

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Credibility Makes Credit Card a Success

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The advanced world is almost a cashless society now. Carrying cash has fallen out of favour with people there. It's a worldwide credit card business economy and there's no reason for Bangladesh to lag behind. Agreed that our country's economic standing is low involving risks or temptations in various forms but the benefits from switching over to the system may more than compensate its other short comings.

Recently exporters have been allowed to keep 10 per cent of their dollars earned in international currency and 90 per cent in local currency. Such leniency in foreign exchange earnings has brought a breakthrough in our bank dealings. These local exporters can now be issued international credit cards by the international agencies through our local banks. Encouragingly enough, there are now approximately four to five such credit cards holders and by profession they are all local exporters.

Theoretically such opportunities are available only when export surplus the import and right now Bangladesh's economic conditions are undoubtedly improving. Economists may differ with my opinion but that's how I see my business," said Shawkat Ali Chowdhury senior executive vice-president of International Finance Investment and Commerce Bank Limited (IFIC).

IFIC bank took a pioneering role in introducing cheque cards in Bangladesh. That's where the difference lies. We haven't brought out credit cards, there might be bit of a confusion to many clients. Actually our cheque cards are not credit cards. Credit cards, are a type of a loan you're issued based totally on your ability or credit in repaying your deficit. For example you might make a 1000 dollar purchase with your credit cards, having only 100 dollars in your bank account but such dealings are not possible with cheque cards. It is known that within a month's time the 900 dollars will be balanced. It's a trust the agencies judge and then issue cards.

"On the other hand cheque cards are totally different. It's against your bank accounts. With

a minimum amount of 20,000 taka in your bank you'll be issued 10 cheque leaves each worth 2000 taka. Apparently there might not be any benefit to many but why carry cash," Chowdhury suggested matter-of-factly.

"In fact, these cheque card holders can shop or dine freely without carrying cash, they can even buy airline tickets. But mostly it comes in handy while you try to make transactions after banking hours. You're in an urgent need of cash but right, now you're short of it and the banks are closed, it is then when such cheque cards help you most. It's a country-wide facility, in any one of our branches in and outside Dhaka such cheques can be cashed. Instant encashment of cheques at any IFIC branch is guaranteed," he said.

"The IFIC card scheme cuts down the risk of cash handling specially in our law and order

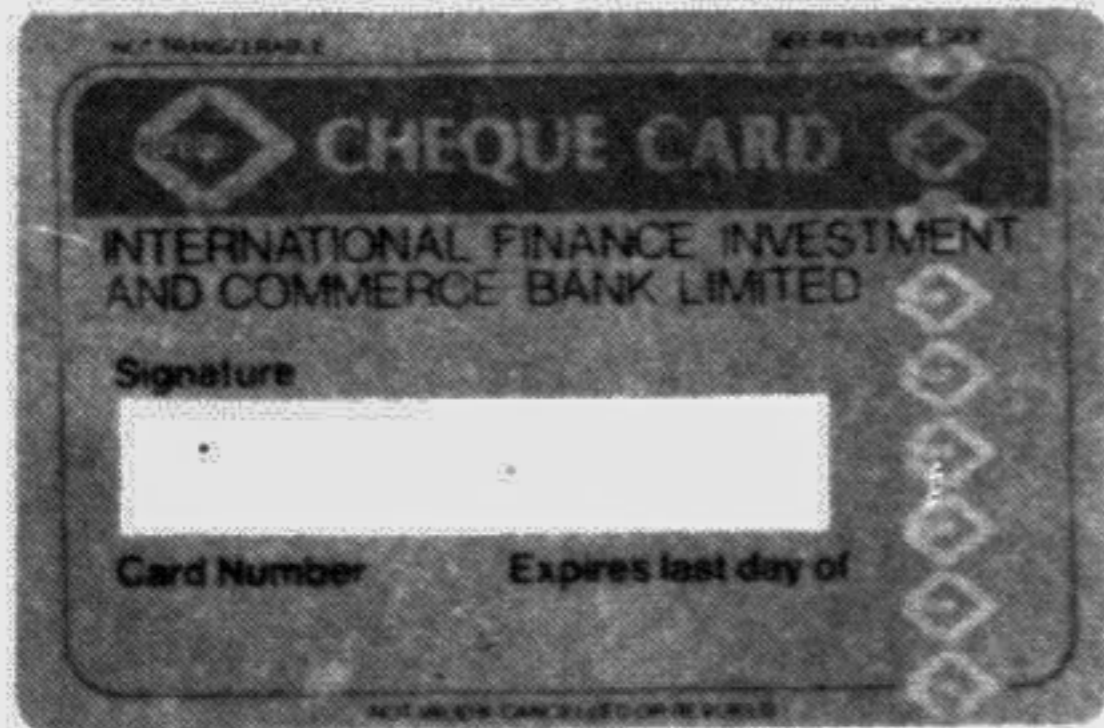
situation. Moreover, for the establishments, allowing these cards, it becomes easier to get more business, as well as free advertisement at IFIC expense," Chowdhury added.

