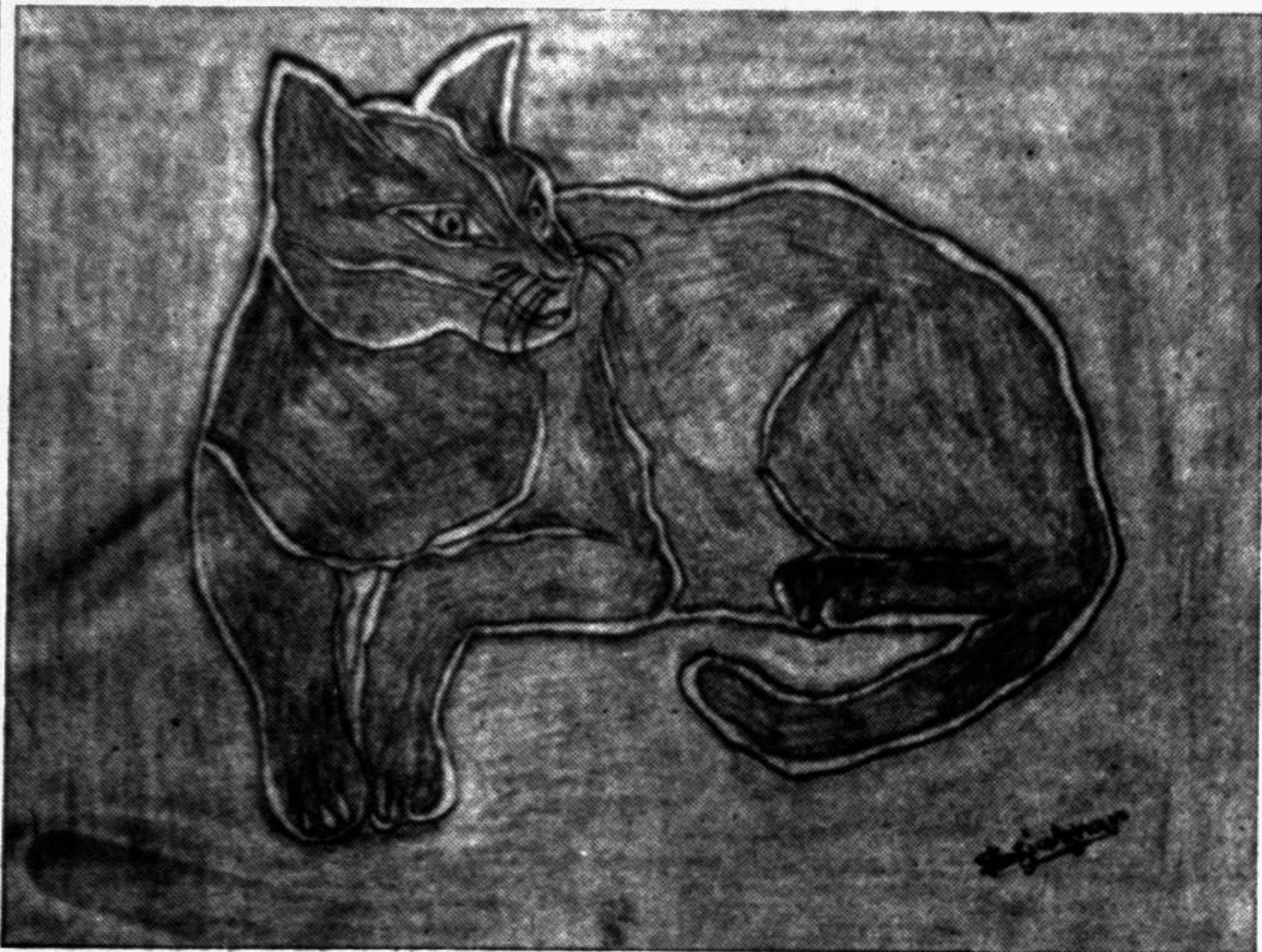


# Dhaka Day by Day

## Black Cat and Broken Mirror

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



The snobbish urbanite may automatically associate "superstition" with the naive villager who relies more on what "people say" and seldom on the dictates of logic or reason. This of course is the misconception that gives the city dweller a false sense of superiority. For he is just as susceptible to certain superstitions as any country bumpkin would be. The Dhakaite, with all his cynicism and practicality, still shudders involuntarily when he sees a black cat while crossing the road and still winces when a mirror is broken. The fact is that in spite of all the scepticism taught by city living, the Dhakaite cannot let go of those unwritten laws passed on by his rural ancestors.

The aforementioned black cat, for example, is still considered a bad omen and a forewarning of a disaster. A broken mirror means seven years' bad luck, which to the city dweller who has been mugged four times in one year, is really not surprising. The interpretation may become a little confusing when two mirrors break at the same time or if two mirrors break on consecutive days. The urbanite may go in some trying to calculate the amount of "bad luck" he can expect from simultaneous or consecutive breaking.

Nevertheless, the city fellow continues, quite unconsciously, to respect certain "old wives' tales". The more conventional superstitions which forewarn negative consequences are often associated with the left side of things. If your left hand itches, you will spend or lose money; if your right hand itches, you will receive money. If your left eye twitches, you may confront some kind of danger or expect something awful to happen. If your left arm twitches or hurts, it means it's time to get a medical check-up.

Getting the hiccups or choking on food indicates someone is remembering you. If it's a bad case of choking, be sure that someone is bad mouthing you, and if you laugh too much

today, be sure to cry tomorrow. If you cry too much today, be sure to have swollen eyes tomorrow.

Touching wood when something good happens ensures that it will not be undone and falling combs, glasses or cutlery may bring guests to the house. Taking or serving one spoon of food means drowning in water for the person who eats it while an ant in your tea means you will learn to swim (if you haven't already).

