

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

An Inexplicable Love

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Shagufta Majid, nicknamed Pakhi, knows her father only through photographs and stories from her mother and friends of her father. This however does not stop her from feeling that special sense of pride and inexplicable love mixed with anguish that only a child of a martyr can feel. Her agony is multiplied by the fact that she and her family still do not know where or how her father died. Pakhi's father, Shaheed Shah Abdul Majid was an officer of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) in Rajshahi at the time of his disappearance. He had been the officer in command during a clash between police troops and the Pakistan army on 25th March 1971. Six days later he was taken away by the Pak army, never to be seen again.

On 31st March, says Pakhi, a man called Captain Salman Mahmud came to their Rajshahi residence and asked for Abdul Majid, saying that he would have to go with him for "questioning". "My father was a very courageous man," says Pakhi, her eyes filling up. "We used to live right next to the Padma beyond which was India; my mother used to plead with my father for escape." He would admonish her by saying "How can you be a police officer's wife, suggest such a thing?" For an ardent patriot as Majid was, nothing could be more preposterous.

"While my mother waited in fear, army officers would come every few days asking for clothes and shoes for my father to show that he was alive." Pakhi continues. Meanwhile Pakhi's mother and her four small children faced the worst kind of insecurity and terror, going without money and food and being frequently looted by Bihari marauders. "In April, my mother came to Dhaka, but there was no news, no body, we still don't know what happened to him", Pakhi adds.

For the family this has meant a period of mourning that never ends. "In the last 15 or so years we have not celebrated Eid; in the month of March we never have any function at our house", says Pakhi. Her parents, she adds, were a very happy couple. Pakhi's mother has kept very little thing that belonged to her husband, even the fragrant hair oil he used everyday. "For many years we believed that he would come. At that time many Muktiyodhas were out on the streets, with a leg or an arm blown off by bullets. My mother would go into the streets and search relentlessly among the beggars, thinking one of them just might be him."

Pakhi goes on to describe how her mother struggled to bring up her children. In the last 22 years Abdul Majid's family has received very little from the government. Since he had not been able

to complete 10 years of office, he had neither a pension nor provident fund. The only thing the family did get was an abandoned house where they now live. "But in the last few years we have been informed that it belongs to someone else; if we lose the house, I don't know what will happen," says Pakhi.

When Pakhi's mother went to the Muktiyodha Kalyan Trust, she was turned away with "Why do you think they took him?" She therefore joined the Women's Affairs Department where she is still working and is now the Assistant Director. Pakhi is now an Economics Honors student at Dhaka University. Her two brothers are a banker and engineer and her sister is a school teacher.

Pakhi, however, feels bitter at the insensitivity of the society she lives in: "Many governments have come and gone, yet not one of them has made a plan to make an authentic list of the 30 lakh Muktiyodhas who gave up their lives for this country. Now after 22 years, is it only our duty to get the facts right? This should have been done much earlier. Everyone is reaping the benefits of the sacrifice made by the martyrs. Are there no conscious people in this country?"

Pakhi deals with her pain by piecing together fragmented stories of her father that she has heard from his students, friends and admirers. Being a meritorious student, Abdul Majid completed his Masters in 1956 and then went on to be a lecturer of Political Science at Jagannath College. In '62 he went to Sharda for training, later becoming an officer of PSP in Rajshahi. "My father was a legend", says Pakhi. "I have heard so much about how good looking he was, the way he dressed, taught etc."

With these bits of information Pakhi has conjured up an image of her father, a father she never got a chance to know. She gets some satisfaction through her work for Projonmo '71. She is the committee convener at the Rajshahi division. Her job is to help locate children of martyrs through a GPO box address. So far Rajshahi has about 15 members.

Even this work is being hampered by threats from anti-liberation forces. "We are scared to put up notices in the university to give the contact numbers and names since this may put the people concerned in danger."

For Pakhi and others like her, the liberation war has not ended. This time it is not a struggle against a foreign oppressor. This time it is an enemy at home, one that is hard to identify, yet so insidious that it has crept into our mind set, our culture and our freedom.



Shagufta Farah Majid (Pakhi)

Tk 60 cr water supply project for Rajshahi city

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday disclosed that Rajshahi city water supply and sanitation project would be implemented at a cost of Taka 60 crore, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting of the high officials of his ministry and various departments at his Secretariat office Talukder said that Tk 15 crore would be spent this year for the project.

