

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Extra Ways to Go before Receiving Certificates

by Spooky

I pity the individual who attempts to face the staff at any educational institution/university in the city to complete the paperwork necessary for formalities like drawing mark sheets, certificates etc. This is a formidable task in case you are fortunate enough not to have known first hand. You might think the exam was a hurdle, well, think again if you have just graduated and are preparing to go about retrieving your documents from the possessive clutches of the office staff at your esteemed institution.



First you fill in the forms, right? Well, that's the easy part. Because then you go about gathering the necessary signatures that would authorize you to draw that elusive piece of blue paper. At some departments you are required to accumulate as many as 26 different signatures from, obviously, 26 different individuals who are, of course, all too busy to give you the time of the day. There are consultations to be attended, seminars to be chaired and project work to be done, in short, there's money to be made. So who cares if an insignificant graduate is looking for a stamp of approval?

Fear not, there's always another way in Dhaka (thank God). There are professional 'signature gatherers' who have their predetermined rates. According to the contract, he makes the rounds of all the required offices and reports back to you with the finished form. Like options, ahem... Dhaka also has swindling businessmen. The guy leaves a handful of the toughest offices to be honoured by your humbling presence. Remember, although full delivery is not made, you have to pay for the unfinished job — after all, a commitment is a commitment!

Even when you have achieved the impossible, your nightmare isn't over. You have to submit the form at your final stop, the desk in charge of

the certificate, which only remains open from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. (Yes, there is such an office timing in Dhaka, believe it or not). If you are doing a 9 to 5 job somewhere, you turn up late at the submission desk. The man gives you a free lecture on punctuality. Then, as a favour, he

browses through your precious paperwork with a disdain that could only match that of a Lailma's. He demands to see all the intermediate forms that led to the one in his hand which obviously you don't carry around with you because without them this one would not have come to be. But that is hardly logic enough to leave them at home. They carry the outmost significance to show to the world how the LDCs provide employment to their teeming masses — they print forms, assign people to stamp and seal a document a hundred times and that's how there is food on the

table for a 100 families. You have to look at the economic implications of the necessity of bureaucratic red tape. Without that, unemployment would be rampant, there would be a shortage of people to discuss cricket scores at offices, teastalls would face a shortfall in demand. One can bring about such devastation in one fell swoop. The equilibrium has to be preserved at all costs. So you marvel at the power of the gloating man's Econo DX.

After all the harassment, when you finally get your hands on the piece of paper, you first impulse is to shred it to bits and scatter it to the four winds. But you don't logic finally emerges in a scenario that has been devoid of it for the entire time that you laboured to reach this stage. All said and done, you now realize why the literacy rate in this country is one of the lowest in the world. Those of you who are smart enough, take a hint.

Photo-journalists' workshop held

By Staff Correspondent

Panelists at a workshop yesterday put stress on building up better cooperation and harmony among newspaper owners, editors, journalists and photo-journalists for the overall development of media profession.

Shipping Minister A S M Rob attended the workshop on 'Role, Ethics and Attitudes of photo-journalists' as chief guest at the Bangladesh Photo-Journalists Association office in the city yesterday.

Senior Journalists, A B M Musa, Fauzul Karim and Amanullah Kabir took part in discussion at the workshop participated by several photo-journalists, says a BPJA press release.

Shipping Minister urged the PIB DG to organise regular trainings for skill development of photo-journalists and also emphasised on setting up an academy.



Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rob addressing the workshop on 'Role, Ethics and Attitude of photo-journalists' as chief guest at the Bangladesh Photo-Journalists Association office in the city yesterday.

Janaza of Tofael's cousin held

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Awami League leader and industrialist Obaidul Hoque Babul was held at Dhanmondi Jame Masjid yesterday, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasn Chowdhury, State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru and leaders of different political parties attended the Janaza.

Obaidul Hoque Babul was shot dead by unknown assailants at Pallabi in the capital Thursday.

Hasina condoles death

BSS says: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her profound shock and sorrow at the premature death of Awami League leader Obaidul Haq Babul who was gunned down by the miscreants last night at Mirpur in the city.

