

Dhaka Day by Day

A special Kind of School

by Tanya Mahnaz Huq

Every morning from Saturday to Thursday, between 9:30 and 11:00, a special kind of school sits on the first floor of the TSC building on the DU campus. The class-room is medium-sized with ragged carpets on the floor, (no chairs or desks) and the students are the homeless children of the streets, namely the 'Orkos'. This is a 'Orko'—a school for the underprivileged children, run by a group of enterprising students of the Dhaka University. The school was first started in May '95 by the Chhatra Union with only 4-6 students. A month later Shapon, a master student of the Economics Department took over from them, and he, along with Kanta, Shumon Zahid and Rumana, all of whom are university students, run the school.

The students of the school are basically homeless kids who have arrived in the metropolis from Chandpur and Comilla. Most are without families and earn their living on the streets. These university students, by giving them some sort of education, try to prepare them for the future. Speaking to Shapon, one learns that now there are about 40 students in the school—all aged between 6-13 years old. The school is divided into three

classes, named Ankur (which is the equivalent to play-group) Kisholoy (equivalent to kg) and Dishari (equivalent to classes 1 to 5).

The books are all given by Shapon and his friends. He proudly claims that the school is run completely by themselves, it is not under an NGO. Even if they take donations sometimes, their condition is only the money; the donors are not allowed to exert any kind of authority over the running of the school. The room has been given by the TSC people, though at the beginning they faced problems from this area too. Food is not given to the students except on special occasions. But, according to Shapon and the others, the main problem is the kids themselves. They just don't give priority to the school; they attend a few classes and then disappear for days. These young people run the school almost entirely out of their own pockets, but in their own words, 'we don't believe that we are doing anything particularly great; instead of spending all our free time gossiping away, we spend a few hours every day teaching these deprived children and this makes us feel as if we are helping society even if it is in a small way.'



Different kind of schooling.

—Star photo

Of colour and language of posters

By Staff Correspondent

Most political parties are by and large abiding by the election code of conduct at least by not printing any multicoloured election posters.

But there are some exceptions. The BNP recently released some colourful posters with photographs of its founder late President Ziaur Rahman and Begum Zia, the party chief on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Another multi-coloured poster on the city walls with photographs of 1974 famine in the country, attributed to no party, reads, 'Does the Awami League have the ability to govern the country?'

An Awami League candidate put up a multi-coloured poster long before the campaign began. The poster asks for no vote but carries a message, 'We want a terrorism free healthy society'.

Some BNP and Awami League candidates, including BNP's Gen Mir Shaukat and AL's Dr HBM Iqbal have however tried to add colour to their black and white posters by using special device and high quality printing.

According to some printers, the cost of printing such high quality black and white posters are no less than that of typical multi-coloured poster. Although more than 25 different political parties and fronts have fielded 111 candidates in the eight constituencies in the city, posters of only four parties virtually occupy the walls. Other than these four parties—BNP, AL, Jatiya Party and Jamaat—posters of Gano Forum candidates Dr Kamal Hossain and Samridha Bangladesh Andolan candidate Salman F Rahman are seen on the walls.

Jamaat-e-Islami candidates have refrained from using their photographs in their posters. All Jamaat posters carry messages and the party symbol—'the scale'.

In Motijheel area Thursday evening, a specially decorated rickshaw driven by a 'rickshawpuller' clad in mujib coat, 'clean white panyabi and lungi' carrying a life-size portrait of AL chief Sheikh Hasina inside it confused the people. They were amazed taking the portrait to be Sheikh Hasina. A closer look into the rickshaw revealed that it was not really Sheikh Hasina but her portrait, set in such a way that showed she was sitting inside.

The rickshaw was decorated with a 'paper boat' atop its hood and some recorded songs were being played for campaigning.

Peace rally

A peace rally was brought out in the city yesterday aiming at creating public awareness about maintaining peace and order in the Jatiya Sangsad elections, reports UNB.

Men and women of all walks of life and children of different ages joined the rally, organised by Citizen for Democracy, Bangladesh.

Districtwise list of voters, constituencies

Following is the districtwise list of total constituencies (seats) and voters for June 12 Jatiya Sangsad elections, reports UNB.

