

Dhaka Day by Day

Reticent about Reading

by Fayza Haq

Although reading and writing begins at the age of three in Dhaka, and tutors have to be kept for children from the age of five to twenty-one, yet I know of a student of class X who is more interested in watching video, and reading comic books, rather than reading novels from his school library. Shahriar, in Mohammadpur, does his English homework all right, and his mother is afraid to press him further. This is because at his school, and in other similar schools where he has friends, children have taken to wild life such as smoking hash and worse. "Our days were quite different from theirs," Shahriar's mother tells me, when I suggest mildly that her son should be a regular member of the British Council Junior section.

Shahriar's English is not poor, and is accent is good by all standards, but I am amazed at his lack of interest in novels. He says he just does not have the time after doing his regular homework with science subjects; after struggling through Mathematics and Bangla, and after watching his favourite videos and listening to his treasured tapes. I have known the child to be extremely diligent in his studies, five years ago, and feel it is a pity that his reading habits are perhaps not the best.

Rizwana, in Tikatully, reads a lot of books, but only for the story. She skips many pages and her grammar is still shocking even though she is



21. She is a confident speaker, full of joie de vivre, and so gets away with her intertwined sentences with their syntax in the wrong position. She is a housewife, and there is no one to correct her jumbled grammar. She is now so wrapped up in the business of running a house and trying to get a job in some office, that she has no time for formal correction of her grammar.

She is too old to be corrected like a child all the time, and her fluency over English certainly surpasses many in Dhaka. Yet I do wish her to have a mastery over the language and not to pass her time with a narrative about heroes on charging horses and damsels in distress with yard-long eye-lashes.

My aunt of 65 loves to read newspapers, magazines and books. When my uncle was alive, and he had a regular job, she was a regular member of a library. Today she has stopped reading anything beyond her Bangla newspaper and titbits from an English one. She has to cook, chop vegetables, meat and fish, and even takes to washing and sweeping, as she has only a part-time maid. I think it is a pity indeed that someone who read translations of Dickens and Maupassant, must succumb to titbits from the local press. I find the same applies to many of my older relatives and friends.

I personally know of colleagues in the city who have read more "O" level students, than they do as career persons. They have their schedules at home, social functions to attend, along with censorious in-laws to appease. It was explained to me by a friend and an

ex-teacher at Alliance Francaise, that as you get older, and have a desk job to concentrate on, your mind is full of cobwebs, and you cannot comprehend what you did at age 21. Sitting in Dhanmandi, my University books are like Greek to me at age 44. I find my friends in Moghbazaar, Khatabagan, Banani all have the same complaints. Sometimes they simply scan a couple of newspapers, but cannot take in novels or books on philosophy or psychology, which they did as teenagers. Studying at St. Francis Xavier's convent, my friends and I read much more as students, than we do today as adults in the city, full of magazines and books in the local hotel kiosks, and the foreign libraries.

I admit that at Purana Paltan, Central Road, Circular Road, Shagunbagicha and in Dhanmandi offices I know of those who go about with novels and dissertations under their arms. Yet they leave out the basic article when they speak or write. I wonder how deep they delve in the books that they flout.

Sometimes husbands and in-laws in the city discourage the habit of reading, in the case of a woman, and would prefer her to stick to conventional chores such as cooking, bringing up children, dusting, cleaning and gardening. I would have understood if Dhaka was a city like London or New York or Melbourne, where hired hands are expensive. Why

cannot a woman read in peace, without being goaded on to pick up nappies and make "halwas" or "singaras"?

I know many mothers in Dhaka who prefer their teenage daughters, or their offspring in their twenties, to look after the household and even sing or dance rather than read. I am told in the city that Dhaka men do not like women to be "too serious".

It is strange that people, with their limited reading habits pop in for books and disappear. Once an ex-colleague of mine told me of an incident, when a friend of his informed him that he had created a library of his own, at last. On going to examine the library my ex-colleague found the books to have been all originally his own, once lent out to this so-called friend. Incidentally, the owner of the library is still poor in his knowledge of literature, politics, history, economics and anything else they you could point out. I cannot comprehend why people create libraries simply to impress others.

Newspapers are pasted on the walls of the newspaper offices, yet how many of the millions in the city stop and pause to read from page to page, in their rush of life?

Old bookshops are there, but I have never known them to be crowded as they once used to be two decades back. Similarly, magazine kiosks and agents on the roadside in the city sell little beyond "Times", "Newsweek", "Desh" and "Bichitra". It is the scandal sheets the mushroom occasionally that are read from cover to cover, while a magazine like the "Courier" is often ignored as too high-browed.

DUCSU nominates 5 new members to Senate

The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) nominated five new members for the Senate, reports UNB.

