

Dhaka Day by Day

Bangladesh Waits for the Giant Leap

by Raffat Binte Rashid

"Bring me the moon." It might sound silly, but it is not an unlikely wish. After all, twenty-five years ago man, or earthling to be precise, landed on the surface of, yes, that dream land — "moon".

This "giant leap for mankind," as described by Neil Armstrong, the man who in flesh and blood visited the lunar surface is an event to be celebrated and rejoiced over.

Nothing is quite impossible for man now. Sitting so many million light years away from that icy planet Jupiter, man can actually predict and see too, what goes on and within its atmosphere. Truly, amazing are his capabilities and achievements.

Today, throughout the globe people are saluting and at the same time basking in their own victory, their own divine discovery of the celestial world. Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) has also taken a (July 1 to 31) month-long initiative to celebrate the 25th moon landing anniversary.

The 21st of July, 1969 is the day of the first step of man on the lunar surface. That was the day of a giant leap towards accepting a greater challenge of conquering the unknown universe, explains Md Mas-hu-rul Amin, General Secretary of BAA.

"We remember the historic mission of Apollo-11 that reached out and touched the moon," he says. Bangladesh Astronomical Association is a society of amateur scientists and astronomers who are working relentlessly to create awareness among general people about the immense progress that has been made in the field of space exploration, science and technology.

Space is always a mystery and a field of great interest to ordinary people. They are genuinely interested to see for example the collision of Shoemaker-Levy with Jupiter or more common Halley's Comet or even the "evening star" or Venus.

To feed the hungry minds of these people Bangladesh has never taken any effort, our month-long celebration is just a small initiative to inform them with the latest news on "Space: The Next Frontier", says Amin enthusiastically.

Their programmes included a workshop on astronomy, inter college science quiz competition and a space science exhibition and observation of Jupiter. They have also arranged a seminar on the crash of Shoemaker-Levy 9 on Jupiter and a lecture series by Prof Md Abdul Jabbar.

"Besides all these we also awarded Dr A R Khan, for his outstanding contribution in the field of astronomy in Bangladesh, with our 'Bruno-Padak 1992', he reports. Their 'Bruno-Padak' signifies truth and is named after Italian philosopher-astronomer, mathematician and occultist Bruno Giordano.

"His theories anticipated modern science, he rejected the traditional geocentric (earth-

centred) astronomy and maintained Copernican heliocentric (sun-centred) theory. For this he suffered a tragic end. He was burned to death by the Church that differed with him," explains Amin. "In our land truth is always at a risk, and a life threat too," he emphasises.

BAA, which has a total of 350 members now, is also thinking seriously to establish a "Space Complex" in Bangladesh, which will include a planetarium, an observatory and exhibition room, a library and a seminar room. "This huge task is not possible alone by our small association. For our project we are definitely asking for funds and sponsorship," he says. They are to request the government also to help their cause. "But if the government wants to do it on its own, we would surely welcome its plan and would help if asked. All we want is this complex to work out, any how," he says with a determined look.

"If we cannot avail of any sponsorship then the members would slowly do it," says a member of BAA, Tubaisi Rubab Matin, a first year student of architecture. "We are pretty sure about our success," she stresses. The re-print of Tara Parichit, an important book on stars by Prof Md Abdul Jabbar, is acting as their will power here.

