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GRATITUDE

We do not find words to express our heartfelt Gratitude to all relations, Friends, Colleagues and Well Wishers of Late Lamented **M. M. FARROKH SHIRAZI** (May his soul rest in peace in Heaven, Ameen!) for being with us at the hour of our greatest misfortune and bereavement. We are also deeply grateful to all who have sent messages of condolences to the bereaved family.

MOURNERS: Mrs. Sara Shirazi (Widow) Faiz Shirazi, A.H. Shirazi Sisters, Daughters and Son-In-Laws.

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Second Prize : Return airline ticket Dhaka-Singapore.
Winner: Mr. Md. Iman Ali, Jadurchar Dimukhi High School, PO-Jadurchar, PS-Rowmari, Dist-Kurigram.

Third Prize : Return airline ticket Dhaka-Calcutta.
Winner: Mr. Md. Khulilur Rahman, Horinar-ayanpur High School, PO-Horinarayanpur, Kusthia.

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Metropolitan

Thoughts on making news

By M R Rousseau

Politicians and men and women of the filmdom usually know the art of making news more than any other professionals. Consider yourself, for instance, as one such ambitious news-maker. Can you do something to hit the headlines of the Dailies - even the ones with the minimum circulation? Not by a long shot. Save, perhaps, by God forbid, committing suicide. That is not enough. The usual types of suicides would not entitle you to front page or even back page coverage. Ending your invaluable life by taking a page-3, single column treatment. That, too, if you happen to be resident of the Metropolis. If you happen to reside in the countryside, your place would be the 'country page'.

Your ambition for becoming the talk of the town via newspaper coverage can easily be nipped in the bud unless you can think of a noble way of doing things. Consider the possibilities of the politicians, as against yours. Anyone worth his salt in politics, can hit the headlines by saying things, he or she is not supposed to say, about the party chief, for instance. More important ones among the party activists, on the other hand, can ensure adequate press coverage for himself or herself by deserting the rank, file and the leadership of the party and joining the opponents. A filmstar, who enjoy a great deal of limelight or spotlight, as a matter of profession, can have more of that by marrying somebody he or she is most unlikely to do. They can also steal all the limelight by retiring from the filmdom and becoming, say, a soothsayer or a professional wrestler of the WWF or some such organisation!

It is not easy to achieve all these by men or women of ordinary caliber. One has to be much too well-known, if not popular, to be able to attract public attention by doing such out-of-the-ordinary things. You have to be a noted one, to begin with. Unless you are a noted something, you go unnoticed by doing anything notable. If you happen to be a head of the government, you get as much publicity by piloting a bill through the floor of the parliament, as by just 'moving like a commoner along the streets of the old part of the city'. You cannot hope to get one-tenth of that kind of publicity by doing any such thing, if you happen to be a poor, unimportant journalist. Not even if you happen to be a noted Editor. All that your admirers would say, in all probability, is: 'His car must have broken down somewhere in the neighbourhood', or 'The guy is trying to reduce his weight' or words to that effect.

All these, if you are discerning enough, are negative ways of stealing the limelight. Positive ways of getting noted by the members of the public are far more difficult. One example may be getting imprisoned by taking part in a mass movement for the cause of the suffering humanity or the fellow countrymen. It is, as you may see, not really difficult to become a noted personality in society, if you are determined to be one. What is difficult is to hold on to all the importance you achieve for the days to come. Even during the days of your retired life. The job is as difficult for the politician as for the film industry men. Not for the newsmen, anyway. His or her writings keep doing the job for him or for many, many years.

PM to exchange greetings

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address an exchange-of-greetings assembly at Ganobhaban today to mark the new millennium, reports UNB.

The ruling Bangladesh Awami League will arrange the programme at 3pm in celebration of the new era, a party announcement said.

21st JCD founding anniversary today

By DU Correspondent
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP, will observe its 21st founding anniversary today.

JCD has taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes include hoisting of national and party flags at the party office at 6 am, placing wreaths at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman at 9 am and courtesy call on BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia at 6 pm.

Rotary News

Intercity meeting

A Millennium District Intercity meeting on "Peace in the New Millennium" will be held today at the Ball Room of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel by Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan, says a press release.

Rtn M Ozair Farooq PHF, the District Governor of RI District 3280 and DC Walker CMG, CVO, the British High Commissioner in Bangladesh will attend the meeting as the chief guest and guest of honours respectively.

All the Rotarians, Rotary leaders and Rotary Anns are invited to attend.

It is also notified for information of all concerned that there will be no weekly meeting of the club tomorrow and on January 9. However, the next scheduled weekly meeting of the club will be held as usual on January 16 at 5 pm at CIRDAF Cafeteria.

Weekly meeting

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today at 3:00 pm at Desh Upodesh at House No 4, Road No 16 (old 27), Dhanmondi R.A, says a press release.

