

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Rigours of Retirement

by Fayza Haq

Retirement from active life can be a period that can be very frustrating and overwhelming. We do not have clubs for the retired in Dhaka, where people could have gone bowling, sailing or riding on ponies. Abroad men of 65 or even ladies, for that matter, do not hesitate to advertise for companionship in the newspapers, journals and even on the television.

In a place like Dhaka, it is taken for granted that a man or woman will be looked after by his children or grandchildren. It is a matter of rule that he should take great delight in them. Nobody will stop to think that when a man or woman has an active life from eight-to-seven and even more, retirement is something hard to swallow and cope up with.

Often by the time a man has retired, his children are still at college and he has no adoring grandchild to fiddle around with. His wife might be away trying to make ends meet. He

could keep his eye on. There are family guests to tend to. The latest I heard was that he was renovating the library. I have no doubt he reads copiously. Yet for him time appears to stand still. Who can blame him for letting tempests fly?

I know of another similar case of my father's colleague. He used to have at least six cars, four air-conditioners, two houses and an army of servants at his disposal, when he had a job. Once he stopped it there was not even a small family "bom". He travelled in rickshaws and sent his daughters by baby-taxis. Once upon a time people crowded his home to talk to him for work or for social reasons. When he was retired, even his own son in Hong Kong had little time to send him a decent present to soothe his retired stage.

He wandered from house to house, to relatives and friends, seeking company. They were

polite to him, undoubtedly, as he remained amicable and garrulous — despite the fact that his bank balance was nothing to write home about.

He would go for his morning walks and had his group of acquaintances in the Dhanmondi Walking Club.

Even his daughter's friends found him interesting to chat with. But what an end to a brilliant career!

It was literally with a whimper though I admit one

should have been grateful that it did not

take the turn as scandalous and horrific, as some men

about town that one can name — who have

now become international

blackguards, just because some of their theories or moves failed to bring profit.

Yes, I have seen uncles and aunts being reduced to buying the fish from New Market and tramping home, and not even having the fare for a rickshaw. They have sometimes even indulged in repeated late marriages but unfortunately it has brought them no joy. Is old age then really a curse in the east — especially in Dhaka — where daughters-in-law live far from your home and can hardly tend to you? Your own children have settled down in Canada or USA and the pensioned off parent should be grateful that his or her offspring is "living happily ever after".

The pathos of not being able to pay rent, gas and electric bills, of not being able to get enough money for the daughter's dowry, of failing to afford the adequate education for the children applies to the poor as well as the middle-class, as I have gathered from my conversation from retired peons and chowkidars.

The case of retired housemaids too, is often a sad tale. Yet sometimes it differs, as in the case of Akbarer Ma, who has sons to feed her, while she bullies her overwhelmed daughters-in-law beyond imagination.

A friend of mine, Rowshan, in her forties, is always talking of making a club for old people in the near future. I wonder how successful her plans will be. She has talked about it for years now. I would dearly like it to take a realistic shape, as I too am forty-something.

himself has no longer the stream of friends and acquaintances popping in. What will a man or a woman do with all the energy and time? Many a retired person becomes a spectacle of shambles and is an object of pity, when he or she, only a few years back, enjoyed all the prestige and honour that one could have dreamt of.

The pensioned off people in the city get weary with sitting at home. Not all can take to reading books and journals or swinging on the rocking chair. They are still bursting with energy and enthusiasm but who will employ them because

of their age? They have the knowledge and expertise, and the energy of young bulls, and yet their grey hair and count of years go against them. This is so all over the world — only in the west they enjoy privileges such an over-sixty card, by which they can travel cheaper and see films and theatres at reasonable rates. Even the rate of charging of electric and gas bills for pensioners is less in the west. There are no such compensations to be found in Dhaka or anywhere else in the Subcontinent.

Here they will call the retired person "chacha" or "khala" but the term is used more out of pity or derision than respect. On the other hand any grey haired man, as long as he is not an outright hobo, is called "sir" with a tremendous measure of politeness in the west.

