

Dhaka Day by Day

An Embodiment of Indomitable Spirit

by A S M Nurunnabi

Many of our fellow beings are not born with normal faculties. They may be afflicted with physical handicaps of various forms. But none of the handicaps which befall one is more crippling, tragic or poignant than blindness. A blind person in most cases carries his miserable existence with utter helplessness, dependent as he or she is on others for every activity in life. This may be true in majority of the cases, but in life there may be exceptions which fill one with amazement at the indomitable spirit of such handicapped people.

One such rare exception was Mohammad Shah Alam, a blind radio and TV artiste who achieved excellence in Nazrul Sangeet. He died suddenly of heart attack on July 24 last.

All deaths, especially of our near and dear ones evoke sorrows. The death of Shah Alam, however, carries significance in some particular aspects.

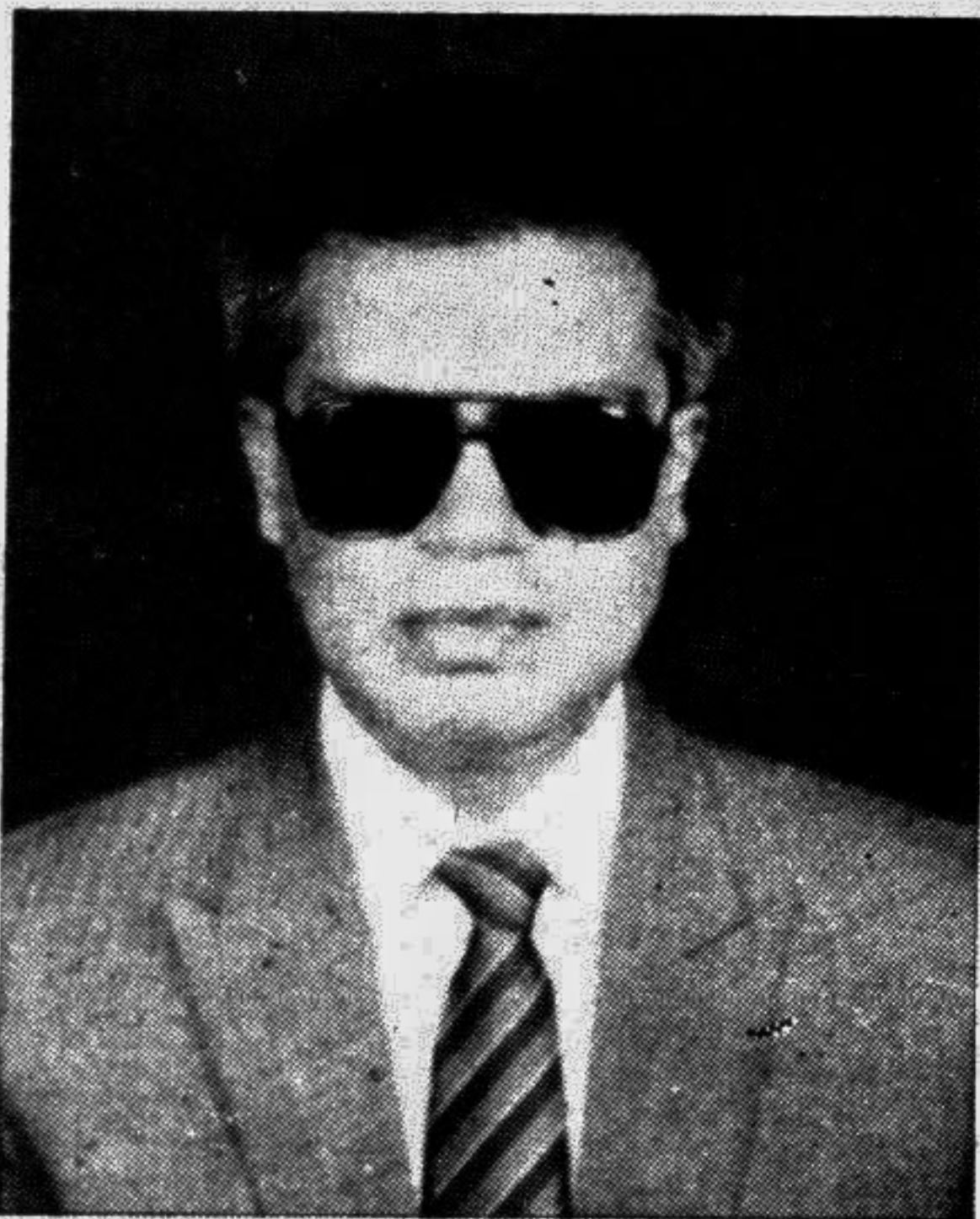
Shah Alam began his struggle from an early age when he became totally blind from an attack of measles. He had an inborn love for music. When his blindness incapacitated him, his gift for music flowered gradually with the help and co-operation of his family. At the same time he continued his efforts to get education. When a school for the blind was set up near Asad Gate in Dhaka, he passed the Secondary School Certificate Examination, from that school in the first division with three letters. Afterwards he passed the HSC examination from the Dhaka College in the first division with one letter. His academic distinction continued as he passed the BA (Hons) examination and MA in Sociology. This was no mean achievement for a blind person whose learning technique at the higher level of education was a tape recorder placed in front of his teachers whose recorded lectures along with books in the Braille language formed the cornerstone of his learning pro-

