

# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'Our Diplomacy Has to be More Aggressive'

by Fayza Haq

Sitting in his living room full of bric a bracs from all over the world, Mr Fakhrudin Ahmed, a career diplomat, reminisced about his train trip to Soviet Russia via Mongolia starting from China.

"I found the Chinese self-sufficient in food. I thought this a remarkable progress. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has to import a large quantity of foodgrain. The other factor that I noticed was that the Soviet Union had a lot more political freedom than before. The Soviets spoke to me freely. This was unthinkable 20 years ago. I felt the transformation in the Soviet Union was fantastic," recounted Mr Ahmed.

He believed that the most exciting period in his career was when Queen Elizabeth II came to Dhaka in '83 when he was posted as the High Commissioner in London. He was here in Dhaka to receive the queen.

The other place that struck him as most memorable during his career was Rome. "Of all the capitals of Europe, Rome attracted me most. Everyday when you were driving from

your place of stay to FAO you were passing through roads which carry history of thousands of years. I found the Italians, moreover, very friendly and warm. There were close similarities with the Bengalis. There were no formalities," Mr Ahmed recounted.

The diplomat who has twice been the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and the ambassador for Bangladesh in various European countries said about his stay in Yugoslavia, "I was there during Tito's period. Today I'm sad to see Yugoslavia break up. I was particularly taken up by Tito's role in keeping the non-aligned movement alive."

About Albania he remarked, "I've never seen such a closed country. We lived in a hotel and we were closely followed. They used to criticise every country in Albania — Soviet Union, USA, Western Europe and China. The change that has taken place in Albania today is remarkable."

Talking about interesting episodes and assignments Mr Ahmed said that working for Foreign Affairs after the Liberation was a challenging period. "We were trying to secure membership for Bangladesh in the nonaligned movement and in the UN. We were still not recognised by China, Saudi Arabia or Pakistan. I think this was the most important chapter in Bangladesh diplomacy," he believed.

He joined diplomatic service in '54. He had studied diplomacy and modern history. "In those days apart from the government service there was no other trade or business to join with my qualifications," he said. He admitted that there was the charm too of travelling abroad.

He believed that one of the important factors was that you should be able to project your country and for that you need a lot of tact and understanding. "You should be patient and persevering," he insisted.

Dwelling on the foreign policy of Bangladesh the diplomat said, "We are heavily dependent on foreign aid. We have to develop our trade relations without which we cannot really survive. The greatest challenge for Bangladesh's policy is not only to build up the friendship that we have with all the countries, we have to see that our partners make a meaningful contribution in our economic life. No developing country can say that it can live on its own strength. Assistance would depend on how you project yourself and how you promote your own objective."

He added, "Our diplomacy has to be more aggressive. We cannot expect that others will come and give assistance. We have to go after them. This has to be done with a certain degree of sophistication. We have to convince them that we need their assistance just as much as they

need our diplomatic support. We have to convince them that the moves would also be to their interest."

"We should have a bipartisan approach to our foreign policy. We should see the problems from a national angle and have support of the major political parties. We find bipartisan foreign policy in places like USA and Australia," he added.

He had been an observer in the SAARC team in the Pakistan elections. He said that there was a difference in observing elections in Pakistan and in Bangladesh in a sense that Bangladesh had a caretaker neutral government which was not a party to the elections. This was not the case in Pakistan, he insisted.

"In Pakistan our observation was limited only to a few places and I went to the Rawalpindi area. In Bangladesh there were observers not only from the SAARC region but also observers from the Commonwealth. There were others too from the British and Japanese parliaments, as well as from Washington. The reports in Pakistan varied. But findings in Bangladesh were unanimous," he elaborated.

What made the Bangladesh elections a success, according to Mr Ahmed was, "the confidence that we were able to build among the masses that the caretaker government was neutral. The people felt they could exercise the right to vote freely."

The diplomat is presently off on a monitoring team to Zambia as a member of the Commonwealth group. This has been done at the request of the major political parties in Zambia and at the request of the government. His role is to see that the elections are free and fair.



Mr Fakhrudin Ahmed with his wife.



A rally of workers in city on Monday protesting reckless retrenchment in garment units. — Star photo

# Development of coastal zone being planned

By Staff Correspondent

Environment planning must take into consideration the socio-economic realities of the country in question, Dr Jens Sorensen, US consultant on environment policy analysts and planning said while answering a question on the first day Monday of a two-day workshop on "Environment Planning and Sustainable Development" organised by the United States Information Service (USIS), at the USIS-American Centre auditorium.

This was all the more relevant in Coastal Zone Management (CZM) of Bangladesh where there is a need to integrate environment planning with development planning to save the environment as well as sustain and

strengthen the economy, Dr Sorensen said.

The US consultant is in Bangladesh to draw up a coastal zone management plan for Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi experts and government officials will exchange views on "Land Use and Development" with two American specialists in a live televised World Net Dialogue tomorrow (Wednesday). The hour-long satellite teleconference produced by USIS television will begin at 6:00 pm at the USIS-American Centre auditorium. The American panelist in the programme is Dr Peter Rogers currently the Gordon McKay Professor of Engineering and Professor of

city and regional planning at Harvard University in Cambridge, USA. He will be joined by another US expert on the subject.

Dhaka panelists for the programme will be Dr KB Sajjadur Rasheed, Professor of Geography, University of Dhaka; Dr M A H Pramanik, Director General, Department of Environment and Forests; and Dr K Nizamuddin, Associate Professor of Geography and Director, Environmental Survey Resource Unit, University of Dhaka.

A book exhibition entitled "Environmental Issues: Global Challenges" is on display at the USIS library until October 24. The exhibit is open from 10 am to 5 pm.



Dr. Jens Sorensen, US consultant on environment policy analysis and planning speaking on "Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development" Monday, the first day of a two-day workshop organized by the United States Information Service (USIS), at the USIS-American Center auditorium. — Star photo

# Call to popularise blood donation

The Lieutenant Governor of Lions District 315-B Bangladesh Ln. Engr. M. Shahjahan Khadem Monday called upon the youths to engage themselves in the development activities, reports BSS.

He was addressing the installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers for 1991-92 of Leo Club of Dhaka Mid-Town.

# BUET exam postponed

The examinations of under graduate course for the session 1988-89 and 1989-90 of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) which were scheduled to be held October 22 have been postponed due to an unavoidable reason, according to a university notification. Fresh date of the examinations will be announced later.

# Weather

## Dry spell to continue

By Staff Correspondent

The weather forecast valid till 6 pm Tuesday says dry weather will prevail over the country. Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged.

Monday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 31 degree Celsius and the minimum 22 degrees. Bogra experienced the highest temperature 32.4 degree Celsius while Feni and Sreemongol the lowest 18 degrees.

Sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5.27 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6.00 am.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Monday were:

City	Temperature In Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31	22	69	66
Chittagong	31.5	21.4	80	67
Sylhet	31.2	19	62	72
Rajshahi	32	19	80	83
Dinajpur	31.2	18.9	67	83
Khulna	31.2	21.5	75	77
Bogra	32.4	20.8	70	89

### JS house body meet held

The house committee of the Jatiya Sangsad held its third meeting Monday at Sangsad Bhaban with Committee chairman Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed various problems of the parliament building and took some decisions to solve them, said a press release of the parliament secretariat.

Present at the meeting were, Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain, Begum Rabeya Chowdhury, Jinnat Abedin Farooq, Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Ansar Ali and Md Mizanur Rahman Manu.

### OBITUARY

Mrs. Peary Ahmad, wife of Mr. Fakhrudin Ahmad breathed her last on Sunday 20th October in Chittagong after prolonged illness at the age of 76 years (Inna ..... Razeun). She leaves behind her daughter Saleha Huque, son in law Anzarul Huque, son Hafeezuddin Ahmad, daughter in law, Tukun Ahmad, three grandsons and two grand daughters and many relatives and friends to mourn her death.

Her Gul Khani will be held simultaneously on Wednesday October 23 at 3 pm at 102, Gulshan Avenue (annexe), Dhaka and James Finlay Fennaries Estate, Chatteshwari Road, Chittagong.

### INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE BANK LIMITED

BSB Building (19th floor) 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka

## NOTICE FOR BOOK CLOSURE

For the convenience of the shareholders, the Board of Directors of the Bank decided to extend the date for closure of Share Transfer Book from October 26, 1991 to October 31, 1991.

The Share Transfer Register will therefore remain closed from October 31, 1991 to November 3, 1991 (both days inclusive).

By order of the Board for and on behalf of IFIC Bank Ltd. A.H. Anwar Hussain Secretary.

### এম, এস ওয়ার রড ব্যবহারকারীদের জন্য সুখবর

আমরা অত্যন্ত আনন্দের সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে আমাদের সম্পূর্ণ অটোমেটিক মিলে ডাবলু আর-৮ গ্রেড ৫-৫ মিঃ মিঃ ওয়ার রড তৈরি শুরু করেছে। আমাদের প্রযুক্তিকৃত ওয়ার রডের বিশেষ গুণাবলী:

- ১। ডাবলু আর-৮ গ্রেড ওয়ার রড অত্যন্ত কোমল, তাই এনালিফ হাফাই ২৪ লেজ পর্যন্ত অন্যদাসেই ছ করা যায়।
- ২। আমাদের মিলের কন্ট্রোল্ড কুপিং বেড ওয়ার রডের সবখানেই সমান কোমলতার নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে।
- ৩। কম ভায়া (৫-৫ মিঃ মিঃ) তাই ছ করতে হয় কম।
- ৪। একটানা ১৪০ কেজি কয়েল, তাই ছ করার জন্য দারুনভাবে সময়ের অপর্যয় রোধ করে।
- ৫। সব মিলিয়ে তার প্রযুক্ত প্রক্রিয়ার খরচ হয় অত্যন্ত কম।

কোম্পানি: এম. এস. ওয়ার রড লিমিটেড  
ঢাকা: ফোন: ২৪০৬৮০, ২০০৩৯৫  
চিটগাং: ফোন: ২২৭৭৫৮, ২০৩৭৫৩

# HERE and THERE

### Engineers Institution

Engineers Institution of Bangladesh Monday condemned the terrorist activities by some armed outsiders on the University campus on October 19 and demanded punishment to the culprits.

The President and the Secretary of the Institution demanded compensation for the victims.

### Relief for flood victims demanded

Five Party Alliance, the Society for Professionals, Krishak Samik Mukti Andolon and Ganatantrik Samik League on Monday in separate statements expressed concern over the famine-like situation in the northern districts.

### Syed Nazrul Parisad

A 65-member Convening Committee of Syed Nazrul Islam Smriti Parisad was formed Monday with Dr Mazharul Islam as convener.

### Garments Sramik Federation

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation on Monday held a rally in front of National Press Club demanding pay-rise, issuance of appointment letters, overtime bills and other legal facilities.

### Communist League

General Secretary of the United Communist League (UCL) Bimal Biswas on Monday condemned the killing of the BCL worker Chayan Kumar in Narail by the JCD workers.

### Theatre Unit

A seven-member Executive Committee of the drama organization Theatre was formed on Monday with Asit Acharya as President and Majharul Haq as General Secretary.

### JB Officers Kalyan Samity

A new organization Janata Bank Jatiyatabadi Officer Kalyan Samity has been formed Monday in a meeting at the Janata Bank local office with Zahurul Haq in the chair.

### Husband kills wife

Roksana 18, a housewife was murdered by her husband at Masampur village under Tongi upazila in the early hours of Monday.

### City Corporation

The mobile court of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) on Monday realised fines of Taka 24,000 from those who left waste on open ground violating corporation's rules.

### Mitterrand greets Biswas

French President Francois Mitterrand has felicitated Abdur Rahman Biswas on his assumption of the office of President of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

### Vested property inhabitants meet Kabir Hossain

An eleven-member delegation of Vested Property Inhabitants Welfare Association in Dhaka city called on the State Minister for Land, Kabir Hossain, in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

### Weather

The weather forecast valid till 6 pm Tuesday says dry weather will prevail over the country. Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged.

Compiled by Aaz

### Tuesday

- 5-00 Opening announcement, Al Quran Programme Summary
- 5-15 Reading from the Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bangla
- 5-30 Cartoon film: The challenge of the Gobots
- 6-00 Educational programme
- 6-30 Health programme
- 7-05 Nazrul songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Drama Series: Barabari
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Film: War and Remembrance
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-45 Close down

### Mitterrand greets Biswas

French President Francois Mitterrand has felicitated Abdur Rahman Biswas on his assumption of the office of President of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

In a message, President Mitterrand expressed his heartfelt congratulations to Abdur Rahman and wished him full success in the accomplishment of his most important mission as the President.

Mitterrand also extended his warmest greetings to the people of Bangladesh and wished "strengthening of the ties of friendship with link 50 deeply our two countries."

### Vested property inhabitants meet Kabir Hossain

An eleven-member delegation of Vested Property Inhabitants Welfare Association in Dhaka city called on the State Minister for Land, Kabir Hossain, in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation discussed their various demands and problems with the State Minister.

The delegation was led by Golam Mostafa Talukder, President of the Welfare Association.

### Husband kills wife

Roksana 18, a housewife was murdered by her husband at Masampur village under Tongi upazila in the early hours of Monday.

She was brought to DMCH and succumbed to her injuries at about 3:00 am on Monday.

# CAREER OPPORTUNITY

We are a MULTINATIONAL service company based at Dhaka urgently looking for the following personnels for our Dhaka office.

- CLEARING & FORWARDING CO-ORDINATOR (MALE)-1 (ONE)**  
Candidate should be between the age of 30-35 years' with 5-6 years' experience in a supervisory position relating to C&F job, having a sound knowledge of customs procedures, import and export formalities relating to different categories of imports/ exports. The position will be responsible for the C&F unit of the company having to supervise a team of 4-5 persons and will be accountable for the performance of the department. He will also be required to maintain liaison with the clients.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR (MALE/FEMALE)-1 (ONE)**  
Candidate should be between late twenties and early thirties with at least 3-4 years' supervisory experience in a service related field preferably from the airlines, travel agency etc. The person we are looking for will be responsible for the frontline operation in the area of customer service and maintain liaison with our various overseas stations.
- SALES EXECUTIVES (MALE)-3 (THREE) FOR DHAKA, CHITTAGONG & KHULNA**  
Candidates should be aged between mid 20 and early 30 with at least 3-4 years' experience in the sales discipline, preferably with any service oriented company with a proven record of achievement.
- SECRETARY (FEMALE) FOR SALES & MARKETING DEPARTMENT-1 (ONE)**  
Candidates should have a minimum experience of five years' as Secretary in a commercial/ service oriented organisation. Excellent secretarial and clerical skills are mandatory for the post. Experience with Word Processor and Electronic typewriter is essential.

Educational qualification for all the above positions are at least a Bachelors Degree or its equivalent from a recognised institution, relaxable in case of highly experienced candidates. The ability to communicate in English is essential as the job requirement involves liaison with foreign nationals.

Attractive salary for the right person.

Apply in your own handwriting with CV and a recent passport size photograph to P. O. Box No: GN 6052 Dhaka within October 31, 1991 mentioning DCS on the envelopes.