

Dhaka Day by Day

In Search of Root of Language

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The Bangladesh did not accept any sudden, already established language or alphabets as their own.

Our *Barnamala* or alphabets, for which precious lives were lost in 1952, have a long cherished tradition.

To make common people understand and also to inform the new generation the language, Bangladesh National Museum has taken an initiative to display the origins of the language.

"This show was the brain-child of Wakilur Rahman, a Bangalee artist living in Germany and the museum's education division," informs Niru Shamshunnahar, education officer, National Museum.

"Every year we arrange children's hand writing competition, but this year because of Ramadan and school vacation, we had to change our programme agenda," she says. The show is being held from February 11th till February 25th. But whether as on unprecedented, unscheduled show or not, this change was an excellent choice. An unusual exhibition of the Bangla language, this helps us know our mother tongue better. History is always attractive and is able to arouse interest in people very easily.

Broheim script of Maurya era is said to be the main origin of Bangla language and a link

struct a sentence.

One of the main attractions of the show is a receipt. Two hundred and fifty years ago in Sylhet a big pond was excavated and the receipt shows its labour payment. Hand writing, numbers were clearly shown there. There were also few seals of government custom house.

Another impressive attraction was the 'Puthi' traditional folklore, tales, written in *Palan* leaves in clear handwriting.

There were writings on tree barks, wooden panels, and bronze house-hold utensils. An old *Nakshi Khatha* had sayings such as 'try and it will happen', in it. *Shital Pati* (a traditional leaf mat) had writings inscribed on it as well. Hand fans, pillow cases, old posters, calendars all show the wide use of Bangla alphabets from timeless eras.

Even in the cannon of *Isakha Bangla* script was present.

A page from 'A grammar of the Bengal language', a book authored by Hallhead and printed by Wilkins of the 1778 BC is also shown here. Even though written in English, the examples were in Bangla, which clearly shows the start of Bangla language in print. There were letters of Rabindranath, Nazrul, Ustad Alauddin Khan on display. A 1921 BC divorce letter was also on show.



A drawing and painting competition for children was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday as part of the month-long Amar Ekushey programmes. The Jatiya Press Club organised the competition. — Star photo.



between Bangla and Indo-European language can be traced too.

This *Broheim* script is found in the rock inscription at *Mohasthangarh* in Bangladesh—a third century work. This inscription is said to be the oldest antin in display at the show. A tiny 3.1/4 x 2.1/4 x 7/8 inches rock. It shows ancient inscriptions of ideals, religious order etc during the reign of Maurya King Ashok (273 to 236 BC).

Besides this, there are many old manuscripts written in *Tulot* (paper) ranging from 1615, 1664, 1769, 1866 century. Bangla language had its place firm in other places besides Bangladesh. The pictures and paintings had motifs in the shape of Bangla alphabets dating back as far as the king's assembly of Arakan around 15 to 17 *Shakabda* (earlier used as an Indian year).

The ancient certificate given by *Kachar King* in 1658 *Shakabda* i.e. 1736 BC, shows that Bangla was practised elsewhere too. Moreover the rock slab inscription of *sanskrit* language shows definite and final shape of Bangla alphabets 'র', 'খ', 'ক' which have remained upto the present age. This slab is a 1764 work. There are also one or two alphabets inscribed in bricks. These bricks were arranged in chronological order, to finally arrange or con-

Besides all these, a spectacular display of dictionaries were included. Among this was a dictionary of 1799 BC, the oldest ever. It was the main attraction.

Its half torn yellow pages clearly showed Bangla words along with English translation and English meaning, a Bangla to English dictionary. For example the word — (*oopjeebika*)—livelihood—was written in this format. An interesting point to be marked here is that the Bangla alphabets were not properly formed yet. *[OO]* did not look like what it does now.

The display arranged by Wakilur Rahman shows good taste and vivid imagination.

The show, even though arranged within 10 days had covered almost everything. A few items were part of the museum collection and some were personal contributions too.

A regular flow of 300 to 400 people visits the show, but according to museum officials the number would have been more, if it was not the month of Ramadan. There were also visitors from Calcutta the show.

