

Dhaka Day by Day

Lighting up Your Life

by Fayza Haq

Sikander Ali, a 28 year old electrician from Natore, works at a Dhaka office, helping with electrical appliances such as looking after air coolers, lights, fans, and air conditioners. He claims he is quite adept at housewiring too.

After doing a three year course in electrical supervising from a private institute, he went in for work in "hot metal" printing as a compositor. This was at a vernacular daily. But he was soon out of a job when the printing was computerised there. Sikander then worked for a while at a printing and packing company, where he was responsible for the work in the

publication of "Iran News Letter".
Sikander's main interest is working with electrical gadgets. At the moment he earns Tk 2,500 for working for six hours a day. After office work he does private work of repairs, for which he gets about Tk 300 daily. He gave up his last job as he had no opportunity for private income.

This young electrician has a shop at Bashabo near Kamalapur. He bought this place for Tk 60,000 and has put it on rent. He hopes to open up a workshop for repair of refrigerators and air coolers. "But this is an expensive affair and I must wait to save up," he confides.

Sikander has a wife and a son of five years to take care of, and cannot save as much as he used to before he was married. Was his marriage a love marriage? "My mother chose a girl from Natore, a mile from our own house, and this suits me well. My wife has no problems in getting adjusted to a joint family. I live with my older sister, who works in 'Dainik Bangla', and has been a guardian to me as I lost my father early. My two younger brothers who study, also live with us. Three of my elder brothers are involved in business dealing with pulses and vegetables. I have another brother working in Qatar. As for myself, I have no desire to go to the Middle East or USA. I'll try to earn my fortunes in my own country as best as possible," Sikander talks about himself and his life.

The electrician is aware of the rising cost of living in Dhaka and is conscious of the opportunities available abroad, but at the moment he has no desire to go adventuring abroad and is glad to have the cosy atmosphere at home with his numerous brothers.

The young man plans to have another child in the near future. But he believes in small families. "We have suffered a lot ourselves with nine chil-

dren in the family when we were young. I believe small families are the cure to all our problems of poverty and illiteracy. If our population could be controlled the socio-economic condition of the country could improve by leaps and bounds. If I have a daughter I will surely ensure her education too, apart from eventually trying to get her happily settled down with a suitable partner," Sikander says.

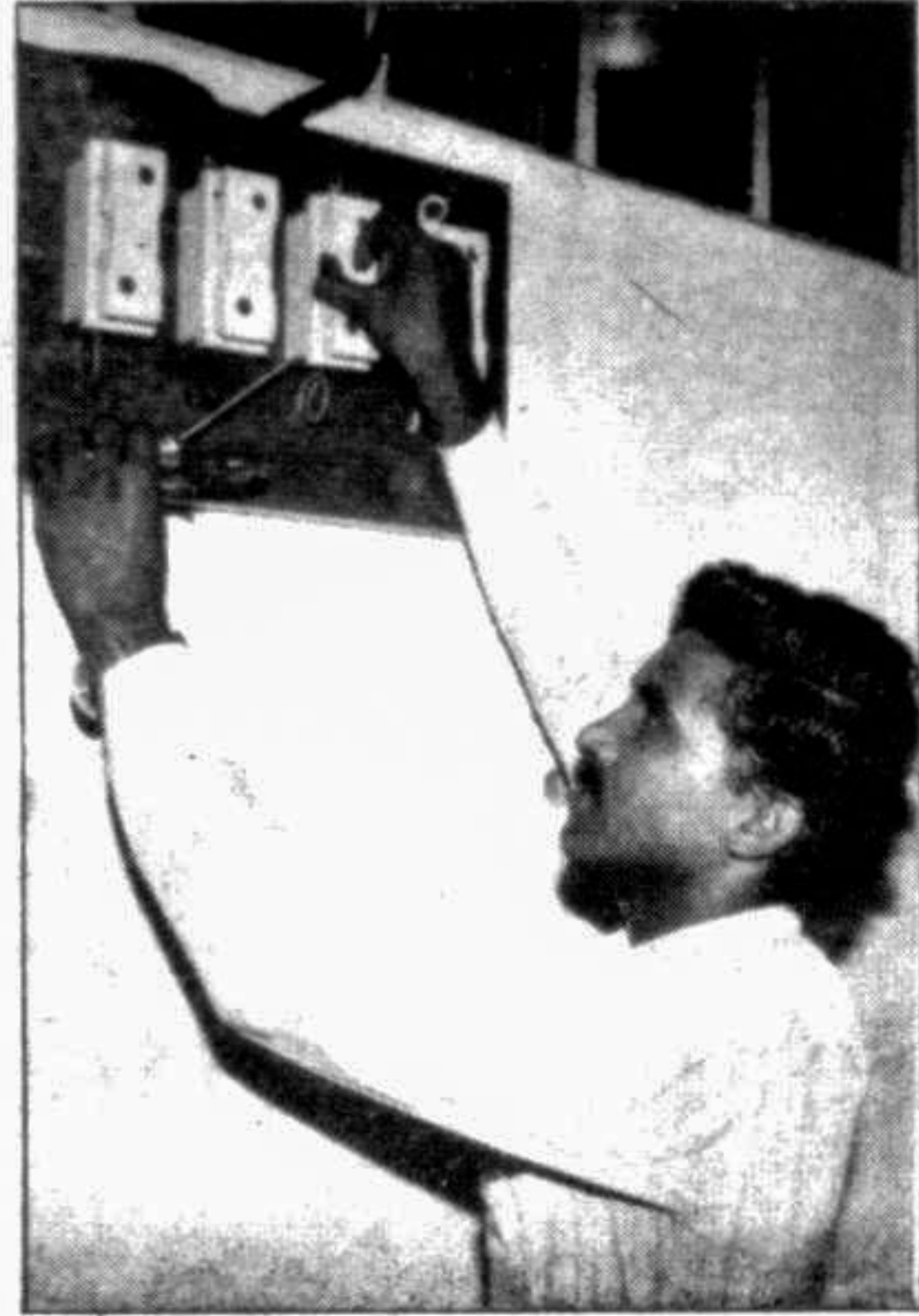
The electrician, when he got married himself, did not accept any dowry from his wife's family. "I married her for her personality and charm and not what material comforts she could bring me. I would not demean myself by accepting items like furniture or a motor-bike. I think it is such a pity that so much of stress is put on dowry throughout our country and in the rest of the Sub-continent. There have been cases when wives have committed suicide when dowry promises have not been kept. This happens often enough in 'mofassil' areas. It is not much better in the cities either," Sikander believes.