Rotarians have been invited to attend the meeting for fellowship and make-up.

BCL demands formation of full committee

By DU Correspondent

A section of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists circulated an open letter on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding immediate formation of a full-fledged committee of the country's leading student organisation.

The BCL activists styled "Chhatra League Purnanga Committee Bastabayan Guerrilla Parishad (Guerrilla Parishad for Implementing Full-fledged Chhatra League Committee)" held the BCL general secretary Ajay Kar Khokon responsible for not forming the committee.

In the letter, they threatened to 'demolish the residence of Khokon' at Central Road terming it "Shwama-kamol" if he failed to form the committee by January 4, 2000.

Terming him a "Frankenstein", it also issued a threat that BCL's "70 lakh" activists would expel Khokon from the executive body of BCL for trying to tarnish image of BCL president Bahadur Bepari.

Poet Jasimuddin's anniversary of birth today

FARIDPUR, Dec 31: The 97th birth anniversary of poet Jasimuddin will be observed here and elsewhere in the country on January 1, reports UNB.

To mark the day, Faridpur Shahtiya Parishad, Jasim Foundation, Ansaruddin High School, Sammlito Sanskritik Jote and district unit of Bangladesh Journalists Association have chalked out elaborate programmes.

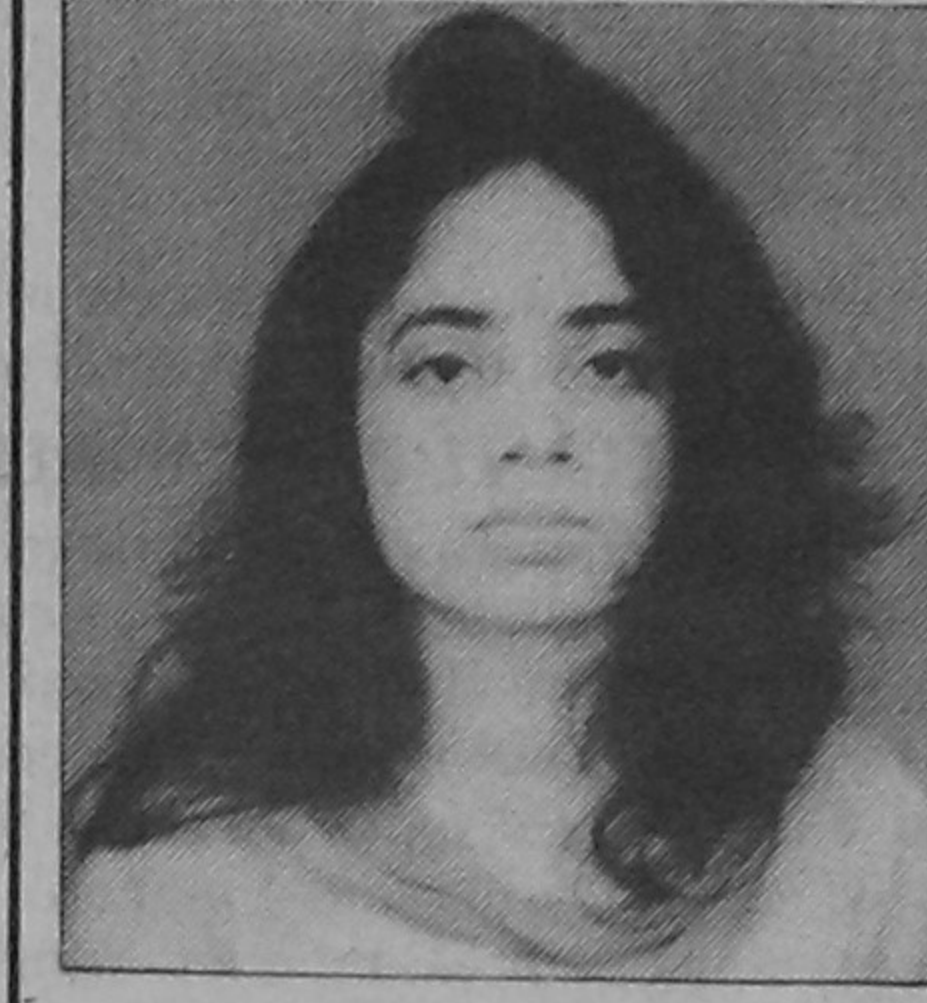
The programmes include placing wreaths at the tomb of the poet at Gobindapur, milad mahfil, discussion meetings, literacy and cultural functions.

Press Club EGM held

An extraordinary general meeting (EGM) of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) was held in its auditorium yesterday with JPC President Khandoker Monirul Alam in the chair, reports BSS.

JPC general secretary Swapan Kumar Saha and treasurer Abdul Baten placed their respective reports for the year 1998-99 at the meeting.

Farzana Shahid Sumi



Best wishes for the new millennium. Whatsoever, you are everything I can wish for.

— Sohel

C-03

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