

Dhaka Day by Day

Junk for Sale

by Sharier Khan

Only three months ago, Majnu used to drift along the city streets, jaywalking fashion. He used to carry a gunny bag. And he used to pick every little thing the city dwellers throw away. Papers, cans, used pens, video cassette tapes, nuts and bolts left by crazy people and what not. After collecting all these junks, he took them to second-hand paper dealers everyday and sold them. That was his living.

Then he allowed himself a promotion in his career three months ago. From junk supplier he turned into a junk shop owner.

Hold it! This junk shop is not really a shop. His selling venue is located at Bijoy Nagar Road. For a daily bribe of Tk 4 given to certain police guards (whose motto is law and love-for-money are blind) Majnu got a place on the footpath. His shop is spread over a gunny cloth. There he pours all sorts of junks to catch the buyers' eye.

Beside his footpath shop, another person, 40-year-old Nuruddin has a similar shop. Both of them buy their junk products from the second-hand paper dealers of the city at nominal prices.

On his left are plastic bottles, mortin spray guns, broken and mutilated sun glasses, spectacles frames, second-hand '555' batteries, national batteries, fourth-hand audio cassettes, in front of him lay peculiar types of spoons (buyers favourite), obsolete pens, markers that hardly marks, one-time-use syringes, small-size motors, adaptors, cassette screws, parts of cars, trucks etc (who knows some may belong to submarines or air planes), and on his right there are hair spray cans, perfume bottles etc.

The spoons are my customers' hot favourite, he reveals. I sell those for Tk 2 to Tk 4 depending on their sizes and designs. His buyers are mostly down and out people. Shum dwellers



Vendors selling nuts and bolts in the city's junk junction at Dholakhal.

rickshawpullers and their types. But one shouldn't be surprised to find that middle class buyers also stalk golden deer there.

I bought an adaptor for 30 taka from this shop last month, a 16-year-old high school-going customer says while having a glance on Majnu's shop. It works just fine. Now I'm looking for another one for my friend.

Another person stooping over Majnu's junk discovers something very odd. Computer diskette. Only Tk 10. Another odd ball: a Casio electronic calculator in a crushed body. Only Tk 10. "But it's useless!" the surprised middle class buyer tells Majnu. Then I will sell it to someone who knows its use! Majnu answers smartly.

Another office going middle-rank official while passingby, stops. He picks up a multi-coloured ball-point pen. His eyes are saying "eureka!" how much for this pen?

— Tk 4.
— That's too much. I'll give you two... no? OK, three? Well, OK. The pen fan pays off, inserts the pen in his pocket where two attractive looking pens are shining, and hurries to his office.

"So you think my inkless pens won't be sold?" Majnu smiles at cynics. "So you think nobody would buy my powerless batteries or calculators? just you wait and see... people have strange demands you know."

Indeed people have strange demands. Through such demands Majnu earns his living. His every day income is over Tk 100. On his income runs the lives of his wife and his younger brother. "Someday, I'll be the owner of a big shop," dreams he. "Of junks," says the pragmatic one.



First day cover on Football Wizard.

— PID photo

Tk 138 cr earned as LC, registration fees

Bangladesh has earned Taka 138 crore and 11 lakh as Letter of Credit fee, registration fee and permit fee during 1991-92 financial year compared to Taka 124 crore and 80 lakh in the previous year, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the 16th meeting of the boards of standing committee on the Ministry of Commerce here yesterday with Commerce Minister MK Anwar in the chair.

Members of the committee Amir Khosru, Begum Farida Hasan, Advocate A Kalam, Kamruddin Ehtyha Khan Majlish, Mohammad Anwar Ali Siddiky, Commerce Secretary Nazim Ahmed Chowdhury and senior officials were present.

The meeting reviewed the activities of the office of the Controller of Imports and Exports.

Commerce Minister said that government was following a liberal trade policy. Both import and export policies have been liberalised. At present, import of 191 items are controlled by the government of which 100 items would be freed very soon.

