

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

It's Time to Know about the Year

By Muneera Parbeen

We are already in a new year. And now it is time to find out what is in store for us. Human nature is such that we all are curious to find out the unknown and hence, we turn to our astrologers. So comes the *Rashee-Chokros* (i.e. Zodiac or Star forecasts) where our destinies for the immediate future are examined and discussed by our astrologers.

In many foreign countries, most leading newspapers publish articles on each star sign by leading astrologers in the last month of the year, giving a summarised insight into what's in store for the new year. There is strong competition over who gets which famous astrologer. In our country, star forecasts are found only in leading magazines (apart from day to day forecasts in almost all the papers) and some special ones dealing with the subject. Most of these astrological forecasts are divided into the twelve star signs and give detailed yearly as well as monthly forecasts.

Bookstalls are already selling books and magazines on the subject and all the leading magazines have started advertising for their annual "Star Forecasts" volume. Most of them are available in the market by the last 10 days of a year. Some publishers also take advantage of this time of the year and bring out smaller publications which advertise boldly (and loudly) the observations of various astrologers. These type of publications usually come into market ahead of other reputed magazines and contain nothing but a heap of fabricated articles which give no information at all. The sale of these types of issues are mostly confined to bus and train stations where travellers are attracted by the colourful and bold covers and buy in a hurry. They possibly regret the purchase. Other magazines have a text of about one-third of their entire volumes and the rest is filled up with numerous pictures, most of which are

exposures of pin up models or B-grade actresses, both local and foreign. The latter is of course the main selling point of these magazines and sale of them is possibly confined to the more fickle-minded people.

The serious issues on astrological forecasts are brought out by leading magazines of the country as *Bichitra*, *Purnima*, *Robbar* etc., just to name a few. Many leading astrologers are associated with particular magazines and their admirers mainly stick to these magazines. Some astrologers, as the Mahajata, bring out their own annual books on their own predictions for the new year. Many people then buy a variety of magazines to compare different astrologers' views.

Astrological forecasts, especially those on the different Star signs, attracts a wide variety of people. Some read them

just to have a kick out of it. Many, however, follow these forecasts with deep sincerity and do not plan anything for the new year until they have consulted predictions for their own Star signs. For many, the year that has just passed has not been so good and so they eagerly wait for the next year's forecasts to see if anything better is in store for them. Some people suddenly find that the past year's forecast has somewhat come true for them and they eagerly join the pack of other astrology lovers.

There is a fierce debate over the issue of astrological forecasts but it dictates a large number of followers in a society as ours, as sales figures of annual "Star forecasts" issues show. It seems as if each year more and more people buy these magazines (whether they follow them or not is another matter altogether!) Whether this trend will continue in the future or not is something only the astrologers can predict! For the time being, the nation waits for the good tidings the new year will bring.



Zodiac

Correction: The opening sentence of yesterday's Dhaka Day by Day was a misstatement. The nation celebrated the 25th year of Victory Day, not that of the Independence Day. We regret the oversight.

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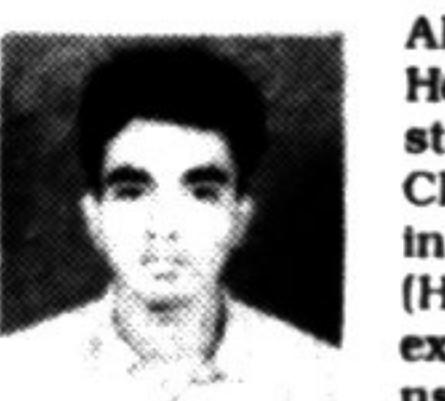
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CLARIFICATION

The Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives yesterday clarified a Daily Star news headline "Government seeks Cancellation of Privatisation Component" published Saturday said that there was no privatisation component in the conditions of the World Bank as was stated in the item.

It further clarified that the government did not request the World Bank either to cancel or to defer any of the conditions for financing the Fourth Dhaka WASA Project. The Daily Star news had clearly referred the "privatisation component" as DWASA's contracting out the revenue collection activities like billing, collection and meter reading to private management.

The Daily Star also confirms with sources present at a meeting with an IDA Mission of the World Bank, which visited Dhaka in October, that the government had requested the IDA to defer the deadline of fulfilling the condition to contract out two DWASA zones. The government representatives explained the resistance from the DWASA unions and had urged to defer the deadline until the general elections are held.

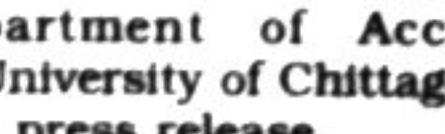


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Azad who hails from Shariatpur is the second son of engineer Md Anwar Hossain.

