

Dhaka Day by Day

Arabic Lessons with a Difference

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Whenever we think of our Arabic lessons, we instantly picture in our mind a few scenes, almost with horror, from our childhood days. *Moulanas* or *Ustadjis* in ankle-length pyjamas, tops on their head, canes in their hands, teaching Arabic. Those classes were given just minutes after sunrise, because it is said that at that time of the day your (sleepy) head is clear and at its maximum best.

However with time, things change and these strict *Ustadjis* are in many places replaced by soft and kind-hearted *Apas* the females of the kind are more in demand now, specially where girl students are concerned. Nadira Begum, 32, is exactly such an Arabic teacher. She is the daughter of an *Ustadji*, who thought it better to hand her his line of profession.

For the past two and a half years, she is giving young children, and at times an adult or two, Arabic lessons and helping them recite the holy 'Quran' in its original script.

Knowing how to read 'Quran Sharif' is a must among Muslims and this they start at a very early age. Even before they learn their ABC's or 1,2,3's, usually the practice is to teach them now to read it, without actually understanding nothing from it. But recently parents think that to learn the Arabic language, one must know the ways to understand the tongue. They are now preferring to teach their children the translated version of the 'Quran'. And exactly at this point Nadira's knowledge in Bangla and Arabic is helping people.

Nadira, who was initially a housewife since she got married at the age of eleven, followed her father's footsteps only to meet both ends. Her husband, who is suffering from liver ailments from pumping too much balloons with his mouth, earns an irregular income of only Tk 1500. Whenever his health and the weather permit, he goes out to sell balloons, a business he has been doing since ages. "Now that my father is dead his earnings can no longer help my family. I've been living with my father ever since I got married," explains Nadira. Nadira, who had her first child at the age of 12 is mother of five children. "I am sending all my children to schools, even though for a few years their schooling stood still because of financial constraints," she says. Nadira has completed grade eight, "but I was always good in Arabic than English, Bangla and Maths and so I

thought teaching kids would help both them and me," she confirms her ability.

Everyday she gets up as early as 5:30 am and sets out to teach at 7:00 am. Her daily bus and rickshaw fares sum up to Tk 70 to Tk 80. She regularly comes to Dhaka from Fatullah, Narayanganj to teach her 32 students, each twice a week till 10 o'clock at night. "I go back home at around 10:30 pm. My regular trips to Dhaka not only brought me out of the shell but also gave me self confidence," she relates. Her monthly income is something around Tk 4,000. Her tuition fees vary according to hours she gives and also the distance she covers. She has students scattered throughout Dhaka city, Mohakhali to Farmgate to Purana Paltan. Besides this regular income she also earns extra money by reading *kathams* (completing the entire text of the Quran), which she does in 10 day's time. "People ask me to read *Kathams* on many occasions, when they change houses, for the good of the house hold, the children and even for dead parents. They either give me money for this or clothes and once I got a cattle too," she says.

Nadira who is constantly striving to improve the standard of her and her children's lives is also doing some small business. "My cattle has given birth to two calves and I am planning to sell them in the market, moreover I am also saving some money to set my son a poultry farm," she plans. Her son who has completed class IX is now unemployed, "if he earns something, it would help me a lot," Nadira hopes.

Married before she reached her teens, she believes that daughters should first learn to earn like the sons and then get married. "Take me for an example, if I was not educated I could not have saved my family and children from begging literally, especially when my husband is sick," she points out.

Nadira's father Abdul Karim is from Madras and had taught in Calcutta, Pakistan and finally settled in Dhaka. "I am a *Kariyan* which differs from *Hafizes* and *Moulvis*. I stress on pronunciation and the correct way of recitation, while *Hefizes* memorize the script, not giving pronunciation much of a thought," she differentiates her position.

Nadira, in her white polyester *bourkha* (veil) shuttles from Narayanganj to Dhaka every day only to survive.



SHARIF 44



Near and dears surrounding a critically ill patient look wane in the absence of doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday on the third day of a country-wide indefinite strike by the government physicians.

Only dialogue can solve present crisis: B Chy

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said in the city yesterday that only dialogue between the government and the opposition can solve the present political problem.

He said the bill and proposals on the issue of caretaker government by the opposition and the government bill presented in the Sangsad will be the basis of dialogue with a view to holding free and fair elections.

Chowdhury made the statement in clarification to a news item creeded by BSS.