MK Anwar said that the

government had liberalised the trade policy for protecting the interest of the 11 crore people and not to protect the interest of any group.

He said that the trade policy had been made democratic so that a particular section of people could not increase the price of the items mainly used by the poor people. He, however, said that we should keep vigilance so that the country could not be just an open market for foreign goods. The government would render all out cooperation to gear up the local industries in this respect, he said.

Shab-e-Barat holiday for newspapers Feb 7

Offices of all newspapers will remain closed on February 7 on the occasion of holy Shab-e-Barat, a press release of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Therefore, there will be no newspapers on February 8.

Commemorative stamp on Football Wizard Samad

Bangladesh Post Office issued a commemorative postage stamp of Taka 2 denomination and a first day cover valued at Taka 5 on the occasion of death anniversary of Football Wizard Syed Abdus Samad, reports BSS.

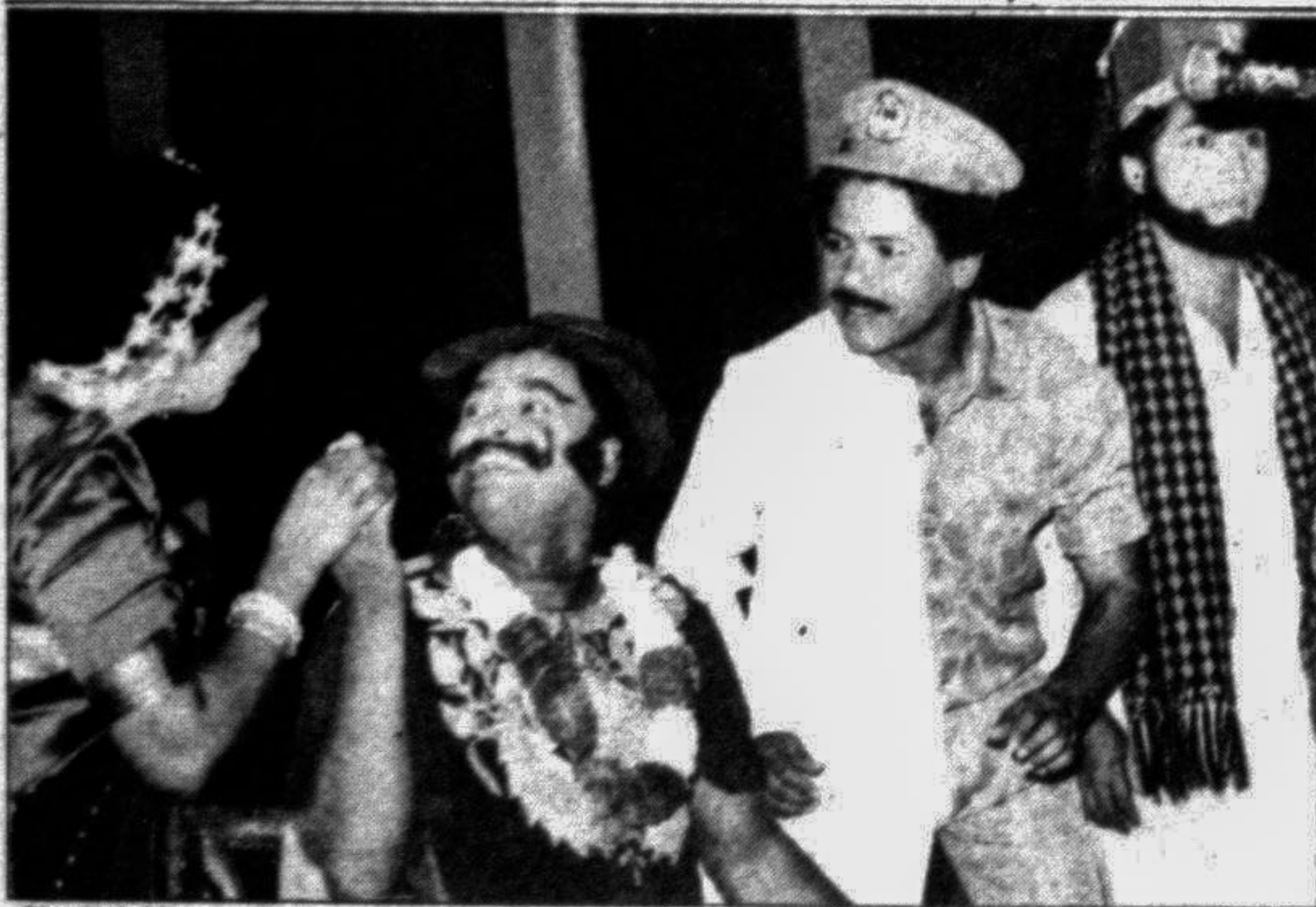
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally released the stamp in a simple ceremony at her office here yesterday.

