

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-Chakros* (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 is 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 *Mahajatak*, 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, attract 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.

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 in Celsius		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' Union (DRU) has arranged a condolence meeting today on Monajatuddin, a veteran reporter of the country. Monajatuddin 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

AKM Azad Hossain stood First Class First in the B. Sc (Hons) examinations of 1993 (held in 1995) from the Department of Geology, University of Chittagong, says a press release.

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

Omar Khaled Mohammad Rizwanul Bashir 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.

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5 killed in city road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five persons were killed in separate road accidents in the city.

Ripa, 20, daughter of Alauddin of Rampura, was killed when a speeding truck hit her in Hazipara area yesterday, hospital sources said.

One Shubhash, 27, who received severe injuries in a bus accident at Tikatuli at about 2 pm died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the afternoon.

One Anil Chandra Das, 40, a Pedestrian, was killed on the spot when a tank lorry ran over him near the Khilgaon rail crossing in the morning.

One Siraj, 60, was killed in another accident near Kanchpur bridge yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, an unidentified woman aged about 40 was killed when a train ran over her at Khilkhet at about 1 pm, police said.

Discussion on Jasimuddin

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.

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 malpractices 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 Chy* 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 Rashed, 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.

Happy Birthday JESI Love Mizan

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Consultant Surgeon,
Abdullah Fud 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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S-04

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Office of the Executive Engineer RHD Ferry Division, Barisal (RHD), Tender Notice

- Tender Notice No : 72 of RHD, Ferry Division, Barisal/1995-96.
- Name of work : As described below:
- Eligibility of contractor : (RHD), general category contractor as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction.
- Availability of tender schedule : i) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.
ii) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal (only office hours). No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender schedule.
- Tender receiving officer : i) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Circle, Khulna.
ii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.
- Last date of selling tender schedule : 13.1.96 (only office hours).
- Last date of receiving tender schedule : 14.1.96/1.10.1402 at 12 Noon.
- Date and time of opening tender schedule : 16.1.96/3.10.1402 at 1 PM.

Group No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1.	Repairing of 2 Nos propulsion unit of 150 KW Mann engine of Utility type-2, Ferry No 023/90 at Charkhali ferry ghat including supplying materials under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,43,600/-	Tk 2872/-
2.	Repairing of 2 Nos self starter, 2 Nos alternator and 2 Nos fuel pump of 110 HP Daf engine of Utility type-2, Ferry No 020/90 at Dowarika ferry ghat including supplying materials under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,16,670/-	Tk 2334/-
3.	Repairing of damaged portion of pontoon No PO-011 and PO-012 at Mirganj ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,60,199/-	Tk 3204/-
4.	Supplying spare parts for 75/120 HP hydromaster 110 HP Daf and 150 KW Mann engine under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,76,600/-	Tk 3532/-
5.	Supplying spare parts for 2 Nos gear box and propulsion unit of 108 HP, Samufa engine under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,75,800/-	Tk 3516/-
6.	Supplying spare parts for overhauling of 120 HP Hydromaster (Newford) Engine No-456202 and machine work under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,06,945/-	Tk 2135/-
7.	Supplying spare parts for 150 KW Mann engine of different Utility ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1995-96.	Tk 1,29,000/-	Tk 2580/-

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G-12

Executive Engineer, RHD Ferry Divn, Barisal.

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CLARIFICATION

The Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives yesterday clarifying a Daily Star news headlined "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.



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

— Star photo

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে

প্রকৌশল বিভাগ/পূর্বাঞ্চল

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং সিই/ই-১৭১/৯৫ইং তারিখ : ২৮-১২-৯৫ইং
১। বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে জোন বিভাগ হওয়ার পূর্বে 'সি' শ্রেণীর টিকাদার এবং পূর্ব জোনের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত 'সি' শ্রেণীর টিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে:

কাজের নাম	আনুমানিক মূল্য	বাধ্যতার টাকা	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য (অফিসের ব্যয়)
লায়েন্সপ্রাপ্ত-সিলেট সেকশনে কিরিমিঃ ৩১৩/৫ হইতে ৩১৩/৮ পর্যন্ত সেতু নং ২০৬-এর সমন্বয়নয়ন প্রাপ্তে এপ্রোচ প্রতিরক্ষাকরণ (নকশা মোতাবেক)।	টাকা ৭.০০	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২%	টাকা ৪০০/-

২। দরপত্র দাখিল বিজ্ঞপ্তির স্থান ও : প্রধান প্রকৌশলী/পূর্ব বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী/ ২. বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, ঢাকা এবং সহকারী প্রকৌশলী/সিলেট-এর অফিস হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে আপাতী ২০-০১-৯৬ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

৩। দরপত্র দাখিল বাস্তব ফেলার ও : উল্লিখিত নকসামূলে বর্ণিত দরপত্রের বাস্তব আপাতী ২৪-০১-৯৬ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ফেলিতে হইবে এবং এদিন বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার খোলা হইবে।

৪। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রেলওয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী/পূর্ব বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম।

ডি-১৪