

Dhaka Day by Day

Hunting Down The Warblers With The Lens

by Fayza Haq

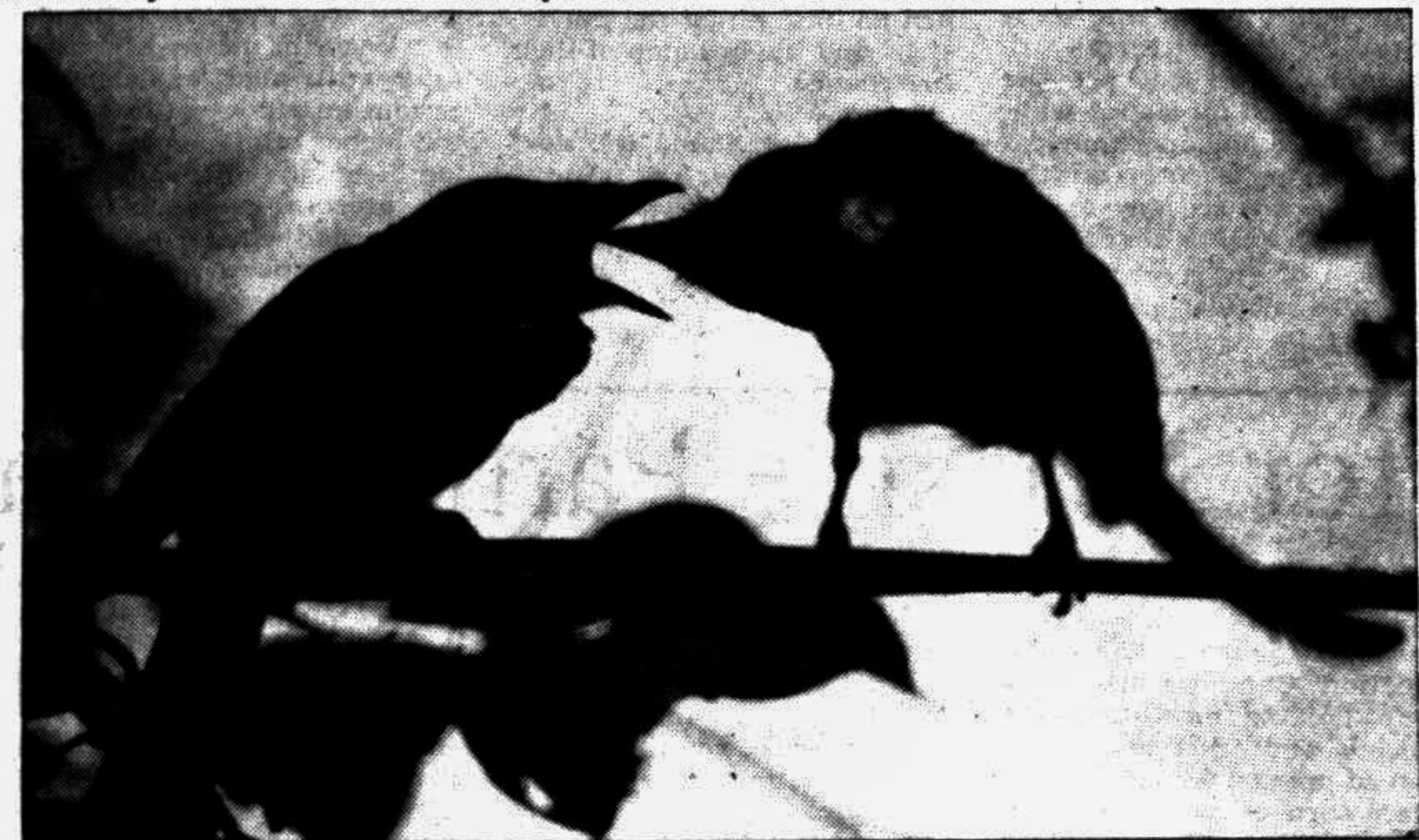
How many of us are aware of the numerous species of birds in Bangladesh? Kazi Akhtaruzzaman (Nawab) has taken beautiful photographs of at least eighty species of these. He began the photography of birds in a big way after his marriage in '88. He began taking pictures from around his in-laws' Comilla village, which is indeed idyllic and peaceful. It is, in fact, an exotic setting for the exquisite pictures that he takes.

