

Dhaka Day by Day

Do Ghosts Exist?

by Tulip Chowdhuri

A group of children aged around seven to eight were deeply engrossed in a discussion. Curious, I moved nearer and overheard them talking about one very popular topic: ghosts. Each of them were telling some ghost stories. The others sat with their ears strained, mouths open, eyes wide, nostrils flaring and brows knitted together, totally absorbed in the stories.

Young or old, men or women, once in a while some ghost stories seem to hunt us. The most popular way of beginning about ghost is, "I don't believe in ghosts but..... Off you go! Some unexplainable experiences one had, some weird things one had heard impose upon the imagination as one's possible encounter with ghosts."

In the rural areas of Bangladesh ghosts seem to have joy rides often and on. Most of the villagers believe in ghosts. They believe that ghosts reside in 'talghach' or 'tetul gach' (pam trees or tamarind trees).

Darkness of the night seems to be earmarked for the "do's" and "don'ts" about ghosts.

"Bhute ghar motkeche," the average Bangalee would say, meaning the ghost has broken the neck. The most likely place for a ghost to attack seems to be the neck. Matters can get serious when villagers often mistake mental diseases as "bhute dhore cheye" (the ghost has possessed). Often very cruel methods are applied to exorcise the patients. They may be severely beaten or become victims of deceit by falls Huzurs.

In urban life, amidst the Dhakaites, ghosts can sometimes find a place with pride. In this respect "Bhuter Karbar" (doings of the ghost)

can often be heard from people who are puzzled about some strange happenings. Even the brightest of the Dhakaites would once in a while describe a ghost story beginning with something like "I know ghosts do not exist. But on that day near the graveyard....."

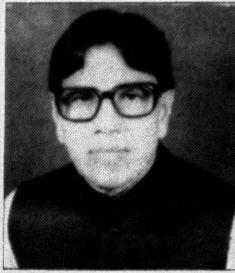
In our culture sisters and brothers-in-law love to play tricks with the newly wed brides.

One of the favourite trick is the ghost's game. However if this is played too ardently and the bride firmly believes in ghosts she may be wiser to leave her in laws alone.

In different cultures of this world the belief in ghosts prevail in different forms. For example the Hindus believe that men become ghost after death and according to their deeds in the world they become good or bad ghosts. The belief that ghots may be formless or may have many forms is more or less among all.

However, most people have ideas of ghosts as white skeletons with white loose clothes around them. Children, when asked to draw ghosts also come up with similar white shapes of skeletons.

Many enjoy reading ghost stories sometime. Children sail through a period of reading ghost stories along with their fairy tales. And sometimes mother's can be heard coaxing their children with food and saying, "If you don't take it, a big ghost will arrive now." Hence it seems that the ghosts have made a secret in road into our beliefs. As adults or children we may momentarily let our imagination run wild and give some thoughts to ghosts but scientists explain that ghosts are not real but hallucinations. The idea of ghosts comes from our perceptions without objective reality.



Death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent
The first death anniversary of the late Abdul Momin Talukder, a former minister under the Bangabandhu Administration, will be observed today.

The late Talukder, a member of the Awami League Advisory Council until his death, hailed from Seraganj and was elected to parliament several times. A Language Movement veteran and a former president of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, he held the portfolios of commerce and tourism.

A milad-mahfil will be held at the late leader's residence (House 17, Road 3A, Dhanmondi) on the day after Asr prayers. Friends and relatives have been requested to attend.

Hunger strike at Ittefaq for 7th day

The ongoing token strike called by the three employees unions of the daily Ittefaq, entered its seventh day yesterday. The three unions have called the strike to press for the payment of 30 per cent dearness allowance along with arrears, says a press release.

More city news on Page 7

House To Let

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Asian Development Bank Bangladesh Resident Mission

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Fax : (8802) 933 4012
(8802) 933 4013
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Assistant Hardware Engr.
Must have 2 years practical experience in computer hardware maintenance. Preference will be given to candidate with necessary software knowledge. Salary negotiable. Interested candidates are requested to send their CV to the following Address by 25th Aug.

General Automation
2 nd Flr. 6/9 Block-A, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

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EMPLOYMENT

An international humanitarian NGO, giving skilled and impartial care to people in need and crisis, invites applications for the post of **Community Development Facilitator** for a participatory infrastructure programme in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar District.

Candidates wishing to be considered should forward their bio-data (CV) showing they fully meet the following qualifications and requirements:

Minimum qualifications:

- Masters Degree in Social Science, Engineering or any other relevant subject;
- Minimum three years of professional experience in rural participatory infrastructure activities or disaster preparedness, preferably in Coastal Belt.

Skills and knowledge required:

- Sound background in mobilization of village communities;
- Very good knowledge in training, facilitation and communication skills;
- Ability to train village-based organisations in financial management and organisational development
- Experience with construction /infrastructure programs;
- Good experience in maintaining proper office administration in field office;
- Liaisoning with Govt. Organisations and local NGOs;
- Computer skills, preferably Word for Windows;
- Fluency in Bangla and English (spoken and written);
- Ability to work in a team and to interact with local and foreign officials and institutions;

Salary : Negotiable. Applications should be sent by mail latest by August 27, 1996 to:

Country Representative
DASCOH
House 28, Road 122
Gulshan, Dhaka 1212

Commemorative stamp on Akram Khan

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp valued Tk 4.00 denomination on August 18 marking the death anniversary of Maulana Mohammad Akram Khan, reports BSS.

A first day cover valued Tk 6.00 will also be issued and a special canceller will be used.

Shupty's painting show extended

The first solo painting exhibition by Nurun Naher Shupty, which started August 9 at the main gallery of the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, has been extended until Aug 23, says a press release.

The exhibition will remain open daily from 4 p.m to 8 p.m (except Saturday).

Bangladesh envoy to Bosnia presents credentials

Bangladesh's first ambassador designate to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Khurshid Hamid, presented his credentials to Dr Ejup Ganic, member of the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at a simple ceremony at Sarajevo on Saturday last, according to a message received in the city yesterday.



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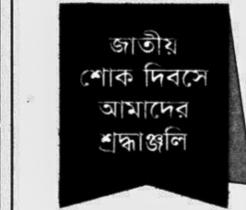
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