Mums in Waiting!

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Waiting is definitely one of the most tiresome of occupations. But for most people it is a part of life and something to be put up with regardless of the inconvenience or irritation. Take women for instance who have probably perfected this test of patience. They have to wait for their husbands to come home after work, their in- laws to accept them and then have the added pleasure of having to wait for their children to come home after school. This last 'activity' or lack of it has taken on a curious turn in this city. While the children are inside the school taking lessons or taking their break, their ever so devoted mothers are outside the school gates waiting for their little darlings. This may go on from 2 to 5 hours depending on when the child finishes school. Since the school premises are too small to accommodate the guardians they have little option but to wait outside on the pavement, on

With getting one's child admitted to a school becoming more and more akin to a miracle, mothers prefer to travel miles and wait hours rather than attempt to find a school near home which is either "not up to the standard" or just does not have any more seats to spare.

And how do these 'mothers in waiting' wile away their hours? One of the redeeming features of this long wait is that it gives these ladies the opportunity to engage in an activity as essential to us Bangalees as 'bhat' - 'adda'! Topics of conversation range from in-laws, where to get the latest dress material, anecdotes of their precious darlings and, surprisingly, political Says a mother in her late twenties, "How can the PM ban Indian sarees when she herself dresses from head to toe in foreign made clothes and accessories?" Another lady blurts out "whatever you say Ershad did do some good things for the country. At least he



Sometimes a place to sit is too much to ask for

the steps of an office building, or any space they are fortunate enough to find. During this waiting period, the mothers have ample time to pour out their hearts to each other or in other words engage in one of life's pleasurable activities - gossip.

But why wait instead of dropping the kid and picking him/her up when classes give over? For most of these women it is both inconvenient and expensive to make so many trips. Some live as far as old Dhaka and Narayanganj for which reason waiting is cheaper and far less tiring than travelling up and down in heavy traffic for hours on end. Being mostly from middle class backgrounds they have to rely on some sort of public transport for commuting. Security, therefore, is another reason for waiting. Says Mrs. Islam who waits up to 3 hours for her son in class I, "Nowadays taking a rickshaw or scooter is so risky that two trips a day is more than enough. And I don't send a servant to pick the children up because I would die of tension waiting at home!"

Another reason for such long commutes is that there aren't enough 'good' which invariably mean 'English Medium' schools to choose

made a few bridges." And so go on such uninhibited conversations!

With 2-4 hours to kill many of the women bring in their knitting or sewing. But gossiping seems to overrule all other activities. During such interactions friendships are formed and many interesting things happen. One lady informs me that she managed to get her brother-in-law a perfect bride just through these casual chats. Another claims she has helped her husband make many a business deal because she got to know the wife of a client who like her used to wait for her child outside school! Now who ever said that gossiping was an unproductive activity?

But inspite of the "joys" of such heart to heart talks, the inconvenience is always there. Rain, hail storm or scorching heat, these ladies have to wait whether they get a place to sit or a shade to stand under or not. Most of them would welcome a school bus picking and dropping their children and all of them would be grateful for some sort of waiting area within the school premises. For now, however, they must reconcile themselves in being patient mums in waiting!

gets Margaret

Dr Durre Shahwar Nilufar Khan Chowdhury, doctoral tandidate and graduate teaching fellow at the University of Oregon, USA has been awarded the Margaret McNamara Memorial Award for the year 1991, by the World Bank. Washington DC in recognition to her dedication for the welfare of maternal and child health issues in the developing countries, says a press release.

Dr Durre also received an award from the American Association of University Women for the year 1991, for her professional interest and research activities.

She is a Medical graduate from the Sir Salimullah Medical College and is at present specialising in Public Health Administration with her area of interest being Population Research in Developing Countries.

Chinese acrobats meet Jahan Ara

The visiting Chinese acrobatic team called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum at her office yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Recalling the traditional friendship between Bangladesh and China the State Minister underlined the need for regular cultural exchange programme between the two countries.

