

Dhaka Day by Day

What's in a Name!

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

The British have been well known for their ingenuity in calling themselves by the strangest of appellations — Longfellow, Shortman, Blackman, Bottoms, Love lace, to name a few. Yet the Bengalees seem to be no less eccentric in naming their children, being inspired by almost anything, from their professions to their favourite television programme.

Some parents are particularly inclined to show their weakness for food items and so name their children accordingly. Thus for every Mimi (mim) and Chechi (Sugar) Khalamma (there is a chocolate) Apa and Mishti Aunti (that the Dhakaites may have the privilege of knowing). Then there are the fruit lovers who call their beloved offspring Komola (orange), Apel (apple), Anar (pomegranate) or Ansur (grape). Dry fruits are also popular, perhaps due to their longevity. Six three sisters have been named Khorma (dried date), Akhrot (dried apricot) and Khobani, another dried fruit.

Money lovers and who isn't now (days) may name their sons Yen Dollar and Dinar, one hasn't heard the name 'Taka' to be given to anyone although perhaps even this will be possible provided our currency appreciates sometime in the future.

Those who are over anxious about their children's IQ give their kids, names that indicate intelligence such as Genius and believe it or not — Smart! Incidentally, Smart, no doubt a smart young man, happens to have a cousin called Square. One can only guess what other geometric shapes are in the family.

Mathematics or Physics buffs name their promising next generation Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Sigma.

Members of WGCEAC (We Can't Get Enough of American Culture) have named their promising sons after famous American

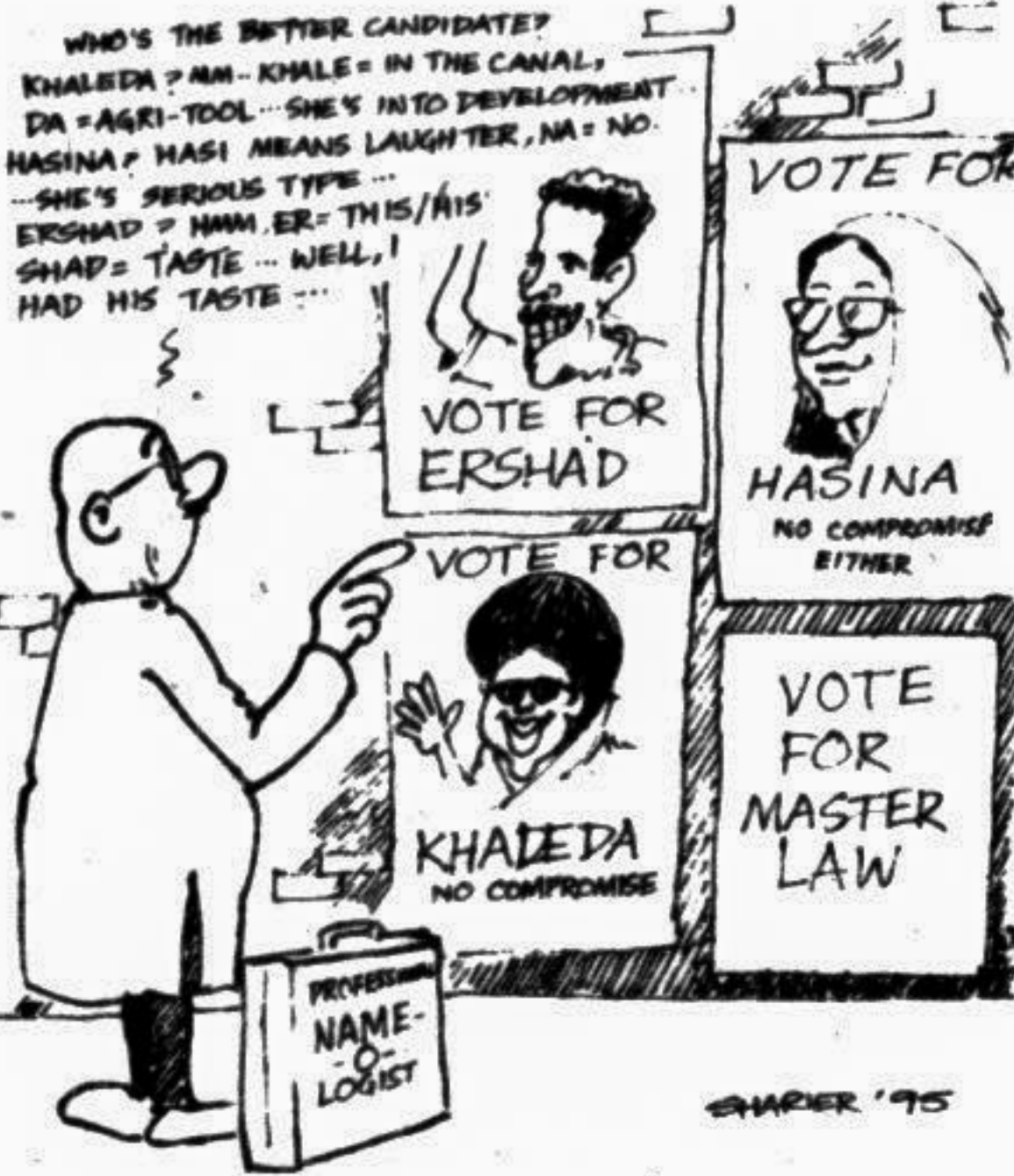
presidents. Thus one may find many Lincolns, Nixons and Kennedys all over the city. There are also apparent deviants who seem indulgent towards famous dictators who have been known for their sadism and butchery. Why else would anyone name their child Hitler? Obviously at the time of the poor kid's birth, the parents had no clue that they were naming their child after the most hated man in the world. One shudders to think of the unfortunate Bangalee who is called Rasputin or Frankenstein!

