

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Home for the Homeless

by Fayza Haq

Tucked away between two churches and the Holy Cross College at Tejgaon is the two-story building housing the Home of Compassion which was established in Bangladesh in 1976. This is an extension of Mother Teresa's Home in Calcutta, which has 505 branches all over the world. In Bangladesh alone are ten centres, one each in Islampur, Tongi, Barisal, Chittagong, two in Sylhet and three in Khulna, apart from the one in Tejgaon.

The Tongi centre deals exclusively with the mentally retarded girls and women, the Tejgaon home deals with the ill, handicapped, dying and the destitutes, the Islampur is for unwed mothers and orphan children, while the Khulna home is also for the destitutes.

The 76 inmates at Tejgaon are given medicines and three meals a day (tea and "chapatti" in the morning; rice and curry in the afternoon and at night, which include meat on Sunday and Thursday, fish on Monday and Friday, egg on Wednesday, Tuesday and Saturday, while there are vegetables every day). Clothes, medical treatment and food are free at the centre. Some of the inmates stay here permanently as they have nowhere to go. This applies also to the crippled and mentally retarded. Those who are difficult to handle are

Banu 30, who comes from Gholam Bazar Basti, has a husband who cannot afford to get her treated. Thin and scraggy, she complains that she feels weak and her limbs burn.

Khuku Arthur, 40, is mentally disturbed and comes from Sylhet. With her is her sister Jenny Arthur 45, who has had an eye operation and is waiting for another one. The sisters have been at the home for a year and will return home when the sisters get better.

Agnes Mangsang, 40, who comes from Chittagong, has chronic dysentery while her child too has a running stomach. The two of them have been at the home for a month.

Julia, 23, a widow, is here with her child who has blood dysentery. When her child gets better she hopes to take up a job in the city as a maid servant.

Doarani, 22, from Barisal, is a cripple on wheels and has no family. She was completely paralysed and people said that a "batash" had got her. She earned money by singing at the hospital in Barisal and only then could she get the necessary facilities like a bed pan. She has been treated at Savar, being sent there the missionaries and is now being given a home at Tejgaon.

Sister Lily Thomas, the soft-spoken sister superior comes from Kerala and has been a



Inmates of the Home of Compassion talking to Gillian.

sent to Tongi, and yet there are 20 mental patients in Tejgaon alone. In Tongi the mentally retarded work in the garden as they cannot handle any other work. In Tejgaon some help in the kitchen and when some of them get better they go back home to their families. The Islampur Home was set up for women who were raped and tortured by the Pakistani soldiers and President Ziaur Rahman had invited Mother Teresa to set up an institution in Bangladesh.

There are free typing classes in the morning and there are a batch of twelve girls every three months. Free sewing classes are there too and girls here learn cutting, sewing and buttonholing before they get jobs in the garment factories. There are other women besides, who have homes to go to and they learn to sew here too.

The local donations are very little. The larger amount comes from Mother Teresa's branch office in Rome. The Tejgaon centre spends Tk 60,000 every month and most of this goes towards the medicines. Dr. Bernard, a local doctor gives free service to the institution. X-ray and other tests are done at the PG Hospital and Dhaka Medical College. These types of treatment have to be paid for.

Talking to some of the inmates, one comes across Shahnaz, 25 years old, who came from Faridpur when she had a pain in her chest, her hands became senseless and her child had skin trouble in the nose, mouth and back. She has brought another daughter with her, and plans to return home when she is well.

nun for 13 years. She has picked up Bangla by speaking to the ill and needy whom she has treated.

Sister Bernadette, a cheerful individual, who is in charge of the kitchen and marketing, spends her evening like the rest of the seven nuns, picking up destitutes from the streets and visiting the sick who have no one of their own in the hospitals. Although she is surrounded by the sick and handicapped, she says she does not feel depressed as she is working for the benefit of humanity. About some of the patients she remarked, "They cannot control their bowel movements or urine, so how can we teach them anything?"

Sister Edward, from Ireland, has spent three and a half years in training in Rome and helps to bathe, dress and tidy the place. She has been working in Dhaka for a year.