Islam Uddin Malin Additional Secretary in-charge of the Cultural Affairs Ministry and office bearers of the China-Bangladesh Friendship Society were present on the occasion.

ife struggle made Nazrul a rebel poet

Dr Jharna Basu, a researcher and teacher of Sarojini Naido College, Calcutta, has said Kazi Nazrul Islam entered into the realm of Bengali literature with all readiness.

reports BSS. The experience of his life struggle made Nazrul a rebel poet and inspired him to create literature anew, she said while speaking at the fifth lecture programme of the decade-long Nazrul birth centenary lecture series.

The lecture programme entitled "Poet Kazi Nazrul: A Contemporary and for all Ages" was held at the Nazrul Institute.

Presided over by Nazrul Researcher Prof Mohammad Abdul Qayum, the function was also addressed by Prof Maniruzzaman, Executive Director of Nazrul Institute.

Australian surgery team visits Dental College Feb 13

By Staff Correspondent

A group of specialists on oral and maxilo facial surgery of Australia will visit Dhaka Dental College on February 13 to perform a number of operations on various diseases including tumour of mouth and oral cavity, indiscrimination in face and oral cancer.

Interested persons have been requested to contact Dr Mattur Rahman Mollah head of the Oral and Maxiol Facial Surgery Department of the college on February 11 and 12.

Qulkhwani

The Qulkhwani of Chowdhury Golam Mokaddes Khaled, son of late Chowdhury Golam Kashem ex-zaminder of Zinda Bazar Chowdhury Bari. Dhaka will be held today (Sunday) at the residence of Daudur Rahman Khan at 67. Haji Para (near petrol pump) after Asr prayesr

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the quikhwani.

Nazrul as a politically consci-Glorifying Nazrul for his struggle against all sorts of repressions, discrimination, injustice, poverty and bondage, she said the poet had always

sung sons in praise of the

workers, peasants and down-

Dr Basu described Poet

trodden. Mrs Basu said appearing during the Rabindra period. Nazrul expressed his firm determinations to struggle against repression and speak

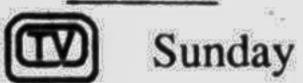
in favour of the distressed. Terming Nazrul as a keen observer of society and a poet of youth, she said Nazrul had strived hard to save the members of youth community from

indiscipline. An upholder of secularism and equality. Nazrul will always be a source of inspiration for the distressed humanity. Mrs Basu said.

In his speech Prof Qayum said the Nazrul lecture series would help the people know more about the poet.

Prof Montruzzaman said the Nazrul institute has been working to evaluate the poet's works and spread his message worldwide.

The function was attended by Nazrul Researchers and admirers including Dr Ashraf Siddiqui. Prof Rafiqui Islam and poet Al-Mujahidi.



5-00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary News in Bangla 5-20 Recitation from the

Chharai Chharai Lekha 5-25 6-00 TV series: Rock Spate 6-30 Sports programme: Cricket Tagore songs

News in Bangla 8-00 Probaha 8-30 Drama Series: Oshin 9-00 News in English 10-00 10-25 Parliament round-up Sanglap: Conversation 10-35 Khabar/The News 11-30 Monday's programme

Closing

11-45

Tourism Week

A Tourtam Week will be ob served from February 24 to March 1, for creating tourism awareness among the tourists both home and abroad, says a press release.

Aviation and Tourism.

The National Committee has already drawn up an elaborate programme to mark the

Week on February 23, at Osmani Auditorium.

The week-long programme includes, a seminar on "Tourism industry in Bangladesh by the year 2000". day-long 'Craft Show' at Hotel Sonargaon, inauguration of "Tourists Desk" at Hotel Sonargaon, Sheraton and Purbani, Vintage Car Exhibition at Hotel Sheraton, Golf tournament at Cox's Bazar. River Cruise at reduced rate. Tribal feast, Dhaka Fun Run, decoration of traditional transports of Bangladesh like Rickshaw, Horse cart. Bullock cart etc and Bangladesh Food

tion will be held for the college and University Students on "Role of Tourism in Economic Development', the press release added.

Relief for cyclone victims of Kushtia

The government Saturday sanctioned 50 metric tons of rice, Taka 50,000 in cash and house-building grant of Taka one lakh as gratuitous relief for distribution among the people of Mirpur and Sadar upazilas of Kushtia, including Kushtia town, affected by Friday's cyclone, reports BSS.

be the chief guest.

