

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Tempo Mechanic Nurtures a Secret Dream

by Nurul Huq

Khokon's step-mother threw him out of the house when he was only 10 years old. He is 12 now, and earning his living as a tempo mechanic in Mohammadpur. His mother died six years back, and his father married again. He has left behind his younger brother and sister in Bholia. Khokon has the height and figure of a child of eight and the sad eyes and expression of a man of 40, who has been through hell right here on earth.

When I tried to find out why his step-mother threw him out, what exactly had happened, he clamped shut, lowered his eyes and refused to talk further. So I asked him about his father, what he did for a living. He turned out to be the "manager" of 'Janata' hotel, whatever that might mean. Did Khokon ever go back to visit him? No, not even on Eid day. Every answer he gave quite broke my heart. Where did he stay? At the garage where he worked at BRTC bus-stand. He gets no pay — only three meals a day.

This wise old gnome has been working from 8 am to 8 pm as an apprentice-mechanic for the last one and a half years. He'll work for another two years without pay. When a tempo is

taken apart and put together again, he helps in "fitting" and cleaning the parts and in handing out the tools. What are the risks in his job? If any of the parts or tools is lost or damaged, his ustad is sharp with his tongue and handy with his fists. Once a hammer was lost, and he fainted after he got the beating of his life. A jug of water thrown on his face helped revive him, but he had to go without food that day and the next.

**What does he want to be? "A good mechanic," he said solemnly. But there was something missing. He didn't look like he quite meant it. "If you suddenly got a lot of money, what would you do?" I prodded him. "I'd go back to school. I'd like to become a pilot," he said.**

Does he get a day off on Fridays? No, he said, his only holidays are on hartal days. What does he do then? "I sleep my fill," he said. "I wake up at 10 in the morning. I like this more than anything else."

"What else do you like to do?" I said. "I like to read story books. I was a student of Class IV, back in Bholia. I also watch TV at my ustad's house. Sometimes my ustad gives me fish to eat. That's a real treat."

What does he want to be? "A good mechanic," he said solemnly. But there was something missing. He didn't look like he quite meant it. "If you suddenly got a lot of money, what would you do?" I prodded him. "I'd go back to school. I'd like to become a pilot," he said.

## President tells seminar on 'Global Refugee Issues' Dhaka, UNHCR joint efforts to help speedy return of Rohingyas

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday hoped that the joint efforts of Bangladesh and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would help a speedy and voluntary return of the Rohingya refugees to their homeland in Myanmar.

Inaugurating a two-day seminar on the "Global Refugee Issues" at a city hotel, the President said that Bangladesh's accords with Myanmar and the UN body for the refugees would give hope to the unfortunate Rohingyas.

"Let us expect that this relationship will work. And it has to work in the greater interest of the hapless refugees," he said.

Organised by the Development and Media Consultancy Centre, Dhaka (DMCC) under the aegis of the UNHCR, the opening ceremony of the seminar was addressed by the UN High Commissioner, Dr Sadako Ogata and Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

The UNHCR Country Representative Darloush Bayandor and DMCC Chairman Mahbubul Alam also spoke on the occasion.

The seminar was organised to coincide with the four-day visit of Dr Ogata to Bangladesh.

Biswas appreciated the efforts of the UNHCR for mitigating the sufferings of the refugees world-wide and called for resolving the refugee problems in the light of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights. UNB adds: Biswas focused on persecution, discrimination, intolerance and hatred on racial, religious and cultural grounds that force people to leave their homeland. "It happened in our War of Liberation and is still happening all around us."

The President called for eradication of these discriminations and stopping their recurrence.

President Biswas expressed satisfaction at the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Bangladesh and UNHCR to facilitate repatriation of the Myanmar refugees.

"Let us all hope that this relationship will work. And it has to work in the greater interest of the hapless refugees," the President said stressing the need for a durable solution of the problem through their return to their homes and hearth with rights and dignity.

"The international community is aware that an impoverished overpopulated society like Bangladesh in a span of 15 years has been playing host twice to half a million refugees," he said referring to the recurring influx of refugees into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

"The world is also aware of Bangladesh's predicaments, the negative impact of the refugees on its political, economic, social and environmental planes."

In this connection, the

President outlined government measures in line with its agreement with the Myanmar authorities for speedy voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees to their homeland.

Biswas lamented the brutalities now being committed in the Balkan peninsula, saying "the vacuous look of besieged civilians picked out of the grim agony of Bosnia-Herzegovina is a vivid testimony of human tragedy."

The Foreign Minister called for a durable solution of all ethnic and linguistic conflicts to stop recurrence of the refugee problem for good.

Mostafiz urged the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to take up a determined programme of action to combat such "primitiveness."

Sadako Ogata, in her speech, gave a resume of her organisation's worldwide relief operations.

She expressed satisfaction over the relief work now going on in the Cox's Bazar camps to provide succour to the Rohingya refugees. "I commend the government of Bangladesh for having responded to the challenge so admirably."

