

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Tokai as Guru

by Andaz

Learn philosophy from the Tokai, the universal symbol of the street urchin. The lord of the road, with none to dispute his sovereignty, he tickles the mind of the onlooker. Take a closer look at him. What makes him so care-free, laughing under the load of nagging adversity? Born free, he is independent — till the NGOs or the projects catch up with him.

Seen in countries rich and poor, the Tokai is immune to all social symbols of civilization — GNP, GDP or XYZ (the ADP is trying to catch up with him). Metropolitan Dhaka provides a panoramic grand seat for a closer look at the jostling Pilate. There is more philosophy in the life of Tokai than found in the books. Let us take a few lessons from him, as he flits about, more free and cheerful than Shelley's skylark but with a message more profound.

All-proof, the Tokai is impervious to all the 'isms' man's politics could devise, revise, improvise or make and unmake. Not for him the power of economics and the elegance of the ugly duckling named democracy.

The political leaders impress him not, as he patronisingly lends a helping hand during the mortals' harial. Mark it — the immature Tokai is strictly apolitical and neutral to the issue or the outcome of harials and blockades. A lesson in selfless service for the polluted politicians. Who amongst us can display such lofty philosophical detachment towards political movements? The air-conditioned horn deters him not — the moving hand writes, and moves on.

Our Tokai makes child's play of the municipal garbage — his playground and research centre. He is actually a field worker, removing some samples for recycling. His innocent contribution towards the containment of the greenhouse effect.

Plain living and plain thinking, at the humblest level, seeking neither recognition nor approbation. The Tokai is virtually independent of industrial capitalism. He can do without the garment industry. The bazaar is his dining table, and the transport strike cannot mar his mobility. He has learnt to live a cashless life, encasing on the tugging of the heart of the heartless. At the bazaar, with the cane basket perched upon his head, he cultivates an economy of life no

finance minister could offer to the nation. The Tokai's power of resistance is grossly underestimated. He appears to be practically germ-proof, considering his multi contacts with the leftovers of daily life. His tribe threatens the very livelihood of the medical profession. The protective quality of divine mercy acts beyond human logic.

The words of wisdom are ever beyond the ears of the Tokai child. Live your life as if it were the last day of your life. He has no care for the morrow, thereby short-circuiting the modern diseases bugging the millions in the billion dollar industry. The mass media and the high technologies affect him not.

The Tokai's vision may be myopic, but his philosophy is infinitely compassionate. And he knows it not.

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## British Council Teaching Centre opens Jan 4

The new premises of the British Council Teaching Centre will be opened on January 4, says a British Council press release yesterday.

The British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Douglas Hurd, MP, will officially open the teaching centre during his three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Many hundreds of Bangladeshis in public and professional life have enjoyed courses in the teaching centre, often before travelling to Britain or other countries for British government funded training or studies, the release added.

The teaching centre provides over ten thousand class hours of teaching each year in a range of courses which include general English programmes for members of the public and tailor-made courses for local business clients.

The centre also provides internationally recognised language assessment, including language audits for commercial companies, and a translation and editing service.

## Poet Ahsan Habib's birth anniversary today

The 78th birth anniversary of poet Ahsan Habib will be observed today.

Poet Ahsan Habib served as literary page editor of a vernacular daily 'Dainik Bangla' for a long period.

He has to his credit a number of books. On this occasion, Ahsan Habib Smriti Purashkar Committee has awarded 'Kabi Ahsan Habib Shahitya Purashkar '94' to poet Nirmalendu Goon. The award giving ceremony will be held on January 12 at Bishwa Shahitya Kendro.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday stressed the need for making reading habit a social movement in the country, reports UNB.

'Talents flourish through pursuit of knowledge for which there is no alternative to reading books,' she pointed out.

Begum Zia was inaugurating a two-week 'Dhaka Book Fair-1995' near Bijoy Sarani yesterday afternoon on the occasion of the 'national book day' organised by the National Book Centre.

The Prime Minister announced that the government will take steps for effectively running at least one library each thana by granting financial assistance and ensuring supply of books.

This, she said, will create a library network at the thana level and help people in the remote areas in promoting their reading habit.

The Prime Minister last year announced that every English New Year's day will be observed as the 'national book day' which should be followed by book fairs at the district headquarters.

The fair in Dhaka features stalls of 63 publication houses, including foreign publishers for the first time in the country's history.