District	Seats	Voters	Male	Female
Panchagarh	2	376,920	186,473	190,447
Thakurgaon	3	562,473	277,938	284,535
Dinajpur	4	1,247,362	624,720	622,642
Nilphamari	4	723,085	361,485	361,600
Lalmonirhat	3	525,147	263,846	261,301
Rangpur	6	1,201,894	608,763	593,131
Kurigram	4	856,188	420,181	436,007
Gaibandha	5	1,052,063	518,317	533,746
Boyspurhat	2	444,258	220,800	223,458
Boyspurhat	2	1,504,823	750,800	754,023
C. Nawabganj	3	653,197	321,984	331,213
Nawabganj	6	1,184,691	587,944	596,747
Rajshahi	5	1,083,798	537,579	546,219
Natore	4	722,304	361,484	360,820
Sirajganj	7	1,267,015	638,270	628,745
Patna	8	1,043,734	525,178	518,556
Rohpur	2	298,023	149,366	148,657
Kushtia	4	840,594	422,934	417,660
Chaudhaga	2	482,694	241,302	241,392
Jhenidah	6	781,187	395,786	385,401
Jessore	4	1,200,661	606,785	593,876
Nagura	2	386,653	192,915	193,738
Narail	2	330,395	162,108	168,287
Bagerhat	4	706,286	351,990	354,296
Khulna	6	1,064,540	549,720	514,820
Satkhira	5	905,329	448,189	457,140
Barguna	3	395,941	193,749	202,192
Pattakhali	4	643,888	317,604	326,284
Barisal	6	648,284	344,817	303,467
Shahidkhali	2	946,183	470,483	475,700
Pirojpur	3	282,454	138,581	143,873
Inter-district Pirojpur	3	409,568	204,098	205,470
Inter-district Pirojpur	3	166,224	81,552	84,672
Tangail	8	1,621,565	799,899	821,666
Jamalpur	5	1,035,834	519,272	516,562
Sherpur	3	610,490	308,957	301,533
Hyamensingh	11	2,048,106	1,049,925	998,181
Inter-district Hyamensingh	11	208,875	104,849	104,026
Netrokona	4	808,445	408,809	399,636
Kishoreganj	7	1,222,416	618,870	603,546
Manikganj	4	680,017	318,002	362,015
Manikganj	4	617,810	308,044	309,766
Dhaka	13	3,386,359	1,693,673	1,692,686
Barisal	13	896,580	443,778	452,802
Narayanganj	5	872,379	438,112	434,267
Narayanganj	5	907,401	476,823	430,578
Rajbari	2	444,615	223,723	220,892
Faridpur	5	825,373	410,433	414,940
Gopalganj	3	504,433	248,939	255,494
Nadarpur	3	517,366	255,808	261,558
Shariatpur	3	511,075	252,170	258,905
Bhuganganj	5	901,613	447,971	453,642
Sylhet	6	1,168,730	591,287	577,443
Moulvibazar	4	747,486	370,195	377,291
Habiganj	4	812,624	398,999	413,625
Brakhanbaria	4	1,090,498	539,440	551,058
Comilla	12	2,048,096	1,013,490	1,034,606
Chandpur	6	1,013,173	517,675	495,498
Feni	3	836,345	418,178	418,167
Noakhali	4	1,027,429	513,297	514,132
Lakshimpur	4	594,669	315,108	279,561
Chittagong	15	2,819,753	1,407,444	1,412,307
Cox's Bazar	1	726,706	372,914	353,792
Khagrachhari HT	1	216,532	114,729	101,803
Rangamati HT	1	234,962	129,069	105,893
Bandarban HT	1	133,118	72,489	60,629
Total	300	56,716,935	28,759,994	27,956,941

(Source: Election Research and Development Cell of Election Commission Secretariat.)



Celebrated pop artist Azam Khan holding aloft the crest awarded to him at a ceremony organised by the Coca-Cola in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Bar Council workshop on election monitoring

Govt making allout efforts to hold peaceful polls: Ishtiaq

Adviser for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed yesterday said, now there is no scope of any doubt that the elected representatives of people would come to power through the ensuing election, reported UNB.

The caretaker government is making allout efforts to hold the election in a free, fair, impartial and peaceful manner, he said in his speech as chief guest at the opening session of a workshop on election monitoring for lawyers here in the morning.

Barrister Ameer-ul Islam presented the keynote paper on the 'Role of Election and the Empowerment of People'.

Justice Kamal Uddin Hossain, Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Fakhruddin Ahmed and Mahfuz Anam took part in the discussion. Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council and Attorney General M. Nurul Islam presided.

The day-long workshop, organised by Bangladesh Bar Council, was participated by lawyers from across the country. Two lawyers from each district later took part in the training session held in the afternoon at the Public Library auditorium.

Barrister Ishtiaq said no body can win the election

through indiscipline, irregularities or acts of terrorism. 'Where such incidents will occur, the Election Commission will cancel the voting, whatever might be the number of centres,' he asserted.

The adviser said election monitoring and observation have become a part of the international electoral culture. This is why the caretaker government welcomed observer groups from home and abroad to monitor the coming election.

He made it clear that army will be deployed on the polling day to assist the civil administration as per the country's existing laws and under the supervision of the Election Commission.

