

Dhaka Day by Day

Unusual Profession, Amazing Joie de Vivre

by Lamis Hossain

The fact that Nasima is carrying a heavy load of bricks should not normally attract your attention. Female manual labourers are now so common in the city that we have grown desensitised to the phenomenon. But Nasima will not let you ignore her. Clad in an orange and black saree and a faded yellow blouse, the young woman radiates such a coquettish charm that you are compelled to notice her.

Her first concern has nothing to do with her work. The 20-year-old with the button nose and the slightly inquisitive smile is worried by the camera she has just spotted. "Can you take a photo without the bricks?" she wonders. She also thinks she should go for a change of clothes. Although Nasima isn't ashamed of her job, she has no intention of being immortalised in her dishevelled state. She also asks for a copy of the better picture.

Nasima doesn't complain about her occupation as a mason's assistant, or a 'jogali' in the construction lingo. She spends the whole day at an all-male building site, carrying bricks, sifting sand and mixing cement. There is no news-worthy story about harassment from male colleagues or over-exertion from physical labour. "Even if the work is hard, I have to do it," she states casually. "No one makes comments about my being a woman."

But Nasima admits that the job is a far cry from the one she had at a bangle factory a year ago. "I get Tk 1500 now. Even though I got less before, the work was much easier." Unfortunately the factory closed down and she was forced to search elsewhere for a job. "I asked this young woman I knew to look around and find a job for me, any job at all. 'Sansar jeno cholay' — enough to manage the household," she explains.

Nasima starts the day at 4 am by cooking for her husband, Atabuddin. "He never does it himself," she complains. She leaves for work at 6 am to arrive at work by 7 am. "I have to leave a little early to avoid the pushing and shoving in the bus," she says with an air of exasperation.

Nasima also has to manage the household, which means going to the market. She spends Tk 1200 on food a month and Tk 300 on rent. This leaves her with no money to indulge her-

self, unless her husband earns something as well. If Nasima does shop at all, it is for petticoats and sarees. She does not care much for make-up.

Her spouse is more of a headache than a help. "My husband doesn't work much. He is a rickshaw-puller, but he works one day and takes another off," she says with concealed disgust. If Atabuddin does work at all, he comes back late at night. Her partner does not have any traditional notions about women staying at home. "He is happy to let me work. If he didn't, I would go back to my village. He is a badmatsh sham' (bad husband)," she fumes.

She has been with Atabuddin since the age of 12. "Everyone married young. It was arranged for me," she discloses. "You couldn't and you didn't ask any questions. They didn't let us understand." She believes her three years in Dhaka have taught her a few things. "I didn't know before, but now I know that people can get married at 20. I see all these unmarried apas my age."

The positive result of her marriage is her six-year-old daughter whom she had at the age of 13. "I'll let my daughter marry whenever she wants," Nasima resolves. "I want her to be educated and go to school. I can work hard enough for both of us."

She regrets her own lack of schooling. "We only had Arabic lessons in the village, so I never learnt Bangla properly."

Nasima's daughter, however, is in her village of Shreepur near Shimultala, with Nasima's parents and siblings. "I only see my daughter every six months," she says with a heavy heart. If she ever feels bad about anything, it is usually because she misses her child.

Nasima's joie de vivre is amazing. She is flattered that anyone would bother asking her questions at all. With a smile as sparkling as her silver nose ring, she repeats the request for a photo. Nasima may not be leading a tragic life worthy of screaming headlines, but let us not kid ourselves that it is an easy one. The 'jogali' from Shreepur has only one wish. "I feel like leaving my husband. If someone else nice would have me, I'd go willingly."



With great courage she faces life.

Plague: Way to fight off

By Staff Correspondent

While a countryside alert is on to prevent outbreak of plague in the country, all arrangements have been made to admit victims to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali in the capital.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, head of the 12-member national committee formed Tuesday night to prevent outbreak of plague, said people should not be unduly alarmed. He, however, said that everyone should be alert and monitor any signs of the disease at their houses and offices.

Dr. Chowdhury said that it was important to clean houses and places of work, particularly store rooms, to ensure there are no rats and other rodents. Rat is a carrier of the disease.

This is a highly infectious disease and physical contact with patients is to be avoided to prevent oneself from being affected," said Dr. Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of Parliament and an eminent physician.

A plague affected patient

may take between four to six days before showing symptoms. The symptoms include high fever, swollen lymph nodes, swollen neck glands, flu-like symptoms such as serious cough seizures and respiratory trouble, doctors say.

