

# Dhaka Day by Day

## At your service, ma'am!

by Fayza Haq

Abdus Salam, aged 36, originally from Dhazipur, 45 miles from Dhaka, is a packer at the Eidgah Post office. He is always charming and full of politesse, when people go to him to post their letters, cards or even parcels.

He is never annoyed, no matter how much of work he has to cope with, even at the rush hours. One has always known him to greet one cheerfully and work 'on the double' from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. He is seldom flustered or impatient with the endless demands for tickets, forms, radio or TV licences to be filled up—as he helps and guides the sub-post master.

He is full of humour and soothing talk, and nothing in the world appears to ruffle him, as one has studied him over five years, since he began his job at the post office.

The manner in which people visit and demand their tickets, envelopes and items to be measured, require the patience of Job.

It is not that he does not have problems galore, facing him at his office, or at home. As a packer, he earns Tk. 2,100 monthly. His rent alone, at his small home at Mirpur, Pallabi, Dhabalok, costs him Tk. 900, per month. His transport fare, to and for work, costs him Tk. 300 monthly, when his travelling allowance is only Tk. 60 a month. He gets a bush-shirt, a pair of trousers and a pair of shoes, every year as his official uniform, but the sub-post master and he explained, that none of the accoutrements, given by the government, ever fit him. Thus, he must make do with his own clothes, as he sees most fitting, under the circumstances.

Salam has nothing in his bank, as he is always living on credit. He owes the shops near his home for the rice, pulses, oil, and the bread and bananas, that he consumes during his lunch hour. He must, furthermore, buy his wife two cotton saris every six months, and each of these cost him Tk. 170, at least. Similarly, every six months, he tries to get sets of clothes for his children.

For his meals, he can afford only rice and pulses, apart from the occasional egg and the

usual 'gura maachh'. He must pay the school fees for his children too, while he tutors them himself, in his spare hours.

"I did not get anything from my in-laws as dowry. I had to provide all the expenses for the wedding during the 'nikah'. I did not even get to see the face of my wife before my marriage, as I always try to abide by my father's biddings. Thus, there is no question of getting the usual 'cycle, radio or bicycle,' leave alone a motor-cycle or a house, from my wife's family. You see, my wife comes from a poor farmer's family, although she now pleases me to my heart's content, as far as possible and probable," Salam said, dwelling on his marriage.

"I am happy to serve my clients, and enjoy chatting them up. I bring accounts from the Jhikatala post office, along with stamps, and also clear up the post-box, outside the office, and prepare them for stamping. At first, undoubtedly, I would get weary with the stamping and weighing that ensues in my office and which goes on ad fin. However, now I have got used to it. I am surviving, I believe on the 'dua' of my clients," Salam added about his attitude towards his work.

He has only a cup of tea at the office, "I cannot afford biscuits or build castles in the air about a house, car or other luxuries, which I see that other people in the city are enjoying. I would like to dress, feed and cloth my family in a better manner, instead of just eking out an existence. Yet, I must be contented with my fate. I have sent away my wife and children to their village home for a month, so that I can repay my credits. Meanwhile, when I go to my village home on the occasional weekends, I help with the planting of saplings of the fruit trees, and the tending of the farm. What I am crazy about is reading religious books and watching live football matches, and these remain my only hobbies," he added about his personal life.

It is such a welcome change to find such a jovial worker at a post-office in the city.



Abdus Salam at work

## Help implement uplift projects, Oli tells engrsr

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed Yesterday called upon the engineers of the Roads and Highways Division to put in their best efforts to implement the various projects on scheduled so that people can derive benefit from those projects, report BSS.

The Minister was inaugurating a two-day annual conference of Roads and Highways Engineers Association at the Institute of Engineers' here last afternoon.

Presided over by Abdul Mattin, President of the association, the inaugural function was also addressed by Syed Rezaul Hayat, Secretary Roads and Road Transports Division of Communication Ministry, Ataur Rahman, Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Division and Idrish Mia, General Secretary of the association.

Oli Ahmed said overall development could not be achieved without development of communication system in the country. He said the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was accountable to the people as it was voted to power by them. As such all our programmes are aimed at their benefit, he

added. Lauding the role of the engineers of the association, the minister said you have to protect your respect and dignity through hard work and sincerity.

He also urged them to be careful while preparing a document or a report.



Sunday

- 5:00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran Programme Summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Cartoon: Tom the Nasty Cat
- 5:35 Sports Programme
- 6:30 Open University
- 7:05 Tagore Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Probaha
- 9:00 Film Show: The Wizard
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Sapta Dinga
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's Programme Summary
- 11:45 Closing

## Weather

### Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal, Comilla and Sylhet, according to Met office.

