

Dhaka Day by Day

Pirated Books at Boi Mela

by Nilratan Halder



These books in the making may be genuine but not all at the fair are. — Star photo

Bangladesh is a signatory to the Berne Convention, the international book copyright agreement. But piracy of books in the country goes on almost on the same scale as in Cuba — which has no such word as piracy in its lexicon because, it considers, knowledge is free and therefore must not be subjected to royalty of any kind — Indonesia and some other Latin American countries known for the practice. Only a few people here voice their concern at other times of the year but during the month of February the issue is no more overlooked.

The reasons for this sudden unusual response to the issue are quite understandable too. It is the time of the year when more than 90 per cent of the local writers' books see the light of day and find their way into the Ekushey Book Fair. The rules set by the Bangla Academy for the book fair are on the local writers' side. No provisions have been made for the access of foreign books to the fair. But the rules are, more often than not, violated and manipulated by a section of the book-sellers and publishers. So the clamour over the sale of pirated books ought to be raucous.

Surprisingly, however, defiance to the rules as worked out by the Bangla Academy manifestly to promote local books and a closer relationship between the authors and their readers has so far not met any strong and organised opposition. The purpose for which the rules were tailored is being defeated. No wonder, Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Shirshendu Mukhopadhyaya and Samresh Majumder far surpass their Bangladesh counterparts in sales proceeds from their books at the fair.

This embarrassing fact is left untouched and everyone appears to be only at ease by turning a blind eye to it. What is most worrisome is the way these books are churned out of a dubious publishing industry. The publishers responsible for bringing out these books are mostly fictitious. To make themselves appear convincing of their bonafide, these publishers take the liberty of publishing a short authorisation note along with a photo of the three most popular Bangla fiction writers inside the cover.

It does not take a lot of intelligence to detect the deception, for the same authorisation from those three West Bengal authors is carried on copies of the same book published by different publishers. The piracy is all too evident. The three musketeers of Bangla fictions are thus deprived of their royalties. Only Pallab Prakashani does import printed sheets from West Bengal and make the cover and binding here by an agreement with some of the writers there.

So the hefty profits made by the fake publishers put pressures on the genuine publishers who have, of necessity, made their books reasonably costly. But the pirated books can be cheaper compared with those produced following the legal procedures. These corrupt publishers are not even afraid of venturing where angels fear to tread. In at least one case, one of our local popular fiction writers has been discomfited by a publishing house. A book of this author has been published by the said publisher without the former's permission. But he sold the royalty to another publisher a few years back when it was first published. Now this has given rise to a whole lot of complications, perhaps will lead to litigation and be settled in the court.

Bangladesh is not Cuba nor the former Soviet Union which also gave a damn to royalty for long 60 years in publishing world classics and other books of value. Nor is the Bangladesh government at fault here. Some profit-mongers are doing unethical business. They must be taken care of.

Textile leaders submit memo to Matin

A delegation of Bangladesh Shammilita Bastrashilpa Sangram Parishad yesterday met with the Home Minister and submitted a memorandum demanding stringent measures to check cloths and saree smuggling, reports UNB.

Their demands also include maintenance of stability of prices of different cloths in the country and taking steps for development of textile industries.

The 20-member delegation of the Bastrashilpa Sangram Parishad, led by its convenor Md Kaikobad Bhuiyan, met Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his office in the morning and handed over the memorandum.

The minister assured the textile leaders that their demands will be considered with due importance.

Referring cloth as the most important basic-need in our daily life, he said the present government is always in action to check smuggling and eradicate all mismanagement.

The delegates informed the minister that an adverse effect in textile sector has been created due to smuggling and excessive cost of various raw materials used in the sector.

The local products cannot compete with that of Indian products, they said. Besides, 90 per cent handloom industry, cloth printing and local textile enterprises are on the verge of closing down.

More than 5 million people depend on this sector are becoming jobless, the leaders informed the minister.

JAGPA rally in city

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) has demanded re-commissioning of the GK Project to facilitate irrigation in vast areas of the country's northern region, reports UNB.

Party chief Shaful Alam Prodhon yesterday said that farmers in their thousands had been experiencing acute crisis of water in cultivating their lands as the water level had gone down abnormally due to unilateral withdrawal at Farakka by India.

"All governments since liberation have failed to take proper measures in tackling adverse effect of the Farakka barrage on our agriculture, economy and environment," he told a public rally at Purana Paltan in the city.

Prodhon called for scrapping agreements on trade and other economic cooperation with India.

He reiterated his party's demand for abrogation of the 25 years treaty concluded with India during the Awami League regime.

The rally was addressed, among others, by party leaders A K Aziz, Abdul Matin, Anisur Rahman, Selim Chowdhury and Kabirul Islam Kanchan.



Artistes of the Ganochhaya Shilpi Goshthe performing songs at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. — Star photo

Council of Editors condole Bobby's death

The Council of Editors at a meeting yesterday condole the death of founding Editor of the Morning Sun and Executive Committee member of the Council Anwarul Islam Bobby, reports BSS.

