

Dhaka Day by Day

How not to Care about a Lake

by Naina Shehzeen Ahmad

The first few drops of rain splash on the surface of the lake, breaking the calm tranquillity of the water. Tiny waves move in circles over the smooth surface. Silently it begins to drizzle. The rain drops are so fine that it feels like mist. A light breeze blows the drops steadily. Just like a fluttering veil of raindrops. As the shower continues, the amateur fishers scattered around the winding lake slowly leave. Except for several lone fishers who remain with their rods in their hands, waiting for "the fish" to bite, the lakeside is quite deserted.

Cars speed by on the wet bridge with a swishing sound. Apart from the occasional blare of a car horn or the merry tinkling of a rickshaw bell, it is quite all around. Then suddenly a dog barks. A couple of boys are playing with a stick and a rubber tyre, fully drenched in the rain. A lone vegetable vendor with his basket on his head shouts out his wares. "Ai Torkari (vegetable)!"

This is a view of the Dhanmondi Lake. Long time back, before the pollution, it was a spectacular site. All along its banks, there were huge trees. Bent under the weight of their dense foliage, their boughs drooped just above the water surface. The reflection of the lush green leaves in the sparkling clean water of the lake must have looked splendid. During monsoon each year,

people would flock to the lake in throngs to find a hook from where to fish. The schools of vividly coloured fish could even be seen from the shore. Children would strain at their mothers' hands to be allowed to go near the fish. The winter afternoons drew young couples to the banks of the lake where they could enjoy the tranquillity of the atmosphere and watch the flaming hues of sunset reflected in the water.

But that was long ago. Before people became too busy or too unconcerned to bother with the lake anymore. Before we allowed pollutants to grow at the splendour of the lake.

Today the surface of the lake is clogged with dense algal growth almost all year round. Upon closer inspection, dried leaves, broken twigs, scraps of paper, peanut shells and even discarded polythene packets can be found on the once sparkling water surface.

Today children do not crowd around the lake shore to get a glimpse of the multicoloured fish, they remain preoccupied with their cable T.V channels at home. No one walks upon the grassy banks under a starry sky at night; it just isn't safe with all the muggers on their natural prowl.

So the lake remains — not as a grand site to visit once in a while but just as a geographical landmark — as a once unique feature of Dhanmondi — now neglected and forgotten.



This apparently beautiful look is deceptive.

— Photo: Tanim

Children's essay competition

In observance of the "Child Rights Week 1996" and "International Children's Day," Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), is going to organise an Essay competition for children between 10 to 14 years of age, says a press release.

The essay, entitled "Bangladesh Pather Shishu" (street children of Bangladesh) must be submitted to BSAF (House: 57/A, Road: 15/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209) by September 20, 1996.

BSAF, a network of more than sixty national and international organisations working for and with children, is also going to organise a number of programmes with disadvantaged children, including children's rally, child art competition and exhibition, shishu mela (children's fair) in the city and discussion meeting on child rights issue.

Biswas calls for spreading true message of Quran

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said strict adherence to the tenets of Islam as enshrined in the Holy Quran and sunnah can establish peace and harmony in the society and well-being of the people, reports UNB.

The President was talking to a 19-member delegation of Discovers of the Holy Quran, International Society, led by Shah Sufi Khandakar Golam Mowla, when they called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Biswas urged the delegation members to continue research on the Holy Quran and spread the true message of the Quran to the common people so that they can understand the true spirit and real meaning of Islam, the religion of peace.

The organisation members apprised the President about their activities.

Black laws related to art, culture to be repealed

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed said yesterday that the present government would repeal all black laws related to art and culture to create a congenial atmosphere for the flourishing of talents, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing the certificate distribution ceremony of a filmmaking training course, organised by the Bangladesh Short Film Forum in the city yesterday.

Prof Abu Sayeed said, national progress cannot be ensured without proper flourishing of art and culture. He added that real life should be reflected in art and culture.

The function was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Short Film Forum Tanveer Mokammel and noted short filmmaker Manjur-e-Hasin Murad.

Aarong to take part in European Fashion Show

Aarong, BRAC's renowned national and international chain of outlets for the rural artisans of Bangladesh, will take part in European Fashion Show, to be held in Zurich, Switzerland tomorrow, says a press release.

This is for the first time that Aarong is taking part in an international show. Thirty two pieces of women's wear in four collections will be displayed by European models at the show, to be participated by a good number of fashion designers and organisations of international repute. All the dresses of Aarong, showing Summer Collection of 1997, are of Bangladeshi cotton material made in European style.