gramme. At the same time his training in music which began under Baman Das, a noted Jal Taranga artiste of India, continued. He became a regular radio artiste in Nazrul Sangeet since 1966, and from 1976 was regarded as a front-ranking TV artiste in Nazrul Sangeet. The tragedy of his life was that only half an hour before his death he had just completed his recording of a Nazrul song in the TV studio. That was the last song of his life, which was listened to by the TV viewers with a heavy heart.

He had other achievements. He worked as a teacher under the Social Welfare Directorate. Many songs were sung with tunes given by him. Besides teaching and his contribution in the field of music, he was associated with many social organisations. Before his death, he was selected for training in Japan where he was supposed to proceed shortly.

For a blind man, the record of his activities and achievements is undeniably impressive. It only reminds us of the spirit of famous Helen Keller of America who, in spite of her blindness and other physical handicaps, rose to world-wide eminence through her sustained and determined efforts in the cause of blind people. In this respect she has almost become a myth. Though any comparison with that great figure is not proper, there is no denying that almost a similar undaunted spirit animated Shah Alam whose blindness never deterred him to live as normal a life as possible. He even married a normal woman and raised a family.

Shah Alam is no more with us, but his songs will remind us of a bold spirit, the example of which may be a source of inspiration for other similarly handicapped people. Here lies the success of an uncommon life which met a premature end.



Shah Alam



Artistes of Surobani, rendering songs at a musical evening organised by the group at the Vishwa Sahitya Kendra yesterday.

Steps taken to check upward trend of prices of foodgrains, JS told

The government has taken steps to check upward trend of prices of foodgrains and started Open Market Sale (OMS) at 529 places from the first day of the current month. Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice from treasury bench member Sardar Sakhawat Hossain Bokul, the minister said that the government was quite aware of the situation. Two meetings with the Prime Minister were held in this regard besides a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on food ministry.

He said, the steps so far taken at the directive of the Prime Minister will bring down the prices of foodgrains in the country.

Mir Shawkat Ali said, that because of drought, there was an apprehension of five per cent reduction in the production of *ropa aman* but this deficit, he added, might be converted by better production of *aus* crop.

The minister told the House that the government had a stock of 2.50 lakh metric tons of rice and 3.50 lakh tons of wheat at the moment.

He said, arrangements had been made to distribute one metric ton of rice and one metric ton of wheat daily through OMS as a result of

which prices of foodgrains started coming down at several places.

The minister said that the price of coarse rice was Taka 10.80 per kg and the price of wheat was Taka 6.17 per kg on July 1 this year but the prices suddenly rose to Taka 11.60 and Taka 6.92 respectively for coarse rice and wheat in the current month.

He said, because of drought which affected slightly the *ropa aman* production the peasants had started hoarding rice for their domestic consumption.

Clarification

The Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) has issued the following clarification regarding a news item published in The Daily Star Tuesday:

"A news item under the heading of 'Inefficient bureaucracy slows development,' published in your daily on 6-9-94, stated: 'Unfortunately, the process of politicising the administrative machinery was strengthened in recent years, affecting the integrity of the administration, a top bureaucrat said.'"

This reference to 'recent years' was regarding the previous governments, not about the present government, the clarification said.

Rupsha Bridge Parishad team calls on Biswas

A delegation of the Khulna Rupsha Bridge, Airport and Dhaka-Mawa-Mongla Highway Implementation Parishad called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation was led by S M Enamul Huq Khoka, president of the parishad.

Shasthya Kunja inaugurated

Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Monday stressed the need for creating public awareness to build up preventive measures against diseases as well as ensuring health for all in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing a function in connection with the inauguration of *shasthya kunja*, a mother and child health care centre, at the NIPSOM premises.

Emergency case hearings

Justice A T M Afzal will give the hearing of emergency cases of the Appellate Division at his chamber at 11 am on October 13, 20 and 27 for disposing of those cases during the annual vacation from September 6 to October 27, reports BSS.

Justice Mostafa Kamal will give the hearing at his court chamber at 10 am on September 12, 19, 26 and October 30.

NOTICE IN THE SUB-JUDGE OF FOURTH LOAN COURT, DHAKA. Title Suit No. 141/1991.