I heard a distant uncle of mine bombing his poor limping wife, the other day, just because she could not pick up the telephone in time. The wife not only manages the household, despite the fact that doctors say that her foot will never heal, but works till evening at the Dhaka University. I have always known this uncle to have been as sweet tempered as a Cocker Spaniel.

With retirement, however, I have heard him blasting the household over trivial matters. Yet this was the uncle who always brought me the prettiest clothes and artificial jewellery, when I was a teenager, and when he was a young officer, studying abroad.

He has plenty to do at home, with children to bring up. There the household chores that



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## Hearing on Kader Siddiky continues

The hearing of the appeal petition filed by Kader Siddiky against the judgement of High Court Division continued on Monday for the second day before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The Acting Chief Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman, was in the chair. Other Judges in the Court were Justice ATM Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman.

Kader Siddiky filed the appeal petition before the Appellate Division against the judgement of the High Court Division given on March 6 which had rejected his writ petition challenging his detention.

Earlier, the High Court division had rejected the writ petition and arrived at the conclusion that the detenu was convicted and sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for seven years and to fine of Taka three lakh, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three years, by the Chairman, Special Martial Law Court No. 1 Ganabhaban, Dhaka under Regulation 11/9 of the Martial Law Regulations 1975.

In the writ petition, the government subsequently filed an affidavit-in-opposition saying that the order of detention of Kader Siddiky had been revoked but the detenu is now in jail custody as a convict in deference to Tengal P S case, 15 (4) 76 and GR No. 385 (2) 76 in which he was sentenced to seven years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Taka three lakh, in default another

### Cameraman-designers forum of BTV formed

A new body styled "Bangladesh Television Cameraman-Designers Forum" was formed Monday to enhance inter-departmental fraternity and the development of concerned department, a press release said, reports UNB.

A convening committee of eight members was also formed with Manik Mia Sarkar and Syed Salauddin Chowdhury as joint convenors.

Keramat Mowla and Mahmud Ahmed will act as advisors of the executive committee.

He said different sorts of allegations were being brought against the kindergartens due to lack of policy. He also said 75 per cent of the kindergartens now teach upto Class Ten but the students were not allowed to appear in SSC examination from them.

The association president demanded that benefits given to primary teachers be given to 35,000 teachers of the kindergartens also.

The other association leaders present at the conference were Golam Nabi, Dr Shadat Ali Sheikh, Abdur Razzak, Nazmul Huq Talukder, MA Manna, Johara Akhter Chowdhury and Mrs Nurjahan Huq.

### World Muslim Confice in October

Saudi Arabia has convened World Muslim Conference in October to discuss problems of Muslim minority in non-Muslim states, reports UNB.

Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said in Dhaka Monday the proposed conference, first of its kind, was likely to be held in Riyadh in October under the initiative of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz.

## Downpour likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Tuesday says rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind with a few moderately heavy fall likely to occur at most places over Chittagong, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Rajshahi division. Day temperature likely to fall by one to three degrees Celsius over the country.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershower occurred at most places over Chittagong, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at a few places in Rajshahi division on Monday. The highest temperature of 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded from Sylhet.

Bay inference : Weather occasionally shower over north Bay. Outlook for subsequent two days : Rain fall activities likely to decrease gradually. Extended outlook for another five days : Little change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Monday were :

City	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.7	27.2	76	75
Chittagong	31.4	x	x	82
Rajshahi	32	26.2	79	75
Khulna	32	27.3	79	90
Rangpur	33.6	27.2	73	73
Sylhet	35.2	25	75	60
Jessore	32.5	26.4	x	x
Cox's Bazar	28	25	92	92

### Siege of NBA building for programmes on August 15

By Staff Correspondent

Joybangla Cultural Alliance on Monday laid a siege of National Broadcasting Authority (NBA) building at Shahbagh and handed over a memorandum demanding broadcast of programmes on Muhibb on August 15.

A 11-member team led by convener of the alliance Salauddin Badal handed over the memorandum to Dr Sadat Hossain, Director General of NBA.

Earlier the alliance held a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue with its convener in the chair.