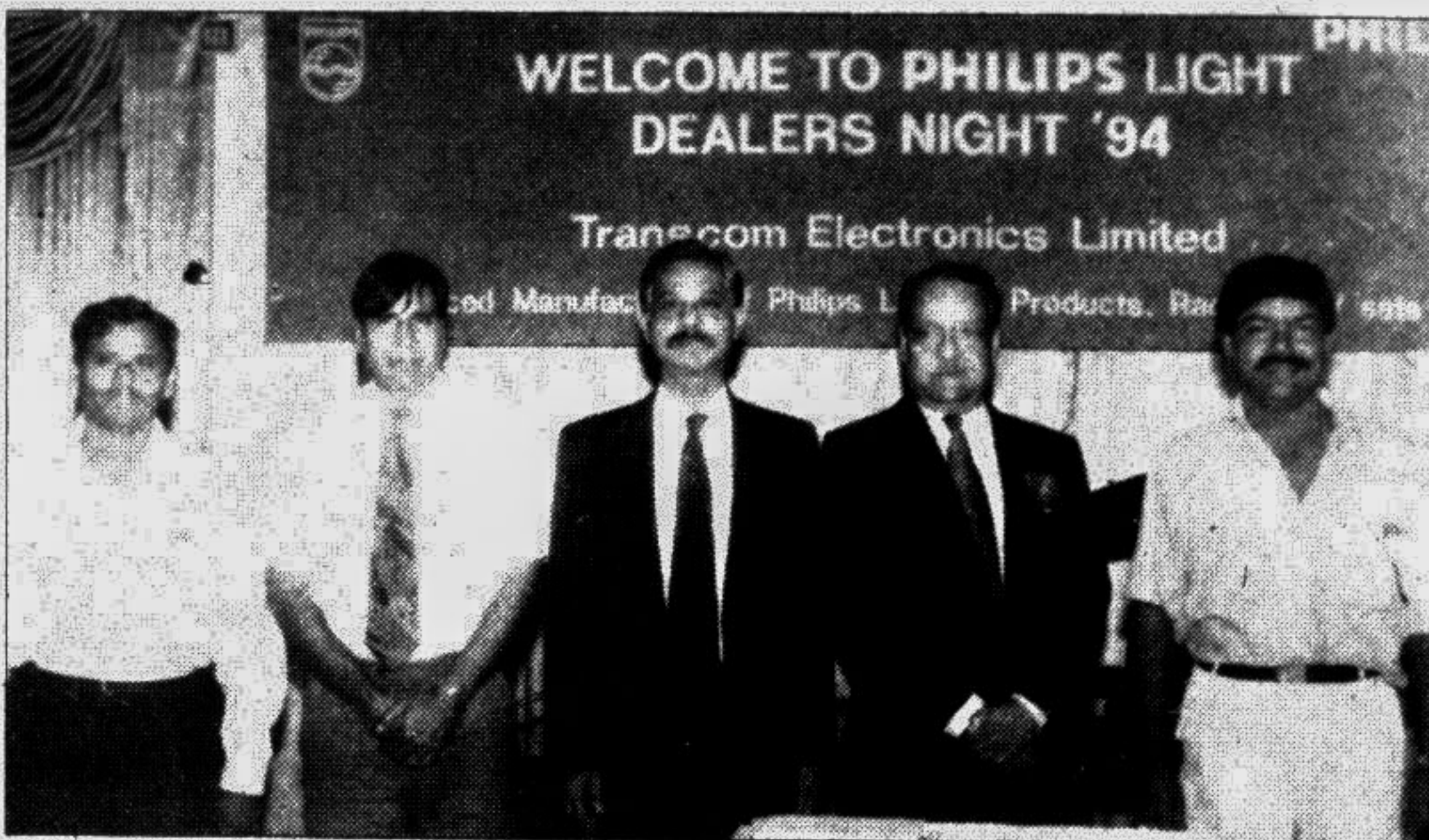
This re-print was a two lakh-Taka project of ours, without any sponsorship. We started by funds collected from members in 1992 and later completed the task with aid from Duncan Brothers in 1994. This only proves that the slow and steady (and of course will power) wins the race," she explains.

"Already a few final year students of the Architecture department of BUET has volunteered to make a plan for the space complex as their final year project and if approved they would give us. So this is a big enough start for us," Amin says.

BAA, which is working to educate ordinary people, was established in 1987 with amateurs only. Today they are printing a news bulletin Maha Akash Barta, organising regular workshops and maintaining liaison with other foreign organizations.

"Birla of India has already promised to help us. USIS said that if we wanted any expert on this topic from USA, they would arrange it for us," Amiri says with a hopeful smile. For their on-going exhibition, the Russian cultural centre has given the display board and latest pictures.

"Moreover every year we would also do similar exhibitions, or programmes on different important astronomical events to promote the subject to and encourage general people," he says. Amin, who is basically a student of Management says that they are trying to make room for new comers and enthusiasts to think more on this subject and advance the cause.



Chairman of Transcom Electronics Ltd A S Mahmud (2nd from right) distributed prizes to the best Philips bulb dealers in the city yesterday. Philips Executive Director Obaidur Rahman and Philips Light Manager A R Chowdhury are on his right while the best prize winners are seen on the extreme left and far right. — Star photo

Philips prizes for best dealers distributed

By Staff Correspondent

The prize distribution ceremony of the best Philips light dealers for 1993 was held at a city hotel yesterday.