At this village he came across birds which were both unique and conventional and decided to specialise in bird photography. While he is interested in photography he now knows a lot about the behaviour of the birds. His hobby, at present, is to take pictures of birds, for which he is ready to walk miles. Occasionally he has to

her, on the birds alone? "It is a fact that I visit her only occasionally, and that too I am taken up with birds. But Farha, my wife, is very understanding and encouraging. There were times when I came home after a whole day's trek without shooting any pictures and I have lied to my wife, who would get extremely disappointed that my efforts were an exercise in futility," he narrated.

Nawab hopes to exhibit his pictures but he needs a year or more to acquire additional photographs for his collection. He hopes then that either the Alliance Francaise or the Goethe Institut or some such sympathetic foreign organisation will help him out.

He has always been interested in pictures. He used to roam around with his father as a



A morsel for the young one

spend as much as three days at a stretch, before he gets the picture that he is after.

He has taken hundreds of pictures of birds since '88. Among them are at least five species of kingfishers, ten of storks, three of woodpeckers, twelve of snipes and at least three varieties of cuckoos.

The taking of pictures is quite adventurous as you may run into trouble, Nawab informed me. He goes to remote areas carrying expensive cameras and equipment. On one occasion, when he went somewhere in Comilla to get pictures of the hatching of storks, he was almost ready for the shots, when he was warned to clear away, for fear of miscreants.

He has spent a huge amount of money on the running of the camera alone. His main intention is to compile a book. The government has used some of his photographs in "Meet Bangladesh" poster series. In 1990 he sold nine pictures to "Progoti Insurance" for a calendar on birds. He wants to bring out a manual on the birds of Bangladesh, with pictures and information on birds. It will be mainly pictorial with short profiles on different birds. He recounted with gratitude how Mr K M Amecr of Padma Color appreciated his works and introduced him to interested parties. "Mr Amecr himself is a photographer of high standing," he said.

Nawab is looking for someone to finance this project. It will involve expensive paper and will cost a tidy fortune. The book will have educational and tourism value, and will be the first comprehensive work on local birds of Bangladesh.

"Birds are always restless and sensitive. I have to keep a few people to control any passerby so that they do not disturb the bird. I have to make sure that the bird is unaware of my presence. Often I have to wait a long time for the necessary light and correct view," he confided.

Does his wife resent the fact that he spends so much of time, when he is in Comilla, to see

child in the village, drinking in the exotic scenes. He was also intrigued by photography which he taught himself by asking experts questions.

"There are few pictures on birds in the country and yet these birds are so beautiful and rare. They should be captured and preserved," he commented.

"I've had more trouble with my bird pictures than with the police firing during political upheavals, when I did press coverage. You need a lot of patience to get your work done. Again, the picture has to be necessarily beautiful and unusual to attract the attention of an exhibition visitor or a reader of a manual on birds. I have not dealt with the migratory birds that come in winter. Even without counting them there are 300 different kinds of birds. So far I have covered only 80 species," Nawab narrated.

"At first my knowledge of birds was not much. For three years now I have concentrated on birds. Every three months I save money and stay 15 days or a month taking these specialised pictures," he added.

"It is a pity that there are no bird reserves or anything to protect the birds. There should be a control on the killing of these birds in winter," he insisted.

While he uses local people, who tell him where the birds inhabit, he utilises telephoto lens of 500 to 1000 m.m. He usually borrows the cameras from his friends who are professionals. He is specially indebted to the inhabitants of Khoshbash for their cooperation, without which he could not have achieved much.