For his own son, Sikander has higher hopes. He wants him to be a doctor or a proper qualified engineer. He is extremely glad that he had a sister to guide and take care of him in fact she is still like an umbrella over his head, while he continues to live with her at Shaorapara in Mirpur.

Sikander has not done badly for a son of a sepoy of the British times who took to selling rice and 'gur' after World War II.

Commenting about life in Natore, his hometown, he says that the place has changed a lot in the last few decades. "People have been chopping up the tree branches for fuel as there is no gas or coal in Natore. As a result the place has got quite bare. The mangoes and liches that the place was once famous for is not there in abundance. Twenty years back you could eat as much as mangoes and liches as you wanted from any tree. Now the owners are very possessive and will not have you near their trees."

This promising electrician spends his spare time watching Indian videos and looking after his numerous roses and other flower bushes. He loves his rice and must have it three times a day. With his secure job this is easily guaranteed. Sikander, however has his aims on more than the regular rice meal.



Sikander Ali: Fixing a loose end—Ster photo

Haj pilgrims to get all facilities in S Arabia

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement which will help provide Haj pilgrims with all necessary facilities in Makkah this year, according to an official handout, reports BSS.

The agreement was signed by the State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. M. A. Mannan during his visit to Saudi Arabia from April 28 to May 2. Saudi Haj and Waqf Minister Abdul Wahab ibne-Ahmed signed the agreement on behalf of the Kingdom.

The Saudi Minister expressed deep sorrow and profound grief for the loss of lives and properties by the recent devastating cyclone. Prof. Mannan thanked the Saudi authority for their generous help for the victims of the catastrophe.

Prof. Mannan, who returned home Saturday after attending the fourth conference of Supreme Council of Islamic

Affairs, held in Cairo, also met the Bangladesh living in Saudi Arabia and urged them to help the victims.

While attending the fourth Islamic Conference in Cairo, Prof. Mannan called on the President of Egypt Mohammed Hosney Mubarak and conveyed a goodwill message of the Begum Khaleda Zia. Besides, he exchanged goodwill messages with a number of ministers and delegates who attended the conference from 44 Muslim countries.

Addressing the conference, Prof. Mannan underscored the utmost need to face any eventuality that may confront Islamic ummah in future. Pointing out the recent tragic Gulf War, Prof. Mannan said Bangladesh as a member-country of the OIC has always been playing a vital role in solving the issues relating to the ummah. He also stressed for setting up a common market for the Islamic countries.

