

Dhaka Day by Day

Dull Year for Calendar

by Raffat Binte Rashid

January is the month when people go asking for, looking for and even to some extent pestered (others) for their favourite collection of the month — calendars. An obsession many can't possibly conceal when it is calendar time.

Nineteen ninety-six seems rather to be a dull year for calendars. Many of them are over-loaded with themes and their haphazard imposition actually made the works look either drab or chaotic.

But in general a lot of research work and serious thinking were given to this year's calendar production by almost every company. And these serious and thought-provoking, research-oriented themes dominated the calendar world this season.

The celebrating of Bangladesh's 25 years of Independence — its chronology of struggle, development from years before its inception in 1971 to 1996 — was what most of the calendar-making companies dealt with. It appears dirk with its exceptional creative effort was able to bring out the best almanac of the year.

They have used some real negative films to produce stunning pictures. Damaged or spoiled, those films nevertheless are a true representative of our history. In the middle of today's heavy distorted pages of the history books, these pictures bear the testimony to the truth from which the country has drifted away by now, writes Shahidul Alam in his introduction.

This wall calendar made of excellent quality paper is indeed a job well done. Black and white photographs of non-cooperation movement; setting the dais of Jaimaat-e-Islam meeting on fire at Paltan Maidan; police fleeing the onslaught of violent protesters in front of Dhaka Medical College in 1965, hoisting of Bangladeshi flag on March 23 at the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are few of the pictures used here for the twelve months. Works of photographers who risked their lives to frame these moments of truth forever — like Jalaluddin Haider, Rashid Talukder, Manzoor Alam Beg, Mohammad Shafi, Aftab Ahmed and Begart Institute — were used in this unique calendar.

The calendar itself is well-designed. Quotations appropriate for the pictures were used beside each picture placed on one half fold while the tabular arrangements of dates were in the second fold. Next on the list and on same theme is the calendar of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd. The BTC worked rather with an artistic approach to the idea. As a reflection on the

trauma of war that has been turned into works of art. Shamsur Rahman's famous poem 'Liberty, you are ... written in the prison that Bangladesh was in 1971, has gained a special place in the hearts of people.

The poem is not one of exciting slogans, accounts of sufferings or vows to defeat the enemy. It is in effect a gallery of pictures, villages and cities, rivers and fields, tanks and gardens, meetings and processions, love and affection, the whim of Nature and

