

Dhaka Day by Day

Little Bookworms are Dying Species!

by Tulip Chowdhuri

When nine-year old Rizvi returns home from school, he is burdened with a huge load of homework. He spends almost two hours to complete them. He then plays with his video game or watches the television. Sometimes he goes out to play with his friends.

"Rizvi, you should read some books outside your school curriculum," Rizvi's mother reminds her son repeatedly. But after spending almost ten hours everyday with his lessons, Rizvi just does not feel like taking up books again.

These days the number of bookworms among children has declined. Children lack interest in expanding and developing their reading habits beside their school text books. As Rizvi's mother put it, "Heaps of home-works, video games, computer games and varieties of TV programmes keep the children out of developing a good taste for reading."

There is almost a common tendency among the grown-ups to shove up children against books for which they are not ready or in which find no interest at all. The result can be that the children lose interest in reading or they feel guilty that their taste has not developed as expected," says an educational expert. Most children these days want to read comics like Tintin, Chacha Kahini, Archie, Ladybird series or other easy to read books. Why not allow them to develop their reading habit and then slowly guide them on to classics and other informative books? Just as a child must tumble before he learns to

walk, he must go through varieties of readings to recognize his own taste.

One of the usual scenes in bookshops is a child arguing over buying one book while his mother is trying to talk him out of it. The mother continues to push forth what is good for him, not what interests him. Making the right choice of books may be quite difficult. The perplexing thing is to hold on to the child's interest and at the same time allow the reading to be of some benefit. But wise and tolerant parents know that the child would soon grow out of this type of reading and allow the child to sail through the 'comic' period.

Taking the children to bookshops and libraries help a great deal in developing their readings. Having plenty of books around the home rouses the children's interest in reading. Schools can contribute a lot in helping children to develop and broaden their reading skills. South Breeze School in Dhaka holds its library classes very regularly. Inside the classes the children are encouraged to discuss and write about the story books they read. The children are allowed to read story books if they complete classwork ahead of time. Most of the children carry story books in their school bags which they also share among friends. The school magazine welcomes well written reports on books.

Ten-year-old Tim has seen his mother carry a book always with her. She reads while she waits at the dentist's, while she goes through the traffic jams and while she waits for her car. Tim has picked up his mother's habit and spends his waiting hours with his best friend, a good book.

BCL (S-P) rally at Press Club today

By DU Correspondent

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Bangladesh Awami League will hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club today to press its demand for probing the alleged corruption and nepotism by former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her party-men during the BNP regime.

BCL held a rally in front of the Dhaka University Snacks (DUS) yesterday evening in support of today's rally. The rally was addressed by BCL president Enamul Haq Shammim. DU unit president Bahadur Bepari and secretary Abdul Wadud Khokon.

The BCL leaders also urged the law enforcing agencies to conduct further raids in the Dhaka University halls for recovery of illegal arms from the campus.

They said that armed terrorists were still staying in the JCD-dominated dormitories.

CAB concerned at non-availability of textbooks

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has expressed deep concern at the non-availability of text-books of Classes six and nine even after expiry of three months of the academic session, reports BSS.

The association demanded immediate steps to check all kinds of unscrupulous dealings in book-trading and necessary measures for solving text-book crisis.

The association observed that the students and their guardians have totally become frustrated as the text-books have not yet reached the students. On the other hand, the unscrupulous traders, taking advantage of the crisis, are charging three to four times higher prices for these books. These dishonest traders are also forcing the students to purchase low-quality note books in the disguise of guides and suggestions.

The association demanded immediate formation of a committee at national level to examine various aspects of publication, marketing and distribution of note books as well as guides and suggestions.

The association also called upon the Education Ministry to appoint vigilance teams to take action against illegal sale of note and other unnecessary books which would be found detrimental to acquisition of knowledge and wisdom by the students.

Study tour

The study tour of Mechanical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will begin on April 15, reports UNB.

The students of level-2 and term-2 of the department have been asked to contact its office soon, said a BUET press release yesterday.

OBITUARY



Our youngest son, BASHAR MUSTAFA KHALED (Tutul), left us on Thursday, March 28, '96 at 7-45 PM for eternal peace (Inna Lillahi ----- Rajeun). He was 24. We request all to pray for the departed soul.