The Chairman of Bangladesh Lamps Ltd and Transcom Electronics Ltd, the holding company of Philips A S Mahmud, distributed 115 prizes to different Philips bulb dealers.

Rahman Traders of Dhaka was declared the best dealer of the country while Moyna Store of Dhaka the best wholesaler. Both the winners will enjoy a seven-day trip to Holland and get a 14-inch TV set.

Speaking on the occasion, A S Mahmud said that after change of ownership of the Philips about one and a half years ago, the company, led by the Transcom, has been expanding steadily.

He informed the dealers that Philips would reintroduce tube light manufacturing and produce for the first time the zero watt colour candle lamps and reflector lamps.

Emphasising further improvement of customer services he said, "We must take the services at the doorsteps of the customers. We must also treat both the bigger and smaller buyers equally."

He informed that the Transcom had taken up a joint venture scheme with the Nestle Company. It was also planning to take up joint projects on Maggie noodles and tomato ketchup.

Philips Executive Director Obaidur Rahman Khan and Philips Light Manager A R Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

The dealers prizes include seven-day trip to Holland, six-day trips to Singapore and Bangkok, six-day trips to Nepal and Calcutta, Philips 14-inch black and white TV and Philips cassette recorder.

Tk 4cr earmarked for Cox's Bazar mineral pilot plant

State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan yesterday announced a government allocation of Tk 4 crore for the pilot plant engaged in separating heavy minerals discovered in Cox's Bazar beach sand, reports UNB.

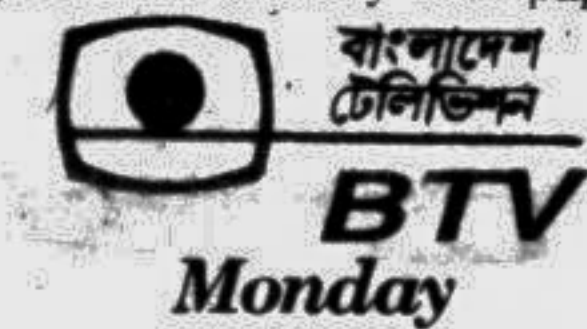
The minister assured of increasing allocation for research and experiments and called upon the scientists to go ahead with new research and experiments.

He was addressing a seminar on "Increase Standard of Ilmenite Extracted from Beach Sand" as chief guest. Organised by the Mechanical Division of the Institution of Engineers, the seminar was chaired by M A Gaiyum, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Prof Mannan said the present government was determined to put in its effort for the development of science and research, and allocation for the ministry had been doubled in this fiscal from last year's.

The presence of minerals in the beach sand of Bangladesh was discovered in the early sixties and pilot plant to separate the minerals was set up in 1976. But the plant was closed down in 1987.

Earlier, Prof A S O Karni presented the key-note paper



- 4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 4:45 Programme summary Cartoon Film: Captain Planet and the Planetars
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports programme: Football
- 6:30 Moder Garob Moder Asha: programme on Bangla Language
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Population programme: Sukher Thikana
- 9:00 Dhara Nadir Banke
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11:10 Musical programme: Disco Rally
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

Biswas presents Atish Dipanker Gold Medals

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said that Bangladesh has a unique example of communal harmony and peaceful existence among the followers of all religions, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a function in the city on the occasion of awarding Atish Dipanker Gold Medal.

Earlier, the President distributed Atish Dipanker Gold Medal to Prof S M A Faiz, Chairman, Public Service Commission (Education), Humayun Ahmed (Literature), A K M Nazrul (Banking), Al-Haj Rahimuddin Bharasha (Industry), M Masudur Rahman (Management), Obaidul Karim (Trade and Commerce), Shahabuddin Ahmed (Trade and Commerce), A K M Rafiqul Islam (Organisation), former Cabinet Secretary Mujibul Huq (Social Service), former Secretary Manzurul Karim (Organisation), Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh Asafudowla (Music), Secretary, Special Affairs Ataul Karim (Administration), Ali Imam (Juvenile Literature), Khurshed Alam (Trade and Commerce), Dr M A Azad (Medicine), Ali Hossain (Trade and Commerce), Mostafa Aminur Rashid (Banking), Emdadul Huq (Education) and Moazzem Hossain (Social Service).

