

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Jazzing up the Homestead

by Fayza Haq

In the west when a house or flat is being repainted or even been given its first coat of paint, sometimes the man of the house does the job himself, along with some help from his friends and relatives. The same applies to fixing of taps and window panes, as the charges of painters, plumbers and men with such expertise are astronomical even if it is simply to have a look at your refrigerator. It is common knowledge that doctors and bankers overseas do not hesitate to paint their cars or kitchens.

In Dhaka, however, where we are so conscious of being "sahibs" and not soiling our hands with manual tasks, and where the domestic running of the house depends on "ayas" and "buas" instead of the dishwasher or the washing machine, people seldom do their own electrification or house painting themselves.

The houses and commercial buildings, whether in Lake Circus or Banani or Motijheel or even Uttara will be painted by a "rajmistree" and his assistants. Rajmistrees and electricians along with the visiting TV mechanics are integral parts of our modern cosmopolitan existence in the city.

Nooru, 42, from Brahmanbaria, a "rajmistree" does not believe in putting money in the bank, even if he had enough to spare. Yet he has put away exactly one and a half lakh Takas into a biscuit factory at Demra Bazar.

He wears a pale, sunbleached inconsequential shirt and a patched "lungi" while at work. But he has five "bighas" of "khet" with "irri" rice of his own, as well as a "kaacha ghar" with a roof of corrugated iron sheets. The latter occupies half a bigha of land.

Nooru has a wife and four children. He makes it a point to give his wife at least six "saris" a year. "She works so hard. She gives me and my children endless affection and devotion. I wish I could have given her more to show my appreciation."

He is now concentrating on the education of his sons. He wants them to acquire at least bachelor's degrees and hold respectable white collared jobs. He believes that education "is a solution to a lot of ills in the country" although his own formal education has been up to Class V only. "I would not like to see my sons struggling seven days a week, and 30 days a month, which I sometimes have to do when there is pressure of work," he comments.

Nooru can afford to give "Qurban" and provide his four children at least two sets of clothes during the two Eids. He earns about Tk 150 a day. This is although his earning goes down during the rainy seasons, and it is only during weddings and on occasion of handling a newly constructed house that he lands himself an easy job. In a month he earns from Tk 1800 to Tk 3000. His two assistants

get Tk 60 each every working day. Nooru, who himself learnt his art from an "ustad" chooses his assistants from New Market, where they wait to be hired. At times his job is not too painstaking when there is not much scraping to do before the painting. He takes about three weeks to paint a three bedroomed flat and this includes the paint outside.

The kitchen is often the most tricky part to clean and prettify, with its layers of grime and soot and the endless greasemarks. Standing on the bamboo poles painting multi-storied buildings in Motijheel and New Eskaton is no joke either. It is fortunate that heights do not make him dizzy but he would not have liked to have done trapeze acts for a living. He tolerates the dizzy heights as there is no alternative.

