

Dhaka Day by Day

To Walk or Not to Walk

by Naina Shehzeen Ahmad

Irrespective of whether you are a diabetic patient or a chronic sufferer of a weak heart, doctors always recommend walking as an aid to the other factors in your treatment. They are always effusive in their praise of walking—starting from the "keeps you fit" part to the "healthy activity" not to mention its relaxing contribution to make one feel at one with nature!

Hence we find a growing number of health conscious veterans strolling along the roads of Dhaka city early in the morning or during the evenings. The parks of this city, besides the streets and alleys, are literally swarmed by early morning joggers and strollers who crawl out from under their sheets even on cold winter mornings to benefit from the invulnerable boons of walking. But we, Dhakaites have an added advantage over our foreign chums. Walking in Dhaka city also makes one proficient in the art of dodging, teaches infinite patience and the list could go on for ever.

An enthusiast walking down the streets of Dhaka may, at first, find himself surrounded by a score of tokais who have apparently bubbled out of nowhere. Once he is free of these unwarranted companions, if ever, he may turn his attention to the lovely wonders of nature before him. Maybe, the light moonish shower of the previous night has left the air cool and breezy. The lush green leaves sparkle against the clear azure sky of the dawn. The dormant poet within stirs in the serenity of the surroundings. But not for long!

If the walker is extremely lucky, he will not bump into more than a couple of vaguely familiar people who insist upon shaking hands for over five minutes, rambling about his personal woes, his son's colic, his mothers god and what not, doling out advice on all aspects of life under the sun.

Once he is alone again, he may try to recollect his previous reflections on the natural beauty around him. The wispy clouds are reflected in the deep puddles on the rut covered road. The vendors, shouting out their wares

pass by him. For a fleeting moment he may even consider buying some vegetables for lunch.

Suddenly, out of the blue, a car zooms by and the sedate walker is left in his newly starched white panjabi batik printed in mud. Besides, it is of utmost importance to keep your eyes glued to the sidewalk during your stroll. For the sidewalk may suddenly peter out unannounced where telephone wires (and what not?) are being inserted, taken out or repaired. Then again, it is hazardous not to keep a sharp watch around yourself, for it has almost become a trend to dump domestic garbage, polythene bags etc "outside" the large concrete dustbins. Unless you look out, you may find yourself miring amid a weeks worth of fuming garbage. Though of course, you can always rely on your nose to detect the presence of such spots before accidents. It is, however, quite hard to dodge the frequent chewed betel leaves, half eaten sugar cane or mushy polythene bags, cigarette ends and various other accessories of the city's sidewalks. Before the end of a month of regular walking, you can perhaps apply for a diploma in the art of dodging.

It is not an uncommon happening for a stroller to be followed by a canine friend (or foe as it often turns out to be). These stray dogs generally are not the "man's best friend" genre and caper about your ankles, barking and snapping. Walk in the slightly more "posh" localities like Gulshan and Baridhara to avoid pestering dogs and spilled garbage, and you will be accompanied by the inquisitive stares of the "darwans".

Even then if you don't quit in a huff but stick to your daily walking, you may be making a wise decision in the long run. Walking in Dhaka not only is healthy, (with all the fuming garbage) but develops a number of useful qualities within you — keeps you alert, sharpens your senses and teaches you to dodge. Just be armed with a stick in case those dogs get too close!



Confce on pryd edn begins today

A five-day conference on "universal primary education in Bangladesh 1996" begins in the city today, reports BSS. The conference will review the total national effort made so far in achieving the goals of education for all in terms of access and equity, quality of education and institutional capacity development.

It will also identify the policy implications in respect of implementation of education development programmes.

Blood donation programme at NSU

The Social Services Club of North South University, has organised a two-day blood donation programme at the NSU campus beginning today, says a press release.

Red Crescent Society Bangladesh, will assist in the programme on the inaugural day, today, while Sandhani Salimullah Medical College unit, will assist on the concluding day tomorrow. The programme will continue from 12 noon to 5 pm.

