

Dhaka Day by Day

Cotton Sari and 'Daal Bhat' for Progress

by Fayza Haq

Khushi Kabir, in her 'Nijera Kori' deals with 70,000 people in groups of 3,000 in the villages. She has 250 graduates to help her with her work.

Khushi is a graduate of Fine Arts from the Dhaka College of Arts and Crafts. She did her earlier schooling at Karachi. But after the Liberation she felt she should get involved in the future and progress of the underprivileged.

In 1972 she joined BRAC. She was Dhaka based and was writing reports and collecting materials, assisting the director. "After the Liberation a lot of young people wanted to do something constructive to rebuild the nation. At that time people could not conceive the notion of a city woman living in remote rural areas," she recounted.

"I felt that the work in Dhaka was not as satisfying. It was not the real work. I then went off to Hoar in Sunamganj. I had to find out from the people what their problems were," Khushi said. Even though she was a single urban woman she travelled by bus, launch and train. She accepted from roadside restaurants. She ate 'daal bhat' and whatever else the village people were kind enough to offer. She bathed in the pond. The villagers really accepted her. She sometimes walked 19 miles to reach the next village.

Khushi would go to the village, talk to the poor men and women, and encouraged them to form their own groups towards self-reliance. In the daytime she would sit with the women's groups while in the evenings she would deal with the men.

"People at that time had preconceived notions. They were very male and middle-class. They thought that women were only capable of sewing and doing things within the house. They felt they could not get involved in the mainstream of development," Khushi informed me.

She and two other women then wrote a book to expose the real situation of the rural women. "Exploding Some Myths" was the name of this book. "For me the village was the best university for learning about development. It was a learning of real life and what people are all about. I really got close to people," Khushi commented.

So far she has written 15 evaluation papers for different seminars both at home and abroad. She prefers conducting session through a participatory method of dialogue. She jots down points and elaborates on them. "I am more a field person and an activist rather than a writer of books. I can reach the illiterate through my actions rather than my writing," she insisted.

In '80 she joined 'Nijera Kori' which was then a small women's organisation. It was registered but there was no one running it. There had been a Canadian woman supervising it but she had left.

Did her husband, Kamaluddin, help? "When

I was married, my thinking and lifestyle was already set. I married somebody who had worked with me for many years. There was no interference from either side in continuing with our own work. He is very supportive. Even in the house he takes a lot of responsibilities. We have no fixed roles," she elaborated.

Her husband who has a Sociology background is working in an NGO "Association For Realisation Of Basic Needs." They have a daughter, Rohini.

What does she think of the social work being done in the country? Khushi sharply pointed out that there was a difference between social work and development work.

"Social work does not look at the totality of development — social, economic, cultural and political. Development work, however looks at everything in its totality," she remarked.

"Most of the people in the country are very poor. They are not able to guarantee their food, shelter and clothes. Education and health becomes a luxury for them. We have a commitment to those people who have not had the same privileges as us," Khushi said.

Development is an ongoing process, Khushi insisted. "We are involved in the process of helping people to stand on their own for self-reliance. We form groups or collectives at all the villages. We are now working in 37 upazilas, in 17 districts, in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi."

"We get funding from organisations abroad like Christian Aid, EZE (Germany), Inter Pares (Canada), the Ford Foundation and the Dutch Government," she informed.

"Our 250 graduates, posted at all the areas, live and work with the people and help them form a group. This group discusses the problems they face and what steps they must take to overcome this. They save every week," Khushi said. They then put the saving in a collective fund.

These co-operatives or "sanities" take up other issues such as dowry, wife-beating, desertion, divorce, rape, wages, and "khas land". They attend to both social and economic interests. The groups are also involved in the production of paddy, fish, vegetables and other local crops. They deal with small trade, crafts, and animal husbandry.

"They use the cultural groups which the landless have formed of their own as a tool for creating awareness among the masses. The village has always had 'shalish'. 'Nijera Kori' groups are creating an alternative because justice is not given to them in the traditional system. Because women's groups are strong the acceptance of women as equal partners in the process of self-reliance is also an achievement. "Usually women are treated as inferior beings, specially in the villages. Our groups are there to change this perception," Khushi said about her work.



