

Dhaka Day by Day

The Magical Appeal

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

No matter how sceptical we get with age, our fascination for magic never wears off. It is for this reason that names like Houdini and David Copperfield never fail to fill us with awe and wonder. How did he do it? — is the constant question after watching remarkable acts like elevated women, objects that float on air or steel knives that go through bodies without spilling a drop of blood. For 21-year-old Subrata Biswas it is this wonderful world of magic that has captured his heart and made him contemplate to taking up magic as a profession.

Subrata, an Honours student of Accountancy at B M College in Barisal, has performed both at home and abroad and has already made his mark as a talented magician. He has performed in several SAARC magic festivals, including one in Calcutta in 1988 and another in 1993 in Delhi. He has also attended a conference on magic in Singapore to exchange views with other foreign magicians. Apart from performing regularly in Barisal, Subrata has done shows at Shilpa Academy, Shilpa Kala Academy and appeared on BTV about four times.

His acts include 'The Floating Lady' where he elevates a woman off a table and keeps her in midair; 'Illusion box' where he is handcuffed, put in a sack and into a locked box and out of which he emerges within one minute; a tongue separation act in which he severs the tongue of a hypnotised woman; and 'The floating zombie' where a round ball floats up and down in the air all by itself.

In addition to this, Subrata has also started a unique project in his hometown Barisal. "I find that most children in our country do not like to study and so I want to develop a project to give teachers basic lessons in magic so that they can incorporate them into their regular teaching methods," says Subrata. "This will create a greater interest amongst children to learn," he adds.

With this objective in mind Subrata has established his own Jadu Academy in 1988 which has so far about 10 students. They include school teachers and doctors who can use their magic tricks to cheer up their patients and make them more cooperative.

Subrata's interest in magic started when he saw an advertisement in a Bangla daily, announcing Jewel Aich's incredible performances. From then on Subrata began to read as many books on magic as he could get hold on and got his first initiation through a boy called Shaheen in Barisal. In 1980, Subrata then only 7 years old performed his first show

at a Bigyan Mela (Science Fair) in Barisal. Since then he has become a performer and an avid student of magic with Jewel Aich and David Copperfield as role models.

