

Dhaka Day by Day

Dissection Dramas

by Farah Ghuznavi

There is a general perception among Dhaka-dwellers, not only that it is better to study in the Science Group than in Arts, but also that those who do choose to study the humanities are less intelligent than science students. The view seems to be that the only reason anyone would study Arts is because he/she couldn't get into the branch of science. Worth mentioning here, that by "science," it is usually the study of the natural sciences that is being referred to.

As an ardent supporter of the social sciences and arts subjects, I find the aforementioned view quite unacceptable. However, I do think that there is one good reason why many people are indeed unable to study science. I don't feel though that the reason has anything to do with intelligence, since I think that the deciding factor is squeamishness.

Puzzled? Well, it's fairly simple. Since anyone who wants to study in the Science Group has to take biology, it means that by definition, you have to be willing to cut up insects (shudder) and/or small animals. As one who raced for the bathroom and disgraced myself by parting ways with my lunch there, when I had simply heard the teacher mention her plan to dissect a frog for us in a general science class, I have to admit that there is no way on earth that I would have agreed to study biology!

As well as general squeamishness in terms of watching dissections, there is also the small matter of having to handle some rather repulsive creatures during these sessions. For example, my friend Tiya, who was deathly afraid of cockroaches, managed to steel herself to the prospect of having to dis-

sect one in a biology exam. But her nerve completely failed when the cockroach (which had been somewhat ineptly chloroformed), started to regain consciousness just as she was removing its wings! Fortunately for her, a compassionate classmate spotted what was happening, and stepped in with the chloroform to save the day (or at least Tiya's sanity!).

Another friend of mine, Disha, who is generally quite a hardy character, has a strong aversion to earthworms. While she was studying in college, she lived in fear of being confronted with a worm in one of her dissection classes. Finally, in desperation, she approached the specimen collector for those sessions, Ratan-da, and pled him with tea and samosas in a blatant attempt at bribery, which was aimed at persuading him never to give her one of the earthworms to dissect in any of her practicals.

But alas, while Ratan-da devoured the goodies with every appearance of enjoyment, he failed to live up to his end of the bargain. Disha's worst nightmares came to pass the day that the dreaded earthworm was placed before her for dismembering. Asked about how she coped with that practical, she simply shudders eloquently and refuses to speak. As for Ratan-da, his placid excuse was, "There was no way that I could give everyone else an earthworm that day, and avoid giving you one. Then the whole practical would have had to be cancelled." If only she could be as calm about it as he was, but the twin horrors of the financial losses she sustained, and the closer acquaintance with the earthworm itself, have left her permanently scarred by the experience!



Jatiya Party Secretary-General Anwar Hossain Monju led a JP rally during the day-long barricade programme called by the opposition parties yesterday. — JP photo

Proposed curriculum Massive teachers' training programme from Jan 1

By Staff Correspondent

A one-day workshop was held in the city Sunday to orient 'master trainers' for implementation of the proposed new modified curriculum for schools, colleges and madrasas in the country.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar inaugurated the workshop which was part of a massive teacher training programme for implementation of the curriculum from January 1. The Taka 245.18 crore programme is funded by the ADB.

Writing of textbooks as per the new curriculum is now at a final stage.

The one-day workshop on 'Master Trainers for Dissemination of the Renewed and Modified Curriculum' was jointly organised by the Secondary Education Development Project (SEDP), Higher Secondary Education Project (HSEP) and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

As per the NCTB action plan, an elaborate programme to train the country's 1,14,259 junior, secondary and secondary school teachers on 17 subjects is now underway.

After the 64 'master

trainers' are oriented by local and foreign consultants, they would start training 'core trainers' in 6 divisional districts. The 'core trainers' will then develop some 'teacher trainers' in 64 districts.

"The thana level schools from which the teachers would be brought and trained would eventually become 'resource centres' for the respective subjects", said Prof Khurshid Alam, Chairman, NCTB further adding that these thana level teachers, on their turn, would offer training to other teachers in their areas.

Book-reading competition

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra is going to hold its book-reading competition '95-96. The students of HSC first year are eligible for the competition, says a press release.

The Kendra will award 100 prizes among the contestants of the 18-week competition.

Interested students have been requested to contact the Kendra Office at 14 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue by November 9.

ROK troupe to perform Nov 8-9

By Staff Correspondent

A presentation of traditional dances of Korea will be held in the city on Nov 8-9.

The visiting Seoul Performing Arts Company, from the Republic of Korea will put up their first show tomorrow evening at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

The company will present traditional Korean dances and music including "Salp'uri", "Samulnori" and "Sound of the origin of life" featuring indigenous percussion instruments.

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Jahan Ara Begum and the Korean Ambassador, Jong-Kyon Byun will be present at the show as the chief and special guest, respectively.

The 18-member cultural delegation currently on a five-nation tour of Asia, is in the city under the auspices of the Bangladesh Shipakala Academy and the Korea Foundation.

Award ceremony at Rokeya Hall

By DU Correspondent

The prize-giving ceremony of a week-long workshop on debate will be held today at the Rokeya Hall auditorium of Dhaka University.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, will be present as chief guest

Dhaka Int'l School celebrates UN Day

The Students of Dhaka International School celebrated the 50th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) at the premises of the school, says a press release. A cultural function was organised on the occasion.

NSU president meets pressmen

The founder president of the North South University (NSU) Muslehuddin Ahmad met the editors of some national dailies and news agencies recently, says a press release.