Dhaka-Ctg phone, telex link restores partially

Telephone and telex link between Dhaka and Chittagong was restored for a limited service Sunday evening, a T and T Board Press release said, reports BSS.

The telecommunication with Chittagong had remained snapped since Monday's cyclonic storm which totally destroyed T and T microwave tower in Chittagong.

The engineers and technicians of T and T Board, worked round the clock under an adverse condition to restore "limited telecommunications" between Dhaka and Chittagong, the Press release said.

It said the subscribers could now avail themselves of this limited facility by booking calls through 109 under internal trunk exchange. Telex facility has also been started under this limited arrangement.

Humayun urges Perez to save cyclone victims

The President of the 41st session of the UN General Assembly and former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, on Sunday appealed to the UN Secretary General for his immediate personal and institutional intervention to save millions of cyclone victims of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a message to Mr. Perez de Cueller, Mr. Chowdhury said, the consequential crisis of the cyclone had gone far beyond the capacity of Bangladesh alone to manage.

He said unless an extraordinary international relief operation could be organised urgently, tens of thousands who have survived the catastrophe would die of disease and starvation.

Urgent repair of Cox's Bazar airport directed

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan has directed for urgent repair and rehabilitation of Cox's Bazar Airport severely damaged by Monday night's cyclone, reports UNB.

He gave the directive to concerned authorities during his visit to the battered airport on Saturday, official sources said here Sunday.

Accompanied by high officials of the Ministry, Mannan went round different sections of the airport.

The State Minister also visited city sales office and different installations of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.

Indian daily campaigns for Bangladeshi cyclone victims

"Ganashakti," a Bengali daily published from Calcutta, has begun a campaign to raise funds for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh, according to a message received in Dhaka, from West Bengal state capital, reports BSS.

Named as "Ganashakti Bangladesh Tran Tobhli (Relief Fund)," the campaign has been receiving good response from the people, the message said. On the first day of the campaign Saturday, one lakh rupees was collected.

Ganashakti is the first newspaper in India to have begun such a drive for Bangladesh's cyclone victims.

The fund, to be raised through this campaign will be handed over to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta.

The rally will be presided over by Convenor of the Parishad Begum Nasrin Kader Siddiki.

BPTA to donate Tk 1 crore 25 lakh

The Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association (BPTA) in a meeting held on Sunday deeply condoled the deaths of the people in cyclone and tidal surge in the coastal belt of Bangladesh.

Held at the premises of Loharpool Government Primary School the meeting decided to form a Team of Volunteers and send it to the affected areas for conducting relief operation under the leadership of BPTA President Professor Abul Kalam Azad. It was also decided to constitute local teams of teachers to serve the victims of cyclone.

Addressing the meeting Professor Azad called upon all irrespective of party affiliations to come forward and serve the suffering humanity. He said that everyone has a role to play and one should not blame the government alone for all the failures. He announced that the BPTA would donate Taka one crore 25 lakh.

Facilities to Haj pilgrims to be ensured

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan Sunday visited the temporary Haj camp at the former Islamic University under Gazipur district, reports BSS.

He went round different sections of the camp and enquired about housing, sanitation, bathing, cooking and other facilities there.

The State Minister was informed that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure all sorts of facilities to the pilgrims.

Mannan also expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for the Haj pilgrims.

He was accompanied by the Secretary of the Ministry Shamsul Alam and other senior officials of different concerned ministries.



PROGRAMME Flower-making factory

The inaugural ceremony of the first artificial flower-making factory will be held today (Monday) at BSCIC Shilpa Nagar, Konabari, Gazipur, Joydevpur.

ABC stipend

The "ABC" Stipend distribution ceremony will be held today (Monday) at 4 pm at the BCPS auditorium.

Taxes bar meet today

Bangladesh Taxes Bar Association has convened an emergency general meeting today (Monday) to discuss relief measures for the cyclone-affected people of the south-eastern coastal belt, reports UNB.

Members of the association have been requested to attend the meeting at 11 am at the Taxes Bar hall room, said a press release.

Open function

A noted singer Sabina Yasmin will render songs today (Monday) at an open stage function organised by Bangla Academy on its premises with a view to collecting funds for the tornado-hit victims. The function will continue for two hours, from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

The artistes who are interested to participate in the open function are requested to contact Khwaza Kamrul Haq over phone, no-508499.

Donations from the audience will be accepted during function.

