

Dhaka Day by Day

Overcoming Challenges of Life

by Tulip Chowdhury

Md Aminuddin, who hails from the district of Shariatpur has been blind for the past 28 years. A victim of small-pox, he lost his sight when the deadly disease struck him at the age of 14. He now runs a small make-shift shop inside the government New Market. To Aminuddin life has been a challenge and he has learnt to live through the trail of life.

After his bout with smallpox Aminuddin found that his world was a dark and menacing one. He approached a doctor. But he learned that his eye-sight could not be restored. Accepting the cruel truth, he came to Dhaka in search of a living. In the busy streets of the metropolitan city Aminuddin found himself begging. As he learnt to move about in Dhaka, he became determined to do something respectable. With the help of some kind people he collected a small amount of capital and started to sell 'pocket parjitas' (small books of the yearly lunar calendar in Bangla). Soon he gathered his small income together and started a make-shift shop in one of the most crowded shopping centres of the city. And in the Government New Market he has been selling books on Islam and 'tasbehs' for the past eight years. 'Tasbehs' are strings of beads used by Muslims in keeping a count during prayers.

When you ask the price of a 'tasbeh', how does the man know which one it is? "May I hold it please?" Aminuddin says extending his hands. You give it to him and feels around the string with his hands. "This one is Tk 15 and the one which has larger

beads is Tk 25."

When one asks him the prices of some of his books, he takes them in his hands and after hearing the names of the books he asks the price.

It is evident that Aminuddin's life now depends to a great extent on his ability to hear and feel. Blindness has not deprived him from family life either. With his two children he is very much of a family man too. His wife and his teenage son earn some money by helping out in a shop. He himself earns around Tk 45 to Tk 50 per day. Together they are able to earn enough to support themselves among the struggling millions of the less fortunate of Dhakaites. Aminuddin hopes to gather enough money to set up a larger bookshop in the future.

"Some people are lame, some are dumb and because a deadly disease I'm now blind. Still I am thankful to Allah for how much He has helped me to do for a living". Aminuddin said in answer to a question as to what he thinks of life.

Aminuddin has proven that disability of any kind should be taken as a challenge to life. For the disabled, the strength of willpower is an essentiality to refrain from becoming a burden to the family and society. Smallpox is claimed to have been eradicated from the world. But the deadly disease has still living witnesses. Like Aminuddin there are many other people who are blind. But will all the people be able to hold on to life and fight for a decent survival as he has been able to do?



Awami League brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for the 48-hour hartal which begins from today. — Star photo

Shawkat Osman turns 80

By DU Correspondent

Taunmer Utsab (festival of the young), a group of young cultural activists yesterday in a day-long programme observed the 80th birthday of Shawkat Osman, eminent writer of the country.

The programme began with a colourful rally from the TSC of the Dhaka University. Shawkat Osman was born on January 2, 1917 in Hooghly district of West Bengal. After partition in 1947 he joined Chittagong College as a teacher. Later he joined Dhaka College in 1958 and continued till his retirement in 1972. He has so far authored at least 75 books.

The day's functions started at 4 pm at the TSC auditorium with poet Shamsur Rahman in the chair. Among others artist Golem Mostafa spoke in the function.

Osman urged the younger generation to be united against the communal forces active in the country.

The second session of the function and the cultural show was presided over by Panna Kaiser, convener of the festival committee.

Conference

CHITTAGONG, Jan 7: An international conference on 'Mathematical and Chemical Physics' will be held at the Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at Chittagong University on January 10, reports BSS.

National Professor M. Shamsul Haq, former Chairman, University Grants Commission and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will inaugurate the conference.

Scientists and researchers from home and abroad will take part.

Postponed

The discussion meeting on preparation of election monitoring of Dhaka region arranged by the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

A new date will be announced later. The coordinators are requested to contact the national office at 324276 and 323889.

BWJF meeting

A meeting of the Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum (BWJF) will be held on January 11, at 3 pm at the Jatiya Press Club, reports BSS.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

Dry weather may prevail with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

The sun sets today at 5:28 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

The country's lowest temperature was recorded 9.8 degrees Celsius at Srimangal and the highest 27.6 degrees at Teknaf.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	26.5	12.6	82	76
Chittagong	26.4	14.8	80	74
Rajshahi	25.6	12.0	87	78
Gulshan	27.2	13.5	80	70
Barisal	26.5	12.6	84	85
Sylhet	26.8	14.8	84	58
Cox's Bazar	27.0	16.5	67	62



Prof. Moniruzzaman speaking at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Prof Sharif honoured

By Staff Correspondent

Professor Mohammad Sharif Hossain was honoured at a function organised by the Biswa Sahitya Kendra, for his outstanding social service yesterday.

