

## Metropolitan

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Small Book Shop but a Giant Step

by Raffat Binte Rashid

"I am — better say — was a freedom fighter. This meaningless depthless sentence has now become a big hoax. Gone is the respect once commanded by the heroes of the Liberation War. Today we even elicit a sort of joke from some for whom the year 1971 means virtually nothing."

Why is this joke or ignorance? Thousands of such questions remain unanswered and no one

would do anything to help salvage the situation. It's not that no one can do anything or that it's a passing phase of history. So it's a deep-seated frustration. The great heroes or so-called living legends of those days are not cowards. They lie in wait to push the horizon further beyond. Ekatureer Jatreer (Voyagers of '71) only a three-year old organization is one such modest attempt, and its bookstore is just another step closer to that horizon.

The need to arouse the spirit of the great Liberation War and to put the record straight especially for the younger generations, were the driving force behind organizing the Ekatureer Jatreer. This bookshop and information exchange centre on Mukti Juddha, located at Aziz

Supermarket near Shahbagh constitutes a small part of its bigger mission," says Akku Chowdhury of Ekatureer Jatreer.

This small shop cradles a big mission. It specializes in all matters related to our great Liberation War. Books, posters, souvenirs, video and audio cassettes on our liberation war are available in this centre. They are earnestly trying to revive the essence of that patriotic war when the Bengalees from all walks of life were united under one umbrella to defend their beloved mother land. "We are reprinting few posters of those times and certainly trying to revive and maintain the lost spirit of '71," he says with a sad look on his face. Unless you are proud of your country and its independence

movement you can never develop it either, this is how he sees the situation.

"This generation is left in the dark and, I feel that the reason behind this is politicizing the war. The movement has been distorted, politicized to serve narrow ends," Chowdhury stresses his point adding that when they went to the war, their sole motivation was to liberate the soil from the enemy clutches.

"We left the political side to the politicians and thought them to be as patriotic. It was our duty to fight and not govern the country," he expresses.

However the youth of today are more motivated with clear thinking minds and Chowdhury is very much hopeful about them saying that "our unfinished or half done task could be handed down to them, knowing they would definitely finish the job."

This bookshop is basically a small resource centre that is going to help anyone to understand the real incidents and learn the real history of the war. This is a place where the young ones could take stock of their memory bank with the original history.

If you cannot get a particular book or if you are looking for definite information, this is the centre for

such deeds. Besides opening this outlet, Ekatureer Jatreer arranges Bijoy Melas, exhibitions of books, posters and soon it is going to organize a photo exhibition. A set of 84 exclusive masterpiece photos on the liberation war, exhibition quality in laminated form is available for Tk 500. (at this centre too). It also organizes seminars, and fund raising programmes.

Chowdhury concludes saying, "Read the correct history of the liberation war. Enlighten the next generation with the spirit and history of the war. And present books on the liberation war to your loved ones".



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### Christmas eve function



Participants of an art competition organised by the Charurang, a Narayanganj-based artists' body in connection with the celebration of this year's Victory Day at the Biswa Shabtiya Kendra in the city on Sunday.

A colourful Christmas eve function was held at the YMCA premises at Eskaton in the city Sunday night, reports BSS.

Dr Shamsher Ali, Vice-Chancellor of the Open University, attended the function as the chief guest while Jonas Dhaki presided.

The function was rounded off with musical soiree presented by the Dhaka Choir Group.

Prayers were offered for peace and prosperity of the country.

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Shatya Sadhan Chakrabarti (C), Deputy Minister for Higher Education of West Bengal, India looking at an art work after opening the 11-day long Bangladesh Cultural Festival on December 16 at the Ashutosh Gallery, Calcutta. Jahangir Shahdat (L), Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, and Subir Chowdhury (R), director of fine arts deptt, Bangla Academy are also seen. The gala of arts and photographs will run up to December 26.

### Seminar told

## Tobacco hits brain in six seconds, heroin takes 12 minutes

Nicotine, a toxic chemical contained in tobacco, hits the brain in six seconds only while heroin takes 12 minutes 12 seconds, this was stated by medical practitioners at a seminar in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

They said scientific studies have proved that the preliminary doses of nicotine create stimulating effects on the brain while the subsequent doses cause depression.

The seminar on "tobacco control strategies in developing countries" organised by the Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI), Embassy of France, was held at the Alliance Francaise at Dhanmondi. Vice-Chancellor of Open University Dr M Shamsher Ali was the

chief guest at the seminar while president of Bangladesh Cancer Society Prof S F Huq was the keynote speaker.

Prof Huq said nicotine is stronger than heroin and cocaine and the amount of nicotine contained in two cigarettes only can cause instantaneous death to a person if given by injection.

He said a burning cigarette releases about 7000 different chemicals including at least 43 varieties of carcinogenic substances, radioactive compounds, poisonous gases, hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide, pesticides, and toxic metals like arsenic and nickel.

He said over 30 per cent of all cancer deaths are related to tobacco while smoking and

chewing of tobacco can lead to cancer of the lung, larynx, mouth, throat, oesophagus, urinary bladder, kidney, pancreas, cervix and liver, tobacco can also cause coronary heart disease, stroke, bronchitis, emphysema and peripheral vascular diseases. Even passive smoking can lead to all the tobacco related diseases among non-users of tobacco, he added.