### 3 killed in city road mishaps

Three people were killed in two separate road mishaps in the city on Monday, reports UNB.

Two teenagers riding on a bicycle met with the tragic end of their lives when a speeding bus hit the cycle from behind near Demra crossing at 9 this morning.

The victims identified as Fazal Huq (13) and Alamgir (17) died on the spot. Their bodies were sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy by Demra police.

In another accident, one motorcyclist Rup Kumar Shil (36) was seriously injured when a minibus knocked him near Bangla Motor crossing at about 1.50 pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he expired soon after his admission there.

Ramna police arrested Aminur Rashid, driver of the minibus, and filed a case in this connection.

### BOI likely to be placed under PM's Secretariat

The Board of Investment (BOI) is likely to be detached from the Ministry of Industries and placed under the Prime Minister's Secretariat with an autonomous status, official sources said in Dhaka on Monday, reports UNB.

The World Bank had long been insisting on strengthening the BOI by making it a "promotional" agency instead of its present "regulatory" role.

A comprehensive restructuring of BOI is also being planned, the sources said.

The government will soon sign a technical assistance agreement with the UNDP to frame a policy guideline in overhauling the organisation.

The past government had set up the BOI abolishing the Directorate of Industries and branded it a "one-stop service" for entrepreneurs to encourage industrial investment.

But the agency failed to prove its worthiness as a promotional body and the private sector very often accuses BOI as a regulatory organization.

Sailur Rahman, the Finance Minister of the present government, is also reportedly critical of the BOI and initiated changes in its status and role.

### Specific policy on kindergarten demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Kindergarten Directors Association on Monday demanded specific policy on kindergartens for smooth management of the institutions.

In a press conference at the National Press Club President of the Association Abdur Al-Ahsan said the government was so far maintaining several book lists for this institutions and only five per cent of the country's 3,500 kindergartens were registered.

He said different sorts of allegations were being brought against the kindergartens due to lack of policy. He also said 75 per cent of the kindergartens now teach upto Class Ten but the students were not allowed to appear in SSC examination from them.

The association president demanded that benefits given to primary teachers be given to 35,000 teachers of the kindergartens also.

The other association leaders present at the conference were Golam Nabi, Dr Shadat Ali Sheikh, Abdur Razzak, Nazmul Huq Talukder, MA Manna, Johara Akhter Chowdhury and Mrs Nurjahan Huq.

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## SKOP threatens to launch action programme Sept 6

By Staff Correspondent

Khan, Mesbuddin Ahmed, Shafiqur Rahman Majumder and Alhaj Rahmatullah Chowdhury.

Their demands include immediate implementation of Pay Commission report, formation of Wage Commission, changing of office timing (7 am to 2 pm), resumption of closed factories and reinstatement of retrenched workers and employees in offices and factories.

The workers and employees would however observe countrywide demonstration on August 21 and the central leaders will visit different

parts of the country from August 26 to 30 for mobilisation of their workers.

The leaders asked at the rally why should the workers agitate to realise their demands as it is one of the pre-election pledge of the incumbent Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The leaders also demands an end to repression of the workers by owners.

A fresh programme would be announced on September 6 after the national convention of SKOP, the speakers said.

## HERE and THERE

ment of democracy is possible under presidential system.

PNP organised a rally at its Magbazar central office with Idris Rahman, city unit president in the chair. It was addressed by the party Chairman Sheikh Sawkat Hossain Nilu, Secretary General A T M Golam Mawla Chowdhury, and Mustafizur Rahman, Syed Kamrul Islam, and Ali Emran.

The leaders demanded to avoid referendum the save huge public money.

### Garib Dal

Bangladesh Garib Dal in a workers rally on Monday at Babupur demanded adequate Food for Workers Programme for the poor of the country.

The rally was presided over by party's President Sheikh Joynal Abedin, NAP (Bhasan) Chairman Noor Mohammad Kazi was present as chief guest at the rally.

General Secretary Yunus Ali Mian and Organising Secretary Abdur Rahman also addressed the rally.