Ishtiaq said the caretaker government is fully transparent. It has no secrets, nor it has done anything that could transgress the neutrality of the Election Commission which is working with complete independence.

Barrister Ameer-ul Islam, in his keynote paper, stated that election should be the means of empowerment of the people. But in our country, he said, it is always used as the means of going to power and the elected representatives

think that all powers vest in them through the mandate of the election.

He said elections had turned into a 'seasonal exercise' or 'ritualistic practice' in Bangladesh, and the electoral process and its sanctity and objectivity violated frequently.

Popular participation and true representation of people should be ensured in the polls for their empowerment, he added.

Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam accused the political parties of not exercising democracy in their respective parties. He emphasised on ensuring the central role of parliament, rather than the government, by strengthening the parliamentary system.

Round-table confce on the role of media

By Staff Correspondent

Media Watch, a research organisation for monitoring mass media and newspapers, will hold a round-table conference at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club on the role of media and its impact on conducting free and fair elections today, according to a press release issued yesterday.

The conference will be presided over by the president of the Jatiya Press Club and the Chief Editor of The Financial Express, Rezauddin Ahmed.

Other participants of the conference are Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed, the Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University, Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, chairman of the Press Council, Barrister Moinul Hossain, chairman of the board of editors of the Daily Ittefaq, Shafiq Rahman, editor of the weekly Day Jay Din, Matfur Rahman of the Daily Bhorer Kagor, Mahbul Alam, editor of The Independent.

What's on today

CSYO workshop: Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation and Bangladesh-Australia Students' Association have jointly organised a workshop on 'election monitoring'. Commonwealth observers in city are expected to speak. Venue: CSYO office, 43 Mirpur Road. Time: 4pm.

CCHRB press confce: Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh will hold a press conference on its programme and preparation of election monitoring. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

BMSP workshop: Bangladesh Manobadhakar Samonnoy Parishad (BMSP) has organised a day-long workshop for polls observers of the Dhaka division. Venue: IDR auditorium, House 35, Road 9A, Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

DUJ meet: A meeting of the central coordination committee comprising three federations of newspapers and news agencies and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 5 pm.

Islami Andolon press confce: Bangladesh Islami Biplobi Andolon will hold a press conference. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka capital: The 418th weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officer's Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Kinnare Restaurant, Uttara. Time: 7 pm.

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest 19.5 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:45 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	25.5	74	82
Chittagong	33.5	26.0	74	79
Rajshahi	28.5	26.0	91	92
Khulna	34.2	26.3		100
Barisal	33.6	26.5		97
Sylhet	32.8	19.5	84	
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.5	72	78

Police directed to carry out duties sincerely

By Staff Correspondent

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), M. Azizul Huq yesterday instructed the police forces to carry out their respective duties sincerely during the Jatiya Sangsad election. The IGP was addressing a combined team of the Range Reserve Force (RRF) of Dhaka and officers and forces of Dhaka district.

He also said that it was the duty of the police to ensure that the voters were able to cast their votes unhindered.

The programme held at the office of the RRF at Uttara was also addressed by Dhaka RRF Commandant Dhananjay Sarker and DIG of Dhaka Rang. BI Siddique, said a press release of police.

303 kg yellow sulphur recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police in a raid at Swarighat in the city Thursday recovered 302 kilograms of Yellow Sulphur used in manufacturing explosives.

The raw materials were kept in seven sacks in an underground well of a godown of Kala Chan & Sons at Swarighat, police said. The owner of the godown—Anil Deb Nath—was arrested.

Police suspect the raw materials used in manufacturing explosives were sold to terrorists in different parts of the city for a long time.

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CENTRE COURSE ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL METHODS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The ICDDR,B will offer a 4-week course on Epidemiological Methods in Public Health during August 04-29, 1996.

The objective of the course is to provide participants with an understanding of basic concepts of Epidemiology and skills in quantitative techniques to undertake and evaluate Epidemiological studies.

The course is intended for persons who do not have any formal training in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, but are involved or intend to be involved in conducting Epidemiological research. In addition to theoretical and practical sessions, the participants are required to develop research protocols in groups for further implementation.

Medical graduates or graduates in biological or social sciences with a good command of English are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to institutional candidates.

There is no registration/course fee and no financial support. The number of participants will be 15-20.

Participants will be awarded certificates upon successful completion of the course.

To apply for a place in the course (or for further information), please write to: Head, Training & Education Department, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka -1212 by July 10, 1996.

Applications must contain detailed education background, experience, current employment status, contact, telephone and fax number and a statement indicating how the knowledge and skills gained at the course will be utilized. Applications of the institutional candidates must be sent through proper channel.

D-571



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