Presided over by senior vice-president of the council Chowdhury Mohammad Farooq, the meeting held at the Daily Meilat office was addressed by Editor of Bangladesh Times Mahub Anam, President of BSP Majidul Islam, Acting Editor of The Morning Sun Atiqul Alam, Editor of Dainik Inqilab A M M Bahauddin, Editor of Dainik Sangram Abul Asad, Chief Editor of BSS D P Barua, Editor of Dainik Thikana Abul Hossain Meer, Editor of Dainik Naba Avijan A S M Rezaul Hoq, Editor of Dainik Samachar Abul Kashem Majumder, Editor of Dainik Jahan Habibur Rahman Sheikh, Secretary General of Editors Council A Q M Zainul Abedin and its President Sanaulah Noori.



- 4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 4:45 Programme summary Cartoon: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
- 5:25 Documentary on environment: El Prethibee
- 6:00 Sports programme
- 6:30 Health programme: Apner Dakter
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Amar Desh
- 9:05 Drama series: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Sur Lahari
- 11:15 Khabar/The News
- 11:25 Tomorrow's programme

FDC's earning stands at Tk 1.3 cr till Dec

The Film Development Corporation (FDC) has earned a net profit of Tk one crore and two lakh in fiscal year (FY) 1992-93 and the corporation's earning till December of the current FY stood at Tk one crore and thirty two lakh, reports BSS.

This was informed at the 17th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Information held yesterday today at the cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Minister for Information Nazmul Huda in the chair. The meeting discussed in detail the activities of the FDC.

The meeting also discussed and exchanged views and opinions regarding technical and structural development of the FDC.

Members of the committee A T M Walle Ashraf, Khandker Abu Taher, Md Golam Rabbani and K J Hamida Khanam of BNP and Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdul Kalam Azad of Awami League attended the meeting.

Secretary of the Ministry of Information Nooruddin Al-Masood was present.

Another report adds: The 19th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Simplification of the process of bank loan for setting up of dairy farms and the benefit of incentive bonus at the rate of 25 per cent of the transportation cost to import high breed cows also came up for discussion.

Death condoled

The Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of senior Awami League leader N A Choudhury alias Kalu Choudhury, reports UNB.

He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

Kalu Choudhury, also a director of the City Bank Limited, died here recently.

Discussion on National Democracy Day of Nepal

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman yesterday said the friendly relations between Nepal and Bangladesh is deep-rooted in history and there is a lot of similarity in life-style of the people of both the countries, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest a discussion organised by the Nepal-Bangladesh Friendship Society on the occasion of the 44th national democracy day of Nepal at the Nepalese Embassy.

The minister said the people of Bangladesh has great respect for the Nepalese people for their spirit of democracy and their efforts for its realisation. He said the love for democracy of the people of both Bangladesh and Nepal would enhance the friendly relations that already exists between them.

Happy Birthday

To

Our Loving Ammu

Best wishes

Ludmila, Mukit, Moonia

মেশিনারী প্রদর্শনী

তাইওয়ানের TCH ব্রান্ডের ইলেক্ট্রিক ও লেইভ তৈরী মেশিনের প্রদর্শনী অনুষ্ঠান

২১/২/৯৪ হতে ২৪/২/৯৪ পর্যন্ত।

সময়: সকাল ১০টা হতে বিকাল ৫টা

স্থান: সুন্দরবন হোটেল, সোনারগাঁও রোড, ঢাকা।

Legal Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA

(Original Civil Jurisdiction.)

Matter No 4/1994.

An application under section 76(3) read with 79(3) of the companies Act 1913.

And

In the Matter of:

The Bangladesh Book publishers and sellers Samity, 3 Haaquat Avenue, P. S. Sutrapur, Dhaka-1100

And Serajul Huq

Petitioner

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 76(3) read with 79(3) of the companies Act, 1913 for condonation of delay in holding the Annual general meeting for the year 1993 was filed and moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme court of Bangladesh. Upon hearing, the Honourable Court was pleased to admit on 10.1.94 and fixed it for hearing on 6.2.94. Thereafter on 3.2.94 it was re-fixed for hearing on 31.3.94. Any person interested to oppose or support the said application may appear before the court by himself or through his authorised Advocate on the date fixed. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary costs.

A. B. Abdur Rashid, Advocate

Supreme Court of Bangladesh, 14 Banglabazar, (1st floor) Dhaka

BAEC ready to train foreign personnel

Eng M A Quatum, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) distributed BAEC crest to two reactor Engineers of the National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Techniques (CNSTN), Morocco who attended a three-week training course in Reactor Operation Technology conducted by the

BAEC reactor engineers working in the 3 MW Research Reactor located at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE), Savar, yesterday at a simple ceremony held at a BAEC committee room, says a BAEC press release.

Speaking at the ceremony Chairman of BAEC said it is

ready to offer specialised training and exchange experience in the fields of electronics, NDT, food preservation, reactor technology, etc, especially to people from developing countries. He said, earlier BAEC offered such training to personnels from Nepal and Vietnam and IAEA expert services to many other countries.



