

Dhaka Day by Day

Where Education is More Open

by Fayza Haq

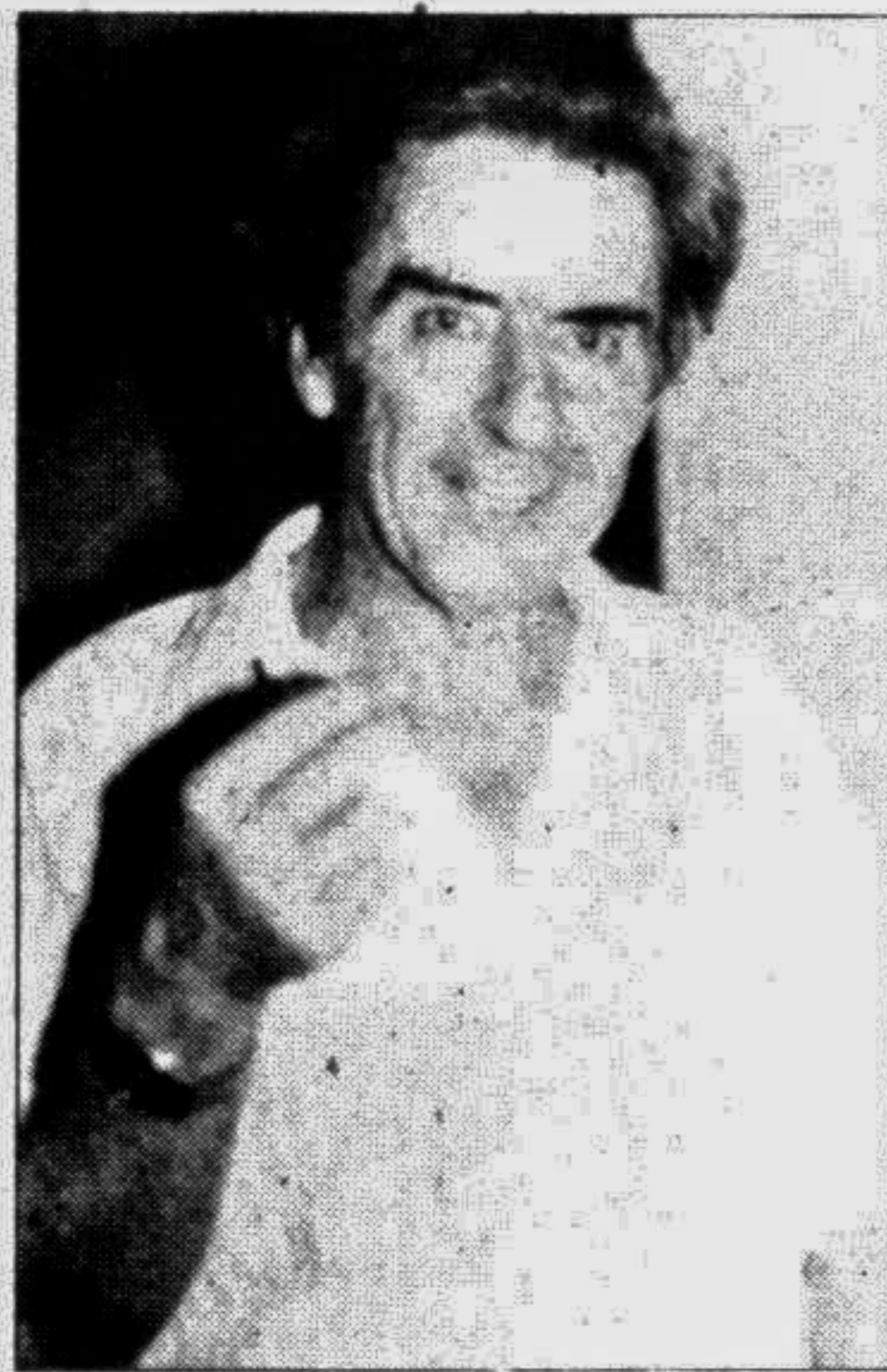
Talking about the Bangladesh Open University, Dr. Denys Meakin, a Canadian consultant with BOU says, "My main work here is to establish an infrastructure for the university. It was established in '92 by the Government of Bangladesh. It is a public university which is established to help overcome the shortage of places in the more conventional universities."