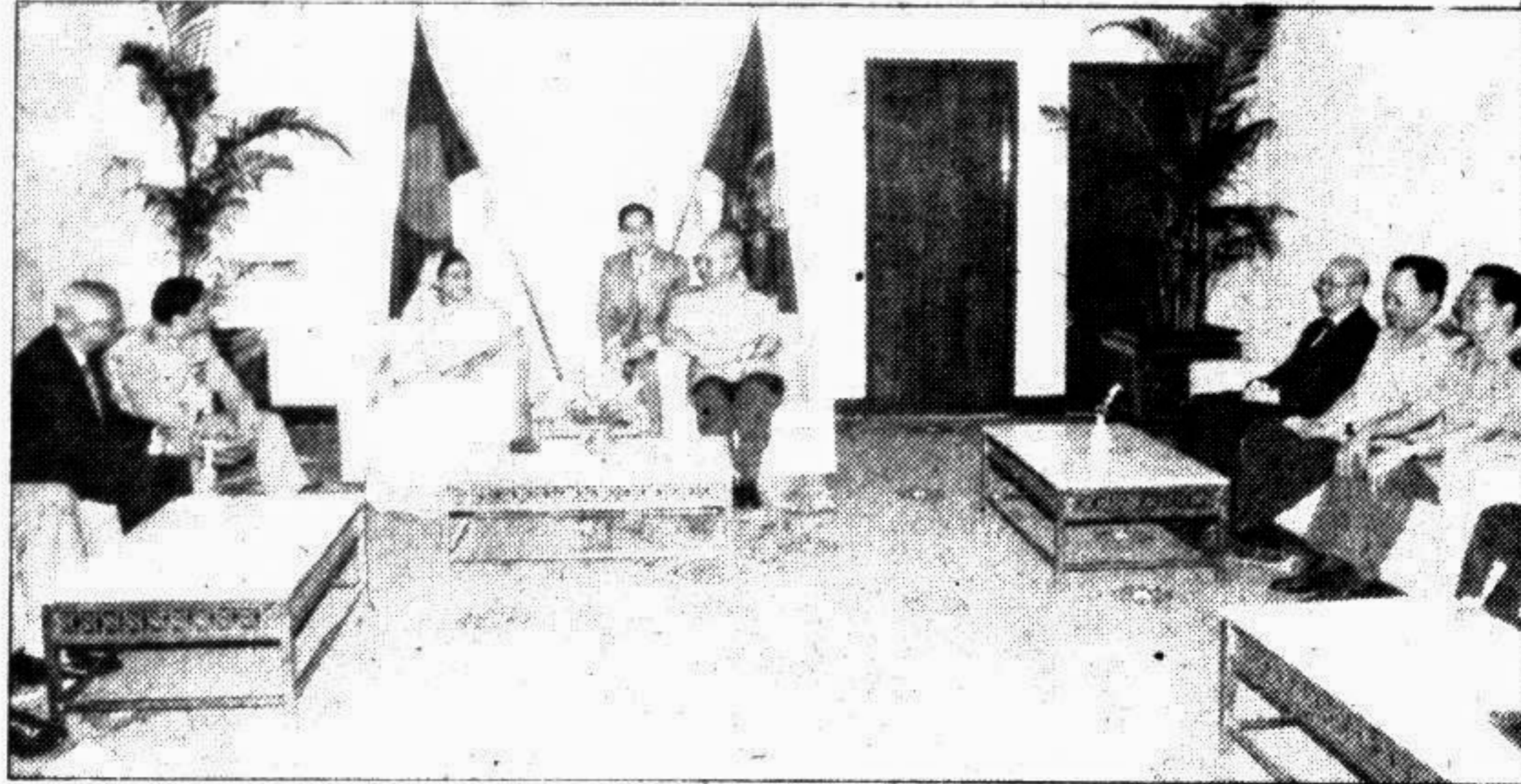
The show will be followed by a three-day exhibition, where Aarong will also put up a stall. Mihun Khan, design manager of Aarong will represent her organisation and coordinate the Aarong show.

LDF, GF concerned at deteriorating law and order

The leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Gono Forum (GF) held a meeting at the Front's office in the city yesterday to discuss prevailing situation in the country, reports BSS.

The meeting expressed concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in the country and the recent happenings in Dhaka University and Bogra, a press release said.

Presided over by the coordinator of the Left Front Dilip Barua, the meeting was attended by Rashed Khan Menon, Nirmal Sen, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Mujahidul Islam Selim AFM, Mahbulul Huq, Abdullah Sarkar, Abdur Rouf, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Bimal Biswas and Abu Sayeed Khan from the Left Front, while Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattacharya and Mofizul Islam Kamal represented the Gono Forum.



