

Dhaka Day by Day

The Charming Chowdhury

by Chandra Shekhar Das

Chheleru katha beshi koi, bishen bishu, oi jonnio mathai juis thakena, car meyeder hodo katha kum kaaj beshi, tai porikkhai larai bhulo kaurey (Brother, boys talk too much, they talk their brains out. Girls, on the other hand, talk less, hence, can concentrate better. Naturally, they tend to do better in the exams). This is not a part of any tirade against men nor is it any quote from the text of some psycho-analytic studies or some papers on gender discrimination. Then what? Well, they are some of the interesting pack of phrases begotten by expression upon observation that one gentleman book seller of the town passes on as lagniappe while displaying old and new copies of notebooks on the classics of English literature by Messrs Ramji Lal. Dr Sen — sometimes the *edition de luxe* and sometimes photocopies of the original for that matter — all for sale, to the more familiar section of book-lovers.

Yes, that is Chowdhury. For a reader reference Chowdhury *bhai* with a variety of comparative cognominal connotation. Some call him a saviour-supplier of students of English literature from graduate level upwards. Over the years, his Friends Book Corner at Nikhet, opposite to the New Market has become a pilgrimage of sort for the immense and undeniable utilitarian value, if not for anything else. It boasts the biggest and the most classified collection of books around on English literature and other foreign literature in English. From Yeats' *A Vision* to Derek Walcott's collected poems, you will find almost everything there.

However, there are 'buyers' from the past and present who will try to apply education in real life by trying to discover a Shylock in Chowdhury. Vindication by way of remote resemblance may not be too much of a claim by these sour triers. For Chowdhury does ensure a hefty margin of profit by virtue of his intellectually aggressive entrepreneurial campaign

although operating in the same system of lending — besides selling books for a percentage of the selling price of the book followed by his peers-in-trade of the neighbourhood. There are complaints galore but he would play them down with a smile that has a heady mixture of candour, naughtiness and cunning. Perhaps, the reason he does not mind the campaign and criticism of being too pricey is the sure knowledge of the superiority of his shop in diversity and number as well as the helplessness of those for whom books really matter.

He is more like Homais of Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*. His world of acquaintance is as vast as his collection. You cannot blame a freshman for literally swallowing his recommended lecture on a to-be-sold book with gaping mouth and widened eyes. From select group of students to teachers of English literature, he knows an awful lot of people. *Esprit fort* in his own right, Chowdhury is always on the ball as regards contemporary issues. He is always game for an animated talk provided you have the time and mood.

Befind, these masks of a Shylock or a Homais, Chowdhury exudes a warmth which makes total oblivion of him from the memory impossible. He has an evocative energy which does not end in nostalgia but stretches out to something more. Quips and queries like the informative 'X *bhai* is in the Civil Service. Y *apa* has joined the department, or sympathetic you have not been able to do something or an inquisitive 'Do you wish to study further?' have a resonant and human ring about them.

Apparently, Chowdhury is changeless in his customary half shirt, lungi and the pair of spectacles. But there have been some changes. His hair and moustache have gone pepper-and-salt and he does not sell books only but helps local literary efforts to see the light of the day too, albeit in a limited scale.



UNDP resident representative Eimi Watanabe (R) called on LGRD, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman at his office yesterday. — PID photo

What's on today....

NSU seminar: North South University has arranged a seminar on budget '96. Dr Salauddin Ahmad, an eminent economist and NSU faculty member will speak. Venue: NSU building. Time: 11 am.

Bangladesh Muslim League: The 20th anniversary of reorganisation of the Bangladesh Muslim League will be observed today. A discussion meeting has been arranged in observance of the day. Party chief Kazi Abdul Kader will preside. Venue: Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association auditorium, 58/1-A, Purana Paltan. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka: The regular weekly of the club will be held. Venue: Officers Club Time: 5:30 pm.

Democracywatch convention: The two-day first national convention of Democracywatch will begin. Venue: BMDC auditorium, 4 Sobhanbag. Time: 8 am.

..... and tomorrow

BETA conference: The second biennial conference of Bangladesh Economic Teachers Association (BETA) will be held. A seminar on Aspects of Urban Development in Bangladesh has also arranged. Education Minister A S H K Sadek will attend as chief guest. Venue: NAEM auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.

Painting exhibition: First solo painting exhibition by Nurun Naher Shupri will begin. Prof. Hashem Khan will inaugurate the display. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 4 pm to 8 pm except Saturday till August 15. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 5 pm.

Visiting WB team meets Razzak

The visiting two-member World Bank delegation led by World Bank Resident Mission Chief Pierre Landell-Mills met Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak at the latter's office in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed various aspects of water resources of Bangladesh and exchanged views on solution of different problems in the sector.

The minister apprised the delegation of the various development projects undertaken by the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

The World Bank Mission chief stressed the need for augmentation of water resources in Bangladesh.

Secretary, Water Resources Ministry, Dr ATM Shamsul Huda was also present.

Kalpana Chakma issue Exchange of views with MPs tomorrow

Fundamental Rights Protection Committee of Chittagong Hill Tracts will exchange views with four hill MPs on the Kalpana Chakma issue tomorrow, reports UNB.

All concerned have been requested to attend the meeting at 10 am at MP Hostel Club, said a press release yesterday.

Seminar on glaucoma

Health and Family Planning Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday requested the doctors to ensure medicare services to the people of remote rural areas of the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'Glaucoma, a blinding disease in Bangladesh: its prevention and management' organised by Sandhani National Eye Donation Society at Salimullah Medical College, said an official press release.

Haji Mohammad Selim, MP, and senior ophthalmologists Prof Syed Modasser Ali, Prof M A Shakur and Dr Abdul Gham also spoke.

DU subject adjustment notice

The Dhaka University authorities have given the newly admitted (1995-96) first year honours students (Ka unit) a chance to adjust their subjects, reports UNB.

The students having merit score from 1753 can change their subject as per their choice, said a DU press release yesterday.

It said the students bearing merit score from 1754-2417 of the same unit have been allowed for admission into different departments.

The students concerned have been asked to see the notice board at the Dean Office of Biological Science Faculty on August 10.

Yearbook of agri statistics '94 out

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has recently published the yearbook of agricultural statistics of Bangladesh, 1994 reports UNB.

This is the 10th edition of the yearbook, published in series. The current edition contains 11 chapters with data series on important aspects of agriculture.

It also contains data related to crop acreage and production, crop damage by natural calamities, weather variables, agricultural inputs, crop prices, land use, cropping intensity, cropping pattern, structure of agricultural holdings, livestock, fisheries, forestry and export-import of agricultural products and inputs.

The publication is expected to serve as a standard reference document in the field of agriculture, said a PID handout yesterday.

Chehlam

Chehlam of late Rina Tatt, eldest daughter of Khan Bahadur Abdul Hakim, will be held on Friday after Magreb prayers at her residence, Rina Dale, 22/2 Free School Street Sonargaon Road Hatirpool. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend, says a press release.



Bappi Shahrier's death anniversary

The seventh death anniversary of young rhymist Bappi Shahrier will be observed today, says a press release.

Bappi succumbed to injuries sustained in a road accident in 1989. He was then a second-year student of History of Dhaka University.

Wreaths will be placed at his grave in the morning while food will be distributed to the patients at Paralysis Ward of city's Orthopaedics Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at noon, the release added.

German envoy calls on Speaker

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Bruno Weber called on Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his office in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The envoy conveyed the felicitation of German parliament to the Speaker and assured him of continued cooperation of his country.

He also expressed shock at the sad demise of ruling party MP Sharifuddin Ahmed and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association called on the Speaker.

The association leaders explained their different demands to the Speaker and sought his cooperation in this regard.

The delegation members include association President Mohammad Shamsul Alam and Secretary General Akkas Ali Sheikh were present.

Sharifuddin laid to rest

The *namaj-e-janaza* of Sharifuddin Ahmed MP was held at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad at 10 am yesterday, reports BSS.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, ministers, political leaders and a good number of MPs attended the *namaj-e-janaza*.

After the *namaj-e-janaza* Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed a wreath on the coffin of the deceased as a mark of

last respect to the late parliamentarian.

Ahmed, an MP elected from Habiganj-2 constituency, died at the PG Hospital Tuesday night. He was elected MP twice.

Ahmed was later laid to rest at his family graveyard at Jatrapasha in Habiganj district after second and third *janaza*. Earlier, his body was flown to Jatrapasha by helicopter.

The body was accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Dewan Farid Gazi, MP, adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Suranjit Sengupta and Sultan Muhammad Mansoor, MP, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister Obaidul Muqtadir Chowdhury and Sgt-at-arms Abdul Mannan, accompanied the body on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Speaker respectively.

VACANCY

POST OF TEAM LEADER - BANGLADESH

An international organization is looking for a Team leader to head its Bangladesh Country Team. The Team is based in Dhaka and is responsible for the execution of the Program's rural and urban water supply and sanitation activities in Bangladesh. At present the Team consists of, in addition to the Team Leader, two professional staff, project based consultants and support staff, but an expansion in both the scope of its activities and staff profile is anticipated.

The thrust of the Program's activities in Bangladesh includes sector development, planning and managing pilot projects demonstrating innovative approaches to the provision of water and sanitation services to the urban and rural poor, project preparation and review, managing a sector training network center, documentation and dissemination of best practices and promotion of strategic partnerships within the sector.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide intellectual leadership to the expanding Team, to have good working relations with government agencies, the donor community and NGO's and other organizations active in the water and sanitation sector in Bangladesh.

The Team Leader will report to the organization's regional office for South Asia in New Delhi, India.

Qualifications

- a Master's degree or equivalent in Public health/environmental engineering, social sciences, planning or related field.
- minimum of 10 year's experience in the water supply and sanitation or related sector in Bangladesh.
- proven ability to analyze complex institutional, technical and social problems.
- communicate effectively with a wide range of actors in both written and spoken English and Bangla.
- be recognized and respected by key actors within the sector.
- be of sound health and willing to travel extensively within Bangladesh and occasionally abroad.

Duty station: Dhaka.

Duration: Two years with possibility of extension and a one year probation period.

Salary: An attractive tax-free salary based on qualifications will be offered.

Starting date: October 1, 1996 or as shortly thereafter as possible.

Applications should be sent to: The Advertiser, Box No. A-818 C/o, The Daily Star, House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205 by August 25, 1996.

Rajuk Uttara Model School & College

sector-6, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230, Tel: 892780

ADMISSION: 1996-97

Class XI (Science, Arts & Commerce)

1. Date for collection of the admission form w.e.f 22-07-96 to 10-08-96.
2. Last date for submitting application form: 10-08-96.
3. Admission is open for both boys & girls.
4. **Qualification:**
a. For Science: Min. 700 marks.
b. Arts & Com.: Min. 600 marks.
5. Detailed information about admission may please be collected from the College Main office.

Principal & Member Secretary
Board of Governors

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জিলা টাকার সার জজ ও অর্থ জজ আদালত, নং ২, ঢাকা
মানি ডিং নং ২১/৯৩

ইষ্টার্ন ব্যাংক লিঃ, ১০, দিলকুশা বারিগাজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা

-ঃ বনামঃ-

(১) কেব্রাজান ট্রাডেলস লিঃ (২) মিঃ মোহাম্মদ হাসান, পিতা মৃত আলহাজ্ব মতিউর রহমান খান, ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর, কেব্রাজান ট্রাডেলস লিঃ

ইব্রাহিম ম্যানসান, ১১, পুরানা পল্টন, থানা-মতিঝিল, ঢাকা। বর্তমানে বাড়ি নং ১, সড়ক নং ৮৮, গুলশান মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা।

ডিক্রীকৃত টাকার পরিমাণ : ৩, ৫১, ৪৭, ৩০৭/২৯ টাকা
নিলামের তারিখ : ২৮/৮/৯৬ ইং
নিলামের স্থান : ঢাকা জেলা জজ কোর্ট প্রাঙ্গণ
নিলামের সময় : ১২ ঘটিকা

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ডিক্রীকারের প্রাপ্য টাকা আদায়ের জন্য দায়ীকরের নিম্ন বর্ণিত স্থাবর সম্পত্তি উপরে উল্লেখিত তারিখে সময় ও স্থানে প্রকাশ্যে নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। ক্রয় করিতে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিগণকে উক্ত নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

"নিম্ন তপসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তির বিবরণ যাহা নিলামে বিক্রয় হইবে"

All that piece and Parcel of land containing by admeasurement 1 (one) Bigha 10 (ten) khattas, more or less situated in the Gulshan Model Town of the Dhaka Improvement Trust at present Rajdhani Unnayan kartipakkha in the Sub-Registration office Gulshan, Meuza-Bhola Shamire P.S. Gulshan being plot No.2. Block-NE (N) (House No.1. Road No. 88) now known as NE (N)-2 of the layout plan of Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka and all structure building, boundary walls, fitting & fixtures etc standing there on.

আদেশ ক্রমে
সেপ্টেম্বার



ভাগ্যিস ডালডা চামচ দিচ্ছে নয়তো...

প্রতিটি ২ লিটার ডালডার সাথে
একটি স্টেইনলেস স্টীল চামচ



ফ্রী

১০০% খাঁটি, কোলেস্টেরল মুক্ত,

ভিটামিন 'এ' ও 'ডি' সমৃদ্ধ

ভেজিটেবল অয়েল

ডালডা

এই অকার এখন শুধুমাত্র চট্টগ্রাম, ঢাকা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ ও ঢাকা শহরের জন্য প্রযোজ্য

ফুরিয়ে যাবার আগেই যতগুলো খুশী সংগ্রহ করুন।