

Metropolitan

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Old is not Always Gold

by Nazme Sabina



For Ismail Hussain, 60, once a mighty government official, his day starts with a queue at BIRDEM, commonly known as Diabetic Hospital to know whether sugar level in his body has increased or remained the same. During the first week of the month, he keeps himself busy with pension officials.

Belying the age-old proverb, time and tide remain static for him. In his ever-crowding house, no one finds any room to talk to him.

Birth growth, decay and death are what life is. As a normal biological process, can old age then be a curse or, as Shakespeare saw it, a ripe, fruitful time? Late Dr A.K.M. Abdul Wahed, however had a different view and did not limit his job in philosophising, rather thought in concrete terms. He took the initiative in establishing the Association for the Aged and the Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) in 1960.

In its early days, the Association used to provide outdoor clinic facilities in the evening for two hours at the residence of founder secretary, Dr AKM Abdul Wahed at Dhanmondi. In 1985, Probhin Bhaban was housed on its own premises at Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, thanks to the effort of late Dr M Ibrahim and the financial assistance of the Ministry of Social Welfare.

"Though the Association started with the aim to provide for a congenial atmosphere, recreational facilities and to rehabilitate the aged, we mainly deal with the health problems of the old people," said Dr MA Wahid, general secretary of the organisation.

"Currently, we have medicine pathology-physiotherapy, ECG dental, eye, ENT, neurology departments," he added.

All examinations and treatment are given to the elderly people with a nominal charge, but nothing is charged to elderly poor people. For example, for ECG we charge only Taka 30 and for blood test, it costs Tk 10, whereas, in other hospitals and clinics the charges are Tk 80 and Tk 30 respectively. About 100 patients come here each day.

"Moreover, some of the medicines are given free of cost to them," said Dr Latif Rahman, medical officer general of the institution. All the departments excepting neurology eye, dental, and ECG remain open from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm from Saturday to Thursday. "We cannot make

other departments work smoothly due to paucity of funds and manpower," said the general secretary.

"Recreational facilities are too small to serve the aged. And the library situation is also in an excellent order. The cause is again, the financial problems," said Dr Wahid.

He informed that in future the Association for the Aged would open weekly clinics in different parts of the city with the help of Social Welfare Department and Dhaka City Corporation. He also said that two such clinics have already been established — one at Hazaribag and another at Masjite-ut-Jagwa, Dhanmondi.

With financial support from the WHO, BAAIGM has conducted an epidemiology research and focused attention on socio-economic condition of the aged, types of diseases to which elderly, people are exposed, health care currently availed by them and psychological problems faced by the senior citizens.

The survey was conducted among 1640 aged persons of whom 69 per cent were male and 31 per cent female aged 60 years and above from urban and rural areas. This survey has recommended for special arrangements to be made for providing medical advice to the aged and day care centres with medical and recreational facilities to be provided to the elders. "Organisation of medicine banks, spectacle banks, warm clothing banks etc should be organised for the needy aged," the survey says. It also recommends. That basic needs of the elderly in most cases have to be met by their families relatives and neighbours.

"Possibilities of organising old homes on non-profit no-loss basis for clients who can bear the expenditure should be examined and pursued," the survey recommends.

The organisation has eight branches at Comilla, Gurudasapur, Moulvibazar, Rangpur, Narail, Mymensingh, Khulna, Rupganj. Asked if they have any such plan at grassroots level Dr Wahid said, "We have a plan since our inception to establish branches in all the districts and thanas, and gradually from thana to union and village level."

Today the 1st October the United Nations is celebrating the International Day for the Aged. The policies and plans. Merit careful considerations for implementation.

## Card phone system earns Tk 3.80 cr for TSS

The Telephone Shilpa Sangha (TSS) earned Tk 3.80 crore from the card phone system since its installation a year ago, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a workshop here yesterday marking the first anniversary of the introduction of card phone in the country.

Inaugurating the workshop, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam said the new system became essential as the T&T Board could not meet the increasing demand for telephone due to lack of infrastructure.

He said the government which gave priority to the telecommunications sector, took up new schemes to develop the sector and "plans to install 2.40 lakh new connections during the five-year rule of Begum Khaleda Zia."

There are about 2.40 lakh telephone connections in the country and another 1.40 lakh people have applied for new telephones.

The minister said some 18,500 new digital telephones will be provided by next March and card phone booths will be installed in every areas of the capital and 80,000 new phone connections will be given by 1995.

The card phone system was introduced in the country on September 30 last year. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the new technology by making a telephone call from Kamalapur station to Reaz-

uddin Ahmed, then President of BFUJ, at the Jatya Press Club. The price of each card phone set, supplied by an Italian company was Tk 1.05 lakh while the installation cost was Tk 20,000 per booth.

Some 100,000 calls are being made on every working day through the card phones and under an agreement, T & T Board gets 60 per cent of the profit and TSS 40 per cent.