But what kind of grudge do parents have against their own flesh and blood to name them such unflattering names as Pocha (something gone bad), Taapa, Paatka or Puddu? One can only sympathize with these poor souls who have to live their lives being called by names that sound more like insults than fond pet names.

There are of course other non-sensical names like Poni, Topin, Guppi and names that sound alright when one was an infant but somehow seem a little ridiculous after crossing one's 60s. After all Baby nani and Pichki (miscellaneous) Khala-mma do sound a bit contradictory.

Those who can't understand what the fuss is all about with name giving (who would after the eleventh one) just call their children according to their arrivals — one, two, three

Anthropologists would probably scratch their heads if given the task of figuring out the origins of such extraordinary names. American Indians, a long time ago, at baby's birth, would toss various objects into the air and the first one to fall on the ground would be the newborn's name. Perhaps it was through a similar ritual that Bengalee infants have been blessed with names as unusual as Bullet and Shampoo. Any Bombs or Conditions out there?



Rotarians begin road cleaning drive in city

Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan in collaboration with Rotaract Clubs and Dhaka City Corporation yesterday launched a year-long road cleaning programme in Babar road at Mohammadpur, reports UNB.

Yesterday's programme included plantation of saplings, distribution of holding number signboards and road cleaning.

Meanwhile, Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka planted some Mehgani saplings in front of Dhaka University's Surya Sen Hall yesterday morning.

French, US N-test plans condemned

The French government's decision to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific and reported American plans for hydro-nuclear testing were condemned yesterday by speakers at discussion on nuclear disarmament in the city.

Organised by the human rights organisation, Solidarity at its Naya Paltan office, the discussion was attended by FA Madani, Syed Lutfor Rahman, Moninul Islam, Ariful Rashid and Tajuddin and presided over by Solidarity president, Sheikh Farooq Ahmed, says a press release.

The participants also slated nuclear testing by China and the supplying of N-reactors to Iran by Russia.

Jahan Ara attends cultural function at Indian HC

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahan Ara Begum yesterday said cultural activities can play a vital role in building bonds of friendship with other countries, reports BSS.

She was addressing a function at the Indian High Commission auditorium in the city. The function was organised by Bangladeshi students studying in India in the fields of performing arts. Indian High Commissioner Dev Mukharji and poet-architect Rabiul Hussain also addressed the function.



