

# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'Forget Me Not' and Baskets of Posies

by Fayza Haq



Nur at work on the pavement.

— Star Photo

WOMEN have been known to sew to perfection since time immemorial. Coco Chanel had her house of fashion in the days when it was quite difficult for women to be successful as entrepreneurs in that field. Today in some of the homes of Dhanmandi and Tikatully, you may come across entire living rooms, dining rooms, and staircases covered with home-made tapestry and needle points, especially where the wife has indulged in Home Economics courses in a serious way. I know a woman who comes to work wearing embroidered 'saris' done by herself. She does the embroidery of her sons' 'kurta' too. I once knew a lad who worked in Motijheel, whose wife embroidered every 'kurta' that he wore with shadow work.

Even though one knows of male embroidery workers as being employed in the numerous boutiques, that have mushroomed all over Dhaka, and is aware that tailors' shops are exclusively run by men in the city, yet what Nur Mohammed does at the Children's Park near the Shahbagh Point is intriguing indeed. Eighteen-year-old Nur is from Bikrampur and lives across the Buri Ganga in Pargandaria. He teaches his customers how to make flowers, baskets of roses, birds — specially parrots — deer, and sayings or words such as 'Forget Me Not', 'No Profit Without Risk' and 'Welcome' with velvety stitches.

Nur has learnt his trade from another expert in Gullistan, and now manufactures books to go with the sewing for Tk 8. He has a special fascinating needle, with a brass body and copper entwining wires, with which the work is done. The needle is available for Tk 5. He sells a dozen strands of brilliantly toned threads for Tk 6.

This teenaged entrepreneur was once trained as a sewing machine worker, but he found that this art did not ensure him a steady income. His money came in by drabs and drabs. Like many ambitious young men, his aim in life is to get rich quickly. This way, with his present stitching, he gets as much as Tk 250 daily for profit, although on some days his earnings may fall to Tk 50. Apart from sitting at the Children's Park he visits every possible 'mela' to sell his wares. Otherwise he does not venture anywhere else but this particular venue. Going home from Motijheel to Dhanmandi, I spot him often unless it is raining.

Just as he makes the pattern books, with their flower or animal or word motifs, to be traced out with carbon, so he manufactures the needles at home, with five different machines — on which he has invested Tk 500. He teaches the art free of charge, but makes his profit on the needle, thread and books.

He informs me that it takes only five minutes to demonstrate this art, but requires at least an hour of practice before you can reach any form of perfection. The stitches are made on the cloth, held by a frame, with the work being done from the opposite side. The threads are then snipped off like carpet, and the final effect too is like a silken carpet. For the lower middle-class to embroider pillow cases, 'kurta' fronts, and to have the motifs done and framed as decorative pieces in this way is an achievement indeed.

It is usually women who approach Nur to show the art and who are his steady customers, but sometimes inquisitive lads too come his way.

On rainy days he stays home and manufactures his needles. He can prepare 30 needles a day. Of course this takes up his entire day. He makes a profit on the thread too as the 'phertwallas' normally sell it to him for Tk 3 per dozen pieces.

Nur says he earns about Tk 3,000 a month, on average, and is proud and confident about his work. His father and elder brother are 'rajmistris' while he has only one sister still to be married off. He wears an air of prosperity in his silken 'kurta-pajama'. He is conscious of the fact that he has no 'bad habits' like smoking or drinking on which he would otherwise need to spend. He does not even take 'paan' or 'supari'. An occasional cup of tea and a biscuit is all the luxury he allows himself. At most he takes in a movie at 'Ovishar' or 'Jonaki' once a month.

Don't 'mastans' hassle him and try to make money out of him? They tried to at first but now they do not pester me," he says, with a policeman friend of his standing by him, all the time that I spoke to him.

He knows of six other colleagues and friends who work in areas like Gullistan, Shadarghat, Court Kachari and Phulbaria. He believes that there are at least 25 'carpet' embroidery workers like him in the city.

If and when he makes the money, he hopes to get more ambitious and muster up more initiative, and in future set up a carpet business. "But this requires a lot of funds. I will have to employ people under me, hire a shop, and get fully involved in the making of the carpets."

Nur is still young and is not doing badly for himself in a city where thousands are contented to get 'panta bhat' or dry 'roti' and a piece of chili or onion for their main meal. He has hot dinner every day, a firm roof over his head, money in his pocket, an interesting job to do. He has a lot of admirers and viewers, as he works and makes his sale. What more could he want in the form of happiness and contentment?

would be subject to legal action. The DUAAC meeting also hoped the parliamentary committee formed to find out ways to root out violence from the campuses would discharge its duties and take prompt decision in this regard.

The meeting reviewed the overall campus situation and decided that the student organizations would formulate some code of conduct through discussions among themselves. It hoped the students of the university would form an anti-terrorism unity.

