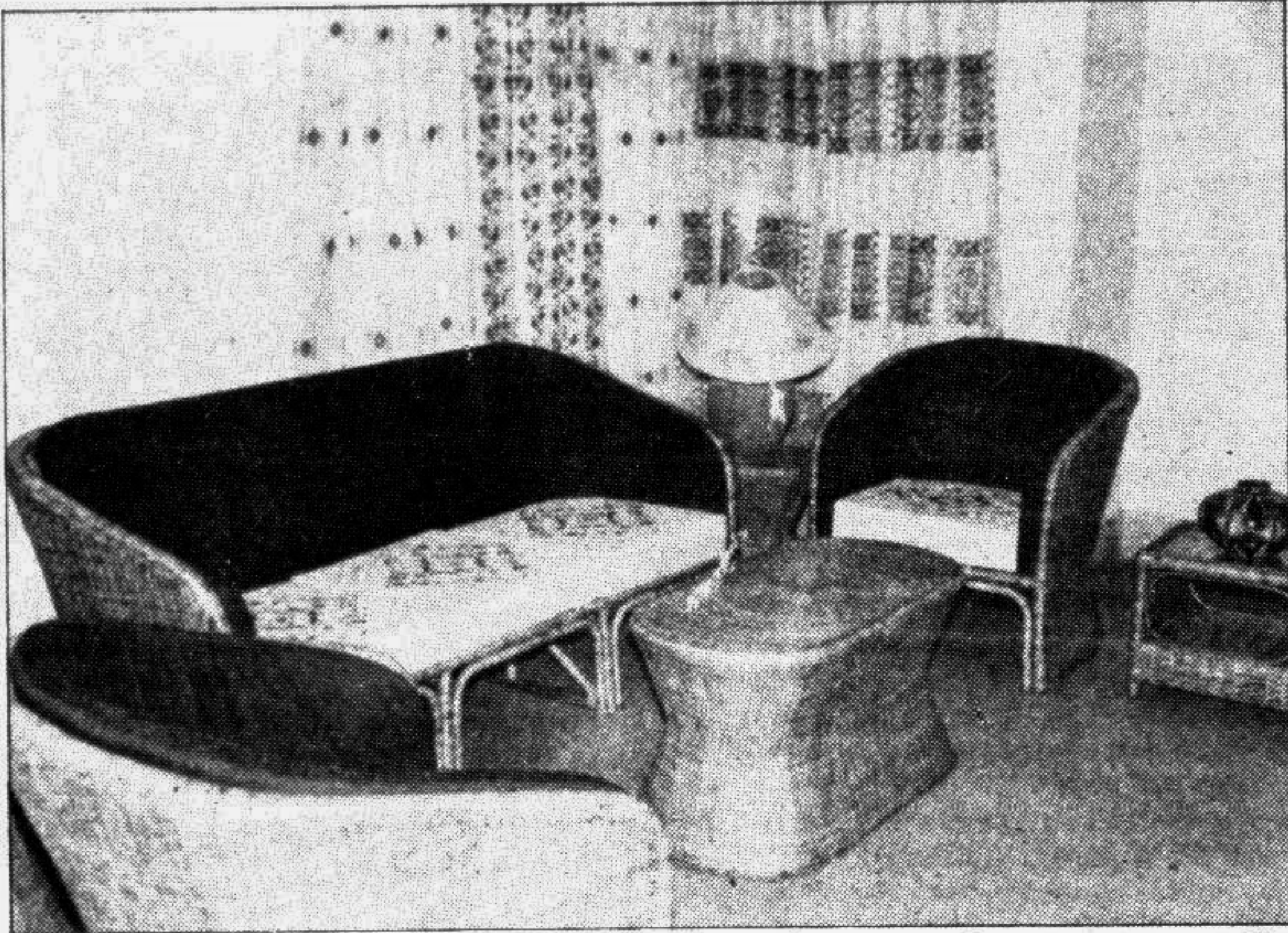


Dhaka Day by Day

New Lease of Life for Jamdani

by Raffat Binte Rashid



There is again a Jamdani revolution after 70 years. Since Nawab Salimullah's introduction of coloured Jamdani and experiment with combining one thread of silk woven with one thread of cotton to make new motifs and designs...