Khushi Kabir: "We have a commitment to those people who have not had the same privilege."



Ambassador of United States William B Milam called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at the Secretariat on Thursday.

Radiation protection ordinance likely to be announced soon

A radiation protection ordinance ensuring safety of the people from different public and private radiation sources was under consideration of the government. Science Secretary Hashimuddin Ahmed has told a gathering of atomic scientists and engineers at Savar, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a reactor operation licence distribution ceremony held at the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) research establishment auditorium at Savar Wednesday. The internationally acceptable licences were given after conclusion of a training programme conducted by local and foreign experts.

Presided over by the chairman of the commission Dr M A Mannan the function was also addressed by the Director General of the research establishment Dr M Sirajul Islam, Director Dr F R Al-Siddique, Reactor Operation Unit Manager Kamal Ahmed and Training Co-ordinator Kazi Obaidul Awal.

JP threatens movement to free Ershad

CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: Jatiya Party leader and former Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud Thursday said his party would launch a movement to get release of the party Chairman H M Ershad and for a fresh general election, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at a hotel, Mahmud said the movement would be in accordance with democratic practices and confined to meetings and processions. Vice-Chairman of the party Mahbulul Haq Dulan, former MPs, Salahuddin Mahmud, Nazrul Islam, Ibrahim Bin Khalil, Serajul Islam and local party leaders were present.

Anisul Islam Mahmud claimed that the last parliamentary election was not free and fair and all the cases against former President Ershad were false and fabricated. We will fight against injustices meted out to our party and party leaders, he said.

Jatiya Party is scheduled to hold Chittagong divisional conference and a public meeting on October 5 at Laldighi Maidan.

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Egyptian envoy calls on PM

The newly appointed Egyptian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mohammed Kamal Gohary El Meligy, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat office in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

Meligy said Egypt and Bangladesh have close cooperation in various fields including trade, economy, culture and education sectors.

The envoy said the government and the people of Egypt wished continued progress of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Prime Minister conveyed her greetings to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and wished continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Egypt.

France to help implement development projects

The French Deputy Foreign Minister Alain Vivien Wednesday praised the role played by Bangladesh in regional and international fields and said that his Government was closely watching developments in Bangladesh, according to a message received in Dhaka Thursday.

The Deputy Minister who called on Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman in his hotel suite said that his country was keenly interested in the development requirements of Bangladesh.

He recalled the visit of Madam Mitterand to Bangladesh and her efforts to mobilise French public opinion to extend disaster assistance. A French Parliamentary Group was also studying ways

and means of further developing bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh.

France had always been positive in responding to the development needs of Bangladesh.

The Science Secretary said that he would take necessary steps to expedite the process for the radiation protection ordinance.

Lauding the activities of the BAEC scientists he said that the services rendered by them should be well publicised. BAEC chairman Dr M A Mannan said the passage of a long awaited radiation protection ordinance was necessary for safe management of radiation sources in the country.

He said that the proposed ordinance was drafted by the commission about a decade ago. He urged the government to pass it soon.

Dr Mannan underscored the need for public awareness of different aspects of radiation including the safety of radiation processing of foods and other items.

The recipients of the licences were Chief Engineer Moazzem Hossain, Principal Engineer Kamal Ahmed, Senior Engineers Kazi Fariduddin Ahmed, Zulkarnain, Manzurul Haque, Mahbubur Rahman and Assistant Engineer Enamul Haque.