TSS has so far installed 210 phone booths in 26 different areas of the country providing telephone facilities to some 22 lakh people. It plans to install another 2200 phone booths by 1996-97.

The Telecommunications Minister said the government has a plan to instal new exchanges with the capacity of 60,000 lines in the capital by 1995. New exchanges will also be set up in Chittagong with 10,000 connections, and in Khulna, Sylhet and Rajshahi with 15000 lines each by 1996.

Tariqul said the government is also committed to providing telephone facilities to the rural areas. Some 270 thanas were brought under the OTD system through which the people can make phone calls at home and abroad, he added.

A private sector company, Bangladesh Rural Telecom Authority is working in the rural areas, he said adding that it had already completed its work in 10 thanas while work in another 189 thanas were in progress.



Industries Minister Zahiruddin Khan addressing the senior officers of the BCIC at its office in the city yesterday. Additional Secretary, Industries Ministry, Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Industries Secretary, A H M Abdul Hye (from L to R) and Waseq-al Azad, Chairman BCIC, (extreme right) are also seen in the picture.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet Nigerian President

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted Chief Ernest Shonekan, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of its national day, reports BSS.

The President expressed his confidence that the friendly relations which so happily exist between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday also felicitated Chief Ernest Shonekan.

In a message the Prime Minister expressed her best wishes for President Shonekan's good health, happiness and long life and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Nigeria.

**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES**  
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. OCEANUS OSAKA V-29435 from Barcelona, ex. M.V. ELBE V-17234 from Rotterdam have been relayed to M.V. NGS RANGER V-5793 Imp. Rot. NO. 763/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 1.10.1993 from Singapore. Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
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Attractive compensation package will be offered. Application alongwith bio-data and two recent passport size photographs should reach the Personnel Division, Renata Limited, 6/3, Segun Bagicha, G.P.O. Box No. 303, Dhaka by October 15, 1993.



- Friday Morning session**
- 8.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran
  - 8.10 Programme summary
  - 8.15 News in Bangla
  - 8.40 Alor Dishari
  - 8.45 Natun Kuri
  - 10.00 News in English
  - 10.30 Moner Mukure
  - 11.15 Film: Tarzan
  - 11.40 Shikha - Dikkha
  - 12.10 Film: Border Town
  - 12.30 Closing
- Afternoon session**
- 3.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
  - 3.10 Recitation from the Triptak
  - 3.15 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
  - 3.40 Full-length Bengali movie: Bashar Ghar  
Starring: Shabana, Alamgir
  - 5.10 News in Bangla
  - 6.30 SAARC exchange programme: Today's country - Bhutan
  - 7.00 Open University
  - 7.20 Malancha
  - 8.00 News in Bangla
  - 8.30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
  - 9.00 Magazine: Antorango
  - 10.00 News in English
  - 10.30 Drama serial: L A Law
  - 11.30 Khabar/The News
  - 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
  - 11.45 Closing

## USTC syndicate call hailed

By Staff Correspondent

Several guardians of the students of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) in a signed statement yesterday hailed the USTC syndicate's call to the students to attend classes.

"We are happy and feel secured at the USTC syndicate's call," the statement said terming the syndicate's step a 'bold move'.

The guardians drew attention of the university authorities to the issue of making up to the class-time the students lost due to the closure of the institution and hoped the authorities would take effective measures in this regard.

Signatories to the statement include AFM Abdul Hamid, Dr. Murshiduddin, Mohammad Shaifuddin, PK Barua, Sultan Ahmed, Chna Barua and Abul Kasem.

The deadlock in the USTC resulted from a reported attack on Dr. Rabiul Hossain on September 22.

## Envoy to Myanmar

The government has decided to appoint Brigadier Chowdhury Khalequzzaman (Retd) as Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Union of Myanmar, reports BSS.



The newly-formed anti-Communist Students' Front brought out a procession with lathis (sticks) in the city yesterday demanding a ban on the religion-based politics of the Jamaat-Shibir. — Star photo

## Weather

### Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

The sky will remain cloudy over the Chittagong division and partly cloudy elsewhere over the country during the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday).

The Met office forecasts, during this time, temporary light to moderate rain or showers, accompanied by gusty wind may occur at many places over Chittagong division and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Khulna with moderately heavy falls at places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