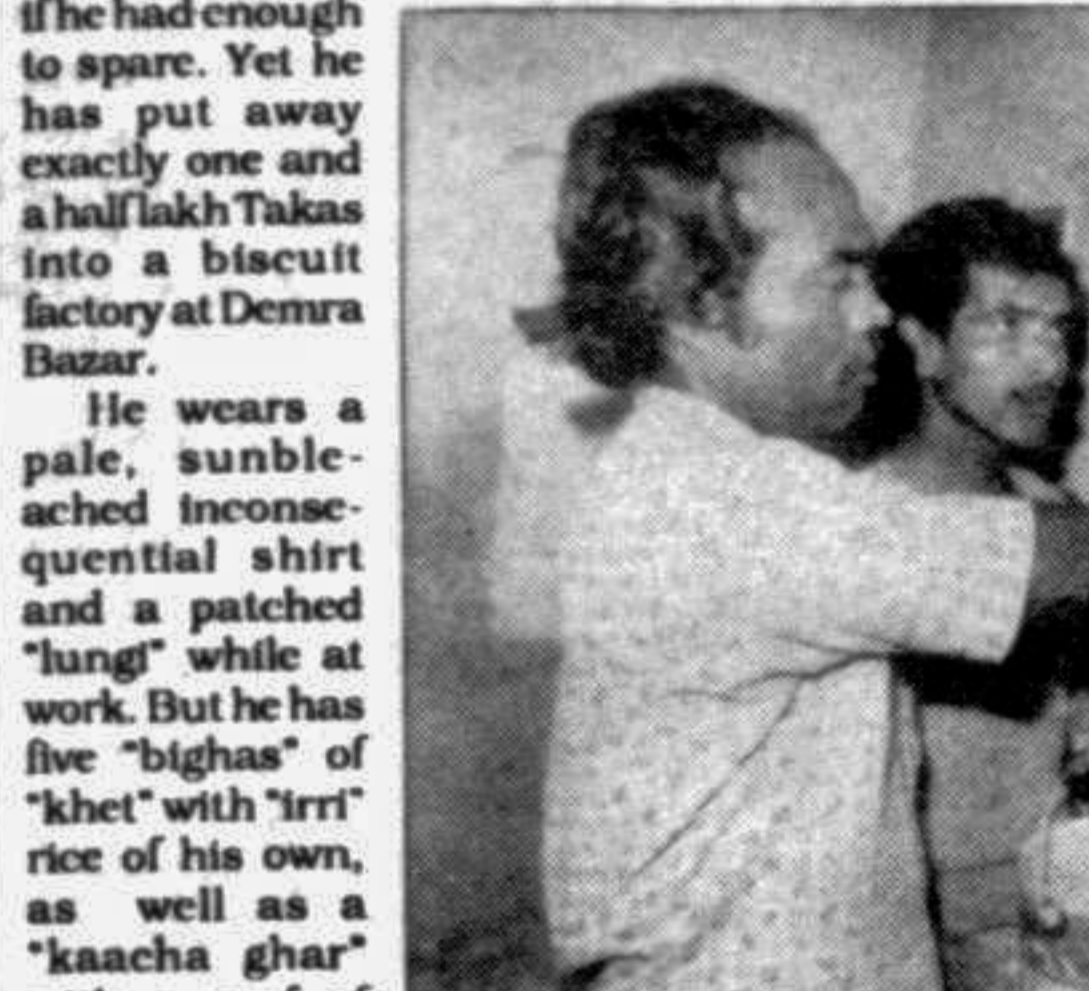
Usually men worry about their sons' education but Nooru is most concerned about the marriage of his daughters. While he is quite confident that his sons will pass from the Brahmanbaria College, he is constantly frightened and worried about frequent divorces and the evil of the dowry system. "The young men must be given a radio, a small TV, a motorcycle and even cash money, apart from the treasured gold jewellery and "saris" for the girls. Even after all that is done there is no guarantee that my daughters will be eventually happy and contented."

"I will not educate the daughters beyond Class V as it is very difficult to adjust once your personality is formed. Besides, Bengali men prefer younger girls. It is my daughters' future that cats me up most," he says.

Nooru remains proud of painting the public buildings like the Sangsad Bhaban and fancy homes in Gulshan and Uttara. He has his "adda" in the evening with tea and "paan" with other painters, electricians, sanitary mistrees and carpenters. Sometimes he abandons this in case of emergency work and even carries on with fever and dispirits in his system.

One may be amazed at the political acumen of the "mistree". "I struggled a lot for 'Nauka' during '71. I lost my six cows and my family suffered intensely for our views. We left Bangladesh and battered ourselves against all odds at Agartala. What did Awami League give my family and my kind during their height of power? What was the situation of the law and order then? That is why I have voted for 'Dhancer sheesh' hoping for something fulfilling and promising this time," he explains.

Now that the intense political fervour of the election is over and the multicoloured graffiti must be removed from the walls, who is going to make the city spanking clean? Rajmistrees like Nooru who know their job and take pride in it.



Rajmistri Nooru hard at work, renovating a Dhanmondi flat — Photo Enamul Haque

## PROGRAMME

today

### Seminar on illiteracy

A seminar entitled "illiteracy is one of the causes of over-population" will be held jointly by Lions Club of Dhaka Golden and Lioness Club of Dhaka Golden at the National Press Club auditorium today (Friday) at 4:30 pm.