- Morning Session**
- 8.00 Opening announcement. Al-Quran, programme summary
 - 8.10 News in Bangla
 - 8.15 Drama series: The children of Green Know
 - 9.20 Natun Kurt
 - 10.00 News in English.
 - 10.30 Full-length Bangla film: Rani Khaler Sako
 - 11.15 Moner Mukury
 - 12.30 Close down
- Evening Session**
- 3.00 Opening announcement. Al-Quran, programme summary
 - 3.12 Recitation from the Tripitak
 - 3.15 Alor Dishari
 - 3.40 Movie of the week
 - 5.20 News in Bangla
 - 5.30 Sports programme
 - 6.45 Shikhhangan (Distance education programme)
 - 7.05 Sangita
 - 8.00 News in Bangla
 - 8.30 Film — The Cosby Show
 - 9.00 World drama
 - 10.00 News in English
 - 10.30 Film — LA Law
 - 11.30 Khabar/The News.
 - 11.40 Saturday's programme, verses from the Quran, National Flag and National Anthem
 - 11.45 Close down

Dishonest traders to be punished

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Thursday said that stern action would be taken against dishonest traders who were out to create artificial crisis of essential commodities in local markets, reports BSS.

He was addressing three separate public gatherings at Goaljhar, Tetolia and Ratonbari in Panchagarh.

The Law Minister said that none had the legal right to create anarchy among the peace loving people in the name of transport strike. He said the democratic government would not hesitate to take appropriate measures against the trouble makers.

He assured that the rights and privileges of common people would be established through greater unity and consensus.

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DFFP(BA)—7917-29/9

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer(R&H) Dhaka Road Construction Division -2, Dhaka.

Notice

It is notified for information of all concerned that by approval of the Ministry of Communication of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh measures are being taken to realise toll on vehicles plying over 'Taraghat Bridge' of Roads & Highways Directorate on Dhaka-Ancha Road at the undermentioned rates from 6-10-91. Cooperation of all plying over the bridge is earnestly sought in this regard.

Rates of toll

- 1. Truck, Bus, Tankorry Tk. 15/-
- Minibus, Microbus, Pick-up Jeep, Car Tk. 10/-

Note: 1) In case of public transports running on fare such as bus, minibus, truck, tankorry, taxi etc. up & down on the same route more than once daily the toll will be collected once for up and once for down only.

2) When plying empty no toll will be collected on such commercial motor vehicles.

by order **Sheikh Rabiul Islam** Executive Engineer(R&H) Dhaka Road Construction Division-2, Dhaka.

DFFP(G)1156-1/10 G-626

Institute of Bangladesh Studies Rajshahi University

Advertisement No : 7/91 (E) Date : 30.9.91

Employment Notice

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for 2 (two) posts of Fellows (in the rank & status of Assistant Professor) on substantive basis in the subjects/fields noted below in the scale of pay Tk. 2800-125-4425/- (scale subject to change).

Subjects/Fields

1. Sociology/Anthropology
2. Political Science
3. Economics
4. Geography/Rural Development
5. Law

Qualifications & experience

(a) Candidates must have a Master's degree with at least one first class either at the Honours or at the post-Graduate level or candidates without Honours degree must have at least a Second Class at both degree pass and Master's previous levels in addition to a first class at the post-Graduate level and no third class in any of the above degrees.

(b) Candidates must have at least 3 (three) years' teaching experience at the Honours and post-Graduate levels or 3 (three) years' research experience in an approved institute of research or three years' teaching and/or research experience prescribed above.

OR

Candidate having Ph.D. or its equivalent/comparable degree from a recognised University or Honours/Master's/M.Litt./M.Phil. degrees from a recognised European/North American/Australian University will be eligible for appointment provided that he has no third class/division in any of his/her examinations.

Ten copies of applications in prescribed form (forms to be received from the office of the undersigned personally or on written requests along with a self-addressed envelope with stamps worth Tk. 4.00 affixed) will be received by the undersigned on or before November 30, 1991. Applications must be submitted along with a Bank Draft of Tk. 50/- (fifty) only in favour of the Secretary Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi University and with attested copies of certificates of all examinations as well as publications of the candidates.

Candidates, already in employment must apply through their employers who have to guarantee that the candidate, if selected, will be released within a reasonable time.

Md. Ziad Aly Secretary

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Quick disposal of building plans directed

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian has directed the concerned officials of RAJUK to expedite the disposal of building plans already submitted for approval as per rules and ensure welfare of the common people, reports BSS.

