Dhaka Day by Day

What a Scandal!

by Rahat Fahmida

Only the other day my colleague S Bari wrote on the hazards of dating in Dhaka. What happens to these buddies years later when the relationship is matured and is likely to lead to marriage? It is a scandal to say that one's daughter is in for a love marriage.

"Did you know that Mr Khan's daughter is going steady with Mr Ahmed's son? It is strange that none of them told us about it," says a common friend to others, while sipping her tea after a women's social service meeting. The bomb blasts! Sparks hit right, left and centre. They are upset that they did not have a chance for gossip from earlier on.

The initial reaction for almost all relatives, family friends and acquaintances blasphemy'. If it so happens that the girl is convent educated or had an English medium schooling, it is then the right pinch of salt. It all happened because of this type of background.

It starts off with a prolonged round table conference amongst all these friends and relatives, who then turn out to be so-called well-wishers. This is then followed by a series of questions which are unfortunately posed to the girl's parents: "What sort of family background does he have? How old is he? Has he completed his masters or is he aiming for a doctorate? Which university did he go to? Does he have a car?"

These questions have no end and poor parents go on facing these often. Situation turns worse if the parents are associated with voluntary service associations, such as, Rotary, WVA, Lion, Lioness and similar groups. And shockingly enough their dear friends or favourite kins go on discussing the issue as anybody and everybody's concern and business. Is the boy and the girl competing for a joint leadership?

Women and children make

up an estimated 70 to 80 per

cent of the world's 14 million

refugees and in much of Africa

and Asia, three quarters of

women aged 25 and over are

tistical book on opportunity

gaps between women and men

world-wide, prepared by the

United Nations Statistical

Office with data from 178

Women 1970-1990" stated

that major gaps in invest-

ments, pay and policies are

preventing women from per-

It said government do not

consider much of women's

work to be economically pro-

ductive and thus do not count

it. If women's unpaid house-

work was counted, it would

add 25 to 30 per cent to the

gross domestic product of

mented that women now

The book further com-

many countries, it added.

forming to their full potential,

says a press release.

The book titled "World's

This was revealed in a sta-

illiterate, reports UNB.

countries.

How is it that in our society these person-

'Much of women's work

considered unproductive'

they did 20 years ago.

The publication which

paints the first-ever global sta-

tistical portrait of women, ad-

vocates explicit initiatives to

advance women's interests and

a re-working of conventional

assumptions about family life,

economic life and political life.

literacy remains among adult

women, the report said adding

that between 1970 to 1985.

rose by 54 million.

the number of illiterate women

men, on the other hand, in-

creased by only 4 million, it

The number of illiterate

Referring to wages, the re-

port said women doing the

same work as men typically

receive 30 to 40 per cent less

and discrimination relegate

women to low-paying and low-

status jobs, the book pointed

and are separating or divorcing

Couples are marrying later

Occupational segregation

on average world wide.

more frequently.

A huge historic deficit of

al issues are matters of public discussion their headache, resulting in extreme inquisitiveness! Nothing can be right with this marriage; it is expected to some extent that soon this will lead to divorce. This girl could have a much better and well established husband; on the other hand there is no dearth of beautiful girls in town. The boy is eligible enough and deserves a much sobre and prettier wife. Misconceptions and false assumptions leave people disillusioned, even leaving the parents confused and upset. All this is rather upsetting to peace and quiet.

What happens just a few months later is

that the same people pressurise and hurry the parents for marriage. "They are too involved. It does not look right. Time is running out and this is the right age for marriage." Advice just pour in, as if the couple are on their way for a space tour and will miss the rocket. No one has the slightest bit of interest to ask the girl and the boy whether they are ready for marriage. It is taken for granted that they are; and it is strange if they are not. *Are they having second thoughts ?" is the instant reaction. It just cannot be anything

Is this such a great and unusual advantage? Can we not be ourselves - all the time, and nothing but our true self? But that seems to be the most formidable task, and

higher than boys in many

Bangladesh, Haiti, Nepal,

Pakistan, Peru, Philippines and

Release of

Kader Siddigi

demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangabir Kader Siddiqi

Biruttam Sangram Parishad

Anwar Hossain Pahari at a rally

of the organisation in front of

the Jatiya Press Club on Friday

demanded immediate release

of Kader Siddiqi, says a press

of the killers of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by re-

pealing the fifth amendment to

brought out a procession in the

Canadian envoy

calls on Khaleda

The Canadian High Commi-

ssioner, Emile Gauvreau, called

on Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia at her residence in

During the meeting, they

discussed matters of common

interest. Increased coopera-

tion in various sectors includ-

ing economic field and strengthening the existing

bonds of friendship between

the two countries also came up

Withdrawal of

VAT from yarn,

textile sectors

hailed

Bangladesh Cloth Mer-

Bangladesh Yarn

chants' Association (BCMA)

Merchants' Association (BYMA)

In separate statements in

for discussion.