"This spectacular exhibition of the museum is most probably the best Ekushey programme held in this month so far," feels a visitor at the museum.

DMP special drive : Arms seized

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on the seventh day of their special drive Saturday unearthed an illegal arms manufacturing workshop at Shethk Shaheb Bazar area in Lalbagh and seized some arms and ammunition from there.

reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information police raided the workshop located at 124 Sheikh Shaheb Bazar road and arrested five persons while they were making bombs and arms. Police also seized one revolver, two pipe guns, eight rounds of ammunition and a huge quantity of equipment used for manufacturing arms and bombs.

Later, on the confession of the arrested persons police made a late night swoop.

Bangladesh Tariff Commission
1st Government 12 Storied Building (9th Floor)
Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the internationally reputed computer manufacturer/their agents/authorised dealers and distributors in Bangladesh for supply and installation of two PCs, along with required cables and connectors, at Commission's premises as follows:

A. MINIMUM SYSTEM SPECIFICATION:

SL	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
HARDWARE		
1.	80486 DX Processor; 50 MHz Clock Speed; 8 MB RAM, expandable to 32 MB (SIMMs); 1X1.44 MB 3.5" and 1X1.2 MB 5.25" FDD; 1X210 MB HDD (IDE); 14" SVGA Color Monitor with tilt and swivel base; Parallel, Serial and Mouse ports; 101 key Extended Keyboard; Mouse (Microsoft compatible); Minimum three Expansion Slots; etc.	2 units
2.	Wide-Carriage Dot-Matrix Printer (Epson LQ-1170 or compatible)	2 units
3.	500 VA UPS	2 units
4.	1 KVA Voltage Stabilizes	2 units
SOFTWARE		
5.	DOS 6.0 or later	2 units
6.	Windows 3.1 or later	2 units
7.	Bangla Software (fonts) for Windows	1 unit
ACCESSORIES		
8.	Dust Covers for each hardware items	2 pcs
9.	1.44 MB 3.5" Floppy Disks	5 boxes
10.	Printer Ribbon (for the quoted printer)	8 pcs
11.	2120 Data Cartridge Tapes	8 pcs

B. Bidders must enclose Payment Order/Bank Draft equivalent to 2.5% of the quoted price as Earnest Money (refundable) from any Scheduled Bank in Bangladesh with the offer favouring "Bangladesh Tariff Commission, Agrani Bank, Curzon Hall Branch, Dhaka." Offer without Earnest Money will be rejected and will disqualify the entire bid.

C. There must be warranty for spares and services for a period of at least three years from the date of commission of the computer systems.

D. The bidders should be in a position to supply and install all hardware and software immediately after issuing work order by the Commission.

E. Tenders must be submitted in sealed envelopes in the tender box to be kept at Commission's Administrative Division (11th Floor) on March 10, 1994 within 12 Noon, after which no tender will be accepted.

F. All tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:15 Noon in presence of Bidders (if any).

G. Commission will not be bound to accept the lowest tender and will reserve the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Nurul Islam
Secretary
Bangladesh Tariff Commission

Traders bodies assurance Prices of essentials won't rise further

Representatives of different traders associations in the city yesterday assured that prices of essentials will not rise further, rather these will come down within two or three days, reports UNB.

The assurance came during a meeting which reviewed the prices of essentials during the month of Ramadan.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam chaired the meeting held at the Commerce Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Mahbubur Rahman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President A T M Wazullah and representatives of traders' associations on various essential commodities like rice, edible oil, pulses, dry chilies and other agro-products.

Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim, Food Secretary Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and senior officials of concerned ministries and departments were also present.

The Commerce Minister pointed out that a meeting on demand, supply and prices of essentials was held on February 2 where the traders had assured to keep the prices reasonable and within the buying capacity of commonman during the holy month of Ramadan.

Unfortunately, prices of most of the essentials have shot up with the beginning to Ramadan, he regretted. "This has frustrated the commonman."

The minister said price rise of almost all the essential commodities was reported by the monitoring cell, established in the Commerce Ministry and in all divisional headquarters to keep a close watch on the price situation during the month of Ramadan.