Nawab has been taking pictures for 20 years. He has worked for newspapers like "Dainik Janapat" and "Dainik Swadesh" as well as a cultural weekly "Purbani". He is a professional photographer but prefers to be called an amateur. He also specialises in studio photography. He now works in a studio and deals with various reproduction work.

BCL calls countrywide demonstration tomorrow

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (A-A) has called for a country-wide students demonstration on Saturday protesting the armed attack on Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

The programme was announced at a rally held in front of the Jatiya Press Club Thursday, organised by the Chhatra League protesting attack on their leader.

It was addressed by BCL President Shahe Alam and General Secretary Ashim Kumar Uktal, demanding judicial inquiry into the incident.

They demanded resignation of the Home Minister and said that they would resist all acts of terrorism.

Chhatra League leaders warned that it would not hesitate to oust "new autocracy" from the country.

They alleged that former Jatiya Party's armed musclemen, now in BNP led the attack and were responsible for it.

Earlier, leaders and activists of the organisation brought out a procession from the Dhaka University campus and converged at the venue of the rally.

Tk 10 lakh drug seized: 5 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

The Narcotics Control Department on Thursday seized a large quantity of drugs worth about Taka 10 lakh and arrested five persons in this connection in separate raids in the city.

A special team of the department raided city locations at Ananda Bazar, Fakirapool and Bahabo and seized a total of 105 grams of heroin, six kilograms of "ganja" and another 50 grams of "charash".

The arrested persons are Abdul Majid, Hazera Khatun, Rokya, Nasim and Anwar.

The arrested persons have been charged under the Narcotics Control Act of 1990 and handedover to court authorities.

Nazma Jesmin's contributions recalled

Tributes were paid to noted novelist, playwright and researcher Dr. Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury at a discussion held Wednesday at German Cultural Institute to mark her second death anniversary, reports BSS.

Organised by Dhaka Little Theatre, the function was presided over by Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Director General of Bangia Academy Prof. Mohammad Harun-ur Rashid, Mrs. Basanti Guha Thakurata, Syed Abul Maksud, Dr. Ashekur Rahman Khan, Mustafa Majid and Morshedul Islam discussed various aspects of the life and works of the late authoress.

Speakers recalled the contribution of Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury in our contemporary literature and said she played a significant role in organising children and youth for exploring their latent talent.

Death condoled

The officers and employees of the Environment Directorate at a meeting in Dhaka Thursday expressed their deep grief at the death of S H M Abul Bashar former Director General of the Directorate, reports BSS.

Friday

- Morning Session**
- 8.00 Opening announcement
 - 8.05 Al-Quran, Programme summary
 - 8.10 News in Bangla
 - 8.15 Documentary film: Zoo 2000
 - 8.40 Natun Kuri
 - 10.00 News in English
 - 10.05 Film: Animation Special
 - 11.15 Moner Mukury
 - 12.30 Programme summary, closing
- Evening Session**
- 3.00 Opening announcement
 - 3.05 Al-Quran, programme summary
 - 3.15 Recitation from the Tripitak
 - 3.20 Alor Dishari
 - 3.40 Movie of the Week
 - 5.20 News in Bangla
 - 5.30 Sport programme
 - 6.45 Jibon o Projukti
 - 7.05 Malancha: Song-Programme
 - 8.00 News in Bangla
 - 8.30 Comedy series: The Comedy Show
 - 9.00 News in English
 - 10.00 News in English
 - 10.30 Film: L.A. Law
 - 11.30 Film: The News
 - 11.45 Closing

Film Censor Board reconstituted

The government has reconstituted a 21-member Bangladesh Film Censor Board for a period of one year, according to an official source in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

The Board has been reconstituted with the Information Secretary as its chairman and the Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board as its Vice-Chairman.