What's on today

Notre Dame College today (Sunday) at 6 p m.

at 4:30 pm at the Academy compound.

at Dhanmondi today (Sunday) at 3:30 pm.

on the 'Language Movement' at the meeting.

function titled 'Alor Bikash Chai'.

Thomas Ansell Foundation

Rhythms Images of Poetry" an evening of poetry recitation, at

The Thomas Ansell foundation presents "Sounds. Shapes.

Father Joseph Peixotto, Principal, Notre Dame College will

Several poets will recite self composed poems, and poems

Bangla Academy

"Problems of introducing Bengali dictionary" today (Sunday)

Bangla Academy has organised a discussion meeting on

The meeting to be presided over by Prof Shib Prasannya

Lahiri will be addressed, among others, by Prof Abul Quashem

Chowdhury, Prof Jahangir Tareq and Dr Siddiqua Mahmuda.

The meeting will be followed by a recitation and a cultural

CCHRB

oneer in Bangladesh will address on the state of the Adivasis (tribals) of Bangladesh at the Community Development Library

Father R W Timm, a social worker and a human rights pi-

The programme has been organised by the Coordinating

Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) to mark the publication of an international report, the Adivasis of

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi

Dhanmondi will be held today (Sunday) at 5:30 pm at the

Hotel Sonargaon. Rtn Mohammad Montruzzaman will speak

Lions Clubs International

the Bangladesh Lions Bhaban at Agargaon to pray for late Ln

M R Siddiqui, founder governor of Lions District 315.

Freedom Party

Freedom Party has organised a discussion meeting today (Sunday) at 4 pm at its office at Dhanmondi on the occasion of

... and tomorrow

A milad mahfil will be held today (Sunday) at 4:30 pm at

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of

Bangladesh of which Father Timm is the main author.

from Thomas Ansell will be recited by the noted recitors.

begins Feb 24

To observe the Week in a befitting manner, a National Committee has been formed headed by Additional Secretary in-charge, Ministry of Civil

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the

Make anti-tobacco campaign a social movement: B Chowdhury Adhunik, an anti-smoking voluntary organisation, Satu-Fair at Sheraton Hotel, etc. rday started mobile anti-Besides, an essay competitobacco campaign throughout the country with a view to

> Deputy Leader of the Jattya Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the campaign programme at the Jattya Press Club premises in Dhaka in the

morning. The mobile anti-tobacco campaign is aimed at reaching the vast majority of poor and illiterates through popular slogans like 'Jari Gaan' and 'Palli Geeti' which they can understand easily, and through pamphlets and posters that some

making the general people

aware of the dangers of smok-

ing and tobacco use, reports

সহযোগিভায়ঃ ব্যাট

ANTI-TOBACE

ASSISTED BY: BRITISH

tobacco mobile campaign.

ORGANISED BY

of them can read and under-

Health Secretary M

Adhunik brought a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of its fortnight-long anti-

Mokammel Hug attended the inaugural function as the special guest while 'Adhunik' President National Professor Dr Nurul Islam presided. Speaking on the occasion

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury. himself a noted physician. called for concerted efforts of the government, people and the press for turning the antitobacco campaign into a social movement.

The mass people who are not aware of the danger of tobacco use must be made conscious on the subject", he pointed out.

The Health Secretary said tobacco use was a potential

Inter-city trains to operate on weekly closing day

Bangladesh Railway will operate all inter-city trains on weekly closing day from February 9 to 15 to avoid rush

of passengers, reports BSS.

The Railway has also arranged attaching additional passenger coaches in all intercity, mail, express and local trains during this period for the convenience of general passengers.

Passengers have been advised to contact local station masters for any matter.

Construction work of Bochhila Road in progress Work is in progress for the construction of a 5,000-foot long road from Mohammadpur flood control embankment to

Bochhila at a cost of Taka 46 lakh as per commitment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS. Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Dhaka City Mayor Mirza

Abbas yesterday saw the construction work at the site. Addressing a spontaneous gathering there the Education Minister said the present government was trying to improve the lot of the common people and it had already fulfilled

Mirza Abbas also spoke on Local BNP leaders and workers were present.

many of its political commit-

National confce on sanitation Feb 11

A national conference on the role and importance of Social Mobilisation for Sanitation' will be held on February 11 at the Jativa Sangsad compound at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, says a press release.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the National Conference, Minister for Local Government, Rural **Development and Cooperatives** Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chaudhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf and Deputy Minister for LORD and C along with Secretaries for LGRD and C (LO Division), and Health and Family Welfare will also speak on the occasion.