Weather remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts night temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature of 12.5 degree Celsius was reported from Rangamati yesterday (Saturday) and the maximum of 29.7 degree was reported from Feni.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.44 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.40 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	9am	6pm
Dhaka	28.6	17.0	67	61
Chittagong	29.0	14.4	85	68
Rajshahi	28.8	13.0	75	73
Khulna	28.6	14.3	73	65
Barisal	28.0	14.0	90	72
Cox's Bazar	28.0	17.0	77	79
Sylhet	28.6	15.0	64	64
Dinajpur	27.2	13.0	79	74

# US Trade Show

Come Visit

## "US BUSINESS IN BANGLADESH"

A WIDE RANGE OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WILL BE ON DISPLAY

Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Date : January 30, 31, & February 1, 1993

Time : 10.00 AM to 8.00 PM

Co-Sponsored by  
American Bangladesh Economic Forum  
and  
The US Embassy in Bangladesh

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. NGS RNAGER V4393 IMP. ROT NO. 62/93 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 31ST JANUARY 1993 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 GO TO MONGLA TO DISCHARGE/LOAD AND THERE AFTER IN HER 2ND CALL AT CHITTAGONG WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 63/93 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, UK/CONTINENT, MEDT. FAR-EAST/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

FOR BOOKING AND OTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT GENERAL AGENTS:

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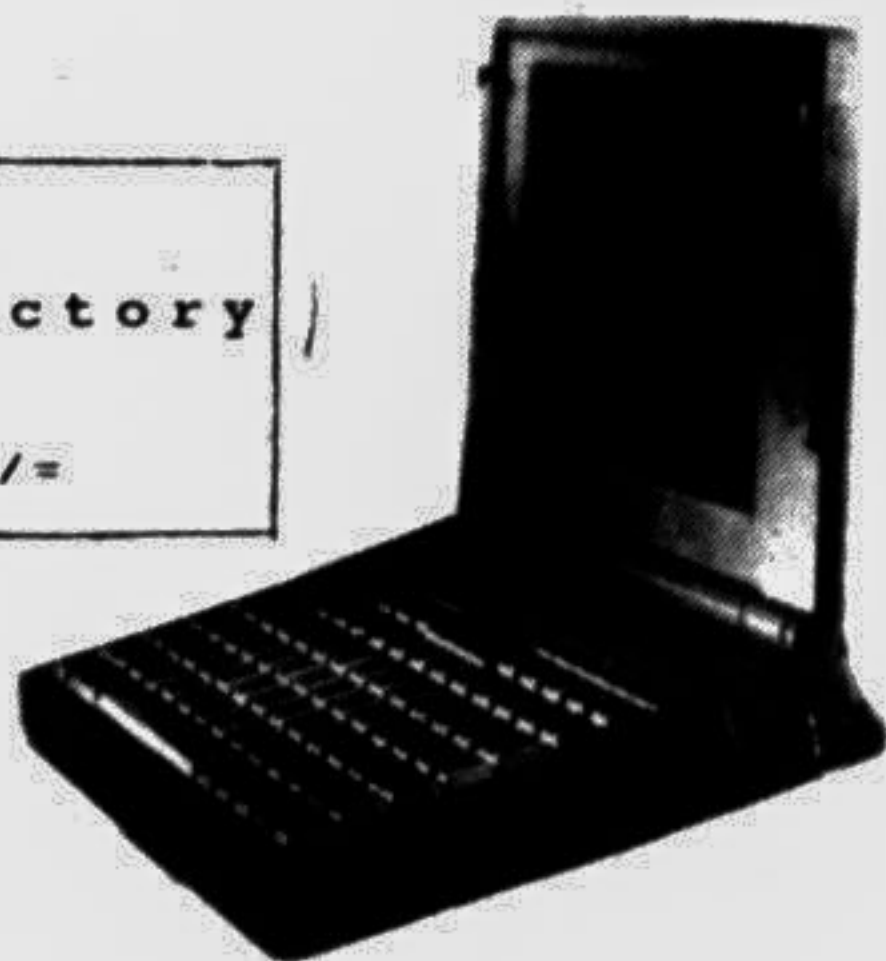
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The next step was to send out applications for the research fellowship. And believe me it took some doing.

If you don't deserve it, who does?

Hunting for addresses. Electric-typing each application. Photocopying all the certificates. And stamps, stamps, stamps. Posted each envelope personally. Settled down to a long wait. The postman became Man of the Year. But every evening found an empty mailbox. Until a moment ago. "It's Harvard, no less!" I think I deserve a Gold Leaf now.



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