On problems faced by traders in respect of transportation, ferry service and other related matters, the Commerce Minister assured them of all possible cooperation to remove the bottlenecks.

The meeting was informed by a Food Department representative that to keep the price of rice stable, open market sale (OMS) started in Dhaka from yesterday.

Edible oil producers' representatives assured the meeting that prices of different varieties of edible oil would come down within next few days as sufficient stock of oil has been released in the market. They said open sale of edible oil at nine different points in the city has also been arranged.

On increased price of powdered milk, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) Chairman N W S Khandaker informed that the corporation had taken steps to sale powdered milk through delivery vans.

The Commerce Minister advised the TCB to sale powdered milk through trucks at more public places.

BTB
Monday

4:30 Opening announcement
Al-Quran Programme summary

4:45 Children's programme on *Amar Ekushey: Amar Barnamala*

5:10 News in Bangla

5:35 Mahe Ramadan

6:15 *Ekusher Shabdabali*

6:45 *Shimul Polasher Gaan: Patriotic songs*

8:00 News in Bangla

8:30 Special drama on *Amar Ekushey: Kankoner Apon Eshon*

10:00 News in English

10:30 *Bhasha Shastrik Magazine*

11:15 *Khabar/The News*

11:25 Tomorrow's programme summary

11:30 Closing

Chief of the air staff Air Vice-Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury left Dhaka yesterday for Singapore to witness Asian Aerospace Exhibition '94, reports BSS.

He is leading a four-member delegation.

During his stay there Air Vice-Marshal will call on his Singaporean counterpart Brigadier General Bey Soo Khang. The show will also provide him an opportunity to meet with the chiefs of staff of the air forces of different countries of the region.

He is expected to return on February 27.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with clear sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh.

Met Office forecasts night temperature may remain unchanged over the country.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:27 am.

Country's highest temperature of 32.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and lowest of 8.4 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some 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	30.0	13.0	31	42
Chittagong	30.4	15.2	60	45
Rajshahi	29.5	10.6	63	55
Khulna	31.2	14.0	60	58
Barisal	30.5	13.5	80	53
Cox's Bazar	31.0	17.0	43	63
Sylhet	28.5	14.0	58	35
Dinajpur	27.5	11.5	81	44

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NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

Further to our Notices dated January 25, 1994 and February 20, 1994 the valued Shareholders of the Company are hereby informed that letters offering Rights Issue of Shares have been despatched on the 16th February, 1994 by special Courier Service.

The Shareholders who have not yet received the above mentioned letter may collect the same from the Share Department of the Company in the office hour (9 am to 4 pm) on all working days upto February 24, 1994.

The last date for accepting the offer and making payment to the Company's designated Bank is February 26, 1994.

Sd/-
B. K. NATH
Company Secretary

Dated : February 20, 1994

BEXIMCO PHARMA

MANUFACTURER OF QUALITY MEDICINES

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NOTICE OF THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of SHINE PUKUR JUTE SPINNERS LTD. will be held on Monday the 28th March 1994 at 3:00 P.M. in the Ball Room of Sonargaon Hotel, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka to transact the following business :

AGENDA

1. To confirm the proceedings of the Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Company held on 31st March, 1993.
2. To confirm the proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting held on the 31st March, 1993.
3. To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Accounts for the year 1992-93 and for the six months ended on 31st December 1993 together with reports of the Auditors and the Directors thereon.
4. To elect Directors.
5. To declare dividend.
6. To appoint Auditors for the year 1994 and to fix their remuneration.
7. To transact any other business of the Company with the permission of the chair.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Sd/-
B. K. NATH
Company Secretary

Dated : February 20, 1994

NOTES :

- i) The Register of the Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Saturday the 5th March 1994 to Monday the 28th March 1994 (both days inclusive). During that period no share transfer will be effected.
- ii) A member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. Such proxy shall be a member of the Company. The proxy form must be affixed with revenue stamp of Tk. 5.00 and should be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not later than 72 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- iii) Members are requested to notify change of address, if any, to the Company in writing.

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