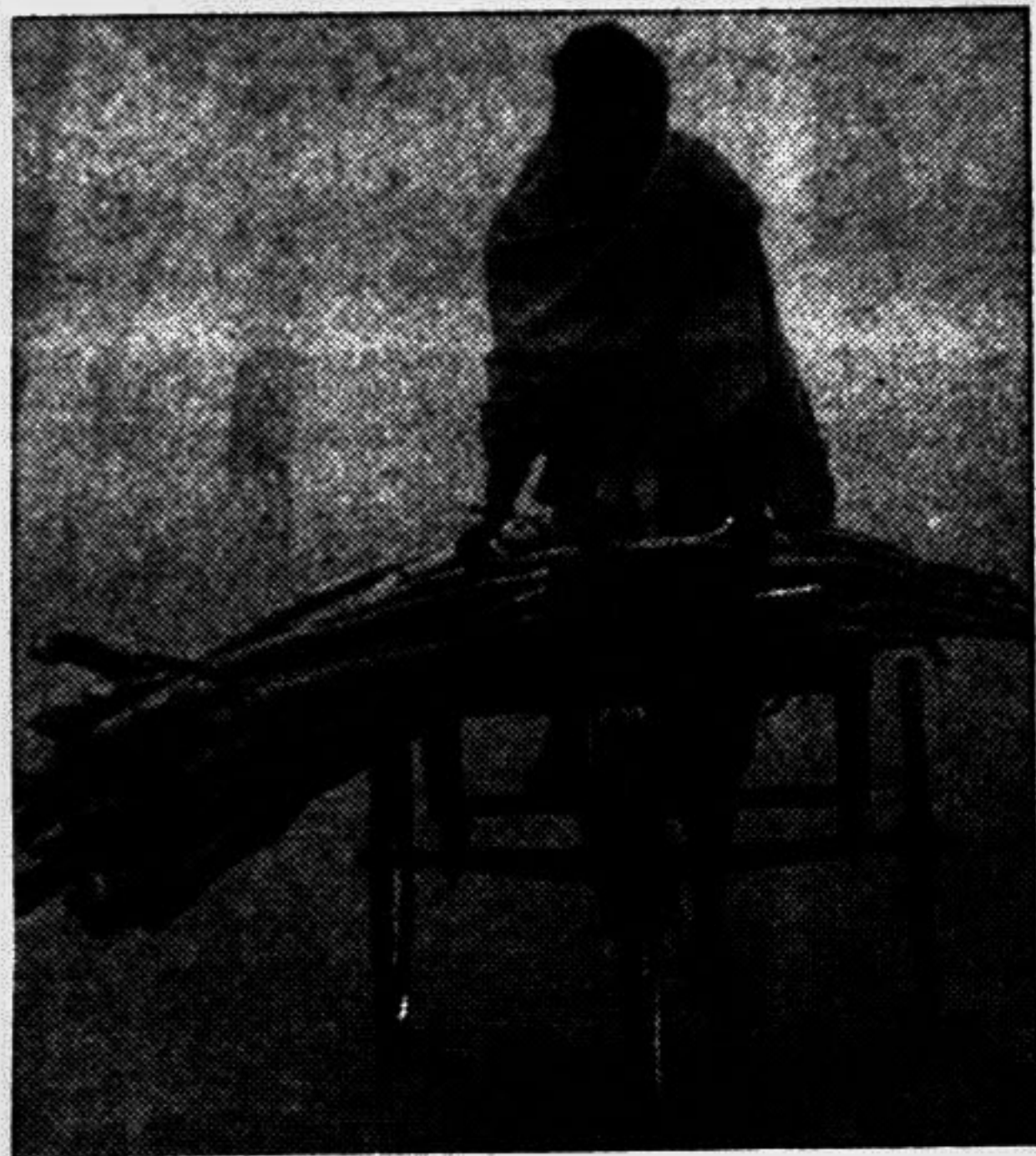
serenity of prayers, poetry and its traditions. All these make up life as they account for freedom. BTC invited six eminent painters of the country, Qayyum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Abdur Razzaque, Mansur Ul Karim and Mohammad Kibria to put the poem 'Liberty, you are...' in painting. Their contribution, two paintings each were not only illustrations of the poet's words but also expressions of their own emotions, creativity and style, as described in their text.

However, Singers effort on the same theme cannot be compared in the same category as the above mentioned works.

A collage of pictures on ideas like Monument of Liberation War, stamps of the country's early days, sculptures, wood engraving, painting, book covers, drama, cinema portraying the pre and post-independence years are there. Then come the Meghna bridge, Kafco, Hi-rise apartments, garment factories. The plan, that didn't quite match with the collages, were the different coloured and designed pages on a sort of mosaic background. This somehow underplayed the noble effort and made the calendar look quite haphazard.

A sweet and naturalistic break from this dominating theme was the photographs of Dr Nozesh Ahmed used in the Banque Indosuez calendar. Nozesh's excellent snapshots of romantic nature gave the calendar a different look. The misty, wintry mornings of February, the mowing of lands in March, the festive look of Batabhahi April, the mouth-watering succulent mangoes of June, the thunderstorms and lightnings of July, gave a representative and yet complete picture of the country. The photographs on the calendar takes us back to a nostalgic trip to our rural roots, no doubt.

However, most of this year's calendars were late in distribution because of the series of hartals which created a lot of mismanagement and extra pressure on the printers, binders and press, one of the printers commented.



