

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Home-bound Locksmith

by Fayza Haq

Mohammed Tahir is a hard-working, forthright and taciturn locksmith, who comes from Bikrampur. He lives in the vicinity of Motijheel Commercial Area and, works his heart out to bring home the necessities for his wife and family.

He has no savings at all. This is because he is struggling to make a living and wants a more comfortable future for his wife and children. He has also his parents and brothers in mind, and is being pressurised by his father to financially help out with the marriages of his two remaining sisters.

This is despite the fact that his father Mohammed Tamiruddin Khan, aged 60, and his mother, Manwara Begum aged 40, living in Dhaka, have property in the village. This will be about twelve 'gon das', and while the house itself comprises a tin house, with a corrugated roof and has even a tin wall and a hedge of inter-laced wood pieces.

Tahir explains that a lot of property had been sold to get the eldest sister, Zahida, married. When it was Asma, his second sister's turn, part of the family property in Bikrampur was mortgaged. When Khudaija, the next sister, was given in marriage, more mortgage followed.

The locksmith earns about 40 taka to 100 taka a day or so he says. He is not the wandering locksmith who goes to the residential areas, hollers, and finds jobs done quicker. This is from the ladies of the houses, or their husbands and older male members of the family, on Fridays.

"I admit I hate sitting in the boiling sun, pouring rain, or getting my nostrils assailed by the smoke, dust and grime, where I work. I do not even own a wallet and put money in my shirt pocket. But I must persevere for my wife Rukiya, 25, son Tuhin, aged 11, and Roman, aged 4," Tahir says.

"I have inherited my know-how and trade from my father who works as a mechanic's aid and locksmith, and lives in Shahjahanpur. He serves me rice, fish or meat — whichever is available, as well as bananas, if that too is

around, when I visit him occasionally. Yet I detest the constant nagging for money to get the rest of the sisters married. You know they want big dowries in the villages. You know too well yourself, what might ensue if the dowry promises are not fulfilled. It is common that watches, radios and cash money is often handed over.

The young wife-to-be has to be given her trousseau of sets of 'saris'. Being older than me, you know better about in-laws and the women's problems and how these in-laws, even though they are in the village have to be constantly appeased," the 30 year-old locksmith confides in one.

He adds, "Yes, there are times when the well-to-do in the city turn up in their sleek or middle-sized cars and their motor-cycles, and get their keys cut for their vehicle.

There are 'sahibs' from Gulshan, Bani and Dhanmandi, who take me to their homes, and that makes my day." Tahir continues, "I do not indulge in the carom games or the magic show that are shown and played in my vicinity, even though I am naturally attracted by their presence. There are then the musicians and story tellers. Although they repeat their performances, I enjoy them and would like to witness them, as they make you relax."

When questioned about his leisure time, he adds, "I admit I have watched films like 'Abhuj Mon', 'Rangbaar', 'Mintu Amar Naam' but now I have no time. I stay on my job till about six pm and then rush home. If I do not tend my children's upbringing and take care of my wife, who will? I must be content with 'daal' and 'bhat' and vegetables. I hate 'shukti' and even fish is expensive for me every day," he adds.

Content with two old pants and two 'lungis', along with a pair of slippers, the locksmith is happy to be home, and have the occasional 'chat' with his friends, with tea and biscuits, with the neighbour's transistor radio music to relieve the possible ennui and the natural fatigue.



Md. Tahir taking a respite

## Educate people in fighting fire: Matin

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Wednesday urged the fire fighting personnel to make about efforts to reduce the loss of life and damages to property in fire accidents and by other disasters, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking to the officials and personnel of the fire service and civil defence at its headquarters at Fulbaria here.

The Home Minister directed the officials to be ever alert and vigilant and rush to the troubled spots quickly. Appreciating the role of the department he asked them to chalk out programmes in creating mass awareness about fire hazards and educating the people in fighting fire and other accident.

Earlier, the Home Minister visited the control room, store, workshop and all the operational units of fire service and civil defence headquarters here he inspected the parade and took salute from a contingent of fire-brigade and civil defence personnel.

Later the Home Minister planted a sapling at the office premises.

Home Secretary M Lutful-lahil Majid and DG of fire service and civil defence Brig (Retd) Nurul Islam Laskkar attended the function.