Omar Khaled Mohammad Rizwanul Bashar stood First Class First in the BBA (Hons) examinations of 1993 (held in 1995) from the Department of Accounting, University of Chittagong, says a press release.



Speakers at a discussion here yesterday said poet Jasimuddin occupied a glorious position in Bengali literature by depicting rural life in his poems, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Lokgiti Shilpi Gosthi organised the discussion meeting in observance of the 93rd birth anniversary of the great poet.



Students of Eden University College brought out a colourful procession to welcome the new year in the city yesterday.

What's on today....

Bar Council workshop: The workshop titled 'Clinical Legal Education and Advocacy Workshop' will be conducted by a team of Australian lawyers. Venue: Court Room No 1, Old High Court Building.

Time: 4:15 pm. Chief guest: Chief Justice ATM Afzal.

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

What's on tomorrow....

Science lecture: The National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) will host a discussion titled 'The Moon-Sun-Earth'. Dr A. R. Khan will deliver the talk. Venue: NMST auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Kushtia and Sylhet during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office forecast said weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

During the period, slight fall in night temperature is expected throughout the country.

The country's lowest temperature was recorded 12 degrees Celsius at Srimangal and the highest 28.5 degrees at Chittagong.

The sun sets today at 5:23 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42 am.

The minimum and the maximum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and town yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.0	15.2	67	77
Chittagong	28.5	14.3	81	68
Rajshahi	26.4	14.8	89	73
Khulna	27.1	13.5	-	68
Barisal	26.4	13.6	92	78
Sylhet	24.0	15.1	-	77

DRU condolence meet on Munajat

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) has arranged a condolence meeting today on Munajatuddin, a veteran reporter of the country. Munajatuddin died last month in a tragic accident. The meeting will be held at the Jatiya Press Club VIP lounge at 4 pm. The discussion is open to all.

First Class First

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Handbook on polls reporting

The Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) recently published a Handbook on Election Reporting which provides practical tips, background and relevant information to help cover the parliamentary elections, says a press release.

The 255-page handbook provides practical guidelines for election reporting.

The book provides essential background information on elections in this country and brief sketches of the laws and opinion polls concerning elections.

A list of the constituencies with the winners and the nearest contestants in the 1991 elections, the Code of Conduct for the sixth parliamentary elections, names and contacts of the major political parties and a list of election maladies that generally occur in Indian elections are also included.

DU Psychology deptt introduces new course

Psychology Department of Dhaka University is going to introduce a new postgraduate specialised course, Clinical Psychology, from its current session, reports UNB.

The department has already invited applications from suitable candidates for admission to the course.

The intending candidates, who secured minimum higher second class in honours examination in Psychology with a good score in statistics and research component, have been asked to submit their hand written applications along with attested copies of marksheets of all previous examinations to the department office by January 13.

The applicants having some experience of mental health issues will get preference.

Book on Habibullah Bahar Chy

The launching ceremony of the book 'Habibullah Bahar' by Prof Selina Bahar Zaman was held at the National Museum auditorium Saturday, reports BSS.

The occasion was presided over by journalist Obaidul Huq and addressed by Prof Abu Rushd, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Mostafa Nurul Islam, Prof Anisuzzaman and Dr Pervez Zaman.

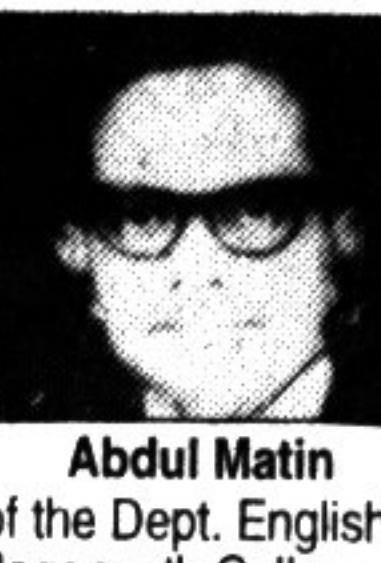
The book contains various aspects of the life of late Habibullah Bahar Chowdhury, including his literary works.

Prof Siddiqui lauded the book, saying, it is about a person who was an orator of rare quality who later emerged as a powerful columnist in Calcutta in the pre-partition days.

57 arms recovered

Law enforcing agencies recovered 57 arms of different varieties, 159 ammunition and 44 explosives yesterday on the 11th day of the country-wide drive to recover illegal arms, reports BSS.

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Abdul Matin
Head of the Dept. English (Retd.)
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Central Women's College from
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Alhaj Dr. Taslimuddin Qaderi, F.R.C.S.
Consultant Surgeon,
Abdullah Fuad Hospital
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who left this world for Eternity on this very day in 1986 from their paternal house at 11, Segun Bagan.
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