

## Dhaka Day by Day

## An Auction with a Difference

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Concerts, arranged to raise funds for the flood victims, or charity bazaars, painting shows for similar reasons and merry-making, for that matter, is nothing new. But charity auction sale for helping a humanitarian organisation certainly is.

The word auction has about it a connotation that hardly goes with humanitarian services because of its heavy tilt for trade of an unusual kind.

But this time an auction with products from world renowned French manufacturing companies will be held. The French Ambassador Jean Michael Lacombe and his wife Myriam Lacombe have organised this unusual two-day fund-raising programme at their residence in Gulshan.

"Myself and my husband decided that apart from government to government assistance in development efforts or humanitarian projects, we may ourselves organise some fund-raising events to help some welfare projects in the humanitarian efforts," says Myriam.

In Europe there is an idea that Bangladesh only depicts poverty, misery and floods. But coming here, Myriam's point of view has changed, she believes, there is more to Bangladesh than just disasters. "You have good painters, good music, good industries like shrimp culture, jute, garments and of course, intellectually stimulating people," she says.

This auction is not her first endeavours here. "We have decided to patronize the Bangladeshi art and culture in our modest capacity by holding exhibition of Bangladeshi painters," she explains.

The annual Bangladeshi painting exhibition in France of September 1993 was thus transformed into an event aimed at patronising the Bangladeshi painters and also helping a humanitarian organisation. The sale proceeds of this exhibition went to the Ganoshayha Kendro of Savar. "Following the conclusion of this exhibition in Paris, we organised a very successful exhibition of three contemporary painters in our residence during the end of September 1993.

The sale proceeds of this auction will be given to an orphanage in Tejgaon run by Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mother Teresa through her organisation Missionaries of Charity.

Myriam, an orphan herself when she was 18 months old, was raised by her grand parents. She has a natural inclination for funding orphans and says that "if this auction is a success and we get plenty of money, we will split the proceeds and give some to local orphans too."

"This is the first time we are dealing with such ideas, we do not know anything, therefore, success is uncertain, but we hope to do similar programmes sometime next year too," she says.

"For fund-raising there are many programmes like charity bazaars but I want to do something different," she explains. Every man and woman likes perfumes and jewellery, and this is a good way to understand the western culture too, she believes. With such ventures the French products



Myriam Lacombe

always been active. Working with IBM as sales marketing Rep. International Vice President for Coal of France, a public enterprise, she has done joint ventures all over the world.

Sophisticated and elegant, she is an admirer of Jamal Ahmed's and Shahbuddin's works. She is also an avid music lover and says that opera music is her favourite. She likes over music too. Besides organising painting shows and this auction, she has also organised programmes for a Taz group. "Every body discouraged me by saying that it will be flop but later on the American school, where the show was held was full and it was a big hit even in Chittagong," she says.

Her future plan includes a women week, where training programmes for family planning will be given by a French woman. "Plans are still underway, it might be on March or September this year," she says. "Planning is a long procedure, my plans for this auction started from July last year," she explains.

She has also helped Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) with approximately 40 computers. She believes "IUB is good for this country and there is no education now, without computers."

Pleasant and enchanting Myriam Lacombe believes that a lot could be done here in Bangladesh. "Poverty is perpetrating everywhere in the world. OK, but that's not the real problem. We can always proceed forward and try out new ventures," she believes strongly.

## Appeal to raise Farakka issue at int'l forums

Bangladesh Muslim League (BML) yesterday renewed its appeal to the government to raise the Farakka issue at international forums and file a compensation suit against India in the international court for the losses the country suffered due to unilateral withdrawal of water from the common rivers, reports UNB.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the morning, party chief Kazi Abdul Kader promised to extend his organisation's full support to the government in this regard.

He described the unilateral withdrawal of water by India from an international river as "an absolutely inhuman act."

Kader, who recently became president of the United Muslim League, also demanded scrapping of the 25 years treaty with India.