Terming educated people the nation's driving force, Begum Zia said, the present government laid special stress on education. In this context, she described books as the source of education, knowledge and joy. 'One needs to read books for knowing life and building it beautifully.'

There was no existence of democratic institutions. She said in such a disastrous socio-economic situation, the BNP had taken over the responsibility of running the affairs of state.

Begum Zia recalled the establishment of parliamentary democracy through the 12th constitutional amendment in the Jatiya Sangsad which was set up through a free and fair election.

The Prime Minister said, 'Our political and constitutional commitment is strengthening the democratic process and establishment of principles and values in every sphere.'

We are firmly going ahead to fulfill that commitment. She said that she could tell the nation with pride that the people of this country had never in the recent past, witnessed such a democratic system which has been prevailing in Bangladesh today. Freedom of speech and opinion is unlimited today she added.



Visitors at a stall on the opening day of the fortnight-long Dhaka Book Fair '95 at city's Bijoy Sarani yesterday. The National Book Centre has organised the book fair. — Star photo

## Fortnight Dhaka Book Fair '95 begins

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She thought it necessary to inform the countrymen as to how far she had been able to perform her responsibilities safeguarding democracy. Begum Zia said, in 1982 autocratic rule was imposed in the country by illegally ousting the elected BNP government.

'Since then, we had waged movement for the restoration of democracy in the country. In that movement, you were uncompromising. In that movement, throughout the country, we have lost many of our companions.' The nation, Begum Zia said, would remember their contributions with gratitude for ever.

The Prime Minister said the autocratic system of administration had fallen through our combined struggle.

She said in the free and fair elections held in 1991, the people had entrusted the responsibility of running the affairs of the state to the BNP as the major party which led the democratic struggle.

## Int'l meet on investment from Jan 23

By Staff Correspondent

The Euromoney, a leading international journal, in conjunction with the Bangladesh Board of Investment (BOI), will organise a three-day international meet on 'the Bangladesh investment conference: the emerging tiger' from January 23 in the city.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the conference, where delegates from home and abroad will be briefed about the opportunities of direct and indirect investment in Bangladesh.

This is for the first time the Euromoney is holding such a conference in Bangladesh, which will be sponsored by a leading group of international institutions.

Speakers from both home and abroad, comprising ministers, government officials and representatives of financial institutions, will deliver lectures on subjects ranging from 'fiscal policy reforms' to 'evolution of the Bangladesh stock market'.

## Book fair in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman today called upon the literate people to develop reading habit in order to acquire more knowledge about national history, culture and the past, reports BSS.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of the week-long book fair at the Chittagong Stadium Gymnasium here the minister said, the more we read the more we know, and a learned man is honoured everywhere.

More than thirty book stalls have been set up at the fair which will end on January 7.

## Book fair begins in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 1: A week-long book fair began at the Unmesh Chandra Public Library auditorium here today, reports UNB.

City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman inaugurated the fair which was also attended by Deputy Commissioner Kazi Rezaul Haq.

Some 30 stalls have been set up at the fair.

## Children's painting competition held

By Staff Correspondent

A children's painting competition was organised by Kendrio-Kachi-Kanchar Mela yesterday at the Institute of Fine Arts premises on the occasion of the 80th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, says a press release.

Around 400 children of the age group between two and a half years and 15 years, took part in the competition, inaugurated by Begum Jahannara Abedin, wife of the Shilpacharya.

The best-adjudged three prize winners are: Ka group — Indrani Roy Archi (4), Charukaru Gallery; Kha group — Munabil Faroque (10), Govt Laboratory High School, and Ga group — GM Muntasir Hasan (14), National Bank Public School. Besides, 17 others got prizes.

Meanwhile, Kachi-Kanchar Mela also organised a children recitation competition on December 30 on the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of poet Jashimuddin.

The best three winners are: Ka group — Nusrat Yasmin Rumpa (6-2) of Ganderia Kishalaya Mela, Kha group — Nashid Islam Shutapa (9) of St Francis Javours School, and Duree Maknun Nabi (11) of Manipur High School from Ga group. This apart, 21 children also got prizes.

Prizes of both the contests will be distributed at a function at the PG Hospital auditorium on January 5 at 4 pm.