Other members of the Board are: Begum Selina Rahman MP, Mohammad Barkatullah Bulu MP, representative of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs (not below the rank of Deputy Secretary) representative of the Home Ministry (not below the rank of Deputy Secretary), representative of the Foreign Ministry (not below the rank of Director), Managing Director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, President of

Bangladesh Film Producers Association, President of Bangladesh Film Artists Association, President of Bangladesh Film Directors Association, President of Bangladesh Film Distributors Association, BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed, Jatiya Press Club General Secretary Shawkat Mahmood, DUJ General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, Editor of the weekly Tarakalok Sajjad Kadir, Syed Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Senior Staff Reporter of the Dainik Inqilab, Prof. Mohammad Afsar Uddin of the Department of Social Science, Dhaka University, Artist Zahid Hossain Chunnun,

Social Worker Mostafa Zaman Abbasi and Prof. Begum Jahannara Haq, Associate Professor of Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University.

HERE and THERE

Nezam-e-Islam Party

Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam Party called upon the people to take part in the September 15 referendum with a view to establishing parliamentary democracy.

The party said only parliamentary system of government can ensure democratic process, establishment of fundamental rights of the people and face the enormous problems confronted the country.

Certificate awarding ceremony

Twenty Eight World Vision of Bangladesh staff received certificates from Prof. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Education and Culture, at Bangladesh Meteorological Department Wednesday for completion of a two-week course on Disaster Management at World Vision head office, Dhaka. This course was conducted by South Asian Disaster Management Center in cooperation with Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok.

James Hilton the Executive Director of World Vision of Bangladesh said that such training would help the staff face disaster situation more effectively in future. He assured the minister of World Vision's prompt response in future disasters.

5-party alliance

Five-party alliance on Thursday expressed concern over the incident of attempt on the life of Sheikh Hasina and clash between the workers of Awami League and BNP.

In a statement signed by Khalequzzaman Bhuyan the alliance urged both the parties to show patience for upholding democratic values.

BCU

Bangladesh Chhatra Union on Thursday held a rally in front of National Press Club protesting the decision of Prague authorities to shift the headquarter of World's Students' organisation in US.

Presided over by organisation's President Nasiruddoza, the rally was addressed among others by General Secretary Ruhin Hassan Prince.

They said that the decision was a blow to the students community across the world.

Later a memorandum was handed over to Czech Embassy in Dhaka.

Muslim League

Bangladesh Muslim League on Thursday condemned the authorities for exclusion of the name of many valid voters from the voters' list and putting the name of Prime Minister at top of the list in Dhaka-5 Constituency. Compiled by ASZ

