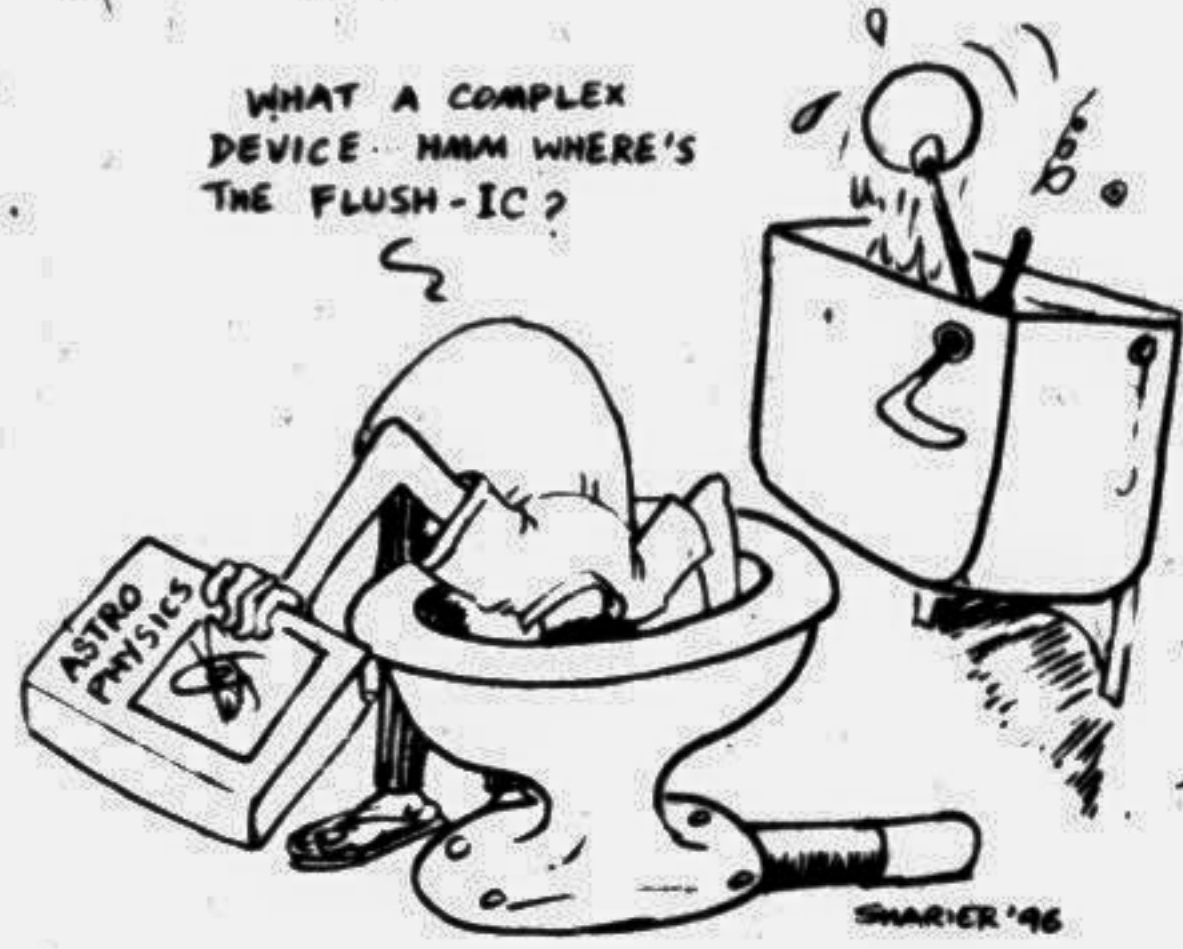


Dhaka Day by Day

Those Incredible Theorists

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

They say it's better to study science-oriented subjects in the long run. Better job prospects, more money, prestige and what not! Students often have to face major opposition when it comes to switching from Science to Arts in their Under-graduate courses generally. Science students are considered the better, smarter ones compared to their less illustrious arts peers. Well, in real life it's a slightly different story. The nation's 'pride and glory' brilliant scholars, scientists and engineers with BSc, MSc and PhD at times show an amazing incompetence while tackling trivial problems back home.



They provide lectures on the complexities of technology five days a week, design magnificent modern edifices to perfection, constantly work on scientific revolutions for the benefit of mankind, but when they have to deal with simple domestic difficulties like fixing faulty wires, defective multiplexers or non-functioning tube lights, they are very often at a loss.

There is a certain individual with a doctorate in engineering, who goes berserk when the TV refrigerator or Micro-oven goes out of order. Invariably always an electrician with an SSC degree and a 6 months' course in mechanics under his belt comes to the rescue. Sure, it's the electrician's job to repair the apparatus, but shouldn't the knowledgeable professor at least be able to figure out the problem?

Another scientist doesn't even bother to show any interest in restoring the inoperative household equipment. He is simply happy to let his wife, an English teacher, take care of all that. The kids fondly call their mother the 'mechanic' because she is such a whiz with electrical appliances. From lights, rice cooker, oven, TV and the stereo system, the lady can

bring back to life almost anything while hubby dearest merely looks on and is quite comfortable about her taking the bows all the time.

Quite recently, the family had to cope with a plumbing disaster. The perplexed scientist, also an escapist, left the emergency scene as usual, in order to find an 'expert'. But before he returned, mechanic mom identified the problem, switched off the main knob and resolved the crisis.

There is another highly educated physicist whose workshops world famous scientists, revels in giving free lectures on the 'Theory of relativity' to the ignorant people and can babble on for hours. However, when even a minor technical trouble hits the family, he too, simply goes out of his mind. He yells and blames everyone for the suffering, not once thinking that it would be a better idea to shut up and calmly look in to the matter.

Then of course, the science students can't forget the college practical class scene, where highly qualified teachers play zero roles and lab assistants demonstrate the experiments. Skeptical students often wonder whether the teachers can actually carry out the tests by themselves or not. As a matter of fact, a teacher once volunteered to show an experiment on optics, but after wasting 45 minutes the flustered madam walked out of the class room blaming her failure on the instruments. It was quite embarrassing for her, when the lab aid successfully completed her task within five minutes. So, is higher studies more about 'theories' and less about practical knowledge?

No, this write-up doesn't intend to vilify science and scientists. It's simply amusing and reassuring to know that people with impressive credentials can often act just as helpless as the illiterate laymen.



Hasan Jamil Sattar presenting a bouquet to Prime Minister and president of Awami League Sheikh Hasina, on behalf of the persons, leaders and workers of other parties, who joined the AL at a ceremony, held at the party's central office yesterday. — AL photo

Hasina visits city flood protection embankment

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Monday visited the Dhaka flood protection embankment to see the arrangement for protecting the capital city from recurring floods in its outskirts from Mirpur to Kamrangirchar, reports UNB.

She also visited the Kalyanpur Pump Station near Gabtali that pumps out water from the metropolitan city to the Turag river and was briefed on the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project there.

During her three-hour visit on board a speed-boat, the Prime Minister witnessed the submerged houses outside the embankment and distributed cash money among the flood victims in the area.

Briefing her, Chairman of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) Mohammad Abdus Salam said about

34,000 square kilometer area of the country had been inundated in 'moderate to severe' floodings.

The official, however, hoped that the flood water would start receding fast within three-four days as there are little chances of rain in next few days in the upper catchment area.

Referring to the flood protection arrangement, he informed that the present embankment along with some other infrastructures was constructed after the severe floods of 1987 and 1988 at a cost of Tk 240 crore.

But, as the construction works on the project had been done without any feasibility study and examining the sites, the project requires supplementary flood protection and drainage system with correcting its faults.

He said Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project has been designed with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to protect some 136 square kilometer area of the capital city.

This area — the western part of the total 260 sq km of land under the Dhaka City Corporation — accommodates some 80 per cent of the capital's total population and most of the residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The ADB is providing Tk 344.71 crore for the Tk 451.53 crore project, scheduled to be completed in 1998-97. The Bangladesh government is bearing the remaining project cost.

The project envisages construction of a pump station at Goranchatbari in Mirpur, flood proofing structures, sluice gates in the embankments on the Turag and Buriganga rivers and new flood protection wall from Lalbagh Kellar More to Mitford Hospital, and development of 10.80 kilometer roads.

Besides, a pump station at Kalyanpur has been constructed by the WASA with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) while another pump station at Dholaikhal is being constructed by the Dhaka City Corporation.

The Prime Minister was also told that another flood protection project for the rest of area under the DCC has been proposed with an estimated cost of Tk. 400 crore to save the city from flood.

Only the Japanese government has shown interest to finance the project, the BWDB chairman said, adding that negotiation to this effect could not progress as the annual consultative meeting between Dhaka and Tokyo was not held for the last two years.

The Prime Minister said the government would take up the matter with the Japanese officials at the next annual consultative meeting scheduled to take place in September.

She also instructed the officials concerned to open the canal from Gulshan to Rampura Television Station area to drain water and to take steps to resolve the water-logging problem in the city.

As regards the disposal of wastage of tannery in Hazaribagh area, Hasina asked all concerned to take immediate steps for the treatment of tannery wastage to prevent its adverse impact on human being and environment.

She also instructed the concerned officials to find out a place outside the capital where the tannery industry could be relocated with the installation of modern facilities for tannery wastage treatment.

From the Kalyanpur Pump Station, the Prime Minister went to the areas around the embankment through the Turag and Buriganga rivers and distributed some cash money among the flood victims on Shahidnagar River Embankment area near Kamrangirchar.

Daudkandi JP, BNP leaders, others join AL

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her government's pledge to turn into reality Bangabandhu's dream of a 'Sonar Bangla' by alleviating poverty from society.

"We would like to build up a happy and self-reliant nation in pursuance of the spirit of Liberation War. We would like to build up a society free from the curses of poverty and illiteracy," said Hasina.

The AL president was addressing a joining ceremony at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday morning, welcoming over 5,000 leaders and workers of various parties to Awami League, says a party press release.

The new comers include, Jatiya Party Daudkandi thana unit leaders and industrialists Hasan Jamil Sattar and Yusuf Jamil Babu and Daudkandi thana unit leaders of BNP Md Javed Ali and Abul Hussain.

Sheikh Hasina sought the people's cooperation in successfully running the country on the basis of 'national consensus'.

Leaders of AL and its front organisations including Zillur Rahman, Amir Hussain Amu, Syed Fazlul Haq, Ivy Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Sidequr Rauf Khan, Abdul Matin Khasru and Phulu Sarker were also present at the function, conducted by city AL general secretary Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya.

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long national workshop on "Stimulating Growth through Non-farm Activities in Bangladesh: Review of the Experience and Search for a Policy Agenda", jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and the World Bank, begins this morning at Sonargaon Hotel.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria will inaugurate the workshop, which will discuss the background papers prepared by the researchers from BIDS, Dhaka University and the World Bank, said a Bank press release.

The inaugural session, scheduled to start at 9:30 am, will be followed by three discussion sessions.

362 arrested in city

Police arrested 362 people on various charges from different parts of the city during the last 48 hours till 8 am yesterday, reports UNB.