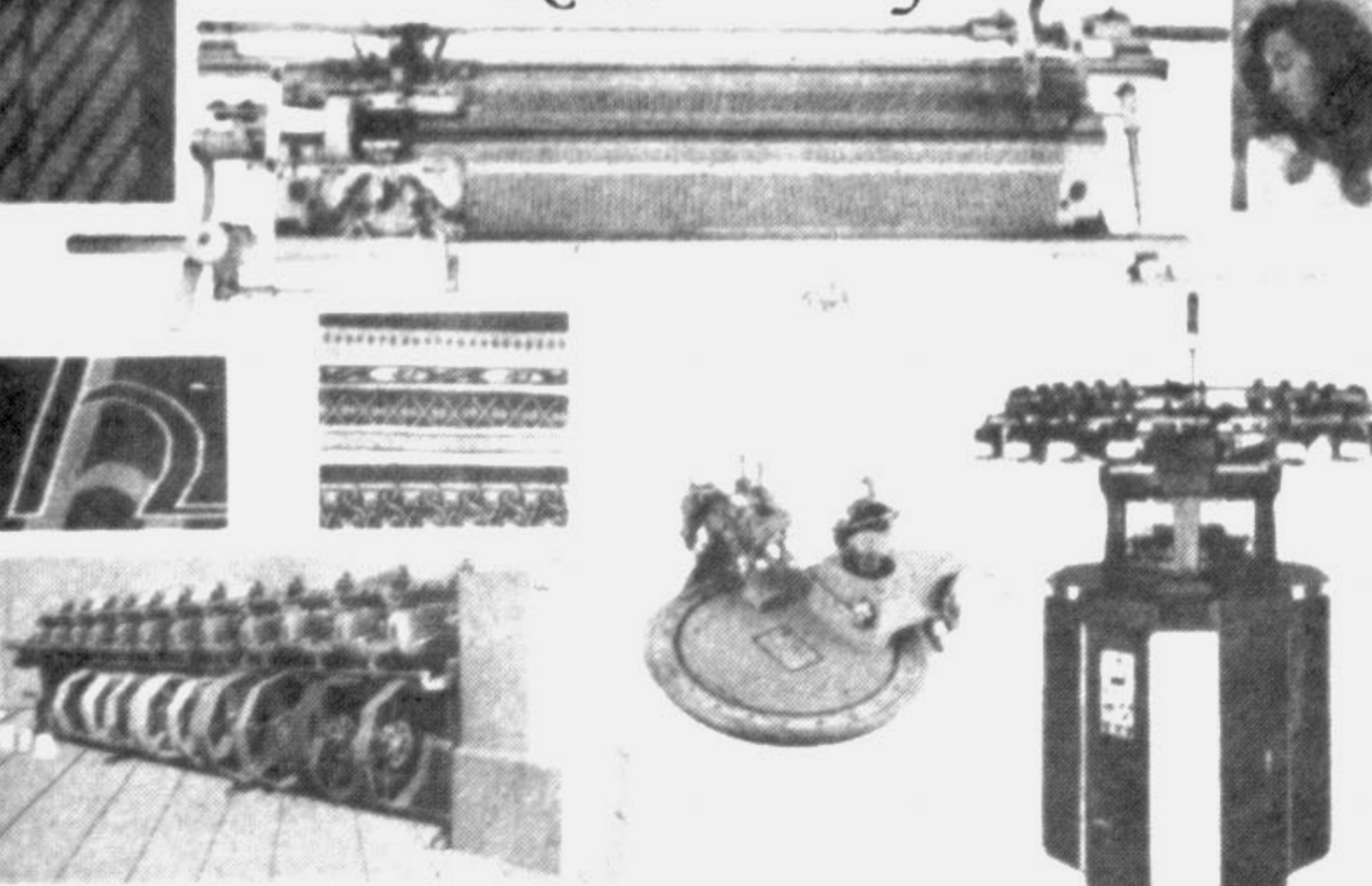
The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessore while the lowest 23.6 degrees was recorded in Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 5:47 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.3	24.3	74	80
Chittagong	30.4	24.5	88	80
Rajshahi	33.1	25.0	89	81
Khulna	32.0	24.8	90	-
Barisal	32.1	24.5	87	82
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	78	-
Sylhet	32.2	23.6	90	85

## Heartiest felicitations to the Government and friendly people of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of their National Day



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With the implementation of the project now about to commence, BEXIMCO is seeking to recruit a Project Manager who will take charge of the project. Reporting to the CEO and leading a team of professionals, this position will have the overall responsibility of hands-on project implementation and detailed liaison with the expatriate technology consultants. A Chartered Accountant, Cost & Management Accountant, MBA or Engineer of high calibre with at least 10 years broad based experience gained in senior line management capacity within a manufacturing organisation, preferably in the textile industry, would be ideal. A thorough knowledge of on-site industrial project management is essential, as are the ability to work well with a team, exercising autonomy in decision-making, leadership skills and commercial acumen. This position could eventually result in a lead position in the operation of the mills.

The position demands utmost integrity, strong interpersonal ability and excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a personality and temperament suited to a dynamic, highly motivated and participative work culture.

Besides an attractive compensation package, this position will provide exciting challenges and opportunities to make visible contributions to the development of the business in a work environment where professional achievement is closely linked to career advancement. Intending candidates are requested to send applications with complete bio-data and recent photograph addressed to Group Human Resource Director by October 15, 1993.

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