

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Autobiography of an Urban Area

by Chandra Shekhar Das

In present sights that do not always make sense. That is what a lot of people think of me. It does not bother me because I along with other inanimate objects cannot think of what humans mean by thinking. Evidently, thoughts are a process we are better off without. But that I do not make sense in my present condition is a gross violation of copyright.

I heard a young man muttering it the other day as the puller of the rickshaw he was aboard was trying hard to get the wheels out of a wound, a hollow in my body. The rickshaw puller could have spared me the pain of the collective weight of men and vehicle and also themselves of the iron tyranny of two elemental agents — water and heat. But he did not probably, because he had no mental preparation. Before approaching me, it probably did not dawn on him that even under such an oppressing sun, there could be a place in the city where a miniature of the river Buriganga could have sprung suddenly.

Trust me. Trust the lovely concave of Dhaka's topography at or around Shantinagar. If Jupiter visits me in the form of mollifying potion, I love to cling to the cool touch; the remains of rain, the memories of an ashen sky. East, west, north south, try to enter me from any direction and I will baffle you if you are discerning and discriminatory about water and if only I have had a shower in 24 hours time. Actually, you humans have a lot of things to learn from me. I am not discriminating. In a body of water that I hold up almost everyday throughout the monsoon, you

would get everything from porcupinesque peel of the national fruit to human faces. Celestial tears occasioned by the rainy season make a huge Martini to toast at the health of democracy. Even the three witches' broth in Shakespeare's Macbeth does not hold candle to the stink and foul concoction in the water on my body. You name it! I have 'em all, the steady source of seasoning is of course the DCC container full to the brim with filth. Have you read Eliot? Yes, the TS Eliot. Remember his rivers? 'Oil and tar ... Chicken coops, garlic.' I think I am an improvement, an enhancement on what you would dub as unpoetic inventory of his poetry. Actually, I am a symbol of the basic tenet of democracy: diversity and unity in diversity too. Even old Whitman would have struggled to discover a unifying symbol like me. I let the vehicles fume like lighting and leave oil and tar; I let men make water and ammonia. All these acts of human comedy are possible because once deposited, the water does not subside easily, thanks to the eternally clogged drainage system. However, living with such diversity has started taking its toll. I have badly lost skin at places; my flesh and bones are out like a grotesque grin. You see, I don't mind. Most of those who take a rickshaw-ride like that young man seemingly do. The other day a rickshaw hit an unseen underwater wound and just gave way. The passengers took an unwanted dip in my brown water. Their fellow humans broke into laughter on the pavements. Rejoiced, reached out to join them to express my solidarity.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 8,500-line Rajshahi digital telephone exchange by talking to Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim in Rajshahi from the Cabinet Room of the Bangladesh Secretariat in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

## PM inaugurates 8500-line exchange

## Rajshahi div enters era of digital telecommunication

Rajshahi division entered the era of digital telecommunication with the installation of a 8500-line digital telephone exchange yesterday, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the digital telephone exchange, the first in Rajshahi division, by making a call from the cabinet room of Bangladesh Secretariat to Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim who was present in Rajshahi.

The Prime Minister informed the minister that she was in a meeting of ECNEC and asked him to convey her greetings and thank to the people of Rajshahi. Sheikh Hasina said that the digital telephone exchange will help flourish economic development as well as fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people of the area.

The exchange, set up at a cost of Tk 64 crore, will now replace the age-old 3500-line analogue system. Rajshahi digital exchange will have direct connection with 90 circuits through Dhaka for overseas calls.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Fazilatunnesa Talukdar, MP, acting secretary, Post and Telecommunication MM Reza, and chairman, Bangladesh

Telegraph and Telephone Board M H Chowdhury addressed the inaugural ceremony in Rajshahi.

Director general, Bangladesh Post Office B Zaman, a representative of Alcatel, Vice Chancellor, Rajshahi University Prof M Yusuf Ali, high officials, political leaders and elite of the city were present on the occasion.

Mohammad Nasim, in his speech said that the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wanted to make the country prosperous. In this connection, he sought support and cooperation of all, irrespective of party affiliation. The minister said, 'We have enough resources and if we work sincerely, we could develop our country like Singapore and Malaysia.'

He stressed he need for the development of human resources through proper utilisation. He said that our main objective was to work unitedly to materialise the dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to make Bangladesh a real Sonar Bangla. Without economic development, national development was not possible, he added.

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## Jamaat condemns US missile attack on Iraq

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Prof Golam Azam yesterday condemned the US missile attack on Iraq, terming it as a violation of the UN charter, reports BSS.