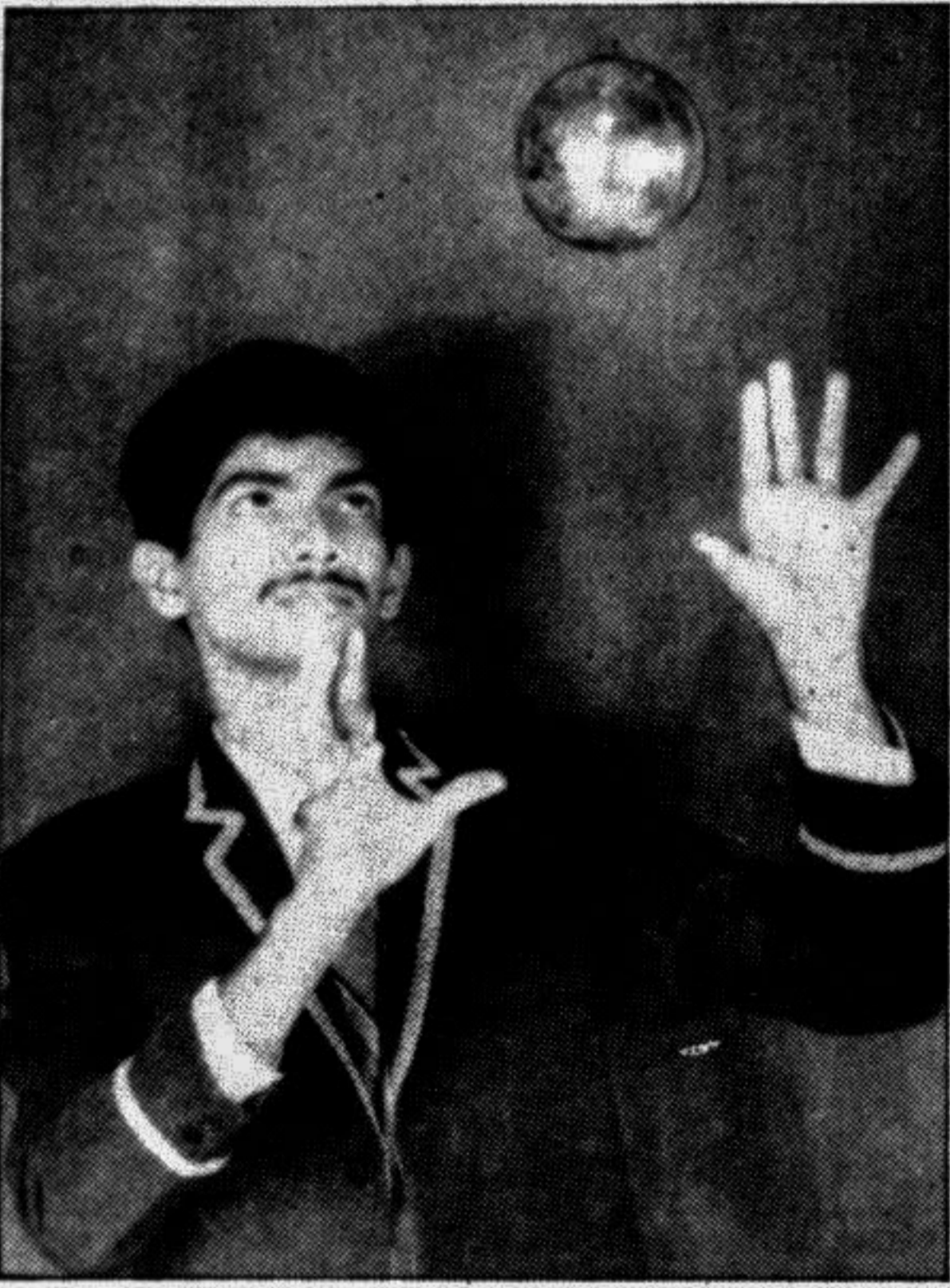
Subrata who is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians the world's biggest organisation for magicians, says that magic is a superb science, a phenomenon that is one step ahead of conventional science. "Many people who perform magic claim to have supernatural powers, to those I would like to say that if they can prove it I will give them one lakh taka," says Subrata. Magic, according to him, is an art that requires concentration, practice and extensive studying.

Subrata admits however, that taking up magic professionally is not very easy in this country. Apart from the obvious financial limitations, magicians have very few resources to learn the art. "In Bangladesh we do not have a fixed place to practise or a library where we can learn more on the subject," says Subrata. Most magicians in Bangladesh, therefore can do only conventional magic tricks that are not enough to allow them to participate in international contests.

Another problem that serious magicians like Subrata face is getting a visa to go to various international conventions where new ideas can be obtained. "In the last few years," says Subrata, many Bangladeshi magicians have gone to the IBM conventions and not come back, so now embassies have stopped giving visas. Subrata has been asked to participate in this year's IBM convention where he will be able to compete with hundreds of magicians from all over the world.

He hopes that the embassy concerned will grant him the visa. Subrata is also busy making plans for the future. He wishes to finish his Masters and then go abroad to study magic. After this he wishes to come back to Bangladesh and become a professional magician. "Most magicians in Bangladesh," says Subrata, try to copy Jewel Aich. I would like to offer something new." Subrata says he wants to introduce comedy into his acts so that people will take more interest in his performance.

In the meantime, Subrata has two tricks up his sleeves that he promises, will make his mark in the realm of magic. One of them is the "Buriganga Escape Illusion" a kind of Houdini act where Subrata will be locked in a box, immersed into the Buriganga from which he will come out in 5 seconds. As for the second act it is to make Bjoy Sharani and the Sangsad Bhaban disappear for one entire day! Now, if that's not magic, what is?