Prof. Shamsur Ali, VC, Bangladesh Open University and Prof. Moniruzzaman, head of Bangla Department of the Dhaka University, spoke on the occasion. Abdullah Abu Sayed, Director of Biswa Sahitya Kendra presided.

Born in 1934 in a pious family of Jessore, Sharif Hossain was established a family library in 1948, while he was 14 years old.

He was actively involved with various political movements of the country. In 1956 he became the Office Secretary of Awami League, Jessore district unit. In 1957 he joined the National Awami Party. In 1967 he was arrested under Pakistan Security Act.

son Committee for a workers' International on the occasion of the next 'international tribunal against child labour and forced labour' to be held in Mexico in April this year.

Prof. Kabir Chowdhury was in the chair while Gani Shamsur Rahman, Santosh Gupta, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Prof. Abu Bakar Siddiq, Kamal Lohani, Abul Bashir, Iqbal Majumder, Dr. Ahmed Rafiq, Sanaulah Noori, Shirin Akhter, Prof. Ahmedullah Miah, SM Imamul Huq, Rafiqunnabi, Prof. Khaleda Salahuddin and Advocate Abdus Salam spoke.

They called upon all humanitarian and social welfare organisations along with trade union bodies to work for stopping child labour in the country.

Call to wage campaign against child labour

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday called for waging a campaign against child labour in the country as it was destroying new generations, reports BSS.

They identified poverty as the main reason which was forcing children to earn money in various fields including agriculture, industries, domestic houses, small shops and trades on the open streets in cities.

The speakers drawn from different professions also said some unscrupulous employers taking advantage of their poverty and helplessness, were engaging poor children in their mills, factories and other areas with low salaries, compelling them to do work hard.

The discussion was organised by the International Liaison

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY
HOUSE □ 16, ROAD □ 2, DHANMONDI R/A, DHAKA □ 1205, BANGLADESH. TEL □ 865221 865662

Tender Notice for Blank Audio Cassette

Memo No : BOU/Admin/Procurement-37/56/11/95/8022
Re-Tender No. 12 (Procurement)/95-96 Date: 6.1.96

- The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various currencies towards the cost of BOU, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Blank Audio Cassette for the Bangladesh Open University Project, BOU Campus, Board Bazar, Gazipur.
- The Vice-Chancellor/Project Director, BOU, now invites sealed bids from eligible manufacturer, local agent dealer with sufficient physical capability for supplying, fitting and fixing of Blank Audio Cassette for the BOU Campus, Board Bazar, Gazipur.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible local bidders on submission of a written application and upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to Tk 300/- (Taka three hundred) only for each set of bidding documents from the office of the Director (Finance & Accounts), Bangladesh Open University, Board Bazar, Gazipur up to 14.1.96 during office hours.
- The following documents are to be submitted at the time of purchasing the tender documents and also to be submitted along with the tender documents:
 - Written request on firm letter head with full name & signature of Proprietor/Managing Director of the firm.
 - Experience certificate of performing similar nature of works.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security money @ 2.0% of the quoted amount and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 12.00 Noon on 15.1.96 in the tender box kept in the office of the Registrar, Bangladesh Open University, House # 16, Road # 2, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.
- Validity of tender : 91 (ninety-one) days from the date of bid closing.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Vice-Chancellor/Project Director
Bangladesh Open University

Ansar Academy renamed

The Bangladesh Ansar Academy has been renamed the Bangladesh Ansar O-Gram Pratirakkha Dal Academy, in brief, Ansar VDP Academy, reports BSS.

The decision was taken recently of facilitating activities of the academy.

New books

The Muktohdara publishing house has released two new books on the sixth day of the Dhaka Book Fair '96, says a press release.

The books are *Rabindra Charcha* (A Study on Rabindranath Tagore) and *Bankim Charcha* (A Study on Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay) by Narayan Chowdhury.

Happy Birthday Raushani



from
Dadi, Dada, Phupi,
Phupa, Mummy, Daddy,
Babu, Archi & Shakil.

ATTENTION

An eminent Bangladeshi Gynecologist and Obstetrician Abu S. Alam M. D. practicing in USA is planning to visit Dhaka on the 14th January through 28th January 1996. During his visit he will consult and see some OB/GYN patients in the Lake View Clinic, Road No. 79, House No. N. E (H) 5, Gulshan, Dhaka.

