Our Friends and their Politics

by Parveen Anam

DESPERATELY ASKING ME

FOR A 500 TAKA LOAN

WELL, HERE IT IS ... DON'T

Life is a combination of the oddest co-incidents. There are a few things and co-incidents over which we have control and a few over which we have none. For example, we cannot choose our family; inspite of the fact that most of us would probably choose something quite different if we had a choice, is neither here

nor there. We can of course choose our friends — at least we like to think we can so we have some control over that aspect of our lives. The more cynical amongst us will promptly shrug and smile off the option of choice of friends. But then, we must take the cynic with the proverbial pinch of salt. For was it not Wilde who said, "A cynic is one who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing"! So we will let the cynic

But we cannot let the friends pass. Where would we be without them? Life is difficult enough without having to

envisage life without frends. Its marvellous how friends can cheer you up when you are down in the dumps and feeling life is passing you by without so much as a 'by your leave'. And at no other time is your friendship more valued than when you have to put up appearances. Appearances for the benefit of the masses, that is. Our friends in the controversial political arena perhaps are the best equipped to tell us the more ordinary sort, who lead rather ordinary lives that we would be lost without friends. And who should know better than they themselves that come what may, they must stick gallantly to their friends.

It is a humbling experience, to watch the politician on the dias practically hysterical in his tirade against the unfortunate individual, who has brought upon himself the wrath of the superior being. Of course in most cases the individual in question is most likely yet another being involved in the lofty ideals of politics himself. You are convinced that given half the

chance, they would probably be at each others threats with the kitchen knife and make sure ther are not within miles of a kitchen. You heare a sigh of relief when the fiery speeches at last come to an end without blood being shed. And off you go on your way to earning your living.

When suddenly you come across the same two sworn enemies about to cross each others path and you rush to avoid the most awful bloodshed in history by warding off the inevitable. Lo and behold. Before your very eyes, these sworn enemies clasp each other in the warmest embrace with resounding back thumping and affectionate name calling. You stop short. Are these not • the very same individuals who a mere half hour ago were ready to carve up each other into little bits for the benefit of mankind? And here they are locked the most pas signate embrace like long lost pals. You scratch

your head and wonder what went wrong where. And mutter to yourself its either hypocrisy at its ultimate best or friendship at levels you cannot begin to fathom. You also nutter incoherently that politics and frendship certainly go hand in glove and what is being said for the benefit of the masses certainly does not hold water in private. For how else can you explain to yourself or the masses tlat what your little representative of the people actually says up on the rostrum is certainly not what he thinks in private. Actually at tle end of the day its more likely than not its al 'Hail fellow well met' sort of a situation. And you begin to wonder whether it was such a god idea after all to vote that wonderful specinen to do wonders for you. For it he cannot decide what is good for himself can he ultinately decide what is best for the masses? Or better still you can start taking lessons in hypocrisy from the very same people who apparently have so much to teach us. Yet. All in the name of friendship, of course.

Ayesha Ameen Foundation scholarships

Ayesha Ameen Foundation, a trust to encourage the students has taken up a programme to award scholarships to 150 school students of different educational institutions of the city, reports UNB.

Under its merit scholarship scheme for the students of class V to VIII, 21 students have been selected for first grade scholarship, 60 for second grade and 69 for consolation prizes. The scholarships will be effective from January last.

as offered.

account.

Mahila AL. BWJF condole death of Hasna Begum

lvy Rahman and Prof Khaleda Khanam Fresident and General Secretary respectively of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League yesterday expressed their deep shock at the death of eminent educationist Principal Hasna Begum, reports BSS.

Sitara Musa and Rasheda Amin president and general secretary respectively of **Bangladesh Women Journalists** Forum (BWJF) yesterday expressed their deep grief at the death of eminent educationist principal Hasna Begum.

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Tender Notice for Lease of one

TU-154M Aircraft

for operating on its schedule/non schedule flights on Aircraft, Crew, Maintenance and Insurance

(ACMI) basis to be made available at Dhaka latest by 25th May, 1993. Intending bidders shall

have to remain ready to provide a 2nd aircraft of same type in ten day's notice at the same rate

used for 150 hours per month which may be extended beyond 30 days and or 150 hours.