## Former BCIC official dead

Engineer Rokouddin Molla, a former additional general manager of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), died in a road accident on December 30 at Sarulia near Dhaka. He was 59, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

**Happy Marriage Anniversary to MNK From — ABJ**



## Video award for Aminul Kawser

Aminul Kawser Khan of Bangladesh has been awarded for his video, 'The Girl Child', in an international video competition, says a British Council press release.

The competition, first of its kind, organised by the British Council and the World Broadcasting Trust, attracted 78 entries from 23 countries. Eight of the entries were awarded and nine others were highly commended.

The video competition on 'Women in Development' was aimed at groups in development fields with special emphasis on the role of women.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Dry weather may prevail over the country with temporary cloudy sky over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal, Potuakhali, Khulna, Faridpur and Dhaka in the next 12 hours ending 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius over Rajshahi division and the regions of Kushtia, Tangail, Mymensingh and Jessore and remained nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period.

A further fall in the temperature is expected in the next two days, weathermen said adding that little change is likely to take place in the temperature readings in the coming week.

The country's lowest temperature 6.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the highest 27.8 degrees at Teknaf. The Sun sets today at 5.23 pm and rises on Tuesday at 6.42 am.

City	Temp (in Celsius)			Humidity
	max.	min.	morning	
Dhaka	25.7	13.1	8.7	62
Chittagong	26.5	12.5	8.3	73
Cox's Bazar	26.5	14.0	5.8	70
Rajshahi	21.0	10.6	6.0	64
Khulna	22.4	13.0	6.5	80
Barisal	25.4	11.6	8.5	77
Sylhet	24.8	13.0	7.5	70
Dinajpur	22.0	06.4	6.5	59

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## PM's address to nation

From page 12 come our foreign dependence to a great extent," she told her countrymen and added that the contribution of domestic resources to the development budget was about 38 per cent in the current fiscal year compared to negative contribution in fiscal 1990.

Mentioning the figure of the country's foreign exchange reserves of over 3 billion US dollars (about Taka 13,000 crore) Begum Zia said it was an all-time high record for Bangladesh.

She said that as a result of restoration of economic discipline and reforms in fiscal and monetary policies [the rate of inflation was now at the lowest level] maintaining stability in the price level.

Similarly, she said the trend of raising the per capita income was also continuing and as a result of encouragement of export oriented industrial initiatives, Bangladesh's export earnings had increased by over Taka 3 thousand crore per annum.

The Prime Minister said that the stock exchange of Bangladesh had now created an unprecedented momentum in the capital market.

All these she said were the indices of country's flourishing economy.

Begum Zia said the long absence of the Opposition from the Jatiya Sangsad was really sad because the Sangsad was established at the cost of so much hardship and sorrow of the countrymen and shedding of blood.

She said, 'You have elected all of us with two objectives — to restore democracy and attain economic prosperity. The unfettered ways of modern civilisation, human rights and the flourishing of human capabilities are the contributions of democracy.'

Begum Zia said the human race is yet to innovate an alternative system to democracy for their welfare.

The Prime Minister said it was known to the people that the country's economy collapsed totally under the nine-year autocratic regime. The country's education system had also been destroyed in the face of terrorism and session jams.

## Section I-INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 19-12-94  
Credit No.: 2129-BD  
Bid Package No.: REB/SE/HO-22/94/1481

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Rural Electrification Project, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied, through the Rural Electrification Board, to eligible payments under the Contract for supply & installation of substation equipment 1000 KVA with 200 KVA generator and area lighting for the 10-storied Rural Electrification Board's (REB) Head Office Building at Joarshahara, Dhaka.

2. The Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the "supply and installation of sub-station equipment 1000 KVA with 200 KVA generator and area lighting which includes supply, installation, testing, commissioning, and maintenance of the same.

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board, House No. 828, Road No. 19 (old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh.

4. A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on being determined qualified for the purchase on submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Tk. 2000/- (Taka two thousand) or US\$ 55 (United States Dollar fifty five). For each set of Bidding Documents purchased, only one Bidder is eligible to bid.

5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two point five zero per cent (2.50%) of Bid amount and must be delivered to the above office on or before 12:00 hours on 12 February, 1995.

6. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12:30 hours on 12 February, 1995 at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board, House No. 828, Road No. 19 (old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Superintending Engineer  
Dhaka Zone  
Rural Electrification Board  
DFP-14658-28/12 G-09

# IT'S NEW