## Shelly's birth anniversary celebrated

Poetry lovers of Dhaka witnessed a rare function 'Kabi-kantha,' poetry journal, arranged a discussion to celebrate the bi-centennial birth anniversary of English poet PB Shelly who was born on August 4 two hundred years ago, reports BSS.

Noted poets and literary personalities participated in the session which included discussion on the poet's life, work, commitments and his struggle followed by the recitation and from his work, both in original English and Bengali translation.

## Better services to family planning acceptors suggested

Speakers at a workshop here yesterday called for ensuring better services to the family planning acceptors through proper training to the field workers, reports UNB.

At a workshop on 'Assessment of Clinical Contraception Services in the Bangladesh Family Planning Programme' here, they also urged an action plan in this regard.

Directorate of Family Planning, Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception (AVSC) and University Research Corporation (Bangladesh) jointly arranged the day-long workshop.

The participants observed that accountability was an important factor for measuring any success in the field of family planning.

For ensuring better services to the clients, they suggested that the existing system of reward and punishment should be activated.

"A high level committee headed by Additional Health Secretary should be formed to consider the recommendations and adopt an action plan," the participants said.

Regarding training they held the view that the field workers should be oriented through training in accordance with the real need.



Prof Abdul Hafiz MP addressing a discussion meeting at the Press Club auditorium Wednesday.

## CNN programmes won't undermine national interest, claims Huda

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday assured the Jatiya Sangsad that the proposed transmission of the Cable News Network (CNN) programme through Bangladesh Television (BTV) would not undermine the national interest, reports BSS.

The BTV will rather be greatly benefited by telecasting the CNN programme, the credibility of which has been established worldwide, he said.

The Minister said this in reply to the criticism of the proposed CNN programme through BTV by members of Awami League in the Jatiya Sangsad today. The AL members accused the Information Ministry and the Minister concerned of betraying the national interest by allowing a foreign medium to exercise its influence over Bangladesh.

They also alleged 'foul play' or 'corruption' in the deal with the US-based CNN.

Refuting the opposition charges, Huda said categorically that the present BNP government was elected by the people and it had not taken any decision so far or would not take any in the future which might undermine the interest of the nation.

The CNN issue was first raised by Awami League member Mohiuddin Ahmed (Bakergonj) who said by signing an agreement with the CNN the Ministry of Information had not only undermined the national interest, but also ignored the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry, of which he was a member. Mohiuddin also said that with this contact with CNN, the BTV would lose its impact and the estimated Taka 50 crore yearly profit of the organisation would no longer be there. He also referred to a report of the daily 'Ajker Kagor' about the CNN-BTV affair.

## 'Presidential system still in force'

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker at a discussion expressed the view on Wednesday that the Presidential system of rule was still in force in the country under the cover of Parliamentary form of government.

They said that the total power was lying with the Prime Minister after reverting to the parliamentary system, alike President under the previous system.

The speakers include Prof. Abdul Hafiz, MP, KM Sobhan, Gazil Huq, Dr. Mohammad Selim, Nurul Alam, Habibur Rahman Milon, Mostafa Sarwar, and Dr S A Malek.

The discussion titled 'Declaration of the three alliances and today's reality' was organised by 'Sangsadiya Ganatantra Parisad' at the Press Club auditorium. K M Sobhan, who is also the president of the parisad, presided over the meeting.

The speaker told the meeting that the passage of Special Security Force (SSF) Bill was the latest proof of presidential rule. In the amended version of the SSF Bill, only the word 'President' was replaced by the 'Prime Minister', they added.

The speakers said that except reversion to the parliamentary system constitutionally, none of the commitment of the then three alliance was met yet.

The rule of law, security of the people, human rights, autonomy of the national media, annulment of black laws and accountable government were still dreams to the countrymen but it all were promises of the alliances.

For the first time in the Press Club history, the club management had to close the main gate for 'security' reason, they observed.

Gazil Huq said that the fall of a man does not mean the fall of autocracy.

## HERE and THERE

**Samyabadi Dal**  
Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (M-I) yesterday held a meeting to condole the killing of CPB leader Ratan Sen.

Chaired by the Party General Secretary Dilip Barua, the condolence meeting was also addressed by Abdur Rouf, Lutfor Rahman, Dr Ekhasur Rahman, Abul Khaer and Sunil.

