six temples of Jamalpur. He said the account of other districts were not yet available.

Replying to supplementaries, the minister said with the formation of Hindu Kalyan Trust the money was being distributed through it for repair and renovation of temples and monastery.

Replying to another question from Treasury Bench member Shaduzzaman, the minister informed the Jatiya Sangsad that Taka 5000 had been provided for religious function of the Buddhist. He said no financial grant is given for religious functions of the Christians.

Mathematics confce ends at RU

A three-day ninth Mathematics Conference organised by the Bangladesh Mathematical Society at the University of Rajshahi concluded recently, says a press release.

The inaugural session was presided over by Professor Farrukh Khalil, president of the society while Professor M Shamsul Haque, Chairman, University Grants Commission was the chief guest. Professor M Anisur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, University of Rajshahi gave the address of welcome.

Over one hundred mathematicians from home and abroad attended the conference. Besides, presentation of a good number of research papers on various fields of Mathematics and talks on 'Applications of Mathematics' and 'Popularising Mathematics in Bangladesh' highlighted the conference.

Biswas opens military hardware display

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday inaugurated a grand display of military hardware on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day at the north-western part of the old airport near Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, reports BSS.

Ministers, chiefs of the three services, diplomats and other high civil and military officials were also present on the occasion.

As President Biswas, who is also the supreme commander of the armed forces, and other guests entered the display ground a formation of Bangladesh Airforce aircraft flew past in low altitude emitting coloured smoke flares.

The President then went round different stalls where equipments, arms, ammunition, vehicles, tanks, aircraft and vessels used by the army, navy and airforce were put on display.

Discussion on Bhashani

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: Participants at a discussion on Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani today called for naming a Chittagong University Hall after Bhashani as a mark of respect to the late leader, reports BSS.

The discussion held at a local hotel under the auspices of Bhashani Smriti Sangsad in observance of his death anniversary was presided over by Sangsad president S M Abu Taher. It was addressed by veteran politician Alhaj Bazius Sattar, Advocate Mridul Guha, social workers Abdul Mabud Chowdhury, M A Sattar, Osman Gani, SM Zahirul Huq and others.

Dutch envoy meets DU VC

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: Henricus Gajentaan, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Bangladesh paid a courtesy call on Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka yesterday at the latter's office, reports BSS.

During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Vice-Chancellor explained the academic programme and activities of the University of Dhaka and sought academic cooperation from the universities of the Netherlands.

The Ambassador assured the Vice-Chancellor of providing help and cooperation in this respect.

Land Wanted

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Chittagong University Notice of First Convocation

Dated : 16-11-1993, 2 Agrahayan 1400 BS

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the first general convocation ceremony of Chittagong University will be held in the first week of January 1994 to award the degrees to the undermentioned category graduate/post graduate degree holders of this university.

The date, time & place of the convocation ceremony will be announced in due course.

1. Eligible degree holder:	Period of degree
MA/MSc/M Com/BA (Hons)/BSc (Hons)/B Com (Hons)/BA (Pass)/BSc (Pass)/B Com (Pass)/MBBS/BSc Engg/LLB/B Ed/PhD/M Phil	From 1968 upto 1982 examinations (which, as per calendar, was held next year/time.)

2. Rules for participation in the Convocation:
- A) Registration fee Taka 500/- (five hundred) per degree. An individual having more than one degrees should submit registration fee & application separately for each degree.
 - B) Application for registration should be submitted in plain paper in the under-mentioned form to the Registrar, Chittagong University, Chittagong by 09-12-1993. No application will be received after 09-12-93.
 - C) Registration fee will be received in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of "Registrar" Chittagong University. Bank Draft should be payable only on Agrani Bank, University branch & Janata Bank, Fatehpur branch.

No fee will be received in cash or by Money Order or Postal Order.

D) Those among the degree holders from 1968 to 1982 who have already received the original certificate will be treated as eligible for application.

Those among the degree holders from 1968 to 1972 who earlier deposited money for registration and have not received the original certificate in the meanwhile, need not submit the fee again.

But they shall have to apply as per the undermentioned form to the undersigned by the above date. However, the words "Re-application" should be superscribed on the application. Otherwise the application will be treated as invalid.

- E) Application without Bank Draft for registration fee or application with any column not filled in or with wrong information, will be treated as rejected without any notice.

Abdur Rashid
Registrar
Chittagong University

Application Form

Name of the degree obtained	
Examination year	

Sub : Application to participate in the First Convocation Ceremony

- Name of candidate (as per certificate)
- Father's Name
- Name of the Degree obtained (A) (B) Roll No. in the examination (C) Year of examination (D) Year of holding the examination (E) Division/Class obtained (F) College/name of hall/Out sider (G) Name of subject (Applicable for Honours & Master degree holders)
- Present address of communication

4. Amount of money in Bank Draft for registration fee

No. Dated Name of bank Branch (Registration fee should be paid at the rate of Taka 500/- for each degree).

Full name signature in own handwriting of the candidate (in Bangla)
Date:
NB : Separate application & registration fee should be submitted for each degree.

81 arrested in city

Police rounded up 81 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, nine were wanted criminals, two for robbery and four on the charge of stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

Gyasuddin envoy to Norway, Sweden concurrently

Government has decided to concurrently accredit Brig (rtd) Gyasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Norway, reports BSS.

He is also Bangladesh envoy to Sweden and he will perform his new responsibilities as Ambassador to Norway.

Bangla Academy introduces 'Ananda Pathan' from Jan

The Bangla Academy will introduce a new project named 'Ananda Pathan' from January, next year, reports BSS.

The objectives of this project are to develop reading habit among the students, turn reading into a pleasure experience and help the students to expand their area of thoughts.

This was informed by Director General of Bangla Academy Prof. Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid while he was talking with the teachers of different schools and colleges of Dhaka city.

Prof. Harun said the project would be expanded among the students of secondary and higher secondary level.

He also informed that a total of 20,000 copies of English-Bengali Dictionary, which was published by the academy only six weeks back, had already been sold.

He sought cooperation from the teachers of different schools and colleges to enrich the quality of the dictionary.

British HC calls on Hafiz

British High Commissioner James Fowler yesterday called on Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz at his secretariat office, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of bilateral and mutual interest.

They also exchanged views on legal, judicial and parliamentary systems of the two countries.

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BTV Monday

5.00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.35	Sports programme: Italian Soccer Sampdoria VS Inter
6.25	Moder Garols, Moder Asha
6.50	Open University
7.25	Nazrul Sangeet
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Janomat
9.05	Programme on folk songs: Vara Nadir Banke
10.00	News in English
10.30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown, Disco Rally
10.55	11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

Weather Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

The weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Monday) says, sky is likely to partly cloudy over the coastal regions while weather will remain mainly dry over the country.

The Met Office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one degree Celsius over the coastal regions and temperature may fall one to two degrees Celsius over rest of the country.

The highest temperature of the country yesterday 32.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Kutubdia and the lowest temperature 16.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Shitakundo.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.19 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and the relative humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday were as follows:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	29.0	18.5	82 78
Chittagong	28.8	18.5	86 93
Rajshahi	28.5	18.9	91 67
Khulna	29.5	19.3	83 85
Barisal	29.6	18.0	88 91