Interested OB/GYN patients may consult by appointment with the Lake View Clinic, OB/GYN Dept.

Tel. No. 881358, 605375 or ABU M. ALAM
Tel. No. 606590.

The British Council

GCE Exams:

Tuesday 9 January 1996

Due to the hartal, "O" Level Maths Paper-1 scheduled to be held at 1.30 pm on 9 January will now be held at 7.30 pm.

Arrangements have been made to enable examinations to go forward in safety.

Please note that if the hartal is postponed the examination will start from 1.30 pm as scheduled originally.

SREEPUR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED INITIAL PUBLIC ISSUE OF SHARES.

OPENS ON 14TH JANUARY'96

CLOSES ON 23RD JANUARY'96

PROSPECTUS for Public Issue of 5,20,000 Shares of Tk.100.00 each AT PAR has been published in **BANGLADESH OBSERVER** and **SANGBAD** on DECEMBER 31, 1995. Minimum lot for application is 50 SHARES or multiple thereof. Application forms are available with the Members of Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange and with the Bankers to the Issue.

The Project with its existing 16,320 Spindles has gone into Commercial production from 1ST JULY, 1995 and envisages expansion to 24,000 SPINDLES and 576 ROTORS. The Company has successfully marketed its products and the market has accepted the products at a premium.

The Project is set up with MOST MODERN AND NEW MACHINERIES from China, Japan, Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom. For expansion Unit Machineries will be procured from the same source.

Total estimated Project cost is Tk.47.57 Crores. Out of the total Project cost Tk. 14.00 Crore is Equity and Tk. 33.57 Crore is debt. Sponsor's Share of Equity is 50%. Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and Northern Bank of the United Kingdom participated in Equity Finance. The Debt financiers are Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, BSB Sonali Bank and Industrial Promotion and Development Company of Bangladesh Limited (IPDC).

Annual Production Capacity in terms of converted 32s has been estimated to be 86,25,702 Lbs. of Yarn. Average earning per share is Tk. 39.15. The Projected internal rate of return is 23.09%. The Company expects break-even at 48% of capacity utilization.

The Company is one of the ERBA GROUP and ASSOCIATE COMPANIES which is managed by a team of Country's leading Industrialists with several years of business experience in diversified fields. The Group has 3 Listed Companies namely MESSRS. ALPHA TOBACCO MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED, MESSRS. BANGLADESH LEAF TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED and MESSRS. NORTHERN JUTE MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED with excellent operational results and Dividends records.

THE MANAGEMENT IS ALWAYS AGAINST TO MAKE PUBLIC ISSUE OF SHARES BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION AND INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING (IPO) AT A PREMIUM.

MR. A. M. AGHA YUSUF, the Seniormost and a leading industrialist, who is the CHAIRMAN of IFC Bank Limited, is the MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY.

You are requested to read the PROSPECTUS carefully and invited to be a Member of the Company. We shall make our best efforts to protect your interest.

UNDERWRITERS :

BANGLADESH SHILPA BANK • KARNAPHULI INSURANCE CO LTD • ALPHA TOBACCO MANUFACTURING CO LTD • BANGLADESH LEAF TOBACCO CO LTD • CORPORATE SECURITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED AND 89 MEMBERS OF DHAKA STOCK EXCHANGE LIMITED

MANAGER TO THE ISSUE :
CORPORATE SECURITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED.

It'll be exciting!
It'll be fun!
It'll be an evening to remember!

GLAMOUR FASHION SHOW

followed by dinner & dance with live band
on Thursday, the 14th January '96
at the Ballroom of Sonarjhan Hotel

Ticket prices: Tk. 1250/- (Single) and Tk. 2500/- (Couple)

Tickets Available from :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| □ Overtfresh Quality Foods (Gulshan) | □ Dolce Vita Ice Cream (Barari) |
| □ Rainbow Ice Cream (Gulshan) | □ Coopers (Dhanmondi) |
| □ Video Connection (Gulshan) | □ Filmfair Video (Sohrabagh) |
| □ Saad's (Gulshan) | □ Sonargaon Hotel Lobby (Kawran Bazar) |
| □ Candyfloss (Gulshan) | □ Swiss Bakery (Bailey Road) |

Sponsored by:
LAKME
GULFAIR
Apex footwear
Sanna Sarraf

Organised by: Glamour International
Tel : 607432, 607436