Professor Kazi Saich Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, Jahangir Nagar University will attend the seminar as the chief guest while the key-note paper will be presented by the Director of Bangladesh Research Programme, Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter.

### Unani Assoc

Bangladesh Unani Medical Association will organise a meeting at Tibbia Habibia College premises at Bakhshibazar in Dhaka city at 3-30 pm today (Friday) in observance of the 110th anniversary of birth of Late Shefau Mulik Hakim Habibur Rahman, a pioneer in spreading unani medicare system in the Indian sub-continent. Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shaukat Ali, MP will be the chief guest while Moulana Ataur Rahman Khan, MP will be the special guest.

### Open market sale of rice begins

Open market sale of rice has started in all the important bazars of Polash upazila, reports BSS.

Dr A Mayeen Khan, MP of Polash, started the sale in collaboration with the Food Directorate in the current week to contain the price hike of rice in the market, the Parliament Member's office said on Wednesday.

Everyday one to two tons of rice is being released to big markets and each person is given 3 kg at fair price.

The drive has brought great relief to the people of the upazila during the month of Ramadan, it was reported.

### Salam stresses corruption-free administration

LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder Thursday emphasised the need for establishing an honest and corruption-free administration dedicated to meet the hopes and aspirations of the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing the officials of the Ministry in the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka.

State Minister for LORD Kabir Hussain, Local Government Secretary Mushfiqur Rahman and Rural Development Secretary AHM Abdul Ilye also addressed the meeting.

Mr. Salam Talukder called upon the government officials to identify themselves with the commonman. The government officials could win people's confidence, support and cooperation by working for their welfare with devotion and integrity, he added.

## Khulna prisoners refuse to take food

KHULNA, Mar 21 : The inmates in the Khulna district jail remained outside the lock-up for the third day today in support of their demands, reports BSS.

They also refused to take food.

The Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Mr. Asaduzzaman Bhuiyan assured the inmates that the concerned authorities would fulfil their just demands as early as possible.

Meanwhile, additional police force was deployed around the jail.

### Khaleda hailed

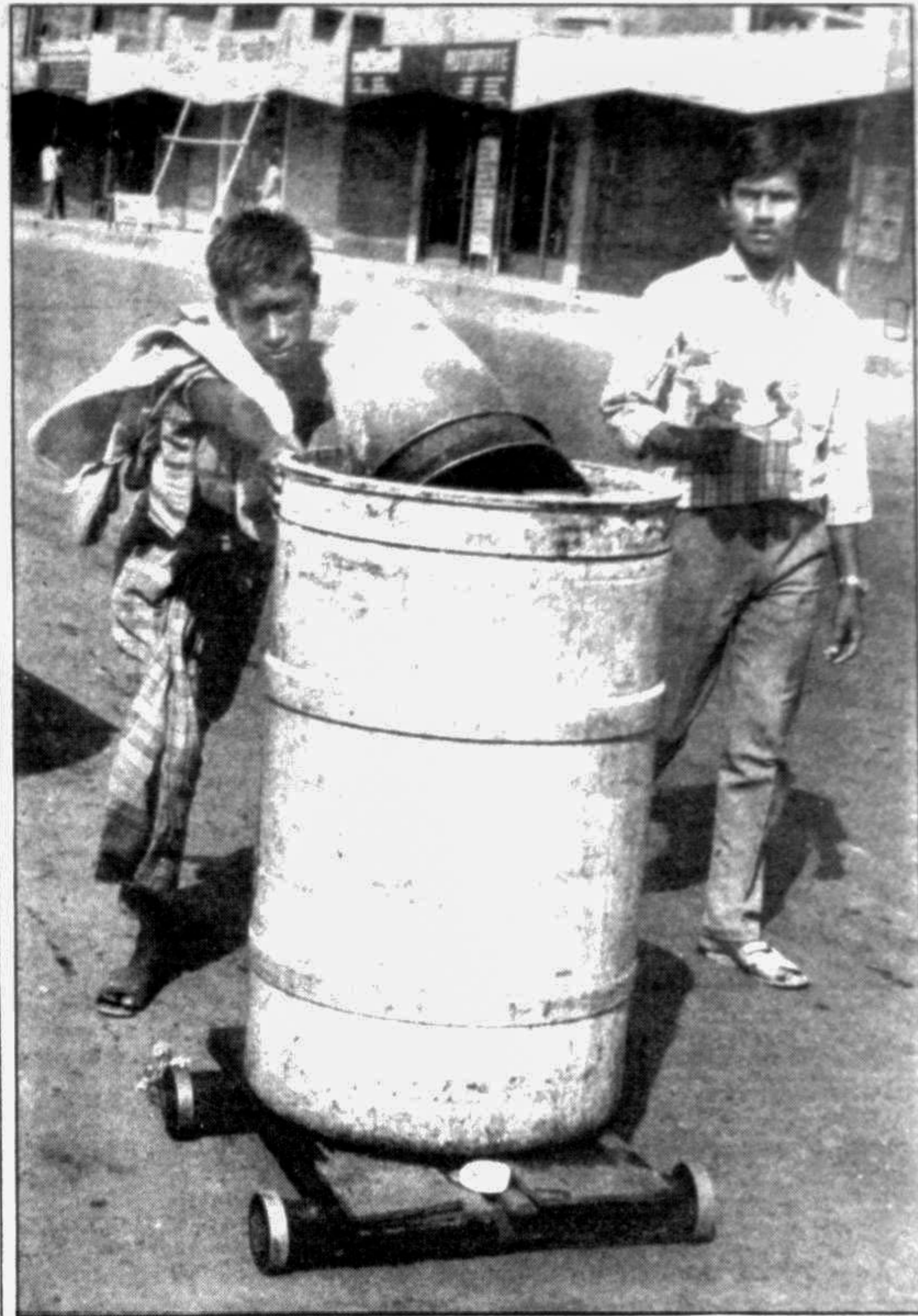
Meanwhile, the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (Ejaz group) Khulna, congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption of office of the Prime Minister.

