

Dhaka Day by Day

Phobias and Fascinations

by Farah Ghuznavi

As anyone who has ever had to cope with one can tell you, phobias are usually completely irrational and totally overwhelming. As a result, they can also lead you into some pretty embarrassing situations. Because, as any sufferer will tell you, the hated object/creature also holds a kind of horrid fascination for them, despite (or perhaps because of) the revulsion they feel — simultaneously, it too is drawn to the phobic individual by some kind of inexorable attraction.

An acquaintance of mine has a real horror of cockroaches, and recently, on the way to a wedding, she encountered one in the car. Seated in the back of the car, she looked up to see the creature perched on the back of the front seat. She froze in horror! This cockroach was clearly a particularly insolent specimen, since it too stood motionless, with only its antlers twitching mesmerisingly back and forth.

On the verge of going into a hypnotic trance, Laila suddenly squeaked to the driver to stop the car. Despite the fact that her father-in-law and mother-in-law were also going to the wedding, she decided that she had to speak out, because she was convinced she would die of horror long before they reached the place where the wedding was being held. So the driver then had to stop the car, help her to climb out into a dark Dhaka side-street (in her jewellery-laden state), and vanquish the cockroach before she could climb back in and the party could resume its journey.

Another Dhakaitte (whose name must remain confidential for reasons of major embarrassment!) has a phobia about snakes. This is certainly not an uncommon fear, but in her case, the problem is so serious, that the mere sight of the picture of a snake, or an image on the television is enough to freak her out. Because of this, friends conversing with her on the phone have to keep their ear drums braced to hear sudden shrieks, in case she catches the glimpse of a snake on TV in the middle of a conversation.

A friend of mine, Shoma, is petrified of all cats and dogs (regardless of size, disposition

or stage of domestication), and therefore, of course, tends to attract these animals with monotonous regularity! A good example of this was when the two of us went on a trip to a rural part of Dhaka recently and effortlessly attracted the attention of a couple of dogs, which started howling rather menacingly. The news of our arrival rapidly spread in the canine community, and their number subsequently expanded to five. The villagers whom we were talking to were totally puzzled at this phenomenon but were alarmed enough to advise us to brandish a couple of sticks, which even I (who am not generally afraid of dogs, having three of my own) felt was a good idea! Luckily for us, with a group of around eight people surrounding us, we managed to get out of there in one piece.

My one phobia, for some reason, is related to sharks, which I don't like watching in documentaries or movies. A few years ago, I decided that I was going to break this fear by forcing myself to watch a series of shark movies on video. I sat down with my cousin, and the woman who worked at our house to start my "therapy". By the time we'd reached "Jaws 2", however, things started going wrong. In the scene where the children are stranded on a raft in the middle of the ocean here, and the shark is circling around them before closing in for the kill, Maya had gotten so involved in the movie that her face was about six inches from the screen, and she was shouting, "Ailore! Khalore! Dekhey na kan?" (It's coming! It's going to eat you! Why can't they see it?) My cousin and I were so busy laughing, there was no chance to even see the shark (not to mention that Maya's head was blocking the view anyway!).

Needless to say, those sessions did not really manage to get rid of my phobia totally, but the memory still provides me with some laughs. So as my friend, Shoma the dog-phobic bitterly says, I will just have to console myself with the thought that one is slightly less likely to meet a shark than a dog or cat on the streets of Dhaka!



(SUB-TITLES) COME DOWN—YOU GIVE US SO MUCH FUN...



The Bangladesh Awami League brought out a procession during hartal hours in the city yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today....

Muktijuddha Smriti Trust: Bangladesh Naval Commando Association will donate mementos of the Liberation War to the Muktijuddha Smriti Trust. Venue: Muktijuddha Museum, 5, Segunbagicha. Time: 4:30 pm.

Samajtantrik Mohila Forum: The forum will hold a rally in the city to mark the Begum Rokaya Day. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 2 pm. A discussion meeting will follow.

