

Dhaka Day by Day

Bangla Print Media in UK Open New Frontier

by Morshed Ali Khan

During his term as the information minister, about two years ago, Barrister Nazmul Huda went to London to launch a government-backed Bengali language newspaper there. The local Bengali newspapers, established in the British capital for years, at first gave the newcomer a sympathetic but cautious welcome.

"But soon we realised that the minister had other things in mind," said Mohib Chowdhury, editor of Notun Din, a Bengali news-weekly in the Eastend of London, the chairperson of the recently created Bangla Press club based in London, and a caterer. "In an informal meeting with the minister, we were sitting at the back of the restaurant where the minister was talking with his party men," Mohib said, on a recent trip to Dhaka.

"There were more surprised to hear the Minister declare that all advertisements from the state organisations of Bangladesh operating in the UK must proceed to the newly launched paper."

"What about the other newspapers?" Someone enquired.

"They will simply not get any," replied the minister calmly.

"When a strong and loud protest was made instantly by some newsmen in the room, the minister looked up and said, 'I thought this was only a party meeting, I did not know outsiders were present.'"

Mohib said that the decision of withholding ads from the local newspapers, the number of passengers in the Biman flights from London to Dhaka fell by 30 per cent.

"KLM, British Airways really exploited this opportunity and launched publicity campaigns with us taking away many Biman customers."

But now things are beginning to look better as the authorities have probably realised that they could not go far without the help of the media.

The role of Bengali media in the UK was further enhanced when the Bangladesh Caterers Association, UK was convinced by the media to send a group of established businessmen on an investment drive in Bangladesh.

"One hundred top ranking Bangladeshi businessmen in the UK came to Bangladesh on a chartered Biman aircraft in order to explore the market and invest," said Mohib sitting on a comfortable sofa of his hotel room in the Motijheel area.

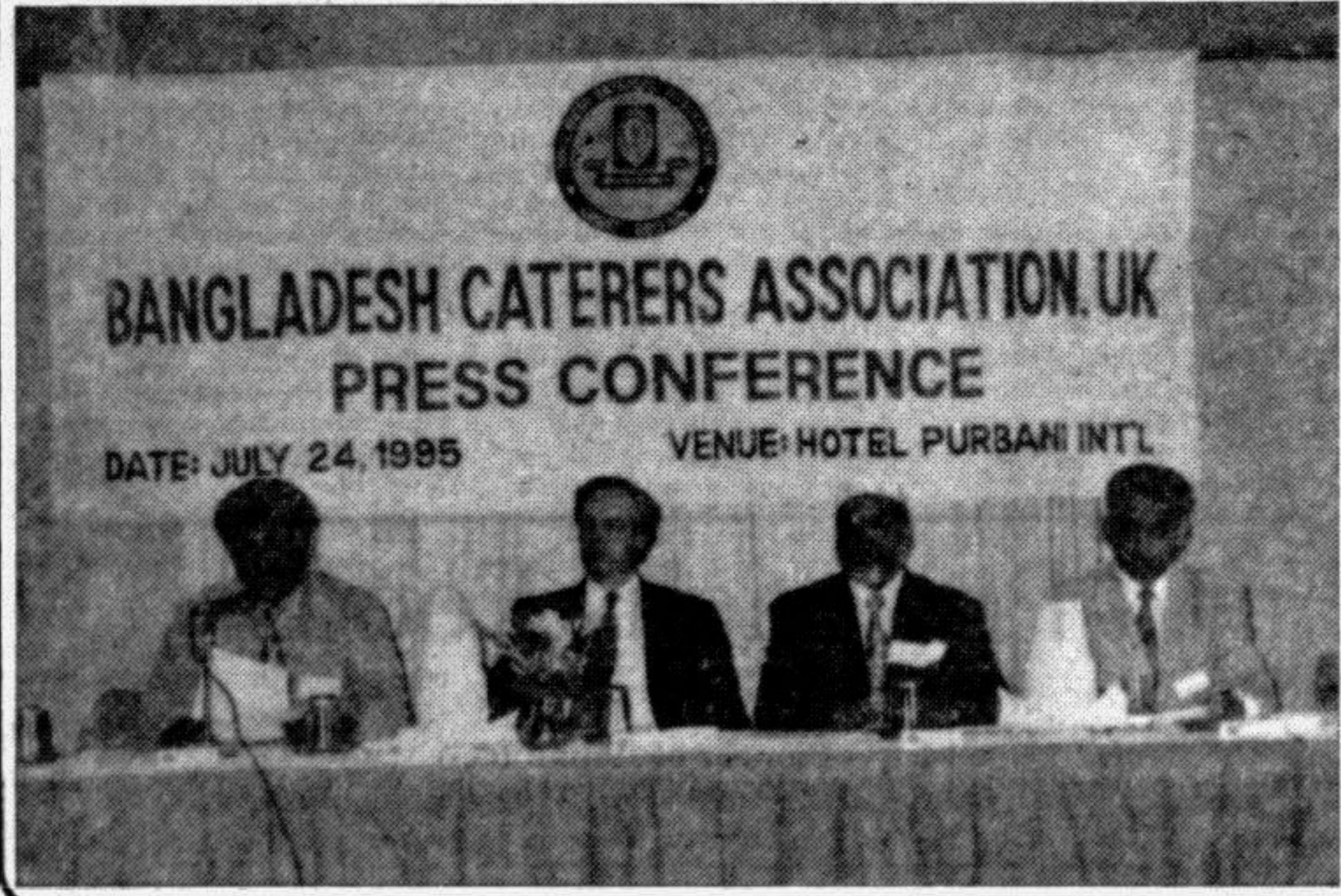
The British High Commissioner in Dhaka, Peter J Fowler, the Dhaka stock exchange, and other organisation and business houses have had talks with the visiting businessmen.

