

Dhaka Day by Day

Booming Book Business

By Nipu Tarik

If appearances are deceptive, there are few areas more pronouncedly look-unlike than our book stalls. When the lamentation for the dying species of book-worms is loud, thanks to the television — otherwise known as the idiot box, a voracious breed of readers could very well prove the worry false.

Indeed, the lively and bustling atmosphere in the rows of book-shops is sure to impress the most pessimist of the Bangladesh. But just at the moment one starts comforting one's heart in the thought that not everything is lost for the nation, a little reflection on the subject will gradually unfold a different picture. A fresh spurt in book trade may have given a new lease of life to the country's publishing industry, but that is not all.

True, there is a pronounced proliferation of bookshops at the many vantage spots of Dhaka. Books are being published to meet the readers' mounting demand. We may see what type of books are being delivered to the reading youngsters. The sellers find it that the build of profit made out of selling books has little to do with the sales of text books or academic materials, let alone books of thought-provoking articles. The dealers count on the novels or story books. And our taste for novels by this fine has gone through a sweeping change, certainly not for the good.

In the same way the teenagers or the young generation become captivated by the alluring and simplified versions of life shows in the films today. They are mostly interested in the sedative, prurient and cheap romance.

Books presenting similar stories are hunted by young or old alike. Some particular writers

are always on the demand list. And when they are out in the market, they make so brisk business that our salesmen feel incapacitated to cope with the awful demand. But to our great dismay, their number is quite a handful.

Our local fiction writers can hardly match those from the West Bengal. One way of dealing with the problem perhaps would be to subsidise the printing materials. Our lacking becomes starkly manifest in the matters of children publications. The Indian writers certainly have a competitive edge. A well orchestrated publication industry has provision for patronage for the writers there. The Shishu Academy that showed enough promise initially seems to have gone into a slumber.

What about the private publishers? It is a common belief that they are more occupied with printing hot selling but cheap books. More often than not they bear the properties of a shallow outlook towards life. In fact, there is little originality in such matters. Anyway, our booksellers do not hesitate to shower praises on the reading public. One shop-keepers talked braggingly: "My readers always look for grand items. Even Stephen Hawking, who poses a daunting challenge to the readers' intelligence, is in great demand. You write on thoughtful and life-searching matters and see how your endeavour is appreciated." But he also added a note of caution in this context. "If you are once labelled to be the member of a particular group or faction, the readers' judgment takes a certain turn. He must have hinted at the negative side of the matter. Anyway, this may serve as a warning to any partisan writer.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas giving award prize to Kamrun Nahar, a winner of poster competition organised by the Bangladesh Dristihin Foundation at BARC auditorium in the city yesterday.

Disabled Day observed

International Day for the Disabled was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

Marking the day Bangladesh Protbandhi Foundation organised a rally and sports meet of the retarded children in the capital yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain attended the function as chief guest and distributed prizes among the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, the State Minister called upon the conscious section of the society to help the retarded children grow with equal dignity and live a normal life enjoying equal rights.

Students of Kalyani, a disabled children's training school run by the Foundation took part in the function.

Rajshahi

BSS adds: World Disabled Day was observed in Rajshahi city yesterday with a call to properly rehabilitate the handicapped in the society.

Different organisations working for the disabled in Rajshahi planned elaborate programmes to mark the day which included rally and procession of the disabled, exhibition of handicrafts made by the handicapped, cultural function presented by the disabled and discussions.

A procession of the disabled led by Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu was brought out in the city. The procession started from City Corporation premises after parading the main city streets ended at Asha Handicapped School. The processionists carried banner, festoons, and placards to attract people towards establishing their rights in the society.

The rally of the disabled was held at City Corporation premises.

Addressing the rally the city mayor said, Bangladesh is a signatory to establish the equal rights of the physically and mentally retarded. The present government had undertaken necessary steps to flourish the talent and efficiency of the disabled. The mayor announced that special allocation from city corporation would be made for rehabilitation of the retarded people.

Reception to heart specialists

Deputy Leader of the House Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said yesterday the BNP government was politically committed to develop the health sector in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest a function organised by National Heart Foundation of Mymensingh unit at Mymensingh to give a reception to two heart specialists and opening a heart camp here.

Presided over by the president of National Heart Foundation, Mymensingh Branch, Md Salehuzzaman, the function was addressed by State Minister for Science and Technology Professor M A Mannan.

Involve disabled in dev process : Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the disabled people should be given due to recognition to involve them in the country's development process, reports UNB.

The disabled must be recognised as part of society to implement the declaration of equal rights for ensuring their welfare," the President said while inaugurating a day-long workshop on "Equal Rights of the Disabled and their Status" at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the morning.

Nobody is born without rights, but it is the society that deprived him of his rights leading to a miserable life, he observed.

Bangladesh Dristihin Foundation (BDF) organised the workshop on the occasion of the World Disabled Day.

