

Dhaka Day by Day

The Hindi Fever

by Samia Islam



On the 11th instant, the Wills World Cup 1996 got under way. The cricket lovers of certain areas of Dhaka like the rest of the country sat down to watch the inaugural game with feverish anticipation. The game started and so did the commentary but to the amazement and horror of the viewers, the commentators were speaking in Hindi instead of English. This was not the first time signs of our recently acquired Hindi mania but rather the last straw. Previously, we have seen preschoolers barely able to talk in Bangla sing lawless Hindi movie songs accompanied by the pelvic gyrations and obscene gestures. But now after the advent of the dish antenna there is no stopping us from doing whatever our Indian neighbours are doing and even saying.

Having to learn English as a second language is understandable since it has become universal to some extent but what good this Hindi fever will do us is beyond most rational minds specially since children having a hard time at school with English seem to take the learning of Hindi for granted if they are to enjoy the must-watch movies to the fullest. After all one is less human if one does not understand what Shakhurukh Khan is saying to Kajol without an interpreter!

Hindi songs, movies, Bollywood gossip are what keep the new generation ticking these days. The cultural orphans are safer clowning around as a Bollywood hero because there are no strings attached. No risk of pain, no responsibility to take their own heritage any further, no explanations to posterity. But the fate of poor Bangla is yet uncertain. Especially during the month of the language movement one cannot help but lose a little sleep over its plight. A whole lot of sleep in some culturally rich areas like the Bally Road was lost on the 21st of February 1996. At 1:00 a.m. the still night air was shredded into a thousand pieces

as some Hindi music lovers of the neighbourhood either in an attempt to vilify the Martyr Day or to greet (!) the most sacred of religious festivals of Muslims, *Eid-ul-Fitre*, played the latest Hindi songs through a loud speaker. This is where we stand 25 years from the time we started.

Coming back to the cricket commentary issue, we all know it was available in both English and Hindi. There were messages broadcast periodically to specify the frequencies for each language. Some cable operators chose Hindi maybe because they thought it more consumer friendly or that there are more Hindi speaking people than English in the country, or that Hindi, sounding very much like Bangla, would be more appealing to the customers. Or that it was about time we switched to Hindi full time especially since all we watch through the day are Hindi programmes on the telly, then on our time off we watch a little more on the VCR, then we listen in between to all the new Hindi movie songs made more popular by the frequent trailers on ZEE, Sony, ATN and what not.

A major portion of the credit for making Hindi so hip and happening in Dhaka definitely goes to these industrious, far sighted cable operators. Some are so vigilant that they have curtailed a few English language channels to make room for the recent additions to an already large Hindi channel repertoire. So hopefully as more and more Hindi movie stars buy channels, we will wash our hands off all the rest of the boring stuff and be able to wallow in

Hindi to our heart's content. Think about it — now we will not have any trouble haggling with the vendors in Palika bazaar equipped with our impeccable knowledge of their mother tongue. Although what happens to our own mother tongue in the process is anybody's guess.

Programmes to observe Int'l Women's Day

By Staff Correspondent

The International Women's Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world, on March 8.

The International Women's Day Celebration Committee has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day. This year's theme is: "Equality of women and men".

The programme will begin at 9 am today with a discussion meeting at M R Road in Magura.

Celebrations will continue on Thursday with a rally at 9 am in Meherpur's Boro Bazaar and a discussion meeting at the Women's Affairs Directorate.

Another rally and discussion session will be held on the same day at Kamarkhali Bazaar in Choromaddi, Bakerganj.

A torch procession has been scheduled for later in the day. It will start at 5:30 pm from the National Museum, Shahbagh in the city, and end at the Dhanmondi playground.

On March 8, a Women's Day procession will start at 8:30 am from the Bangla Motor in the city. It will end at the Ramna Botomul with a function.

Besides, processions, rallies, discussion meetings and cultural functions will be held in Mymensingh, Sariakandi, Jessore, Tangail, Bogra, Jamalpur, Ghatail, Rajshahi, Netrokona, Cox's Bazaar, Sirajganj and Kurigram.

DU Ga unit forms to be received on Friday

Applications for admission to the BBA first year honours under Business Studies Faculty (Ga unit) of Dhaka University will be received on March 8. However, no application form will be sold by the bank on the day, said a DU press release yesterday.

CU exams postponed

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: Examinations of sixth paper of third year English (hons) 1993, second paper of MA preliminary (English) 1993 scheduled to be held on March 9 and fourth paper of second year English (hons) 1993 scheduled to be held on March 11 under the Chittagong University have been postponed on account of unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

Rly ferry services restored

Direct railway passengers ferry service between Bahadurabad and Terstamukh ghats resumed Monday, reports UNB.

Passengers were earlier ferried through transshipments as navigability of the river got drastically reduced.

However, the changed timetable of the Ekota Express will remain unchanged for a few days as a precautionary measure. It will continue to depart from Dhaka at 11:15 pm and from Dinajpur at 9:30 pm.

On Monday-Tuesday, 108 wagons were ferried — 47 wagons with food, 19 with fertilizer, 14 with stones, 10 with jute and 18 with other items.

Chakma refugees in Indian camps eager to return home

Bangladeshi Chakma refugees in different camps in India are eager to return to their homeland, the Dainik Sangbad published from Agartala said on Saturday, reports BSS.

