

Dhaka Day by Day

'But I Don't Have An Uncle'

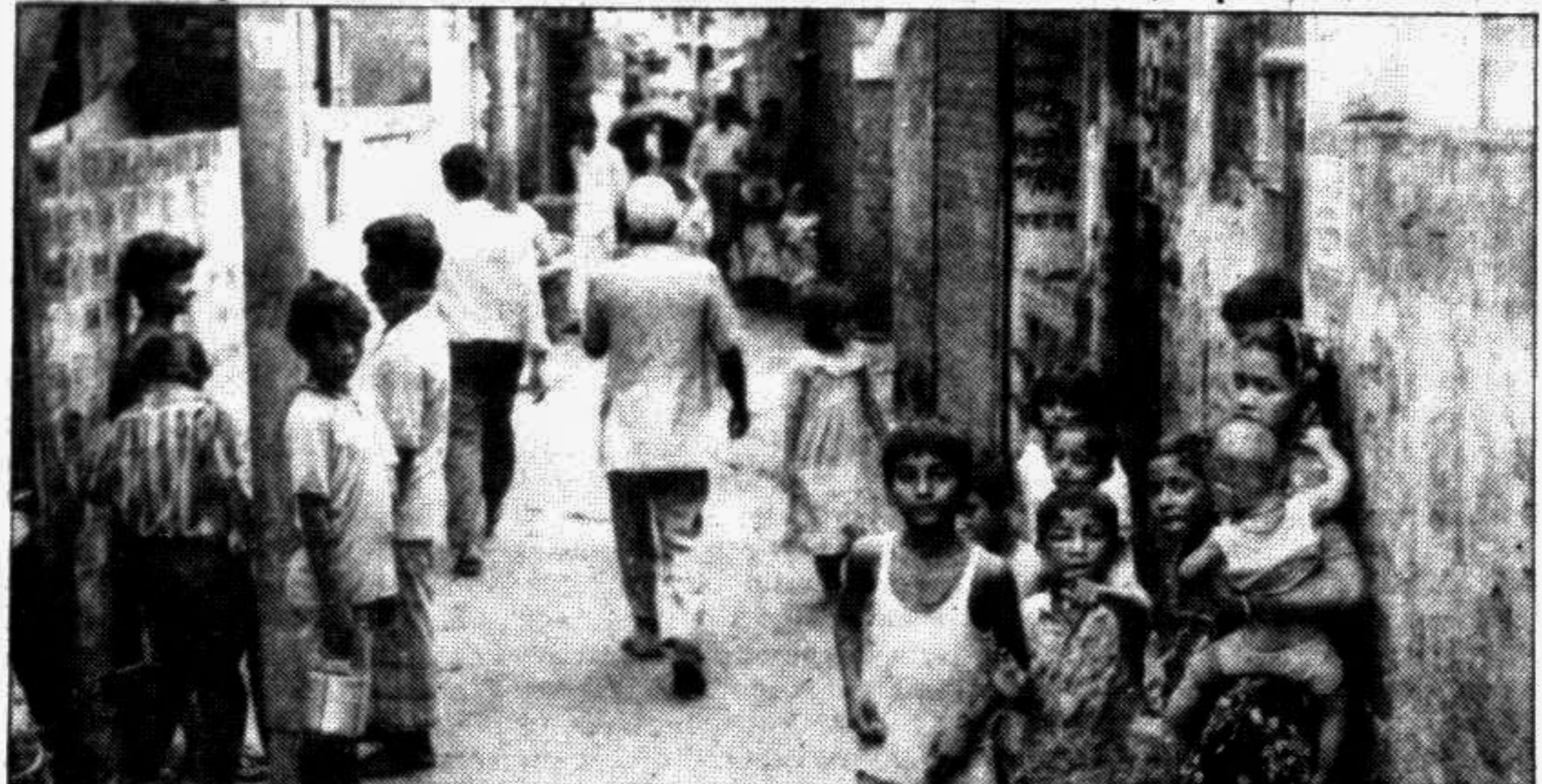
by Saifur Rahman

Sunlight often can't reach the ground, only shadows raid the narrow lane where two rickshaws can hardly pass. It's like hundreds of other lanes in Dhaka with a lot of incomplete buildings and overburdened with a huge population, but with a little difference. Named 'Garam Panir Goli' which means 'Hot Water Lane' — it is now quite a matured place with a large population most of whom are bachelors struggling hard to maintain or even find a source of income to support their respective families. No one particularly remembers how this funny name developed or what its previous name was, except a few oldtimers who belong to this locality.