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. Local Office, 75, Motijheel, C/A, Dhaka --- Plaintiff.

-Versus-
1. M/S. R.S. Traders, Proprietor Jb. Md. Abdur Rashid 1/4, Eskaton Garden, P.S. Ramna, Dist. Dhaka.
2. Jb. Md. Abdur Rashid, S/O. Late Abdur Rahman, 1/4, Eskaton Garden, P.S. Ramna, Dist. Dhaka. Defendants.

By this notice the above named defendants are notified that the plaintiff Bank has filled the above suit for realisation of Tk. 1,58,341/- (One lac fifty eight thousand three hundred forty one) only as on 5.5.91 against you.

Therefore you are notified to appear in the Court in person or through advocate on 2.10.94 and to repay if any otherwise the above suit will be disposed of *ex parte*.

Given under my signature and seal of this Court this 31st day of August 1994

আদালতের আদেশক্রমে সেরেস্তাদার

Environment bill to be introduced in JS next session

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain said that an environment law has been finalised and a bill on it will be introduced in Parliament during the next session, reports UNB.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on "Environment Consciousness and Tree Plantation" at Mottijheel Ideal School in the city yesterday.

Tk 42cr allocated for 26 projects.

Taka 41.56 crore including technical assistance of Tk 1.64 crore has been allocated during the current financial year for implementation of 26 projects under the planning ministry, reports BSS.

This was stated at a meeting held at the conference room of the planning commission yesterday, with State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan in the chair, to review various development projects under the ministry.

Tributes paid to Dr Ibrahim

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called on all to follow in the footsteps of Dr Muhammad Ibrahim, reports BSS.

"Let us all follow the dutifulness and ideals of Dr Muhammad Ibrahim to ensure improved health for all in our country," he said while addressing the memorial meeting marking the fifth death anniversary of Dr Muhammad Ibrahim at the BIRDEM auditorium in the city.

Bangladesh Diabetic Association organised the memorial meeting which was also addressed, among others, by association Vice-President M Azizul Huq, Secretary General Dr Fashuddin Mahtab, Prof Matjur Rahman, Prof Hamida Rahman and Dr Abul Monsur.

Acting president of the association Dr Wahid Uddin Ahmed was in the chair. The memorial meeting was followed by a *milad mahfil*.

Expressing his deep respect for Dr Ibrahim, the President said service to humanity was his motto of life and he did what he believed in. The President said about 1.4 lakh diabetic patients have so far been treated at BIRDEM while 28 affiliated branches of the Diabetic Association are treating such patients all over the country.

Dr Muhammad Ibrahim felt the necessity of controlling diabetic and other related diseases in the early fifties when even primary health care was insufficient in this part of the world, he added.

78 arrested in city

Police arrested 78 people, including 17 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in last 24 hours, reports UNB.

The arrested, who also included three held under the Arms Act, two accused of extortion and three of stealing, were produced before court.



Samir Das, a protege of Ravi Shankar, performing at the classical music session organised by Shilpakala Academy on the anniversary of death of Ustad Alauddin Khan yesterday in the city. — Star photo

Weather Moderate rain likely

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong division, at a few places over Dhaka and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during that period across the country. Meanwhile, Patuakhali experienced the highest 25 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 23.3 degrees at Feni.

The sun sets today at 6:11 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	25.2	85	80
Chittagong	33.0	25.5	78	83
Rajshahi	33.0	26.1	83	82
Khulna	33.0	26.6	86	86
Barisal	30.8	25.3	86	93
Sylhet	32.0	26.4	85	77
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.5	85	83

MALAYSIA THE RELIABLE PRODUCER OF QUALITY AND NUTRITIOUS PALM OIL

The Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council is seeking to appoint a suitable candidate who will be responsible for:

- Generating market information on oil and fats in Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Facilitate the dissemination of promotion materials.
- Arrange speaking engagements with various target groups.
- Develop and implement annual market promotion plans.
- Submit monthly reports on activities undertaken, as well as the market information obtained.

The candidate should possess:

- Degree in Food Technology, preferably with Business Administration & Marketing experience and qualification.
- Some experienced in the oils & fats industry.
- Fluent in English and Bengali spoken & written. Knowledge of Burmese would be an added advantage.
- Experienced in handling a Personal Computer.
- Possess strong organisational ability, with good analytical mind and initiative.

Handwritten application providing full personal and educational particulars, detailed working experience, present and expected salary, a day time contact telephone number, together with copies of relevant certificates and recent passport sized photograph (n.r) should be received not later than Saturday, October 8, 1994.

Only short listed applicants will be contacted for the interview.

