Pitman's system was also used all over the English-speaking world. It is still in use, but in the USA (and elsewhere) it has been superseded by the Gregg Shorthand that was first published in 1888 by John Robert Gregg, a system influenced by the handwriting shapes Gabelsberger had introduced.

Classification

Shape

Geometric shorthand is based on circles, parts of circles and straight lines placed strictly horizontally, vertically or diagonally. These were the first modern shorthand systems to develop.

The first practical system was the German Gabelsberger shorthand in the early 19th century. This class of system is now common in all more recent German shorthand systems, Austria, Italy, Scandinavia, the Netherlands, other Eastern European countries, Russia, and elsewhere.

Script-Geometric, or semi-script shorthand is based on the ellipse. These systems can be considered a compromise of the *geometric* systems.

Writing device

Most shorthand systems are written on paper with a stenographer pencil or a stenographer pen. Some consider that only these are shorthand systems strictly speaking.

Machine shorthand is a common term for writing produced by a stenotype, a specialized keyboard.

Common English shorthand systems

One of the most widely known forms of shorthand is the Pitman method, developed by Isaac Pitman in 1837. Isaac's brother Benn Pitman, who lived in Cincinnati, Ohio, was responsible for introducing the method to America. The method has been adapted for 15 languages. The system uses a phonemic orthography. For this reason, the system is sometimes known as phonography, meaning 'sound writing' in Greek. One of the reasons this method allows fast transcription is that vowel sounds are optional when only consonants are needed to determine a word.

Although Pitman's method was extremely popular at first (and is still commonly used, especially in the UK) its popularity has been superseded (especially in the United States) by a method developed by John Robert Gregg in 1888. Gregg's system, like Pitman's, is phonetic, but has the advantage of being "light-line". While Pitman's system uses thick and thin strokes to distinguish related sounds, Gregg's uses only thin strokes and makes some of the same distinctions by the length of the stroke.

In the UK, Teeline is now more commonly taught, and used, than Pitman. Teeline is the recommended system of the The National Council for the Training of Journalists. Other less commonly used systems in the UK are Pitman 2000, PitmanScript, Speedwriting and Gregg.

Away from the city... on the water front

Shahriar Masud

AS life in the city is getting more and more... well, you know what I mean, people are in desperate need of places where they can relax and spend some time away from the daily drudgery. The serene river waters can bring back the throb of life in you!

This is an area where innovative ideas are needed to create the conditions that can have the desired soothing effect on those trapped in a city!

It is good news that some entrepreneurs are coming up with nice ideas. They are setting hotels and motels in the distant tourist spots. Don't you feel like visiting those spots? But how many of them are located near the city? Not many! If time is a factor here, Padma resort has an edge over others. Yes, a clear edge. You can reach the place in less than 100 minutes from Dhaka. The Masjid Ghat on the river



Padma in Louhajang upazila is the spot where you have to be present to cross the mighty Padma in a fast-moving speedboat and you can view the very nicely designed Padma Resort. Thrilling proposition! Isn't it?

The thatched roofs of the plain structures have the look of a village home, but you will get whatever you want! You can have more than a picnic! All sorts of pastimes, from horse ride to angling, are available here. And of course you can enjoy the beauty of the majestic Padma by cruising along in speedboats. Well, in winter the river is tranquil like anything. You don't have to bother about any sort of turbulence.

Students of universities can come in great numbers and spend a day out of their academic schedule. Phone: 0171 30 33 049.