Referring to the MOU between the government and the UNHCR, she said "This agreement is a testament to our joint resolve to continue to cooperate on the Myanmar refugee issues."

## World Telecommunication Day tomorrow

The 25th World Telecommunication Day will be observed in Dhaka as elsewhere in the world tomorrow, reports UNB.

Various Inter-Government organisations including all member countries of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will observe the day with due importance.

The theme of this year is "Telecommunication and Human Development" with a view to develop human resources.

Established in Paris on May 17 in 1865 the ITU is one of the oldest inter-governmental organisations of the world.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) Board has planned elaborate programmes.

The programmes include discussions in Television and Radio.

The BCS Telecommunication Samity will also hold a seminar on "Telecommunication and Human Development" in a local hotel.

Minister in charge of T & T Tariqul Islam will attend the seminar as the chief guest while Secretary T & T A M M Shawkat Ali and Chairman T & T Board Engineer Fazlur Rahman will be the special guests.

## Boy killed in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

A 13-year-old boy died on spot in a road mishap in the city Saturday morning.

The victim identified as Liton was killed by a speeding truck while crossing the road at Mirpur near Beauty cinema hall at around 6.30 am.

Police seized the truck (Dhaka Na 694) and arrested its driver.

A case has been lodged with the Mirpur Police Station.

## Justice Abdur Rahman Chy made Bangla Academy Chairman

The government has appointed Justice (ret'd) Abdur Rahman Chowdhury Chairman of the Bangla Academy for two years, reports UNB.

The appointment has been given under provision of the Bangla Academy Ordinance with effect from May 14 this year, a PID source said yesterday.

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## What's on today...

### Discussion on Rabindranath

A discussion meeting and cultural function on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore will be held today (Sunday) at 4:00 pm at the Nazrul Institute auditorium.

The function organised by the Institute will be addressed by Dr Mustafiz Noorul Islam with Mohammad Nasruddin in the chair.

Eminent singers Ifrat Ara Khan, Tapan Mahmud, Sadi Mohammad, Mita Huq and Salma Huq will render songs at the function while Gohar Mostafiz, Jayanta Chatterjee, Kazi Arif, Kamella Mostafiz and Proga Laboni will recite poems.

### Zahir Raihan Film Society

Zahir Raihan Film Society will organise a function today (Sunday) at 5:00 pm at the Alliance Francaise auditorium to mark its seventh founding anniversary.

The function to be presided over by its president Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury will be attended by Sayeed Ahmed and Xavier Bares, Director of Alliance Francaise as chief guest and special guest respectively.

### SPGR

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGR) C and D Block and Murapara branch will bring out a procession of mainly half-fed and half-clad children today (Sunday) at 10:00 am from the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

SPGR Chief Nasim Khan will lead the procession and address the gathering before the procession.

A general meeting of the SPGR will also be held today (Sunday) at 5:00 pm at the Geneva Camp.

### Seminar on school health

A seminar on 'School Health Programme' will be held today (Sunday) at Hotel Abakash at 9:00 am.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Canadian Development Agency (CIDA) and a consultant firm — Development and Research Partner have jointly organised the seminar.

### Driving training for BCS officers begins

A four-week driving training programme for BCS cadre officers began at BRTC training institute in Joydepur yesterday, reports BSS.

In all 186 BCS officers belonging to different cadres, now undergoing foundation training at PTC (Public Administration Training Centre) will be imparted training in four batches to make them able in driving light vehicles as and when required.

Inaugurating the programme, Roads and Road Transport Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat said, the programme, unique of its kind in the country, would help increase the efficiency of the cadre officers.

BRTA Chairman H M B Zaman, BRTC Chairman Abdur Rob Khan, Member of PATC Directing Staff Moazzem Hussain and GM (Tech) of BRTC also spoke on the occasion.

### Iranian Minister meets DU VC

By DU Correspondent

The Deputy Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, Ali Jannati paid a courtesy call on Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University, yesterday.

The Iranian Minister exchanged views with the DU VC on different aspects of education and culture of his country.

Jannati is now on a 3-day good will visit to Bangladesh.

The Minister also visited the Institute of Modern Languages of the university and met the teachers and students of Persian Language.

During the visit, the Minister showed keen interest in the academic activities of the Dhaka University and also expressed hope that cultural relations between the two countries would be further strengthened in future.

## Tk 50 prize bonds results

The 45th draw of Fifty-taka Prize Bonds was held yesterday at the conference room of the Commissioner Office, Dhaka Division in the city, says a press release.

The results are: First Prize of Tk 2,50,000/- ... 0474089, Second Prize of Tk 50,000/- ... 0100250.

Four Prizes of Taka 5,000/00 each: 0230452, 0233336, 0298453, 0353118.

Four Prizes of Taka 2,500/00 each: 0153049, 0404945, 0419018, 0454104.

