

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Modelling for Pleasure and Leisure

by Fayza Haq

Just as the beauty parlours, boutiques, junk-food shops, rent-a-car centres, art galleries, dance and music classes and tutorial groups have been mushrooming all over Dhaka, so has begun the art of modelling at WVA by 'Karuj' at Dhanmandi. This looked to be a flourishing business. This is obviously aimed at the upper echelons of our society, where young ones have astronomical financial backing, and the various strata of the bourgeoisie, who have the time, inclinations and means to go for it with a gusto.

Observing and speaking to some of the leading models with their hefty remunerations, who were guiding the youth; listening to some of the heavily-paid actors conducting the so-called coaching of the glibble ones, and furthermore witnessing the giggling, blushing, flaunting, and gossiping of the students themselves, one is rather amazed at the burgeoning

youngsters to get well-paid jobs. Hence, we are essentially contractors. There are 18 instructors in all, each related to different aspects of modelling such as an Indian cinematographer P K Karmakar, ad-film-maker Afzal Hussain, and actors Tariq A Khan and Gholam Mustafa. We have, as we believe, the four 'top' models like Tania and Novel," he explained.

Mau — the reportedly chief attraction of the Karuj set-up — an "A" level student, one of the chief instructors, admitted, "I have not attempted to teach modelling before. I have only worked for TV ads for the last four years, and have participated in various fashion parades at local five-star hotels. I do find it difficult to combine this job with my studies. I was contacted by 'Karuj' and I am paid Tk 10,000 for six classes."

Tania, another instructor, seen teaching 'eye-contact', which is obvious for even an in-



Students seen at the "Karuj" workshop! business, which eventually promises nothing tangible or fruitifying.

Karuj chief coordinator Kausar Mahmud, explained in his tremulous tone and face all aflash. "There are photographers, models (who I admit have limited experience) graphic-designers, and fashion designers. We felt there was a dire need for trained models in Bangladesh and the workshop is geared to producing them."

"We have taken in 100 students selected from 500 applicants, judging by their height, deportment, pronunciation of words — both English and Bangla, profession and hobby. They all come from well-to-do families, and range from students to professional workers and house-wives. Most of our recruits, are in their teens and twenties. They all have the support of their families in this venture, as their superiors believe modelling to be a popular element in their section of society. We ourselves are surprised by this phenomenon particularly in the context of our normally conservative society," he added, when asked to give precise details about the venture.

"From each participant we have taken Tk 1,500 for the once-a-week training for two months. After this workshop we propose to go on to stages such as photo-session make-up instructions etc. We hope to select the best 30 of the students eventually and aspire to have a fashion show at a five-star local hotel, hopefully in mid-December," he continued.

"We believe that the multi-national companies, specially the government exporters, will back us financially. Our purpose is to promote

— Photo: Amran Hossain

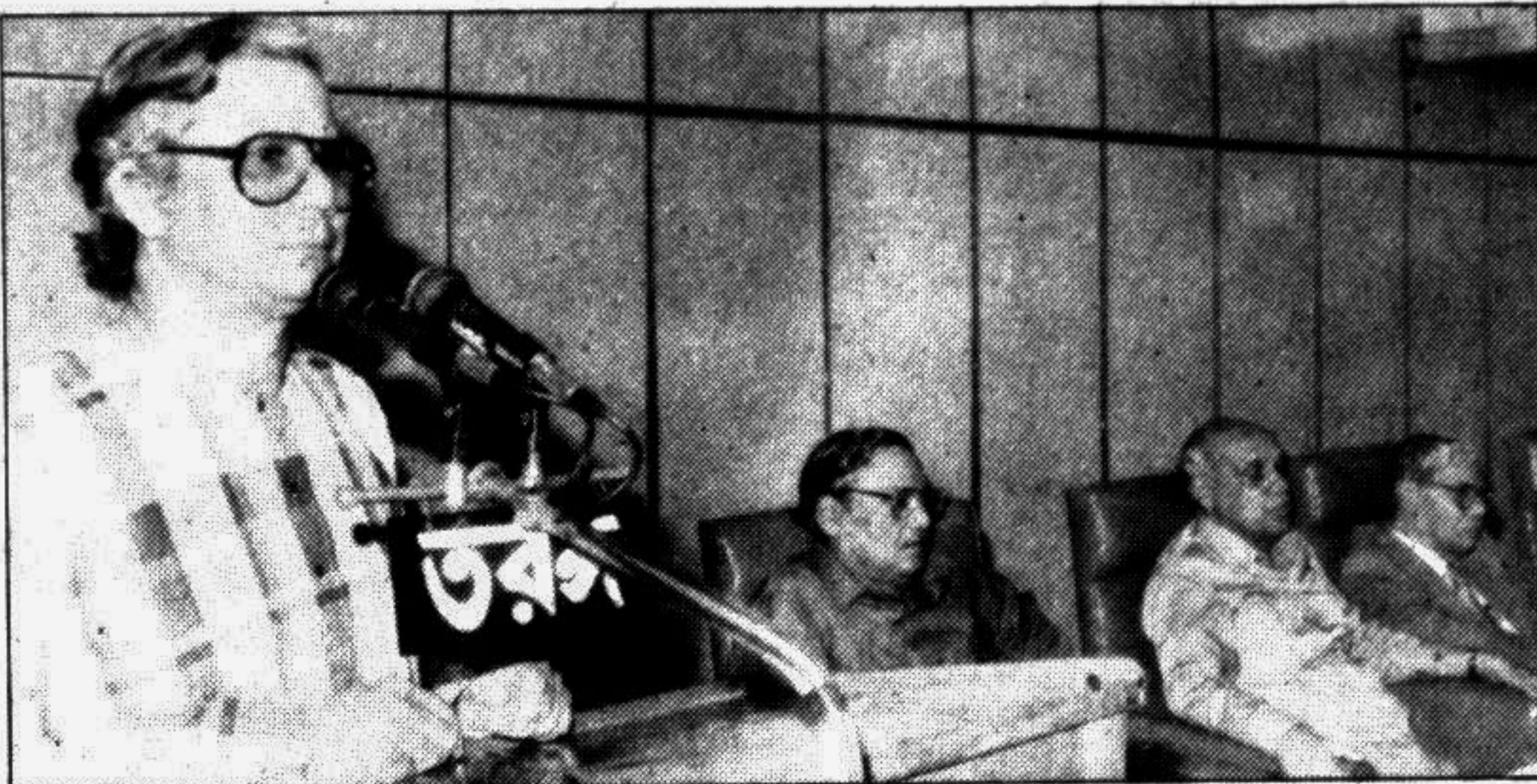
telligent infant, giving her background, stammered, "I am a second-year student of Dhaka Mohila College. I have limited experience in modelling myself. I am paid as much as all other instructors. This is my first attempt at teaching."