A special chancellor was used on the occasion. Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Mohammad Karamat Ali, Secretary Posts and Telecommunications Dr A MM Shawkat Ali, Director General Postal Department Mohiuddin Ahmed and senior officials of the Postal Department were present.

The stamp and the first day cover will be sold from head post offices including all GPOs. The commemorative stamp will subsequently be sold from all post offices.

Football Wizard Syed Abdus Samad was born in Purnia district of West Bengal, India. He came to the lime light at the age of 11 when he scored the only goal in the football ground of Purnia Town Club. He became members of Calcutta Orientals Club and Tajhat Club, Rangpur in 1918 and 1920 respectively. He played for East Bengal Railway team from 1921 to 1931. He visited Burma, England and China with Indian National Football Team in 1924.

Samad played in Java (Indonesia) and Sri Lanka in 1926 and 1932 respectively for all India Football Association. He joined the Mohammedan Sporting Club in 1933 and was offered the honour of the 'hero of the games' in the same year.



Shaibal Natya Chakra staged an open air drama 'Mantrir pathshala' yesterday at the Shaheed Minar to mark the Amor Ekushey.

— Star photo

Canadian envoy, Noman exchange views

Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Emile Gacevrau, called on Minister for Environment, Forest and Fisheries, Abdullah Al-Noman, at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed various matters relating to the development of fisheries and livestock and exchanged views on the technical and financial assistance from Canada in this field.

Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock AZM Nasruddin and Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forest Dr Akbar Ali Khan were present during the meeting.

The possibility of Canadian assistance in two proposed large scale dairy farms at Chittagong and Bogra also came up in the discussion.

517 children take part in Ekushey painting contest

A total of 517 children painters took part in a painting competition on "Our Liberation War" in the Bangla Academy premises on the second day of the Ekushe Book Fair and academy programmes on the glorious Language Movement, reports BSS.

Painter Quamrul Chowdhury inaugurated the competition, while Director-General of Academy Prof Harun ar Rashid gave his welcome address.

Painter Chowdhury said in his speech that the War of Liberation of Bangladesh, like that of other liberation wars in the world, possessed its own image and colours.

The elderly painter advised the children to project the sacrifices of the freedom fighters through their colours, because the event of 1971, he said, was the most glorious chapter of the Bengali nation.

What's on today....

Discussion on Bangla Academy books

A discussion meeting on two books published by Bangla Academy will be held today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at the academy compound on the occasion of the Amar Ekushey book fair.

The books are 'Motaher Hossain Chowdhurir Jibon Bhaban' by Habib Rahman and 'Samajtaya: Sankat O Sambhabana' by Badrul Alam Khan.

Prof Abdul Quader Fazlul Haq, Afzalul Bashar, Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury and Prof Shahidul Islam will participate in the discussion. The meeting will be followed by a musical soiree.

Nagarik Natya Sampradai

A discussion meeting on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of stage show by the Nagarik Natya Sampradai will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm at the Mahila Samity Auditorium.