The minister was talking to the visitors in RAJUK headquarters Thursday.

Democracy to be at stake if new govt fails : Huda

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda Thursday called upon the Editors to play a responsible role through their newspapers in nation building activities in

the democratic atmosphere, reports BSS.

"In democracy the responsibility of the press is immense," the minister said while addressing as the chief guest at reception accorded to the new office-bearers of Bangladesh Council of Editors in the city by the Bureau Chiefs Council.

The Bureau Chiefs Council is an organisation of the Dhaka-based bureau chiefs of the newspapers published from outside the capital. Presided over by A K M Abdul Malek President of the Council the reception was also addressed by Vice-Presidents of the Council of Editors Alhaj Liaquat Ali, Habibur Rahman Sheikh and Prof Abdul Wahab, its Secretary General A Q M Zainul Abedeen and Treasurer Abul Qasem Majumdar.

The Information Minister said the newspapers had the right to criticise the government but that should not be aimed at unnecessarily maligning the new democratic government.

"Everybody should remember that if the new government cannot function properly, the democracy in the country will be at stake," he said.

Barrister Huda urged the editors to develop a sense of competition among the newspapers by raising their standard.

Nuruddin's Qul khwani today

'Qul-khwani' of Nuruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a former Director-General of Food will be held today (Friday) after Aar prayer at 4.30 pm at his residence at New Manston, Isaphant Colony, Dhaka, reports BSS.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office on Thursday forecast rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind with one or two moderately heavy falls likely at many places over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi experienced the highest 31 mm rainfall from 6 am to 6 pm Thursday which was 28 mm at Dhaka, 26 mm at Faridpur, 25 mm at Bogra, 15 mm at Chandpur, 13 mm at Srimangal, 8 mm at Peral, 7 mm at Kutubdia, 4 mm at Satkhira, 3 mm each at Comilla, Bhola and Khulna, 2 mm at Jessore and 1 mm each at Cox's Bazar and Ishurdi during that period.

Sun set at Dhaka on Friday at 5-44 pm and sun rise Saturday at 5-52 am.

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

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in degree Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| | Max | Min | 9 am | 6 pm |
| Dhaka | 30.7 | 24.5 | 86 | 81 |
| Chittagong | 33.5 | 26.0 | 80 | 78 |
| Rajshahi | 32.2 | 25.5 | 78 | 95 |
| Khulna | 33.2 | 27.4 | 74 | 93 |
| Sylhet | 34.3 | 25.8 | 82 | 82 |
| Comilla | 33.2 | 26.0 | 84 | 97 |
| Tangail | 32.5 | 27.3 | 83 | 88 |
| Barisal | 31.0 | 24.5 | 92 | 93 |
| Satkhira | 33.0 | 27.3 | 81 | 92 |
| Ishurdi | 31.0 | 27.0 | 92 | 95 |
| Bogra | 32.7 | 27.0 | 89 | 86 |
| Dinajpur | 34.3 | 25.6 | 82 | 83 |
| Peril | 31.5 | 22.0 | 83 | 88 |

WANTED

CARE-International, Bangladesh

Invites applications from qualified women for the position of **Food Diversification Officer** for its five regional Sub-Offices located in Mymensingh, Rangpur, Jessore, Bogra and Comilla.

In this position, the incumbent will be responsible for the implementation of female education programs undertaken by local organizations. She will be expected to appraise applications, monitor on-going activities and report upon their progress.

Requirements

- minimum, graduate in any discipline
- minimum, two years working experience
- proven aptitude in monitoring and appraisal of rural development projects, preferably in the field of education
- Good to excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Ability to undertake field visits within the assigned working area

Applications must include

- (1) resume (detailed biodata)
- (2) one passport sized photograph
- (3) expected gross salary mentioning preferred place of posting
- (4) must enclose a 1/2 page English answer to the question "how I would promote education for women and girls in Bangladesh"

Completed applications should reach GPO Box 226 Dhaka latest by October 31st 1991.

Candidates short-listed on the basis of initial scrutiny and suitability for the position will be called for an interview.

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