

Metropolitan

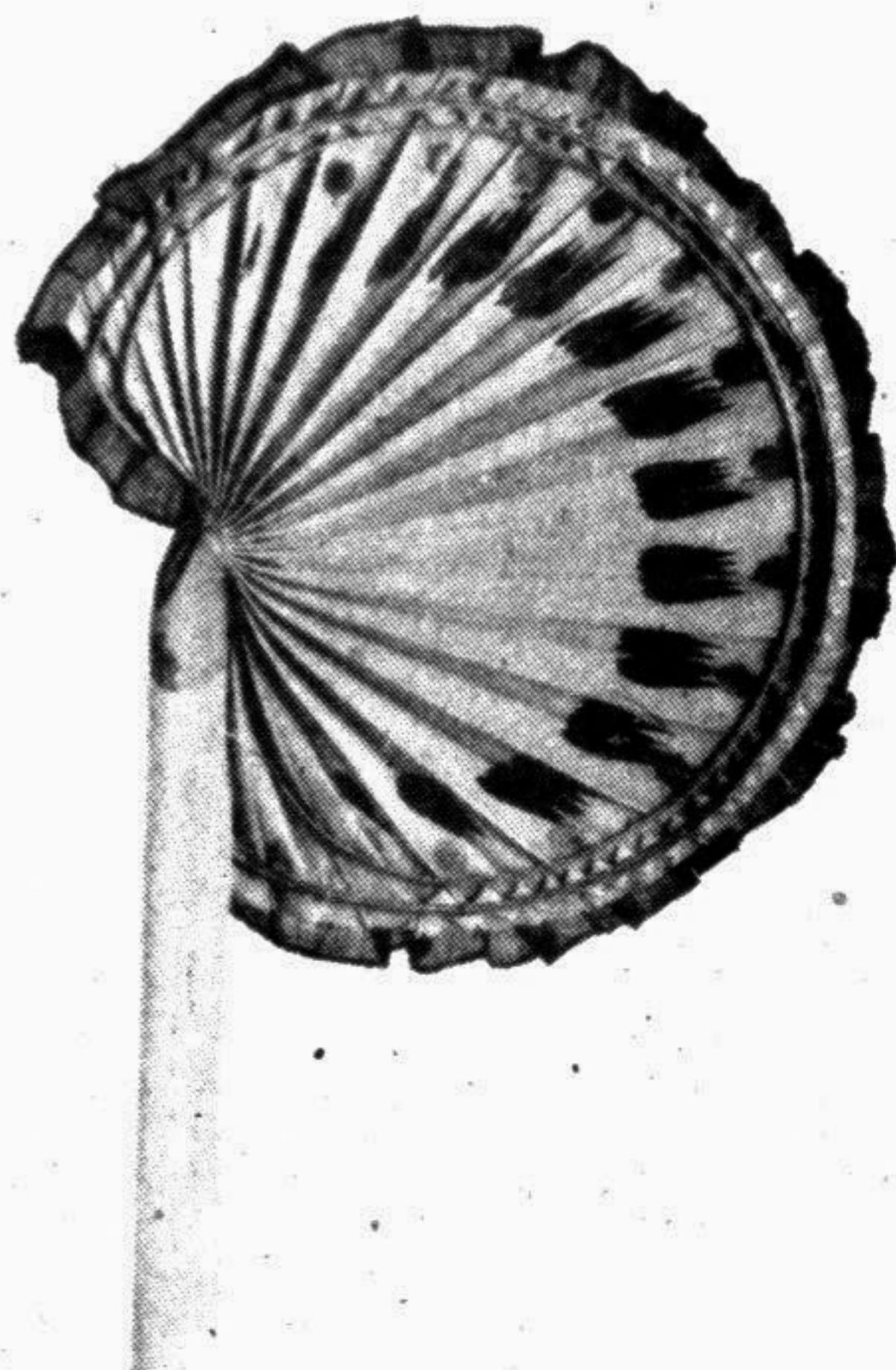
Dhaka Day by Day

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. Specifically 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 sepati* in Bangla means as light as a palm leaf and this is used to refer to the skinries. 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), *Pulkhi* (sedan) appear over the surface immaculately. Moral sayings like *sataot uttai 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 canvas is seen to be used for the main part, with the purpose of 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 sari 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 artisans are women in rural areas. *Pankha* depicts the dexterity in weaving and embroidery of village women. Many destitute make a living of National Assembly.

Later talking to UNB correspondent, Mukti, an hours examinee from Eden College, sought direct intervention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasian 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 Alaudin 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 Hasian," 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 Alaudin.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, Sheikh Faruque Ahmed, Kamru Islam, Tajuddin and Monir Hossain.

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

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 2pm 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

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, reports BSS.

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.

Govt, DCC relief for flood victims

Disaster Management and

Relief Ministry has so far allocated 2,950 metric tonnes of rice, Tk 20 lakh 55 thousand in cash, 2,300 pieces of sarees, 2,300 pieces of lungis and 2,800 tons of biscuits for the flood-affected people, reports UNB.

Besides, Tk 70 lakh has been allocated from the relief fund of the Prime Minister, said a PID handout issued yesterday.

The distribution of the allocated money and relief materials is going on, the handout said.

Relief materials and money from relief funds of the deputy commissioners are also being distributed.

BSS adds: The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday decided to supply water purifying tablets and bleaching powder among the affected people of the flooded areas of the city.

Besides, the Corporation also formed ten medical teams for ten areas of the city to provide health services to the affected people.

The decisions were taken at an emergency review meeting on the flood situation of the city's low-lying areas at the DCC conference room yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interests during the meeting.

Prospects for Korean investment in dredging sea ports and inland waterways and in the shipping sectors of Bangladesh also came up in the discussion.

The shipping minister urged the Korean government to provide passenger vessel for coastal areas of Bangladesh.

N Korean envoy calls on Rob

Charge D'affaires of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Bangladesh Kang Yong Dok called on Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob at his secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

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EVERGREEN

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

FEEDER VESSEL M. V. PONG LEE VOY 9617 EMP. ROT NO. 675/96 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 28.07.1996 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX. FOLLOWING VESSELS:-

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E. LYRIC	KEELUNG		QINGDAO
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SINAR NUSA	JAKARTA		
907			

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR THEIR CARGOES IMMEDIATELY ON DISCHARGE. CARGOES UNCLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE ARRIVAL DATE OF THE VESSEL WILL BE DISPOSED WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE CONSIGNEES, AS PER CUSTOM RULES.

M. V. PONG LEE VOY 9618 WILL ALSO LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 662/96 FOR SINGAPORE FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO U.S.A. EAST & WEST COASTS, EUROPEAN, U.K. & MEDITERRANEAN PORTS.

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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.



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.

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 hours examinee from Eden College, sought direct intervention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasian 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 Hasian," 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 outgoing president said this while talking to a delegation of the Tahfiz-E-Haramini Parishad, Bangladesh, led by its president Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddique, who called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

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