## Painting competition begins today

By Staff Correspondent  
Bangladesh National Museum will organise painting competition for children and juveniles on Friday in connection with the observance of independence and National Day '91.

The competition will be among four groups. Students of upto class Two will participate in "Ka" group, from class Three to class Five in "Kha" group, from class Six to class Eight in group "Ga" and class Nine and Ten in group "Gha."

About 1,500 children will participate in the competition.



City in grip of water crisis : The national capital is now seriously affected by water shortage in these days of holy Ramadan. But the city-dwellers appear to have found an innovative way of dealing with the situation. Seen in the picture is a youth moving a drum of water from one place to another to meet water needs. — Star photo

## Radio, TV programmes on mass literacy directed

Education Minister, Prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury on Thursday called upon the officials to put in their sincere efforts for making education production oriented and free from malpractices, reports BSS.

He was addressing the high officials of Education and Science and Technology Divisions at his Secretariat office here.

The State Minister for Education, Principal Yunus Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Prof. Badruddoza laid emphasis on proper projection of adult education over mass media for reaching mass education including health education, knowledge of country's history and environment, political and social rights,

religion and functional literacy to the common people within minimum time.

He directed the concerned officials to arrange Radio and TV programmes on mass education programme for making it a success. He also directed them to find out means of maximum utilisation of Educational infra-structure through introduction of double shifts and short courses on dif-

ferent vocational subject. He said the present government was determined to maintain peace in campus with the help of all concerned. He also directed the officials of Science and Technology Division to find out means of improving their activities.

The State Minister for Education in his address laid stress on vocational education for yielding benefit to the common people.

The Education Secretary ANM Yusuf and Secretary of Science and Technology Division, Anisur Rahman were also present.

## Shilpakala Academy programme on Mar 26

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate the Independence Day, reports BSS.

The programme includes placing of wreath at the National Mausoleum at Savar on the Independence Day, a seminar on "The Liberation War of '71 and Mass-upsurge of '90" on the same day.

A three-day photo exhibition on the Liberation War will begin on March 26 at the gallery of the Academy. The exhibition will be opened from 10 am to 3 pm every day.

A "grammen mela" jointly organized by the Academy and Small and Cottage Industries Corporation will be held at the Academy premises on the day from morning to 7 pm.

## Weather

### Little chance of rain or shower

By Staff Correspondent

Met office changed its previous forecast Thursday and said there was little chance of rain or shower during the next 36 hours.

