

Metropolitan

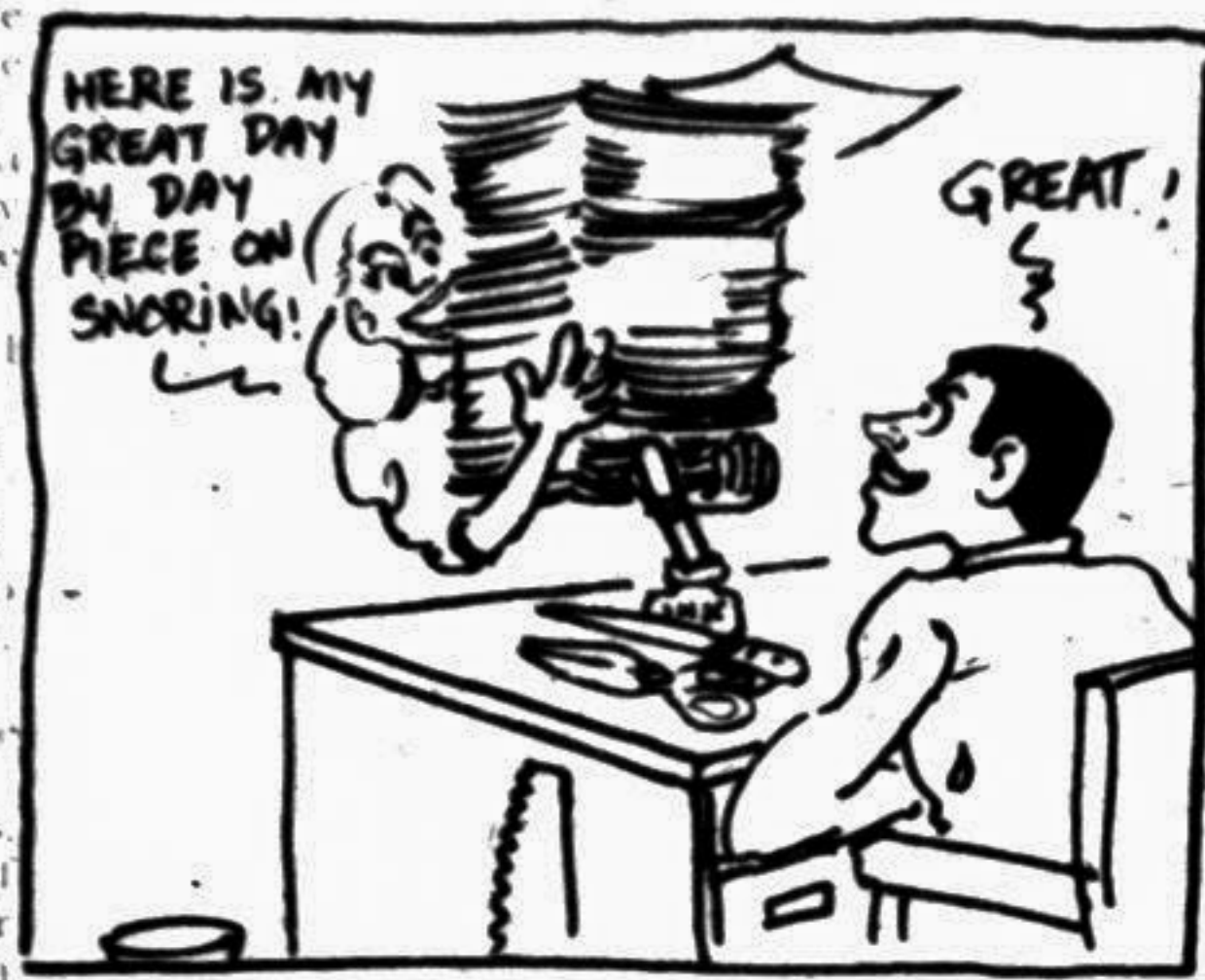
Dhaka Day by Day

Where Stories for the Column Take Shape

by Gemini Wahhaj

A piece of paper hangs on the parter-board wall in the features department, headed Dhaka Day by Day. On it the feature editor has assigned each feature writer a day of the week. When it's any one's turn to write a Dhaka Day by Day piece, groans can be heard.

Of course a photograph would be the best accompaniment to a Day by Day story. So the photographers are sent on routine and emergency errands daily.



"But what shall I write about?"

It has to be interesting, and funny, the feature editor advises. "Try not to write in first person, either."

Outside on the street there are electric poles, rickshaws, different kinds of people with their wares out in the sun — each a prospective subject. The editor of the department himself is always on the lookout for ideas: a guy selling balloons on the corner of so and so street, or a pitha maker at the corner of another immediately sets him thinking.



On top of this, sometimes one might find the most interesting topic right in the feature room of a newspaper office where imagination and creativity abound.

Listen, I have a better idea," he proposes. "How about if I supply you with pictures I already have at my desk, and you guys write stories to accompany them?"

"No go," says the senior most colleague. The feature writers sometimes discuss possible stories while sipping tea in their room. They might say, for example, that the long line for visas outside the US embassy will make a good story. The man in charge of the Day by Day hears this and comes running out of his cubicle in great excitement.

"So write it up, write it up," he says. "Uh-huh," is the unenthusiastic response. So the editor is now cultivating outside contributors. He now has a list of people he can call up to deliver a Day by Day on a day's notice. Meanwhile, the entire feature department is contaminated by the Day by Day disease. A beautiful early morning, a horrible traffic jam, children playing on BUET campus, or the peanut-seller on the street — anything and everything is instantly tucked away for a future Day by Day story.