Justice Amin Ahmed Trust: A discussion meeting on the contributions of Justice Amin Ahmed in the field of judicial administration will be held. Venue: South Hall at the Supreme Court Bar Association Bhavan. Time: 4 pm. Chief guest: President Abdur Rahman Biswas. Special guest: Chief Justice A T M Afzal.

Pahari Chhatra Parishad: The Parishad has organised a freshers' reception for the hill students. Venue: DU TSC auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm. Chief guest: DU VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed. A cultural function will follow.

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

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani hotel. Time: 5 pm.

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

Pragotishil Gono Oikya Jote: The Jote has organised a discussion meeting to mark the Martyred Intellectuals' Day and the Victory Day. Venue: Jatiya Grantha Kendra auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Shahidullah Kaiser Smriti Pathagar: The body has organised a discussion commemorating the Martyred Intellectuals' Day. Venue: Nakhapara Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:30 pm. A recitation programme will follow.

Democracywatch: The body will announce the results of the nationwide polls conducted by Social Surveys. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 10:30 am. Chief guest: Barrister Syed Ishtaq Ahmed.

BFUJ, DUJ rally: Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will jointly hold a rally to press home their various demands. Venue: Jatiya Press Club premises. Time: 11 am.

Internet demonstration: Medical Information Group, Sandhani Jatiya Chokkhudan Samity and Ford Foundation have jointly organised a demonstration programme on Information Super Highway. Venue: Gallery 1 of the Dhaka Medical College. Time: 11 am.

Photography exhibition: Drik Picture Library Ltd has organised a photography exhibition titled "The South Asian Girl Child: Hardship and Joys," in collaboration with UNICEF. Venue: Hrdk Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

BGMEA seminar: Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will hold a seminar on 'Quality Improvement in Textile Dressing'. Venue: BGMEA conference room. Time: 2:30 pm.

Bomb attack condemned

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Provost Committee has condemned the Sunday evening bomb attack on the residence of the Provost of the Saltmullah Hall, DU.

At a meeting yesterday, chaired by the Vice Chancellor, the committee condemned the "act of terrorism" on university property and urged law-enforcement agencies to apprehend the culprits and bring them to justice without delay, according to press release.

Meanwhile, teachers living at the university's residential area, in a separate statement, condemned the terrorist attack on the residence of the Saltmullah Hall provost.

UNB adds: Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday condemned the bomb attack at the residence of party leader Mohammad Nasim.

He demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for the attack.



Death anniversary of journalist Syed Nazmul Huq today

The 24th death anniversary of Shaheed journalist Syed Nazmul Huq will be observed today, says a press release.

Qurankhwani, a milad mahfil and feeding of the destitutes will be held at 5 New Eskaton Road today. Friends, relatives and admirers of the martyred intellectual have been requested to attend the milad mahfil.

Chief reporter of the then Pakistan Press International and resident representative of Colombia Broadcasting Service (CBS) in Dhaka, Nazmul was the first among the intellectuals to have been killed by the occupation forces in 1971.



Death anniversary of martyred brothers

The death anniversaries of these four martyred brothers — Shaheed Mokarram Hossain Mukul, Shaheed Mansur Hossain Manju, Shaheed Mostaq Hossain Anju and Shaheed Mosharrat Hossain Ranju and their brother-in-law Shaheed Yusuf Ali (extreme right) will be observed today. Qurankhwani, a milad mahfil and feeding of the destitutes have been arranged at 74/1, New Airport Road. Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend. These valiant freedom fighters were picked up by the occupation forces from their Modhubagh residence on this day and were killed at the Dhaka Cantonment, says a press release.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

Prevailing dry weather may continue over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met Office said night temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rajshahi division and the region of Kushtia while temperature may slightly fall elsewhere over the country.

