

Dhaka Day by Day

A Natural Cook with a Dream

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

If there is anything Noorjahan Begum can do, it is cooking. She can turn even the most ordinary of dishes into a mouth watering creation with her special touch. With her natural talent and years of experience, Noorjahan is one of the few women who have successfully broken into a profession that is curiously male-dominated.

Noorjahan has been working as a cook in the same household for 30 years. She has no formal education and can fairly sign her name. Her training has been completely informal. All her cooking skills have been acquired by watching her employer's wife and mother-in-law, an Iranian lady cook. Among Noorjahan's specialties are roast chicken, chicken korma, two to three kinds of biryani including 'kacheh' and 'pukka biryani', dum gosh and hundi gosh and karai chicken. "I can cook just about anything," says 42-year-old Noorjahan confidently. "If I haven't cooked it before I can learn in an instant just by watching once".

Yet to become a cook has been just by chance for Noorjahan, who is originally from Faridpur. "I was only 10 or 11 years old when I came away to Dhaka with a relative, just on a whim. I didn't even tell anyone at home." Soon with the help of the same relative she was introduced



Thirty years of cooking to her credit.

been far better than living with a husband who constantly extorted money from her with a false promise to buy land. "I'm quite happy without a husband," she says matter of factly. "It's no use staying with a husband if you are going to suffer endlessly." Noorjahan also has to live with the memory of her daughter, who got drowned in a pond at the age of 12. Noorjahan now lives in Kachukhet with her son Delwar, a chauffeur of a foreign company, his wife and two children. She works the whole day at her employer's house and comes back in the late afternoon. In her spare time, which isn't a lot, she likes to do a bit of sewing, especially 'kanthas' which she has learnt from her mother. "I can do many things," she muses. "I just can't read and write, if I knew cutting, I would easily be a tailor."

But Noorjahan's greatest pleasure is spending time with her two grand children with whom she plays or watches the new TV acquired by her son.

Noorjahan is quite knowledgeable and worldly wise for a woman who never went to school or received any formal training. She talks of the rapid deterioration of values in society. "The old days were much better than now, people were better, the quality of goods was better; people are no

longer honest, young boys are spoilt by drugs and prices are just too high for us to afford even food."

Noorjahan lives in two rooms with her family for 1300 Taka a month. Although she and her son share expenses between themselves, money is always short, especially with growing children in the house.

But this does not stop the ever optimistic Noorjahan from dreaming. "All I want is to be able to buy some land to leave to my child when I die," she says. To do this, she plans to go to the Middle East and earn some money working as an ayah at a hospital or school. "I don't know whether this will be possible, it all depends on Allah," she adds.

'Make tree plantation a social movement'

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain has urged the people to make tree plantation a social movement, reports UNB.

He was inaugurating a two-day tree fair at the Raipura Thana Parishad premises yesterday. Narsingdi district Jatiyatabad, Krishak Dal arranged the fair. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan also spoke. Akbar Hossain said tree plays a significant role in economic development and preservation of ecological balance.

He said the present government has taken various measures to involve the landless and needy people in social forestry programmes offering 60 per cent ownership of the

trees grown on the government land.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon the rural people to plant at least one sapling in their courtyards to make the National Tree Plantation Programme a success. He said tree fair was a new addition to the programme.

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A number of doctors are also reportedly treating AIDS patients. Dr Nasim Rahman, an eminent Gynaecologist, told BBC she already has some HIV positive cases under her care.

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Minister for Information Nazmul Huda speaking as chief guest at the publication ceremony of the book *Bangladesher Chalachitra Shilpa* at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday.

Experts warn against an AIDS epidemic

Medical experts and researchers have cautioned against a looming threat of AIDS in Bangladesh that could come in an epidemic form if adequate measures are not immediately taken to fend off the deadly disease, reports UNB.

Many of them even believed that with the AIDS situation having already worsened in some neighbouring countries, the disease appeared almost knocking the country's doors.

According to epidemiologists and health workers active in the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) sector, the country may already have some 25,000 to 50,000 people infected by the HIV — the virus that destroys the immune system in human body leading to inevitable death.

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Publication ceremony of 'Chalachitra Shilpa' held

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday underscored the need for encouraging the researchers and the authors to pursue their creative works in the interest of the nation, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the publication ceremony of a research book entitled "Bangladesher Chalachitra Shilpa" organised by the Institute of Media Studies, Research and Development at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium here.

Written by Mirza Tarekul Qader, the 737-page book with hundred photographs was published by the Bangla Academy.

Huda assured his full cooperation to continue the research endeavour of Qader.

The information minister said, this book of "ready reference" is very useful in finding the reply of many questions raised by the people engaged in film industries.

Referring to the establishment of the Film Development Trust, he said the main objective of it was to finance production of quality films with proper taste so that these films could earn reputation at home and abroad and enhance the image of the country.