IGDR Minister Abdus Salam Talukder and president of Bangladesh Jatiya Samabay Union Salahuddin Ahmed MP hoisting the national and samabay flag in the premises of the Samabay Sadan in the city on the International Cooperatives Day yesterday. State Minister for Planning Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan is also seen. — PID photo

More books on banking needed

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Gohar Hafiz yesterday called for writing and publication of more books on socio-economic aspects including banking procedures to make people understand the intricate part of economic activities specially when the global economy is opening up to free trade, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at the publication ceremony of a book titled "Bangladesh Laws on Bank and Banking" at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday morning. Organised by Madona cultural group, the function was chaired by noted writer Gazi Shamsur Rahman.

Mirza Hafiz described the banking system as the vital force in the national economic activity and said that despite all odds, the fiscal policy of the present government had achieved a great extent of

discipline in the sector. In this context, he mentioned enactment of new Company Act, Security Exchange Act to restore people's confidence in this sector and rejuvenate the national economy involving private sector initiative in the economic growth.

The Law Minister stressed on accountability in the banking sector which he said would help eradicate many a wrong doing in the sector. He said while extending credit, the bank should emphasise on providing benefits to the maximum number of people to involve them in the national economic uplift activities.

Speaking on the occasion, PID Chairman Gazi Shamsur Rahman said weaker laws were not adequate to bring the bank defaulters to book and suggested enactment of stronger laws to halt the "defaulting culture" in the banking sector once for all.



Mayor Mohammad Hanif planting a sapling after formally opening the Rotary Peace Park at Baridhara in the city yesterday. Rotary District Governor Emdad-ul Huq and some foreign diplomats are also seen.

Star columnist from Pakistan due in city July 4

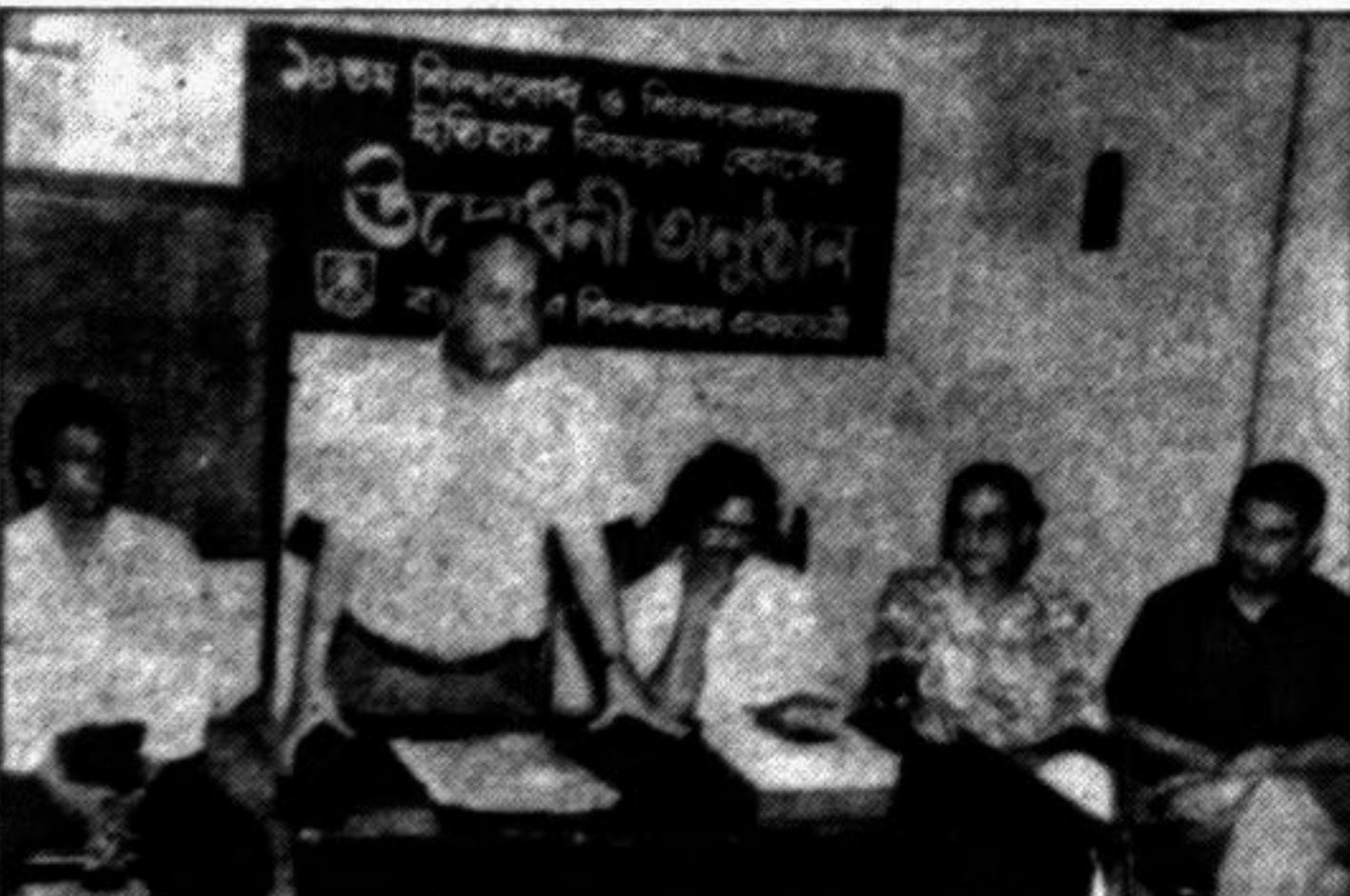
By Staff Correspondent
Ikram Sehgal, editorial columnist of The Daily Star and a leading businessman of Pakistan will arrive in the city on July 4.

