

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Coming to the Aid of the Less Fortunate

by Rahat Fahmida

Just eight years back, the sky fell on Ayesha. A widow at 18, with two small sons, deserted by her well-to-do in-laws was totally lost. Left alone a thatched house, without any belongings what so ever, she was struggling to survive with her children, in a slum in Kalyanpur, on the north-eastern part of Dhaka. In that dark sea Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS), a non-government organisation (NGO), was her life jacket. She is now an active member of the organisation's Women's Credit Programme (WCP) in this area, where there are around 700 members. Ayesha also owns a little house in this slum and is educating her son.

Many more Ayeshas were present at workshops organised recently by MSS at two of their project areas: one in Bastohara Samity (Bor) Bostice, Kalyanpur, and the other in Agar-gaon. The workshops discussed domestic violence against women, violation of human rights, with samity members of WCP programme.

Women have attempted to voice their concern about society's neglect of them. In this particular areas MSS, has emphasised and helped them to recognise women's issues. In general, they faced and still do face an uphill struggle against a rigid patriarchal system. This was discussed by the speakers, and was responded by the samity members.

From the start this movement gained momentum. These workshops heralded a change in women's attitude to their emancipation. The need for an independent movement to recognise and improve the status of women in these areas, has emerged from the experience of collective action. Culturally — and from the orthodox standpoint — the woman is recognised as only a mother, wife, sister or daughter, which places her as subservient to all the male members of the family. This unequal relationship prevails even when the woman is the bread earner or an equal provider. These aspects were focussed by the two speakers at the Kalyanpur workshop — Farida Rahman, currently a member of the parliament, and Malika Begum, a leading activist and writer for more than two decades.

With these odds against them, it is necessary that the awareness of the scores of urban-educated women spreads to the consciousness of those hundreds of thousands living in these

slums, so that an active and powerful women's movement can mature and become effective. This is MSS's one of the main priorities.

The Women's Credit Programme (WCP) completed its first phase in December, 1990. The second phase has commenced from January, 1991 for a five year period ending in 1995. Whereas the first phase was experimental the second phase seeks to institutionalise and professionalise the project-operations. The second phase project a very wide coverage of the project activities in terms of membership, loan disbursement and areas. The total number of membership projected at the end of this phase is 54,000 in 30 branches.

Based on this concept the WCP has established branches as operational units of the project. Each branch is projected to have 1,800 members with administrative support consisting of the Branch Manager and 6 project workers. It is estimated that the branch would be able to disburse Tk 41.40 lakhs on reaching 1,800 membership criteria and after that the disbursement amount would increase every year. With the interest that is earned, the branches would be able to go to break-even point. In the sixth year and thereafter, would be able to sustain itself.

The vice president of MSS, Rokhsana Kondeker, said that this organisation started off in Dhaka when the country was hit by famine. A group of students from Residential Model School and later of Dhaka University started a movement titled "Clothe the Nudes".

In January 1977, the movement was given an organisational shape in Dhaka in the form of Shahajya Sangstha (SAS) which was subsequently, renamed Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS).

The project is co-financed by the Royal Netherlands Government and the Ford Foundation. The Women's Credit Programme is based on the Gramscian Bank model. The Gramscian Bank system emphasises self-reliant structures through internal financing and to emphasise external funding.

Economic and social constraints have further restricted the leadership of most women's organisations to the upper-middle and bourgeois classes. But MSS amongst other organisations are working their way hard to overcome this situation.



Manabik Shahajya Sangstha has helped these slum-dwellers to run a business of their own.



British Home Minister Kenneth Clarke was warmly received by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury on his arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday. Story on page 1. — PIDphoto

## Hand over Zainul's works under govt disposal, urges Jahanara

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum yesterday said that the works of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin are national assets and it is our moral obligation to restore and preserve these precious assets, reports BSS.

She called upon his family members and concerned persons to hand over Zainul's Chitrashala under government disposal for proper preservation and maintenance. The State Minister was addressing a discussion at the Bangladesh Art and Crafts Foundation organised in observance of the 78th anniversary of birth of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin at Sonargaon.