The sun sets today at 5:13 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32 am.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 30 degree Celsius at Kutubdia and the lowest 12 degrees at Ishurdi yesterday.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	in Celsius	in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.1	14.2	77	81
Chittagong	28.0	16.7	81	74
Rajshahi	27.5	12.4	90	78
Khulna	28.2	14.2	88	72
Barisal	27.6	13.5	81	90
Sylhet	27.0	15.6	85	78
Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.3	74	74

ATTENTION : IBA ALUMNI

A seminar will be held as per following schedule :

Seminar Paper : TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Venue : Hotel Purbani Int'l, Dilkusha CA

Date : 12 December 1995

Time : 5.00 PM to 8.30 PM

M SAIDUL HAQ MBA General Secretary MD HABIBUR RAHMAN KHAN MBA President

THE IBA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka Tel : 861819, 505551-2

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A national private development organisation engaged in networking and policy advocacy issues on land rights and agrarian reforms is going to recruit a senior staff — Program Coordinator.

Applications from suitable candidates, male or female, are hereby invited.

Candidates should have the following qualifications:

Academic qualification : At least Masters.

Experience : At least 6 (six) years' experience of working with bonafide NGO. Candidates with background of working as trainer/training coordinator and having received TOT course preferred.

Aged : Between 30 to 40.

Skilled : In Program implementation and management and writing reports both in English and Bangla.

Initial monthly salary : (Consolidated) around Tk 10,000/-

Applications along with two copies of passport size photo, CV and true copies of the original certificates should reach the following address not later than December 31, 1995.

Executive Director
ALRD
9/17, Iqbal Road
Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207

The Government of Bangladesh in cooperation with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Wishes to Indigenize Successful Nation-wide Poverty Alleviation Program

Expressions of interest are invited from both Bangladesh government and nongovernment organizations, or a consortium thereof, to undertake on transfer from CARE-Bangladesh, the program ownership, management, and operation of the Income Diversification Component (IDC) of the Rural Maintenance Program (RMP).

Initiated in 1983 by CARE, the RMP now employs over 36,000 destitute women per year to maintain rural earthen roads in 3,600 Unions throughout Bangladesh. The road maintenance component of the RMP is now being transferred to the Local Government Engineering Department of the Ministry of Local Government. The Ministry now seeks a partner with the capacity to assume responsibility for the IDC as well as to contribute to overall RMP coordination.

The Income Diversification Component provides livelihood management skills training to approximately 10,000 women who graduate from road maintenance work each year. The IDC training module requires qualified and dedicated staff to persist in equipping these women with necessary tools for realizing economic security such as: basic financial and business management, micro investment, survival planning; as well as presenting options for income diversification.

Qualifications: Demonstrated commitment of working with destitute women; recognized achievement in participatory training; ability to manage, implement and staff a nation-wide training program; previous experience in working with government and NGOs; reputed monitoring and evaluation systems; and sound management and financial solvency.

Requirements: Interested parties must submit: a statement of organizational capabilities addressing the above criteria (max. 4 pages); past 3-year audit reports; pertinent program evaluations; personnel manual; staffing profile; annual workplan; and current 3-5 year strategic plan, to The PRIP Trust by 31 December 1995.

Requests for information via fax or post only. No phone calls please. Only short-listed candidates will be acknowledged.

The PRIP Trust, IDC Assessment Team
House 56, Road 16 New, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209
Fax 880-2-816429



Nizamuddin's death anniversary today

Shaheed journalist Nizamuddin Ahmed's 24th death anniversary will be observed today, says a press release.

This day in 1971, the occupation forces raided his home and arrested him. He had never returned to his family.

A career journalist Nizamuddin joined journalism in his student life. He was the editor of the erstwhile Pakistan Press International till his demise.

A member of the Provincial Assembly in 1965, he was also the Dhaka correspondent of BBC, APA and UPI.

He was awarded Ekushe Padak '95 (posthumously) for his outstanding contribution to journalism.