Photo—Dr Nozesh Ahmed. — Courtesy Banque Indosuez



ADDING TO TRAFFIC PROBLEM: This man is transporting parts of rickshaws. With the city's traffic system becoming chaotic with the ever-increasing number of these three-wheelers, the rickshaw manufacturing trade is booming. — Star photo

Salanga Day today

The historic Salanga Day will be observed today in the country in a befitting manner in commemoration of the rebellion at Salanga under Sirajgonj district, reports BSS.

Thousands of people led by Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish took part in the bloody rebellion on this day against the British colonial rule at Salanga.

Maulana Tarkabagish Sangsad holds a discussion to recall the heroic role of the martyrs of the rebellion at its 76, Segun Bagicha office today.

CU exams rescheduled

CHITTAGONG, Jan 26: The final year examination of MA Psychology (eleventh paper) of 1992 session under the Philosophy Department of Chittagong University (CU) will now be held on January 31, instead of January 28, reports BSS.

The Psychology 12th paper examination of the same department will also be held on February 6 instead of February 4.

Garments workers hold rally

The National Garments Workers' Federation yesterday observed the Trade Union Rights Demand Day throughout the country, says a press release.

A rally was held at Topkhana Road followed by a torch procession in the city. Speakers at the rally alleged that despite their rights, the garments workers were not allowed to participate in any trade union activities by their owners.

This act is not only a violation of human rights but also contravenes the various International Labour Organisation conventions," said a speaker.

FEJB executives

Ahmed Nur-e-Alam, special correspondent of the weekly Bichitra and Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, senior reporter of BSS, were yesterday elected unopposed chairman and general secretary respectively of the forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) for 1996-97 term, reports BSS.

Gazir Rahman, special correspondent of BSS, Saiful Alam, senior reporter of the daily Inquilab and Mofizur Rahman, chief reporter of the daily Millat were elected vice chairman, joint secretary and treasurer respectively.

Mrinal Krishna Roy, associated editor of The Financial Express, Badiul Alam, chief reporter of The Financial Express, Mostafa Kamal Majumdar, special correspondent of The Morning Sun, Bulbul Ahmed, chief photographer of the independent, Chandan Sarkar, senior assistant editor of the weekly Bichitra, Elahi Nawaz Khan Saju, special correspondent of the daily Desh Janata, Hasan Hafiz, senior reporter of the Dainik Bangla, Abu Taher Khokon, senior photographer of The Morning Sun, Bakhtiar Rana, joint news editor of UNB and Mukleshur Rahman Chowdhury, diplomatic correspondent of The Dainik Dinkal were also unofficially elected members of the executive committee.

The sixth biennial general meeting of FEJB will be held on February 9 at the Jatiya Press Club.

Apex body

The annual general meeting of Anirban Jubo Swakarma Samabaya Samity was held at Ramna Thai and Chinese Restaurant yesterday with Azad Khan, president of the samity, in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting elected a nine-member executive committee of the organisation. Azad Khan, Md Anwaruddin, and Manzur Morshed were elected unopposed president, general secretary and treasurer of the samity respectively.

The committee members are ASM Kamrul Islam, Ashraf Hossain, Rafiqul Hasan and MA Hafiz.

What's on today ...

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: 7/13, Satmosjid Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rapport seminar: The seminar on Team Building with Boss and Colleagues' will be held. Venue: Panda Garden. Time: 5:15 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:15 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The society has arranged the screening of the 11 episodes of the film 'Heimat' (The Homeland) by German film maker Reitz. The ninth episode of the film will be screened today. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 3 pm.

Higher productivity of non-agri sector stressed

Noted economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday, laid emphasis on higher productivity of the rural non agricultural sector for overall growth of the national economy, reports BSS.

He observed that the present pattern of growth in the rural non-agriculture sector, marked by low productivity is likely to face a demand constraint, since the products are in general have a relatively inelastic demand.

