

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Office in Slumber

by Parveen Anam

SINCE ALL OF US SUFFER  
FROM INSOMNIA, FROM NOW ON  
OUR OFFICE WILL RUN FROM  
8:30 PM TO 2:30 AM!



Dhaka is gradually but steadily becoming a city with people who suffer intolerably from nerves. It is a constant battle getting to work, dodging the trucks, who in turn dodge the authorities and threaten them with dire consequences if their (the trucks) demands are not met, and the rather unpleasant sight of the 'powers that be' grovelling before the even more 'supreme powers that be' i.e. the immortal truckwallas. The merry-go-round is quite endless. And the Dhakaite is at the receiving end. As always.

But, for a few, Dhaka is a great place to be in. Optimism rules. And optimistic statements are the rule of the day. The prospects for the future seem limitless. One look at either the state-controlled endless television output or the self-censored newspapers, leaves one gasping with indignation. There is really a limit to how much the laden taxpayer can be taken for a ride. And yet a ride it is all the way. But before we go further, we perhaps need to look at things in its total perspective.

The Dhakaite really does not need to go far to see the truth of the matter. Life for some is undoubtedly good; and these are the few who matter. A trot down to an office of the authorities will bear out the inherent truth. A peaceful scene rules. No voices raised in anger or 'political view' as is the wont of the Bangalee when three of them get together, is being expressed. There is total and utter SILENCE. Ah, does it mean there is feverish work being accomplished? the optimistic amongst us will venture to enquire. And this is where the rude awakening comes in. For those of us who are still awake.

For all the others in those offices are FAST ASLEEP. An office at 11 am is a rare sight.

Everybody who is not out on 'business' with his scarf or muffler lovingly draped over the back of the chair is usually in a state of slumber, from which he will only wake up when it is time to go home — in transport provided at the expense of the taxpayer. It is quite a sight, really. One chap will be snoring with his head lolling back, the other will have his head resting on his arms on the desk and yet another will have put two chairs together and stretched himself out. The first couple of times, it is quite disconcerting to actually walk into an office at midday, if you befall you, you have some business there.

The very first reaction of a sane Dhakaite, trying desperately to get things done, is that he has walked into a slumber party. After he has managed to shake awake the person closest to him, he will be informed in no uncertain terms, that he should come back the next day, because the person he intends to see is out. And none knows when he will be back. There is a special ambience in the whole situation. The human being imparting this piece of information does not particularly bother about things, because he knows that come what may, he will be paid at the end of the month. And if he is given a sharp rap on the knuckles and told to put his act together, he will throw a tantrum and the 'supreme beings' so blithely giving out directives, will pull up short and go down on their knees with folded hands, entreating them to 'please not be angry'. And could they please go back to work, if only to sleep! Insomnia is certainly not amongst the complaints of the employees at these grotty little places. And thank heavens the television does not retaliate. Where would we be then? Sleeping, perhaps?

## Oli at IDE conference

## BNP govt won't bow to any threat

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed yesterday urged the diploma engineers to utilise their skills properly and with dedication in making the country self-reliant, reports UNB.

The Communications Minister cautioned those involved in hartal, blockade and other 'self-destructive' acts and said the BNP government would never bow down to threats. Problems should be solved through discussion, he added.

"You must strive through your professional performance to reach the benefit of scientific inventions to the doorsteps of the people," he said while inaugurating the three-day 18th National Council Conference of the Institute of Diploma Engineers (IDE) at its headquarters.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad was the special guest at the inaugural session. IDE president Shafiuddin Sarkar and general secretary A K M A Hamid also spoke on the occasion.

Praising the diploma engineers for their movement to realise demands through constitutional means, Oli Ahmed assured that their recommendations would be placed before the policymakers for consideration.

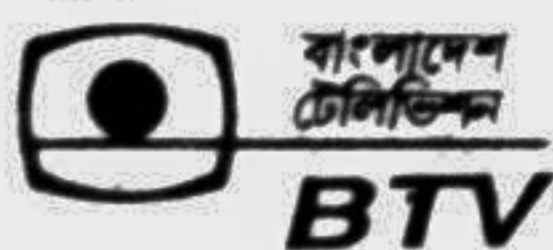
Speaking on the occasion, Abdus Samad Azad called upon the government to solve the problems of all professionals, including the doctors, to derive maximum services from them for ensuring well-being of the people.

He said technocrats should be involved in the mainstream of development activities without which no nation can make any progress.

Azad urged the government to activate the different committees formed to solve problems of the professionals.

In his presidential speech, IDE president Shafiuddin Sarkar said the conference would discuss a number of national issues through separate seminars.