Referring to violence at the educational campuses, Kader advocated for banning "party-backed students politics."

The party's Secretary General Muhammad Ayenuddin, Executive President Quamruzzaman Khan, Executive Secretary Atiqul Islam, Senior Vice-President M A Salam, Organising Secretary Matin and Publicity Secretary Akhond were present at the press conference.

**Writers' Club formed**



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday to mark the 131st birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

— Star photo

## 305 booths, 87 centres for RCC polls

RAJSHAHI, Jan 12: The Election Commission will open 305 booths in 87 centres for mayor and ward commissioner elections of the Rajshahi City Corporation to be held on January 30, reports BSS.

A total of 610 polling officers, 305 assistant presiding officers and 87 presiding officers would be engaged for conducting the polls. Election Commission sources said today.

Law enforcing personnel will be posted in all the centres for maintaining law and order so that elections could be held in a peaceful atmosphere.

Contesting candidates for the post of mayor and ward commissioners further geared up their election campaign in the city today.

BNP candidate Mizanur Rahman Minu today visited

ward No 26 and 27. He appealed to the voters to elect him mayor in the coming election for making Rajshahi a modern city.

State Minister for land Kabir Hossain and BNP leaders of the city also visited ward number 7 and 8 and exchanged views with the voters. Kabir Hossain appealed to the voters to cast vote in favour of BNP nominee for the continuation of development activities of Rajshahi.

Poet Sufia Kamal inaugurated the discussion.

The discussion was addressed by Professor Sahadat Ali, Sri Ram Chandra Saha, among others.

Professor Ali, addressing the discussion, said that Vivekananda tried to bridge the gaps among different religious thoughts.

Vivekananda was above communalism and fundamentalism though he was a religious leader, Ali added.

Later, a procession was brought out on the occasion on the university campus.

Discussion on "Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address and modern world" will be held at the BUET auditorium today afternoon. Professor Dr Mohammad Shahjahan, Vice Chancellor of BUET, will attend the function as the chief guest.

On January 13, 14, 15 and 16 two special trains from Mymensingh will leave for Tongi at 11:30 am and 8:30 pm. Mymensingh-bound train from Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will leave at 1:20 pm and 9:40 pm.

On January 17, two special trains from Tongi will leave for Akhaura at 12:40 pm and 5:30 pm. The Bangladesh Railway will also run three special trains for Mymensingh and four for Dhaka after the munajat. The Mymensingh-bound trains will leave from Tongi at 12:35 pm, 1:20 pm and 11:40 pm and Dhaka-bound trains at 12:40 pm, 1:30 pm, 2 pm and 6:10 pm respectively.

On January 18 and 19 two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 20, two special trains for Mymensingh will stop at Tongi from January 13 to January 16 for two minutes. Dinajpur-bound Ekota and Jagannathganj Ghat-bound Jamuna will stop for two minutes at Tongi on January 17. Chittagong-bound Karnaphuli and Mymensingh-bound Ishla Khan and Balaka Express will leave from Dhaka at 12 noon, 12:20 pm and 12:40 pm instead of 11:10 am, 10 am and 9:30 am respectively.

Besides running special trains, Railway has also made arrangements for adequate supply of water, light and toilet facilities at Tongi Railway Station for the devotees.

The function was addressed, among others, by Director of BFT, Rajshahi A M Rezaul Karim Talukdar and President and General Secretary of students union Dr Sirajul Karim Chowdhury and A S M Rashed.

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On January 21, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 22, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 23, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 24, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 25, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 26, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 27, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 28, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 29, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 30, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On January 31, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 1, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 2, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 3, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 4, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 5, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 6, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 7, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 8, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 9, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 10, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 11, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 12, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 13, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 14, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 15, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

On February 16, two special trains for Mymensingh will leave at 2 pm and 11:40 pm from Tongi, one each for Akhaura and Bhairab Bazar will also run in both the days from Tongi at 9:55 am and 12:10 pm respectively.

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