Ninety Prizes of Taka 500/00 each:

0002712 0002861  
0007968 0008131 0020653  
0021461 0033538 0039313  
0040678 0043718 0048246  
0049103 0052041 0057017  
0076545 0078753 0086500  
0091561 0096908 0111851  
0116214 0121294 0129375  
0132287 0133042 0137973  
0146594 0148189 0156801  
0174304 0182218 0186365  
0191997 0196043 0202235  
0207918 0210824 0212334  
0214703 0219052 0227875  
0231852 0238849 0239588  
0242180 0243652 0245039  
0245698 0251214 0257911  
0270712 0274710 0279608  
0280958 0282385 0282805  
0283147 0284182 0286223  
0299566 0299938 0310130  
0316891 0326449 0330739  
0343144 0352709 0353850  
0354062 0359717 0361037  
0367930 0368573 0370635  
0380483 0383751 0401700  
0403588 0411851 0413637  
0417657 0430093 0435225  
0449485 0446788 0481046  
0483272 0490917 0491030  
0491831.



Sunday	
5.00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	Cartoon: The Secrets of Drawing
5.30	Sports: Cricket
6.25	Ma O Shishu
6.55	Open University
7.20	Tagore Songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Prabaha
9.00	Film show: The Wizard
10.00	News in English
10.30	Sur Lahari
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.40	Tomorrow's programme
11.45	Closing



A painting exhibition of Biren Shoms, a noted artist, began at the Saju Art gallery in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Huda at Khulna Sangbadpatra Parishad installation ceremony

## Impartial dissemination of news can help strengthen democracy

KHULNA, May 15: Information Minister-Barrister Nazmul Huda stressed the important responsibility of newspapers in preserving and promoting democracy in larger interest of the nation, reports BSS.

Addressing the installation ceremony of Khulna Divisional Sangbadpatra Parishad here today at a local hotel, the Minister said the newspaper should disseminate all kinds of news truthfully and impartially in order to strengthen the institution of democracy. He said, "The press should function as the sentry of democracy at the present phase of national development."

The installation ceremony followed by a seminar on "Role of Newspapers and Democracy" was presided over by Professor Ali Ahmed, President of the Khulna Divisional Sangbadpatra Parishad and addressed by Mayor of Khulna Municipality Sheikh Tayerbur Rahman, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) DP Barua, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Council of Editors AQM Nazmul Abedin

and Treasurer of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad Abul Kashem Majumder who were special guests.

In his speech Barrister Nazmul Huda said all must rise above petty party interest and parochialism in presenting news truthfully. He deplored the tendency among certain newspapers to highlight crimes, often with big headlines in order to create a negative impression in the minds of the people and divert the readers away from the constructive programmes being carried out throughout the country.

He said time has come for the press to play a positive role with a view to motivating the people with truthful news from an objective point of view. He deprecated tendency among some to take recourse to yellow journalism and sensationalism to distort the truth.

Referring to the need for promotion of democracy, the Information Minister called for concerted efforts by all to strengthen democratic institutions and cultivate norms of democracy in every sphere.

## Weather

### Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by equally or gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Chittagong and Barisal division and at Tangail and Mymensingh area, according to Met office.

It is likely to remain dry elsewhere.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius.

Day temperature and humidity of some cities on Saturday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.4	25	68	68
Chittagong	32.7	24.5	77	81
Rajshahi	34.6	29.8	80	64
Khulna	34.7	25	-	69
Barisal	33.1	25.2	-	78
Sylhet	34	24.2	68	64



Ubiniq, a non-government organisation, and the Environmental and Social Development Organisation (ESDO) Saturday jointly brought out a colourful procession in the city to create awareness among the people about the environmental hazards in using polythene and plastic materials. — Star photo

## IUBAT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (IUBAT) ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT

IUBAT announces admission to the following degree programs jointly with the Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand:

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**BBA, BCS**  
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**MBA**  
Bachelor's degree in business administration, engineering, agriculture, medicine or law or Masters degree in commerce, science, social science, humanities or other fields.

BBA and BCS programs are of 4 years' duration. The MBA program is of 2 years' duration but part-time study is allowed. The curriculum of the degree programs are in line with the North American Universities and has been vetted by the 13 cooperating universities.

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- DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING - First Batch
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Qualification requirement for admission is B.Sc., B.Com., B.A. or Bachelors degree in other fields. Polytechnic diploma holders and HSC or 'O' level students demonstrating knack for the subject can also apply. A diploma is of 16 months duration, but part-time study is allowed.

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BCS, BBA and MBA bulletins and application forms cost Tk. 150/- in person & Tk. 175/- by mail. Diploma bulletins and application forms cost Tk. 100/- in person & Tk. 125/- by mail. Further information of general nature on the programs and courses are available free of cost from IUBAT office in person or by mail on request.

Financial assistance to cover part of the tuition cost in the form of loan to IUBAT students is presently under negotiation with commercial banks and may be available in limited numbers during 1993-94 academic year.

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