The visiting Chinese defence team, led by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Lt Gen. Kui Fulin called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo

What's on today . . .

Certificate awarding ceremony: Training certificates to registered seed dealers will be distributed at a ceremony. Venue: BADC "Beej Bhaban," Mirpur. Time: 4:00 pm.

Lions Club of Dhaka Mohanagar: Regular meeting of the club will be held. Venue: MRM Securities Ltd, 6, Motijheel C/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Rtn Dr Salahuddin Ahmed will speak on 'National Budget 1996-97'. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

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

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

BSP meet: An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Sammilita Sangbadpatri Parishad will be held. Venue: Banglar Bani Bhaban. Time: 11 am.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain is likely at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka. Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere across the country.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period throughout the country.

Meantime, Chittagong experienced the highest 28 mm in the 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Cox's Bazar had 19 mm rain. Patuakhali 17, Teknaf 11 and Khepupara 10 mm shower during the period.

Country's highest temperature, 37.0 degree Celsius, was recorded at Bogra and the lowest, 23.6 degrees, at Kutubdia. The sun sets today at 06:22 pm and rises tomorrow at 05:39 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.4	26.0	77	71
Chittagong	33.4	25.3	95	80
Rajshahi	35.2	26.4	75	67
Khulna	31.5	27.2	87	100
Barisal	32.0	26.5	92	83
Sylhet	35.0	26.0	78	60

'GB can be most cost-effective by expanding membership'

By Staff Correspondent

The Grameen Bank can be the most cost-effective and economically viable lending or organisation in the long run by expanding its membership and increasing savings and lending, said a study by some economists of the USA and Mexico.

The study says the GB has replaced physical collateral requirements with group responsibility, by organising poor individuals into groups and it has created the social and financial conditions enabling the poor to receive loans.

The study on "Measuring the cost efficiency of the Grameen Bank" was jointly done recently by M Kabir Hasan, Associate Professor of Finance, University of New Orleans, David R Tuttle, Assistant Professor of Economics of the same university and Luis Reteria-Guerrero, Professor of Economics, University of Sonora, Mexico.

The study suggested that the GB could expand its existing operation on cost consideration only.

The GB promotes social development by making the poor individually and socially accountable and is also improving productivity and income of the poor. This is helping the poor increase their loan repayment capability, the study said.

The achievements of the GB have made it known around the world as a successful group-based lender and its model have been replicated in more than forty countries.

Its group-based organisation can be applicable where an imperfect credit market prevents adequate screening, monitoring and enforcement," remarked the study.



Road works being carried out at a by-lane in the city's Naya Paltan area. — Star photo

PLA Dy Chief of Staff calls on President

The visiting Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Lt General Kui Fulin called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming Fulin, President Biswas said since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and China have been developing continuously.

Appreciating the existing defence cooperation between Bangladesh and China, the president stressed the need for close cooperation in the fields of games and sports between the two countries and said the assistance of Chinese coaches would be a great help in developing the standard of our sports and games. He also mentioned the Chinese assistance in the construction of a number of bridges in the country.

The visiting Deputy Chief of General Staff of PLA said China and Bangladesh are neighbouring countries and their friendship is tested. He stressed on diversifying the economic cooperation between the two countries on the basis of help and support by each other.

Army Chief Lt General Mahabur Rahman, Secretary to the President Muhammad Enamul Huq, Military Secretary to the President Major General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang were present on the occasion.

New Vatican envoy appointed

The government of Holy See (Vatican) has appointed Monsignor Edward Joseph Adams as the new ambassador to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Monsignor Adams was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA on August 24, 1944. On May 16, 1970, he was ordained priest.

He entered the diplomatic service of the Vatican in 1976. He has served in Rwanda, Vatican State Secretariat, Kenya, Honduras, Ireland, Denmark and the Czech Republic.

Monsignor Adams fluently speaks English, Italian, French and Spanish.

মহিলা-এর পুণ্য
শুভ উদ্বোধন
২৭শে আগস্ট

কোন কনসার্ট হবে না
স্থান : রমনা রেস্টোরা (রমনা পার্ক)
সময় : বিকেল ৩টা হইতে ৫টা
স্টলে পাওয়া যাবে
ক্যাসেট, পোস্টার, স্টিকার ও টি-শার্ট
অনুষ্ঠানে সকল ডক শ্রোতাদের আমন্ত্রণ রইল।
প্রযোজনা : ডি-সিরিজ ফোন-৫০৬৪৮২
পরিবেশনা : শার্প প্রডাক্টস ফোন-২৪৬০১১

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre
122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1000.