Explaining the necessity of an open university in Bangladesh Dr. Meakin proceeds to explain, "The main reason is that an open university is able to take a large number of students without major expenses. Currently, the colleges and universities of Bangladesh are not able to accommodate all the qualified students who would like to pursue higher studies. More conventional universities and colleges would take a lot of capital funding and even at that point they would still be able to handle only a portion of the students who would like to study further. In an open university you have significant cost of developing the courses in the first place. Once you have got the courses developed the cost of delivering them to a large number of students becomes relatively small. This is because you are not constrained by classrooms to accommodate every student that you want."

He continues to say, "Another big advantage of an open university which gives it its name is that it is much more 'open'. It is easier for students to gain admission, they do not need to attend regular classes, and they do need to move from their home to the city."

Dealing with teaching methods Dr. Meakin says, "The Open University concept stems from home study. Most people are familiar with some sort of correspondent education system. This started in '59 when the British Open University began. The British applied modern theory and technology to distance learning. They produced teaching materials that were vastly superior to any materials that had existed before. They blended traditional well designed print materials with modern technology of TV, radio cassettes and telephone communications. This took the distant learner out of the isolated position, a student in the traditional campus gets a lot of peer support. The support in Bangladesh will come through TV broadcasts along with a network of 80 local centres. The students will also have to do assignments which the tutor will mark and hand back with comments. Since Britain established the system in '59 the technique has spread world wide. It has been adapted throughout Europe, North America, South America and particularly in Asia."

Elaborating on the BOU Dr. Meakin explains, "Experience elsewhere has shown that open universities are very cost-effective. It may be quite expensive to get a first copy of the course on the shelf but then it is quite economical to produce large number of copies and deliver them to the students. You don't have to spend large amounts on lecture halls. We will be giving tutorials in classrooms of other colleges and universities at times when they are not being used. This work will be done in the evenings and Fridays. The TV programmes will be expanded when TV gets its second channel. There are already about 10,000 students in a bachelor of education degree programme. A certificate of proficiency in English language is also offered. In '95 they will introduce the secondary school certificate programme for an expected 100,000 students. I expect the total growth to be 3 lakhs within three years. By then they will be teaching agriculture and rural development, commerce, management, education, nursing and arts subjects like geography and history."



