

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Promising Display of Haute Couture

by Fayza Haq



A scene from the "Sagittarius" clothes display.

The clothes display of "Sagittarius", arranged by Sabina Sultan, Zubaida Huq, and Fahim Islam, and helped by Shantanu Khan, held at a Dhanmandi residential house, recently, was undoubtedly a promising one.

While the prices of the clothes were reasonable, the collection presented ingenuity, imagination, and knowledge of foreign vogue as well as know-how of local craftsmanship.

Sabina, explaining her background and her entrance into the field of dress-making and dress-designing, said that she was a Final Year student of M. Com. (Marketing). Twenty-three years of age, with an Army Major for a husband, posted at Chittagong, she entered into dress-making and designing to involve herself in her free time. She works on her weekends and vacations and any other leisure time that she can contrive.

"Despite my work schedule at D.U., and my consequential home-tasks, my family supports me in my couture work. I believe that 'Sagittarius' prices have been reasonable, as compared to those found at the boutiques at Gulshan or the clothes displays at the sophisticated local hotels. Some of the items, maybe compared with the creations in other cities of the Sub-continent, but as one knows, Bangladeshis are less affluent than their neighbours in rest of the Sub-continent."

"I prepare some with my own hands, like the three-piece 'shalwar-kameez', with long 'coat'. I get some of my work done by tailors at New Market but hope to get them done at Mohammadpur in the future. I feel relaxed by embroidering during my holiday. It is no strain for my eyes, and I get satisfaction of creation. I learnt by reading books and have been inspired, naturally by fashion books from abroad," Sabina explained about her part in the "Sagittarius" display.

"I hope," she continued, "to have more fashion shows with my creations in the future. My buyers range from the upper middle-class to the more affluent one that resides at Gulshan, Bonani, and Uttara. I believe that 'shalwar-kameez' sets are both useful and comfortable attire, and today it is not limited to teenagers alone, as was the case, a generation back. Now, even the middle-class and married women wear 'shalwar-kameez'. The more the women enter the workforce, the more will there be the vogue of the 'shalwar-kameez' in the country."

Sabina added, "I had to spend a lot of time, energy and use my ingenuity and imagination to reach the standard that I wanted for my show."

The clothes that she was most proud of were the 'shalwar-kameez' and 'dupatta' set, in black linen, with white silk threaded embroidery, which cost Tk 4,000. The brown and white applique creation, with wooden, yellow beads, to decorate the central flare, was complemented by white buttons, and more large tear drop shaped one at the yoke.

A "three-piece" in linen with orange and red top, with a large heart pattern on the left shoulder, was done with different sized circular and oblong mirror-work in pink, green, and yellow threads, off-set with white ones, costing Tk 2,000.

A two-layered "kameez" of black on orange, the lower piece being orange, with geometrical patterns in red, had green, black and golden geometrical beads, and it cost Tk 2,250.

Zubaida's favourite creation was a flared beige "kurta and shalwar" with cowries, glass-beads and silver pieces, taken from anklets, available at the local bazaars. It had an open neck, with embroidery in black, red, yellow, at the round neck and hands. Squares, triangles and oblong exquisite patterns completed the "kameez", while the voile "dupatta" was again edged with cowries. It was priced at Tk 4,000.

Her gold "shalwar-kameez" set, with a neat row of buttons in front, complemented with geometrical applique work in silk, with gold beads on the front and the sleeves, contained more geometrical work, the neck being and extended "V" one. It was priced at Tk 2,600.

The georgette "shalwar-kameez" set, in navy-blue, with a "U" neck, and small paisley patterns in pale and light gold, were done in a neat manner, and the decorations went well with the navy-blue colour of the creation. It was priced at Tk 3,200.

Discussing her problems, Zubaida said, "The 'Sagittarius' group had problems explaining the designs and patterns to the tailors. They did not follow the patterns given at all, and failed to deliver in time. However, the stitches were acceptable, so far. We have been to distant places like Mirpur No. 1, Chandni Chawk, New Market, and Mohammadpur too. The creations that were included at our display were both washable and ironable."

Zubaida added, "I feel it surpasses the display at the local boutiques and the public displays, because the work had been more imaginative, and the quality of the work had been of a superior type."