Travel agents, jewellers, big hotels and departmental stores all seem to be welcoming this venture of IFIC. Initially the response

was good, and at present there are about 350 such IFIC cheque card holders. ANZ has also introduced similar facilities.

The banking sector, which the common people always try to avoid in their dealings should try out more such attractive ideas and gain the trust of the general public. Banks are not only for the elites, its services should encourage the village housewife too. They should come to banks and avail of their modern facilities. It is really sad to think that, while cheque cards are available there are people who still prefer to keep money at home or even in ludicrous hiding places like the inside of bamboo.

Banks should design plans to serve better and stick to them. After all it adds a little colour to the customers' status when they just sign a cheque leaf and walk out of the cash counter smiling.



Courtesy IFIC Bank Ltd



SM al-Husainy, newly elected President of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga addressing the installation ceremony of the Board of Directors yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel. Editor of The Daily Star SM Ali (second from left) was present as chief guest, while Rotary District Governor Magfur Uddin Ahmed (extreme right) was the special guest. Mrs Magfur is also seen in the picture. — Star photo

## Declare May 30 nat'l mourning day: Zia Parishad

The Zia Parishad yesterday urged the government to declare May 30 as national mourning day in remembrance of the day on which President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in 1981, reports BSS.

Kabir Murd, chairman of the Parishad, made this demand at press conference at the Jatiya Press Club here.

The Parishad recalled Shaheed Zia's contributions and his role as a 'champion of multi-party democracy and solidarity of Muslim world'.

"Zia had given a sense of direction to the nation as a declaimer of the war of independence at its critical juncture," the Parishad said.

## DU debaters adjudged best in Asia

Dhaka University debaters became the best in Asia in the Star Australian University Debating Championship '93, held in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, reports UNB.

The competition, organised by International Islamic University, was held July 5-12 with 56 teams from different universities of Asia and Australia taking part.

The 3-member Dhaka University team was led by ASM Abdun Nur, 5th year MBBS student of Dhaka Medical College. The other members of the team were S M Shameem Reza, 2nd year (Hons), Mass Communication and Journalism Department, and Md Amnur Rahman, 3rd year(Hons), Economics Department of Dhaka University.

## Zulfikur dead

Noted journalist, politician and social worker Lutfur Rahman Zulfikur died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning due to old age complications and liver ailment. He was 79, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, three sons, four daughters and a host of friends, relatives and admirers. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

The qulhwani of Zulfikur will be held at his 189, North Shahjahanpur residence tomorrow (Friday).

## Khaleda condoles

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the death of noted journalist, politician and social worker Lutfur Rahman Zulfikur, reports BSS.

In a message, the Prime Minister expressed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

## Rehabilitation project at Dahagram, Angorpota

By Staff Correspondent

The Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga has undertaken a rehabilitation project at the Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves, the club executives announced yesterday.

"We must try to help them, rehabilitate them," Atiqul Alam, the outgoing President of the club disclosed at the installation ceremony of the newly elected Board of Directors of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga for 1993-94 at Sonargaon Hotel.

Editor of The Daily Star SM Ali was the chief guest at the function, while Rotary District Governor Magfur Uddin Ahmed was the special guest.

Atiqul Alam chaired the first half of the function, later presided over by new President SM Al-Husainy.

Atiqul Alam said that the project was now in the initial stage which included setting up of a school, charitable dispensary and a hospital.

He hoped the new committee would successfully carry out the planned programmes of the club.

"Philanthropy is not in short supply when the people like you are involved and I personally believe that there is a good deal the media can do for Rotary service," The Daily Star Editor said.