Apart from his scheduled meeting with the Editor and staff of The Daily Star he will attend the inauguration ceremony of the Dhaka Bank on July 5. He will leave on July 8.

Biswas visits Keramat at PG

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday visited Keramat Ali MP, who is undergoing treatment at the PG Hospital in the city, reports BSS.

President Biswas stayed with the ailing member of parliament for some time and enquired about his health. He advised the attending physicians to provide him the best available treatment. The President wished him early recovery.



Playwright Sayeed Ahmed (2nd L) speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 14th course on the appreciation of art at the Shipakata Academy in the city yesterday. — Star photo

JCD condemns gunbattle on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, yesterday condemned the gunbattle between two factions of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the Dhaka University campus.

A student of Jagannath Hall of the university received injury during the clash at the dormitory late Thursday night.

At a meeting held in front of the DUCSU building yesterday JCD demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible.

They also blamed some teachers of the university for hatching conspiracy against the DU Senate.

JCD leaders said, the pro-Awami League senators boycotted the Senate polls sensing defeat. Ershadul Bari issue was only a pretext, they said.

There are some teachers in DUTA who are full-time politicians and part-time teachers, they alleged.

Referring to the Ershadul Bari issue they said that he was a senator nominated by the chancellor. No conspiracy against Ershadul Bari would be tolerated, they cautioned.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also held a meeting on the campus.

The BCL leaders alleged that the VC had established the worst precedence of partisanship at the Senate session. They stated the election of three syndicate members during the boycott.

Free computer training school opens

By Staff Correspondent

The inaugural ceremony of the Rotary Bangladesh Computer and Electronics Training Centre was held in the city yesterday.

The training school at the Elephant Road aims to educate the unemployed and marginalised persons, specially the youths, free of cost.

The centre will give training on basic computer skills DOS, Word Perfect, Lotus, DBase and Microsoft Word. Centre has started functioning with 18 trainees.

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Notice is hereby given to all concern that with the permission of Manpower Employment and Training Bureau office of M/S. Kazimoon International has been shifted as under :-

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All concern is hereby requested by owner of the agency to contract with the responsible persons of our agency in present (Shifting) address in case of any information or complain or in any purpose and which also to be communicated to Manpower Employment and Training Bureau by the concern person.

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সংলগ্ন ১৪ তলা এই এপার্টমেন্ট ভবনটির ২৬৫০ বর্গফুটের প্রতিটি ফ্ল্যাটে রয়েছে আধুনিক বাসস্থানের সবরকম উপকরণ

বরাহ চলেছে

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Thanks, but we apologise!

Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel would like to thank all its guests for their tremendous enthusiasm in experiencing the authentic Japanese cuisine served at Jharna, our Oriental Restaurant during the week-long Japanese Food Promotion.

We are truly sorry for not being able to accommodate all the Reservations requested during the week due to the unprecedented demand by the people. We hope to have a similar Japanese Food Promotion in the near future for the benefit of those who could not get reservations this time.

The Management
Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel

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