It said the general refugees were pressuring the leaders of the Refugee Welfare Association to resume the process of their return to the homeland.

The Bangla daily of Tripura state of India said that Dhaka had announced wide ranging economic facilities on January 20 with an aim to bring back the tribal refugees. Bangladesh television is telecasting the declared package economic incentives daily, it said.

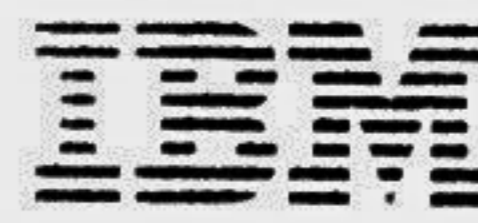
The general refugees living in Ladhua and Kalachhari refugee camps told the daily that they were interested to go back to the homeland at any time. Describing their life in the camps, the refugees said proper food was not available, there was no accommodation facilities and ration was not available regularly. There was no health care facility and no pure drinking water. The refugee life is becoming gradually unbearable. The whole generation would be destroyed if this continued any longer, they said.

While talking about the financial incentives declared by the Bangladesh government, the refugees said whatever is there it will be enough if we get back our land.

The refugees said, "We want to get out of the life of refugees. We will be able to return to normal life by doing agricultural work if we return to Chittagong Hill Tracts."

The Sangbad said pressure from everywhere has made the refugee leaders concerned.

It said the solution to the Chakma refugee problem between India and Bangladesh could not be found for the last ten years because of the silence of Refugee Welfare Association leaders though there were initiatives from Dhaka and New Delhi.



Seeks More

Business Partners in Bangladesh

IBM has decided to increase its channel capacity in Dhaka and Chittagong for various IBM products and services. Specifically IBM is seeking Dealership Application on

1. AS/400; Hardware and Software
2. RS/6000; Hardware and Software
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4. Personal Computers, Servers and Accessories
5. Home Computers

Reputed business houses having experience in marketing IT products in Bangladesh are invited to apply alongwith the product range they intend to market. The application should contain the following information.

1. Company Profile: Background and ownership
2. Audited Financial Statement of the last three years
3. Experience in marketing and servicing IT products in Bangladesh
4. Organization setup and skills profile
5. Business plan for at least three years

The application should be sent to Mr. Michael Walsh, IBM ASEAN/South Asia, IBM Towers, 80, Anson Road, Singapore 0207 alongwith a copy to Mr. Nazirul Islam, Business Partner Relationship Manager, IBM World Trade Corporation, Pacific Center (6th floor), 14, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212 by March 20, 1996.

Information provided will be treated as confidential.

New Australian PM greeted

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated John Winston Howard on his appointment as the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, reports UNB.

In a message to Howard, Begum Zia hoped that the excellent relation existing between the two countries, would be further strengthened during his tenure. Howard became the new Prime Minister of Australia following the victory of Liberal-National coalition led by him.

She wished his good health and happiness and further prosperity of Australia.



The Jatiya Party brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding release of party secretary general Anwar Hossain Monju. — Star photo

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা প্রকৌশল বিভাগ জোন-৩

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

পুনঃ সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ 'দরপত্র/পুনঃ দরপত্র' বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ১৪/প্রঃ বিঃ জোন-৩/টেন্ডার/৯৫-৯৬, তাং- ১১/২/৯৬ এবং উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির নং-১৭/প্রঃ বিঃ জোন-৩/টেন্ডার/৯৫-৯৬, তাং-২৭/২/৯৬ইং এর মাধ্যমে আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত রাখিয়া দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ সময় ৬/৩/৯৬ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার পরিবর্তে যথাক্রমে ২০/৩/৯৬ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার পুনঃ নির্ধারণ করা হইল।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
জোন-৩
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

DCC/PRD/481/95-96
D-246

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন অঞ্চল-৮ (মিরপুর)

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজটির জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত সকল শ্রেণীর টিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১তে সীলমোহরকৃত নামে টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ১৪-৩-৯৬ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় বিদ্যমান কর্মশালা, ঢাকা জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন-এর সকল আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ে প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক টেন্ডার গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। শর্তকরা হারে দর জমা করণ উভয় ভাবে লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সের মনোদায় এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে বায়নার টাকা হিসাবে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে এবং হিসাব বিভাগের পোন্ধর নম্বরের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে করপোরেশনের চালান মারকৃত করপোরেশনের তহবিলে জমা করণ (অকেহতযোগ্য) দরপত্র সিভিলিয়ান ইত্যাদি জমা করা যাইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, অঞ্চল-৮ (মিরপুর) এর নিকট হইতে জানা যাইবে।

কোন দরপত্রদাতা প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচভাগ) এর অধিক নিম্ন দর প্রদান করিলে উক্ত দরের সপক্ষে দর বিবেচন সন্মুখ করিতে হইবে। ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচভাগ) এর অধিক নিম্ন দর প্রদানকারী নিম্ন দরদাতাকে কার্যালয়ে প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হইলে সে ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত বায়নার বিত্তন পরিমাণ টাকা জমা দিতে হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দলিলপত্র বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষের সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

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