

## Dhaka Day by Day

### A Philosophical Bend

by Rafiq Hasan

If you invite someone to a philosophical discussion, there is every possibility that he will not appear. Because most of the people are afraid of the intricate journey into the maze of thoughts and the shades of language. Yet, in Dhaka, some 35 young people gather every Thursday afternoon at Rina Dale on 22/2 Free School Street just to enlighten themselves with philosophical discourses.

Dr Liakat Ali, a man with thin hair and black beard conducts this philosophical class. Sitting on a carpet in a rectangular room, the participants talk, laugh and make illuminating arguments in an extremely relaxed atmosphere.



Philosophical circle in session.

Dr Ali, now a principal research officer at BIRDEM, also has an active interest in literature, art and social sciences. He had started the circle with a small group at the end of 1990. And it was a long and hard journey over the past few years. Most of the members of the first batch dropped, except only seven dedicated boys, who are now in their final year of studies in different disciplines of Dhaka University.

Starting from Thales and other pre-Socratic philosophers, the sessions have been conducted through Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Alexandrian civilization, ancient India, ancient China, and Muslim philosophers like Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, and Ibn Rashed. Finally the quest concentrates on the twentieth century ideas, Marx, Lenin, Russell etc.

A second batch with about 20 members,

starting in 1992, is now discussing the philosophy of Ibn Khaldun. The number of drop-outs in the second batch is significant. The third batch with about 40 members have started a new circle in March 1994.

Talking to the Daily Star Dr Liakat Ali said, "philosophy is so critical because of its traditional approaches, which are full of random speculations, logical tricks and obscure metaphoric and picture languages. So general people do not understand it." He is in favour of a scientific approach to philosophy which is, according to him, as powerful as science.

Dr Liakat Ali also gave an outline of his fu-

ture plans. He said that he had already formed an organization called Dhaka Philosophical Club. With this club he wants to establish a public library, where philosophical books, journals and magazines will be available for readers. He also wants to translate into Bangla the major works of the world's great philosophers. Rather than feeding any particular doctrine the objective of the club is to equip a person to the extent that he can judge by himself the writings of philosophers.

Apart from a small caution money against books taken home, the participation in the study circle is absolutely free. The only real necessity of the circle is that one must read the subject and participate in the discussion regularly, otherwise one will soon become a misfit.

### Govt to ensure proper use of technology: Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda said in the city yesterday that the present government was committed to the socio-economic development of the people by ensuring proper use of science and technology, reports BSS.

The information minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on "technology in literature and journalism" organised by the Institute of Diploma Engineers.

Eminent educationist Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin and journalist Rukunuddin were given gold medals of the Institute of the Diploma Engineers in recognition of their significant contribution.

### Weather

#### Thundershower likely

Moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur in most places over the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said moderately heavy to heavy fall may also occur at places over Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali and Khulna divisions during the period.

It said the day temperature may fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius throughout the country.

The Sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.11 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.6	26.8	82	85
Chittagong	29	25	86	92
Rajshahi	32.8	26.1	100	83
Khulna	32.4	26	82	92
Barisal	31.6	25.8	93	82

### Nat'l plantation drive

#### Biswas plants Nageswar sapling

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday planted a Nageswar sapling at the premises of Bangabhaban on the occasion of the national plantation drive, reports UNB.

Speaking on the occasion, President Biswas called upon all to plant more trees to protect the environment from pollution and increase the country's forest resources.

"The lost glory of the country, which was once known as a green land, can be restored by unitedly planting more trees in the homesteads and alongside roads," the President said.

Later, President Biswas offered munajat wishing the success of the plantation programme.

Secretary to the President Ataul Haq, Military Secretary Major General Gholam Mowla, senior officials and staff of the President's office and officials of the Environment and Forest Ministry were present on the occasion.

#### 136 textile units registered in five months

A total of 136 industrial units in various sub-sectors of the textile industries were registered during the last five months of the current year with an investment of Tk 109.22 crore, reports UNB.

Some 23,491 people have also got employment opportunities following the new registration.

This was informed at the 32nd parliamentary standing committee meeting of the Ministry of Textiles at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan presided.

The meeting reviewed various development activities of BTMC and the Department of Textiles, including import of cotton from abroad, official sources said.

It also underlined the need for import of quality cotton to feed the BTMC mills. The State Minister directed the authorities concerned to take steps to reduce loss of the mills.

The committee members who attended the meeting are Sahidullah Khan, Serajul Islam, Abdul Al Mrida of BNP, Shajahan Seraj of JSD and A M Riayat Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami.

#### Four killed in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents in the city and on the Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

Two elderly persons, a man and a woman, who could not be identified, were killed when a truck collided with a night coach, coming from Rajshahi, at Savar on the highway around 3 am yesterday. Both the persons died on the spot.

Babul, 30, was knocked down by a pick-up van at Kakrail at about 6:30 in the morning and died on the spot.

In another incident, Hanif, 30, who was travelling hanging on the door of a minibus, slipped from the running vehicle and smashed under its wheels near the Eden Women's University College at about 5 pm.

All the four bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue.

#### Phensidyl worth Tk 1 lakh recovered

Phensidyl syrup worth about Taka one lakh was recovered from a night-coach at Amin Bazar area on Dhaka-Aricha highway in the early hours yesterday, police said, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, police raided the Dhaka bound bus coming from Rajshahi at 4:30 am and recovered the contraband item.