Hassan's janaza today

The namaz-e-janaza of Mahmudul Hassan, Bangladesh ambassador to Turkey will be held today after Zohr prayers at the Allahu Mosque, Dhaka Cantonment, says a press release.

Furniture Sale!!

IFRC-Bangladesh Delegation is selling a selection of furnitures from their stock. Best written offers must be submitted to us by 4 P.M. on 23rd November, 1995 at IFRC, C/o, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, 684-686, Baramogh-bazar, Dhaka. For further information please contact Mr. Willy 835401, 835402, 834701. S-543

ANNOUNCEMENT

Workshop on Bangladesh Agriculture in the 21st Century
Date and venue change:

The 2nd Day of the Workshop, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank, will start on **November 8 at 9.30 am** at the **Sasakawa Auditorium at ICDDR,B; Mohakhali, Dhaka.**

A Very Happy Birthday (8-11-95) to



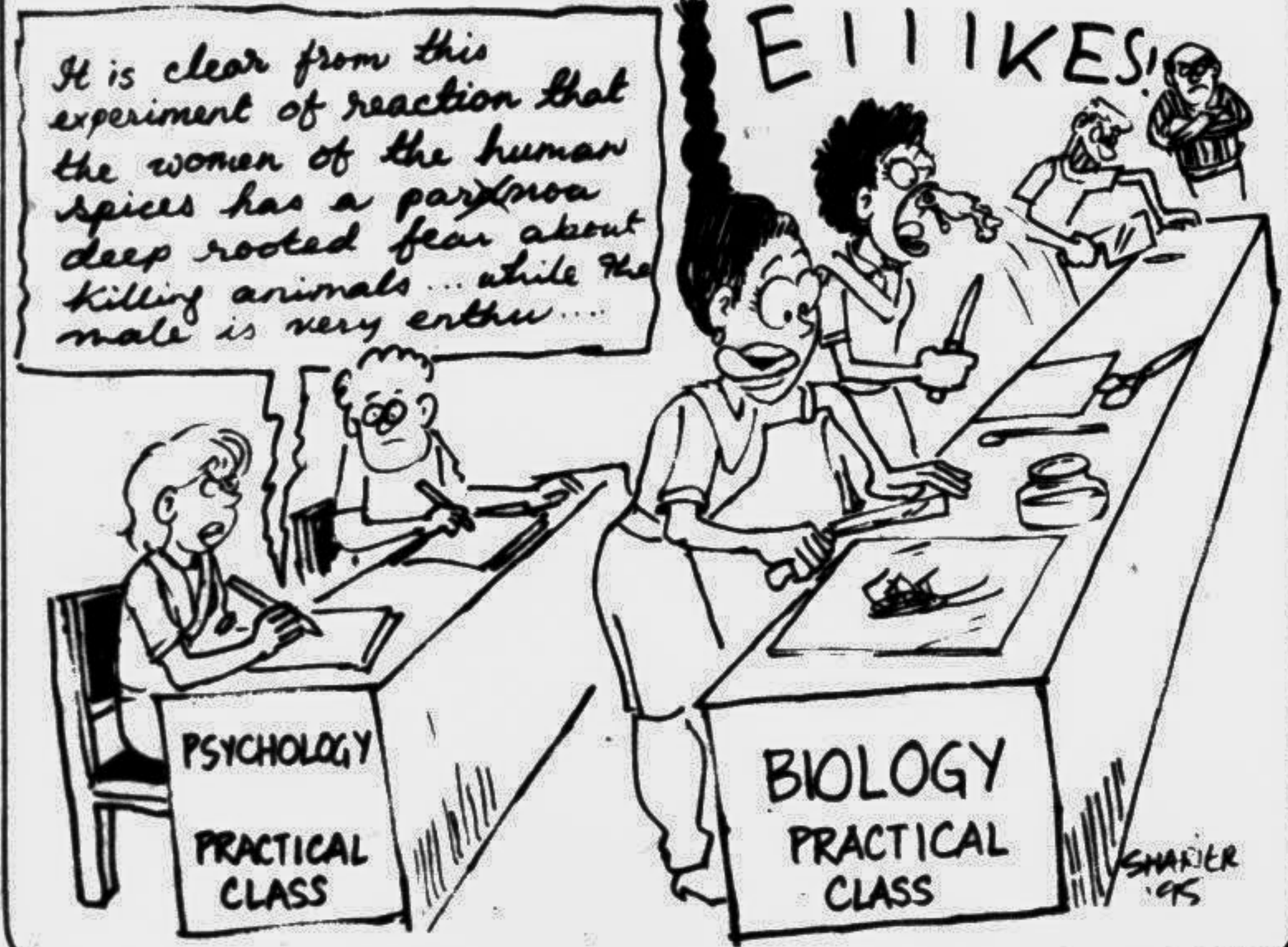
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IDPM, UK COMPUTER DIPLOMA IN BANGLADESH

The Institute of Data Processing & Management (IDPM), UK and the Fujitsu ICL representative in Bangladesh are jointly sponsoring a Foundation Certificate & Diploma Program in Computer Technology. The diploma program is uniquely comprehensive in that it covers communication skills and office practices in addition to computer subjects. The course will be taught by members of various reputed universities with advanced degrees from abroad. The Computers Ltd. (TCL) is arranging an OPEN HOUSE on Friday, Nov 10 at 4 pm, at Dhaka Office address given below to describe the objectives, structure and content of the program. You are cordially invited.

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THE LONG WAY OF EXPERIENCE HAS BROUGHT US TO THE PATH OF PERFECTION

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