Besides, the meeting sought assurances from the political parties they would not support any armed hoodlums when he

## What's on today...

### Rapport certificate award ceremony

The certificate awarding ceremony of the senior and mid management workshop on Value Added Tax (VAT) system conducted by Rapport Bangladesh Limited will be held today (Friday) at 10 am at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city. State Minister for Information Nurul Huda will attend the function as the chief guest and distribute certificates among participants of the workshop.

The function will be chaired by AKA Firoz Noon, Director of the Bangladesh Shilpa Bank and M Mosharrar Hossain, Managing Director of the Rapport Bangladesh Limited.

### Musical soiree to mark Nazrul's death anniversary

A musical soiree titled 'Juge Juge Ashe, Ashechahi' (I come decade after decade) to pay tribute to the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in observance of his 15th death anniversary at the Biswa Sahitya Kendra (Bangla Motor) in the city today (Friday) at 8 in the morning. Abhduoy, a music associate, has arranged the function. Noted singers will present Nazrul songs on the occasion.

### Discussion on Nazrul

The second day's programme of Nazrul Academy marking the 15th death anniversary of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam takes place at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium today (Friday) at 5 pm.

A researcher on Nazrul Dr Karunamoy Goshwami will speak on Nazrul Songs while Dr Ashraf Siddiqi will deliver the presidential speech.

Later, the former and present students of the academy will present Nazrul songs.

### Chouddagram UZ Samity

The annual general meeting and installation ceremony of Chouddagram Upazila Samity in Dhaka will be held at the Central Public Library Auditorium in the city today (Friday) at 3.30 pm.

State Minister for Information Nurul Huda will attend the function as the chief guest.

The AGM and installation of the new office bearers of the samity will be followed by a cultural function to be presented by 'Krant', a cultural organisation.

### Chhayanat's Sarodutshab

Chhayanat, on the country's leading musical institute in the private sector, holds a art and cultural function at the premises of the Dhaka University's Institute of Fine Arts in celebration of a auto festival today (Friday) at 6.30 in the morning.

### Conference of 'Life'

A conference of the Sabujbagh Unit of Life, a anti-drug addiction organisation, will be held today (Friday) at 4 pm at 488/C, Khilgaon Choudhurypara in the city. Life President Quamrul Islam Soni will attend the function as the chief guest.

### Ganotantri Party founding anniversary

The first founding anniversary for Ganotantri Party will be celebrated today (Friday).

In celebration of the day, the metropolis unit of the party will hold a discussion at 109, Siddiq Bazar office of the party at 5 pm.

Central leaders of the party will address the discussion. The discussion will be followed by a cultural function.

## ... and tomorrow

### Republication of the Dainik Dinkal

The Bengali-language daily newspaper 'Dainik Dinkal' is going to be republished under a new management on September 1 next.

The republication ceremony will take place at the Purbani Hotel in the city tomorrow (Saturday) at 10 am. Jatiyatabadi Prokashona Limited, a publishing house patronised by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), has taken up the republication of the daily in a new manner.

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the occasion as the chief guest. Ministers Dr Badruddoza Choudhury, Maj Gen (Retd) Majid-ul Haq, ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, MK Anwar and Shamsul Islam Khan will also be present. Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Sheikh Razzak Ali will preside over the ceremony.

### Reception to Comilla MPs

A reception to the Members of Parliament (MPs) elected from Comilla District will be accorded at function at the National Press Club auditorium in the city tomorrow (Saturday) at 4.30 in the afternoon.

Comilla Zila Janakalyan Samity (Comilla District Public Welfare Association) has organised the reception. Commerce Minister MK Anwar MP will attend the function as the chief guest while State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain MP and State Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah MP will be special guests on the occasion.

Besides the three ministers, the reception will also be accorded to Manjurul Hassan Munshi MP (Comilla-4), Abdul Matin Khasru MP (Comilla-5), Md Redwan Ahmed MP (Comilla-6), AKM Abu Taher MP (Comilla-7), Lt. Col. (Retd) Akbar Hossain MP (Comilla-8), Munirul Haq Choudhury MP (Comilla-9), ATM Alamgir MP (Comilla-10), Dr AKM Kamruzzaman MP (Comilla-11), Kazi Zafar Ahmed MP (Comilla-12) Begum Rabeya Choudhury MP (Comilla-Chandpur) and Begum Asia Rahman MP (Comilla-Brahmanbaria).

Compiled by NA

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast Thursday that light to moderate rain/showers is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong division and at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka division during the next 36 hours.

Rainfall activities may increase during the next two days, it added. Day temperature would remain nearly unchanged during this period.

Wednesday's well-marked low over north Orissa has weakened into a low and now laid over Bihar on Thursday. Monsoon axis runs through Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal to Assam across central Bangladesh.