He said initially the trust would reduce at least four films in a year and a part of the income from these films would be given to the artistes as royalty.

The information minister emphasised the need for creation of life-oriented films to inspire the people with a vision of better life and prospective future.

Hungarian envoy 188 arrested in city meets Matin

Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Hungary I B Buday called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday, reports UNB.

The Charge d'Affaires spent some time with the Home Minister and they discussed matters of mutual interests between the two countries, says an official handout.

Police rounded up 188 people, including 16 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city yesterday, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

The arrested also included 83 held under the Narcotics Control Act, one under the Anti-Terrorism Act, two under the Special Powers Act, one under the Explosive Acts, three charged with robbery, and one accused of cheating.

Bata

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

This is to notify for information of our valued shareholders that the Company will remain closed on account of Annual vacation from 14th to 25th August, 1994 and therefore during this period the operations in our Share Department both in Tongi and Dhaka (Liaison Office) will also remain closed.

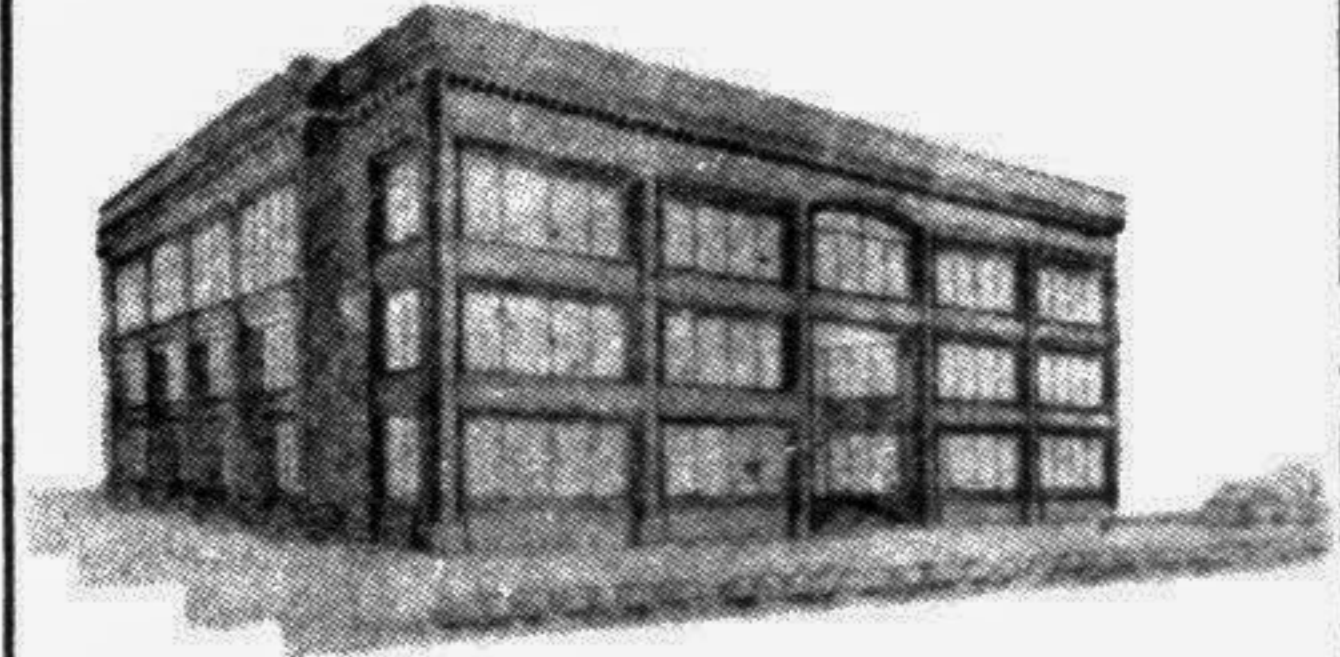
Share Department
Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Tongi, Gazipur

BATA/2128/94

Our telephone numbers have changed

The new numbers are :

PABX : 869336-8
506393 506116



UNITED LEASING COMPANY LIMITED

'Camellia House'

22 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue (Near Sheraton)

Dhaka-1000

TELEX : 642647 LGTC BJ, FAX : 863576

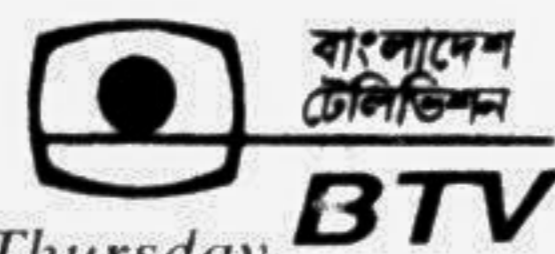
ATTENTION PLEASE

Please contact in the following telephone numbers of ASA

Old No	New No
810934	810934
324731	810935 810935
324731	819828 819828
	316375 316375
Fax No :	811175 811175

Association for Social Advancement (ASA)

23/3, Block-B, Khulji Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. S417



Thursday

4:30	Opening announcement
4:45	Children's programme: Rumjhum
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	National TV School Debate
6:30	Esho Para Shikhi: Mass Education
7:00	Jiboner Alo: Islam in daily life
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama of the week: Chithi (The letter)
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mini series: Marcopolo
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:45	Closing

What's on today . . .