Dhaka Friday, reports BSS.

Earlier, the organisation

He also demanded the trial

'Dhaka City convenor of

including

forbidden too in the bargain. In life we must play a role; we have chosen an attitude here which we cannot escape; we have been assigned a character. We have official capacities to fill and social life makes demand upon us. Our true self and this assigned character for the most part of our life do not go together. Much of that gap could be plugged if we could rise above the damaging myths and misconceptions about 'love marriage'.

countries

release:

the Constitution.



The Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdur Rahman Biswas addressing the national literature awarding ceremony sponsored by Jatiya Sahitya Sangsad (National Literary Sangsad) at National Press Club on Friday. - Star photo

Former Communication

Minister M Matiur Rahman has

been selected for social ser-

vice, Dr Ashraf Siddique,

Chairman, BSS, for folklore,

Sanaullah Nuri for Journalism,

Mohammad Abdul Khalek for

poetry and research, Prof.

Khaleda Salauddin for research

Sobhan has been awarded for

frozen food exporting devel-

opment and social service and

astrologer Prof Howladar for

Minister M Matiur Rahman

and Journalist Sanaullah Nuri

were not present at the cere-

Former Communication

Bangladesh Jatiya Sahitya

Sangsad on the occasion of its

6th founding anniversary,

awarded the personalities at a

prize-giving ceremony of

Friday at Jatiya Press Club au-

Speaker Abdur Rahman

Biswas attended the function

as the chief guest while Justice

Abdur Rahman Chowdhury

presided over it. The prizes of

the sangsad includes, gold

speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas

said the personalities having

contribution in the develop-

ment in different fields should

be honoured and given due

of the Sahitya Sangsad for in-

stituting such an award to

honour those who had made

Biswas congratulated the

enormous contribution in vari-

recipients of the award and

said as a reader, he had ob-

served that the readers get

interest in going through the

He recalled history and said

writings which had an appeal.

the art, culture and literature

flourished in the past when

the emperors and kings had

patronised them. In this con-

text, he referred to great

Mughal Emperor Akbar and

Khalifa Mamun of the Abbasid

Chowdhury in his presidential

speech urged the writers and

intellectuals of the country for

developing values among the

Chowdhury observed that

obscene magazines and illegal

books valued Tk 15 lakh were

coming in the country from

Renewal of

grain licence

demanded

Thursday demanded renewal

of the grain licence by the

Ministry of Food on an urgent

Babubazar Rice Arotder Samity

in a statement said that the

traders are facing serious

problems in transporting rice

inside the country due to non-

food department well before

June 30 but were informed by

the department of its inability

to renew the licence, the

specify any reason for it, the

YMCA executives

Tapan Chowdhury was

elected President of the Dhaka

YMCA at a meeting of the

board of directors of the

organisation at 46 New

Halder were elected Vice-

Presidents while Antony A K

Poroi was made the Honorary

Treasurer. Stephen S Halder

and James P Mridha continue

as the General Secretary and

Joint Secretary of the

organization respectively. The

meeting also elected ten

members to the executive

committee, says a press re-

Martin Bryan and Pitar

The department failed to

The traders contacted the

renewal of the licence.

statement said.

statement added.

Eskaton Road.

The Badamtali and

basis, reports UNB.

Rice traders in the city

Justice Abdur Rahman

He welcomed the initiative

Speaking on the occasion

medal and certificate.

For 1990, Al-Haj Taher

and literature for 1989.

astrology.

ditorium.

recognition.

ous fields.

dynasty.

students.

outside a year.

Publication of Pay Commission report demanded

Class three and four government employees Friday reiterated their demands for immediate publication and implementation of National Pay Commission report and change in office timing, reports BSS.

The Action Council for Pay Commission Report implementation and change in office timing, an umbrella organization of different government employees associations, in a press conference at the National Press Club in Dhaka demanded implementation of the Pay Commission Report from July, 1990.

The Action Council urged the government to reintroduce office timing from 7 am to 2 pm instead of present 9 am to 4 pm to facilitate the employees to do some part time job.

It also demanded reintroduction of half-day office on Thursday in the offices where working hour was 10 am to 5

0 personalities honoured By Staff Correspondent

eracy awarded' from a cultural

Saogat Editor Mohammad spectively.

last two-year term.