The minister expressed his hope that the long-felt demand of Rajshahi city-dwellers for pure drinking water was going to be fulfilled with the completion of this project, as well as with the sinking of a number of deep tube-wells in the city this year.

Saudi envoy presents credentials

Bangladesh is striving for a better future for her people and committed to strengthening its democratic institutions. President Abdur Rahman Biswas told the new Saudi envoy, reports UNB.

The Ambassador designate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh, Abdullah Omar Barry, presented his credentials to the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"We believe that Saudi Arabia as a brotherly country will continue to extend its valuable support to our efforts," he said accepting the credentials.

He conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and prayed for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia.

Presenting his credentials, Abdullah Omar Barry said his sincere efforts would be directed towards fulfillment of the goal by developing further the mutual relations in light of the needs of the Muslim Ummah.

Asia Foundation official visits DU Journalism Dept

By DU Correspondent

Jim Mullins, Director of Public Affairs of the Asia Foundation visited the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the Dhaka University yesterday noon.

Mullins met the Chairman of the department, Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, members of the faculty and students.

He exchanged views with the teachers and faculty members on application of computer in journalism teaching.

Kim Hunter, Assistant Representative of the Asia Foundation in Dhaka was also present on the occasion.

Ahmed Hossain returns

Syed Ahmed Hossain, Secretary General, United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) returned to Dhaka recently after attending the International Conference of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) held at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva, says a press release.

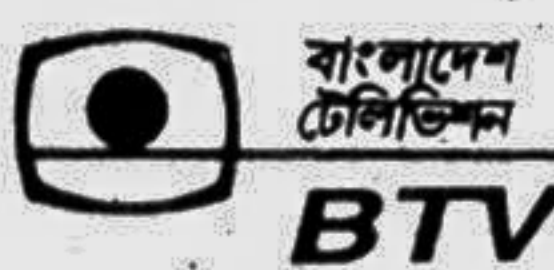
Ahmed also visited UN headquarters in New York, where he met other high officials.

Post office holiday Dec 16

All post offices of the country will remain closed on December 16 on the occasion of the Victory Day, reports BSS.

Arrangements have been made for distribution of unregistered letters and booking and distribution of GEP and EMS on December 17 because of holidays for two consecutive days including Friday.

Besides, envelopes and postages will be available as usual.



Tuesday

- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Bsho Para Shikhi
- 6:00 Sports programme: Cricket
- 7:00 Open University Sangeeta
- 7:25 Sangeeta
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Drama serial: Deyal (6th episode)
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Special programme on Shaheed Intellectuals
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing



Dancers performing during the cultural evening organised by the Greater Mymensingh Zilla Samity at the Institution of Engineers yesterday. — Star photo

Conference on shipping begins in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Dec 13: A two-day conference of representatives of Far East and West Asia gulf agents begins at the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) head office here tomorrow, reports BSS.

The conference to be attended by 26 representatives from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Yemen, Syria, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh will assess the present trend of trade and devise ways and means to accelerate the pace of cooperation in shipping services, besides exchanging experiences.

Seminar on rise of domestic ideology held

The Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities of Dhaka University organised a seminar on "The Rise of Domestic Ideology in Colonial Bengal 1876-1939" at its seminar room on Sunday, reports UNB.

Assistant Professor of History Sonia Nisat Amin presented a key-note paper in the seminar. Dr Anisuzzaman of Bengali Department and Dr Imtiaz Ahmed of International Relations Department spoke at the seminar. Prof Sonia in her key-note paper pointed out the change wrought in the sphere of traditional family of 19th century colonial Bengal particularly the middle class.

Martin meets Jahanara

The visiting Director of the International Theatre Institute of Germany, Dr Martin Roeder Zerndt called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum at her office here yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting they exchanged views on the staging of Bangladesh and German dramas.

Bijoy Mela at Cox's Bazar begins

A five-day long Bijoy Mela to celebrate the victory of the people of Bangladesh in the country's Liberation War in 1971 began at Cox's Bazar Sunday, reports BSS.