In spite of all the "tree-planting" and "tree-saving" campaigns, many of Dhaka's residents feel no qualms about chopping down certain trees if their presence is said to bring bad luck. The neem tree is said to house evil spirits so "off with its head" even if its leaves have great medicinal value.

Similarly money plants are "not good" for they may bring poverty to the household. The paan (betel leaf) tree is said to bring bad luck and set the house on fire. Funny enough, a certain lady in Maghbazar says that this particular superstition should not be taken lightly. Apparently, some years ago she had kept a paan plant in her verandah in spite of all the warnings by relatives and acquaintances. "I did not believe in such things, but curiously very soon after I had bought the plant my apartment caught fire and I threw it away right there and then," she says. How's that for you non-believers?

To the city dweller, who is bogged down enough by urban worries, the do's and don'ts of certain superstitions may pose an extra burden to bear. Yet he continues to believe in them in spite of himself, with the idea that one cannot be too careful. Thus, when he comes across one or more "shalik" birds, he never fails to remember the old rhyme: one for sorrow, two for joy three for a girl, four for a boy, five for silver, six for gold, seven for a secret never to be told!



Ambassador of the United States of America David N Merrill called on Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali at latter's office in the city Monday. — PID photo

### Taslima's trial put off till Jan 23

The trial of controversial author Taslima Nasreen on charges of hurting the religious sentiments of the Muslims has been adjourned till January 23, reports UNB.

Taslima's lawyer Sunday filed a petition in the court of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate stating that the government did not obtain sanction under Section 188 of the Criminal Procedure Code as per the directive of the High Court.

On January 10, a High Court division bench rejected the prayer for quashment of the charge against Taslima, but observed that the trial court should get the sanction of the government under Section 188 of the CrPC to proceed with the case.

Earlier, on November 5, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Kamaluddin framed charge against Taslima for hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims.

The 32-year-old physician-turned-writer is now living in exile in Sweden after quietly fleeing the country following the granting of an *ad interim* bail by the High Court in August.