It was also addressed by Prof Rezaul Karim MP, Begum

Zainul Abedin, Cultural Secretary Islam Uddin Malik, eminent litterateur Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, Director General of National Museum Sheikh Akram Ali and director of the foundation.

Prof Jahanara Begum said Zainul Abedin had successfully upheld the life style and historic events including the famine, Language Movement and Liberation War by his outstanding paintings. She paid tributes to the memory of the artist.

Begum Zainul Abedin, in her speech, said the Shilpacharya always thought about the flourishing of folk and craft art.

Speakers at the discussion underlined the need for estab-

lishing miniature Bangladesh at the foundation complex at Sonargaon. Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin was the founder of the Bangladesh Folk and Crafts Foundation.

Later a drama was staged by the local cultural organisation "Sahitya Niketan," based on working life of Zainul Abedin.

Earlier a meeting of the trustee board of the foundation was held at the board room with State Minister Prof Jahanara Begum in the chair. The meeting reviewed the activities of the foundation.

It was informed in the meeting that a week-long national folk festival and fair of arts and crafts would be held from January 20 at the foundation complex.

## HERE and THERE

**FPAB**  
Alamgir M A Kabir, Kazim Anisur Rahman and Badruddin Ahmed were re-elected President, Honorary Secretary General and Honorary Treasurer respectively of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) for the year 1993-1994.

The election was held here on Monday at Shahid Matzuddin auditorium.

Other elected office-bearers are: Vice-Presidents — Dr. Sultan Ahmed, Prof. Abul Quasem, Akkas Ali Manju and Shafi Mazumder, Assistant Honorary Secretary General — Principal Mazharul Hannan, Honorary Secretary (medical) — Dr. N H A Qureshi, Honorary Secretary (Lec) — Humayun Kabir Khandaker, Honorary Secretary (Women affairs) — Begum Momtaj Hossain and Honorary Secretary (Youth) — Advocate Zahid Anwar. Beside, fifteen members of the NEC were also elected in the Annual General Meeting.

**Mathematical Physics confce**  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 29: A week-long third conference on Mathematical Physics under

the auspices of Research Centre for Mathematical Physical Sciences was inaugurated at the Chittagong University yesterday.

Inaugurating the conference Prof Shamsul Haq, Chairman of the University Grants Commission said the advances in science and technology would have a great impact on mankind. Prof Haq underlined the importance of international cooperation in this regard so that the real programmes could be made in the domain of science and technology.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, Director of the centre Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, Prof H Araki of Japan and Prof A Kadir of Pakistan also addressed the inaugural session.

**BSC shareholders' AGM tomorrow**  
The fourteenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of shareholders of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation will be held on December 31 at corporation head office in Chittagong, reports BSS.

State Minister for Shipping and Chairman BSC board of directors will presided over the meeting.

**Obtains PhD**  
Professor Khurshida Banu, Head of the Department of Botany of Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh, has recently been awarded with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by the University of Dhaka for her thesis entitled "The Taxonomic Studies on the Aecocarpus Mosses of Bangladesh," says a press release.

She is the first to obtain PhD in Bangladesh in this special branch of Botany.

**Bank holiday tomorrow**  
The Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks will remain closed for transaction tomorrow (Thursday) on account of bank holiday, a Bangladesh Bank press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

## 2 sub-committees of JS body on Estimates formed

Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on Estimates at its 10th meeting yesterday formed two sub-committees to help prepare a draft report, reports UNB.

Dr Abdul Mayeen has been made convener of one sub-committee which includes Md Abdullah and Abul Hasan Chowdhury as its members. Dr Abdur Razzak is the convener of the second sub-committee of which Shahidullah Khan and Khurram Khan Chowdhury are the members.

Chairman of the Standing Committee Abdur Rouf Chowdhury chaired the meeting which also discussed various matters relating to the formulation of its first draft report.

Members of the committee who attended the meeting were Abdur Razzak, Khurram Khan Chowdhury, Dr Abdur Mayeen Khan, Shahidullah Khan, Mohammad Abdullah and Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

Comptroller and Accountant General (CAG) Khondker Moazzem Hossain and Chairman of Bangladesh Sugar Industries Corporation Meer Belyet Hossain were also present.