Ten national personalities Nasiruddin, Dewan Mohammad of the country have been Azraf and National Prof Dr awarded with the 'national lit- Nurul Islam for their outstanding contribution in the field of organisation on Friday for the literacy and culture, education and philosophy, and medical The personalities include science and social service re-

- What's on today -

Asiatic Society lecture

Mustafizur Rahman Khan and Saleha Khanam Trust Fund Lecture 1991 will be held today (Saturday) at 5 pm at the ASB auditorium at 5, Old Secretariat Road in the city.

Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya, will deliver the lecture on 'the position of women in Bangladesh'. Dr AM Sharafuddin, President of the society, will preside over the function.

Mango festival at Sonargaon

A week-long mango festival begins today (Saturday) at Sonargaon Hotel in the city. Sonargaon, a Pan Pacific Hotel, will hold the festival of the seasonal fruits at its Cafe Bazar and Karwan Sarai restaurants during lunch and dinner hours everyday till July 12.

The Executive Chef of the Hotel Dabbarh Hassan has prepared the extensive A-la-Carte lunch and dinner menu for the Cafe Bazar and a dinner set menu for the Karwan Sarai restaurant. A wide range of appetizer, mouthwatering main course and delicious dessert will be served during the festival. The regular nightly themes at the Cafe Bazar will remain suspended during the festival period.

CIRDAP anniversary

The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and Pacific (CIRDAP) will observe its 12th founding anniversary today (Saturday).

The anniversary programme will be held from 10 am to 12 noon at the 'Open House' at the CIRDAP Headquarters, Chameli House, 17, Topkhana Road in the city.

Seminar on flood control

The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and the American Society of Civil Engineers, International Group Bangladesh will jointly hold a seminar on 'impact of flood control and drainage projects in Bangladesh agriculture' at the IEB seminar room today (Saturday) at 5 pm.

Prof HR Khan will be the chief speaker on the occasion while former IEB President MFA Siddiqi will attend the seminar as chief guest.

Lecture on viral hepatitis

Dhaka Community Hospital will hold a lecture series on 'viral hepatitis: Bangladesh perspective' at the hospital at Malibagh in the city today (Saturday) at 10 am.

Dr Mahbubur Rahman will speak on 'epidemiology' while Prof Nazrul Islam on 'pathophysiology' and Prof Mahmud Hassan on 'complication and management'. Maj Gen (Rtd) Anis Waiz will preside over the function.

Qul Khwani

Qul Khwani of Saleha Khatun, wife of late Alhaj Khalilur Rahman, founder of Bengal Shipping Line Limited, Lalkhan Bazar of Chittagong, will be held today (Saturday) at 12 noon at her city residence.

The Qul Khwani will be followed by a milad mahfil. The elder son of the deceased MA Awal has requested all relatives and well-wishers of late Saleha to attend the programme.

... and tomorrow

Workshop on drug abuse

A two-day seminar on 'drug abuse prevention' under the auspices of United States Information Service (USIS) will begin tomorrow (Sunday) at 10.30 am at the USIS auditorium in the city.

A drug abuse specialist Beverly Barron has organised the workshop. The topic to be discussed in the workshop are: How to develop prevention programmes including policy development, teacher training, curriculum selection, instituting student drug free youth groups and parent training. Representatives from various organisations are expected to participate in the workshop.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied with temporary gusty wind with a few moderately heavy falls at places is likely to occur at most places over the four divisions. The day temperature is likely to remain unchanged. Heavy rain fall warning: moderately heavy to very heavy rainfall may occur at one to two places over Chittagong, Jessore, Rajshahi and

Outlook for subsequent two days: No marked change.

Temperature in Celsius Humidity Cities/towns Dhaka Chittagong 28.6 25.5 Rangpur 29.3 Sylhet 28.8 24.6 25.3 32.6 Jessore Khulna 32 25.5 30.8 Cox's Bazar



বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদারা সংশ্রিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে. মেলার্স আফসার উদ্দিন এণ্ড কোম্পানী আমাদের একজন ধণ গ্রহীতা। গত ৩১/১২/৯০ ইং তারিখে তাদের নামে খেলাপী ঋণ থাকায় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক ৮২.৫ কোটি ও তদুর্ব খেলাপী ঋণের তালিকায় ক্রমিক নং–১০৭ এ তাদের নাম প্রকাশিত হয়।

পরবর্তীতে উক্ত কোম্পানী উল্লেখযোগ্য পরিমান খণ পরিশোধ করেছে এবং বাকী বকেয়া পরিশোধে প্রতিশ্রুতিদানের মাধ্যমে আমাদের সাথে সম্ভোযজনক সমঝোতায় উপনীত হয়েছে। বর্তমানে এ কোম্পানীটি খেলাপী ঋণগ্রহীতা নয়। এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশে বাংলাদেশ বাংকের পূর্বানুমতি রয়েছে।