"Some of the visitors have bought shares in the market and some have gone as far as considering establishment of large scale industries in Bangladesh," Mohib said adding that the Bengali media in Britain would always encourage investments in Bangladesh.

There are three lakh Bangladeshi nationals living in Britain and quite a large number of people among them are well-known businessmen, and they want to do something in their country of origin.

Moreover, the young generation born and brought up in the UK should also be given the chance to explore their roots, Mohib said.

"We are now seriously talking with the Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh Biman and the local governments in Britain to promote this sector," Mohib said.



What's on today . . .

Bangabandhu retrospective: Muktiyoddha O Sh-wadhinatar Rajat Jayanti Parishad has organised a day-long programme to commemorate August 15. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Chief guest: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Abu Sayeed Chowdhury memorial lecture: The National Memorial Council has arranged lecture session titled 'War of Liberation, Democracy and a Dream of Self-reliance.' Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm. Chief guest: Justice Kemaluddin Hossain.

Reception for Chittaranjan Shaha: The Bis-wa Shahitya Kendra has arranged the reception for the noted publisher. Venue: The auditorium of the centre. Time: 5 pm.

Lions Club of Dhaka: The meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Ramna restaurant. Time: 6:00 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka New City: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Motijheel: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Ramna: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time 5:30 pm. Guest speaker: PDG Rtn Magfuruddin Ahmed. Time: 5:30 pm.

German Cultural Centre: The centre will screen Die Zweite Heimat (The Second Homeland). Venue: Goethe Institut. Time 5:00 pm.

HERE and THERE

The Hunger Project

The Hunger Project, an international NGO, organised a meeting to observe the 'breastfeeding week' in the city's Dhanmondi area Sunday, says a press release.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, the country director, presided.

Prof Husnara Kamal, Dr Halida Khandakar, Begum Nurunnahar Islam spoke on the occasion. In her speech, Prof Husnara said, "We must invest in our mothers to ensure breast milk for our children."

IUB

School of Business of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in cooperation with School of Management (SOM) of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok organised four executive development programmes at its campus recently.

Two of the four programmes concluded Saturday.

The programmes are investment decision-making, and negotiating, launching and managing joint venture.

Some 80 executives from banks, insurance companies, multinationals and private business houses are taking part in the programme.

Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha

The Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha observed the Hiroshima Day through a day-long programme in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

The Parishad brought out a peace procession from Dhammarajika Buddhist Monastery which ended at the Jatiya Press Club. A peace rally was also followed.

At 5 pm a discussion meeting was held. A meditation followed the meeting.

Workshop on healthcare concludes

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday underscored the need for quality assurance in the health care system to ensure medical facilities of the people, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the closing ceremony of a three-day workshop on "Health care quality assurance" held at the SPARRSO auditorium at Agargaon in the city.

The health minister urged the senior doctors in medical college hospitals to develop a high professional standard to ascertain the quality of their services.

Course on Quran recitation ends

A three-week long special training course on the religious education and Holy Quran reading ended here on Saturday, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by Tejkunipara Nurani Mahila Madrasah and Islamic Training Centre, the course was conducted by Maulana Mohammad Abudul Quddus and its president Gazi Shahidur Rahman.

TRIBUTE

Mr. Mohtasin Ali Chowdhury, father of renowned businessman and industrialist Mr. Azam J. Chowdhury, expired on 3rd August 1995.

Mr. Chowdhury has done lot of social work throughout his life and was a dedicated soul for community development. His demise was irreparable loss to the family.

He left behind 2 sons, 4 daughters and host of relatives and friends to mourn his death. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

D-794

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The Bank offers career opportunities and a compensation package geared to retain the best talent.

Applicants who fulfil the above qualifications and experience should send in their detailed CV along with an application and one photograph for the position in confidence to the "Office of Human Resources", Standard Chartered Bank, Alico Building, 1st Floor, 18-20 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, not later than 14th August 1995.

Weather

Thundershowers to continue

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by seasonal gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says, light rain or thundershower is expected at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Madaripur, Faridpur, Pabna and Bogra.

Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 35 degrees Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 25.5 degrees at Ishurdi and Teknaf.

Sun sets today at 6:37 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31 am.


Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.6	28.0	85	70
Chittagong	35.0	26.6	73	72
Rajshahi	33.6	27.0	84	75
Khulna	33.0	26.5	79	85
Barisal	33.0	26.0	86	72

Blood donation programme

Voice of America Fan Clubs and Sandhani, organised a blood donation programme at Paltan Community Centre in the city. Friday reports UNB.

Chairman of the VOA Fan Clubs Gias Kamal Chowdhury was the chief guest.



LEXCO LIMITED

146, Hazaribagh, Dhaka-1209.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to notify to all the valued applicants for the Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Lexco Ltd., that the Lottery for the allotment of the shares will be held, as per instruction of Securities and Exchange Commission, on 9th August 1995 at 3.00 P.M. at the premises of Sofsys Engineering Ltd., House No. 56, Road No. 13, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka.

Further, it is informed that the allotment letters and Refund Warrant, as the case may be, will be available from the same premises of Sofsys Engineering Limited.

The bank wise Allotment/Refund Warrant distribution date is as follows.

Bank	Date of disbursement
Sonali Bank	16.08.95
Janata Bank	17.08.95
I. C. B.	19.08.95
Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.	20.08.95

Therefore, all concerned persons are requested to collect their Allotment Letter/Refund Warrant during working hours.

Company Secretary

D-795

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ALD - 8	24,200	Tk. 22,000
ALD - 11	26,700	Tk. 24,500