The patients should be immediately removed to hospitals. Otherwise chances of other family members being affected are very great, doctors noted.

The two types of medicine for the treatment of plague affected patients are either a course of Tetracycline or Cotrimoxazole.

A course is to be taken for at least seven days. Dr. Chowdhury said.

Doctors have advised that no medicine should be taken without seeking proper medical advice.

Both the types of medicine are produced in abundance by local pharmaceutical companies.

Children who cannot take capsules should take syrup as recommended by doctors, it was noted.

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To Protik



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BCS(edn) expresses grievance

By Staff Correspondent

The BCS General Education Association in a statement yesterday expressed grievance against the transfer order of the principal of Gopalganj Government Bangabandhu College to a college in Bandarban and demanded withdrawal of the order immediately.

The statement issued by its president Dr QATM Habibur Rahman and secretary general Abu Yusuf alleged that the transfer order was given following an incident of obstructing a student leader of the college from entering into an examination hall illegally during the last HSC examinations.

The leaders of the association said the student leader tried to enter into the hall ignoring the magistrate and investigators on duty during that time. After being barred by the principal, he misbehaved with the principal and threatened him to transfer from the college, they alleged.

The statement also said that the authorities concerned were informed of the incident in time and the teachers of the college also demanded punishment to the student leader. But, instead of taking measure against the student, the authorities mysteriously have issued transfer order of the principal, the association said, adding that such decision is humiliating for the teacher.

The association also observed that the decision would also affect the good relations between teachers and students of the college.

It, moreover, said that if the decision of transferring the principal is not withdrawn immediately, the association would have no alternative but to take an agitation programme.

Docs depriving citizens of health care

By Staff Correspondent

The Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) yesterday expressed its grave concern at the indefinite strike of the doctors.

In a press statement, CCHRB president Brother Jarlah De Suza said, it was the basic right of the citizens to have the health care facilities properly but they were being deprived of their right due to the strike.

Although the newspapers published the stories about the pitiable condition of patients at government hospitals, everyday, both the government and the doctors seemed not to move out from their stances.

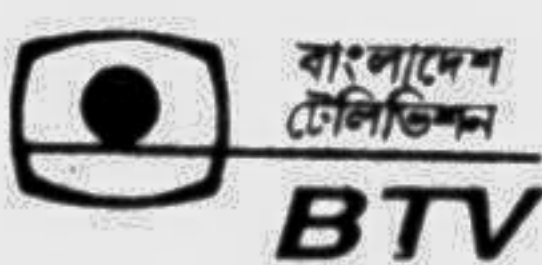
The council urged the government and the doctors to take the initiative to end the strike considering the issue from the humanitarian point of view.



Madhusudan Award for Sayeeda Zaman

"Sayeeda Zaman, a Bangladeshi writer, was honoured with the Michael Madhusudan Award '94 for her contribution to Bangla literature. In an impressive ceremony held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Calcutta, she was handed over the award by Michael Madhusudan Academy president Justice Ajit Kumar Sen Gupta on September 16, says a press release issued in Dhaka recently.

Prominent among this year's recipients of the Madhusudan award are: Hiteswar Saikia, Chief Minister of Assam (socio-cultural activities), American poet Victor Aurin, Japanese poets Seiji Hina and Gunko Hamane, Indians Mrinal Chakraborty (songs), Ranjit Millick (acting), Asit Kumar Bannerjee (education), GC Bhattacharya (science) and Indira Sen (songs).



Thursday

4:30	Opening of session
4:40	Geeta recitation
4:45	Musical programme for children: Esho Gan Shikhi
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	National TV School Debate
6:30	Mass education: Esho Para Shikhi
7:00	Programme on Islam: Jiboner Alo
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama of the week: Abosheshey by Obaidul Hoq
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mini series: Marco Polo
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Closing of session

93 arrested in city

Police rounded up 93 people from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

CU holiday

CHITTAGONG, Sept 28: Classes of Chittagong University will remain closed from October 1 to October 17 on account of autumn vacation and Durga Puja, reports BSS.

Weather

No change in temperature

The weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partially cloudy sky across the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office says day temperature may remain unchanged during the period across the country.

In its outlook for the subsequent two days, the Met office forecasts little change. Giving extended outlook for another five days, weathermen say south-west monsoon may retreat from the northern part of the country.