Obaidul Haq Babul was an Awami League nominee in the parliamentary by-election from Bhola-one constituency which remained suspended following a court order.

In a condolence message the Prime Minister said with the death of Babul the Bhola residents and the countrymen had lost a promising leader, she termed Haq as a dedicated, sincere, devoted, honest, simple-hearted and polite personality.

The Prime Minister extended her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

216 arrested in city

Police arrested 216 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Of them, 29 were wanted criminals and 39 held on charges of murder, dacoity, snatching, extortion and terrorism, said a DMP press release.

What's on today....

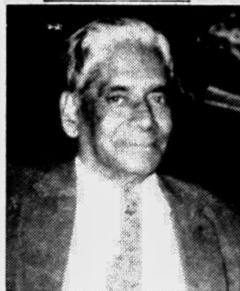
Seminar on consumers' rights: The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries has arranged a seminar on 'Law to protect consumers' rights'. Chief guest: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed. Venue: Dhaka Chamber auditorium, 6th floor, 65-66, Motijheel C/A. Time: 10 am.

IJO consultation: The inaugural session of 'expert consultation on jute agriculture', organised by the International Jute Organisation will be held. Chief guest: Minister for Agriculture Matia Chowdhury. Venue: Ball room of Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

Lalon sangeeet soiree: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel will present an evening of Lalon sangeeet. Artists from Kushtia Lalon Academy will perform songs composed by the great mystic poet of Bengal, Fakir Lalon Shah. Chief guest: State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Syed Abul Hossain. Venue: Winter Garden, Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7-9 pm.

Painting exhibition: A week-long exhibition of contemporary art has been arranged by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. Chief guest: Prof Md Kibria will inaugurate the show. Venue: Asiatic Society premises, 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nimali. Time: 4 pm.

Newspaper federations' meet: A meeting of the central coordination committee, comprising the three federations of employees of the newspaper industry and Dhaka Union of Journalists, will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11 am.



Justice Ibrahim's 30th anniversary of death tomorrow

The 30th death anniversary of Justice Mohammad Ibrahim will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, the day's programme will include placing of wreaths on his grave, khatme Quran, milad mahfil and distribution of alms among the destitute.

Late Justice Ibrahim was the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and Central Law Minister of the then Pakistan in Ayub Khan's Cabinet. He resigned from Ayub's Cabinet after difference of opinion on constitutional issues, before imposition of basic democracy in Pakistan. Later, he played a pioneering role in paving the path for establishing democratic rights of the people of this region.

He was also associated with many socio-cultural organisations and was a true exponent of Bengali nationalism.

Prof Mofassiluddin Trust Fund Lecture held

By Staff Correspondent

The Professor Mofassiluddin Ahmed Trust Fund Lecture, 1996 of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was held yesterday at the auditorium of the society.

Dr Syed Kamaluddin Ahmed, National Consultant, Drug Demand Reduction of the United Nations Drug Control Programme, was the Speaker and gave his deliberation on 'Psychotherapy in Bangladesh — An Emerging Discipline'.

The Vice President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Prof Syed Giasuddin Ahmed presided over the function.

US mission, USIS to remain closed tomorrow

The American Embassy, the United States Information Service (USIS), the USIS library and the Student Counselling Service will be closed tomorrow on the occasion of Columbus Day, an American national holiday, says a press release.

Columbus Day is celebrated each year to commemorate the discovery of the New World in 1492 by Christopher Columbus. The US federal government observes the day on the second Monday in October.

MMC training course begins today

Massline Media Centre (MMC) has arranged a 15-day long training programme titled 'Newspaper management and skill development' for the editors and news editors of local newspapers today at the central office of MMC, says a press release.

A non-formal opening ceremony of the training course will be held at the same venue. Sohail Ahmed, Director General, Bureau of NGO affairs of Peoples, Republic of Bangladesh will chair the session as chief guest.

There are many documents, Data Media and communication aids which, due to their content or the ability to the source the information, must be destroyed with absolute certainty.

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