

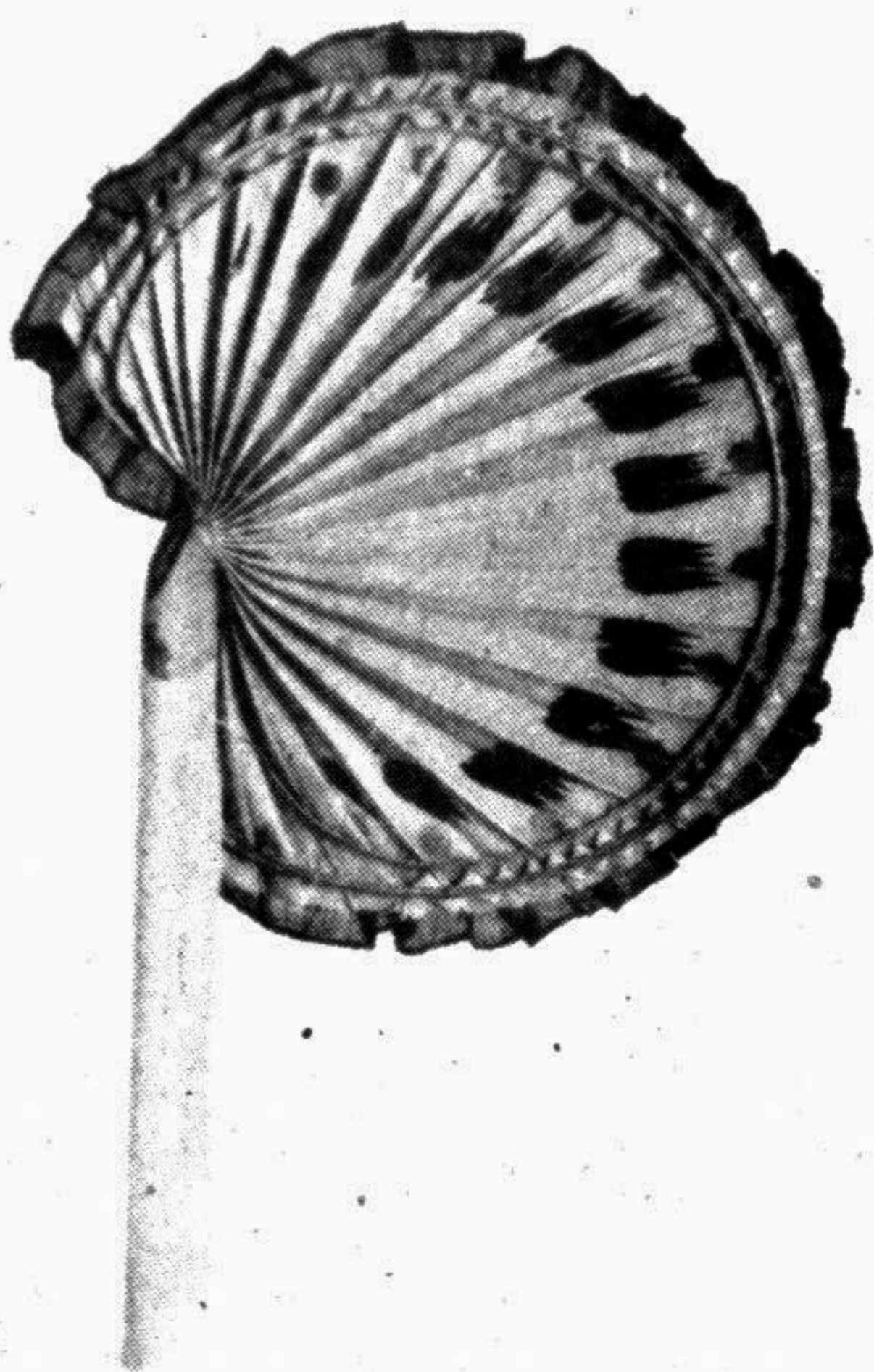
Dhaka Day by Day

Pankha: The Tiny Reliever

by Nasiruddin Ahmed

When the latest model air-cooler or remote-controlled electric fan become inoperative of midnight in the hot and humid summer, you have no way to ventilate anger. At best you can get perturbed with yourself, suffocating in the bedroom closet. Frequent power disruptions make city life unbearable. A life in the city, without such utility services, just can't be imagined.