### Housewife commits suicide in Khulna

**From Our Correspondent**  
KHULNA, Jan 17: Afroza Khatun Rina (35), wife of Abdur Razzak, Executive Engineer-1 of the PDB, Khulna and mother of two children allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from ceiling fan in her bedroom on the holy night of Shab-e-Barat Monday.

Police said her husband's illicit affair with a lecturer of the Pioneer Govt Girls College was the reason for Afroza's suicide.

### Damage suit filed

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) has filed a Tk 10 lakh damage suit with the third Sub-Judge Court of Dhaka for detaining Falu Mia for 21 years without trial and thereby spoiling his life, reports UNB.

In a press statement yesterday, BSEHR Secretary General Advocate Sigma Huda also urged assistance for the treatment of the destitute.

### Tree-care rally

A colourful "tree-care rally", first of its kind, was brought out in the city Monday for generating people's awareness about various methods of nursing plants, reports UNB.

Tree-care methods like weeding, mulching and pruning of branches, and pest control were demonstrated during the march, that started from the Cantonment rail station and ended at Banani station. Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain opened the rally, also participated by Secretary of the Ministry Amir-ul-Mulk and chief conservator of Forests Dr Shamsur Rahman.

The chairman of Vision, an NGO, also took part in the rally along with his more than a hundred members.

Members of Government and non-government organisations, including Environment and Forest Ministry, Forest Directorate, and Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, took part in the rally waving banners, posters and leaflets inscribed with various slogans.

### Shab-e-Barat observed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 17: Lalatal Barat (Shab-e-Barat) observed in the metropolis as elsewhere in the district last night with due solemnity, reports BSS.

Muslims spent the night through prayer, *zikr*, *ziyarat*, *Qiyam*, *khatam* and *milad mahfil* seeking blessings of the Almighty Allah for peace, happiness and salvation from sins.

*Milad mahfil* and *zikr* was held at Hazrat Shah Amanat Shan Dargah, Garibullah Shah Dargah, Khanqa-e-Qaderia, Amir Bhandar, Maizbandar Darbar Sharif and all mosques including Jamiatul Falah and Shah Jame Masjid.

Local newspapers remained closed yesterday on account of *Lalatal Barat* while the government has declared holiday today.

### DUJ meets today

An emergency meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held today at 11 am at the National Press Club, reports BSS.

DUJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuyian has requested all executive committee members and unit chiefs and deputy unit chiefs to attend the meeting.

### Seminar on tracer technology

By Staff Correspondent

The third national executive management seminar on 'Industrial Application of Tracer Technology (IT) and Nuclear Control System (NCS)', was held at the auditorium of Atomic Energy Centre in the city Monday.

The seminar was organised by UNDP, Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC). In the inaugural speech, M A Quaiyum, chairman BAEC said that there should be a real application of nuclear science and technology in the industrial, agriculture and medical field.

In industrial process, a thoroughly maintenance and checkup system must be required to ensure its full capacity utilisation.

In the scientific session, BAEC member Dr M A Wazid Miah was in the chair and keynote speakers were F B Ahmed Maroof, Principal Scientific Officer (PSO) of BAEC and National Coordinator of Tracer and NCS, Bangladesh, Dr Wandowo, long-term expert — Tracer RCA Office, Malaysia and Dr Joon-Ha Jin, National Coordinator Tracer and NCS, Republic of Korea.

M Quamruzzaman, PSO of BAEC, who is working in this field also spoke during the seminar. He pointed out that if we introduce tracer technology, the efficiency of the machines will be increased of various industries in Bangladesh, particularly the paper mills and fertiliser factories. But due to lack of proper guidelines and misconception it is not implemented, he said.

Dr Wazid said that we cannot control our quality properly if we are unable to introduce the latest technology. He also pointed out that with the application of tracer technology, we can decrease the consumption of energy and raw materials. "AEC can only play the role to promote the technology. But the authorities concerned from the different industries must come forward, if the technology is viable and economically profitable," he added.