The national conference will be followed by a half-day seminar, with a keynote paper on sanitation in controlling diarrhoeal death and morbidity.

It's new just for you

- Star photo

threat to health. This simple

message must be reached to

Dr Nurul Islam said the ed-

ucated and socially advanta-

geous groups were gradually

giving up this deadly habit but

the innocent poor were falling

victims to the mischievous

propaganda and alluring adver-

tisement by the tobacco com-

anti-tobacco campaign would

be able to attract, educate and

caution the people and induce

at least some of them to pro-

tect themselves against the

'Jari Gaan' and 'Palli Geeti'

Later, some anti-tobacco

curse of tobacco.

were presented.

He hoped that the mobile

the people through different

ways and methods, he said.

The Bully Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/ Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact: **Advertisement Manager** Phone: 245063 PABX: 245061-2 & 246023-4. Ext: 20

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Candidates must not be over 30 years of age as of 30th June, 1992 and should have any of the following academic qualifications:

- MBA with minimum 2.50 CGPA with Second Divisions/Classes all through.
- Graduate with Honours or Post Graduate Degree in any of the following subjects with Second Divisions/Classes all through having at least one First Division / Class:

Economics

Marketing

Accounting Management Statistics

Finance

Mathematics English

B.Com. (Pass) with Second Divisions/Classes all through having at least one First Division/Class.

B.A./B.Sc. (Pass) with Second Divisions/Classes all through having at least one First Division/Class with one of the following subjects in degree level:

Economics

iii) Mathematics

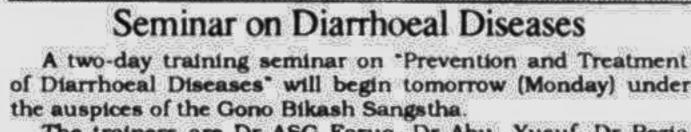
Statistics

iv) English

The position offers monthly consolidated remuneration of Tk. 5,000/- for the first year & Tk. 5,500/- for the second year during the period of probation. On successful completion of two years probation period and subject to qualifying the prescribed tests the candidate will be absorbed in the Officer's grade of the Bank in the salary scale of Tk. 6,000/. Candidates selected for appointment as Probationary Officer will be required to execute a bond for serving the Bank for a minimum period of 5 years.

Eligible candidates should submit their applications in their own handwriting with following particulars enclosing attested copies of all mark sheets and two recent passport size photographs addressed to the Asstt. Vice President (Administration) to reach within 31st March, 1992:

a) Full Name b) Father's Name c) Present Address d) Permanent Address e) Date of Birth f) Nationality g) Educational Qualifications from S.S.C. upwards with name of Institutions, Division/Class obtained and year of passing h) Other Qualifications/ Experience, if any & i) Names and Addresses of two referees.



of Diarrhoeal Diseases" will begin tomorrow (Monday) under The trainers are Dr ASG Faruq, Dr Abu Yusuf, Dr Rezia

Laila Akbar, Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dr Bilkis A Haque and Dr K M A Aztz. As many as 61 women will be participating in the two-day training seminar.

Weather

Bangladesh.

'Black Law Day'.

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Saturday forecast, rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at a few places over the country till 6 pm today (Sunday). Night temperatures likely to fall by one to two degree

Celsius over the country, met office forecast. The highest temperature, 27.2 degree Celsius, was recorded at Teknaf on Saturday while the lowest 10.4 degree

Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur in the country. The maximum and the minimum temperature recorded in Dhaka Saturday were 24.2 and 17 degree Celsius respectively Saturday. The percentage of humidity was 85 at 9 am and 69 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:36 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Saturday were: Cities/Towns Temperature Humidity

6pm 69 Dhaka 17.0 24.2 Chittagong 25.4 17.3 81 Rajshahi 22.8 13.5 77 82 25.0 Khulna 15.3 77 26.7 14.7 Faridpur Sylhet 24.2 70 15.3 82 26.2 17.8 Cox's Bazar 23.2 Dinajpur 10.4



Dr Durre Shahwar McNamara Award