Fahim Islam, a twenty-two years old M. Com. (Marketing) DU, student does dress-designing as a hobby, while like the rest of the group, he listens to music of mixed variety, depending on his moods. His best creations had applique work with orange squares, on a black base, done by himself, with orange cotton "churidar" and cotton, orange "dupatta" to match the dramatic creation. It cost Tk 7,500. The black collette in linen, complemented the flared green "kurta" in georgette, with its "V" neck, with large floral pattern on the yoke, containing a beautiful highlighted centre, with eight petals to complete the motif. The white dots on the black yoke complemented the elegant creation priced Tk. 800.

Shantanu Khan, aged twenty-one years, also a student of Marketing (Hons. DU) was not only an amicable and admirable salesman, but also a designer himself, as he too had a hand in the "Sagittarius" display designs, having done similar work for T-shirts, earlier. "It is a relief and change for me to do this work, while I hope to be a successful individual in the business profession, like all my other friends," Shantanu said.

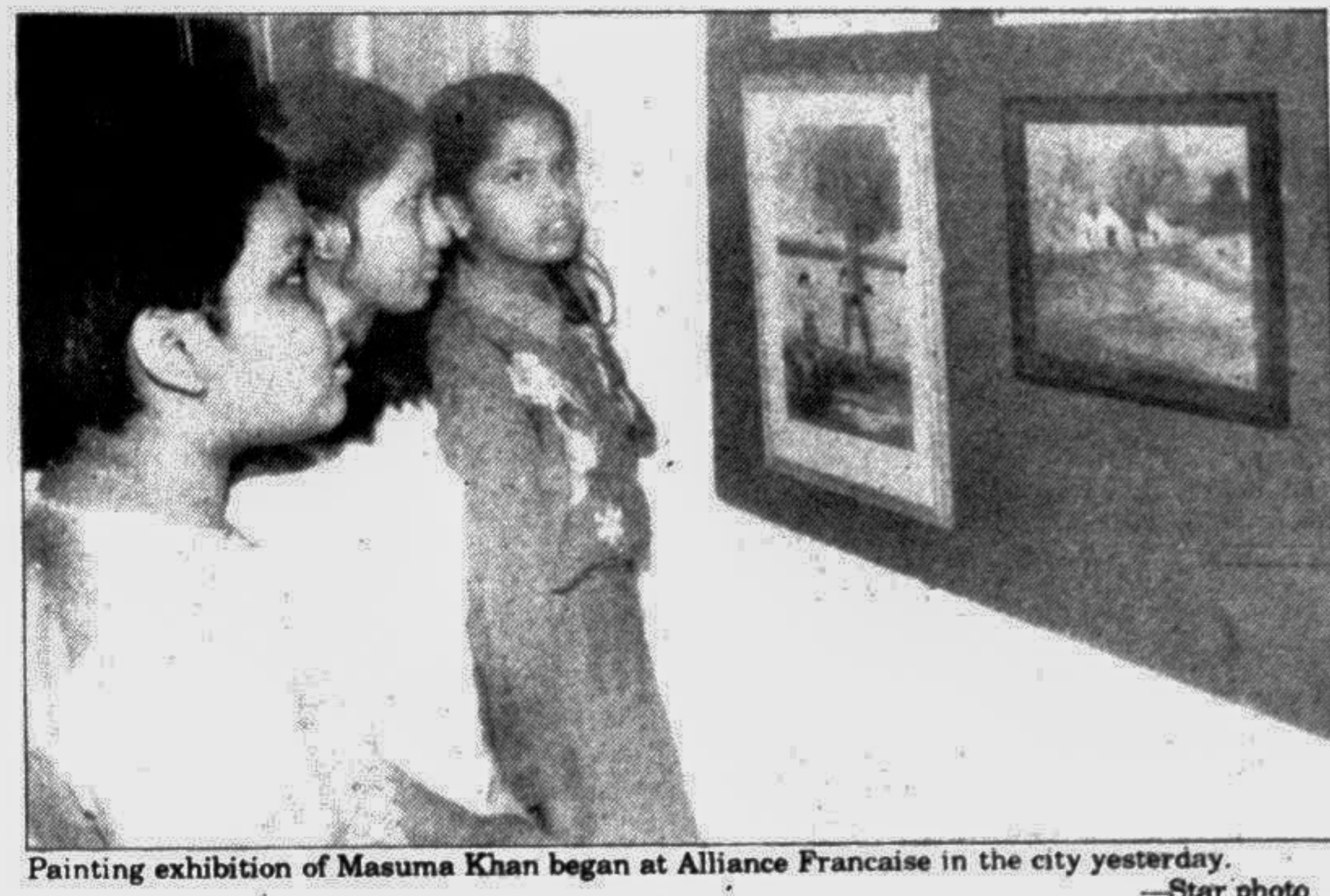
The haute couture display was certainly a promising one and excelled many seen before in the city. With Eid not far ahead, it was a delight for the women and their daughters at Dhaka.