Performing the 'Floating Zombie' act in Barisal



Visitors at a clothe show at the auditorium of Alliance Francaise. The show 'Karuj Eid Collection-II' was opened yesterday by internationally famous Bangladeshi model-cum-designer Bibi. —Star photo

Land Reform Survey Assoc team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed the need for modernisation of land survey system to ensure benefit for all, reports UNB.

It's necessary to survey the lands with skilled manpower and provide training facilities to the staff to build an efficient survey mechanism, the President said while talking to a 10-member delegation of Bangladesh Land Reform, Survey and Settlement Employees Federation which called on him at Bangabhaban.

The delegation discussed with the President different issues, including introduction of an accountable survey system, land survey in Barisal, Khulna, Jessore, Noakhali, Sylhet and Faridpur districts, and modernisation of the printing of record and maps of the land.

President Biswas gave them a patient hearing and assured them to look into the matters. Everyone has his own duties and responsibilities of make its objective a success, the President said.

Karuj dress show begins

By Staff Correspondent

It is a venture of three young men to uphold the local fabrics tinged with local colour and culture.

These fashion-designer trio formed Karuj with an aim to market local products keeping the prices within the reach of middle class buyers.

The third exhibition of Karuj, at the Alliance Francaise yesterday noon, was inaugurated by internationally renowned model and fashion designer Bibi.

The third ever exhibition by Karuj had 257 different items, including panjabis, T-shirts, on sale. The male panjabis on screen and block print cost Taka 350 to 650 while the cost of female dresses range from Tk 800 to 3,000.

"Even using local fabrics and accessories you can make standard product," remarked Kawsar Mahmud, designer and member of the Karuj team. "All you need is just a bit of imagination," he added. The other two members of Karuj are: Sharukh Amin Tinku and Zahir Hossain.

The exhibition ends tomorrow (Friday).

Biswas, Khaleda greet King of Morocco

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated the King of Morocco, Hasan II, on the occasion of his national day, reports UNB.

In a message, President Biswas hoped that the existing relations between the two countries would further be strengthened in the years to come.

He also wished him long life, good health and happiness and the people of the Kingdom continued peace, progress and prosperity.

In a separate message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia greeted King Hasan-II of Morocco on the occasion of his National Day.

In the message Begum Zia expressed hope that the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened in the coming years.

She wished the Moroccan King personal well-being and his people continued peace, progress and prosperity.

Mahathero's death condolod

Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali has expressed deep sorrow and profound grief at the death of the vice-chairman, Buddhist Religions Welfare Trust and the high priest of Dhaka Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery Mohasanganayaka Bisudhananda Mahathero, reports BSS.

In a condolence message he said that the late Mahathero in his life time did a lot for the socio-economic development and religious welfare in Bangladesh.

DP Barua, Managing Director and Chief Editor of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) described venerable Mahasanganayaka Bisudhananda Mahathero an outstanding Buddhist religious personality of the present century, reports BSS.

Condoling his death, Barua, one-time close associate of the late Mahathero having worked with him for more than 20 years in the 'Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha' until 1970 and as the secretary general for 10 years paid tributes to his memory.

BPC condemns Hebron carnage

Bangladesh Peace Council (BPC) yesterday strongly condemned the criminal act of genocide at Hebron by the cruel Zionist killers and the brutal suppression of Palestinian protestors in occupied Gaza and West Bank by the Israeli army, reports BSS.

In a statement in the city yesterday the BPC secretary general Ali Aksad expressed his sympathy with the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of the departed souls.

Ali Aksad observed that the Hebron massacre and subsequent developments in the occupied territories of Palestine had already seriously endangered the ongoing Middle-East peace process.