Please address your applications to:
The Chief Executive,
The Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council,
c/o The Malaysian High Commission,
House No. 4, Road No. 118,
Gulshan Model Town,
Dhaka,
People's Republic of Bangladesh.

BTV
Wednesday

4:30	Opening session
4:40	Geeta recitation
4:45	Sports programme
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Children's programme: Anra Natun
6:00	Folk songs: Hijal Tamal
7:00	Open University
7:25	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Dance programme: Nittrer Tale Tale
9:00	Film show: Equalizer
10:00	News in English
10:30	Programme on Islamic Ideology: Ujibon
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Announcement of tomorrow's programme schedule
11:45	Close down

Dhaka City Corporation Zone-8 (IRPUR)

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিক্কে টাকা দিন

Tender Notice

Dhaka City Corporation has received a loan No 942-BAN(SF) from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of Dhaka Urban Infrastructure Improvement Project. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) now invites sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from bonafide 1st Class enlisted Contractor of Dhaka City Corporation for the following works and tender will be received by Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka, D.C., Dhaka and all Executive Engineers of Zonal Offices of Dhaka City Corporation up to 12:00 Noon on 15/09/1994 and will be opened by the respective officer on the same day at 12:30 pm in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to be present. Earnest money shown against the works shall have to be furnished along with each tender in the form of Bank Draft from any Scheduled Bank in favour of the Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation.

Tender documents may be obtained from all Zonal Offices of Dhaka City Corporation and Cashier of Accounts Section on payment of requisite amount (Non-refundable) mentioned against each work. Detailed information may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-8(Mirpur) during office hours.

The rate should be quoted both in words and in figures on the basis of percentage above or below the estimated amount of the Schedule of item of works otherwise the tender will be treated as cancelled.

If the quoted rate is more than 5% above or below the estimated amount the work the contractor shall have to submit analysis along with the tender. If the Contractor's quoted rate is lesser than 5% below the estimated amount they shall have to deposit double the earnest money before issuing of work order.

No tenderer should submit tender who have not completed any road or drain work amounting to Tk 15(fifteen) lacs in a single work order.

All papers and documents mentioned in the special terms and conditions should be submitted along with tender otherwise the tender will be treated as cancelled.

No tender paper will be sold on the date of opening of the tenders.

The authority reserves the full right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Amount	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document (per set) non-refundable	Time of Completion
1.	Construction of Roads & Drains at Area-C, Pond-2, Section-1, Mirpur.	Tk 19,10,635/=	Tk 57,320/=	Tk 1000/=	75 days
2.	Construction of Road & Drain at infilled Area-C (Tank-3), Section-2, Mirpur.	Tk 16,01,977/=	Tk 48,060/=	Tk 1000/=	60 days
3.	Construction of Roads & Drains at in fill area (Pond No-2) Block-D, Section-12, Mirpur.	Tk 12,31,382/=	Tk 36,945/=	Tk 1000/=	60 days
4.	Construction of road and minor drain at Pond No. 2, Area-B(infill Zone) in between Avenue-1 & Avenue-4, Section-11, at Mirpur, Group-B.	Tk 15,67,976/=	Tk 47,040/=	Tk 1000/=	60 days
5.	Construction of road & drain at Area-C, Pond-1, Section-1, Mirpur.	Tk 19,21,698/=	Tk 57,655/=	Tk 1000/=	75 days
6.	Construction of roads and minor drains at Pond No. 1 near Ceramic road (infill area-A) at Block-D, Section-12, Mirpur.	Tk 18,48,904/=	Tk 55,470/=	Tk 1000/=	75 days
7.	Construction of minor drain at Mirpur main road No. 2(Zoo Road)	Tk 16,46,970/=	Tk 49,410/=	Tk 1000/=	60 days
8.	Construction of minor drain Road No 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Street No 1 & Link road, Block-A, Section 2 at Mirpur.	Tk 18,06,708/=	Tk 54,205/=	Tk 1000/=	75 days
9.	Improvement of link road from main road to Avenue-1, Section-13, Mirpur.	Tk 7,22,331/=	Tk 21,670/=	Tk 500/=	45 days
10.	Construction of road and minor drain at Pond No 2, Area-B, (in fill Zone) in between Avenue-1 & Avenue-4, Section-11, at Mirpur, Group-A.	Tk 8,66,650/=	Tk 26,000/=	Tk 500/=	50 days
11.	Construction of road & drain near Avenue-4, at Section 11, Mirpur, Tank	Tk 9,70,555/=	Tk 29,120/=	Tk 500/=	50 days
12.	Improvement of Road No 7 at Block KA, Section-1, Mirpur.	Tk 1,35,192/=	Tk 4,060/=	Tk 300/=	30 days

Executive Engineer (in-Charge)
Zone-8 (Mirpur)
Dhaka City Corporation.

DCC/PRD/94/95
D-95