The new members are: DUCSU Literary Secretary Niamat Elahi, DUCSU member Shahiduddin Chowdhury Ance, Rokeya Hall Student Union VP Shirin Sultana, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) DU unit President Habibunnabi Sohel and General Secretary Ali Akkas Nadim.

They were nominated to the Senate as student representatives according to Article 20 (1) L of the University Ordinance 1973.

DUCSU nominated the new members upon the expiry of academic terms of DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, JCD Joint Convenor Fazlul Huq Milon, central leaders Moniruzzaman Monir and Goutam Mitra. They were the student representatives in Senate last year.

Appeal to withdraw transport strike

CHITTAGONG, June 29: Inter-district Bus Owners' Association here today appealed the striking transport workers to withdraw their countrywide indefinite strike immediately, reports BSS.

In a statement here tonight, Johurul Haq, Assistant General Secretary of the Association said the sufferings and miseries of thousands of people were multiplied due to the indefinite strike and as such it created great problems to the transport owners.

Haq said it is their great responsibility to withdraw their strike in view of the convenience of the HSC examinees in particular and the people in general.

'End transport strike'

Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association thanked the owners and workers for pressing buses and trucks into service ignoring all differences, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Monday, A. Gafur asked all concerned to end the strike immediately in the greater interest of the passengers. "Stop the strike and voice your genuine demands," Gafur said a written statement.

Gafur assured that within next three to four days, movement of vehicles will be cent per cent. He, however, asked the government to keep watch

BSS management board reconstituted

The government has reconstituted the management board of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) for the next three-year term, reports UNB. The new board was formed upon expiry of the term for the previous board. Following are the members of the newly constituted management board:

Joint Secretary of Information Ministry MI Chowdhury, a member from the Finance Ministry (not below the rank of a joint secretary), Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication Syed Abdur Rab, Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS (ex officio) and Special Correspondent and Staff Representative of BSS Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

MI Chowdhury will be the acting Chairman of the board till the formation of a full-fledged board, said a PID handout.

on the situation so that owners and workers cannot create undesirable situation by resorting to strike because of illogical decisions.

The leader of Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association requested the government to reduce fuel price and reduce duty on chassis for the development of transport sector. It also urged the government to take account of ill-gotten wealth of owners and workers. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samik Union has hailed the workers for keeping the transport sector running throughout the country defying threat and attack by mastans and terrorists.

A Rouf Mia and Abdul Khaleque Mia, President and Secretary of the union in a statement criticised the attack on buses which injured drivers and workers along with passengers. They demanded exemplary punishment to those creating obstacles. Tongi-Uttara Inter District Road Transport Workers Union in a statement criticised the attack on buses plying in different routes injuring passengers and transport workers. The union thanked those who have pressed the vehicles into service despite threats, a press release said.

JU Syndicate condemns attack on DU teachers

Jahangirnagar University Syndicate Monday condemned the dastardly attack on the teachers by a section of students in Dhaka University, reports BSS.

The Syndicate meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Professor Kazi Saleh Ahmed, demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the attack on the teachers.



Tuesday

- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Gun
- 5:10 Programme summary
- 5:20 News in Bangla
- 5:30 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5:30 Documentary film
- 6:00 Shikshangon
- 6:30 Programme on health of mother and child
- 7:05 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:40 Drama Series: Swapner Shahar
- 10:00 News on English
- 10:25 Parliament round-up
- 10:35 Mini series: All the Rivers Run
- 11:30 Khabar/The news
- 11:40 Wednesday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing



Tuesday

- 00:00 World News
- 00:25 World Business Report
- 01:00 World News
- 01:25 News from London
- 02:00 World News
- 02:15 The Money Programme
- 03:00 World Headlines
- 03:05 Documentary
- 04:00 World News
- 04:25 News from London
- 05:00 World News
- 05:25 Kilroy
- 06:00 World News
- 06:25 Newswatch
- 07:00 World News
- 07:25 World Business Report
- 08:00 World News
- 08:25 Newswatch
- 09:00 World News
- 09:15 Panorama
- 10:00 World News
- 10:25 Whicker's World
- 11:00 World Headlines
- 11:05 Documentary
- 12:00 World News
- 12:25 UN World
- 13:00 World News
- 13:30 Business Morning
- 14:00 Morning News from London
- 14:25 Network East
- 15:00 World Headlines
- 15:05 Documentary
- 16:00 World News
- 18:00 World News
- 18:25 Whicker's World
- 19:00 World News
- 19:25 UN World
- 20:00 World News
- 20:25 News from London
- 21:00 World News
- 21:15 Panorama
- 22:00 World Headlines
- 22:05 Documentary
- 23:00 World News
- 23:25 Whicker's World