Sandwip's death condoled

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has expressed her deep shock at the death of Abul Kashem Sandwip, a veteran freedom fighter who first cast his voice in the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, reports UNB.

In a message of condolence yesterday, Hasina said, the nation would forever remember his glorious contributions to the War of Liberation and in the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

Jahan Ara Begum
State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum expressed her profound shock at the death of eminent writer, radio personality and freedom fighter Abul Kashem Sandwip.

In a condolence message the state minister recalled Abul Sandwip's contribution to the War of Liberation and in the field of mass literacy programme.

Muktijuddha Sangsad
Meanwhile, ailing chairman of Bangladesh Muktijuddha Sangsad Central Command Council Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury in a message has condoled the death of veteran freedom fighter Sandwip. He conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family, says a press release.

Bangla Academy
Speakers at a condolence meeting at the Bangla Academy yesterday paid

glowing tributes to Abul Kashem Sandwip, a renowned freedom fighter and organiser of the "Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra", reports BSS.

Presided over by Director General of the Academy Professor Mansur Musa, the meeting was also addressed by Professor Sahful Alam, Professor Md. Abu Zafar, A K N Shamsuddin Subrata Barua, Md. Nurul Huda and Abdur Rahim.

CUJ
Leaders of Chittagong Press Club and Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) today expressed profound sorrow at the death of veteran freedom fighter Abul Kashem Sandwip.

UNAB
Advocate Syed Ahmad Hossain, secretary-general, Hossain Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB), yesterday condoled the untimely death of Sandwip.

Death anniversary
The 11th death anniversary of former minister Abdul Momen Khan will be observed today, reports BSS.

A number of social-welfare organisations have planned programmes to mark the day, a press release said.

The Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation (Khan Foundation) has arranged Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil in the evening, the release added.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
Headquarters, Kurmitola, Dhaka

"পাছ লাগান, পাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বীচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী
বিমানবন্দরকে পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন

Tender Notice CD-1 No. 7/95-96

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the work as noted below from CAAB enlisted 'A' & above Class Contractor (Civil) which will be received in the office of the undersigned, Director, CEMSU and Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka on 28-12-1995 up to 12-00 Noon & shall be opened by the undersigned at 12-30 pm on the same day in presence of the contractors, if any. Tender papers & other terms & conditions may be available in the office of the PA to Member (Ops & Planning) CAAB, HQ, PA to Chief Engineer, CAAB, HQ, PA to Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka, PA to Director (ZIA), Director, CEMSU, Kurmitola, Dhaka & Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. No tender paper will be sold on the date of opening of the tender. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or part without assigning any reason thereof.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of tender form (non-refundable)
1	O&M of VVIP Terminal Building (SH: Providing link wire fencing invc. Barbed wire both side of VVIP Road) at ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.	Tk 16,54,340/-	Tk 41,400/-	Tk 750/-

Chief Engineer
Civil Aviation Authority
HQ, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

DFP-30771-9/12
G-1889

Ambassador to Uzbekistan named

The government has decided to appoint Syed Khawaja Sharif Hasan as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Uzbekistan, reports UNB.

১৯৭১ এর মুজিব ভক্ত বাঙালীর নতুন প্রজন্মের কাছে ইতিহাস তুলে ধরার লক্ষ্যে জাতির জনক স্বাধীনতা সৈনিক শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের "ইতিহাসের শেকড় সন্ধান" অভিযানে অংশ নিচ্ছেন।

● দেলোয়ার হোসেন বাদল ● শফিকুল ইসলাম বাহার ● সুফুন নাহার লতা ● প্রমত্তা শামসুদ্দোহা মাহবুব

প্রয়োজনায় :- বাসুরাজ।

আজই সংগ্রহ করুন
যে কোন অভিযানে অংশ নিচ্ছেন

টাচ অডিও ৭৮, আনার কলি সুপার মার্কেট মৌচাক ঢাকা