Thursday on the basis of a handout issued by the Press Information Department (PID) regarding his speech at the Sutrapur thana BNP meeting on September 22.

Prof Chowdhury in clarification to the news published yesterday said, if the government resigns now in the face of demands by the opposition, the BNP government will have to be answerable to the people since it was elected by them for a five year term.

The Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad said, as he is involved in dialogue with the opposition party, even a slight distortion of his speech may be harmful for the dialogue and national politics. He requested the very conscious section and also relevant people to be alert about this.

2 killed in Ctg road accident

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 23: At least two persons, including a minor boy, were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Miressharai, some 30 miles-off the city, this morning, police and hospital sources said.

The injured were admitted into the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment. Police said the mishap occurred when there was a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a speedy truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway leaving a minor boy dead on the spot. Another unidentified 35-year-old man succumbed to his injury at the hospital.

100 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 100 people, including 14 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB. All the arrested people were produced before court.

Extra flight of Indian Airlines

The Indian Airlines will operate an additional flight on Calcutta-Dhaka-Calcutta route today to clear the rush created by the cancellation of its service on this route in view of a *bandh* in Calcutta, reports BSS.

The airlines normal flight today will arrive from Calcutta at 15:45 hours and leave Dhaka at 16:45 hours. The additional flight will arrive in Dhaka at 1:15 hours and return to Calcutta at 20:15 hours.

BTB
Saturday

- 4.40 Tripitak recitation
- 4.45 Magazine programme for children: Moner Katha
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Musical programme: Kids Songs
- 6.00 Magazine programme for varsity students: Shikhanagan
- 6.30 Population programme: Shamachar
- 7.00 Folk songs: Bansharee
- 7.25 Comedy series: Major Dad
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Agricultural development programme: Mati O Mahush
- 9.00 Musical programme: Parichay
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama series: Dynasty
- 11.30 Khabar/The News

Weather

No change in temperature

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail and Sylhet during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office says weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere across the country.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:53 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:48 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	25.8	75	78
Chittagong	33.0	26.3	87	76
Rajshahi	30.2	24.8	93	75
Khulna	33.6	25.8	74	75
Barisal	33.8	26.0	76	75
Sylhet	33.9	25.2	77	72
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.0	72	78



Visitors at a painting exhibition by Abu Saleh Titu at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

Installation ceremony DU Debating Society

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun Al-Rashid called upon the people of all walks of life to put in their best efforts for socio-economic development of the country, reports UNB. Rashid was addressing the installation ceremony of Brahmanbaria District Association held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city Thursday.

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The first death anniversary of late Begum Shakera Banu, wife of late Khan Bahadur Mujibur Rahman, will be observed today (Saturday), the 24th September 1994.

On this occasion, a Milad Mehfil will be held after Asr Prayer (5:00 PM), at NE(J)-4, Road No.83, Gulshan, Dhaka.

All her relatives, friends and acquaintances are requested to attend the Milad and pray for her eternal peace.

Reliable Dyeing Facility For Your Knit Fabrics And Yarn

Acrylic, Polyester, Cotton etc. in Hank Form For Pressure Dyeing

SK TEXTILES

(A Project of Sena Kalyan Sangstha)
Post Office Rd, Fatullah, Narayanganj
Phone: 233017, 76640, 862057

中国远洋运输公司
CHINA OCEAN SHIPPING COMPANY

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. JIANG CHENG IMP. ROT NO. 76194 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1994 TO DISCHARGE HER IMPORT CARGO FROM PRC PORT SHANGHAI.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

AGENTS:
BDSHIP Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.
(A HRC COMPANY)

DHAKA
19/F Sena Kalyan Bhaban
195 Motijheel Corn. Area
Tel: 864546, 864547
Tlx: 632105 BDSHP BJ, 632656 HRC BJ
Telefax: 880-2-863734

CHITTAGONG
G/F Jiban Birna Bhaban
1083 Sk. Mujib Rd., Agrabad
Tel: 504313, 502123, 500793
Tlx: 633027 BDSHP BJ, 633126 HRC BJ
Telefax: 880-31-225625

KHULNA
1 Misapora Road (PTI Moor)
Tel: 25255
Tlx: 633302 HRC BJ
Telefax: 880-41-21175

We like to think the world revolves around the new Pajero. Actually, it's the other way around.

RANGS LIMITED
113-116, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215 PLOT # 3, CDA AVENUE, SHOLOSHANAR C/A, CHITTAGONG

MITSUBISHI PAJERO