In such a jinxed condition, *pankha* — a manually driven single blade hand-made fan is the last resort to have a little relief. It's an ingenious tool for cooling human body. Specially made for rural people where there is no electricity, it becomes equally essential for the city people. You can beat the heat somehow, palm leaf, bamboo etc., provide for its raw materials. The natural design of palm leaf facilitates its fabrication, just trimming of the leaf to a standard size is necessary. It weighs next to nothing. *Tal patar sepai* in Bangla means as light as a palm leaf and this is used to refer to the skinnies. Making of *pankha* by bamboo strips requires little skill. These bamboo strips are the waste material coming out from the stuffs used in making mats, baskets etc. Patterns of *Golup phul* (rose), *Pulki* (sedan) appear over the surface immaculately. Moral sayings like *satotai uttam pantha* (honesty is the best policy), colloquial verses, such as *jater meye kalo bhalo* (girls from good family, though black, is better), are bettered



interlacing the strips. Fabricating the skeleton with bamboo stuff, the canvass is seen to be doing embroidery, where needle work of bright coloured mosque, hut or floral designs of ivies, orchids animates an aesthetic landscape. Mute coloured border adorns the eye-soothing view. In addition to that, ornamental fringe around the circumference made out of variegated salvages from saris is a cute exaggeration.

To cope with the change in time and sensing the customer demand, *pankha* updates its model regularly. Folded, disposable-type, is its latest production, which you can insert into your vanity bag or briefcase, that comes handy in the office or grandiose party during power failure. Of late, plastic-made *pankha* is being produced, with an eye to its longevity. But it also costs more. It fetches up to Tk 20 while a bamboo one may be available for Taka five only.

The artisan who is making *pankha* does not have any academic training or technical orientation. Almost all artificers are women in rural areas. *Pankha* depicts the dexterity in weaving and embroidery of village women. Many destitute make a living out of making *pankha*. Besides cooling in summer, it serves as a decoration piece in winter that bears indigenous art and culture with naive perfection.

JU senate polls today

By JU Correspondent

Election of three deans and 33 senate members of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held at the JU Teachers' Club from 9 am to 2 pm today.

A total of 256 teachers of the University will cast their votes to elect the deans of Science, Social Science and Arts faculties as well as 33 teachers' representatives in the JU senate.

Two panels contending nominated by the two different groups of the JU teachers are contending the polls. The group led by the former president of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA), Prof Khondakar Mustahidur Rahman, has nominated Prof. Sharif Enamul Kabir (Chemistry), Prof M Azizul Haq Bhuiyan

(Geography) and Prof Enamul Haq Khan (History) for deans of the Science, Social Science and Arts faculties respectively. The other group, led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury, has nominated Prof. Anwarul Haq Sharif (Mathematics), Prof M Sahibullah Khan (Govt and Politics) and Prof Khaliquzzaman Ellis (English) to vie for the posts of deans of the Science, Social Science and Arts faculty respectively. An independent candidate, Prof Khalilur Rahman Choudhury (Geology) is also vying for the post of dean of the science faculty.

However, a total of 66 candidates — 33 from each of the two groups are competing for 33 posts of teachers' representatives in the JU senate.

CPB, Dhaka city committee, will hold a memorial meeting at 5 pm on the day at the party's central office to mark the occasion. The meeting will be followed by a procession.

The central committee of CPB in a statement yesterday demanded retrial of the Ratan Sen murder case.

The party alleged that Ratan Sen was killed by the Jamaat-Shibir clique on July 31, 1992.

CPB programme on Ratan Sen's death anniversary

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will observe fourth death anniversary of comrade Ratan Sen on July 31, 1992.

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Satkhira Zilla Students Association, based in Dhaka brought out a provision demanding arrest and trial at those involved in the murder of Alauddin, a freedom fighter, AL leader and editor of a local daily. — Star photo

Alauddin murder Daughter demands trial of killers

The daughter of a slain leader of ruling Awami League burst into tears demanding trial of her father's killers, who she said are moving at large, reports UNB.

What's the wrong with us that we would not get justice? asked Rozina Parveen Mukti, daughter of SM Alauddin, at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Local Awami League leader and Satkhira District Chamber of Commerce President Alauddin was killed by gunmen June 19, a week after his party's win in the general election. The editor of local daily 'Patradut' and a freedom fighter, Alauddin was also a former member of National Assembly.

Later talking to UNB correspondent, Mukti, an honours examinee from Eden College, sought direct intervention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Home Minister Major (rtd) Rafiqul Islam in this regard.