In a statement, the Jamaat chief said this type of aggression on an independent and sovereign country would lead to further fueling of tension in the Middle East.

He said the problem of Kurdish region was an internal matter between Turkey and Iraq.

Prof Azam said the United Nations could take effective initiative to do justice to the cause of Kurds. The cooperation of the Arab League and the OIC could also bear fruit in ending the conflict, he added.

He further said none would believe that the US air attack on Iraq emanated from its sympathy towards Kurds. Had it been so, the US would have demonstrated this spirit towards Kashmir and Arakan.

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## Commemorative stamp on Ustad Alauddin Khan

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp valued Tk 4 on the occasion of the 24th death anniversary of Ustad Alauddin Khan, reports UNB.

A first day cover valued Tk 6 will also be issued and a special canceller will be used. The stamps and the first day cover will be sold from all head post offices including four GPOs of the country.

The commemorative postage stamp will subsequently be sold from all post offices including the extra departmental ones.

## Kader visits Women Sports Complex

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader yesterday visited Physical Education College at Mohammadpur and Dhamondi Women Sports Complex in the city, reports BSS.

Earlier, the state minister visited sports directorate at Naya Paltan.

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The candidate should have completed (or nearly done with) a Bachelor degree in business related discipline. Experience with Internet and computers is highly desirable. Willingness to learn and ability to sell services are important.

## 3. System Analyst

The candidate must be very comfortable with UNIX programming and system administration. Knowledge of Windows NT would be an asset. University degree preferred.

## 4. Web Designer / Trainee

The candidate should have a Computer Science background and must be an avid Internet user - familiar with WWW. A flair for graphic design and good presentation skills would be a definite asset. Creativity and imagination is very crucial.

## 5. Technical Executive

The candidate will be responsible for installation of Internet related software, and general trouble-shooting duties. Minimum 1 year experience in the computer industry required. On-job training will be provided.

## 6. Internet Instructor

The candidate will be responsible for training new users with Internet. The candidate must be familiar with Internet, Windows, Netscape, and should have good communication skills. Some related experience will be an asset.

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## HC division's judgement on DUJ case stayed

The Appellate Division has ordered stay of the High Court Division's judgment passed in a civil revision case filed by Abdul Kalam Azad and Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, president and general secretary of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) respectively, a House of Advocates press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury of the Appellate Division on September 2 passed the order of stay upon a petition for leave to appeal, and fixed the matter to be heard on November 12 in the regular bench of the Appellate Division.

As a result of the stay order all further proceedings of Title Suit No 171 of 1993, pending before the 1st Court of Subordinate Judge, Dhaka, shall be stayed.

The civil revision was filed challenging the order of the trial court recalling the plaintiff-witness no 1, Ruhul Amin Gazi for the second time at the final stage of the trial.

The High Court Division upon the civil revision issued a

## Tributes paid to Abdul Alim, Kanailal Sheel

Tributes were paid to legendary folk singer Abdul Alim and noted instrumental artists Kanailal Sheel yesterday on the occasion of their 22nd death anniversaries, reports BSS.

Organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, a discussion meeting followed by a cultural function was held at the Iranian Cultural Centre in the city, reports BSS.

President of BSS Prof Golam Azam, vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Dr Mozharrul Islam, the function was addressed by the State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Fazul Haq as chief guest.

Among others, Kazi Serajul Haq, acting DG Shilpakala Academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Director, Bangla Academy participated in the discussion.

Fazul Haq in his speech said Abdul Alim enhanced the popularity of mystic folk songs of Bangladesh in the international arena.

He said Abdul Alim and Kanailal Sheel will be remembered for ever for their contributions to folk music in Bangladesh.

## Weather

## Dry weather forecast

Light rain is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports BSS.

The Met Office said day temperature may remain unchanged over the country during the period.

The sun sets today at 6:12 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43 am.

The country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 23.4 degrees at Sylhet.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	25.7	80	72
Chittagong	32.5	25.4	87	78
Rajshahi	32.8	25.6	77	78
Khulna	31.8	26.0	76	82
Barisal	31.0	25.0	83	84
Sylhet	32.0	23.4	96	73
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.5	85	80

## Children's film forum launched

Dhaka Shishu Chalachitra Forum, an organisation of adolescent cine-lovers, was formally inaugurated recently at the Iranian Cultural Centre in the city, reports BSS.

Eminent journalist, intellectual and film personality Obaidul Haq was present as the chief guest. Director of the forum A K Koreshi was in the chair while eminent cultural personality Mustafa Monwar, Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of China in Dhaka, Lin Zosen, First Secretary of Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka, Ishaque, filmmaker Abdus Samad, film actor Mahmood Koli and film actress Sarmin Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

Danipati Chheley, a children's film made by eminent filmmaker Khan Ataur Rahman was shown on the occasion. Forum's general secretary Kawser Jewell conducted the inaugural function.