TOEFL COACHING

Professor of English experienced in teaching abroad for ten years is now offering classes on admission tests in universities in Turkey and TOEFL. Contact: #9115800

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DIRECTION: KAMALUDDIN NILU
31 JULY, 1 & 2 AUGUST 1996 7.00 P.M.
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WELCOME TOMMY MIAH
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TOMMY MIAH - the internationally renowned chef from England is now at The White Castle Restaurant during his short visit to his native land Bangladesh! Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy the mouth watering dishes by TOMMY MIAH at the **BANGLADESHI FOOD FESTIVAL** Only on August 3 - 4, 1996.
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What's on today...

Science lecture: Prof. M Shamsheer Ali, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, will speak on 'Art and Mathematics'. Venue: National Museum of Science and Technology, Agargaon. Time: 4 pm.

NILG workshop: A workshop on "fixing the rate of pourashava water and its realisation", organised by the National Institute of Local Government will be held. Chief guest: syed Alamgir Fargok Choudhury, Secretary, Local Government, Venue: NILG auditorium. Time: 9 am.

Seminar on Mohammad's teachings: The Cultural Centre of IR of Iran, Dhaka has arranged a seminar on 'Teachings of Prophet Mohammad (SM) and Unity of Islamic Ummah'. Religious Affairs Minister Moulana Nurul Islam will attend the seminar as chief guest. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

IEB seminar: The Institution of Engineer Bangladesh has arranged a seminar on 'Involvement of LGED in Bio-Gas Technology'. M A Gofran, project director, Slum Improvement Project, LGED, will present the key-note paper. LGED & Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman will attend the seminar as chief guest. Venue: Seminar room, IEB headquarters. Time: 5 pm.

Film show: Chalachitram Film Society has arranged screening of films winning the Golden Lion Award of Venice Film Festival. French Film 'Good Bye Children' by Louiz's Maille at 4:30 pm and a Polish film 'Three Colours: Blue' by Kvyzyslof Kieslowski at 6:45 pm. Venue: German Cultural Centre auditorium.

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

Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: House 98E, Road 13 (C), Banani. Time: 7:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: The 21st installation meeting of the club will be held. British High Commissioner Peter. J Fowler will attend the meeting as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Shyamoli-Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Padma Travels Limited, 55-56, Motijheel. Time: 5:30 pm.

BCCEMCC meeting: A meeting of the new executive committee of the Bangladesh China Cultural, Economic and Mass Communication Centre will be held. Venue: 183/1, School Road (2nd Floor), Mohakhali. Time: 5 pm.

Workshop on Mathematics curriculum: Bangladesh Mathematical Society has arranged a workshop of identify the problems in teaching the newly introduced mathematics curriculum for the 9th and 10th grades of schools. Venue: Department of Mathematics, Dhaka University. Time: 9:30 pm.



Kendriya Fulkuri Asar brought out a procession in the city on Monday marking the holy Eid-e-Miladun Nabi. — Star photo

Traffic rule awareness drive in city

A two-day drive to make pedestrians and motor drivers aware about the traffic rules begins in the city today, reports UNB.

According to a DMP press release, the problem of traffic jams in the city has become acute, despite continued efforts by the traffic police, as pedestrians and motor drivers are not aware about the traffic rules.

CU degree pass supplementary exam tomorrow

Degree pass supplementary examination under the University of Chittagong for the year 1993 will be held at Chittagong University arts faculty building tomorrow, a university press release said yesterday.

Matia urges buyers of Bangladeshi goods Consider human aspects in formulating import rules

Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury has urged the buyers of Bangladeshi products to consider human aspects in formulating import rules and imposing any restriction, reports UNB.

"Obviously, you will keep the interest of consumers of your respective countries. But we hope restriction will come after consideration of the human phase," she told a seminar in the city yesterday.

The minister, however, assured that the country's laws related to export of frozen foods would be modified to ensure protection of consumer rights.

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the seminar on 'Consumer Protection: Frozen Foods Ex-

ported from Bangladesh' at Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

It was also addressed by Commerce Secretary AH Mofazzal Karim, Charge d' Affaires of EC Delegation in Dhaka A Ruche, Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed and CAB member Kazi Faruk.