He said these will include compulsory primary education, enactment of law for quality control on construction, low-cost housing, infrastructure for integrated communication system, drought and food problems, water logging, salinity and energy policy.



## Saturday

4:30	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
4:45	Programme summary
	Cartoon film: Young Robinhood
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Soorgool
6:00	Tarunya
6:25	Angkar
7:05	Banshree
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Mati-O-Manush
9:00	Biswa Natak
10:00	News in English
10:30	Drama serial: Dallas
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda inaugurated a solo photography exhibition of Abu Taher Khokon, staff photographer of the Morning Sun at the art gallery of the Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

## Biswas for unity among intellectuals

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the intellectuals to launch united thrust for establishing a society based on reasoning and intellect, reports BSS.

He said the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh could play a pioneering role in pursuit of the faculty of understanding and wisdom.

President Biswas, who is also the patron of the society, was speaking as chief guest at the fifth biennial general meeting of the society.

Held in the society's auditorium, the inaugural function was presided over by the society president Prof A K M Nurul Islam. General secretary of the society Hasna Begum presented the annual report while joint secretary of the society Prof Harun-ar-Rashid gave vote of thanks.

President Biswas said the path to take endeavour for austerity is well-spread and the responsibility is vested on the intellectuals to traverse that way for building a sound society and its conscience. "Our intellectuals have rich and glorious past," he said and expressed the hope that the intellectuals of the country would render invaluable services for upholding that past heritage.

The president said due to resources constraints it was not possible to allocate necessary financial provisions in the field of education and research. However, he said it was totally encouraging that the members of this society had been carrying out their research works within the limited financial structure of the organisation. He assured that efforts would be kept uninterrupted for continuing such research endeavours.

Terming our great War of Liberation as the golden chapter of our national history and heritage, President Biswas hoped that the members of the society would take initiatives for compilation of objective and neutral history of liberation struggle. He assured all possible help and assistance on behalf of the government for materialising such projects.

President Biswas said that the primary and principal objective of the society was to work for the expansion of constructive thinking and perception. In this connection he said the nation could not attain desired success in the past due to negative approach as a massive

erosion of values engulfed our total national life. "It is imperative to halt this erosion," he said adding that the march of the nation towards progress and prosperity would be endangered unless we could resist such erosion of values.

## CPC team meets Biswas

The visiting eight-member high level delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC), led by Wen Jiaba, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Talking to the members of the delegation, President Biswas said China is a great friend of Bangladesh and the friendly relationship between the two countries grew steadily since the visit of President Ziaur Rahman.

He appreciated the Chinese help and assistance in various fields of socio-economic development and mentioned that a number of bridges, including the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge and the Shambhuganj Bridge, were constructed through Chinese assistance.

## NAP for bi-cameral parliament

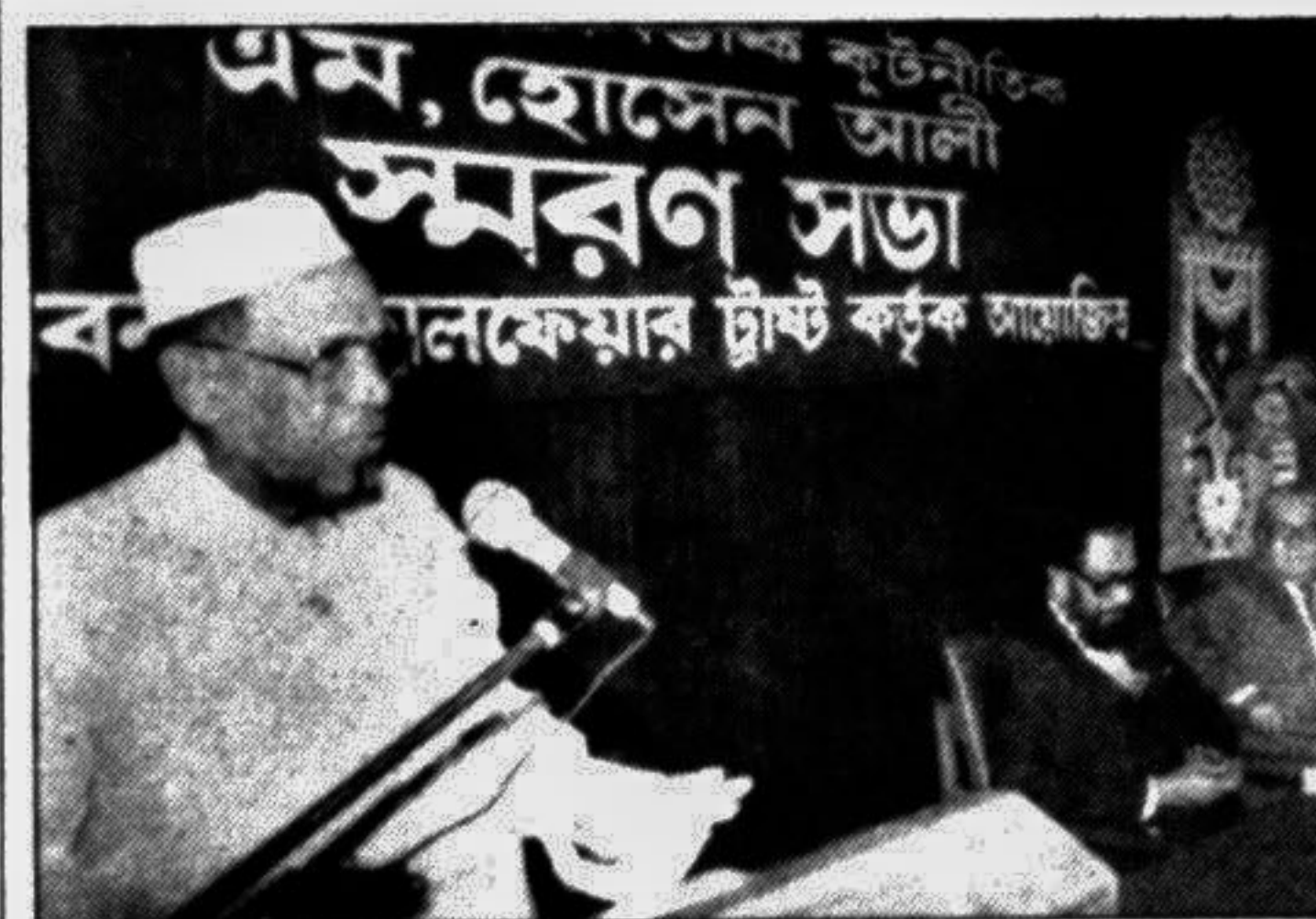
National Awami Party (NAP) leader Prof Mozaffar Ahmed yesterday called for establishing a bi-cameral legislature to consolidate democratic dispensation in the country, reports UNB.