Prof Huq suggested creating public opinion through motivation of the people, the community leaders, and decision makers about the adverse effects of tobacco on human health and loss to personal and public fund in terms of work loss and health expenditure.

Dr Shamsher Ali assured full cooperation of Open University to make the people aware about the bad effects of tobacco on human health.

He suggested inclusion of a chapter on health and smoking in the academic curricula by the National Curriculum and Text Book Board.

Physicians Prof Samir Kumar Sharma and Prof Abu Obaida Mohsin, CESTI collaborators Naheed M Ahmed and Shahidul Hasan Mannan also spoke at the seminar.

Prof Abdullah Haroon, Prof Mirza Quamul Haque and executive committee member of Bangladesh Cancer Society Hussainuzzaman Chowdhury, among others, participated in the open discussions at the seminar.

Candidates for the two key posts of the Amirul-Ummah group will be finalised today. Prof Tajul Islam (Economics) and Prof Mirza Muftiuddin (Geography) have submitted nomination for President while Azfar Hossain and Manjurul Haq for General Secretary.

The meeting was told that Bengal Secretariat Record Room was established in 1910 with a view to preserving information on history, culture, heritage and official work.

The information are being preserved in two categories — historical and current.



Tuesday

4:30 Opening announcement  
Programme summary  
4:40 Mass Education  
programme:  
Esho Para Shikhi  
5:10 Sangbad  
5:25 The Miraculous  
Melopes  
6:00 National Television  
Debate Competition  
Open University  
7:25 Musical programme:  
Sangeeta  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:30 Drama serial: Maatir  
Maya  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Film show: Northern  
Exposure  
11:30 Khabar/The news  
11:40 Tomorrow's pro-  
gramme Summary,  
closing announcement  
11:45 Close down

### Weather

## Dry spell to continue

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the last 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts no appreciable change in the night temperature is expected over the country but during the next two days it may register a fall.

The country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 7.2 degrees at Sri Mongal.

The sun sets today at 5.16 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.37 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in different cities of the country were:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.0	11.3	73	71
Chittagong	25.8	14.4	83	60
Cox's Bazar	29.0	15.0	65	67
Sylhet	26.7	12.2	66	42
Rajshahi	25.7	11.5	71	67
Rangpur	25.6	12.4	71	77
Dinajpur	26.3	10.3	81	75
Barisal	26.6	10.6	87	75

## Bangladesh Arts Festival begins in Delhi today

The Bangladesh Festival of Arts begins at the Mavalanker Auditorium in the Indian capital Delhi today, reports UNB.

The festival is going to be held at different cities of India, including Delhi, Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Lucknow.

A 70-member cultural troupe from Bangladesh comprising litterateurs, playwrights, painters, photographers, musicians and dancers will take part the festival. Alhaj Amanullah Chowdhury MP is leading the cultural delegation.

### Group art show begins

A group art exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi and foreign artists began yesterday at the Saju Art Gallery here at Gulshan, reports BSS.

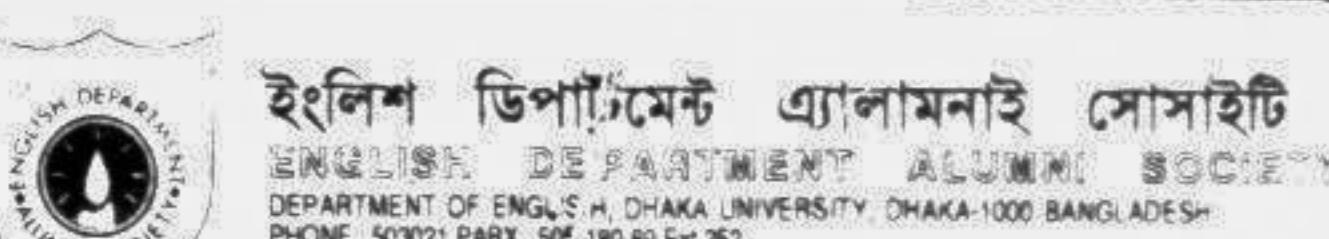
### SPACE REQUIRED

A multinational company requires space on rental basis for establishing a small size factory as per following specifications:

- a) Location : In and around Tejgaon Industrial Area.
- b) Plinth Area : Approx. 5000 sq. feet in one floor preferable in Ground Floor.
- c) Utilities : Should have industrial Power/Gas/Water supplies.

Interested parties are requested to contact Telephone No. 868652-56 Ext. 22 and 23 or 868731 from 20th to 22nd December, 1994 during office hours.

2338/94



### Annual Get-Together '94

3:00 PM Friday, 30 December, 1994

Venue : British Council, Fuller Road, Dhaka

Like every year, we will be meeting on the last Friday of the year. This year, apart from the reception we plan to elect office-bearers of the Society. Please pre-register by filling the form below and sending it to the Departmental Office by December 23, 1994.

(Cut here)

### Pre-Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of passing : B. A. (Honours): \_\_\_\_\_

M. A.: \_\_\_\_\_



BSP meets tomorrow

An emergency meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Sangbad Patrika Parishad (BSP) will be held tomorrow at the office of Baulik Janakantha, 55, Motijheel commercial area at 5 pm, reports UNB.

The festival is going to be held at different cities of India, including Delhi, Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Lucknow.

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