## Govt pays equal respect to all religions: Mannan

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan has said, present government believes not in communalism but in communal harmony and pays equal respect to all religions, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest at a function organised on the occasion of 85th birth anniversary of Srimat Vadanta Ananda Mohathero at the premises of Avoy Charan Smriti Mondop at local Damdama village in Mirsari, Chittagong.

With Sangharaj Shalaskar Mahathero in the chair, the meeting was attended by Khagrachhari Local Government Council Chairman Samiran Dewan as special guest. The function was addressed, among others, by local MP MA Zinnah, Bangladesh Sanyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation President Rakhal Chandra Barua, World Peace Pagoda President Jyotipal Mohathero and SK Chowdhury.



Painting exhibition of Masuma Khan began at Alliance Francaise in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Masuma Khan's painting show inaugurated

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday inaugurated a three-week painting exhibition of Masuma Khan at the Art Gallery of Alliance Francaise here, reports BSS.

In all 42 pieces of art work in water colour and oil painting depicting life and nature have been put on display at the gallery.

## Saifur at opening function of textile emporium Carry forward task of export oriented industrialisation

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged the textiles producers to carry forward the task of export-oriented industrialization in the country through improved quality, better design and cost competitiveness, reports BSS.

He made this call while inaugurating a textile emporium at Bastra Bhaban in the city.

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye and Convenor of Tanti Dal M Shahidullah Khan, MP, were, among others, present on the occasion.

The Finance Minister said the government was committed for the development of textiles sector. He recalled that Bangladesh had a long and distinct tradition in textiles and fine Moslins from medieval Bengal used to be exported all over the world. Because of the craftsmanship of our weavers and technological fineness this part of the subcontinent was a centre of excellence for textile industries even in undivided India, he noted.

Rahman said coordinated efforts were needed to solve the problems being faced by the textiles sector so that the interests of the producers, consumers and workers, were served. Without cost competitiveness no sector of the economy can thrive, he remarked.

Speaking on the occasion the Food Minister called for changing the stereotype attitude towards locally produced goods and fascination for the foreign ones. In many respects our textile products like Jamdani and Benarasi saree are far superior than those of the neighbouring countries, he opined. He called upon the textiles entrepreneurs to engage in more vigorous marketing drive.

The State Minister for Textiles said the cost of cotton yarns had been drastically reduced by the government side by side with reduction of taxes and this would go a long way in establishing cost competitiveness of the weaving industry.

Later, the ministers visited different stalls of the textiles emporium. The emporium is a sales cum display centre for Benarasi and Jamdani sarees and other indigenous clothes and aims at exporting sarees a part from meeting local demand.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday (Friday) went to a city clinic to see Jubodal leader Jasim Uddin Jasim who was seriously injured in a road accident in Savar a couple of days back, reports UNB.

President Biswas in a message of felicitation wished good health, happiness and long life of Ft Lt Rawling as well as for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Ghana.

### Federal Tax Assistance For Americans

On March 14-15 a specialist from the Internal Revenue Service will visit Dhaka to assist those with United States Federal tax filing obligations. Call the US Embassy Consular section at 884700, ext 794 or 273 for more information.

### IFTAR AT KUMUDINI!

Kumudini offers a variety of iftar at reasonable prices from its outlet at Gulshan. Shop in style - an array of exclusive handicrafts custom-made to suit your taste. Come for your Eid Shopping at Kumudini today.