Tuesday

- 00:00 Remington Steele
- 01:00 Movie: The Harrad Experiment
- 02:30 Invention
- 03:00 The Tony Randall Show
- 03:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 04:00 Sally Jessy Raphael
- 05:00 Santa Barbara
- 06:00 Attitudes
- 07:00 Every Workout
- 07:30 Smoggy
- 08:00 Animated Classics
- 09:00 Terrahawks
- 09:30 Return to Treasure Island
- 10:30 Jupiter Moon
- 11:00 Attitudes
- 12:00 Jane Wallace
- 13:00 Santa Barbara
- 14:00 Sally Jessy Raphael
- 15:00 Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous
- 16:00 Cuisine Rapide
- 16:30 Mac & Mutley
- 17:00 Worzel Gummidge
- 17:30 Kidsongs
- 18:00 Jupiter Moon
- 18:30 Just for the Record
- 19:00 The Best of Donahue
- 20:00 Remington Steele
- 20:50 Hollywood Stars
- 21:00 Movie: Remembrance of Love
- 22:30 The Tony Randall Show
- 23:00 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 23:30 Fame Fortune & Romance

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chittagong Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka Rajshahi divisions in the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am today (Tuesday).

The Met office forecast, day temperature is likely to rise by one or two degree celsius over the northern district and remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Rainfall activities are likely to increase under the influence of active monsoon after five days, the Met office said.

The country on Monday experienced rainfall at some places to a moderate extent. The highest rainfall of 36 mm was recorded in Chuadanga from 6 am to 12 pm, while Khepupara had 18 mm, Jessore 13 mm and Srimangal had 3 mm of rainfall from 6 am to 6 pm.

The maximum temperature of 34.1 degree celsius was reported from Khulna and the minimum of 22.2 degree was reported from Faridpur Monday.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.50 pm and the sun rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.20 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.0	25.2	78	78
Chittagong	31.6	25.0	82	81
Khulna	34.1	24.0	78	79
Rajshahi	33.0	23.6	83	70
Dinajpur	33.4	25.0	82	73
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.0	75	70
Sylhet	31.5	23.8	81	66
Bhola	32.0	25.0	85	85



Chickens being carried on the train-tops to the capital due to the transport strike.— Star photo

All set to open RMP operation tomorrow

RAJSHAH, June 29: All arrangements have been completed to inaugurate the operation of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) tomorrow, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the RMP operation by unveiling a plaque at its headquarters (district board rest house) at 12.05 pm.

The 78 square miles jurisdiction of the RMP includes Nowhatta in the north, Indian border in the south, Kapasia bazar in the east and Haripur in the west.

The RMP area will also have some parts of three upazilas of Rajshahi district under its jurisdiction -- 36 square miles of Boalia, 40 square miles of Paba and 2 square miles of Charghat.

It will operate with four divisions -- the headquarters division, riot division, east crime division and west crime division.

19,905 ton wheat allocated for canal digging

The government allocated 19,905 metric tons of wheat for canal digging in the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

In reply to a question that stood in the name of Advocate Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party, State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan also told parliament today that 80 per cent of the canal digging programme had been completed.

Psychology confce begins July 11

RAJSHAH, June 29: The seventh biennial national conference on psychology will be held at Rajshahi University on July 11 and 12, reports UNB. The theme of this year's conference is "Psychology and Environment". Bangladesh Monobigan Samity will organise the conference.

Tuesday

- 00:00 120 Minutes
- 03:00 Music Videos
- 05:00 The Day in Rock
- 05:30 MTV Sports
- 06:00 Awake on the Wild Side
- 09:00 MTV Power Pack
- 10:00 MTV's Most Wanted
- 11:00 Classic MTV
- 12:00 Awake on the Wild Side
- 15:00 Music Videos -- VJ Danity McGill
- 18:00 Music Videos
- 20:00 The Day in Rock
- 20:30 MTV Sports
- 21:00 MTV Power Pack
- 22:00 MTV's Most Wanted
- 23:00 Classic MTV

(Please deduct 2 hours from all programs from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

Donation of Saudi Chamber of Commerce

Sheikh Ismail Abu Doud, Secretary General, Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jeddah has donated Taka 116,726 to Ulama conference committee, Lalbagh, Dhaka for enhancement of its preaching activities, reports BSS.

Ali Ahmed Abdal Wahab, Charge d'Affaires, Saudi Embassy handed over the cheque for the said amount to Mufti Maulana Fazlul Haq Amin, chairman of the institution here in the city, Monday.

Shamsuddin Mollah Smriti Sangsad formed

A 51-member convening committee of 'Advocate Shamsuddin Mollah Smriti Sangsad' with Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina as the chief patron was formed in Dhaka Sunday last, reports BSS.

Advocate Gazul Haq and S M Shahriar Rumi will act as Chairman and Member-Secretary of the Convening Committee, a press release of the committee said yesterday.

Advocate Shamsuddin Mollah, a childhood friend of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was a senior Awami League leader and one of the organisers of the Liberation War.