Weather will remain mainly dry over the country. Day temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius.

Day temperature fell slightly on Thursday but humid hot was continuing over the country.

Westerly low persisted over Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and neighbourhood. Seasonal low lay over South Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days : rain/shower activity may rise.

Outlook for another five days : little change. Sunset today (Friday) in Dhaka at 6.11 am and sunrise tomorrow (Saturday) at 6.00 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in the main cities and towns on Thursday were :

Cities/towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	35.5	26.0	86	55
Chittagong	32.0	22.7	78	66
Rajshahi	37.5	19.6	-	26
Khulna	35.3	23.0	83	60
Barisal	34.5	24.0	77	69
Dinajpur	34.4	23.0	-	23
Srimangal	34.6	25.0	73	66
Kutubdia	31.6	23.6	92	89

Temperature recorded in major regional cities on Thursday were :  
Beijing 25 degrees Celsius  
Colombo 32 degrees Celsius

## 3 independent MPs meet Shahabuddin

The three independent members of parliament called on the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the President's Secretariat here on Thursday, reports BSS.

They thanked the Acting President for forming the Council of Ministers with members of the party which had majority in parliament.

The independent MPs said the formation of the Council of Ministers had fulfilled the desire of the people.

They thanked the President for holding a free and fair parliamentary election which they added, enabled them to get elected.

The MPs who met the Acting President were Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin, Mr. Redwan Ahmed and Mr. Nurul Islam Mont.

## Two injured by miscreants

CHITTAGONG, Mar 21 : One person and his son were shot at and injured by some unidentified miscreants at Fakirkata village under Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar district last night, police said today, reports BSS.

The victims Mohammed Meah (50), and his son Abu Bakar (19), a student, were admitted to Dulahazara hospital. They were shot at when returning home after Esha prayer.

A case was filed with Moheshkhali police. Mohammad Meah has some dispute with local people over landed property, police said.

## Revive lost glory of golden fibre

State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiya on Thursday called upon the officials of the Jute Ministry to work with devotion and sincerity to revive the lost glory of the golden fibre, reports BSS.

Addressing the officials after taking over charge, he said the lion's share of our foreign exchange earnings still comes from the jute sector. All-out efforts should be made for the survival of jute and jute industry and ensuring fair price to the growers, he stressed.

The State Minister, sounding a note of warning against corruption in the sector said, all should work unitedly to stamp out this vice from the society.

## Deaths condoled

By Staff Correspondent  
The Greater Rangpur Welfare Society in a meeting of its executive committee condoled the death of Chairman, Bangladesh Water Development Board and Chairman of the convening committee of the Society, Saki M. Zakul Alam. The Society also condoled the death of researcher and author Haider Ali Chowdhury.

## Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Rafique Hossain, a former AIG of Police will be held today (Friday).

In this connection, a Milad Mahfil has been arranged at 146 New Paltan Line, Azimpur after Asr prayer.

Relatives and friends have been requested to attend.

## National body formed for Ershad's release

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Ershad Mukti Sangram Parishad was formed on Wednesday at national level to establish the movement for the release of H.M. Ershad as a demand of people.

The decision to take this effect was taken on Wednesday at a meeting of representatives from all over the country with former Chairman of Gazipur Zila Council Mr. Hasan Uddin Sarker in the chair at his residence in Tongi, a Press release said.

The meeting has also

formed the central committee of Jatiya Ershad Mukti Sangram Parishad. Mr. Hasan Uddin Sarker has been selected as Chairman of the Parishad while former Deputy Mayor of Dhaka Municipal Corporation M.A. Salam became Secretary General of the Parishad.

Seven persons has been selected as Vice Chairmen of the Parishad. They are: Golam Sarwar Milon, Shamsuzzaman Mintu, Arshad Hossain, Anwara Begum, Barristar Jamal Hos-

sain Bhuiyan, Siddique Sarder and Azgar Ali Matabbar.

The meeting decided to form 31-member of Ershad Mukti Sangram Parishad at zila level and parishad comprising 21-member at upazila level.