Vigilante body formed in Dhanmandi

By Staff Correspondent

The residents of Dhanmandi yesterday formally launched an organisation for the welfare of the people living in the area.

The Dhanmandi Residents Association for Welfare (DRAW) and its sister organisation the United Security Force (PTE) Ltd were announced at a meeting at the Mahanagar Community Centre at Dhanmandi yesterday evening. A retired Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Azam Harun Khan initiated the move to form the organisation.



Thursdays

4:30	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
4:45	Esho Gan Shikhi
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Special programme on the National Day of Morocco
5:40	Mahe Ramadan
6:20	Avinandan
7:05	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Drama of the week: Shamachar Ei
10:00	News in English
10:35	Mini series: Joe Wilson
11:15	Khabar/The News
11:25	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:30	Closing

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, 18-DTP Nilphamari Division, Nilphamari Tender Notice

Separate sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the DPHE enlisted "C" Category Contractors renewed/enlisted for the year 1993-94 for the works mentioned below at different Pourashava under 18-Dist. Town Water Supply, Sanitation and Drainage Project of DPHE, assisted by the Dutch Govt.

Sl No	Description of work	Estimated Cost (In Tk)	Cost of T. D. C.	Earnest money 2% E. C. (In Tk)	Time of completion	Fund
1.	Construction of PWSS Office building at Joypurhat Sub-Division during the year 1993-94	3,12,262/=	400/=	6,250/=	60 days	RPA
2.	—do— at Lalmanirhat Sub-Divn.	3,12,262/=	400/=	6,250/=	60 "	"
3.	—do— at Thakurgaon Sub-Divn	3,12,262/=	400/=	6,250/=	60 "	"

The tender documents will be available for all works for selling on all working days during the office hours on requisite payment (Non-refundable) upto 8.3.94 from the office of the undersigned and Sub-Divisional Engineer, DPHE, 18-DTP, Joypurhat, Lalmanirhat and Thakurgaon for the works of their respective Sub-Division. The tenders will be received simultaneously by the office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, 18-DTP, Nilphamari Division, Nilphamari for all works and tender for Joypurhat & Lalmanirhat Sub-Division will be received mutually by the office of the Sub-Divisional Engineer, DPHE, 18-DTP, Joypurhat & Lalmanirhat Sub-Division and Tender for Thakurgaon Sub-Division will be received by the office of the Sub-Divisional Engineer, DPHE, 18-DTP at Thakurgaon & Joypurhat Sub-Division upto 1.00 PM on 9.3.94. All sealed tenders will be opened at the office of the undersigned at 12.00 Noon on 10.3.94 in presence of the tenderers or their representatives happened to be present at the time of opening tenders.

Other information and terms and conditions will be available in the tender documents. No tender document will be sold on the date fixed for receiving tender.

Md Afaz Uddin Khan

Executive Engineer, DPHE, 18-DTP, Nilphamari Division, Nilphamari, Telephone : 554

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur over the regions of Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh and Sylhet and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Met Office forecasts, slight rise in day temperature is likely over the country.

The highest temperature of the country Wednesday 31.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rangamat and the lowest 10.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Mymensingh.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:02 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:18 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative 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	29.6	14.0	35	34
Chittagong	30.0	17.5	73	77
Rajshahi	28.5	10.8	63	42
Khulna	31.0	16.1	42	49
Barisal	29.5	17.4	66	49
Cox's Bazar	30.0	17.6	72	83
Dinajpur	27.9	11.2	64	61
Sylhet	30.0	16.0	66	40



FINANCE MANAGER WANTED

ACI requires a Finance Manager to take responsibility of the Finance and Accounting functions of the Company.

The applicant should be a qualified Chartered Accountant with previous experience in handling similar jobs in a senior position.

This is a senior management appointment and the Company offers an excellent compensation package.