The sun sets today at 5:48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are given below:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	23.7	66	68
Chittagong	33.4	24.8	68	68
Rajshahi	33.2	21.2	64	71
Khulna	33.8	25.6	67	67
Barisal	34.1	25.0	77	77
Sylhet	33.5	24.3	76	73
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.6	59	75



Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury addressing a public meeting at the Shapla Square in the city yesterday. — Star photo

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

Feeder Service
Notice to Consignees/Shippers
Banglar Shobha

Feeder Vessel Banglar Shobha Voy-04 W/05E IMP/EXP ROT Nos 732/94/697/94 respectively has arrived at Chittagong on 27-9-94 ETD for Singapore 30-9-94 with BSC and other main line containers relayed at Singapore from/to with both COC N SOC Containers consignees are requested to clear their consignments immediately on discharge or within 45 days from the date of unloading. Failure to which will be guided by Customs Act. All FCL containers are to be cleared/delivered by consignees at their own risk and expenses within 5 (five) days free time from the date of discharge.

Vessel will load for Singapore/various global destinations for booking of containers/containerised cargo and for any information relating to container/feeder service please contact at following address:

Chittagong	Dhaka	Khulna
"BSC Bhaban" Soltgola Road Chittagong	28/1, Toyenbee Circular Road Motijheel C/A, Dhaka	K. O. A. Bldg (2nd floor) Lower Jessore Rd, Khulna
Tel: Office 031-505062-8 506049, 502295 506049, 502295	Tel: Office 258378, 250830 251411 & 251455	Tel: Office 22643, 23702 21142, 22326
Tlx: 66277, 66253 & 66359 BSC BJ	Tlx: 642231 BSC BJ	Tlx: 633327 BSC BJ
Fax: 031-225506	Fax: 02-863950	

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka

Tender Notice

No. P&D/LP-1 (342 & 344)/1994-95/D-678(2) Dated 28/9/94

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers for supply of Electric Motor, Refrigerator, Glassware, Chemicals and other various goods at an estimated cost of Tk. 89,772.00.

Intending tenderers shall have to obtain permission for purchasing tender papers etc. on application to the undersigned. Application must accompany GIR certificate, Trade licence and certificate of experience about concern works/supplies etc. from reputed organisations. Tender papers and other terms & conditions will be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk 300.00 (non-refundable) to the Sonali Bank, BUET Branch, Dhaka. Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft or Pay Order from nationalised bank amounting to 5% of the quoted amount as earnest money deposited in favour of the Comptroller of this University without which no tender will be considered. Tenders must be put into the tender box kept for this purpose in this office up to 2-30 PM of 10.10.94 and will be opened on the same day at 2-35 PM before the tenderers present.

The University authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders or one or more items of any tender without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

No tender papers will be sold on the opening day of the tender.

Deputy Director
Planning & Development.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN CANDIDATES STRONGLY PREFERRED

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), a major and progressive PVDO/NGO working with over 200,000 poor families each year in northern Bangladesh, is seeking dynamic and experienced candidates, preferably women, for the following positions, based in both Dhaka and Rangpur:

Senior Programme Executive based in the Directorate in Dhaka, responsible for policy and programme development; and external relations. Age 30-40. Masters degree, at least 10 years' development experience, excellent English.

Assistant Programme Co-ordinator based in RDRS Rangpur Office responsible for co-ordinating field programme activities, programme and organisational development. Age 30-40, Master's degree, at least 10 years development and management experience.

Senior Research and Information Co-ordinator based in Research, Evaluation and Documentation Department, Dhaka, responsible for research design, co-ordination, analysis and publication, Age 30-40. Masters in social science, preferably overseas, at least 5 years development experience, excellent English/Bangla and computing.

Marketing Officer based in the Employment-Generation Co-ordination Unit, Rangpur, responsible for promoting the development and marketing of rural products and services including handicrafts. Age 28-38, Masters degree in marketing, at least 5 years marketing experience, preferably commercial.

Administrative Assistant/Office Secretary based in the Research, Evaluation and Documentation Department, Dhaka to carry out various office administration tasks: Age 25-35, Minimum Bachelor's degree, reasonable English and computing, and at least 3 years' experience in office work.

RDRS offers an attractive remuneration package to successful candidates. To apply, submit a concise CV plus cover letter by 15th October 1994 to: GPO Box 61P, Dhaka 1000 indicating the post applied for on the envelop.

Canvassing in any form will disqualify candidates