Presided over by BDF president Shushanta Adhikary, the inaugural function was addressed by State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan and BDF executive director Golam Mostafa.

We have to resolve the problems of the disabled people as the rights and dignity of disabled are gaining more importance around the world the President said, adding that the nation would be deprived of services of a larger section of the society if they were not properly utilised.

Biswas said the visual or physical disability can no longer be viewed as impediments to their participation in the development activities since the

Art, quiz contest of Grammar School Dec 15

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Grammar School will hold a children art and quiz contest on December 15 on the occasion of the Victory Day.

The contest, split into two disciplines — art and quiz, is aimed at encouraging the children to express their ideas and love for nature through paintbrush activities and to evaluate their general knowledge of history, geography, culture and tradition of the country.

The theme of the art competition is "My Country—Nature's Best." Participants shall be allotted one hour to portray their imagination of any natural setting of the country.

The quiz part shall encompass 100 questions on history, geography, culture, economy and tradition of Bangladesh. The contest is open to all children of 9 to 12 year age-group from any school in the city. Participants must excel in both parts of the contest to be eligible for the awards or prizes.

Only 100 children shall be selected, on first come first serve basis, to participate in the contest.

Application forms for the contest are available at the office of the Dhaka Grammar School at House-36, Road-11 (new), Dhanmondi from December 4 to 8.

'Include Farakka problem in agenda of SAARC Council of Ministers meet'

A convention of elema in the city yesterday demanded inclusion of the Farakka problem and the Babri Masjid issue in the agenda of the SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting which begins here today, reports BSS.

An 11-point demand was approved by the convention, organised by Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, calling for introduction of death penalty to those guilty of blasphemy, scrapping of all black laws and eliminating discrimination between madrasa and general education.

Zaki makes farewell call on Khaleda

SAARC Secretary General Ibrahim Hussain Zaki made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office yesterday evening, reports UNB.

During the meeting, Begum Zia, the current Chairperson of SAARC, lauded the contribution of Zaki towards carrying forward the activities of the seven-nation forum.

She stressed the need for successful implementation of the programmes of the SAARC to ameliorate the condition of the people of the region and expressed Bangladesh's commitment to the SAARC charter.

The Prime Minister also emphasised the need for developing tourism in this region through cooperation within the framework of the SAARC.

The SAARC Secretary General praised the role of the current Chairperson and called upon the member countries to help implement the programmes of the regional body.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mirza Abbas MP yesterday said there was no alternative to democratic system for the economic development of the country, reports BSS.

Mirza Abbas called upon all to cooperate with the BNP in making the democracy meaningful.

He was laying the foundation stone of a four-storied building of a primary school at Kamalapur here.

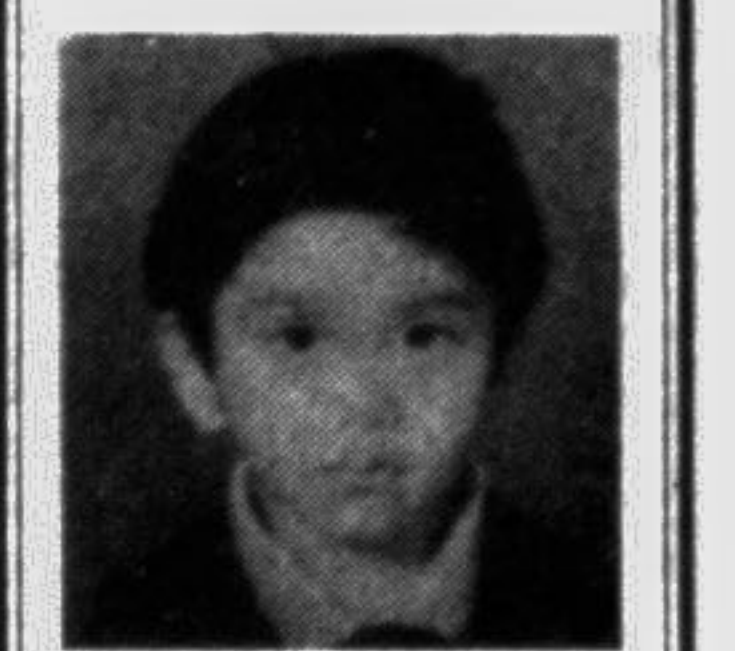
The Mayor said the present government was determined to fulfil the basic demands of the people.

Commemorative stamp on Bangla Academy's founding anniversary

Bangladesh Postal Department yesterday issued a commemorative stamp of Taka two and a first day cover on the occasion of the 38th founding anniversary of Bangla Academy, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally released the stamp and the first day cover at a simple ceremony held at her Sugandha office at night.

IN MEMORIAM WHO PLUCKED THIS FLOWER? THE MASTER



Joshua Aaron Hawkins 4th Death Anniversary. In ever loving memory of our darling grandson who went to his eternal home this day, December 4, 1989, whose Memory we shall always cherish. Gone but not forgotten.