**KUMUDINI**  
handicraft Centre  
97 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka.

## JS body stresses withdrawal of cases against anti-Ershad activists

The ninth meeting of the Standing Committee on Home Ministry was held Thursday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the report submitted by the sub-committee of Standing Committee on cases involved with anti-autocratic movement. The meeting emphasised the need for expediting the withdrawal of cases which had already obtained recommendation from the committee.

The meeting emphatically stressed the need for united efforts and consensus to root-out terrorism from every sphere of the society. It proposed, terrorists must be punished accordingly irrespective of any political identity.

It emphasised the need for ensuring proper, judicial and lawful application and execution of Anti-Terrorism Law.

It was informed that government was taking stern actions against fake manpower exporters and persons involved in earning many through fraudulent measures.

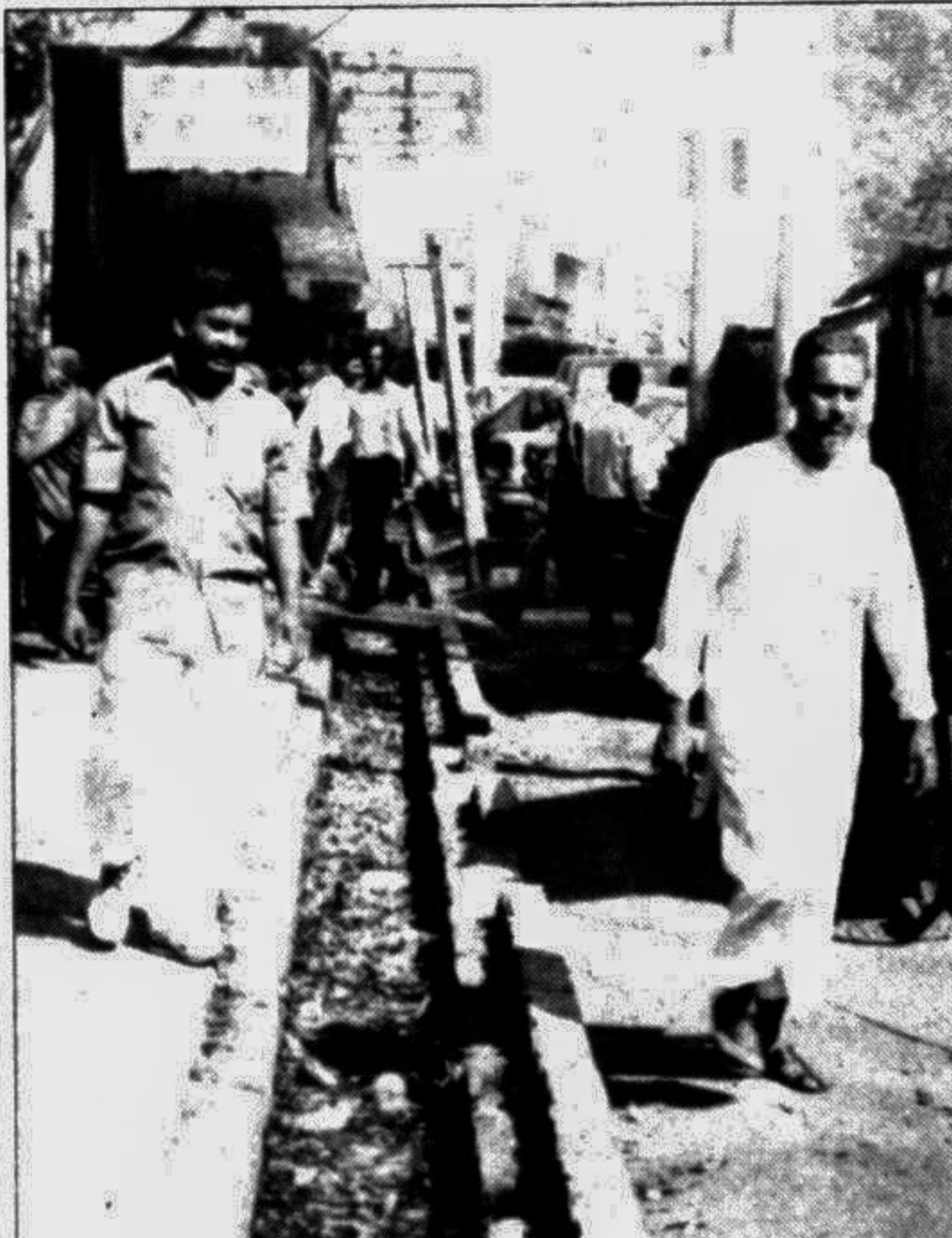
The meeting also reviewed the primary report submitted by the Action Committee of Standing Committee on Traffic problem.