Dr Mahmud said this at a talk on Trends in Income Formation and Employment Pattern in Rural Bangladesh' organised by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh in the city.

Dr Mahmud said over the past few years shift of increased number of rural labour forces towards the non-agricultural sector is hardly playing any role in the overall growth of the economy because of the low productivity.

He observed that the shift of rural labour out of agriculture is entirely driven by increasing landlessness, and not by landowning cultivators diversifying their sources of income towards non-farm activities.

"This shift has thus largely

taken place at the lower end of the income scale, since the land ownership and income are found to be strongly correlated," he said.

Referring to the findings of his study, Dr Mahmud said during recent years, expansion of low productivity self-employment has been the major contributing factor in the growth of rural non farm sector.

Dr Mahmud said the provision of such employment opportunities backed by NGOs like the Grameen Bank has been crucial for absorbing the growing rural labour force and for keeping the rural poverty levels from rising but the rural non farm sector has hardly played any dynamic role in the growth of the national economy.

The expansion of credit based poverty alleviation programmes are also likely to face demand constraints because of their emphasis on low-productivity activities," he said adding "Unless the programmes are designed to help the poor to gain access to expanding markets, the entry of some workers with credit support may only displace other fellow workers or reduce their income levels."

New hospital at Mongla Port

State Minister for Shipping Shajahan Siraj yesterday formally inaugurated the newly-constructed Mongla Port Hospital here, reports BSS.

Built at a cost of Taka 2.2 crore, the 40-bed hospital will provide health services to the family members of officials, employees and workers of Mongla Port Authority.

The hospital will have facilities of pathological laboratory, ultrasonograph, ECG, X-ray and blood bank.

Addressing a gathering at the hospital premises on the occasion the state minister said, process for construction of Rupsa Bridge and an airport near Mongla is on while establishment of an Export Processing Zone at Mongla Port area is under active consideration of the government.

With the completion of the projects, activities of Mongla Port will increase to a great extent, he hoped.

Shajahan Siraj said that two projects including regular maintenance, dredging of navigational channel of Mongla Port and establishment of truck terminal at Benapole land port has already been undertaken. He said Mongla Port since its in-

ception is running as a profitable organisation.

He called upon the officials, employees and workers of the port to work with co-ordinated efforts to make the port more use-worthy and attractive.

The gathering was addressed by chairman of Mongla Port Authority Rezwanaul Haque and joint secretary of Shipping Ministry M Rashidul Alam.