Mother : Aziza Begum
Father : A B M Siddique

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Requires:

Master's degree (preferable including Public Health degree) in fields of health, social science or comparable; experience in implementation of health (PHC) programs; experience in transfer of knowledge and training; good interpersonal skills; English and Bengali language and writing skills.

Prefers:

Research (participatory) experience (both data collection and analysis); computer programs; Word processing (SPSS knowledge will be an advantage).

To apply please forward the followings:

1) Bio-data including two passport size photograph & attested copies of all academic certificates before 20 April 1996 to:

Personnel Officer
88, Senpara Parbatta
Mirpur-10, Dhaka-1216.

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(A Company of Petrobangla)

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Tender Notice

No CD/HO/3(56)

Dated: 2/4/96

1. Sealed tenders in two envelopes system in prescribed forms are hereby invited from the enlisted 1st class contractors of Public Works Department (PWD)/Roads & Highways Department (RHD)/Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)/Housing & Settlement Directorate (H&SD)/Bangladesh Railway (BR) and Petrobangla & its companies for the following works:-

Sl No	Name of the work	Estimated cost	Fixed earnest money	Completion of time	Cost of tender documents (Non-refundable)
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- A) Construction of 3 Nos. Tk 83,10,066/50 Tk 2,08,000/- 210 days Tk 1,500/-
2-storied single unit
General Managers' Bungalow at Titas Location-2, Brahmanbaria
2. Intending firms may obtain tender schedule from the following offices from 11/4/96 to 25/4/96 during office hrs on cash payment:-
- Finance Department, Bangladesh Gas Fields Co Ltd, Court Road, Brahmanbaria and Liaison Office of BGFL, 97, Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000.
 - i) Accounts Division, Petrobangla, 3, Kawranbazar, Dhaka.
 - ii) Accounts Division, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Co Ltd, Ibrahim Mansion (4th floor), 11, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
 - iii) Accounts & Finance Division, Titas T&D Co Ltd, Titas Bhaban, 11, Kawranbazar, Dhaka.
 - iv) Rupantarita Praktik Gas Co Ltd, BSEC Bhaban, Kawranbazar, Dhaka.
 - v) Accounts & Finance Division, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd, Chapapur, Comilla.
 - vi) Accounts Department, Jalalabad Gas T&D Systems Ltd, Ambarkhana, Barabazar, Sylhet.
 - vii) Accounts & Finance Division, Sylhet Gas Fields Co Ltd, Chiknagool, Sylhet.

3. Technical & Financial offer of the tender in separate envelope shall be received in the Tender Box kept in Civil Engineering Dept of BGFL, Court Road, Brahmanbaria and Liaison Office, 97, Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000 and in other offices as mentioned in para 2(b) up to 11 AM on 05-5-96.

4. Tenderers must submit the fixed earnest money mentioned in the tender notice along with Technical offer. If the quoted amount is less than the estimated beyond 5%, the financial offer must accompany additional earnest money equivalent to 10% of the quoted amount and itemwise detail rate analysis for the work. The earnest money in favour of Bangladesh Gas Fields Co Ltd, Brahmanbaria will be in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh.

5. Technical offer must accompany the following:-

- List of Technical personnel working with the firm (Engineers, Diploma Engineers and Supervisor) along with their Bio-data including certificates and the list of the personnel who will be engaged in the project.
- List of the equipment and form-works possessed by the firm and certified by an officer of rank not below the Executive Engineers.
- Copy of work-orders of technically similar works completed in last five years and in hand and completion certificate of works completed with own supply of materials in the last five years amounting not less than the 75% in a single work-order of estimated amount shown in the tender. All the certificates must be issued by an Officers of rank not below the Executive Engineer.
- Up-to-date A, B, C electrical supervision Licence or its certificate of association.
- Current Bank Solvency certificate telling the amount that the firm is capable to invest at a time for execution of the work along with last two years bank-statement.
- Income Tax clearance certificate up to 1993-94, VAT registration certificate up-to-date Trade licence and Enlistment certificates.

6. All the certificates to be submitted along with the technical offer must be in original or duly attested by a Gazetted Officer. Original certificates and papers must be produced on demand against the attested copies which will be returned after verification.

7. The technical offer will be evaluated first. Technically qualified bidders will be notified in writing to attend the opening of their financial offer latter on.

8. The authority reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason without accepting any liability.

PRS-90/12(CIVIL)/96
D-345

Senior Manager (Planning & Development)