He said that a linkage should be developed through which "We can set up a school in a remote area, a hospital in an unnamed village." Let us look around to inter link one



## Two albums of Shilpachariya to be published today

Two albums of 50 art works by Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin will be published today at the initiative of Shilpangan, the contemporary art gallery, says a press release.

National Professor Abdur Razzak will inaugurate the publication ceremony as well as the display of a number of paintings of Zainul Abedin.

The function will be presided over by Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed while addressed by the widow of the Shilpacharya Jahanara Abedin.

## Khaleda stresses united efforts of Muslim countries to end Bosnian crisis

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Muslim countries to play an effective role in implementing the decision of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on the Bosnia issue, reports UNB.

She stressed that the Muslim countries should unitedly exert efforts toward ending the Bosnian crisis and mentioned that Bangladesh had contributed troops to the UN peace keeping forces in Somalia and Bosnia.

The Prime Minister was talking to the out-going

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mohammed Saleh Zaimi, who called on her at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday afternoon.

Begum Zia recalled the role of Bangladesh and Morocco in the peace process during the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Referring to bilateral issues, Begum Zia emphasised on exchange of cultural, trade and other delegations for further consolidating the existing relations between the two countries.

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Justice Kemaluddin Hussain addressing a discussion organised by Bangabandhu Shishu-Kishore Mela at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. Also seen in the picture from his left are Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Alhaj Mohammad Zahirul Huq and M Anisuzzaman. — Star photo

## Dhaka keen to send manpower to Lusaka

The High Commissioner-designate of Zambia to Bangladesh, Ian Cilanz Beattie Skazwe, presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Accepting the credentials, President Biswas said that there existed enormous scope for further expansion of mutually beneficially cooperation between the two countries.

He said both the countries have signed a number of agreements for promotion of cooperation in the fields of culture, trade and commerce. Implementation of these agree-

## Albanian team visits Ghoralas Fertiliser Factory

GHORALAS, Aug 4: The visiting 11-member Albanian bankers' team yesterday went to the Urea Fertiliser Factory here, reports BSS.

The members of the team led by General Director of the Savings Bank of Albania Edvin Libonova watched with keen interest the production, sale, distribution and delivery of fertiliser and the modus of payment under inland letters of credit (L/C), pay order, demand draft and cash.

He also expressed his willingness to send more technically qualified people from Bangladesh to Zambia to participate in her development activities.

ব্যাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন	
BTV	
Thursday	
5:00	Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Geeta
5:25	School debate
6:30	Esho Para Shikhi: Mass education programme
7:00	Jiboner Alo
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Drama of the week: Sukher Lagha

The story of the play by Moshed Chowdhury is about two friends of quite difference. One of them Mahub is a luxurious man who is very much fond of delicious food. He has his own idea of life - life is for enjoyment. His wife has a lot of complaints regarding it. The other friend Khaled's hobby is to build houses. He thinks as a head of the family it is his moral duties safeguard the security. His wife has also a number of complaints. Whose idea is correct - Khaled's or Mahub's?

10:00 News in English  
10:30 Film China Beach  
11:30 Khabar /The News  
11:45 Closing

## Weather

### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday) says, moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions with moderately heavy fall at places and light to moderate rain or thundershower occur at many places over Dhaka division and at a few places over Rajshahi division.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the coastal districts and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur and the lowest 22.4 degree was recorded in Rangamati.

Chief amounts of rainfall recorded during the day time yesterday across the country were: Sitakunda and Feni 85 mm each, Patuakhali 68mm, Bhola 53, Khulna 37, Teknaf 33, Bogra 29, Kutubdia 26, Barisal 20, Iwardi 16, Khepupara 19, sylhet 12 and Cox's Bazar and Matjdi Court 13mm each.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.39 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.30.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree		Humidity in percentage		Celsius
	max	min	9am	6pm	
Dhaka	30.2	27.0	88	80	
Chittagong	30.0	24.6	93	92	
Rajshahi	31.5	26.8	89	79	
Khulna	28.2	25.0	98	98	
Barisal	27.0	25.0	95	97	
Cox's Bazar	28.0	24.5	93	85	
Sylhet	31.6	25.0	95	92	
Dinajpur	33.4	27.0	82	77	

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