Thirtyfour representatives of BAEC BCSR, Petrobranga; Palash, Jamuna, Zia, and Chittagong fertiliser factories; Karnaphuly Paper Mills, Dhaka University, Environmental Pollution Control Dept., and Dhaka WASA attended the seminar.

**WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION (W.V.A)**  
উইমেনস্‌ ভলান্‌টারি এসোসিয়েশন, (ডব্লিউ.ভি.এ)  
1994-1995

**International Meenabazar**  
In aid of physically disabled children and other projects  
International Meenabazar of W.V.A. will be held on 27th January 1995 Friday.  
Time: 11 AM to 5 PM.  
Venue: Gulshan Children's Park, Dhaka  
Ticket will be available Photo Centre Video Connection, Gulshan, Labamba, Dhanmondi, Aarong Mirpur Road & Banani W.V.A. Office Road No. 27, House No. 405/A Dhanmondi and at the venue on 27th January 1995.  
Space donated by The Daily Star

**The British Council**

**Notice**

**British Council Examinations**

In response to many enquiries from the public the British Council wishes to advise candidates and their families that, in the event of full-day hartals called during the current examinations period (until 26 January), it will not be possible to re-schedule examinations due to be conducted on the days affected. Examinations which do not take place for this reason will be cancelled and fees will be refunded on application.

**MBA CLUB OPENS**  
ON FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY 1995

AS PER FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

Time : 5.30 PM- 8.30 PM  
Venue : Club House  
30/A Naya Paltan, Dhaka  
[Behind Car Fresh/BNP Office]

ALL THE MEMBERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED WITH SPOUSE.

M SAIDUL HAQ MBA General Secretary  
S M KAMAL MBA President

**MBA CLUB LTD.**  
30/A Naya Paltan, Dhaka.

**জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
সাতার, ঢাকা।

**প্রথম সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের পুনঃ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পত ১১-১২-১৪ তারিখে পরিচালিত প্রচলিত সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের ১ম বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং ৪-১-৯৫ তারিখে প্রচলিত সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্রে সপ্তম সর্বকালের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাচ্ছে যে, এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রথম থেকে ১৯৮৭-৮৮ (শিক্ষাবর্ষের) পর্যন্ত স্নাতক, ১৯৯০-৯১ (শিক্ষাবর্ষের) পর্যন্ত স্নাতকোত্তর এবং ৩১-১২-৯৪ পর্যন্ত এম ফিল ও পি-এইচ ডি ডিগ্রী প্রাপ্তদের ডিগ্রী বিতরণের জন্য আসন্ন সমাবর্তন অনুষ্ঠানের ব্যাপারে প্রদেয় 'ফি' ও আনুষঙ্গিক বিষয়ে নিম্নলিখিত নির্দেশিত হয়েছে।

স্নাতক এবং/অথবা স্নাতকোত্তর (একটি বা দু'টি) ডিগ্রীসমাপ্তদের জন্য ৪৫০/- টাকা এবং এম ফিল ও পি-এইচ ডি ডিগ্রীসমাপ্তদের জন্য যথাক্রমে (পূর্ব সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী) ৪০০/- ও ৫০০/- টাকা ফি হিসাবে জমা দিতে হবে। প্রতিটি ডিগ্রীর জন্য, আলাদাভাবে আবেদনপত্র ও ফি-এর সমন্বয় টাকা একটি মাত্র ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে আপাদী ১২-২-৯৫ তারিখের মধ্যে বেঞ্জিয়ার, জাবি এবং অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডার শুল্ক অস্বীকারী ব্যাংক এর বাংলাদেশ শাখা থেকে উক্ত ব্যাংকের জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখার উপর হতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের ছক পূর্বের বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী হবে। তবে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে এই অফিসের শিক্ষা শাখার সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করে ছকপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