She has made Jamdani washable, she brought the count of threads down to 20/20 from the usual 80/100, 60/80, 60/40. This was something I could not achieve overnight. Entering the weavers' colony in Demra was an accomplishment itself. They are very much stubborn, they cannot adjust to a single thread of change easily...

"Jamdani takes your breath away no doubt. It holds the same attraction for both foreigners and us, and I thought of using this quality in a wider variety of ways. Keeping its authenticity in tact, I have tried to launch the first commercial project for interior decoration household fabrics, based on Bangladesh's renowned Jamdani handloom craft."

"While maintaining that Jamdani handloom is one of the country's most valuable handicrafts, I realized that the potential to develop and utilize this craft to greater commercial advantage remains unexplored. And so to put to use this extraordinary skill and talent of our people for our economic development, we cannot remain satisfied merely on past glories. By making a breakthrough in hand weaving technology this new textile will be available for marketing within the country and later abroad."

This material is pure cotton, pre-shrunk, and its fast colours are guaranteed. Woven in traditional technique with modified loom, this is no less in demand compared with traditional saris. And with a touch from the sure hands of Nasreen this material is bound to find a place of its own in people's home. Bed spreads, cushion covers, table clothes and mats, sofa bags and covers, even curtains, everything is being ordered and made in Jam Naski. Nasreen's studio in Dhanmondi.

Jam Naski is not a sales centre, it is more like my studio, everything that I made possible are displayed here. I came into production this January and I have already made Anaron and Karupanni my sales outlets. My basic goal is the market beyond Bangladesh, to export such items.

"In fact this idea crossed my mind when a Japanese friend moaned that the Jamdani has its limitations because it is used only as saree. Then I thought of expanding its range. It is really very much encouraging that I have availed of a chance in the July '94 Exhibition of Commonwealth Institute in London. Nasreen informed proudly.

"I have approached the civil aviation department to encourage my products in its executive classes. I also have plans to approach our Prime Minister to use Jamdani interior decoration fabric in her offices. These will definitely add colour and glamour to our already proud Jamdani market," Nasreen said.

An intelligent, hard working woman Nasreen informed "Our weavers are the ones responsible for such classic products, but they are the most exploited and deprived in the business. I have 10 looms where 20 weavers work simultaneously and I have Lal Miah, my overseer, to look after their welfare. I have employed Lal Miah on a regular basis so that he cannot exploit my weavers. These exploitations have brought down the Jamdani quality. Today weavers are using nylon instead of silk in saris."

"This is because when a sarie is completed, by a certain group, the Sarder (supervisor) responsible for their commercial sale buys it for only Tk 300. Then he comes to big sales centres here and sells it for Tk 1500 and they in their turn tag it for nothing less than Tk 3500."

Weavers are never allowed to come to Dhaka, such exploitation and injustice are bound to hamper their work. The end buyers are ignorant of quality and under the circumstances the weavers give a damn to quality, money is all that counts. Since Jamdani's evolution six hundred years ago from the famed muslin, its glamour and history remained attractive to everyone around the globe. Actually it is a Persian word as is also the word Jamewar (brocade silk) and both these words were derived from Farsi word 'Jam-dar' describing flowers or embellished designs. The Jamdani became equally famous along with the even more exquisite Muslin of Dhaka since the 12th century.

It is a pity that this glamorous handloom with such a proud history and tradition should degenerate in the hands of contriving, profit-mongers.

World Population Day Sunday

World Population Day '93 will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world on Sunday. The day is observed to create public awareness about population problems throughout the world, says a press release.

In observance of the day Bangladesh 2000, an NGO, in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka will organise a discussion meeting at the centre premises at 4:00 pm.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare will attend the occasion as chief guest. Alamgir M A Kabir, Former Advisor to the President and S K Alok, Country Director of UNFPA will be the special guests. Dr M R Khan, Research Director of BIDS will present the key-note paper.

Workshop on social science research ends

A six-day workshop on Faculty Development: Capacity Building in Social Science Research concluded here yesterday, stressing the need for country's greater interaction with outside world to develop understanding in a variety of fields, reports UNB.

It announced the formation of 'The Akhtar Fazlur Rahman Research Initiation Fund,' which will provide opportunity for young faculty to be creative, to show initiative and to be enthusiastic in what they do.

The concluding session was followed by distribution of certificates among the participants at a simple function in a local hotel.

The workshop was organised jointly by American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDR,B).

Presided over by Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley Chairman of CDRB, the function was addressed, among others, by Dr Syedur Rahman, Dr Irne Johnston Patrick of AIBS, Kim Hunter of Asia Foundation and Olivia P Hilton of USIS, Dhaka.

Director General of Bangladesh Management Development Centre Abu Hena attended the function as chief guest.

All villages to be supplied with electricity by 2005

All the villages in the country will be supplied with electricity by the year 2005 through the Rural Electrification Board, parliament was informed yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Abdul Matin Khasru (AL), Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain said already 11,932 villages have been covered by power supply.

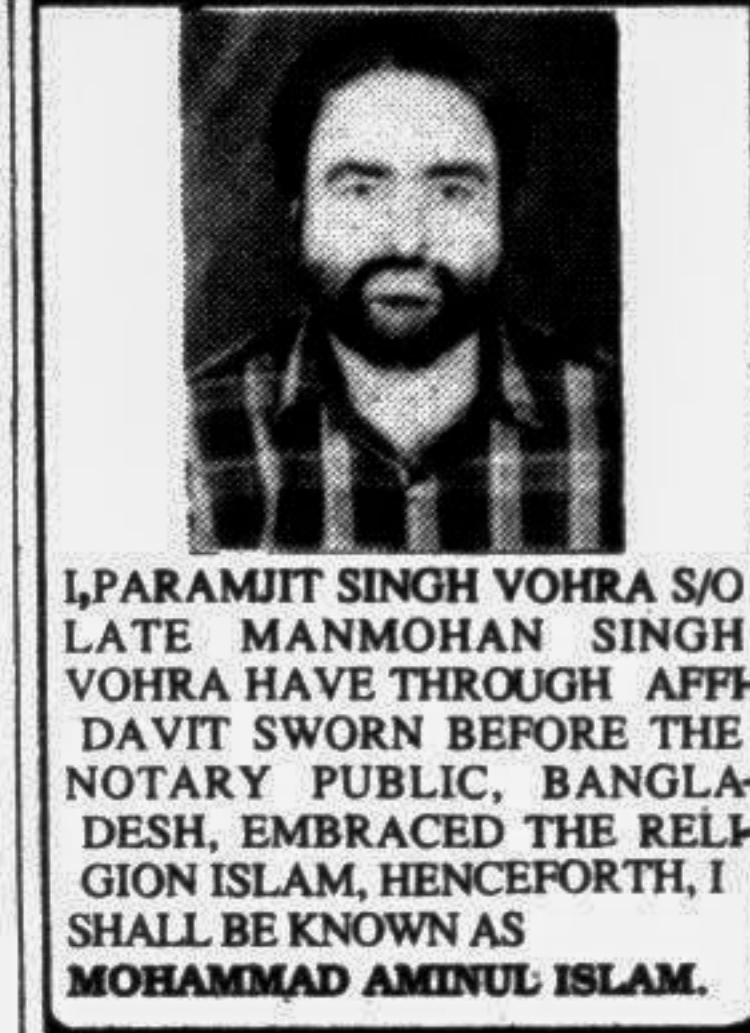
He told Mohammad Abu Bakr (Jamaat) that 321 thanas out of total 460 have been brought under power supply projects by the Rural Electrification Board.

The Minister said 5,500 kilometre power lines have been constructed in rural Bangladesh during the last fiscal year. Another 6,000 km lines will be constructed this year.

Replying to another question from Begum Matia Chowdhury (AL), Dr Hossain said 41,730 illegal power connections in Dhaka Metropolitan city were disconnected in 1992-93. Another 20,810 connections were snapped in the city for non-payment of outstanding electricity bills.

The written questions, which stood in the names of Awami League and Jatiya Party members, were probed either by treasury or Jamaat members as the former two opposition parties abstained from the House.

DECLARATION



I, PARAMJIT SINGH VOHRA S/O LATE MANMOHAN SINGH VOHRA HAVE THROUGH AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC, BANGLADESH, EMBRACED THE RELIGION ISLAM, HENCEFORTH, I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MOHAMMAD AMINUL ISLAM.

Accommodation Required

The British Council wishes to expand its Teaching Centre, and is looking for good quality premises in the Dhanmondi or Eskaton area to rent on a long term lease. We need a minimum of about 7000 square feet, and provision for classrooms approximately 20' x 20'.

If you have premises which might be suitable, please contact the Office Manager at The British Council, PO Box 161, Dhaka.

The British Council Registered in England as a charity No. 209131

Biswas stresses need for self-employment

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed that self-employment opportunities should be created by the various development-oriented and welfare organisations operating in different areas of the country, reports UNB.

He was talking to a 10-member delegation of the Universal Development Society of Jessore, which called on him at Bangabhaban in the morning.

The President said that the government had been striving hard to increase employment opportunities in the rural areas by disbursing loans for setting up poultry and dairy farms.

He asked the people to take full advantage of this programme for enhancing their income.

President Biswas urged the members of the delegation to motivate the people in general and the educated youths in particular to engage themselves in income generating work without depending on the government for jobs.

Earlier, the executive director of the society M Abul Kashem explained their activities which include eradication of illiteracy, vocational training, encouraging family savings and family planning.

58 JU teachers concerned over BIDS situation

By Staff Correspondent

Fifty-eight teachers of the Jahangirnagar University have expressed their concern over prevailing situation at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

In a statement yesterday they sought government's intervention to resolve the persisting deadlock at the institution and restore its impartial character.

The statement said that the institution should be saved for the sake of national interest.

Graduation parade held

CHITTAGONG, July 8: The graduation parade marking the commissioning of a batch of midshipmen of the Bangladesh Navy was held at the naval academy Parade Ground at Patenga here this morning, reports BSS.

Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam, Chief of the Naval Staff, reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past. He also distributed awards among the outstanding midshipmen, an ISPR press release said.

Midshipman MHT Mondal was adjudged the best all round midshipman and was awarded the trophy of Chief of Naval Staff. Meanwhile Omar Bhuiyan received the Osmani Gold Medal securing highest mark in academic subjects.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff urged the newly commissioned officers to attain at high standard of professional competence through continuous training, devotion to duty and steadfastness.

The colourful parade was witnessed among others by the local area commander of the Bangladesh Army Major General Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Bir Uttam, principal staff officers of the Navy and the Air Force, the local naval administrative authorities.



Bangladesh delegation leader Salman F Rahman (Left) and Union Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the first India-Bangladesh JBC meeting in New Delhi on Monday.



Alamgir M A Kabir (sitting 4th from left) and District Governor Rtn Magfur Uddin Ahmed (next right) flanked by some office bearers of the Rotary Club of Gulshan and their wives yesterday.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says, light or moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country. The highest temperature in the country was 35.2 degree Celsius at Srimangal and the lowest of 24.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamatl yesterday.

Chief amounts of rainfall recorded throughout the country were: Taknaf 38 mm, Satkhira 7 mm, Bhola 4mm, Rangamatl and Cox Bazar 2mm each and Patuakhali 1 mm.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:18 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country were:

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in Percentage (9am, 6pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Dhanpur.

JU viva voce begins July 12

The results of the written test for admission in the first year (hons) class of Jahangirnagar University were published, Wednesday a university press release, reports BSS.

Qulkhwan

The qulkhwan of A M Jalaluddin Ahmed, former Deputy Governor of Pakistan State Bank, will be held today (Friday) after Asr prayers at his 31, Purana Mitran residence, reports BSS.

Screening of Ekattarer Jishu begins today

Screening of "Ekattarer Jishu" directed by Nasir Uddin Yusuf begins today at the PG hospital auditorium at Shahbag, says a press release.

Three film show session — beginning at 3 pm, 5 pm and at 7 pm — will be held every day until July 15. A special film show will be held today at 11 am.

Advance tickets will be available at "Lucky Bread" at Baily Road and Pathak Sambesh at Shahbag.



Friday

Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement AL Quran Programme summary
8:10 News in Bangla
8:15 Alor Dthari
8:40 Naton Kuri
10:00 News in English
10:05 Moner Mukere
11:10 Moghuls Film: Tarzan
11:30 Educational programme
11:50 Film : Border Town
12:30 Closing

Afternoon Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement AL Quran Programme summary
3:10 Recitation from the Triptlak
3:15 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3:40 Bangla Feature Film: Ashroy
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 Sports programme
7:00 Open University
7:25 Malancha: Modern songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Comedy show: perfect Strangers
9:00 Magazine: Antranga
10:00 News in English
10:30 Drama series: LA Law
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:45 Closing

Wanted

An International N... working in Bangladesh is inviting applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for appointment in the following senior management positions:

a) Programme Manager - Education Programme
Duties include: planning, organising, staffing, leading, monitoring/controlling, evaluating, staff training, and developing the organisation's education programme which includes aspects of: Kindergarten and primary education for children and non-formal education for adults. There are 12 schools (all located in urban areas) in the primary education component. Presently the total number of full-time staff employed by this programme is over 200.

b) Programme Manager - Health Nutrition Programme
Duties include: planning, organising, staffing, leading, monitoring/controlling, evaluating, staff training, and developing the organisation's health and nutrition programme which includes aspects of: primary health care, nutrition rehabilitation units and nutritional surveillance. The majority of the nine projects for this programme are located in urban slum areas. Presently this programme employs over 260 full-time staff.

Salary range: Tk 25,000-35,000 (gross) per month.

Benefits: Contributory Provident Fund, Bonus and medical facilities will be given as per existing arrangements.

Candidates for the positions should:

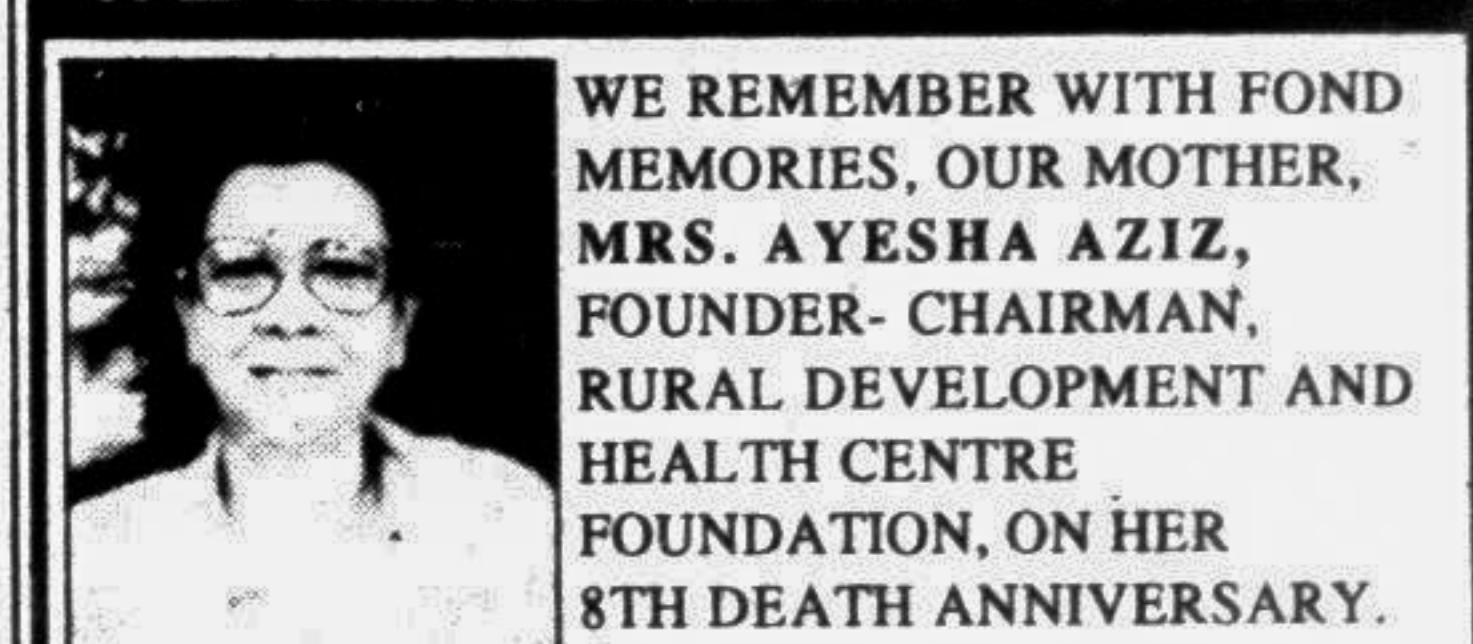
- have a minimum of a post graduate degree or relevant work experience.
- have experience and knowledge of working with the poor in development programmes.
- have experience of work in a development organization.
- be willing to travel as and when necessary within Bangladesh.
- be proficient in written and spoken English and Bangla.
- be aged between 30 and 45 years.

Location Dhaka bbt with frequent travel to project areas.

Application with bio-data including two references and a passport size photograph may be submitted to Box No A-05, C/o The Daily Star, House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka within 15 days of this advertisement. Please do not apply if you do not meet the mentioned criteria. Envelope should be marked clearly with the position applied for.

N.B. Canvassing will automatically disqualify.

WE REMEMBER TODAY



WE REMEMBER WITH FOND MEMORIES, OUR MOTHER, MRS. AYESHA AZIZ, FOUNDER- CHAIRMAN, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION, ON HER 8TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE. DR. NAJMA RIZVI MAJ. GEN. NURUL ISLAM (RETD.) MOHAMMED IQBAL AZIZ HABIBUR RAHMAN SANNI.

Wanted

DHAKA UNIVERSITY: Applications are invited for a post of Assistant-cum-Typist in the office of the Director, Student Counselling and Guidance in the scale of Tk 1200-60-1620-EB-65-2335/and other allowances as admissible under the rule. Candidate must have passed at least HSC examination and should have knowledge in the art of type writing in Bengali 25 and English 35 words per minute. Preference will given to the departmental experienced candidate.

Candidate's age should be between 20 years and 30 years.

Application on plain paper stating full particulars with a Bank Draft/Pay Order of the value of Tk 10 (ten) in favour of the Registrar, Dhaka University should reach the Director of Student Counselling and Guidance on or before 27-7-1993. Employes should reach their application through proper channel.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Education Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka Notice

Subject: Invitation of Application for 1994-95 session under East West Centre, Honolulu, Hawaii Scholarship

Applications are invited from bonafide citizens of Bangladesh for post graduate level study under scholarship of East West Centre in Hawaii of the United States.

Table with columns: Subject, HSC, Degree, Post-graduate. Rows include Agri Engineering & Architecture, Art & Social Science, Commerce, Science.

- 3. Candidates who have already participated in TOEFL, GRE or GMAT and scored at least 550 marks in TOEFL, 2300 in GRE & 500 in GMAT, will be given preference.
4. Candidates serving in govt/semi-govt establishments should apply through proper authority channel in prescribed form within time.
5. Application accompanied with two copies attested recent passport size photographs, two copies attested marksheet & certificates of each examination passed, etc should be made in English with bio-data containing the following information. Name, father's name, present & permanent address, date of birth, occupation, telephone No. (if any), age on 1-7-93, educational qualification, name of examination, roll no, registration no, year of passing, division, place in merit list (if any), total marks received, total aggregate marks in SSC/HSC/Degree/Post-graduate examinations should be stated in the bio-data.
6. Name of scholarship & subject prayed should be superscribed on the envelope.
7. Application should reach the undersigned or dropped in the wooden box No 2 at the Gate No 5 of Bangladesh Secretariat by 14-7-93.
8. No-one person can be candidate for more than one subjects.
9. Authority's decision is final in selecting the candidates. Incomplete application will not be entertained.
10. Action will be taken as per penal code against any one deliberately furnishing false description/information.
11. Any one already selected by the Ministry of Education for a scholarship need not apply.

Mohammad Nazrul Islam Asstt Secretary Phone: 235111/2191 DFP (G) 10950-7/7 G-913