He died of old age complications last year.

His first death anniversary will be observed through an elaborate programme on July 10.

Happy Birthday

to
Kamal Uddin Ahmed
From
well wishers

Employment Opportunity

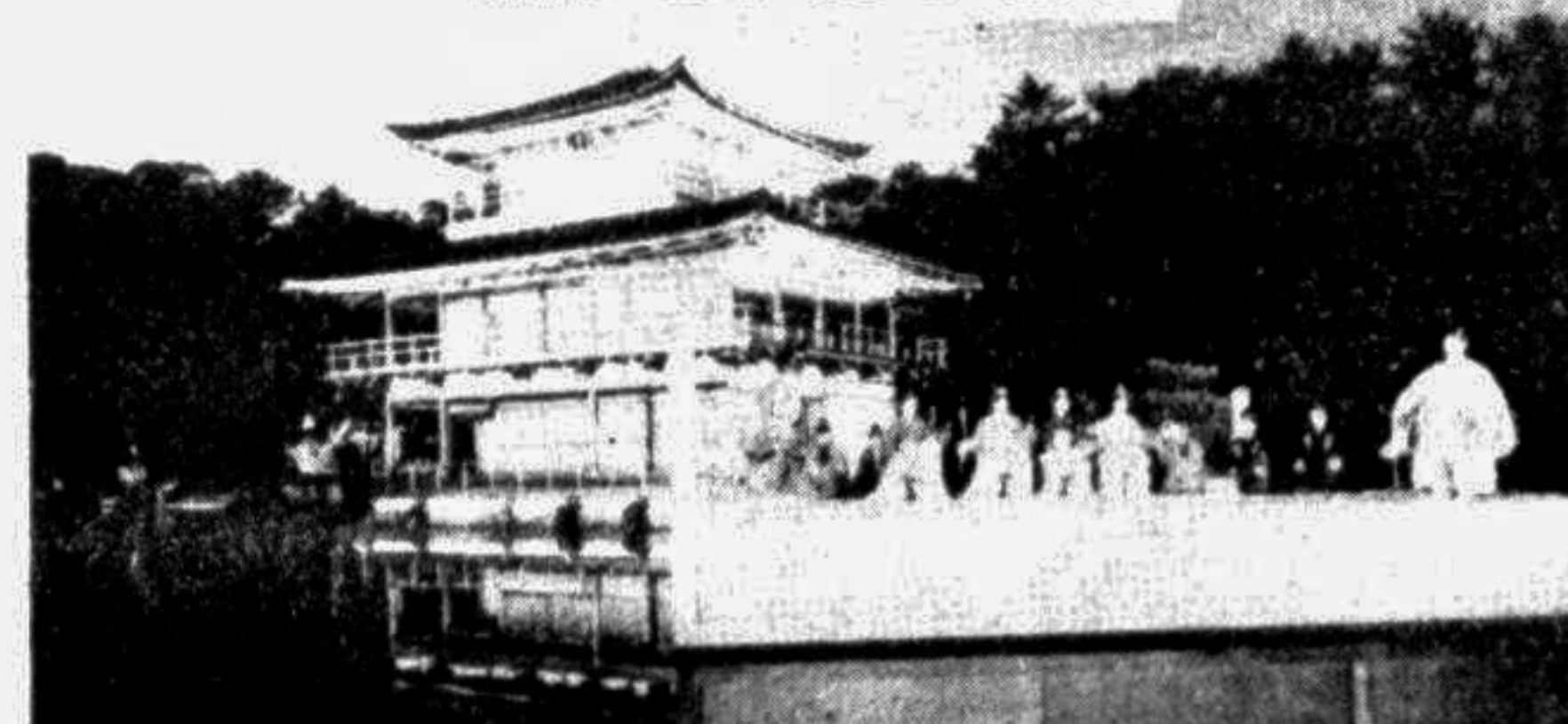
A Japanese donor agency invites applications from female candidates possessing the following qualities for the position of secretary :-

- Good command of English.
- Minimum HSC (or equivalent) with secretarial knowledge.
- Knowledge of English Word Processor.
- Pleasant personality.
- Preferably under 25 years of age.

Application with complete Bio-Data and a recent passport size photograph should reach the following address by July 10, 1992 positively.

Director, Personnel Affairs
JICA Bangladesh Office
Plot No NW(C)1, Road No 62/63
Gulshan, Dhaka-1212

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BG 078	DEP-DAC	TUE	1845 HRS	BG-079	DEP-NGO	WED	1115 HRS.
	ARR-SIN	WED	0045 HRS		ARR-SIN	WED	1635 HRS
	DEP-SIN	WED	0225 HRS		DEP-SIN	WED	1745 HRS
	ARR-NGO	WED	0945 HRS		ARR-DAC	WED	1945 HRS

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