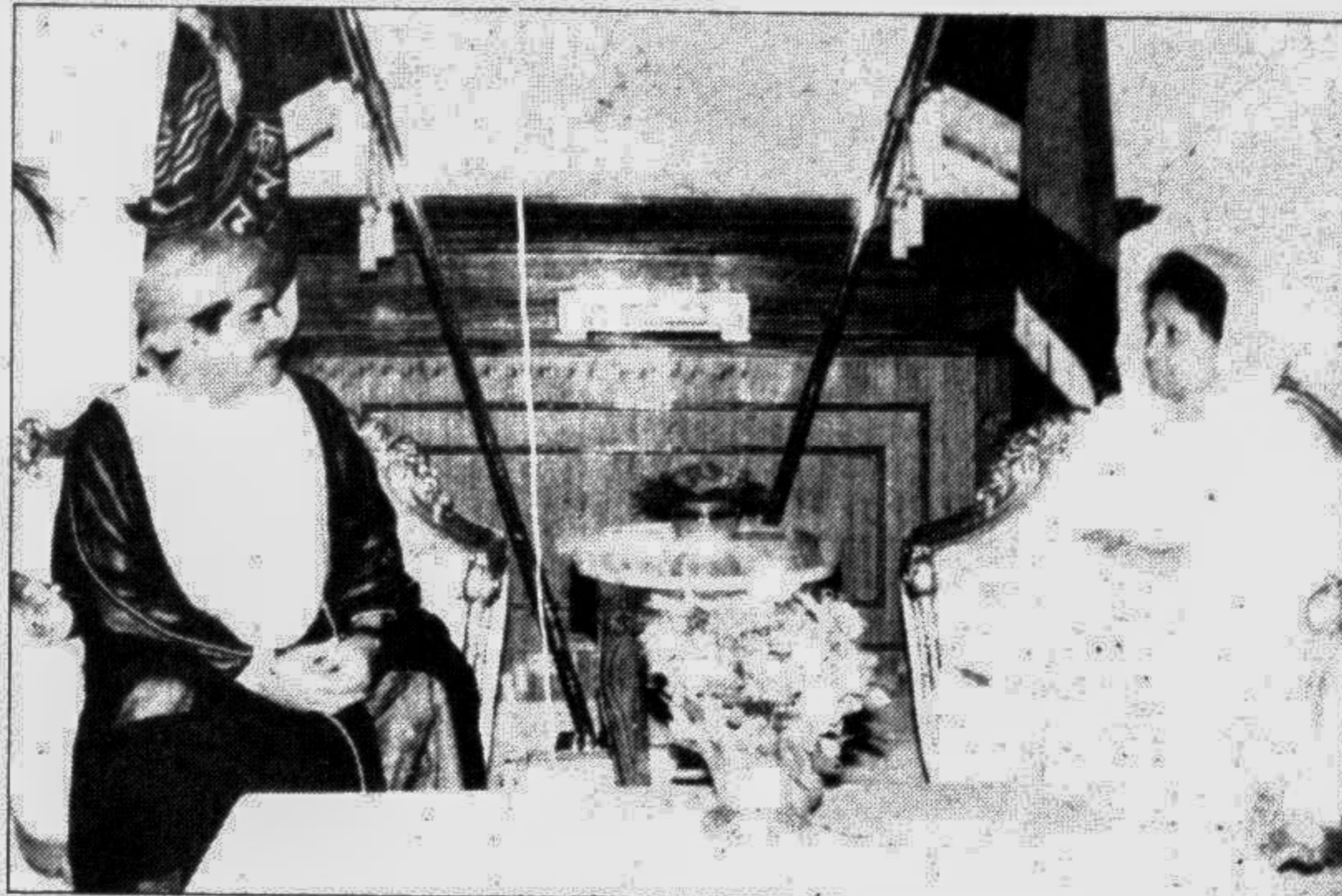
Dr. Denys Meakin

Discussions of the quality of graduates, Dr. Meakin says, "A university that doesn't have lectures can produce students of the same quality that a traditional university produces. Anyone who has been a student at a conventional university knows that while there may be some good professors, there are also a lot of poor lecturers. Those who graduate are highly motivated and self-disciplined. When the British Open University began, the other universities did not want those graduates but now any university in Britain is happy to take an open university graduate. In Bangladesh too one hopes they will get recognition."

Talking about the funding the education expert adds, "The university is being funded by soft loans from the Asian Development Bank. The Government of Bangladesh is providing some funds in the form of land for the campus and also some staff. Land has been set aside for BOU headquarters at Gazipur. Regional centres are being established in 10 locations throughout the country, with the first two opening in Jessore and Bogra this month. The ongoing operations will be largely self-supporting."

The university will have two semesters each year from February 1st and August 1st followed by examinations. The fees vary from subject to subject and depends on the course load. For one semester it costs Tk 900 for a full course load.

Dr. Meakin who had been posted in the tropics before, returns to Canada in mid August. He expects to come back for a short-term visits to Bangladesh.



Ambassador of Oman to Bangladesh Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Musafir made a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. —PID photo

PM for expanded economic ties with Oman

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia emphasised on expanding economic relations between Oman and Bangladesh, reports UNB.

She was discussing scope for expanding the relationship with the outgoing Omani Ambassador, Ali Bin Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Musafir when he called on Begum Zia at her office yesterday noon.

Necessity of exchanging delegations to look into investment opportunities in these two countries also came up in the discussion.

The ambassador hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would strengthen in future.

House bldg policy for rural areas under consideration

A house building policy for rural areas is under consideration of the government. State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

He was replying to a call attention moved by Sarder Sakhawat Hossain Bakul (Narsingdi) to matters of urgent public importance regarding the problem created due to the construction of residential houses on cultivable lands in the rural areas.

The state minister said that the government was aware of the problem caused by increased number of newly built houses on cultivable lands every year. He said considering the socio-economic condition of the rural people, the government will prepare an appropriate policy suiting the need of the time.

Kabir said that under the existing laws, an owner of a plot of land could use it to meet any of his requirements provided it did not hamper public interest.

Sakhawat Hossain Bakul said that in the absence of any policy for house construction in the rural areas, a fertile land was shrinking every year due to construction of new residential houses. He said that this was lowering agricultural production in the country.

ROK envoy meets Mannan

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Bangladesh Jong Kyu Byun called on the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan at his office yesterday, reports UNB. The Korean envoy stayed with the state minister for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

DESA disconnects 125 illegal lines

A mobile court of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) disconnected 125 illegal electric lines and filed 100 cases on different charges including unauthorised use of electricity and tampering of meters at Gulshan and Badda areas on July 4, reports BSS.

Qul-khwani

It is with sorrow that we report the demise of AZIM RAHIM in Karachi on 5th July. Quran Khwani will be held at Belalabad Imbarara, Maghbazar, Dhaka at 5.45 PM on Thursday, 7th July, 1994.

Hussainia Trust

Rathjatra on July 10

The Rathjatra festival of Shri Jashomadhav will begin at Dhamrai on July 10, reports UNB.