Begum Sufia Kamal will attend the function as chief guest. The meeting will be followed by a drama show 'Baki Ethashi'.

Aranyak Natya Dal

Aranyak Natya Dal has taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate its 20th founding anniversary today (Wednesday) at the Shilpakala Academy.

The programmes include street drama 'Ghumer Manush' at 3:30 pm, discussion meeting at 4:30 pm songs of Bengali drama at 5:30 pm and staging of Mamunur Rashid's new drama 'Pathar' at 6:30.

Jahanara Imam will attend the function as chief guest while the keynote paper will be presented by Badaruddin Ahmed. Shawkat Ali, Manzurul Hassen Khan, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Abdullah Al Mamun, Mamtazuddin Ahmed and Tarek Anam Khan will participate in the discussion.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.



The 20th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Export Import Co Ltd (BEXIMCO) was held at Sonargaon Hotel. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, ASF Rahman presided over the meeting.

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The minimum temperature of 11.2 degree Celsius was reported from Dinajpur and Rajshahi and the maximum of 28.4 degree was reported from Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 5:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38 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 | 27.5 | 12.6 | 75 | 56 |
| Chittagong | 26.5 | 10.0 | 83 | 74 |
| Rajshahi | 26.7 | 11.2 | 75 | 63 |
| Khulna | 27.3 | 12.5 | 89 | 68 |
| Barisal | 27.4 | 12.6 | 89 | 71 |
| Cox's Bazar | 27.6 | 10.8 | 78 | 66 |
| Sylhet | 27.6 | 14.5 | 59 | 59 |
| Dinajpur | 27.2 | 11.2 | 88 | 67 |



Dhaka University students staged a dance drama as part of the Ekushey programmes in the Bangla Academy premises on yesterday.

— Star photo

Dr Kamal made chief of C'wealth Human Rights Advisory body

Democratic Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain, was unanimously elected chairperson, Commonwealth Human Rights Advisory Commission, at its meeting held in London on Saturday, reports BSS.

Dr Kamal a former foreign minister of Bangladesh, succeeds Flora MacDonald a former Canadian foreign minister, who chaired the Independent Advisory Group constituted by five Commonwealth organisations.

The seven-member commission is to advise the Commonwealth as a whole on human rights issues, taking stock of progress and setbacks in the area of human rights in the Commonwealth.

History of independence being distorted: Zillur

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday said that the historic Language Movement was the manifestation of the spirit of nationalism of the people of the then East Pakistan which helped spearhead the struggle for Liberation War, and independence of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Speaking at the discussion on 'Nationalism in the context of Language Movement', Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman said the Language Movement in 1952 made the spirit of our nationalism more forceful and inspired the subsequent movements, ultimately culminating in the independence.

Zillur Rahman said the first government of Bangladesh after independence presented the nation a constitution and a constitutionally elected government in a war-ravaged country in those days took measures towards self-reliance with implementation of welfare oriented development programmes.

Workers Party alleges rigging in Jessore poura polls

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Workers Party at a press conference Tuesday blamed the government for breaking the tradition of holding fair election by rigging the recent pourashava polls.

The press conference addressed by its Acting General Secretary Haider Akbar Khan Rono alleged massive rigging in some of the polling centres in Jessore and demanded fresh election there.

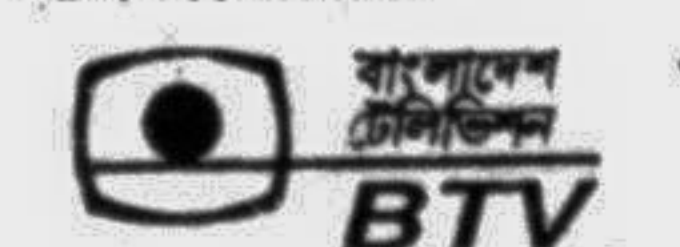
Rono said the tradition which was established through holding a free and fair election under the interim government was now at stake because of the attitude of the ruling party. He called upon the people to resist all attempts of destroying the neutrality and fairness in the elections.