ইতোপূর্বে ১৯৮০ সনে সমাবর্তন ফি হিসেবে যারা ২৫/- টাকা জমা দিয়েছিলেন, ঐসবকে ২৫/- টাকা বাদ দিয়ে বাকী ফি-এর টাকা পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

মোহাম্মদ আলী  
ডেপুটি



A team of 15 Interactors from Rotary District 3290 India visited R I District 3280 Bangladesh for 10 days. A farewell function was organized by the Interactors of Bangladesh in their honour. Rtn M Mosharruf Hossain, District Governor, R I District 3280 Bangladesh seen presenting a gift to the leader of the team Itr Parikheet Kundu at Rotary District Secretariate recently. Rtn PDG Iqbal Ansari Khan and Rtn PP Sheikh Habibur Rahman seen.

### Obituary

Prof Nazibur Rahman, retired head of the department of Bengali, Dhaka College, died in the city on Sunday evening. He was 64, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter and a host of other relatives to mourn his death.

Late Prof. Rahman was buried at Shaheed Buddhijibi Graveyard here after *namaz-e-jumma*, family sources said.

Quikhawant of the deceased will be held today at Shagarika Complex, 46/B Mirpur road opposite to Teachers Training College, Dhaka after Asr prayers.



Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Chairman MA Quaiyum addressing the inaugural ceremony of a seminar on tracer technology and nucleonic control system at the Atomic Energy Centre Dhaka auditorium in the city Monday.

### Weather

#### No change in temperature

A cloudy sky with chances of rainfall at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhet, may prevail during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 24.1 degree Celsius and the minimum 13.6 degrees while the country's lowest temperature was recorded 10.9 in Faridpur and the highest 27.5 degrees in Rangamati and Chittagong. Percentage of humidity was 79 in the morning and 70 in the evening.

The Sun sets today at 5:35 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

The minimum and the maximum temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Min	Max	Morning	Evening
Chittagong	17.4	27.5	79	71
Cox's Bazar	19.5	—	79	—
Rajshahi	12.0	19.8	85	90
Khulna	13.4	22.5	92	77
Barisal	13.5	23.2	89	86

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Local Government Engineering Department  
District: Sunamganj

**Tender Notice**

No. LGED-11/1994-95(2nd Call) Date: 09-01-95

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors of LGED and pre-qualified contractors under different projects of Local Government Engineering Department for construction of single stoned pucca school building under Islamic Development Bank assisted Government Primary School Construction Project.

Interested contractors can obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 24-1-95 from the office of either (i) Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist: Sylhet/Moulvibazar/Habiganj, (ii) Thana Engineer, Thana Chaatak/Dowarabazar, Dist: Sunamganj and the office of the undersigned, on cash payment of Tk 550.00 (five hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) in favour of the undersigned after obtaining written approval from the respective officers for purchase of Tender documents on showing documentary evidence of their enlistment. Tender will be received by the above mentioned offices up to 1-00 hours on 25-1-95. No tender will be accepted beyond this time, and tenders will be opened at 1-30 hours on the same day in the presence of the tenderers, if any.

Interested tenderers may gather necessary information regarding tender and from the above mentioned offices during normal office hours on all working days. Tenderers must be accompanied by all relevant papers and Earnest Money at 2.50% (two point five per cent) of the total quoted price in favour of the Executive Engineer, Local Govt. Engineering Department, Dist. Sunamganj as stated in tender document.

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. Tenderers not complying with the stipulated conditions will be treated as non-responsive, and will be rejected.

Sl No	Name of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender documents	Completion Time for work
1	Const of 108 No Rampur Govt Primary School (under Chhatak Thana)	2.50% of the total quoted price	Tk 550.00	120 days
2	Const of Khamarkhal Govt Primary School (under Chhatak Thana)	Do -	Tk 550.00	120 days

**Md Mahfuzur Rahman**  
Executive Engineer  
Local Govt Engineering Deptt  
Dist: Sunamganj

DFP-1164-15/1  
G-93

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