Religious Affairs Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali will attend the function as chief guest, while Harun-ur-Rashid Khan Monno, MP and Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP will be present as special guests.

Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya will preside over the opening function and the head of Ramkrishna Math and Mission in Dhaka, Swami Akshara-Nandjee Maharaj will inaugurate the Rathjatra.

The return Rathjatra (Uttorath) will take place on July 18. Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam will be present as chief guest at a function marking the Uttorathjatra.

BUET exams cancelled

By DU Correspondent

The BUET authorities have cancelled the first part examinations scheduled on July 3 and July 6 of 3rd, 4th and 5th year students of the session 1990-91 and 1991-92 yesterday.

The Academic Council of the BUET has decided to hold 4-hour examinations of each subject after the completion of classes of those batches.

It is also decided that the classes for second part of 3rd, 4th and 5th year students will begin on July 10.

The BUET Academic Council took the decisions in an emergency meeting yesterday and discussed overall situation of the university.



Thursday

- 4:30 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary
- 4:45 Children's programme: Ego Gan Shikhi
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 National Television School Debate Competition, Ego Para Shikhi
- 6:30 Ego Para Shikhi
- 7:00 Jiboner Alo
- 7:25 Nazrul song
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Drama of the week
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Mini series, Melba
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme
- 11:45 Closing

2 rehabilitation projects for crippled workers undertaken

Nearly 10,000 workers meet with accidents at their places of work every year and about 2,000 of them become crippled, parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

Responding to a call notice, Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government had undertaken two projects to rehabilitate crippled workers and ensure medicare facilities of workers and take steps to reduce the rate of accidents.

Under one project, some 4,000 workers will be rehabilitated by giving them loan and training so that they could earn and live on their own earning. Of them, 3,000 work-

ers will be given loan to set up small income generating projects while 1,000 provided with vocational training. The project will be implemented at a cost of Tk 4.46 crore.

The other project relating to the improvement of health of workers has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Tk 2 crore.

Earlier, in his notice, BNP member Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, quoting newspaper reports, said nearly 10,000 workers become crippled every year. Of them, 50 per cent are losing their jobs. He suggested effective steps for rehabilitating crippled workers.

Contraband seized in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, July 6: BDR personnel of 20 rifle battalion seized Indian contraband worth about Tk three lakh during separate anti-smuggling drives at different places of the district on Tuesday, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

The seized contraband include Indian sugar, nylon net, hook of trousers and imitation ornaments.

74 arrested in city

Police rounded up 74 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, 19 were wanted criminals, one was held on charge of murder, two under the Anti-Terrorism Law and three for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

Weather

No change in temperature

Moderately heavy falls is likely to occur over the regions of Mymensingh and Sylhet till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong division, at few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi, at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal Divisions.

Rainfall may increase during the next week but little change is predicted for subsequent 2 days.

Highest rainfall 79 mm was recorded at Sylhet till yesterday evening.

Day's temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Sun sets today at 6.50 pm and rises on Friday at 5.17 am. The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	28.0	80	86
Chittagong	32.0	25.5	79	79
Rajshahi	32.6	27.2	85	78
Khulna	33.7	27.4	84	78
Barisal	32.0	27.0	86	97
Sylhet	28.0	25.4	98	97
Dinajpur	30.6	25.6	95	79
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.5	79	80

Whenever Wherever you want it, you've got it

It's on CNN Now Within your reach

SINGER HANDY STITCH

Singer's new marvel sewing machine Singer Mini Mender. It's so simple to use, press a button and away you go. Straight stitch, curved stitch, Singer Mirfi Mender can turn any way. Fix clothes even while you have them on. Attach any kind of trimmings, fix a loose hem or even sew on draperies as they hang. Take it anywhere you want - to your office or to any outing. Singer Mini Mender is small making it easy to carry around - infact to just about anywhere. Sounds incredible, actually its only when you use it, will you really understand why.

Special Features

- * Five bobbins
- * Provision for spool attachment
- * Threader for easy needle threading
- * Extra needle
- * Battery - operated
- * Adapter for attachment to electric source

NOW WITH ADAPTER TK. 1500/=

Please contact your nearest SINGER Showroom cum Sales Centres or SINGER exclusive Sales Agents

A trade mark of the SINGER COMPANY

SINGER
It Conveys The Feeling of Tomorrow.

We put a lot of thought into our first car.

75 years later, our cars think a lot about you.

MITSUBISHI LANCER

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

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
CREATING TOGETHER