The meeting demanded immediate release of deposed President Ershad, Former Vice President Maudud Ahmed, former Minister Mahmudul Hasan, Colonel (ret'd) Zafar Imam, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Ruhul Amin Hawladar, Kazi Feroz Rashid and Colonel (ret'd) H.M. Gaffar who are now detained in jail.

It also demanded withdrawal of warrant on former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, former Ministers Anwar Hossain Monju, Sardar Anjad Hossain, Nazimur Rahman Manjur, Anisul Islam Mahmud, Zia Uddin Ahmed Bablu, and Abul Hasnat and others.

The meeting also congratulated Ershad and other Jatiya Party leaders for winning the elections.

## TV Programme Friday

Morning Session

8-00 Opening and recitation from Al Quran

8-10 News in Bengali

8-15 Cartoon: Adventure of the Galaxy Rangers

8-40 Nutun Kur: '97: Children's programme

10-00 News in English

11-00 Drama: Moner Mukury

12-26 Azan

12-30 Closing Evening Session

3-00 Opening

3-11 Recitation from Tripitak

3-14 Alor Dishari: Lessons from the Holy Quran

3-20 Movie of the week

5-20 News in Bengali

5-30 Sports programme

5-56 Mahe Ramzan

6-57 Madhu chanda: Modern songs

8-00 News in Bengali

8-41 The Cosy Show

9-05 Dristikon

10-00 News in English

10-30 Drama serial: L.A. Law

11-15 News

11-30 Closing

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS
- Ship's record
  - Hebrew month
  - Merry
  - Guido's high note
  - Container
  - Tibetan priest
  - Title of respect
  - Depending on experience
  - Soft drinks
  - Hostilities
  - Printer's measure
  - Fed agcy.
  - Heavy volume
  - Ostracize
  - Native metal
  - Put off
  - Alternative word

- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
- ALPS HUT ARTS  
DOOM APE NERO  
ASSESS DAGGER  
METAL TERSE  
ERIS SERE  
BAR PARTS TAD  
AB LIE DO  
GAD SEDER BOG  
AMAS ROLE  
SPRAT SITAR  
LATTER SETTEE  
ALEE OWE HERD  
BEDS BET EROS
- 3 Flower bed  
4 High cards  
5 Obstruct  
6 Desire with eagerness  
7 Checks  
8 Shine
- 9 Resin  
10 Ingredient  
11 Wine cup  
12 Pigeon pea  
13 Hoop. asst.  
14 Early morn  
15 Anger  
16 About  
17 Ancient  
18 Persian  
19 Emerald isle  
20 Newhart and Hope  
21 Sector  
22 Unusual  
23 Plunge  
24 Commanded  
25 Pale  
26 Article  
27 Invent  
28 Pounding instrument  
29 Urged on  
30 Mother  
31 away with (banish)  
32 Shut up  
33 Chair  
34 Icelandic writing  
35 Mourning  
36 Rubber tree  
37 Fish eggs  
38 2,000 lbs.
- 1 Smaller  
2 Mixture



## RAHMAN CHEMICALS LIMITED

### NOTICE OF TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 10th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of RAHMAN CHEMICALS LIMITED will be held on 11th April, 1991 at 2-30 p. m. at Factory Office Tarabo, Rugganj, Narayanganj to transact the following business :

- To confirm the proceedings of the 9th Annual General Meeting held on the 28th September, 1989.
- To receive and adopt the Directors Report and the Audited Balance Sheet & the Profit and Loss Account with Auditors Report thereon for the year ended 31st December, 1989.
- To declare dividend as recommended by the Directors.
- To elect Directors.
- To appoint Auditors for the year ending 31st December, 1990 and to fix their remuneration.
- To transact any other business which may be transacted at an Ordinary General Meeting with the permission of the chair.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
Sd/-  
Dated, Dhaka (MAJOR SYED MUNIBUR RAHMAN, RETIRED)  
The 20th March, 1991 Director.

Notes : (1) The Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from the 28th March, 1991 to the 11th April, 1991 (both days inclusive) & during that period no transfer of shares will be effected.  
(2) Any Member of the Company entitled to attend and vote on his/her behalf. The proxy form duly affixed Revenue Stamps of Tk. 2.00 must be submitted at the Registered Office of the Company not less than 72 hours before the time appointed for the meeting.

5-06