

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Professional Excuse

by Shamsad Mortuza



'Bibishahebs' do not like a maid with brain, they hate the kid that batter household stuff. Attending her three-year-old girl, Sufia explains why she does not work as a maid but begs in the city parks. "When will I look after my Sharmeen?" she flings the question to shield herself from the fact that there are jobs without 'bibishahebs'. "Sharmeen was quite fair", says the young mother in her early twenties and continues, "the scorching heat of the sun has tanned her." People who come to this park love my child, some of them have even presented her with some dresses, Sufia informs.

Around the wrist of the scantily clad woman there are three or four stale floral garlands. The faded fragrance of the 'bakulmala' hardly can attract a customer. Yet, she always approaches as a sales-woman and then resorts to begging.

She knows selling ten even twenty 'bakulmala'—costing a Taka each—is not sufficient enough to meet her demands. "Food or no food, I must pay my house rent. I got to manage Tk 300 for the house rent." The skinny woman sounds desperate. Sufia shares with a woman working in a garment's factory a small room in Khilgaon. The total rent of the room is Tk 600 which both women pay equally. "I have power supply and gas for cooking at home." A ripple of proud smile crosses her face.

"I was married to a fickle-woman when I was only 19 years old but was divorced only after six months," Sufia recalls. "My husband, Taj Mian beat me on the second day of our marriage and soon I came to know that he is a drug addict. He sold all our furniture to pay for drugs."

Before marriage, I used to work as a maid at a residence of a lawyer at Malibagh; my employer arranged my wedding and gave me a gold chain and a gold ring at my wedding. Taj Mian, snatched my ornaments one day beating me severely—later with the help of my former employer I charged him and sent him to jail. I've heard that he married six times getting out of the jail, he even tried to take my kid away from me... he's such a 'characterless,' surprisingly every now and then Sufia uses English words.

Me and my elder sister were stolen from our home village at Comilla. My sister now works in a garment factory and is married to an office-clerk. But she cannot tolerate me because of my profession. It's a profession alright, I beg pity from others, at least I'm independent and I'm not selling my body," Sufia confused with the dignity of her profession.

But one thing she refuses to admit is the fact that she has to use her child to get money from people. Sharmeen never stops crying, she cries and cries until her mother is given the alm. Even at such an early the kid has realised "it is a harsh world outside... and you must strive to get what you deserve. So Sharmeen cries to get sympathy of others," Sharmeen cries to get money for her mother.

## 460 family courts in country, JS told

There are 460 family courts in the country and 27,026 family cases were disposed of in these courts from January 1, '91 till May 31, '93, reports UNB.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Haq informed this in the parliament yesterday replying to a question from Shah Md Rafiqul Bari Choudhury of Jatiya Party.

Replying to another question from Rahmat Ali of Awami League, the minister said there are 475 registry offices in the country and 7,000 deeds (dallil) are being registered in these offices each year.

The government is actively considering setting up of five more registry offices at five places in five districts of the country, he added.

Responding to a question from Mirza Azam of Awami League Aminul Haq said the government has decided to meet up some of the demands placed by the engineers, agriculturists and doctors. The government is reviewing rest of their demands, he added.

The minister, replying to another question from Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru of Awami League, said 52,288 cases were pending for trial in the high court division of the Supreme Court till April 30, '92 and 56.07 per cent cases were disposed off in the year 1992.

## Norwegian team visits NIMR

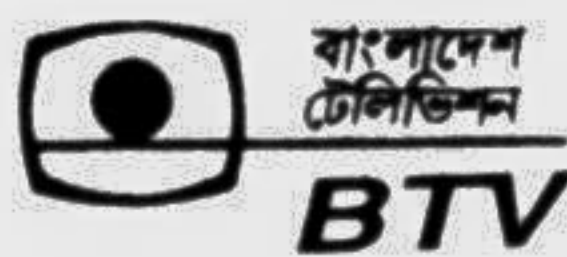
A four-member delegation from Norwegian Association for Mentally Retarded (NFFU) headed by Harald Rohmen visited the National Institute for Mentally Retarded (NIMR) at Eskaton Garden here yesterday, reports BSS.

Other members of the delegation are Ms Anny B Svendsen, Pal Skogmo and Karl Johan Hannes.

The delegation had a meeting with DP Barua, President of the Society for Care and Education of Mentally Retarded, Bangladesh (SCEMRB) and discussed programmes being implemented with the financial support of NFFU.

Other office-bearers of the SCEMRB including Dr Lutfur Rahman, first Vice-President, Prof G W H Chowdhury, third Vice President and Dr Gayasuddin Mollah, Secretary General also took part in the discussion.

During a week-long stay in Dhaka, the NFFU delegation will evaluate vocational training programmes of the mentally retarded, possibilities of their job opportunities with future plans for rehabilitation, work of the national team of professionals and development of programmes in the Chittagong divisional catchment area among other things.



**Tuesday**

|       |                             |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 5:00  | Opening announcement        |
|       | Al-Quran, Programme summary |
| 5:10  | News in Bangla              |
| 5:25  | Eao Para Shikhi             |
| 5:55  | TV debate                   |
| 6:30  | Open University             |
| 7:05  | Sangeeta                    |
| 8:00  | News in Bangla              |
| 8:30  | Drama serial: Kothayo       |
|       | Keu Nei (3rd part)          |
| 10:00 | News in English             |
| 10:30 | Film: ENO                   |
| 11:30 | Khabar/The News             |
| 11:45 | Closing                     |

## Drive out Serbs, Croats from Bosnia, WMUF urges UN

Leaders of the World Muslim Unity Forum (WMUF) yesterday urged the United Nations to immediately lift the arms embargo from Bosnia-Herzegovina and take steps to expel the Serbian and Croatian occupation forces from there, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference here, they said the arms ban imposed by the United Nations on Bosnia-Herzegovina was in fact helping the Serbian and Croatian forces to kill innocent Muslims rampantly in the newly independent Muslim state in Europe.

Forum leaders former Justice Abdur Rahman Choudhury, M A Mohatmein, Alhaj Dr Ali Asgar, Selina Majumder, Nainunnahar and Jahangir Alam Khan addressed the press conference.

They referred to the atrocities on Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Palestine, Myanmar and other places in the world and said the Muslims were being subjected to unabated torture including killing and rape in view of the absence of protection from the United Nations. The forum leaders alleged that the UN Security Council was wasting time in discussion on Bosnia while hundreds of Muslims including children and women were being killed everyday in the former Yugoslavian province.

Justice Choudhury said the anti-Muslim lobbies were out to uproot the Muslims from

Europe and other Muslim minority countries including India in the name of "ethnic cleansing," which was a new world in world dictionary.

### Anniversary of Prof Safdar's death today

The first death anniversary of eminent educationist Professor Safdar Ali will be observed today (Tuesday), says a press release.

On this occasion a milad mahfil will be held at his own residence at 'Manoshi', 92, Central Bashabo after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends, colleagues are requested to attend.

Europe and other Muslim minority countries including India in the name of "ethnic cleansing," which was a new world in world dictionary.



A sequence of dance drama titled 'Kusumer Swapna' presented by the artistes of Bangladesh Ballet Troup at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Losses of public sector engineering mounting

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday underscored the need for assimilation and innovation of latest technology and developing commercial attitude for making the public sector engineering enterprises of the country profitable, reports BSS.

The losses of the public sector engineering enterprises were mounting day by day, he said, adding low productivity, inefficiency and mismanagement were the main factors for the continuous losses of the enterprises.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest a seminar on "Programmes and prospects of public sector engineering enterprises of Bangladesh" organised by the Technical Activities, Seminar and Conference Committee for Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) with its resident Prof. Anwar Hossain in the chair.

Engr. A M Syed Hamed, former Director of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation, presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

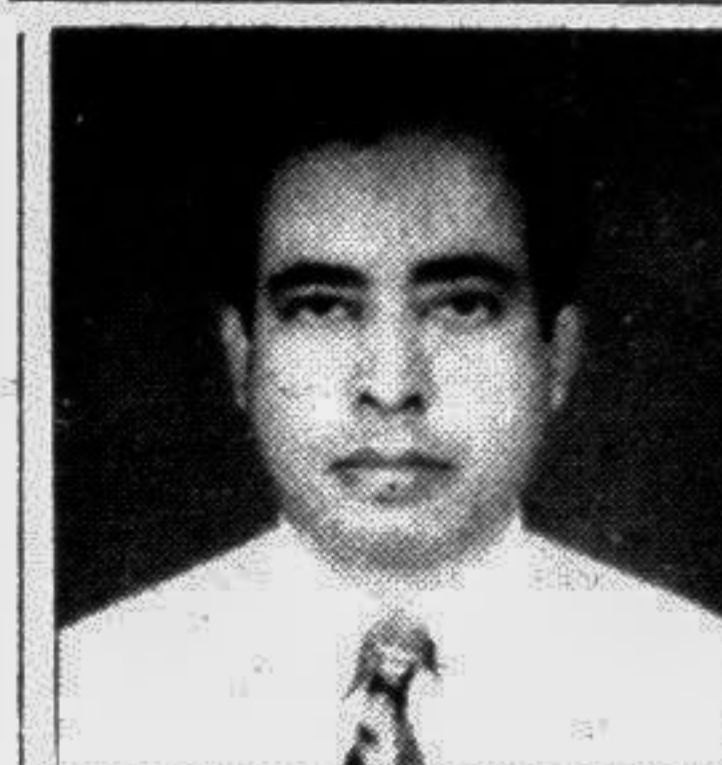
The Industries Minister urged the engineers and technocrats to chalk out specific programme to make the enterprises profitable.

Hamed in his key-note paper recommended formulation of policy towards increased manufacturing activities within the country particularly to the engineering industries.

He called for introduction of commercial rules and practices instead of government rules to run the enterprises.

Dr Engr. Rapiquddin Ahmed, former Chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, economist Dr. Kazi Khaliuzzaman Ahmed, Prof. Golum Mohiuddin of Industrial Production Engineering Department of BUET and Engr. M A K Azad, honorary general secretary of the IEB, among others, took part in the discussion.

retary of the IEB, among others, took part in the discussion.



## Milam praises honesty of Capt Ekramullah

By Staff Correspondent

William B Milam, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, has appreciated the sense of responsibilities and honesty of the Chief Security Officer at the Zia International Airport, Captain Ekramulla (retd), Security Supervisor Ms. Ashraf-unnessa (Allo) and Security Operator Abdul Bares Sikder for the outstanding services they had provided for the spouse of a U.S. Mission official, who was travelling from Dhaka to Bangkok on May 28, says a press release.

In a Letter of Appreciation addressed to Air Commodore Shamsheer Ali, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, the US Ambassador stated that the said traveller had left a hand-bag containing valuable jewellery at the Departure Lounge of Zia International Airport. To her utter surprise, not finding the bag on arrival at the Bangkok Airport, she had contacted the Bangladesh embassy official there. An embassy official responded immediately and enquired about the missing bag. The Chief Security Officer, Captain Ekramulla, on duty at that time informed that the said bag was found and kept intact. On May 29, the embassy duty officer met Captain Ekramulla who had promptly returned the bag.

Captain Ekramulla's timely response reflected highly on the professionalism and integrity of the Civil Aviation Security Staff, the US Ambassador said.

## New Japanese envoy meets Chief Whip

The newly appointed Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka called on Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Takenaka, during the discussion, appreciated the development activities initiated by the present government and expressed his happiness over the industrial policy.

## Rajshahi Board HSC exam begins June 17

RAJSHAHI, June 14: A total of 80,721 students including 24,392 girls will appear in the HSC examination '93 under Rajshahi Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board beginning on June 17, reports BSS.

Some 55,310 students will appear from humanities group, 15,872 students from science group, 9,526 students from commerce group and 13 from home economics group.

The examination will be held in 197 centres under the board. Necessary arrangements have been undertaken for peaceful holding of the examination. External invigilator teams have been formed to supervise the examination.

## Workshop on urban water system begins

RAJSHAHI, June 14: A three-day workshop on 'Urban water system surveillance in Bangladesh' with an aim to innovate system for supplying pure drinking water in urban areas of the country began at Postal Academy auditorium here today, reports BSS.

Jointly sponsored by Public Health Engineering Department (DPHE) and WHO, the workshop is being participated by DPHE officials and officials of Public Works Department of Rajshahi, Khulna, Mymensingh and Comilla.

Addressing the inaugural session of the workshop as the chief guest, Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu said water supply in urban areas is one of the essential requirements in civic life. He said the prevailing water supply system could not meet the consumption need due to growing urbanisation. Proper emphasis had to be laid to supply pure drinking water, he added.

The Mayor said in some urban areas underground water is easily available while in some areas underground water level is so low that it is difficult to lift water. He said due to adverse effect of the Farakka Barrage, ground water level in Rajshahi region has sharply fallen.

Happy Birthday

to

### Anika

From

Dadimona, Dadaji,  
Dolly Apu, Ammu,  
Abbu & Rafia



**/// RANGS LIMITED** 113-116, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215 PLOT # 3, CDA AVENUE, SHOLOSHAHAR C/A, CHITTAGONG

**MITSUBISHI PAJERO**