

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.

"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."

The initial reaction for almost all relatives, family friends and acquaintances is 'blasphemy'.

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.

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.

How is it that in our society these person-

al issues are matters of public discussion — their headache, resulting in extreme inquisitiveness!

What happens just a few months later is that the same people pressure and hurry the parents for marriage.

Is this such a great and unusual advantage? Can we not be ourselves — all the time, and nothing but our true self?

Forbidden too in the bargain. In life we must play a role; we have chosen an attitude here which we cannot escape.



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

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 pm.

10 personalities honoured

By Staff Correspondent

Ten national personalities of the country have been awarded with the 'national literacy award' from a cultural organisation on Friday for the last two-year term.

The personalities include Saogat Editor Mohammad Nasiruddin, Dewan Mohammad Azraf and National Prof Dr Nurul Islam for their outstanding contribution in the field of literacy and culture, education and philosophy, and medical science and social service respectively.

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.

Mango festival at Sonargaon A week-long mango festival begins today (Saturday) at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Withdrawal of VAT from yarn, textile sectors hailed Bangladesh Cloth Merchants' Association (BCMA) and Bangladesh Yarn Merchants' Association (BYMA) Friday hailed the decision of the government for exempting VAT from yarn and textile sectors, reports BSS.

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

Rain with gusty wind likely 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 temperature and humidity of some cities and towns of Friday:

Table with columns: Cities/towns, Max, Min, Humidity. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Jessore, Khulna, Cox's Bazar.

Much of women's work considered unproductive

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 illiterate, reports UNB.

This was revealed in a statistical book on opportunity gaps between women and men world-wide, prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office with data from 178 countries.

The book titled 'World's Women 1970-1990' stated that major gaps in investments, pay and policies are preventing women from performing to their full potential, says a press release.

It said government do not consider much of women's work to be economically productive and thus do not count it. If women's unpaid household work was counted, it would add 25 to 30 per cent to the gross domestic product of many countries, it added.

The book further commented that women now spend less of their lives being married and fewer years bearing and rearing children than

they did 20 years ago. The publication which paints the first-ever global statistical portrait of women, advocates explicit initiatives to advance women's interests and a re-working of conventional assumptions about family life, economic life and political life.

A huge historic deficit of literacy remains among adult women, the report said adding that between 1970 to 1985, the number of illiterate women rose by 54 million.

The number of illiterate men, on the other hand, increased by only 4 million, it said.

Referring to wages, the report said women doing the same work as men typically receive 30 to 40 per cent less on average world-wide.

Occupational segregation and discrimination relegate women to low-paying and low-status jobs, the book pointed out.

Couples are marrying later and are separating or divorcing more frequently.

Release of Kader Siddiqi demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City convenor of 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 release.

He also demanded the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by repealing the fifth amendment to the Constitution.

Earlier, the organisation brought out a procession in the city.

Canadian envoy calls on Khaleda

The Canadian High Commissioner, Emile Gauvreau, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence in Dhaka Friday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of common interest. Increased cooperation in various sectors including economic field and strengthening the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries also came up for discussion.

Withdrawal of VAT from yarn, textile sectors hailed

Bangladesh Cloth Merchants' Association (BCMA) and Bangladesh Yarn Merchants' Association (BYMA) Friday hailed the decision of the government for exempting VAT from yarn and textile sectors, reports BSS.

In separate statements in Dhaka, BCMA President Haji Ali Amjad and BYMA General Secretary Alhaj Abdur Rashed termed the decision as pro-people. It would save the country's yarn traders and weavers community from certain ruination, they added.

One killed in road mishap

A motorcyclist died after being knocked down by a speeding minibus at Kazipara at Mirpur Friday morning, police said, reports UNB.

The motorcyclist Mizanur Rahman (22) died on the spot and his body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for post mortem.

Mirpur police arrested the driver of the minibus and filed a case in this connection.

Advertisement for 'বিজ্ঞাপ্তি' (Bijganpti) featuring a portrait of a man and Bengali text. The text includes 'এতদূর সঞ্চিত সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে...' and 'উর্ভূত ভাইস প্রেসিডেন্ট আল-বারাকা ব্যাক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড'.

Advertisement for 'WORKSHOP ON VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) SYSTEM' held on July 12, 1991 at Sonargaon Hotel. It lists the National Assembly as the organizing body and lists several high-ranking officials as special guests.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Across clues include '1 Hog', '4 That man', '6 France', '11 Traps', '13 Climbing plants', '15 That thing', '16 --- Standard', '18 Father', '19 Babylonian', '21 Fixed period of time', '22 Fireplace', '24 Meara or Bancroft', '26 Expired', '28 Poem', '29 Redacts', '31 Insect', '33 Struthers ID', '34 Solitary', '36 Stumble', '38 Sellers ID'.



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