Temperature and humidity recorded on Thursday at major cities and towns were:

Cities/Towns	Temp in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	32.7	26.5	82	73
Chittagong	32.6	25.5	78	83
Rajshahi	33.6	25.0	86	72
Khulna	33.6	26.2	77	78
Jessore	33.0	26.0	89	74
Comilla	33.0	25.5	83	74
Barisal	31.5	25.0	89	74
Faridpur	32.2	25.2	81	81
Bogra	33.0	25.2	88	80
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.5	80	85
Srimangal	34.0	25.0	81	89
Mymensingh	32.8	24.0	86	74

The highest temperature was recorded at Srimangal and the lowest at Mymensingh.



Artistes of the Nazrul Academy rendering songs at a function organised in observance of the 15th death anniversary of National Poet Nazrul Islam at Shilpakala Academy auditorium Thursday. — Star photo

## Call to make people familiar with Nazrul literature

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury Thursday said the national heroes like national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman are born in different ages to inspire the nation and show it the right path, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest, a discussion on the 15th death anniversary of the national poet Kazi Nazrul organised by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JSSS), the minister said the rebel

poet had fought against the British imperialism with his mighty pen while Shaheed Zia had waged heroic war for the independence of the country in 1971.

He said, "both the great men were soldiers and patriots who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the country."

State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan attended the discussion as the special guest while JSSS President Khurshid Ali Mollah presided.

Held at the National

Museum Auditorium, the discussion was also addressed by National Press Club President Mozammel Huq, DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan and JSSS General Secretary Zahid Hossain Churnu.

Prof Chowdhury stressed the need for flourishing of Nazrul literature to make the people familiar with the vastness of his writings.

Comparing him with the sun, he said Nazrul was the poet who had stood on firm footing in the Rabintra era.

The Education Minister recalled the contributions of Nazrul, who had fought against oppression, injustice, discrimination, communalism and superstition.

Mannan Bhuiyan said Nazrul was not only a rebel poet but also a poet of love, nature and children.

He called for spreading the message of Nazrul literature and his songs among the people.

Journalists Mozammel Huq dwelt at length on the journalistic life of poet Nazrul. The discussion was followed by a cultural function.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TOEFL EXAMINEES

Examinees who register for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in Bangladesh will be required to present a valid passport as identification, beginning with the November 16, 1991 test administration. No other form of identification will be accepted at test centers in this country.

Please note that no candidates will be allowed to take TOEFL without a valid passport beginning with November 16 TOEFL examination.

TOEFL Office Princeton, NJ, U.S.A.

## DUAAC for reopening of varsity after Sept 11

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Academic Atmosphere Council (DUAAC) hoped Wednesday that the Syndicate would take necessary steps to the university, as early as possible.

The DUAAC, however, urged the Syndicate not to fix the date of reopening before bye-elections to parliament scheduled for September 11.

An emergency meeting of the DUAAC held Wednesday sought cooperation from all concerned including students,

teachers, political parties in eliminating terrorism though it felt the prime responsibility in this regard lay on the government.

The meeting, presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah also hoped that no quarter would use the law enforcing agencies in its party interest.

Besides, the meeting sought assurances from the political parties they would not support any armed hoodlums when he

## BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY DHAKA TENDER NOTICE

No. D-413 (2) Dt. 28/8/91

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned in the prescribed form from the bonafide and experienced contractors who are enlisted with PWD/Govt./Semi-govt./Autonomous bodies for the work of Addition and Alteration works of bathroom in the 2nd floor of Architecture building at an estimated cost of Tk. 41,520.00. Applications for purchase of Tender papers will be received up to 7-9-91 and Tender papers will be sold from 8-9-91. Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 11-30 A.M. on 10-9-91 and will be opened on the same day. No Tender papers will be sold on the opening day. For further detailed information regarding purchase and dropping the tender, the office of the undersigned may be contacted or the contractor may see the Notice Board of the Office.

University Engineer (In-charge)

D-92

## TV Friday

Morning Session	
8.00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme Summary
8.10	News in Bangla
8.15	The Chronicals of Narnia
8.40	Nutan Kuri
10.00	News in English
10.05	Film: MacGyver
11.15	Maner Mukurey: Ayamoy Closing
12.30	Closing
Evening Session	
3.00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme Summary
3.15	Reading from the Tripitok
3.20	Alor Dishari
3.40	Movie of the Week
5.20	News in Bangla
5.30	Sports Programme
6.00	Science and Technology
7.05	Malancha
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Comedy Series The Cosby Show
9.00	Magazine Programme
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film: L.A. Law
11.30	Khabar/ The News
11.45	Closing

➤ SUZUKI RANGS

# আকারেও যেন বড় ইঞ্জিনও তেমন শক্তিশালী

## সুজুকি জিএস১২৫

সুজুকি এ এম ১০০ - এখানে অপ্রতিদ্বন্দী

রিয়ান মটরস্ লিমিটেড  
র্যাংগস্ গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানীক-এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান  
১৮/১৮৪, তেজগাঁও নিম্ন এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮ ফোন: ৬০৪০১৯