The committee laid emphasis to activate the jobs of District and Thana Law and Order and Anti-Smuggling Committees.

The meeting discussed matters relating to reforms of jail, activities of ansars and village defence party, highway dacoity and cow lifting. The committee took proposal to advise concerned authorities to take necessary actions in this regard.

Committee members Shahjahan Chowdhury, Wing Commander (Retd) M Hamidullah Khan and Whip Mahbulul Alam Tara of BNP, Maitur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Md Rahmat Ali, Abul Hasanat Abdullah of Bangladesh Awami League took part in the discussion.

Home Secretary in charge Saifur Rahman and I G of Police A S M Shahjahan was present.



Drains in Dilkusha area of the city are not being cleaned for months. — Star photo

## Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানির অপচয় রোধে কাজ শেষে কলের মুখ বন্ধ করণ

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class civil contractors for rehabilitation work of 200 mm dia PVC/VCP sewer line at Abul Hasnat Road by lane at an allotted cost of Taka 1,97,753.17. Tenders will be received up to 12-00 Noon on 15-3-93 and opened on the same day at 12-30 PM, in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address:  
WASA Bhaban  
98 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka  
WASA-PI-94/93  
DFFPG 3001-28/2  
G-295

Md. Ramzan Ali  
Executive Engineer  
(Current Responsibility)  
Sewer (E&D) Division-1  
Dhaka WASA

## Saturday

5:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary

5:10 News in Bangla

5:25 Carlton Care Bears

5:50 Mahé Ramjan

6:30 Open University

7:05 Harshari

8:00 News in Bangla

8:30 Maati O Marnash

9:00 Balun Dekhi

10:00 News in English

10:30 Drama serial: Dallas

11:30 Khabar /The News

11:40 Tomorrow's Programme summary

11:45 Closing

## Photographic exhibition

Images of Theatre - a photographic documentation on theatre in Germany 1950-1990. This exhibition of roughly one hundred artistic photographs with informative text plates is on display at the German Cultural Centre Goethe-Institut Dhaka, 23, Dhanmondi Road No 2, Dhaka through Sunday, March 7, 9 am - 5 pm every day, says a press release.

## Weather

### No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Friday. Meteorological office forecast.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Friday's maximum temperature was recorded in Jessore at 33.1 degree Celsius and lowest in Rangamati at 13.0 degree.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Saturday) at 6.04 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6.16 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Friday were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.5	16.8	63	45
Chittagong	29.0	17.0	67	51
Rajshahi	32.0	14.0	47	55
Khulna	31.1	17.2	68	48
Buraid	31.0	16.4	63	48
Cox's Bazar	30.0	18.0	75	50
Sylhet	28.5	16.1	75	41
Dinajpur	28.6	16.5	75	41

## Position Announcement

A consortium of donor agencies seeks a full-time Donor Liaison Officer to manage all aspects of donor-recipient relations with a leading national development NGO. Responsibilities include collection, analysis, and dissemination of information, arranging meetings and taking minutes, organizing field trips, managing all contractual and logistical arrangements for major external consultant reviews, developing agendas and briefing materials for all consortium meetings and providing coordination and followup on donor disbursements. The position requires excellent command of spoken and written English, exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, university training and/or work experience in a development-related field, knowledge of computer word processing and use of database and spreadsheet softwares. Knowledge of Bangla would be an advantage. Women are encouraged to apply.

Please send application and CV to Attn: Liaison Search, C/o Post Box No 98, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, no later than March 20, 1993.

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