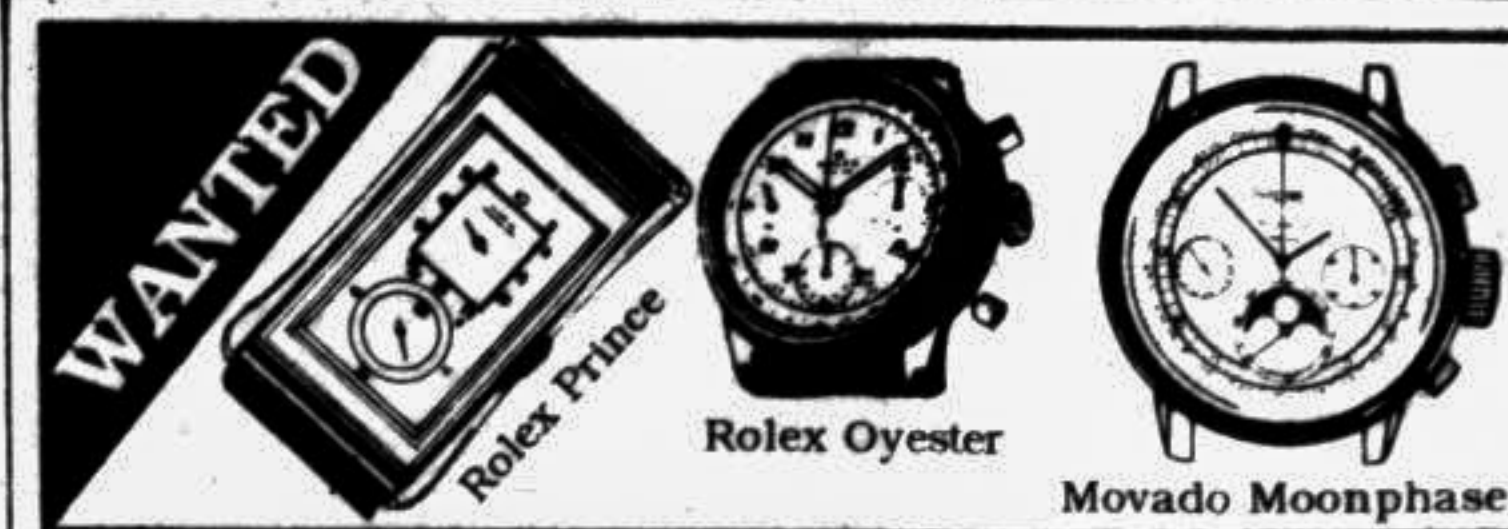
DUTA distributes relief to five cyclone affected schools

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has distributed relief materials to five schools of the cyclone affected areas of Cox's Bazar Sadar, Anwara, Boalkhali, Sitakunda and Rowzan upazilas, reports UNB.

DUTA General Secretary Prof. Shahadat Ali handed over

the relief materials which included tents, tubewells, furniture and microscopes, says a press release.

The schools are: Naptikhal High School, Char Peer Aowlia High School, Mooktakesthi Girls' High School, Panthasheela High School and Rowzan Suresh School.



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BNP MP escapes attempt on life

Redwan Ahmed, a BNP MP, escaped unhurt from an alleged attempt on his life by political rivals Wednesday, party sources said, reports UNB.

They alleged that Awami League activists had attacked him while he was riding in a Pajero jeep at Kandirpar in Comilla town. He escaped unhurt but his vehicle was damaged.

Redwan, who returned as an independent MP from a Comilla constituency, had joined the ruling BNP on August 12.

JCD celebrates Jamiruddin's victory

Dhanmondi thana unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Thursday brought out a procession celebrating the victory of Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar in the by-election of Dhaka-9 (Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur) constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

According to a BNP press release, a procession of about 1000 Chhatra Dal leaders and workers paraded different roads of Dhanmondi thana and dispersed at the BNP central office.

IGP visits injured Police Constable

By Staff Correspondent

The Inspector General of Police on Thursday visited the injured Police Constable undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Constable Ahmed Kader was earlier injured while on duty on Wednesday night at the Science Laboratory Police Box when some miscreants opened gunfire at him. He received bullet injuries on his abdomen and was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

ECONOMIST REQUIRED

The World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh requires the services of a well trained Bangladeshi Economist to be recruited as a Local Consultant. The contract will be initially for a period of nine months and is renewable. The resource person will work as part of a team of three resident Economists and is expected to make a significant contribution to the building up of a comprehensive socio-economic data base and setting up of a quantitative framework for macro-economic analysis and projections. Data gathering and compilation will therefore be an important part of the assignment. Candidates with at least a Masters degree in Economics from a foreign University, good academic results and less than 36 years of age are encouraged to apply. Adequate knowledge of the Bangladesh economy and local institutions and sources of data, sufficient familiarity with computer-based data processing and econometric techniques and some research experience are important requirements. Candidates are requested to apply to the Economics Unit of the World Bank Resident Mission, 3A Parkside, Dhaka with detailed curriculum vita and evidence of qualifications and experience by September 25, 1991. The selected candidate is expected to commence work by mid-October.

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