German envoy meets CU VC

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: The German ambassador to Bangladesh, Bruno Webber, called on the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof R I Chowdhury at his office here today, a university press release said. They discussed matters of mutual interest, reports BSS.

Badruddin's qu today

Qulkhani of Badruddin Ahmed, a veteran Rotarian and former additional secretary will be held at his Gulshan residence at 5 pm today, says a press release.

Badruddin died of cancer in USA July 29. Friends, relatives and admirers of the deceased have been requested to attend.

Reception

Lattur Rahman, Managing Director, Transcom Electronics Ltd hosted a dinner Sunday night at Hotel Sheraton to celebrate wedding of his second daughter, Shahzoh (Shehzi) with Arshad, eldest son of Nazim Huq, reports BSS.

It was attended by members of parliament, political leaders, diplomats and elite of the city.

Tarokalok Awards announced

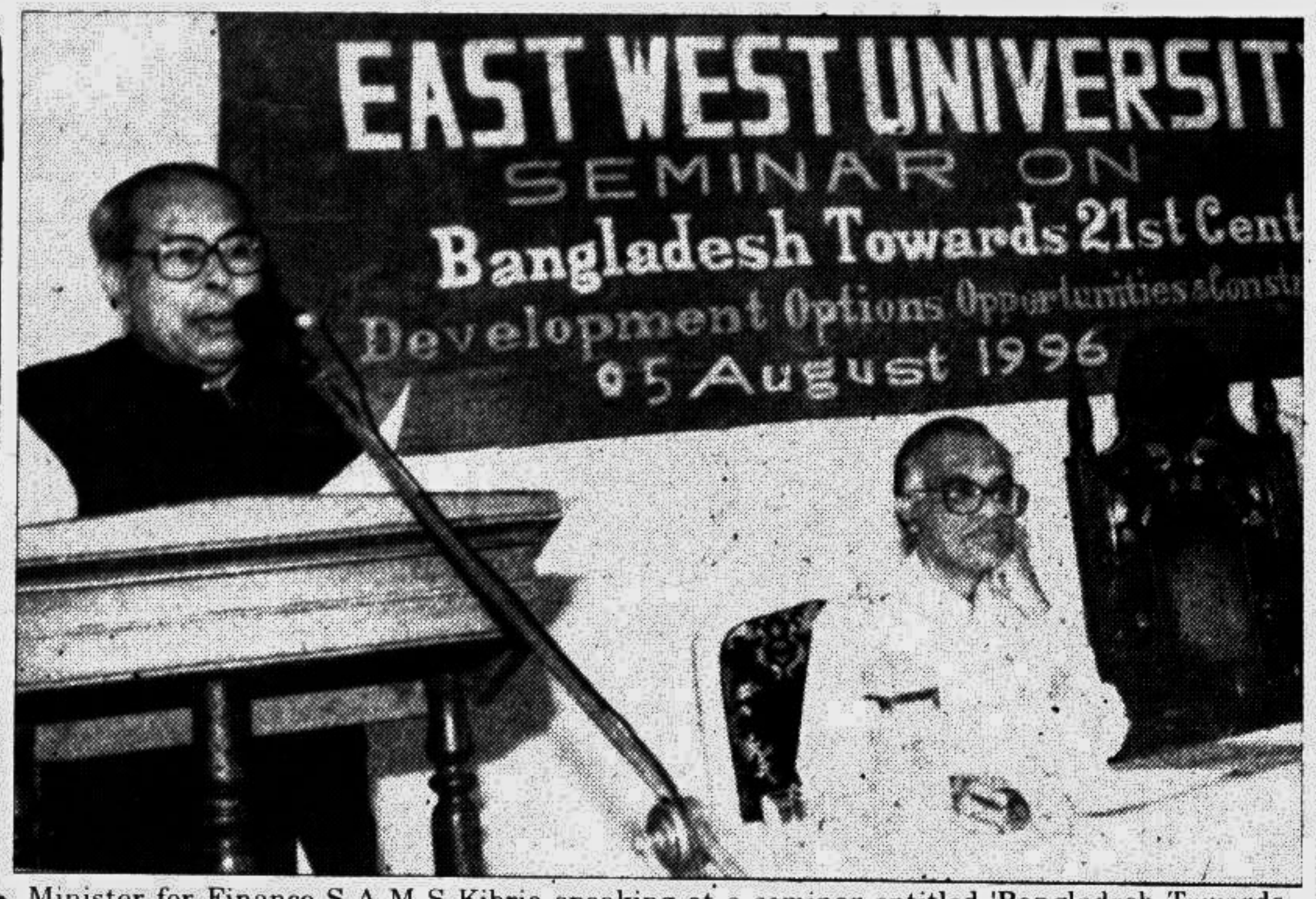
Twelve personalities of cultural arena have been selected for "Tarokalok Awards" (this year, reports UNB).

Tarokalok, a leading entertainment fortnightly, has been giving awards for the last two years to pay tributes to the personalities from the different fields of culture having remarkable contributions in their own faculties.

The recipients of this year's awards are: Abdul Latif (Music, senior), Suvra Dev (Music, junior), Ehtesham (Film), Tareque Masud (short film/documentary), Abdullah Al Mamun (TV programme/production), Shahidul Huq Khan (TV Package programme), Syed Ali Anwar (Acting, senior), Moushumi (Acting, junior), Mamunur Rashid (Play right), Ferdousi Majumdar (Stage play), Tania Ahmed (Modeling) and Shaninn Ara Nipa (Dance).

The awards would be handed over to the recipients through a colourful function on October 4, 1996. They would be honoured with crests, certificates and cash prizes.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed will attend the function as chief guest, said a press release.



Minister for Finance S A M S Kibria speaking at a seminar entitled 'Bangladesh Towards 21st Century' at the East West University in the city yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today . . .

Seminar on Bangladeshi food: Bangladesh Caterers Association UK in association with the British High Commission in Bangladesh has arranged an international seminar on "Popularising Bangladeshi Food Worldwide and the Role of Probashi in the Economic Development of Bangladesh and UK." Speaker Hamayun Rasheed Chowdhury will attend the seminar as chief guest. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed, Finance Minister S A M S Kibria will attend as special guests. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9 am.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy: Bangladesh Shishu Academy has organised a discussion meeting marking the 55th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. A cultural function will follow. Chief guest: Waheedul Haque. Special guest: Asad Chowdhury. Dr Hayat Mahmud will preside. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

Bangla Academy discussion: Bangla Academy has arranged a discussion meeting marking the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Dr Biswajit Ghosh will present a paper on "Prosewriter Rabindranath". Dr Masuduzzaman, Prof Shaheen Akhter will take part in the discussion. Prof Mohammad Anisur Rahman will preside. Venue: Bangla Academy seminar room. Time: 11 am.

Jatiya Robindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad: The parishad has arranged a musical soiree in observance of Shraavan 22, the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of Sraboni Prakash's new title "Selected Poems of Rabindranath Tagore" by Abu Rusud will be held. Venue: Furbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Hiroshima Sculpture Project: The project has arranged a discussion and mime show in observance of Hiroshima Day. Venue: Public Library seminar room. Time: 7:30 am.

TCSD programme on Hiroshima Day: The Theatre Centre for Social Development has taken day-long programme in observance of "Hiroshima Day". The programme will be inaugurated at 8 am at Central Shaheed Minar premises. A children painting competition will be held simultaneously. A procession will be brought out at 10 am.

UNAB discussion: United Nations Association of Bangladesh has organised a discussion meeting in observance of the Hiroshima Day. Venue: UNAB office. Time: 5:30 pm.

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

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

Film show: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies will screen the film "Antarjati Yatra" by Gautom Ghosh. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 4 pm & 6:30 pm.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy: The academy has arranged a discussion meeting in observance of the 55th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. A cultural programme will follow. Chief guest: Dr Neelima Ibrahim. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Science lecture: Prof M A Saleh of Chittagong University will deliver a lecture on "Water - A Mysterious Matter". Venue: National Museum of Science and Technology auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

RCMD reception to Abul Khair

Abul Khair, who has shot to prominence at home and abroad by preventing a train accident last month, was accorded a reception by the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka (RCMD) yesterday, reports UNB.

The RCMD will fund the schooling of 9 year old-boy Khair from Tragar village in Chandpur district through class ten in recognition of his intelligence. He is now studying in class three.

Khair will get a monthly stipend of Tk 500 from a bank account from his area. RCMD president M A Matin said at the reception at a local hotel. He was given first two monthly installments.

Rotarians Dr Muhammad Ahsan, Fazle Rabbi, Dr Anwar Hossain, Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Farid Hossain and Abul Khair spoke on the occasion.

Khair, the second of the six children of Abdul Matin, a worker at a local sawmill, waved a red petticoat of her aunt to stop the Chittagong-bound Meghna Express on July 13 after he found a part of the railway track broken near his home.

His quick reaction saved hundreds of lives travelling by the train.

City committee formed

The central committee of the Freedom Fighters Cultural Command, a sister concern of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, formed an 11 member Mohanagar Committee August 3. Begum Nahid Rokhsana has been made convener while Anwar Faridi will act as member secretary, says a press release.

Kh Azharul Haq new WASA chairman

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Khandker Azharul Haq has been appointed Managing Director of the Dhaka WASA as per the newly passed WASA Ordinance.

His appointment fulfils one of the five conditions of the donors, set for financing the fourth DWASA Project.

Dr Azharul Haq began his career as Chief Scientific Officer of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute in 1974. He was promoted to the post of Principal Scientific Officer there.

In 1981 he obtained PhD degree in engineering from California University of USA. He served as Member Director (Agriculture Engineering of BARC) during 1985-988 and as Member Director (Irrigation) during 1988-90.

He joined the International Irrigation Research Institute in 1990 and was posted in Sudan as Senior Irrigation Management Adviser. He later served in Sri Lanka in 1992.

He was the Chief of Country Programme for Bangladesh and Nepal prior to his joining the DWASA.

Two DU students beaten up

By DU Correspondent

Two students of the Dhaka University were beaten up on the campus allegedly by Chhatra Dal activists in separate incidents yesterday.

A student was beaten up at about 11 am in front of the university central library. He was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment. In the other incident, a third year student of Sociology was beaten up in front of the central library at 10:30 am.



M A Khan's death anniversary today

The 12th anniversary of death of Rear Admiral Mahbub Ali Khan, former Chief of Naval Staff and Minister for Communications and Agriculture will be observed today, says a press release.

Elaborate programme has been chalked out in observance of the day.

A milad mahfil will be held at "Mahbub Bhaban" House No 40, Road No 5, Dhamondi after Asr prayers at 5:30 pm.

Rear Admiral M A Khan Memorial Committee, Sylhet, has also chalked out various programmes which includes milad mahfil, special prayer and distribution of food to the poor at the Darga premises of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R). Seminar and discussions on the life and works of the deceased distribution of sweets in different orphanages will also be arranged.

Bangladesh Navy is also arranging milad mahfil at all its bases in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Mongla to pray for the peace and salvation of the deprived soul.

BOU SSC-exams begin Sept 13

The first annual examinations of Bangladesh Open University SSC programme will begin September 13 next, says a press release.

The Time Schedule is as follows:

September 13 — Bangla 1st paper; September 20 — English 1st paper; and September 27 — social Science (History and Geography); October 4 — Mathematics and October 11 — Science.

The examinations will be held between 9 am and 12 noon, added the release.

1st Happy Birthday on 6th August '96

On behalf of all relatives, friends & well wishers We wish a very happy Birthday to our dearest **SHAHRYAR & MAISHA** May Allah bless you.

DADA, NANU, BABA & MAA

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