The arrested included 44 detained against warrants of arrest.

## 183 arrested

Police rounded up 183 people on various charges from different parts of the city in 24 hours till 6 pm yesterday, said a DMP press release, reports BSS.

The arrested included 44 detained against warrants of arrest.



A K Fazul Haq, State Minister for Textile and Jute speaking at a function, organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy marking the death anniversaries of eminent musicians Abdul Alim and Kanailal Sheel, at the Academy auditorium in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

## ● What's on today . . . ●

**Discussion on Indemnity Act:** The Bangabandhu Youth Society has organised a discussion meeting on 'Trial of Bangabandhu Killing and Indemnity Act'. Chief guest: Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf. Venue: Engineers' institution auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

**Seminar on Diabetes:** Diabetic Association of Bangladesh has organised a seminar on 'Diabetes Mellitus and Eye Diseases' on the occasion of 'Sheba Dibash' (death anniversary of Port of M Ibrahim). Venue: BIRDEM auditorium. Time: 10 am.

**Discussion on Alauddin Khan:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a discussion meeting marking the death anniversary of Ustad Alauddin Khan. A function of classical music will follow. Venue: Academy auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

**Rapport award ceremony:** The certificate award ceremony of management training courses sponsored by Rapport Bangladesh Limited will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 7 pm.

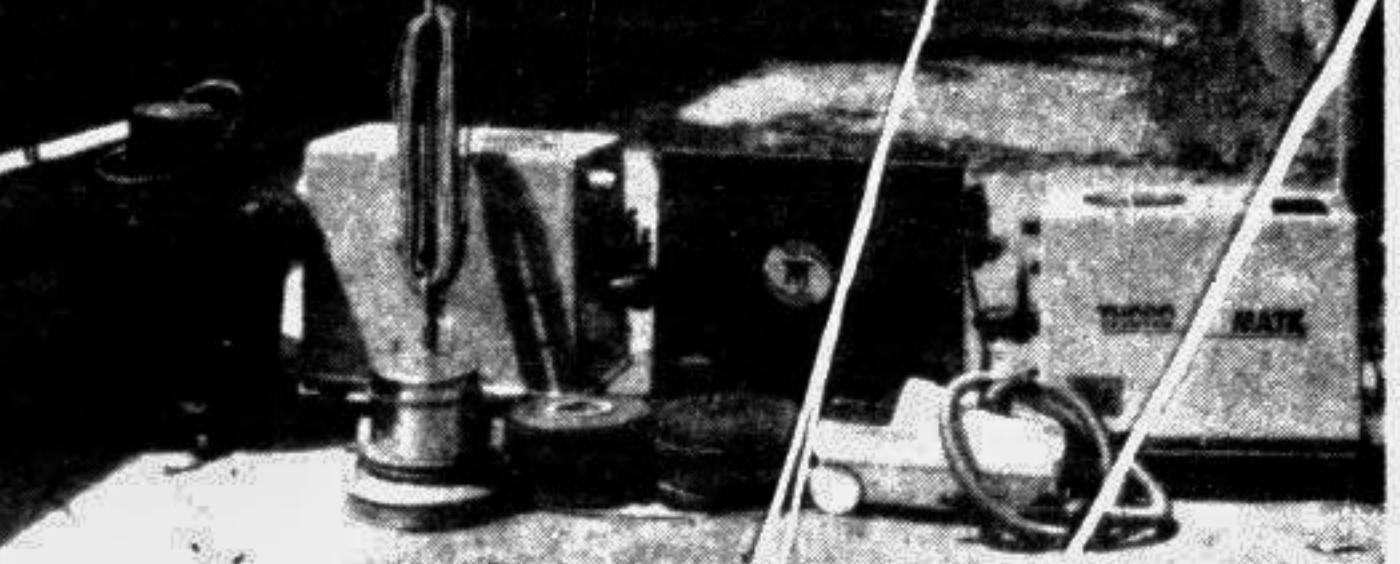
**8th Asian Astrologers' confce:** The inaugural ceremony of the 8th Asian Astrologers' Conference will be held. Chief guest: Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak. Venue: Eskaton Ladies Club. Time: 9:30 am.

**Nazrul song:** Eminent vocalist Khalid Hossain will render Nazrul songs at a function organised by Narigrantha Prabartana in observance of the anniversary of death of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Narigrantha Prabartana, 2/8 Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 4 pm.

## ● . . . and tomorrow ●

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