SALE OF OLD PABX SYSTEM.
[Ref: 01/96-97]
Date of Receiving the tenders : 08.09.96

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the interested Buyer to purchase the Old but operable PABX unit of this Hospital of the specification stated below. Detailed description of the terms and condition of the sale can be found in the tender documents.

SPECIFICATION:
1. PABX : Model-ESK 400E (L-Technique)
10+100 Lines (12 channel),
Two operator Console,
Extra Module - 23 Nos.

2. PABX : Model ESK 400E (K-Technique)
10+100 Lines (12 channels),
One operator Console,

NB: The PABX Units can be seen by the interested buyers during office hours (7.30 to 14.00 hrs) with prior permission of the Director (Logistic Services), Room no:224 and in presence of the Telephone Supervisor, DAB.

Terms and Conditions:
1. Tender Documents are available from the Cash Section of BIRDEM (Room No. 208) on payment of Tk. 100 (Non-refundable)
2. Tenders will be received on 08.09.96 in a Tender box kept in front of Room No. 224 on the receipt date(s) upto 12.00 hours and be opened at 12.30 hours in presence of the tenderers (if any).
3. The Association reserves the right to accept or reject whole tender, any tender schedule or any part of it without showing any reasons whatsoever.
4. No Tender schedule will be sold on the receiving date.

Director, (Logistic Services),

Notice Inviting Tenders
No. 23 of 1996-97

1. Name of work	Gr. No. I	Construction of Armed Police Battalion Headquarters at Barisal. SH-Providing sanitary and water supply arrangement to pump house and distribution line.
	Gr.No.II	Estbt. of a self-contained 10 KW Medium Wave Radio station at Barisal. SH-Providing sanitary and water supply arrangement to pump house and distribution line.
	Gr. No.III	Construction of judicial staff qrs. at Dhaka/Khulna/Chittagong/Rajshahi and Barisal Divisional H/Q. One at Barisal. SH-Providing sanitary and water supply arrangement to pump house and distribution line.
2. Estimated cost	Gr.No. I=	Tk. 3,51,942/-
	Gr.No. II=	Tk. 2,67,761/-
	Gr.No. III=	Tk. 1,45,477/-
3. Earnest Money	Gr.No. I=	Tk. 7,040/-
	Gr.No. II=	Tk. 5,360/-
	Gr.No. III=	Tk. 2,915/-
4. Last date of selling of tender form	On 11.9.96 up to office hours.	
5. Date of receiving and time of opening tender form	Up to 12:00 Noon of 12.9.96 and will be opened at 12:15 PM on the same day (in presence of contractor, if any).	
6. Place of selling and receiving of tender documents	Office of the all Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Barisal and PWD Division-I/II, Khulna under PWD Circle, Khulna.	
7. Eligibility of contractor	PWD bonafide special class-I/II, approved sanitary and plumbing contractors/firms under PWD., PWD Khulna Zone, Khulna respectively. (As per group list).	
8. All others detailed informations may be seen from the office of the undersigned during office hours only.		

Md. Nasiruddin Mian
Executive Engineer
Barisal PWD Divn., Barisal
Phone No. 2143

DFP-18851-22/8
G-993

স্বনস্ত

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
মাদারীপুর শাখা মাদারীপুর
এখন নতুন ভবনে

পুরাতন ঠিকানা | **নতুন ঠিকানা**

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক মাদারীপুর শাখা, মাদারীপুর সৌভাগ্য-মাদারীপুর ফোন নং-১১৪ খতিয়ান নং-এস, এ-৪৭৫ দাশ নং- ৩৮৫১ ও ৩৩৭০/৪০৪৭ ফোন নং-৫০৩ দিনসেতল	অগ্রণী ব্যাংক মাদারীপুর শাখা, মাদারীপুর সৌভাগ্য-মাদারীপুর ফোন নং-১১৪ খতিয়ান নং-এস, এ-৪৭৫ দাশ নং- ৩৮৫১ ও ৩৩৭০/৪০৪৭ ফোন নং-৫০৩, ফ্যাক্স: ০৬৬১৫০৩ বহুতলা বিশিষ্ট ভবনের দোতলায়
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সহানিত গ্রাহক ও স্তম্ভকাংখীদেরকে নতুন ঠিকানায়
বোঝাপড়া করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক