

Dhaka Day by Day

Coping Up With Jobs Is No Joke!

By Fayza Haq

With the braindrain to Europe and USA, as well as to the Far-East, one would think that it is not so difficult to get a job in Dhaka. But this is not the case with many of my friends, relatives and colleagues.

I know a distant cousin of mine, at Pilkhana, who has returned with impressive degrees in engineering. He tried his hand at a few private firms. When he found lesser qualified people being preferred to him — due to their seniority in the job in Bangladesh — he felt discontented, insecure and finally he quit the job. He now tinkers around with petty part-time inconsequential projects, which he handles from his own home. This is not monetarily satisfactory for him or his family, but he cannot swallow his pride, and accept a post which does not give him adequate job satisfaction.

In Paribagh is an unemployed friend of the family. He retired early for one reason or another, and now he finds it a Herculean task to get a satisfactory post that suits his mind. He cannot take up a job in a garment factory, having been a

senior civil-servant before; or take up peddling old tyres or second-hand cars to keep himself occupied. We have a society in which dignity of labour is not adequately evaluated. The person himself might be prepared to do any work as a bank clerk or a shop-keeper of rejected garments, to bring in the extra and essential taka. Relatives and friends interfere and often give wrong advice.

"Why should you take up a petty job?" they gossip and cackle. They do not realise that a man, used to working all his life, and being under forty or fifty, requires something substantial to occupy himself. If he has young children to be educated, and teen-aged daughters to be married, he cannot pack up and set sail overseas. Getting visas is no easy matter, even through employment agencies. Some people I know are actually allergic to the employment centres, that send people abroad because of the "baksheesh" and the "safarish" that must ensue before anything is obtained in Dhaka.

While some individuals are improving their prospects by leaps and bounds, with their smooth talking, confidence, and undoubted integral qualities, the ones that are shy, reticent and not so scheming, get left behind in the distribution of jobs in the banks, insurance offices, private companies, NGOs etc. Even if you want a job as a journalist in Dhaka, you must play up to the union leaders, hob-nob at the Press Club, and go job hunting like some vagabond, from place to place.

While men have only the employment front to tackle in the city, our women have even more complexities to overcome, when it comes to getting and retaining a job. The women have not

only the boss and the colleagues to please and get along with, but must go home and tackle the homefront.

I have a friend of mine, staying at Kathalagan, and working in Motijheel. She does her work at the office with no flirtation or gossip. Her task is not an easy one, or one that pleases her always. She has two children to support, while her husband works overseas. He is due back in a year. Meanwhile she is staying with her parents, and there are censorious comments about her working with men. She often comes home, to find her teen-aged children sobbing, because of harsh observations of the members of the joint-family.

She pays for her keep, and for that of her children. She is constantly buying "goodies" for her extended family. Yet the criticism about her working goes unabated everyday. Earlier, when she was with her husband, her neighbours still had a lot to comment. This was simply because she had not taken to something more conventional.

In Indra Road is a dear friend of mine who is going quite besides herself working to keep her three children fed, clothed and sheltered. She is doing the normally approved job of tutoring and teaching. Yet tongues wag and people confuse her by saying "Why don't you take a job in a bank — that is more paying? Why don't you study further and get a job at the Dhaka University, you'll earn more respect..." Others add "Why don't you go to the Mid-

dle-East and mint a fortune like so many other people?" Both she and her husband are hard working and intelligent. Both are unselfish and good natured and never hesitate to struggle with jobs. Yet neither of them have made even a tiny fortune as yet. They barely make ends meet.

As for managing the children, aged three (twin sons) and a daughter of seven, my friend is always tutoring, sewing, medicating and feeding them, like so many other working mothers all over Dhaka. They do not have time for picnics or even to see a good film on the "magic-box", with the pressure of housework, combined with the professional front.

I have yet another friend of mine, who has got a job, which is paying him a higher salary than the last one, but his health is deteriorating with the pressure of work. I fail to comprehend why people have to resort to jobs where pain-killer tablets and cigarette consumption only shoots up.

In a capital city like Dhaka, people should take pride in their work. Yet everywhere I go, there is steady lament of dissatisfaction.

6,45,926 govt employees till last count

The number of government officials and employees in the country was recorded 6,45,926 according to a 1990 statistics, reports UNB.

Establishment State Minister Nurul Huda said this in the house reply to Nurul Islam Mori of Independence.

Huda informed the house that services of four officials in the civil administration were extended last year while 959 persons were employed in different cadre services during this period.

He said 23 officials were appointed on contract basis during the same period.

In reply to Sardar Shakhawat Hossain of BNP Huda said 3,001 government and semi government officials were sent abroad for training in last five years.

He told Abdul Awal Bhuyan of Awami League that one secretary and two joint secretaries were given forced retirement since June 1, 1991 under the 1974 Government (Retirement) Act.

They are Secretary AKM Hedayetul Haque and Joint Secretaries Air Commodore (Retd) Matnuul Islam and Major (Retd) Ali Ahmed Khan.

Shaoli Mitra accorded reception

JU Correspondent.

Shangskriti Sangsad of Jahangirnagar University Tuesday accorded a reception to Shaoli Mitra, an eminent reciter from West Bengal, at a simple ceremony held at the University.

Shaoli Mitra, visiting Professor of Drama and Dramatics Department earlier, performed 'Katha Amrito Saman', on the campus.

Minister admits misuse of official transport

The government has directed the concerned authorities to take actions against officials charged with misuse of official transport, Parliament was told Wednesday, reports UNB.

Replying to Md Shadiuzzaman and Abdul Khaleque Talukder of BNP, the State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda admitted the use of official vehicles for personal purposes by some officials.

Allegations of abuse of 451 government transport were received by the concerned authorities. Of these vehicles 31 are controlled by different ministries and divisions.

Huda assured that punitive action will be taken against those officials as per law after proper investigation.

The number of vehicles under the Establishment Ministry is 966, Huda said adding Tk 4,45,89,000 was spent for the maintenance during the last financial year.

Seven litres of fuel are allotted daily for each of these vehicles, he said.

About \$ 8 lakh Rabitat aid for mosque

Makkah-based Rabitat-al-Alam Al-Islami has donated 7,997.87 US dollar for the development of a mosque at Kataban in the city named Al-Majlisul Mahalli Li-Masajid, reports UNB.

Saudi Arabian Charge d'Affairs Abdul Rahman M A Lohy handed over the cheque to the mosque representative Maulavi Mohammad Shamsul Haque Tuesday.

Australian envoy calls on PM

The Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Richard K Gate, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office here Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

He stayed with the Prime Minister sometime and discussed matters of mutual interest.



Sonali Bank officers and employees demonstrating in the city yesterday demanding implementation of Wage Commission. —Star photo

'Primary job of military is to provide peace'

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam said that achievement of the desired military goal of any service be it on land, at sea or in the air depended largely on the professional efficiency, competence and discipline of its members, reports BSS.

He said that the primary job of a member of the military establishments was to provide peace to the nation by deterring potential aggressors from waging war.

The Chief of Naval Staff was addressing the student officers of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur on the occasion of their graduation dinner Tuesday night.

Admiral Islam further said that professional efficiency and competence of the student-officers would depend on their

sound professional knowledge and its proper application. The knowledge which they have acquired at the staff college will be extremely useful in furthering their military goal and national objectives, he hoped.

He congratulated the commandant, instructors and directing staff of the college for successfully conducting the staff course and thereby helping to further strengthen command and leadership on our armed forces.

Pointing out to the contributions of the overseas student officers, Admiral Islam expressed confidence that through them, the existing cordial relations between our nations would continue to develop further. On their return, they will act as our good-will ambassadors to their countries, he said.

German FM due Feb 4

German State Minister for Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaffer arrives in Dhaka on February 4 on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

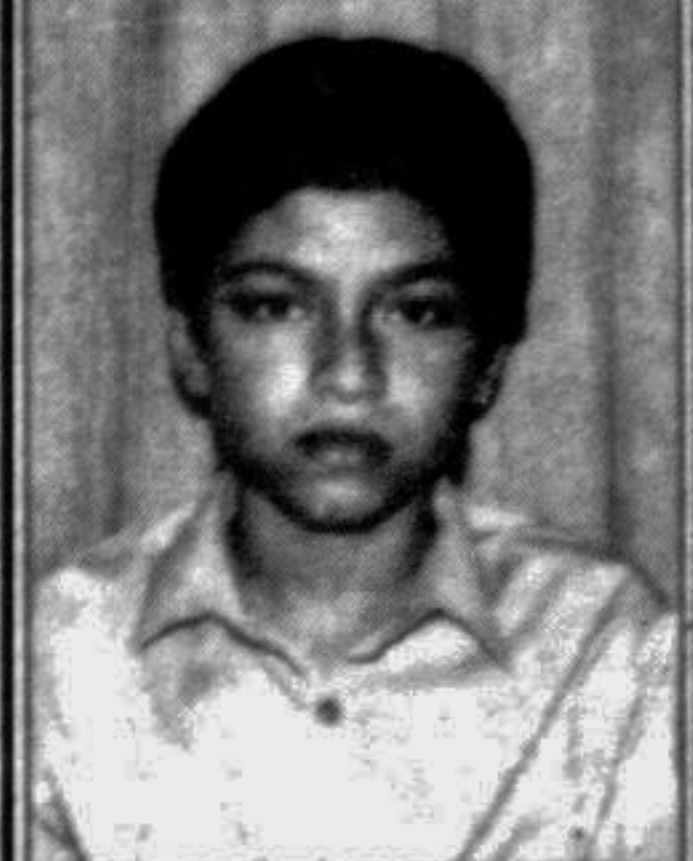
During his stay here Schaffer will have talks with Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations, officials on Wednesday said.

He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

This will be the first high-level visit from Germany since the country became unified and officials here attach importance to the visit.

Describing the relations between Dhaka and Bonn as excellent, they said the two countries share common perceptions on many global issues.

Happy Birthday to Omar



from: Munnu, Zafar Khalu, Nabil and Yeshim in New Jersey, U. S. A.

Happy Birthday Dearest "Ammu"

Your Loving, Maheen and Maiaz

Happy Retired Life

We heartily felicitate Prof. M. A. Rashid on his retirement after a long and glorious career in Ophthalmology. We wish him a happy and fruitful retired life. Department of Ophthalmology Dhaka Medical College Hospital

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Edible oil worth Tk410 crore imported every year

The country has a tremendous scope of farming and marketing soyabean and setting up industries based on the crop, some experts said at a meeting Wednesday, reports UNB.

A huge chunk of foreign currency can also be saved by boosting production of soyabean, the golden bean of the world, said Director of Agricultural Marketing Dabiruddin Ahmed.

Edible oil worth about Tk 410 crore is imported every

Iranian envoy meets Tourism Minister

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bangladesh, Mohammad Ganjidoost called on the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Habibur Rahman, Additional Secretary In-Charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman were present during the discussion.

JU to observe Jahir Raihan's disappearance

JU Correspondent To mark the 20th disappearance anniversary of Zahir Raihan, a weeklong programme has been organised in the Jahangirnagar University in the first of February.

The programme, arranged by Zahir Raihan Film Society, JU unit, includes screening of seven films and discussion on life and activities of late Zahir Raihan.

Souvenir and calendar will be published this occasion. Display of poster has also been arranged.

year to meet the domestic demand, he told the discussing meeting.

Department of Agricultural Marketing organised the discussion on Soyabean Marketing in Bangladesh at the BARC auditorium.

It was addressed by Aminul Islam, Giasuddin Ahmed Pathan, Shahidul Islam, Dabiruddin Ahmed, Atiqur Rahman and Malcolm Mac Gregor.

Prof Lutfar Rahman of Bangladesh Agricultural Uni-

JU VC leaves for Iran

JU Correspondent Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed and Dean of Arts and Humanities Faculty, Dr Enamul Haq Khan left for Iran Wednesday to attend the 14th Victory Festival of the Islamic of Iranian government.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) will also participate on this occasion.

Weather

Sky may remain cloudy

By Staff Correspondent Sky is likely to remain partly cloudy over northern part of the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday, Met office forecast.

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country. Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The sun sets today Thursday at 5:43 am and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:41 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Wednesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	27.4	16.0
Chittagong	28.8	15.9
Rajshahi	27.4	12.8
Khulna	27.7	12.7
Feni	28.8	13.8
Barisal	28.0	13.0
Dinajpur	26.5	12.8
Sylhet	27.6	14.8
Sitakunda	29.0	13.0
Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.8

versity presented keynote paper titled "Soyabean - A Potential Oil and Pulse Crop in Bangladesh."

Prof Rahman said the country is now producing 2,000 tons of soyabean on 5,000 acres of land annually, which is too meagre to meet the demand.

Soyabean can grow round the year under clean tilled, zero tillage and also on puddled which most other food-crops cannot, he said.

Stressing the need for trading network with credit support to small-medium traders, he called for developing soyabean-based food intake habit and large-scale production.

On behalf of soyabean businessmen and consumers, the Managing Director of Phenix Poultry Limited, Smtul Ahsan, stressed block farming for increasing soyabean production.

The Agriculture Ministry has taken up a 5-year soyabean extension programme (1990-95) and Crop Diversification Programme, the meeting was informed.

Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.30 Balte Paro
- 6.00 Cartoon: The New Three Stooges
- 6.30 Jiboner Alo: Religious programme
- 7.05 Debate
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama of the week
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament round up
- 10.35 Drama series: Tuin Peaks
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Friday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

RAJA-ONE BILLION GALA CELEBRATION

RAJA has earned an extraordinary success. In the last 16 years one billion pieces of RAJA have been sold. There is great rejoicing centred around this unique success of RAJA. This triumph is an indication of the trust millions of men have on RAJA. A proof of RAJA's high quality and reliability. It is this trust on RAJA which has helped to shape thousands of small and happy families in Bangladesh. RAJA—high quality condom imported from U.S.A.