scale of 1350-2250-2750 Tk. Jalal, who recently completed his MSc in Physics, is not at all happy with this job, but it still gives him a sense of security considering the prevailing crisis in the job market, particularly when he thinks about his other friends, like Tapan, Mahbub and others, who still can not find a job.

Tapan, also living with Jalal in the same mess, now earns some money from private tuition, which provides him his living costs. But still, Tapan also thinks himself lucky when he thinks about his other friends, who still depend on their parents.

With five students, Tapan earns about two



Hot Water Lane: A 'messy' life within. —Star photo

Located beside one of Dhaka's most populous and busiest places, Motijheel Commercial Area, the heart of Bangladesh, the Hot Water Lane's most inhabitants are somehow involved with this business centre. A large number of them are employed in many private business organisations, banks, insurance companies etc. Among the inhabitants of this tiny lane, most began their working life staying in this lane, a life full of struggle. These people, after completion of their education, join other bachelors in the mess, where they share a room and eat from the same cook.

A seat in these messes costs only Tk 250 to 500 with different conditions. The food charge can be limited within Tk 600 to 750. So, the monthly cost of living varies from Tk 900 to 1200. A lot of inhabitants earn a monthly package of Tk 2000 to 3000. Some of these people save some money from this and send to their parents, who by love and sorrow, provided the cost of education often by selling their valuable land.

"How do you save from this?" "I save because I have to. Their is no alternative. I don't have any choice," said Jalal Sarkar, a former student of Jahangirnagar University, currently working in a government primary school, as an assistant teacher, recently recruited by the government at the

thousand and five hundred taka, which is not enough. Like the others, Tapan somehow manages. Coming from a district town, Tapan is no more a newcomer in Dhaka, almost managing to make his way, even if it was very difficult in the beginning. Tapan began teaching when he was a student of Jahangirnagar University. At that time he had to come to Dhaka from the campus everyday and had to return in the evening. That was how he used to manage his tough time on the campus. That was how Tapan began to fight against hard realities. But now he has grown confident.

"Now it has become easier. My students manage new tuition for me. But in the early stage, I was very nervous. I couldn't find confidence in me."

"How will the next time run?" Tapan replied "I don't know. This is not a bad job, at least I don't have to answer to anyone. I can move freely, without any anxiety. Time isn't bad, even though I don't think that it will be wise to continue in this way."

"What is the alternative?" "I don't know, but some arrangement should be made, on which I will be able to depend for the rest of my life."

"A job can be the solution. But the problem is who will give me the job? I don't have any uncle!"

Lalon Shah's works to be preserved

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum on Thursday said the present government was committed to preserving the contributions of the great sons of our cultural arena, reports BSS.

She was addressing the annual programme of Prachee Shilpi Gosthi at Shilpakala Academy. She mentioned that necessary steps would be taken for educating and informing our future generations about the contributions of Lalon Shah and other cultural personalities of the country's cultural heritage.

Presided over by Director General of Shilpakala Academy Kamal Lohani, the function was also addressed by Additional Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry I U Malik.

CCPB demands import of crushed salt

The Council of Chamber Presidents, Bangladesh at a meeting Thursday demanded of the government to arrange import of crushed salt through districtwise quota for checking its abnormal price rise, reports UNB.

CCPB expressed concern over reported appointment of salt dealers by MPs and termed it "undemocratic".

The meeting, held a FBCCI auditorium with CCPB President Abul Ahsan in the chair, took stock of the country's economic situation and called upon the government to solve prevailing problems, a press release said.

The participants said country's trade and commerce cannot prosper if chambers are not allowed to function properly.

B.Sc Ag(Hons) exam results published

The results of B.Sc. Ag.(Hons) final examination of Bangladesh Agricultural University for the year 1988, held in the month of March 1991, were published recently, reports BSS.