Tk 408.24 cr ADP allocation for Agri Ministry

A total of Tk 408.24 crore has been allocated for Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the current fiscal under the Ministry of Agriculture, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a review meeting on the ADP at the conference hall of the Agriculture Ministry yesterday with Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul-Huq in the chair.

The allocation will be involved in 22 technical assistance programmes and 42 investment projects to develop the overall agriculture sector.

The meeting also disclosed that total ADP implementation of the last financial year was about 85 per cent and expressed satisfaction the progress.

The main object of this programme is to alleviate poverty from the society and to ensure food for all.

Terming the agriculture sector as one of the main aspect of national development the minister urged the agriculture experts and official concerned to devote their maximum intelligence and labour for development of the sector.

The meeting was also attended by Agriculture Secretary M Akhtar Ali and all heads of the departments of the ministry.

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Notice to Consignees

It is notified for information of the Consignees that the arrival Schedule of the Cargo covered by Bills of Lading issued by Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line, Japan are as under:

Loadports	Mainline Vessel	Voy	Feeder Vessel	Voy	Imp. Rot. No.	Date of Arrival at Chittagong
Kobe	Paradise Hagen	04				
Busan	Oranie	301	Optima	100	554/94	14-7-94
Jakarta	Bhakra Bhum	39N				
Acc Lily	Hong Kong	51				
Kobe	California Mercury	02				
Tokyo	Yantra Bhum	40	Lhotse	461	572/94	22-7-94
Nagoya						
Bangkok						
Bangkok	Yantra Bhum	41				
Jakarta	Acc Lily	51B	Imke Wehr	27	588/94	25-7-94
	Equator Crystal	12				

Consignees are requested to arrange clearance of their Cargo. Consignments not cleared within 45 days from the date of arrival of the vessel are liable to be sold in Auction by Customs Authority under Section 82 of Customs Act without any reference to the Consignees.

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James Finlay P. L. C.
As Agents
Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line
Tokyo, Japan

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It is notified for information of the Consignees that the arrival Schedule of the Cargo covered by Bills of Lading issued by P&O Containers Limited are as under:

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Hamburg	Ledamaersk	0425				
Busan	Peninsular Bay	0539	Optima	100	554/94	14-7-94
Hong Kong	Norisa Kiel	541				
Jebel Ali	Liver Pool Bay	0420				
Rotterdam	Regina Maersk	0417				
Bombay	Sea Fortune	2864	Ultima	558	563/94	19-7-94
	Thomas Maersk	2866				
Rotterdam	Maersk Colombo	0430				
Hamburg			Lhotse	461	572/94	22-7-94
Jebel Ali	Paris Maersk	424				
Southampton	Oriental Bay	431				
Busan	Providence Bay	543	Kotabintang	005	585/94	25-7-94
Keelung	Osaka Bay	545				
Sydney	Maipathi	0N				

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James Finlay P. L. C.
As Agents
P&O Containers Limited.



FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman speaking at a press conference held at Hotel Furbani in the city yesterday. SAARC Chamber President S M Inam is seen on his left while FNSI Representative Mukesh Guleti is on his right. —Star photo

What's on today . . .

Arganta Int'l Film Society: Has arranged a week-long film session on its 18th founding anniversary. Today's film: Agantuk. Venue: Indian Information Centre auditorium, Road 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rainbow Film Society: A three-day programme on "Rabindranath and Film" has been organised. Today's film: Charulata. Director: Directed by Satyajit Ray. Venue: German Cultural Centre, 23, Dhanmondi R/A. Road No-2 Time: 6 pm.

DUTA: A general meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka University Club. Time: 5 pm.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the 24 hours ending 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may rise by one or two degrees Celsius over the country during the period.

Today's maximum temperature at Dhaka was recorded at 33.2 degrees Celsius and the minimum 26.8 degrees while the country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was registered at Khulna and the lowest 24.0 a Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Maximum rainfall 23 mm was recorded at Khepupara in Barisal district.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:45 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:25 am.

Liquor recovered: 3 arrested

CHITTAGONG, July 24: The Port police in a drive recovered about 15 litres of country-made liquor from a house at the port colony here last night and arrested three persons

Contraband seized

RAJSHAH, July 24: BDR personnel of 20 Rifle Battalion seized Indian contraband worth over Taka three lakh by conducting separate anti-smuggling drives in several areas of the district yesterday, an official handout said today.

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