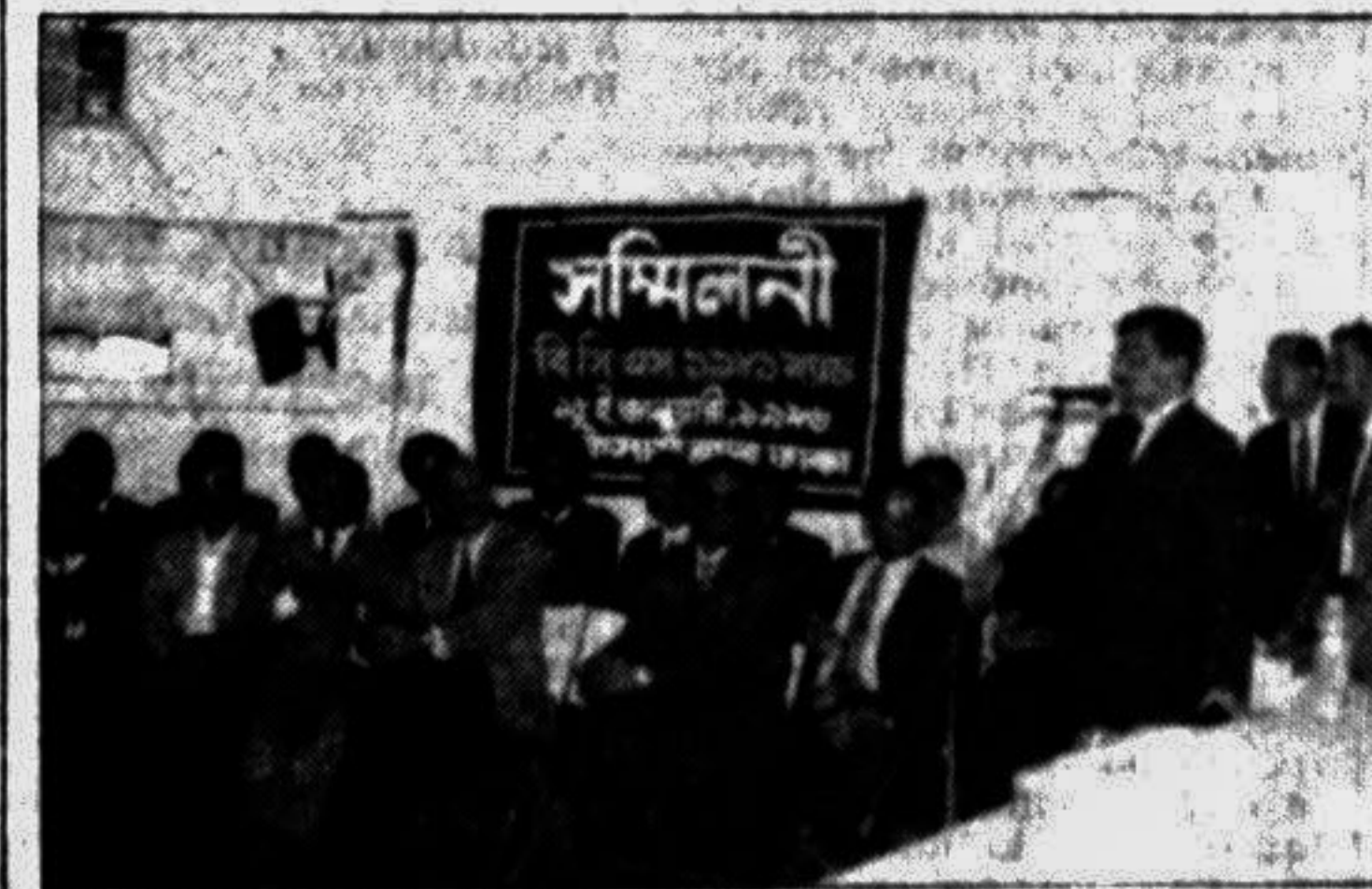
Army, Navy qirat competition

The annual inter area qirat and azan competition of the Bangladesh Army concluded at the Garrison mosque at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, reports UNB.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim distributed prizes as the chief guest.

Meanwhile, the annual azan and qirat competition of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Haji Mohsin Mosque yesterday.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Nurul Islam attended the function as the chief guest and distributed prizes.



Members of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) of 1981 batch held a reunion in the city recently.

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Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

PWD Divn II, Rajshahi

PWD Tender Notice

Tender Notice No 33 of 1995-96

Tender in sealed cover are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from undermentioned approved contractors of PWD for the undermentioned work. The tender will be received by the undersigned and as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Divn-II, Rajshahi/Natore/Naogaon/Pabna up to 12-00 Noon on 5-2-96 Eng in the tender box and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM.

Earnest money will be furnished with tender in BD, SDR, PO, or CD in favour of the undersigned from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Tender schedule, notice, additional terms and conditions etc can be seen and obtained from all Divisional Offices under PWD Circle, Rajshahi and PWD Sub-Divn-II, Rajshahi/Nawabganj on payment of fixed charges during office hours up to 4-2-96 Eng.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Class of contractor
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Md Omar Faruque Chowdhury

Executive Engineer
PWD Divn II, Rajshahi
Phone: 2350

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