She alleged that local police administration was playing a mysterious role. "So far they have arrested only one culprit while others are moving freely paying no heed to police," she said.

According to her, SM Alauddin filed nomination for June 12 election as an independent candidate failing to get party ticket.

"But, my father later withdrew his candidature following a letter from Sheikh Hasina," said Mukti, who blamed a section of local Awami Leaguers who are involved in smuggling for the killing.

Rally over the leaders of Satkhira Students Welfare Association submitted a memorandum to Home Ministry demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Alauddin.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Sheikh Rafiqur Rahman, Sheikh Faruque Ahmed, Kamrul Islam, Tajuddin and Monir Hossain.

118 held in city

Police rounded up 118 persons on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.



Peter J. Fowler, the outgoing British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, receiving a crest from Hassan Sharif, president of Commonwealth Journalists Association, Bangladesh (CJA,B) at a reception held at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — CJA photo

Budget '96 8pc allocation in edn sector demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus demanding 8 per cent allocation of national income in the education sector in the next budget, says a press release.

The rally was addressed by central committee general secretary Saifur Rahman Tapan and publicity secretary Mizanur Rahman Palash.

Referring to a UNESCO recommendation to increase allocation in the education sector the leaders said that the previous governments had not implemented the recommendation despite a long struggle.

BMC 1st yr classes begin July 31

Classes of the newly admitted students of the Bangladesh Medical College (BMC) will commence on July 31, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

There will be an inauguration ceremony to which the newly admitted students of the session (1995-96) are invited along with their parents.

Viva for DU 1st yr admission Aug 1

The Dhaka University authorities have called up some candidates from the waiting list for interview to fill the vacant seats of Islamic Studies and Arabic departments for first year honours courses of 1995-96 session, reports UNB.

The interview will be held at 12 noon on August 1 at the office of the Dean of Arts Faculty.

While coming for the interview, the candidates must bring their admit card, mark sheets of SSC and HSC, and two copies of passport size photographs, said a DU press release yesterday.

Candidates bearing the following roll numbers have been called for interview:

Islamic Studies department

2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2113, 2114, 2116, 2117, 2122, 2123, 2127, 2130, 2132, 2133, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2140, 2142, 2143, 2145, 2146, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2160, 2161, 2166, 2168, 2170, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2177, 2178, 2180, 2181, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2189, 2191, 2193, 2194.

Arabic department

706, 7296, 12486, 9730, 4584, 11701, 6145, 10347, 7539, 9715, 5274, 2199, 8801, 7010, 10118, 1228 and 11704.

Memo to Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has called upon the people yesterday to follow the Islamic principles properly with a view to ensure social peace and harmony in the country, reports UNB.

The outgoing president said this while talking to a delegation of the Tahfiz-E-Haramini Paris of Bangladesh led by its president Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddique, who called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegations submitted a memorandum to the president requesting him to look into the problems of the intended Hajj pilgrims facing every year.

R&H Notice Inviting Tender

1. Tender Notice No.	04/EE/1996-97.
2. Name of work	Supply of spare parts for repair of Vibromax Soil Compactor of different Divisions of R&H Directorate.
3. Estimated cost	Tk 1,10,000/=
4. Earnest money	2% (two per cent) of estimated cost Tk 2,200/= to be deposited in the form of BD/TC/Sanchayapatra/CD from any scheduled bank under Bangladesh Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, R&H Workshop Division, Dhaka. 10% security money should be submitted prior to work order.
5. Time for completion of work	15 (fifteen) days from the date of issuing work order.
6. Eligibility of contractor	As per eligibility and rules — R&H Directorate enlisted 'A' to 'E' class contractors.
7. Offices where tender and schedule to be had at	Per set including Bangladesh Form No. 2908 can be purchased at Tk 510/= (non-refundable) up to the day before the date of receiving tender, from Workshop Division, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Mymensingh.
8. Officers and offices to receive the tender and schedule	Superintending Engineer, R&H, Workshop Circle, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Workshop Division, Mymensingh.
9. Last date & time of receiving sealed tender	08-08-96 up to 12-00 Noon.
10. Last date and time of opening sealed tender	08-08-96 at 12-30 PM.
11. Head of expenditure	B-Repair

Md. Humayun Rashid Khalifa
Executive Engineer, R&H, (Mechanical)
Workshop Division, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

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