The speakers recalled the glorious contributions of late Sen to the country's politics. They strongly condemned the killing by the anti-liberation 'Jamaat-Shibir' group and urged the Home Minister for sheltering the terrorists.

**DESA Workers' Union**  
Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) Workers' Union yesterday held rallies at Narayanganj, Postogola, English Road, Satmasjid Road, Mirpur, Tejgaon, Tongi, Gulshan, Rajbargh, Kakrail, Palton, Kamalapur offices as well as the DESA headquarters in the city demanding implementation of the union's agreement with the authorities.

The agreement was signed on September 25, 1991.

**Green Leaf**  
A new executive committee of Green Leaf Campaign, a youth organisation against drugs, for the year 1992-93 was elected yesterday with A E Talukder Pavel and Shamsad Mortuza Shuman as its chairman and secretary general respectively.

**Jamiote Ahle Sunnat**  
A meeting of Bangladesh Jamiote Ahle Sunnat was held yesterday at the organisation's central office in the city with its President Shah Mohiuddin Ahmmed in the chair.

**Workshop**  
A one-day workshop on fertilizer marketing management and technology transfer was held at Training Institute of Chemical Industry under BCIC at Ghorashal Tuesday.

The workshop was attended by senior officials of USAID, Ministry of Agriculture, Director (P and I), BCIC, MD's of Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Ghorashal, Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., bank managers, local distributors and BCIC officials.

**Sramik Party**  
Jatiya Sramik Party's Narsingdi district unit yesterday held its annual general meeting in the premises of Ghorashal Janata Jute Mill Workers' Club.

Sramik Party's Assistant General Secretary of the Central Committee chaired the AGM while it was also addressed by Harisul Haq Shimu Molla, Abdul Mottalib Pathan, Delwar Hossain and Moslehuddin Ahmed.

A new executive body of the unit was elected at the meeting with Md Jakat Hossain Bhuiyan and Harisul Haq Shimu Molla as president and general secretary.

**Obituary**  
Nurul Hossain Miah (52), General Manager, Production Division of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) died of hypertensive cerebral haemorrhage Tuesday.

## Lutfor hopeful of an early start of Rohingya repatriation

Repatriation of the Rohingya refugees will begin shortly, State Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfor Rahman Khan told UNB in Dhaka Tuesday.

He, however, did not give any specific date for the repatriation which, he said, would be done under the agreement between the two countries concluded in April last.

The agreement initiated by Foreign Ministers of the two countries had set a time frame of May 15 last to begin the 'safe and voluntary return' of more than a quarter of a million refugees.

The State Minister said that a congenial atmosphere for return of the refugees, according to the reports received from official agencies, had now been created in Rakhaine from where they came to flee alleged persecution.

More than 2,70,000 Rohingya refugees fled their homeland to escape persecution of the Burmese troops and have taken shelter in the districts of Bandharban and Cox's Bazar creating tremendous pressure on the socio-economic condition of the country.

## Leadership of technocrats stressed

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq Wednesday stressed on proper construction management and leadership of the technocrats for better attainments in respective fields, reports UNB.

The Minister was speaking at the concluding session of two training courses on 'Construction management and Leadership,' organised by Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh, here Wednesday afternoon.

He also distributed certificates among the participants. Construction work should be done carefully through maintaining the environmental balance, he said.

Speaking on leadership, he said leaders must have the knowledge, confidence, maturity of thought and outlook for balance assessment of a problem or situation.

He said sociability or social interaction and determination are the other essential qualities of leadership.

Dynamism is the essence of life, he said adding that in absence of dynamism life is dead.

Regarding various problems of the institute, the Minister assured that the government will extend all out cooperation to establish an engineers' staff college, introducing charters engineers act and renovation of shabby auditorium of the institute.

In his presiding speech, President of the institute Jamilur Reza Chowdhury urged the government to solve various problems of the engineers including introduction of profession based administration otherwise, he warned, their quality would fall.



Workers of BCIC, BSFIC and BSEC combined action committee held rallies and protest processions in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of government plan to privatise industries.

## Mahila Parishad demands hospital for women

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Wednesday demanded setting up of a hospital for women in the Dhaka city to gear up the success of health for all by the year 2000 programme.

The parishad at a press conference in the city said the existing facilities for women's health care were inadequate both in the capital and at the district level.

It said due to the lack of such facilities, the women folk of the country were suffering from chronic physical problems as well as social problems arising out of that.