Gillian Meakin, who describes herself as "the resident entertainer," comes from Canada, and helps in looking after the poor and destitute at the centre by visiting them thrice a week, and talking to them. She helps in the distribution of the food and teaches singing and knitting. She has been at the centre now for nearly six months and admires many of the inmates for getting back their self dignity.

The nuns at the Tejgaon home perform an excellent service for the poor, despite their self-effacing and shy ways. They have courage and endurance to work with the ill and destitute without finding any material reward. Had they not been there, hundreds would have perished in the streets.



The Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) brought out a colourful rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday on the occasion of the freshers' reception and its council. — Star photo

### AL leaders call to strengthen anti-communal campaign

By DU Correspondent

The Awami League and Chhatra League leaders yesterday urged the students to launch a vigorous campaign against the communal forces and 'fatwabaz' to save Islam and to protect the country from distorted religious decrees.

The leaders were addressing the freshers' reception and annual conference of the BCL(M-I) of the Dhaka University unit held in front of the Arts faculty building in the afternoon.

It was addressed by former DUCSU VP Akhteruzzaman, Habibur Rahman, Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury and Iqbalur Rahim.

Former DUCSU general secretary and AL leader Motia Chowdhury, MP, said the BNP government failed to create opportunities for the unemployed. "The people have become tired of listening to the 'false propaganda' of development of the present government," she said.

BCL president Moinuddin, in his speech, condemned the government for not accepting the students' 10-point demands.

"We shall win the DUCSU polls if our party can hold its organisational activities peacefully for four months in the residential halls of the university," Moinuddin declared, adding that the university authorities were not doing enough to restore peace on the campus so essential for holding the DUCSU elections.

BCL general secretary Iqbal, citing different verses from the Holy Quran, alleged that the 'fatwabaz' were confusing the people of the country by giving distorted interpretations of Islam.

He alleged that the BNP was on the one hand harbouring the 'razakars' and communal forces and on the other speaking about the spirit of the Liberation War.

Earlier, in the morning the BCL chief inaugurated the conference by hoisting the national flag at the foot of the Aparajito Bangla statue.

Hundreds of BCL activists brought out a big procession on the campus. A cultural programme was staged after the discussions.

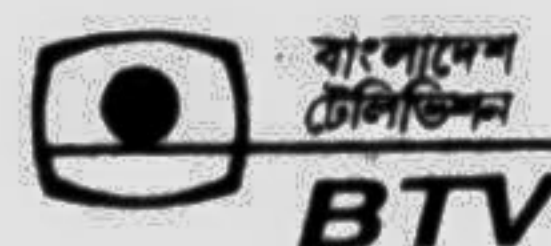
### Seminar on SAPTA July 24

A national seminar on SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement) will be held in the capital on July 24 for appraisal of the impact of the regional trade mechanism on the national economy, reports UNB.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) has arranged the seminar in its conference room with financial assistance from a German Non-Government Organisation.

Academics, members of the business community and officials will take part in day-long deliberation, split into two sessions — one on "SAPTA in broader South Asian Perspective" and the other on "Impact on SAPTA on National Economy."

Participants will also come from SAARC Secretariat.



Wednesday

4:30 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
4:45 Sports programme  
5:10 News in Bangla  
5:25 Amra Natun  
5:55 Musical programme  
6:00 Banaphid  
6:55 Open University  
7:25 Tagore songs  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:30 Dance programme  
9:05 Film show: Equalizer  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Magazine programme  
Pratyashar Alo  
11:30 Khabar/The News  
11:45 Closing

### 'Computer training at low cost to be provided'

By Staff Correspondent

The government has taken up schemes to provide low cost computer training at the district level. State Minister for Planning Dr A Moin Khan said yesterday.

While inaugurating a computer sales display and training centre of the Multilink International Co Ltd in the city the minister informed the audience that some training centres had already started functioning in different districts and the cost of training was only Tk 500 per person.

Referring to a government plan to set up participatory advisory councils at the thana level across the country to promote local decision making process, Dr Moin said it would require a computerised infrastructure involving Tk 30 crores. "The amount of resources is not available presently but we are trying hard to pursue the project," he added.

The function presided over by Chairman of Multilink B Mannan was addressed by Chairman of Shilpa Bank ATM Alamgir MP, BUET professor Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Moshirur Rahman.