Referring to the rigging in Jessore, Rono said the incidents of Jessore proved that the government did not want fair election.

BEXIMCO declares 15 pc dividend

The 20th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Export Import Co Ltd (BEXIMCO) was held yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel. The meeting was presided over by ASF Rahman, Chairman of the Company's Board of Directors, says a press release.

Salman F Rahman, Deputy Chairman and other Directors attended the meeting. A dividend of 15% was declared in the meeting. Over one thousand shareholders attended the meeting where the company's performance for the period ending June 30, 1992 was highly appreciated.



Wednesday

| | |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 5:00 | Opening announcement. |
| 5:10 | AI Quam |
| 5:25 | Programme Summary |
| 5:30 | News in Bangla |
| 5:45 | Sports Programme |
| 6:00 | Desh-O-Bigyan |
| 6:30 | Open University |
| 7:05 | Pallab |
| 8:00 | News in Bangla |
| 8:30 | Dance programme |
| 9:00 | Film show: The Fall Guy |
| 10:00 | News in English |
| 10:30 | Parliament round up |
| 10:40 | Ujjiban |
| 11:30 | Khabar/The News |
| 11:45 | Closing |

Foundation stone laid

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a multistoried building for Sir AF Rahman Hall on the campus, being built at a cost of Tk. 393.98 lakh, reports UNB.

The new building will consist of 65 student rooms, Provost and House Tutors' offices, four House Tutors quarters, dining room, canteen, cafeteria, TV room, prayer room and reading room.

Happy Birthday

to

Madam

Shamim, Murtada
Asif & Rumi

To My Darling

Apuji

Happy Birthday!

May it be a day full
of rainbows

Love

Shazna

Happy Birthday

Apuji

You are simply
fantastic in Every
way!

Love as always,

Suehzi

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. CHOYANG STAR V-EM303 from Valencia, Khorfakkan, La-Spezia, ex. M.V. ARABIAN SENATOR V-WF-307 & WF-308 from Hongkong, Busan have been relayed to M.V. FONG YUN V-9303, Import Rotation No. 49/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 03-2-93 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.

103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS: D.S.R. SENATOR LINES, GERMANY.
PHONES: 503317, 500686/88.

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bd) Limited

Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bd) Ltd, Tejgaon Ind. Area, Dhaka from the genuine manufacturers for supply of (i) 6,20,000 pcs. Empty Glass Bottle for Snow/ Cold Cream, (ii) 50,000 pcs. Empty Glass Bottle for Medicated Hair Oil (Std), (iii) 20,000 pcs. Empty Glass Bottle for Medicated Hair Oil (Large), (iv) 8,000 pcs. Empty Glass Bottle for Medicated Hair Oil (Family) and (v) 85,000 pcs. Empty Glass Bottle for Bathgate Hair Oil against Tender Enquiry No. PD-III/KCC/24, Dated 31-01-93. Tender documents available at Tk 200.00 (Non-refundable) per set from (1) Kohinoor Chemical Co. (Bd) Ltd, 349-350, Tejgaon Ind. Area, Dhaka (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka and (3) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong. Tender will be received up to 11:00 am on 17-02-93 and opened immediately thereafter. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

D-85

Position Vacant in Aid Office

A bilateral aid donor in a pleasant working environment has a clerical vacancy for a registry clerk. The main work is management of a busy filing system and related duties, including the control of a simple computer database. The right candidate will be fluent in written and spoken Bangla, have a high degree of fluency in written and spoken English, be familiar with word processing packages, ideally wordperfect 5.1. Previous experience in filing system is desirable. Short listed candidates will be given an aptitude test before final selection. The appointment will be on an annual contract. Terms and conditions to be negotiated and will depend on experience.

Closing date for applications is the 10th February, please send your application to: The Advertiser, Box No. D-86, C/o The Daily Star, House No-11, Road No-3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.