Cultural troupe delights audience in Calcutta

As part of the Bangladesh Festival of Arts in India, dance and music were performed Wednesday at the 'Rabindra Sadan' in Calcutta, reports BSS.

Soheedul Islam, director, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and team leader of the Bangladesh dance and music troupe, directed the show.

The mahua dance drama was highly applauded by the audience. Singer Subir Nandi, Farida Perveen, Rezwana Chowdhury Banriya, Ferdous Ara and Kiron Chandra Roy rendered a number of songs which were appreciated by the listeners.

Doordarshan's Calcutta, centre covered Bangladesh's dance and music show in Wednesday night's news bulletin.

'Resolve political crisis through negotiations'

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum president Mohammad Fazlur Rahman and general secretary Mohammad Sanaulah Mia yesterday urged the Opposition parties to resolve the country's political crisis through negotiations avoiding strikes and hartals, reports BSS.

In a statement, they referred to the recent three-day hartals called by the Opposition parties and observed that neither the hartal has brought about any welfare of the people nor it has brought any solution to the existing political crisis. These hartals had no support of the people either, the statement added.

They said that due to the frequent hartals, the national economy is being damaged and the process of rule of law is being disrupted.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia giving away medals among the outstanding midshipmen at their graduation parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chittagong yesterday. Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam seen on the extreme right. — PID photo

Dhaka seeks positive steps to remove trade gap with India

M. Morshed Khan, special envoy to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Thursday said positive actions are needed to rectify the present trade imbalance between India and Bangladesh, reports BSS.

problem is resolved through a fair and equitable arrangement. He felt the need for joint venture collaboration with buy-back arrangement between

India and Bangladesh and said this will provide opportunities for promoting industries and diversifying production structure in South Asia.

Khan said this in his keynote speech on Partnership in SAARC at Khudiram Stadium, India in the plenary session of the confederation of Indian Industries (CII) on the occasion of its centenary celebrations Tuesday afternoon.

Khan also read out a message sent by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and SAARC chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion.

MV Subbiah, president of the plenary session, conveyed his thanks on behalf of CII to Begum Zia for her message of goodwill and friendship which inspired the organisation.

He said high Indian tariffs on Bangladeshi exportables serve as an obstacle to expand its exports to India. In this context, he lauded the efforts of the CII to persuade the Indian government to provide substantial tariff concessions to Bangladeshi goods.

Khan stressed the need for industrial cooperation among the SAARC countries especially between India and Bangladesh. He hoped that industrial cooperation would enable the small countries to pool their resources and remove the supply side deficiency and also expand markets by creating optimum industrial capacities.

He referred to Ganges water problem and said further economic cooperation would be greatly facilitated if the

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The best-prize winners for the 11th National Art Exhibition '94 are (Top, from left) — Mansur Ul Karim, Mohammad Yunus, Jamal Ahmed. The honourable mention went to (From left) — Sheikh Afzal, Abdus Sattar, Mohammad Iqbal. Story on page 1.

New director of Radio news

SM Shahfiqul Amin Ferdausi has taken over the charge as Director of News of the Radio Bangladesh, says a press release yesterday.

Prior to joining the new post he was the director of monitoring department of the same organisation.

During his long 24-year-career as radio journalist SA Ferdausi served in various capacities, including regional controller of news and also worked in the then Daily Paigam and the Daily Purbadesh during 1966-70. He joined the then central news organisation of the Radio Pakistan in 1970 as an assistant news editor.

He also served as information officer in various ministries.

He received advanced training in radio journalism in Deutsche Welle colleges, Germany in 1977 and travelled Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, North Korea, Canada, Hong Kong, China, Sri Lanka and Thailand in connection with his professional duties.

SA Ferdausi hails from Jamalpur district.



Obituary

R-Ann Farida Hossain, wife of Rtn M Ali Hossain — Past President of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West, died yesterday morning in the city. She was 50, says a press release.

Late Ann Hossain had been suffering from Sheehan's Syndrome for a long time. She was an active member of the Innerwheel Club of Dhaka North West and held responsible position in the club.

She left behind her husband, one daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

An obituary reference for her was made at the opening day, yesterday, of the Rotary District Conference and one minute silence was observed by the attending Rotarians as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

She was buried at the Banani graveyard after Asr prayers yesterday.

Her qualkhwani will be held on January 8, Sunday, after Asr prayers at her 278/2, Elephant Road residence in the city.



The British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Douglas Hurd, feeding polio vaccine to a child under the Mother and Child Health and Family Welfare Programme under the BRAC at Parbatipur January 4. — PID photo

Training course on biotech ends

A two-week training course on 'Advanced Biotechnology' ended yesterday at the Institute of Food Science and Technology of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) reports UNB. Some 40 scientists took part in the course.

BCI office-bearers

A M Subid Ali, managing director Aristocrat Ltd and Md Nurul Islami, managing director, Aromatic Cosmetics Ltd have been elected president and vice president respectively of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), says a press release.

They have been elected unopposed for two year term 1995 and 1996.

Obaidur Rahman, Saiful Islam Khan, Niaz Rahim, Md Rajab Sharif, Sharif M Afzal Hossain, Rashed Mowdad Khan, Golam M Khan, Belayet Hossain Sharif, P R Saha, Professor Mazharul Islam, Golam Dastagir Gazal, Alhaj Md Fazlur Rahman, M A Shahid, Md Nurul Amin, Lajkat Ali, Bhuiyan and Nurul Islam Chowdhury have been elected directors for the same period.

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

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