Major (ret'd) Manzoor Ahmed, Managing Director of Aqua Resources, presented the keynote paper at the seminar, chaired by CAB president Borhan Ahmed.

Matia Chowdhury laid emphasis on alleviation of poverty for ensuring a pollution-free environment as well as the rights of consumers both at home and abroad.

But, she said, "when we talk about environment and wastage, we should keep it in mind that the wastage of frozen foods is a main source of protein for a large section of our people."

"Our importers can impose restriction, but they should know that if child labour is totally banned, a considerable portion of children in Bangladesh would have to starve," the minister said referring to the country's garment sector which employ a large number of child labour.

Matia Chowdhury said when world environment is polluted for heavy metal industries and atomic plants in the developed countries we can't raise our voice as we are poor.

She added: "Even we can't say anything... can't impose any restriction when the deadly disease AIDS comes to our country from the developed world."

Shishu Academy accords reception to Abul Khair

Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday accorded a reception to Abul Khair, the nine-year-old boy who prevented a train disaster at Hajiganj under Chandpur district July 13, saving the lives of about 300 passengers, reports BSS.

The State Minister for Social Welfare and Children and Women Affairs, Dr Mozammel Hossain attended the reception as the chief guest and presented Abul Khair with a defence certificate of Tk 25,000. He directed the Shishu Academy to provide Abul with the necessary books for carrying out his studies throughout his academic life.

The Shahjalal Foundation, at the initiative of Children and Women Affairs Secretary Akmal Hossain will bear the expenses of higher studies for Abul Khair.

Besides his parents, the reception was attended, among others, by the chairman of the Shishu Academy, Taherunnessa Abdullah, Academy director M Kibria and high officers of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Child and Women Affairs.

Mohila AL meet Aug 2

A meeting of the central executive committee of Bangladesh Mohila Awami League will be held at the party's central office at 23 Bangabandhu Avenue on August 2 at 10:30 am, reports BSS.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Cox's Bazar

Memo No. 1010 Dated: 17-07-96

Tender Notice No. 05/96-97

1. Tenders in BD Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited from Public Works Directorate enlisted special first class, first class building contractors, Chittagong Public Works Zone, Chittagong enlisted second class building contractors, Chittagong Public Works Circle-2, Chittagong enlisted third class building contractors for the unmentioned work. The tender will be received by the undersigned and Executive Engineer, Public Works Division-3/4, Agrabad, Chittagong & Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bandarban up to 12:00 Noon of 13-08-96 and opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence (if any) of the interested tenderers. Tender should be submitted with name of work superscribed on the envelope and attested copy of VAT registration certificate should be submitted with the tender.

2. Name of work : Reconstruction of boundary wall of Cox's Bazar Fire Service at Cox's Bazar Sadar. Year 1996-97.
3. Estimated cost : Tk 3,27,768/-
4. Earnest money : Tk 6,560/-
5. Time limit for completion of work : 60 (sixty) days from the date of issuing work order.

6. A) BD Form No. 2911, tender, additional terms & conditions etc can be seen & purchased at usual price from the office of the undersigned, Executive Engineer, Division No. 3/4, Agrabad, Chittagong & Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Bandarban on or before 11-08-96 during office hours. Contractor himself or his authorised representative can purchase the tender.

B) It will be binding upon the contractor to pay VAT at the rate decided by the National Board of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for collection of VAT against classified work. Final settlement/payment of bill cannot be made until VAT registration & payment of VAT at prescribed rate are made by the contractor.
7. If more than one person/firm, by submitting rate individually, happen to be the lowest tenderers, then lottery will be held at the office chamber of the undersigned by the undersigned or his authorised representative before the tenderers (if any) present on 22-08-96 at 12:00 Noon.

Md Badrul Akter Chow.
Executive Engineer
Cox's Bazar Public Works Division
Cox's Bazar
Phone No. 3547.
DFP-16306-23/7
G-896