In a statement Prof Mozaffar said all the democratically advanced countries including the UK, considered as a citadel of democracy, have bi-cameral law-making bodies.

The NAP leader held the view that the bi-cameral parliament is more effective in maintaining the check and balance in making laws.

This bi-cameral parliamentary system is playing an important role in consolidating democracy in Japan, Germany and, even in neighbouring India. Pakistan has also adopted the bi-cameral parliament, he said.

The NAP president said countries like Bangladesh where there is no scope for intellectuals like professors, artists, journalists and academicians to get elected in the existing electoral system, it is imperative to establish bi-cameral system for advancement of democracy in the country.



Deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad speaking at a function organised by the Pabna Welfare Trust to mark the 13th death anniversary of noted diplomat Hossain Ali in the city yesterday. Also seen in the picture from (L to R) chief election commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf and president of the trust Anisul Islam.

## Weather

## Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh in the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

Slight fall in the night temperature is likely to be felt, according to Met office.

The country's highest temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf while the lowest of 11.2 degrees Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:35 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6:44 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and relative humidity of the divisional districts as recorded yesterday are:

Cities	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.5	14.8	77	65
Chittagong	29.0	15.2	80	71
Rajshahi	28.2	13.8	88	71
Khulna	28.7	13.8	72	68
Barisal	28.6	14.0	83	65

## Foundation laying ceremony held

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan underscored the role of education in alleviating poverty from the country, reports UNB.

He was speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of a higher secondary school at Nimtala here today.

The Minister said there was no alternative of education in building a prosperous society and a developed nation.

While pointing out the various programmes of the government in alleviating illiteracy from the country, Zahiruddin Khan said present government allocated maximum budget provision for the education sector.

He called upon the affluent and elite class to come forward to work with the government in spreading education in their respective locality.

## Credit on easy terms for unemployed

RAJSHAH, Jan 14: State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq today said, the BNP government has undertaken a programme to distribute credit on easy terms among the distressed and unemployed people for creating job opportunity, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a loan distribution programme under the auspices of Youth Development Department, Rajshahi at Krishnapur of Tanore thana of the district the state minister said, the government was pursuing the policies to build eligible manpower for alleviating poverty from the country.

The state minister said, similar loan distribution programme had been launched at 25 thanas of the country in the current fiscal year.

**ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
**নাট্যচক্র পরিচালিত**  
**নাট্যশিক্ষাপন**  
নাট্যকলায় এক বছর মেয়াদি কোর্স

পরিচালক: অভিনয়, নাট্য, মঞ্চশিল্প ও নাট্য প্রযোজনা।

ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ: ২৫শে জানুয়ারী '৯৪

বোধ্যবস্তু

- ছাত্র-শিক্ষক কেন্দ্র, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (তিনতলা) সকাল ১০টা থেকে ১টা এবং (নীচে) বিকেল ৪টা থেকে ৬টা।
- নাট্যশিক্ষাপন কক্ষ, ৭০ সিডেন্সি সার্কুলার রোড, ঢাকা বিকেল ৫টা থেকে রাত ৮টা।

## Enrolment has started for the course on Production Management for Apparel Industry

Course starts: January 29, 1994.

Duration: 10 weeks, 5 days a week, 5 to 7 pm each day.

Entry Requirements: (i) Graduate in any discipline, or (ii) Industry's sponsorship.

Fees: Registration Tk 500/-, tuition Tk 10,000/-.

For enrolment/enquiry, contact between 3-7 pm:

Extension & Continuing Education Centre (ECEC)  
Independent University, Bangladesh  
119F, Road 1, Banani, Dhaka-1213.  
Phone: 604129, 602086, Fax: 883959

**ব্যাঙে মুক্তিযুদ্ধের গান**  
**'৭১-এর যাত্রী আয়োজিত**

পরিবেশনায়: দেশের জনপ্রিয় ব্যাঙ-রেনেসাঁ  
আরো গান গাইবেন: রবীন্দ্রনাথ রায়, শাকিলা জাকর,  
তপন চৌধুরী, রুশসানা আনোয়ার  
৩০ নাটকে অংশ নেবেন: আসাদুজ্জামান নূর এবং  
বিপাশা হায়াত

স্থান: শিল্পকলা একাডেমী মিলনায়তন  
সময়: সন্ধ্যা ৬টা  
তারিখ: শনিবার, ১৫ জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৪

**প্রবেশ পত্রের প্রাপ্তিস্থান:**  
সাপার পাবলিশার্স, হেইলী রোড  
ডুগে ভিটা জেলাস্টো, বনানী  
দৃক পিকচার লাইট্রেরী গানমতি  
আলিয়ার হাউস, গানমতি, ঢাকা।

**শো-এর দিন শিল্পকলা একাডেমী**

## NOWAPARA JUTE MILLS LTD.

NOWAPARA, JESSORE

## NOTICE

January 12, 1994

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the workers of the Mill under the leadership and instigation of the CBA Union leaders staged a Gherao of the Management Executives and Officers of the Mill from 12-15 P.M. on 09.01.94 demanding implementation of higher wages and other benefits equivalent to New Nationalized Enterprises Scale of 1993, which is applicable for the Nationalized Enterprises under BJMC, and other 5 Corporations. Such higher wages and other benefits are not applicable to the workers of this Mill, which is not a Nationalized Mill or enterprise. Pressing this demand the workers along with the CBA leaders kept the Management Executives and other Officers under wrongful confinement and pressurized them to agree to their illegal demand. This pressure and Gherao continued indefinitely and at long last at about 4.00 P.M. on the following evening on 10.1.94 they forced and extorted a commitment from the Management Executive stating that the workers' such demand would be implemented by 03.02.94 and then only the Gheraoed officers were released from wrongful confinement.

This commitment was obtained under Gherao, duress and forceful circumstances. As such it is illegal and not implementable. The Management of the Mill, therefore, hereby repudiates the said commitment with immediate effect which was the result of illegal force, pressure, Gherao and duress.

BY ORDER  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Secretary

## Ajax Jute Mills Limited Notice

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the Workers of Ajax Jute Mills Ltd, Khulna under the leadership and instigation of the CBA leaders staged a gherao of the Officers on the Mill from 10 A.M. on 9.1.94 demanding implementation of higher wages and other benefits as per the New Wages Scale of 1993, which is applicable for the Nationalized Sector enterprises under BJMC, and other 5 Corporations only. Such higher Wages and other benefits are not applicable to the workers of this Mill, which is a Private Sector Mill and not a nationalized Mill or enterprise under the Public/Government Sector. Pressing this demand the workers along with the CBA leaders kept the officers and other personnel of the Mill under wrongful confinement and pressurized them to agree to their illegal demand. This pressure and gherao continued indefinitely and at long last at about 7.00 AM on the following morning on 10.1.94 they forced and extorted a written commitment from the Mill Officers wherein they were compelled to state that the workers' such demand would be implemented by 3.2.94 and then only the gherao officers were released from wrongful confinement.

This commitment was obtained under Gherao, duress and forceful circumstances. As such it is illegal and not implementable. The Board of Directors of this Mill, therefore, hereby repudiates the said commitment with immediate effect which was the result of illegal force, pressure, gherao and duress.

By order of the Board of Directors  
of  
**Ajax Jute Mills Limited**  
Syed Wares Ali  
Secretary