ABC

Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) will hold a blind student stipend distribution ceremony today (Monday) at 4 pm at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) auditorium, Mohakhali, a press release said.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman will attend the ceremony as the chief guest.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Saw loosely
- 6 Type style
- 11 Billboard
- 12 Citrus fruits
- 14 Near
- 15 Three feet
- 17 Golf shot
- 18 Tamed
- 20 Customs
- 23 Inset
- 24 Observed
- 26 Is borne
- 28 "Barrette" star: int.
- 29 Muse of poetry
- 31 Three River Stadium players
- 33 Unusual
- 36 Baked clay
- 38 Dwells
- 39 Approaches
- 42 Psalm of "Sea of Love"

43 Secluded valleys

45 Killed

46 Gravity

48 Hindu

50 presents

50 Music: as written

51 Biblical garden

53 Sorrows

55 At home

56 Injury

59 Documents

61 Sedate

62 Raise the spirit of

7 French article

8 Demon

9 "— of Duty"

10 All

11 Out of date

13 Phrases

16 Boring

19 "The Wonder"

21 Redact

22 European fish

25 Sedate mammal

27 Soupy

30 Command

32 River ducks

34 Slippery

36 Badgerlike mammal

37 Omits from pronunciation

38 Sluggish

40 Retreat

41 Graceful birds

44 Mine, excavation

47 Unit of Mexican currency

49 Fasten tightly

52 Peripart spring

54 Mineral

57 Faroe Islands whirlwind

58 Close: abbr

60 Spielberg alien

Answer to Previous Puzzle

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

All bank branches to receive donation

All the branches of the scheduled banks will receive donations for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the cyclone-affected people, reports BSS.

All concerned bank branches have been directed to receive the donation for the fund. This donation is tax free.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia receives cash money and other goods from 7 pm to 8 pm every day at the Prime Minister's office

Charity show in aid of distressed

A two-day Nazrul birth anniversary festival organised by Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, will now be held as charity show in order to help the cyclone-affected people on May 21, 22, reports UNB.

The total amount received will be donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, said a press release.

\$ 1b needed to cover damages: Saifur

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman has said the country requires at least one billion US dollars to recover the damages wrought by the devastating cyclone, reports UNB.

Without international assistance, it is impossible for Bangladesh alone to face such a great crisis, he said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London Friday.

The Minister made a stopover in the British capital on his way back to the country after a fortnight-long visit to Canada, the United States.

Giving a picture of the extent of losses from the cyclone, the Minister said more than one lakh people were killed and 10 to 15 million coastal inhabitants were affected.

Asked whether the new government has the capability of facing the disaster, Saifur Rahman said Bangladesh is un-

able to meet the huge relief and rehabilitation cost from its internal resources.

"Investable resources is scarce in Bangladesh and, if we have to meet the cost from our own resources our development works will have to be stopped totally," he said.

Such a disaster posed a tremendous pressure on a five-week old government that inherited a fragile economy, he said.

Asked whether external assistance will be available when huge international aid is being infused to Kurdish crisis, Saifur Rahman said we seek and expect adequate support from the international community.

He said that during his visit to the United States, he got assurances from the US Congress members, the World Bank and the United Nations of adequate assistance for the cyclone.

But they were yet to make any commitment, he said.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY



We are a Swiss pharmaceuticals company looking for competent persons to work as -

MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICERS

Job responsibilities include promotion of our specialities to the medical profession of Bangladesh.

The incumbents should be at their twenties and have a Master's degree in Pharmacy or in any other discipline of biological science having studied microbiology and biochemistry during the course.

As a part of the selection procedure, written test will be held on Wednesday, 15 May '91 in Dhaka. The schedule and the list of the applicants selected to sit for the written test will be displayed on Monday, 13 May '91 at 4.00 pm at the address given below. No separate interview card would be issued in this regard.

If you are the one to accept the challenge, please apply with bio-data and a copy of your recent photograph to the following address by Sunday, 12 May 1991:

Hoffmann-La Roche Limited
22/A Dhanmondi RA, Road No. 2, Dhaka 1205

Weather

Rains likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6.30 pm and rises on Tuesday at 5.21 am. Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change.

The highest temperature on Sunday was 36.0 degree Celsius at Rajshahi while the lowest of 19.8 degrees was recorded at Sylhet.

Rain/thundershower occurred at one or two places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and weather remained dry over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. Chief amount of rainfall recorded over Sylhet 4 cm and Tangal 0.5 cm.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns and cities on Sunday were:

Town/City	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.0	24.4	85	75
Rajshahi	36.0	24.6	78	-
Khulna	32.3	27.0	79	88
Barisal	30.0	27.5	81	88
Sylhet	x	19.8	100	96
Bogra	33.5	23.5	84	82
Jessore	32.8	27.6	x	78
Saikhira	33.3	28.6	79	75

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