Police also arrested one Magsudur Rahman, a bus passenger in this connection.

**বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন BTV**

Thursday

4:30 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran Programme summary

4:45 Children's programme  
Rum Jhum

5:10 News in Bangla  
National Television School Debate Competition

5:20 Mass Education Programme  
Esho Para Shikhi

6:05 Jiboner Alo

6:30 Nazrul songs

7:15 News in Bangla

8:00 Drama of the week

10:00 News in English

10:30 Mini series: Melba

11:30 Khabar/The News

11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary

11:45 Closing



The Sanjukta Karmachari Parishad of the Bangladesh Secretariat held a protest rally inside the secretariat building in the city yesterday to press home its nine-point demands.

— Star photo

### What's on today . . .

**Seminar:** The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry has organised a seminar on "Bangladesh: From Stabilisation to Growth." Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00 am.

**IBA:** 24th MBA graduation ceremony to be held. Chief guest: Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka. Guest of Honour: Elmi Watanabe, Resident Representative, UNDP. Venue: IBA auditorium. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** Bangla-Russian Film session is going on. Film: Vyborg District. Director: G Kozintsev. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 6:00 pm.

**Centre for Urban Studies:** Has organised a two-day subregional workshop on "Urban Governance in Developing Countries: Bangladesh and Pakistan". Urban specialists from Pakistan, the Philippines, Canada and Bangladesh will participate in the workshop. Venue: Hotel Abakash. Time: 9 am

**Cezanne Art School:** A four-day long art exhibition will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm everyday.

**Bangla Academy:** Has organised a condolence meeting in memory of centenarian journalist Mohammad Nasiruddin. Venue: Bangla Academy seminar Room. Time: 11:00 am.

**Kranti Shilpi Goshthi:** Will hold a get-together to mark its 27th founding anniversary. Venue: TSC of Dhaka University. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Commonwealth Student Organisation:** will hold Eid re-union. Chief guest: Malaysian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Ahmad Fuzi Bin Haji Abdul Razak. Venue: TSC of Dhaka University. Time: 5:00 pm.

### BCSIR advisory council meet held

A meeting of the advisory council of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) held at BCSIR conference room in the city yesterday suggested considering research projects in the light of open market economy, reports BSS.

Presiding over the meeting, State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan said it is the time to think anew for rebuilding the research programmes of BCSIR in the light of open market economy and create a congenial atmosphere where the young scientists can plan their future career.

The meeting was informed that due to stoppage of higher studies programme (PhD) of BCSIR scientists after independence, a vacuum had already been created in competent manpower for planning and guiding research activities.

The meeting felt the need for creating a special fund for higher studies abroad of the BCSIR scientists.

The meeting reviewed the past activities of BCSIR and made some recommendations for further improvement in future.

The meeting was attended by the president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman, Prof Iqbal Mahmood of Engineering University, Prof S N Nabi of Dhaka University, Secretary of the Science Ministry Anwarul Islam, Chairman of BCSIR Dr M Waliuzzaman and Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) M A Quyum.

This was the second meeting of the advisory council formed in 1978. The first meeting was held in 1987, but no document or proceedings of the meeting was available with the authority. The advisory council is supposed to meet at least once in a year.

Dr Waliuzzaman informed the meeting that so far 31 project based on their research outcome, including the project for production of paper pulp from jute had been leased out to the entrepreneurs and most of them went into industrial production. He said another 24 projects were ready for leasing.

### Missing JU student found dead, buried

By JU Correspondent

The body of the missing student of the Jahangirnagar University which was recovered from Amtali Char of Sonatali thana under Bogra district Monday was buried in Savar yesterday.

The body was brought to the campus from the Fulchhari thana under Bogra district at about 1:00 am Tuesday.

Later on, the body was taken to the Savar Radio Colony residence of the deceased where he was buried at about 7 am yesterday.

Gulam Mohammad Sarwar, a student of the Geography Department had been missing from June 7 following a clash between some JU students and the transport workers at the Fulchhari ferry ghat.

Sarwar was returning from Dinajpur along with his classmates and three teachers after a study tour. At least 18 students were injured in the incident.

The fellow students upon their return to the campus alleged that Sarwar was abducted and killed by the transport workers.

According to police source, Sarwar's body was found near Amtali Char June 10.

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### NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (NEMAP)

#### REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR OPINION ON ENVIRONMENT, ITS PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The Government of Bangladesh through the Ministry of Environment and Forest has started a process of people's consultations for developing a comprehensive National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP). The effort is being carried out in partnership between the Ministry of Environment and the NGOs, with financial assistance from UNDP.

The Government encourages the people to give their opinion as to what are the important environment issues and also what they feel should be done about them.

Therefore you are kindly requested to fill the following questionnaire (on a separate sheet of paper; only one issue per questionnaire) and send it to the following address (before 25 June 1994):

National Environmental Management Action Plan (NEMAP)  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Room 1305, Building No 6  
Bangladesh Secretariate  
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

You may send as many questionnaires as you feel necessary to highlight the various environmental issues in our country (but kindly one issue per questionnaire).

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Which is the most important environmental problem, you think?
2. How can it be solved?
3. What is your own responsibility regarding this problem?
4. What should be the community's/local government's responsibility for this?
5. What do you think is the national government's responsibility regarding this problem?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Profession: \_\_\_\_\_  
Village: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thana: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post office: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_

COURTESY: UNDP