## IUBAT seminar January 3

Dr M Zaman, visiting Faculty of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) from University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, Australia will deliver lecture at a seminar on "Inventory Cost Management Differences in Public and Private Sector Textile Mills in Bangladesh" organised by Centre for Management Development (CMD), says a press release.

The seminar will take place at the Seminar Room of IUBAT, House-135 Road-9A (old 19), Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209 on January 3 at 4:30 pm.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the region of Kushtia during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature may remain unchanged during this period.

The maximum temperature of 28.1 degree Celsius was reported from Satkhira yesterday (Tuesday) and the minimum of 8.6 degree Celsius from Isurdi.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5:22 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6:42 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.0	11.6	87	69
Chittagong	25.0	13.5	85	68
Rajshahi	26.6	9.5	82	77
Khulna	27.3	11.2	93	70
Cox's Bazar	27.4	14.5	73	70
Sylhet	24.2	13.3	83	77
Dinajpur	23.5	10.8	93	78
Barisal	27.0	11.0	94	80



Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed handing over the licence allowing Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) to begin operating as a Commercial Bank to Dr Abdullah Farouk, Chairman, Board of Directors, BSRS. Mamun-Ur-Rashid, Managing Director, BSRS also seen on the left of Finance Secretary.

## 'Parties, people should work together'

CHITTAGONG, Dec 29: State Minister for Environment, Forest Fisheries and Livestock Goyeswar Chandra Roy has said that the youths should participate in the development programmes by self-employment, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest a youth conference yesterday organised by Chikan-kandi Union Parishad Jubodal. Syed Wahidul Alam MP, Ekram Karim, Secretary General of Chittagong BNP, Shahjahan Siraj, President of Chittagong Red Crescent Society and other local leaders also addressed the conference.

The State Minister said all political parties and the people should work unitedly for achieving the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Political and social stability is a precondition for development, he said. He urges the youths to take responsibility in eradicating terrorism and hoodliganism from the society.

## Red Crescent Managing Board term extended

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday extended the term of the ad-hoc Managing Board of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society for another six months with effect from January 1, 1993, reports UNB.

## APO executives

Habibullah Khan Chairman and Managing Director of Ganges Motors Ltd and Dr. Syed Ahmad, Director of National Productivity Organisation (NPO) were elected President and General Secretary of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) society for Bangladesh here yesterday, reports BSS.

The 15-member executive committee elected for 1993-94 includes Vice-Presidents A. M. Mubash-Shar, Director of DCCI and Mohammad Abu Misir, ex-director of NPO, treasurer-Mohammad Jawaid Yahya, Production Manager of Gaco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

The committee also includes two joint secretaries and eight members representing various government and private organisations.

## Radio programme on Abbasuddin

The Radio Bangladesh Commercial Service, Dhaka will broadcast a special audience-participation programme today at 8.45 pm in observance of the death anniversary of Abbasuddin Ahmed, the illustrious son of the soil in the field of music, reports BSS.

The 45 minutes programme will be originated from National Broadcasting House auditorium, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and all the regional stations will relay the programme simultaneously.

## Mini marathon to promote SAARC spirit tomorrow

A group of South Asian Students in Dhaka will organise a marathon trek tomorrow, says a press release.

It will start from International Hostel at 7 am to mark the forthcoming 7th SAARC Summit.

The objective of this marathon is to promote and uphold the spirit of SAARC.

## Navy rescues 27 wood cutters in Khulna

KHULNA, Dec 29: Bangladesh Navy ship Padma during anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol near Kagabaga channel in the Sunderbans last night rescued 27 bawalis (wood cutters) and recovered a single barrelled gun with 17 rounds of cartridges and a binocular from three pirates, reports BSS.

The bawalis had reportedly been taken as hostages by the pirates for the last five days, according to an ISPR press release today.

The pirates opened fire on the approaching navy patrol which returned fire and captured the boats. All the pirates, however, jumped overboard and escaped during the cross-fire.

## Embargo on pry school registration to go soon

The existing registered private primary schools which are getting Taka five hundred for each of four teachers per month will continue to get the same and the embargo on registration of private primary schools will be withdrawn soon, according to an official source here yesterday, reports BSS.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Education held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday afternoon with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair.