The press conference addressed by General Secretary

Khaleda Mohmud was attended among others, by President Dr Nurunnahar Fayezennessa, Nahar Ahmed, Dr Rawshan Ara, Aziza Idris, Rakhi Das Purkayastha and others.

They said the government should give priority in the national schemes for building such hospital because it would not only directly aid women's health facilities but would also promote a good impact on family planning.

UNB adds: Khaleda Mahmud called on the government to procure funds for the hospital for women from the development sector of Women's Affairs Ministry and Health Ministry.

## Three dacoits arrested in Khulna

Metropolitan police arrested three alleged dacoits from a house at Hajj Ismail Road of Sonadanga thana Tuesday night, reports UNB.

They also recovered one SBBL gun, one pipe gun and 26 rounds of live cartridges from their possession.

Acting on a secret information, police raided the house and arrested Hannan, Selim and Shaheen when they were preparing to commit a dacoity.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet President of Bolivia

President Abdur Rahman Biswas felicitated Lic Jaime Paz Zamora, President of the Republic of Bolivia on the occasion of its Independence Day, says a handout.

In a message to Paz Zamora, President Abdur Rahman Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Bolivia welfare and prosperity.

**Khaleda**  
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia greeted President Lic Jaime Paz Zamora of the Republic of Bolivia on the occasion of its Independence Day.

## Tarique Bawany meets Khaleda

Mohammad Tarique Bawany, a member and representative of the Bawany family, on a visit to Bangladesh, met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office, says a press release.

As a token of appreciation on behalf of Bawany family, he contributed 10,000 dollars towards Prime Minister's Relief Fund and 10,000 dollars for the extension of the Ahmed Bawany Academy building at Dhaka.

## DCC official suspended

Dhaka City Corporation authority has suspended Deputy Tax Officer of Revenue section Iqbal Hossain for negligence of duty, corruption and misbehaviour, according to a corporation press release, reports BSS.



Thursday

5.00	Opening announcement
5.10	Summary
5.20	News in Bangla
5.25	Recitation from the Geeta
6.00	Programme on Rabindranath: Chitra Shikha
6.30	Sabar Sathey
6.30	Jiboner Alo
7.05	Debate
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama: Mallyaday
10.00	News in English
10.25	Parliament round-up
10.35	Olympic highlights
11.40	Khabar/The News
11.50	Friday's Programme
11.55	Summary
	Closing

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light of moderate rain or shower is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong division and at a few places over Dhaka-Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office forecast, while the rainfall activities may increase within a week.

The country yesterday (Wednesday) experienced rainfall at some places. The chief amount of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm were: Sylhet 41mm, Rangamati 32mm, Sitakund 22mm, Chittagong 19mm, Jessore 14 mm and Cox's Bazar 10mm.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:38 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:30 am. The maximum temperature of 33.4 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi yesterday and the minimum of 24.0 degree was reported from Rangamati.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.5	27.2
Chittagong	29.8	25.5
Rajshahi	33.4	26.4
Khulna	32.2	25.8
Dinapur	31.0	26.6
Sylhet	26.0	24.5
Cox's Bazar	29.4	26.5
Barisal	29.6	25.0

## GRAND SALE

### Grand Shalwar Kamiz Sale

by PAL'S BOUTIQUE

Date : 7th August, 1992 (Friday)  
Time : 10:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Venue : Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka S-215

---

### MENG HORNG SHIPPING PTE LTD

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. A. MEGACARRIER V9203 IMP. ROT NO. 545/92 BERTHED AT CHITTAGONG PORT ON 4TH AUGUST 1992 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 536/92 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA U.K., CONTINENT, MEDITERRANEAN/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

### GENERAL AGENTS:

## Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.

(A HRC COMPANY)

<b>DHAKA</b> 19/F Sena Kalyan Bhaban 195, Mujib Rd. C/A Tel: 864546, 864547 Tx: 632105 BOSHBP BJ Telefax: 863734	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> G/F Jiban Bima Bhaban, 1053 Sk. Mujib Rd. Agrabad Tel: 504313, 502123 Tx: 633027 BOSHBP BJ Telefax: 225625	<b>KHULNA</b> 25 Yousuf Row Mirzapur Tel: 21175, 24330 Tx: 633302 BOSHBP BJ Telegram: BOSHBP
---	---	---