A total of 224 examinees have been announced to have passed in the aforesaid examination.

Import of foreign books banned

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10: Minister for Forest, Fisheries, Livestock and Environment Abdullah Al-Noman Thursday said the government had decided to stop import of foreign books excepting those required for research and reference, reports BSS.

A decision to this effect has already been taken at cabinet level, he added.

The minister was inaugurating a ten-day long book fair at the Chittagong Divisional Library Auditorium here this evening. The function was also attended by Serajul Islam MP and Begum Rozy Kabir MP. Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong A R Khan presided over the function.

Stressing the need for flourishing of national culture, history and tradition, he called upon the writers, poets and researchers to build up their writings with contents taking from people's life, he said, if we are to know ourselves we must build up our literature with the contents around us.

Noman said the government decision to stop import of

books which are not in conformity with our culture and heritage, will help flourish our own literature and culture.

He called upon the publishing to produce books with minimum cost so that general readers can reach them. He also urged the educated people to read more and more books to

expand the horizon of their knowledge. Without reading books and other publications one cannot acquire knowledge, he added.

A R Khan stressed the need for producing books at reasonable cost so that poor people could read them. The book fair is being participated by 24 renowned publishers of the country.

Postage stamp on Shaheed Jahad released

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday formally released a Taka-two denomination postage stamp commemorating the first death anniversary of Shaheed K M Naziruddin Jahad who sacrificed his life in the movement for democracy on this day last year, reports BSS.

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BNPPP meet Oct 12

Bangladesh Nationalist Party Parliamentary Party will hold a meeting on October 12 at 3 pm in the committee room No-1 of Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

All members BNPPP have been requested to attend the meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TOEFL EXAMINEES

Examinees who register for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in Bangladesh will be required to present a valid passport as identification, beginning with the November 16, 1991 test administration. No other form of identification will be accepted at test centers in this country.

Please note that no candidates will be allowed to take TOEFL without a valid passport beginning with November 16 TOEFL examination.

TOEFL Office
Princeton, N.J. U.S.A.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Dhaka during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Friday, reports UNB.

Met office said weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. South west monsoon has withdrawn from northern and central part of Bangladesh and is likely to withdraw from rest of the country within the next 24 hours, Met office added.

Meanwhile, Rangpur experienced the highest 15 mm rainfall during the last 24 hours till 6 pm today. Feni and Rajshahi had 12 mm each, Bogra 8, Chittagong and Jessore 7, Faridpur 6, Ishurdi 4 and Khepupara and Dinajpur 2 mm shower during the period.

Thursday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 32.5 Celsius and the minimum 26.2 degrees. Feni recorded the highest temperature 34.3 degree Celsius while Rangpur the lowest 23 degrees.

Percentage of humidity was 71 in the morning and 77 in the evening.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 5-37 pm and rises on Saturday at 5-55 am.

1,500 industrial units sick

The Sick Industries Rehabilitation and Revivification Cell has so far received 1,500 applications from different sick industrial units, located all over the country, reports BSS.

This was stated at a meeting held at the Industries Ministry in Dhaka on Thursday to review the progress of processing of the applications so far received. Industries Secretary and President of the Cell Shaiful Alam presided over the

meeting. The sector-wise breakup of the applications is as follows: engineering-382, chemicals-204, food-385, textiles-386, pharmaceuticals-22, jute-22, rubber-12, services and utility-46 and handloom industrial units-41.

The conveners of different sub-committees, constituted earlier, informed the meeting that these applications were now under review and the reports with definite recommendations on these applications would be submitted within the next two months.

A new sub-committee for different industries was formed at the meeting with the President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry as its convener.

TV Friday

Morning session
8.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, programme summary
8.10 News in Bangla
8.15 Film
8.40 Nutan Kuri
10.00 News in English
10.05 Film
11.15 Moner Mukurey
12.30 Closing

Evening session
3.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, programme summary
3.15 Reading from the Tripitak
3.20 Alor Dishaat
3.40 Movie of the week
5.20 News in Bangla
5.30 Sports programme
6.45 Jiban O Projukti
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 The Cosby Show
9.00 Satarupa
10.00 News in English
10.30 Drama Series: L A Law
11.45 Closing