However, if the aircraft is used for more than 150 hours in a month and or beyond 30 days, and

if there be any variation of the lease rate for the additional use, the same shall have also to be

mentioned in the offer. The lessor of the aircraft is required to mention the fuel consumption of

the aircraft per block hour, any excess consumption of fuel per block hour shall be on the lessor's

crew. But the salary and other allowances shall be paid/borne by the lessor. The aircraft shall

have to be configured in all economy class with the provisions for hot meal services. The lessor

has to mention the seating capacity of the aircraft. The cost of positioning and depositioning of

of maintaining the aircraft shall be of the lessor. In case the aircraft is grounded beyond 24 hours

due to technical or any other reasons and is not available for operation, the lessor has to arrange

an alternate aircraft of similar capacity and provisions within next 24 hours. However, for any

delay beyond 24 hours in making the aircraft airworthy and or placing a substitute aircraft, the

lessee shall impose a penalty of USD 10,000/= (Ten thousand) per day (24 hours) on the lessor

thousand) only or equivalent in US Dollar in favour of Bangladesh Biman Corporation in the

form of Pay Order/Bank Draft which is refundable only after successful completion of the lease.

The offer should be submitted in a sealed envelope to Director Project and Planning, Bangladesh

Biman Corporation, 100 Motifheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh latest by 1600

hours BST (1000 UTC) on or before 16th May, 1993. The tender will be opened on the same day

TELEX shall be accepted and no correspondence after the expiry of the above date and time shall

be entertained. The intending bidders are required to enclose a draft agreement along with the offer.

The offer should clearly be marked "OFFER FOR TU-154M". No offers through FAX and

Bangladesh Biman Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers

The intending bidders are required to pay a Bid Bond of Tk. 1,00,000/- (Taka one hundred

Bangladesh Biman Corporation will provide accommodation and transportation for the

The rate of lease shall have to be quoted on ACMI basis in US Dollar only. The responsibility

Bangladesh Biman Corporation invites offers for short term lease of one TU-154M aircraft

Initially the lease period will be for a minimum period of 30 days and the aircraft shall be

BANGLADESH AIRLINES

Biman

the aircraft to/from Dhaka shall have to be mentioned.

or a proportionate sum for part of each 24 hours period.

without assigning any reason whatsoever.

immediately after the closing time in presence of the bidders, if any.

Govt firm to revitalise textile sector

State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan yesterday said the government was committed to revitalise the textile sector by modernising the old textile industries and allowing setting up of more new dyeing finishing and printing units in the private sector, reports

He was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Fashion and the Tradition of Bangladesh' organised by the Nafiz Fashion Development Complex at the auditorium of Jatiya Grantha Kendra here.



The first-ever Bengali translation of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest begins on the BBC Bengali Service's weekly "Variety" programme on Sunday, 2 May, in the 2230-2300 (Bangladesh) transmission on 6065, 7150, 9605 and 1546 kHz in the 49, 41, 31 and 19 metre bands.

Described as Wilde's most enduringly popular play, the plot concerns two fashionable young men and their eventually successful courtship of two equally fashionable young women. It is full of witty, though artificial, dialogue. "The characterisation, particularly of Lady Bracknell, is simply superb," says Serajur Rahman, who has translated, produced and directed the 11-part serialisation. "The cast were really excited about doing the play and we had a lot of fun recording

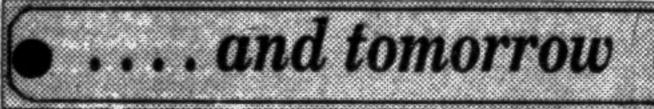
In the picture: Members of the BBC Bengali Service cast of The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (L to R) Sirajur Rahman, Manoshi Barua, Kabita Chowdhury, Boni Mukharjee, Nurul Islam, Saroj Chakravarty, Ajit Bandopadhaya and Monisha Smith.

What's on today

Leo Club of Dhaka Paradise

The monthly board and regular meeting of the Leo Club of Dhaka Paradise will be held today (Saturday) at 4 pm at the Startrek Computers at New Elephant Road.

President of the club Shahinoor Islam will preside over the meeting.



Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Assoc The inaugural session of the 9th Conference of Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association (BAEA) will be held

tomorrow (Sunday) at 10 am at the International Conference Centre, Dhaka. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as chief guest and inaugurate the conference. Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Major General (rtd) M Majid-ul-Haq will be

present as the special guest. BIISS

A talk on "Global Challenges and Domestic Imperatives: Dilemmas of a Clinton Foreign Policy" will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at 4 pm at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

Prof Glen Johnson, Director of American Studies Research Centre of Hyderabad, India, will deliver the keynote address. Barrister AKH Morshed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of BIISS will preside.

Exhibition of etchings, paintings

An exhibition of etchings and painting by Rembrandt and of photographs depicting Amsterdam through this century will begin tomorrow (Sunday) at 4 pm at the National Museum.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum will inaugurate the function.

The Underprivileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP) will organise a symposium tomorrow (Sunday) at 2-30 pm at its head office at Mirpur.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will attend the function as chief guest while Major General Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), Chairman of the Board of Governors of UCEP will preside.



Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary News in Bangla

Moner Kotha The Peter Pan and the Pirates Special programme on May Day

Banshari (folk songs) News in Bangla 8:30 Mati-O-Manush Boloon Dekhi News in English 10:30 SAARC programme

10:55 Drama serial: Dallas 11:30 Khabar/The news 11:40 Tomorrow's programme 11:45 Closing

Rabindra Sangeet festival begins tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent The Fifth National Rabindra Sangeet Festival organised by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha will begin tomorrow (Sunday) at 6-15 pm at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium. The three-day festival will

be attended by Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin, Dr Mustafa Noor Ul Islam and Dr Anisuzzaman as the chief guests while noted Rabindra Sangeet singer Abdul Ahad will inaugurate the festival.

Six Rabindra Sangeet organisations, Abbhuday, Agnibina, Bottalik, Soorer Dhara, Gitanjoli, Nabogitika and about 150 Rabindra Sangeet artiste will participate in the festival

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday) says rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at many places over Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country. The maximum temperature of the country recorded yesterday (Friday) of 33.6 degree Celsius was reported from Jessore and the minimum of 19.8 degree was reported from

Dinajpur. The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday were: Tangail-63 mm and Barisal-

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.27 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.23 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 27.8 24.2 Dhaka

6 pm 21.5 Chittagong 31.7 Rajshahi 22.5 31.4 22.3 Khulna 33.6 23.0 31.6 Cox's Bazar 22.6 Sylhet 26:5 19.8 Dinajpur 31.0

Flood Information centre opens tomorrow

A Flood Information Centre will start functioning from tomorrow, says a press release. The centre will be located at the office of the Deputy

Director, Flood Forecasting

and Warning Division on the 8th floor of WAPDA building, It will disseminate the latest news about rainfall and water level of the rivers of the coun-

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CONTACT FARUQ ALAM, 'PSYCHE' TUTORIAL 135, Azimpur Road, Dhaka. Phone: 865715



Nat'l Book Centre

book fair

begins May 10

By Staff Correspondent

ngladesh will organise a 15-

day book fair from May 10 at

the Osmani Memorial audi-

and foreign embassies in

Dhaka will participate in the

fair.
The book fair will continue

has also decided to award pri-

zes to the publication houses

and individual publishers for

quality printing, cover and

getup-makeup of their books

published during January 1 to

requested to submit their

books to the centre by May 2

Interested publishers are

December 31, 1992.

The National Book Centre

upto May 25.

Major publication houses

National Book Centre of Ba-

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) wants to recruit two Education Officers under its Non-Formal Primary Education Project. The employment will be for 3 years may be extended depending on extension of the project and availability of donor's funds. Working station will be within the RDRS working area in Rangpur-Dinajpur region. Candidates with Master's degree in any discipline of social science and having minimum 3 years' practical experiences in NGOs, particularly in the field of education and rural development, are eligible to apply.

Candidates must be strong in written and spoken English and Bangla. Qualification /degree on children's education will be considered as added advantage. The job will require frequent visits to the rural areas of Rangpur-Dinajpur. Salary Tk. 4500/- to 5500/- per month. Interested candidates should send detailed CVs latest by 15th May,1993 to the Education Coordinator, GPO Box No. 618, Dhaka-1000.

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D-309 Director Project & Planning