GRANDMA & GRANDPA & CECI & NICK NANABHAL

Spoken English Teacher Wanted

An intermediate house-wife requires a lady teacher having a very good command in spoken English teaching to bring her complete fluency. Any American or English lady may also apply.

Mr Khan Phone : 865401 (office hour).



Deputy Speaker of Australian Parliament Harry Alfred Jenkins (2nd L), who led a nine-member delegation, briefed newsmen yesterday at the Australian High Commission in Dhaka after a week-long visit to Bangladesh. Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Kenneth Aspinall (3rd L) was also present.

Founding anniversary of Mongla Port

KHULNA, Dec 3: The 43rd founding anniversary of Mongla Port was celebrated Wednesday in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

In this connection various programmes were taken at Mongla, Khulna, Hironpoint and Benapole port premises.

The programmes included decoration of national and foreign flag carrier ships anchored at the port areas, one minute continuous whistling in the morning, milad mahfil, illumination and seminar on the significance of the day.

A seminar on "The role of

Mongla Port in accelerating the pace of economic development of the country" was held at the port premises with Mosharraf Hossain, Member, Finance of the port in the chair.

The key-note paper was presented by Deputy Secretary Md Mahbubullah while Captain Ramzan Ali, Member, Operation of the port attended as chief guest.

The seminar was also addressed by Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat Md Fazlur Rahman Khan and Editor of Dainik Sundarban Sk Hemayet

Hossain.

The speakers underscored the need for making the port more viable to help revitalise the export and import trade of the country. They put forward a number of suggestions for ensuring overall development of the port to tackle the present volume of work as well as make it more dynamic so that the port could play an important role in the national economy.

Training programme on drug abuse prevention

The Mayor of Rajshahi City Mizanur Rahman Minu, Thursday underlined the need for following religious teachings to eradicate the curse of drug abuse and other deadly habits, reports BSS.

Addressing the inaugural session of a day long training programme on "drug abuse prevention" at Rajshahi Shishu Academy the Mayor said, proper steps had to be taken to motivate the youth and to create awareness among the people against the dangers of drug abuse.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

The weather is likely to remain dry all over the country. But the sky will remain cloudy over the southern part of the country and partly cloudy over the northern part today, Met Office says.

However, night temperature may remain nearly unchanged all over the country.

The highest temperature of the country 30 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra while the minimum of 13.8 degrees Celsius was reported from both Rajshahi and Dinajpur yesterday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	28.4	15.8	78	74
Chittagong	27.5	16.3	81	68
Rajshahi	28.6	13.8	90	81
Khulna	29.1	16.3	88	78
Barisal	28.4	15.8	89	84
Sylhet	29.6	16.4	70	67

অগ্রগতির আর এক ধাপ...

১৯৯৩ সনের অক্টোবর পর্যন্ত জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন গত বছরের তুলনায় আরও অধিক পরিমাণ ব্যবসা সংগ্রহ করেছে।

১ম বর্ষ প্রিমিয়াম	নবায়ন প্রিমিয়াম	প্রুপ প্রিমিয়াম
প্ররক্ষিত হারঃ ২৮.৫৩%	প্ররক্ষিত হারঃ ১০.৪৭%	প্ররক্ষিত হারঃ ২৪.৯৪%

এই সাফল্যে সকলকে জানাই আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা। আজই একটি পলিসি নিন। এই অগ্রযাত্রায় শরীক হোন।

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন

একটি রাষ্ট্রীয় জীবন বীমা প্রতিষ্ঠান

DPP(BA) 10838-29/11

পলিসি-বোনাস

সর্বশেষ প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত মানুষের জন্য বোনাস প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।

বোনাসের হার যদি পুরো বোনাসের একটি গারান্টিড হলে বোনাস প্রদান হবে।

সেভাল	সেভাল পুর্নিত	পুর্নিত হাজার
৩০ বছর	১,১০,০০০	১.৪৪
২৫ "	১,০০,০০০	১.৪০
২০ "	১,০০,০০০	১.৩৬
১৫ "	১,০০,০০০	১.৩২
১০ "	১,০০,০০০	১.২৮

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোঃ লিঃ

উদ্ভা বাকি ভবন, ৯০-৯১, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

পিএবিএক্সঃ ২৪৫০৩৩-৫, ২৪৬১১১-২

Haj or Umra begins when you step aboard Saudia.

Your journey of a lifetime starts with the recital of the traveller's prayer over the sound system.

It continues with selected readings from the Quran on your individual head-phones.

On Saudia flights all meals are, naturally, Halal and there's always someone who speaks your language among our cabin crew.

An announcement is made as the aircraft enters the Miqat Al-Ihram zone and soon you'll be touching down at Jeddah before the final leg of your memorable journey to Makkah, the Holy City.

For more information, contact your travel agent or call Saudia on telephone No. 816859, 816860, 816829

saudia

SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES

Proud to serve You