Retrenched journalists of The Telegraph brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding republication of the daily. They are accompanied by the BFUJ and DUJ leaders. — Star photo

What's on today . . .

Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti Greater

The 15th regular meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti Greater will be held today (Sunday) at 4:30 pm at the Officers Club, Baily Road.

Ln Gautam Saha, president of the club, will preside over the meeting.

New English School

A colourful cultural function will be held under the auspices of the New English School of Dhanmondi Satmasjid Road today (Sunday) at 10 am in the school premises on the occasion of 'Amar Ekushey'.

Golam Kibria, Director of Bangladesh Shishu Academy will attend the function as chief guest.

. . . and tomorrow

Lions Club of Dhaka Aristocrat

The regular fortnightly and Board meeting of Lions Club of Dhaka Aristocrat followed by a Iftar Party will be held tomorrow (Monday) at 4 pm at Rising Sun Chinese Restaurant, 13/A, New Eskaton Road, Magbazar.

Drawing exhibition at Jojon

A 13 day long drawing exhibition with the pieces of works of the renowned artists of the country, to mark the 41st anniversary of the Language Movement, will be inaugurated tomorrow (Monday) at 11:00 am at Jojon Contemporary Art Gallery.

The Jojon has arranged the exhibition and Prof Kabir Chowdhury will perform the opening.

The exhibition will remain open for all from 11 am to 3 pm and 7 pm to 8 pm everyday till March 5.

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

According to Met Office, slight rise in night temperature is expected over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 32.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar, and the lowest of 12 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

Sun sets today (Sunday) at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:28 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in the divisional towns yesterday are:

Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.0	17.2	58	35
Chittagong	31.0	17.1		
Rajshahi	29.6	12.0	69	30
Khulna	31.2	16.8	61	42
Barisal	29.8	17.4	43	43

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests

Bana Bhaban, Gulshan Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

Tender Memorandum No. 16/CCF/V.P.(FR.M.P)/93-94 Dated: 8-2-94

Tender Notice

Tenders are hereby invited from importers/agents/dealers/suppliers in sealed envelope for purchasing the goods mentioned in the short schedule below:

Short Schedule

Sl. No.	Name of Goods with Quantity	Short Description	Amount of Earnest Money	Place of Delivery	Time allowed for completion of the supply
1.	Pick-up-1 (One) No.	Completely new, Latest model 1500-4000 CC(Petrol/Diesel)/4WD 4-6 Cylinder, Single Front Cabin with 3 seats	2% of the quoted amount	Banabhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka	30 days from the date of issue of work order

Under Forest Resources Management Project (Forest Management Plan Component) as per detail schedule of requirement and specifications embodied in the relevant Tender Document.

Tenders will be received in the name of undersigned on 8-3-94 till 12:00 Noon at the office of the Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (General) and on the same day the tenders will be opened in the presence of tenderer (if any one remains present) at 12:30 PM.

Name of work, tender memorandum number and date have to be mentioned on the envelope while submitting the tender.

Details about the tender i.e. the Tender Document with schedule of requirement specification instructions general conditions etc. can be collected on payment of a non-refundable price of Taka 50/- only from the office of the undersigned up to 5-3-94 during office hours except Fridays and other Government Holidays.

Sayed Ali Ahmad
Asstt. Chief Conservator of Forests
for Chief Conservator of Forests
Bangladesh

DFP/G/2993-14/2
G-285

BEXIMCO PHARMACEUTICALS LTD

17 DHANMONDI R/A, ROAD NO. 2, DHAKA - 1205

PUBLIC NOTICE

"Consent of the Securities and Exchange Commission has been obtained to publish this Notice under the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969. It must be distinctly understood that in giving this consent the Commission does not take any responsibility for financial soundness of any offer or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinion expressed with regard to them."

This is for the information of the general public that the company has issued letter offering rights share on 1:1 basis on 16 February 1994 to its existing shareholders whose name appeared in the share register of the company as on the close of business on 15 February 1994 at the rate of Taka 1200/- per share that is at a premium of Taka 1100/- per share. The funds being raised through the rights issue will be utilised to finance the expansion of the Company's business. Details of the expansion plans as well as earnings and balance sheet forecasts are mentioned in the letter.

Shareholders not exercising their rights can sell their rights either in full or part as a stock option through the Dhaka Stock Exchange by renouncing their rights in favour of others in which case the Application Form II enclosed with the offer letter duly filled in by the shareholder renouncing his right and the person(s) in whose favour renouncement is made has to be deposited alongwith the share price of Taka 1200/- per share with the company's authorised bankers as per details mentioned in the offer letter latest by 26 February 1994.

The Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd has kindly confirmed that the stock option will be traded on the floor of the Stock Exchange and daily quotations will be published by the Stock Exchange until the closing date of 26 February 1994.

BEXIMCO PHARMA

MANUFACTURER OF QUALITY MEDICINES