Please apply with your curriculum vitae to the Managing Director, P.O. Box No. 7218 by 15 March 1994. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Standard Chartered

SITUATION VACANT

Standard Chartered Bank is seeking qualified candidate to fill the position of:

HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Requirements:

The candidate will have the responsibility to develop and implement proper internal controls, consistent with our Group standards and best practices in the profession. The selected person will also manage the Internal Control team in Bangladesh.

Candidates must be Chartered Accountants with at least five years experience in Accounting/Audit preferably in a computerised banking environment. Strong analytical abilities in assessing audit results will be essential. As the emphasis will be on quality assurance and constant improvements at the workplace with customer focus, a good understanding of the techniques and some experience in O&M will be a definite advantage.

The Bank offers career opportunities and an attractive remuneration package, extensive training and growth opportunities. If you meet the above requirements, please send your application giving full particulars with contact telephone number latest by March 12, 1994 to the Head of Human Resources, Standard Chartered Bank, Alico Building, 1/floor, 18-20 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka - 1000.



Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd

(A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)

Phones : 232200, 232172, 258462, 812135-42

Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Procurement of Gas Pipeline Materials & Equipment Under Cash Foreign Exchange

Date of Issuance of IFB : 3rd March, 1994

1. Sealed Bids are invited from the bonafide manufacturers or their authorised agents for supply of Gas Pipeline Materials/Equipments as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange.

Sl No	IFB No	Description of Materials	Cost of Tender Document	Bid Closing Date
1.	PD 2312/363-T&P	Polyethylene Tape & Primer	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	04 April '94
2.	PD 2312/363-REG	Gas Pressure Regulator & Relief Valve	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	04 April '94
3.	PD 2312/363-PV	Plug Valves	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	04 April '94
4.	PD 2312/363-M	Gas Meters	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	04 April '94
5.	PD 2312/363-BV	Ball Valves	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	05 April '94
6.	PD 2312/363-FIT (BW)	Butt Welding Fittings	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	05 April '94
7.	PD 2312/363-FIT (SCR)	Screwed Fittings	Tk 400.00 or US\$ 10.00	05 April '94
8.	PD 2312/363-FLANGE	Weldneck & Blind Flange	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	06 April '94
9.	PD 2312/363-GASKET	Gaskets	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	06 April '94
10.	PD 2312/363-TEE (RTNDR)	Flange Tee, Valve Tee & Service Tee	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	06 April '94
11.	PD 2312/363-ISOTOPE	Radiography Isotope	Tk 400.00 or US\$ 10.00	06 April '94
12.	PD 2312/363-CP	Equipment & Materials for Cathodic Protection System: Corrosion Voltmeter, Multimeter, Soil Resistivity Meter, Insulating Flange Tester, Copper Sulfate, Cad-weld Mould etc	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	07 April '94
13.	PD 2312/363-MISC	Leak Repair Clamp, Compression Coupling, Gas Bag, Gas Detector & Oxygen Detector	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	07 April '94
14.	PD 2312/363-TELE	Telecommunication Equipment	Tk 750.00 or US\$ 19.00	07 April '94

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:

Manager (Purchase), Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Telex : 642689 TGNC BJ. Fax : 880-2-813031. Phone : 323587

3. Tender documents may be purchased by any interested bidder or their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of respective documents from Accounts Department of this Company at the above address from 09:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs on all working days with effect from 7th March, 1994. No document will be sold on the bid closing date. Tender document for IFB No PD 2312/363-TEE (RTNDR) will be supplied free of cost to those bidders who purchased the earlier Tender Document No PD 2312/362-TEE dt 25-9-93.

4. All bids accompanied by a bid security for 2% of bid amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank located in Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled Bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank, duly endorsed by a Scheduled Bank in Bangladesh must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Ltd at the above address on or before 11:00 hrs of the closing dates of the respective IFB. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11:15 hrs in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday bids shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.

5. The Company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

"গাছ লাগান; বাছের পরিচর্যা করান এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান"-প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Titas/PR-147(93-94) D-159

Manager (Purchase)