The computer display centre which will remain open for all will offer all types of personal computers and services. Free training will be provided to the buyers. The speakers emphasised the need for popularising the use of computers

in order to generate new job opportunities.

ATM Alamgir suggested that side by side with the private sector, the government increase training facilities.

Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury called for computerising the government's service oriented sectors like the transport system.

### Date for renewing trade licences extended

The time-limit for renewing dealing licences of wholesale and retail traders of Dhaka district has been extended up to August 15, a press release issued by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The extension of the time-limit has been made as the traders could not apply for renewal of their dealing licences for the 1994-95 period within the scheduled time of June 30.

The new traders yet to procure their dealing licences have been requested to get it within August 15, the press release said.

Legal and punitive measures would be taken against those who would fail to renew their dealing licences or procure new ones within the time mentioned, the press release added.

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A leading commercial and industrial Group is seeking to employ a **Computer Analyst** for its Dhaka office. Ideally the candidate will have the following qualifications:

- M.Sc (Applied Physics)/B.Sc in Computer Science  
Educational qualification will be relaxed in case of candidate having excellent knowledge in Computer and its application
- Must be able to programme and operate computers independently
- Should have in depth knowledge in using the following Software:  
i) Widely used applications under Microsoft Windows (Excel, Lotus, Microsoft Word)  
ii) Novel Network
- Should have hand in experience in inventory/planning and control
- Age — Not above the age of 35

Intending candidates are requested to apply with a copy of their Curriculum Vitae and two copies of passport size photographs by **July 31, 1994 to Box No. D-745, C/o, The Daily Star, House No-11, Road No-3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.**



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### One kg heroin recovered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 19: A special team of Double-manning police recovered one kilogram of heroin from the possession of three persons from a house at Maiddam, Rampura, here last night, reports BSS.

The arrested persons confessed that they procured the heroin for selling.

### Ashari Purnima July 22

Sakyamuni Bouddha Vihar, Mirpur, will celebrate 'Ashari Purnima' on July 22, a press release of the Bouddha Vihar said yesterday, reports BSS.

The occasion will be celebrated through a day-long programme which will include prabhat ferry, Bouddha Puja and special prayers.

### Mostafiz, Mannan visit Gias Kamal

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiya visited the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) here yesterday evening to enquire about the condition of Gias Kamal Chowdhury, chief reporter of BSS and president of the BFUJ, reports BSS.

### Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD) Workshop Division, Khulna (Presently at Feni)

#### Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

- Tender No: 02 (RHD) Workshop Division, Khulna (Presently at Feni).
- Name of work: Group No 1: Spare parts supply & repair for engine overhauling the Road Marshal roller under the RHD Workshop Division, Khulna (Presently at Feni) during the year 1994-95.  
Group No 2: Spare parts supply & repair for engine overhauling the RHD Road Division, Feni 4 (Four) Cylinder Cutter peller pay-loader under the RHD Workshop Division, Khulna (Presently at Feni), during the year 1994-95.
- Name of offices of availability of Tender document: 1. E. E. (RHD), Workshop Division, Feni.  
2. Sub-Divisional Engg. (RHD), Workshop Sub-Division, Feni.
- Name of office to receive Tender bids: 1. Add. Project Director, Cyclone Project, Maiddee, Noakhali.  
2. Executive Engineer (RHD), Workshop Division, Feni.
- Last date of selling of Tender: 3-8-94 (Only office hours)
- Last date of receipt of tender: 4-8-94 (Till 12-30 PM)
- Opening date of tender: 4-8-94 (At 1-00 PM)
- Value of Tender documents: Bangladesh Form No-2911, Tk. 25/- and 2908, Tk. 15/- per set and at the rate of Tk. 3/- Every printed page.

Tender No	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractor
02 (1994-95)				1) 'A' to 'C' General Class of Roads and Highways Department. 2) 'D' Class of RHD Add. Project Director, Noakhali. 3) 'E' Class of RHD Workshop Division, Feni.
Group No-1	1,44,505/=	2,890/=	30 (Thirty) days	
Group No-2	2,71,140/=	5,423/=	-do-	

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