Orpheus Music Club: Rossini's classic opera *The Barber of Seville* directed by Mario Costa will be screened. Venue: German Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The film *Je Vous Salue, Marie* (Hall Mary) will be screened on the concluding day of Godard retrospective. Venue: Alliance Française auditorium. Time: 6 pm

Inner Wheel Club of Metropolitan Dhaka: Installation ceremony of the club for 1994-95 will be held. Chief guest: Manzoor-Ul Karim, Special Advisor (Nutrition), UNICEF. Special guests: Farhat Rahim, IJW board member and Dilruba Ahmed, National Representative. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

HBFC Confee: Annual conference of the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) will be held. Chief guest: Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman. Special guest: Nasimuddin Ahmed, Secretary Finance. Syed Amir-Ul-Mulk will preside. Venue: NEU conference room, Ministry of Planning, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:45 am.

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony: Of Shahidnagar Community Centre, under Ward 60, Lalbagh. Chief guest: Minister for Food Mir Shawkat Ali. DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif will open the plaque. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The second organising meeting of the club will be held. Venue: 76, Segunbagicha (2nd floor). Time: 5 pm.

CDRB Seminar: On the Privatisation of Commercial Banks in Bangladesh. Key note speaker: Dr M Kabirul Hassan a Senior Research Fellow of AIBS. Venue: WVA auditorium, Road 27, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Temperature may fall

Moderately heavy falls are likely to occur at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met office says temporary light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty wind may occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature is likely to fall slightly today across the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.2 degrees at Chandpur.

Sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:35 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of major cities/towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.7	26.6	85	73
Chittagong	32.4	26.1	80	93
Rajshahi	32.4	26.3	81	85
Khulna	31.5	26.1	88	81
Barisal	30.5	26.0	81	92
Sylhet	32.6	26.6	77	69
Cox's Bazar	30	25	97	96

মৎস্য মেলা '৯৪

(অংশগ্রহণের আমন্ত্রণ)

মৎস্য মেলা '৯৪-এর সফলতা ও জনপ্রিয়তার বিবেচনায় মৎস্য ও পশুসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয় মৎস্য পক্ষ '৯৪ উপলক্ষে এক মনমুগ্ধকর চিত্তাকর্ষক ও শিক্ষামূলক "মৎস্য মেলা '৯৪" অনুষ্ঠানের সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছেন।

আশা মি ১৭ থেকে ২৩ আগস্ট '৯৪ইং পর্যন্ত ফার্মগেট বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা কাউন্সিল (BARC) চত্বরে ইহা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন আগ্রহী সকল ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আমন্ত্রণ জানান যাচ্ছে:

- * আধুনিক পদ্ধতিতে মৎস্য ও চিংড়ী চাষ
- * মৎস্য ও চিংড়ী বাদ্য উৎপাদন ও বাজারজাতকরণকারী
- * মৎস্য ও চিংড়ী প্রক্রিয়াকরণ ও রপ্তানিকারক
- * শুটকী উৎপাদন ও রপ্তানিকারক
- * সেন্টেড ও ডি-হাইড্রেটেড ফিশ উৎপাদন ও রপ্তানিকারক
- * হালধের পাখনা, খিনুক রপ্তানিকারক
- * লবঙ্গ, দুইড, কটিল ফিশ
- * ট্রলার মালিক
- * যান্ত্রিক নৌকার মালিক
- * জাল উৎপাদনকারী ও বিক্রেতা
- * কীকড়া, কম্প চাষী ও রপ্তানিকারক
- * বড়শী ও মৎস্য ধরার যন্ত্রপাতির ব্যবসায়ী
- * মৎস্য চাষ সংক্রান্ত কেমিক্যালস, ঔষধ ব্যবসায়ী
- * একুয়ারিয়াম ও রবিন/বাহারী মাছের দোকানী
- * মৎস্যজীবী সমন্বয় সমিতি
- * বাদ্য ও পুষ্টি ব্যবসায়ী
- * বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, কলেজ ও কুলের প্রাণী, বিজ্ঞান/ মৎস্য অনুষদ
- * মৎস্য সংক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান

যোগাযোগে: বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন করপোরেশন

২৪-২৫, দিলকুশা বারিডাক এলাকা

মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০।

দুরাশাখী : ২৫৯১৮৭, ২৩০৯৭৫, ২৩১৩৮২, ২৮১১৮৮

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