> উর্বৃতন ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট আল-বারাকা ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

WORKSHOP ON VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) SYSTEM July 12, 1991 from 9:00 am-6:30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel

To be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker of

the National Assembly Mr Abdur Rahman Biswas

Chief Guest at the Certificate Award Ceremony

> Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Planning

Mr M Saifur Rahman

Special Guest at the Certificate Award Cere-

Hon'ble State Minister for Information and Broadcasting

Mr Md Nurul Huda

Special Guest in the inaugural Session Mr M Lutfozzaman, Member of the Parliament Keynote Paper will be presented by Member, Planning Commission

Dr Sheikh Moqsud Ali Inaugural Session will be chaired by the Chairman, NBR

Mr Nurul Husain Khan For Details and Registration,



please contact

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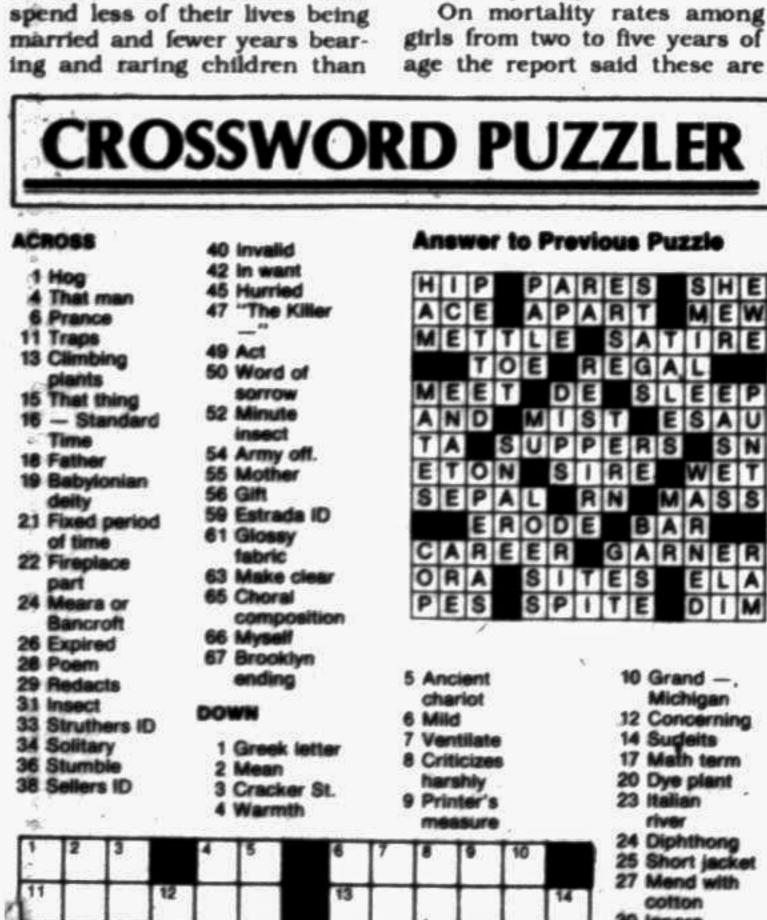
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30 Ignore 37 Pare 39 Eastern 41 Hawalian 43. Hate 44 Three ft. 46 Sodium symbol 48 Vapor 51 Barracuda 58 Turner ID 60 Parisian 62 As far as 64 A. -. -. O.

HIP PARES SHE ACE APART MEW METTLE SATIRE TOE REGAL MEET DE SLEEP ANDMISTESAU TASUPPERSS ETON SIRE WET SEPAL RN MASS CAREER GARNER ORA SITES ELA PES SPITE DIM 10 Grand -12 Concerning 14 Sudeits 17 Math term

Friday hailed the decision of the government for exempting VAT from yarn and textile sectors, reports BSS. Dhaka, BCMA President Haji 20 Dye plant 23 Italian Ali Amjad and BYMA General Secretary Alhaj Abdur Rashed termed the decision as pro-24 Diphthong 25 Short jacket people. It would save the coun-27 Mend with try's yarn traders and weavers community from certain ruina-32 Bound 35 Ingredient tion, they added. 38 British baby

One killed in road mishap A motorcyclist died after being knocked down by a speeding minibus at Kazipara at Mirpur Friday mourning. police said, reports UNB. 57 Female ruff

The motorcyclist Mizanur Rahman (22) died on the spot and his body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for Mirpur police arrested the

post mortem. driver of the minibus and filed a case in this connection.

Dhaka during the next 36 hours.

Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activity is likely to increase. The temperature and humidity of some cities and towns of