The meeting decide that the registration of the private primary schools will be completed by May, 1993 and each of the four teachers of the

newly registered private primary schools and Abtedayi Madrasahs will be given Taka five hundred per month from July, 1993.

It has recommended for enhancement of allowance from Taka five hundred to one thousand for each of the four teachers from July, 1994, in case of those schools and Abtedayi Madrasahs which will cover a period of five years of registration.

Members of the committee Amanullah Aman, MP, Khurshid Jahan Hoq, MP, Prof Rafiqul Islam, MP, Abdur Rab Mia, MP and Shah Ruhul Quddus, MP attended the meeting.

Education Secretary Shaiful Alam and concerned officials were present.

## Japanese MP meets Hannan

The visiting Japanese Parliament Member (Member of the House of Councilors) and Director, Japan Bangladesh Parliamentarians League Makoto Taneda called on Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah at his office here yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest with special reference to setting up of a jute based paper pulp industry in Bangladesh with Japanese collaboration.

The visiting Japanese MP assured their full cooperation and said that a survey team from Japan would visit Bangladesh by March '93 for detailed discussions and negotiations for setting up a paper and pulp industry based on jute.

Jute Minister iterated Bangladesh government's willingness to set up the projects as early as possible and to form an inter-ministerial committee to facilitate this project.

## David B Waller new DG of IAEA

David B Waller has been appointed Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He replaced William J Dircks, says a press release yesterday.

Waller earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics (cum laude) in 1970 at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and his J D Law (with honours) at the University of Tulsa College of Law in 1973.

He served as Trial Attorney in the Civil Division of the US Department of Justice from 1974-78 and as Attorney-at-Law in the Hogan and Hartson law firm in Washington D.C. from 1978-81. From 1981-86, Waller was a Senior Associate Counsel to the US President at the White House and, from 1986-89, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Energy Emergencies in the US Department of Energy.

## Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd

### International Tender Notice

Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Co (Bangladesh) Ltd, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka invites Tender in two envelope system for Import on C&F (C) Chittagong/ Benapole basis under any suitable source. (1) PD-II/KCC/330/265(F) liquid Paraffin Light and (2) PD-II/KCC/331/266(F) Liquid Paraffin (Heavy). Tender will be received on 2-2-93 and 8-2-93 respectively up to 11-00 am and opened immediately after. Tender documents available at Tk 50.00 each for Sl No 1 and 2 (Non-refundable) from (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong and (3) Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of Tender. Earnest Money 1% minimum Tk 1,000.00 only. D-723

## Appointment

Organon Teknika, is a world leader in specialist health care products for hospitals, clinical/pathological labs and nephrology centres.

In order to promote a range of these products, including diagnostic chemicals, kits and equipment, a number of Sales Promotion Officers will be recruited.

The positions require extensive travelling to achieve the desired objectives.

Excellent remuneration and prospects for career progression.

Interested individuals with post-graduate degree in Biochemistry or Chemistry who have acquired exceptional skills in marketing are requested to apply. Hand written applications with a curriculum vitae and a recent passport size photograph should reach the following address by 10th January 1993.

**Transcom Distribution Company Limited**  
52 Motijheel Commercial Area  
Dhaka 1000

## International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)

### ADMISSION IN PROGRESS

1. Bachelor in Computer Science (BCS), 4 years, HSC & 'O' level.
2. Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA), 2nd batch, 4 years, HSC & 'O' level
3. Master in Business Administration (MBA), 2 years, 4 years bachelor degree
4. Diploma in Computer Science, 2nd batch, 1.3 years, Bachelor/HSC/'O' level
5. Diploma in Accounting, 1.3 years, Bachelor/HSC/'O' level
6. Certificates program in executive development, Computer and English.

Details in Bangladesh Observer and Ittefaq of 24th & 27th December.

**Prof. Dr. M. Alimullah Miyan**  
International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)  
House-135, Road-9A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, GPO Box-2857, Dhaka-1000.  
Tel: 313360, 313385, Fax: 880-2-863060