Organised by Cox's Bazar Muktiyoddher Bijoy Mela Parishad, the mela was formally inaugurated by Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam, Commander of the Sector-One of the Liberation War at a colourful ceremony at the Shaheed Daulat (public hall) Maidan in the afternoon.

Happy Birthday & Lots of Love To



MOURI

From: Abbu, Ammu, Dadu Bhai, Dadi Ma, Nani Ma & all uncles, aunts, cousins.

KAFCO

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited

Manager-Public Relations

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) is a multinational joint venture company with a US \$ 500 million (Tk. 2,000 Crore) ammonia/urea fertilizer plant in an advanced stage of implementation at Chittagong.

KAFCO seeks to employ as Manager-Public Relations a reputed and respected journalist with excellent oral and written communication skills in both Bengali and English to handle all its public and press relations at the corporate level.

The candidate who will report directly to the Managing Director, must possess the necessary qualifications, experience and resources to handle this important function. The position is initially based in Dhaka with frequent visits and stay in Chittagong being necessary.

Applications giving details of qualifications and experience and enclosing a recent photograph should be submitted by December 21, 1993 to the following address and marked for the attention of the Managing Director (Ref.: M-PR).

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited
90-91 Motijheel C/A, (15th floor), Dhaka- 1000

Weather

Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with clear sky likely to prevail over the country during the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday).

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 29.9 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessore and the lowest of 11.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5:14 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:34 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.0	13.9	78	75
Chittagong	26.8	15.1	88	65
Rajshahi	26.7	13.0	79	88
Sylhet	27.5	15.0	77	65
Barisal	27.4	15.0	90	86



৬ষ্ঠ সাফ গেমস-এর টিকিট বিক্রয়

আগামী ২০শে ডিসেম্বর '৯৩ থেকে ২৭শে ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত সার্কভুক্ত দেশগুলোর ক্রীড়াবিদদের সমন্বয়ে ৬ষ্ঠ সাফ গেমস অনুষ্ঠিত হতে যাচ্ছে।

বর্ণাঢ্য উদ্বোধনী ও সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠানসহ বিভিন্ন প্রতিযোগিতার টিকিট অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের নিম্নলিখিত শাখা সমূহে পাওয়া যাবে।

- বন্ধবন্ধু এভিনিউ
- শান্তিনগর
- ধানমন্ডি
- পুরানা পল্টন
- মালিবাগ
- নিউ মার্কেট
- বাংলাদেশ ওয়াপদা
- সেনপাড়া
- বনানী
- মৌলভী বাজার
- নিউ ইন্সটান
- গুলশান
- জাতীয় প্রেসক্লাব
- মিরপুর
- জাতীয় যাদুঘর
- সদরঘাট শাখা
- মোহাম্মদপুর
- বিএফএ শাখা
- হাটখোলা

টিকিটের হার

অনুষ্ঠান সমূহ	টাকা	অনুষ্ঠান সমূহ	টাকা
উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান	৫০.০০	কাবাডি	৫.০০
সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠান	৫০.০০	শুটিং	৫.০০
ফুটবল	২০.০০	সাতার	৫.০০
ফুটবল (ফাইনাল)	৩০.০০	টেবিল টেনিস	৫.০০
অ্যাথলেটিকস্	৫.০০	টেনিস	৫.০০
বক্সিং	৫.০০	ভলিবল	৫.০০
জুডো	৫.০০	কুস্তি	৫.০০

এছাড়াও ১০০০/- টাকা মূল্যের মৌসুমী টিকিট পাওয়া যাবে। উদ্বোধনী ও সমাপনী অনুষ্ঠানসহ সকল খেলা দেখার জন্য নিম্নলিখিত আসনের ব্যবস্থা থাকবে।

অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের উপরোক্ত শাখা সমূহের মাধ্যমে উদ্বোধনী, সমাপনী ও মৌসুমী টিকিট অগ্রিম বিক্রয় হবে। এছাড়া বিভিন্ন প্রতিযোগিতার দৈনিক টিকিট নির্ধারিত খেলার আগের দিন অপরাহ্নে ব্যাংকে এবং খেলার দিন খেলা অনুষ্ঠান স্থলের কাউন্টারে বিক্রয় হবে।



অগ্রণী ব্যাংক

জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক

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