Adil Hussain Novel, the male model instructor, who works in a shipping-line corporation, said in his affected voice, "I worked for six TV ads, and seven fashion shows for local hotels. This work is my hobby and no more." He took quite a while to confess that he got the same remuneration as the rest of the instructors. About his student, he did not appear very optimistic, while he had a fairly high notion of himself.

Intiaz Alande, who is a second-year intermediate student, participating at the workshop — said, in turn, "My father, who is in export and import business does not object to backing me in this workshop."

Zakia A C Lubna, another participant at the workshop, speaking in her supercilious voice give her reasons for being there, "I am a law student and do not wish to be a professional model. This is simply to pass my time. My father Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, who works at the 'Bangabhaban', puts no bars to my being here."

The Karuj workshop venture reminded one of a song that runs like "I've got the moves, you've got the notion." When poverty prevails among millions in the country, there are some who are complacent and contented to be included in an exercise that is most likely to suffer severely by international standards.



Dr Muhammad Yunus, managing director of the Grameen Bank, addressing a reception accorded in his honour in the city yesterday. The Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) organised the programme. — Star photo

## DUAA accords reception to Dr Muhammad Yunus

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) yesterday accorded a reception to the managing director and founder of the Grameen Bank (GB), Dr Muhammad Yunus, for bringing honour to the country by bagging the World Food Prize.

"Dr Yunus is our pride. His dedication for economic development of the country has succeeded in bringing international honour to the country through the model of Grameen Bank," secretary general of the DUAA Mushfiqur Rahman said at the reception held at Planning Academy premises.

Greeting Dr Yunus for the World Food Prize, president of the association Dr M Innas Ali, who chaired the occasion, noted that Dr Yunus's efforts were aimed at empowering the poor so that they would no longer be deprived of the access to the modern technology.

Dr Muhammad Yunus said, "I don't say Grameen Bank is the solution to all problems. I say that, poor people have the right to have loans. The Grameen Bank is just following this principle."

"Over 20 lakh people in 35,000 villages of the country are currently receiving loans from the Grameen Bank to fight poverty. And with dignity they are paying back the money along with interest rates," he pointed out.

"There are complaints against the Grameen Bank that it is dependent on foreign aid.

Since this bank was founded in 1976, it did not take any foreign assistance till 1982," Dr Yunus pointed out, "till 1992, the Grameen Bank took about 100 million US dollars, which is equivalent to 400 crore taka, from foreign organisations. We stopped taking further assistance from foreign organisations from 1992, the total disbursement of loans stand at around Tk 3500 crore," he told the audience.

"So 400 crore taka out of 3500 total loan disbursement means we are not totally dependent on foreign aid. Instead, we resort to the local money market from 1992 which is still eager to invest," Dr Yunus added. "Till now, we have taken 850 crore taka from the central bank."

He informed the audience that the bank would disburse Tk 1825 crore loan this year which was 50 per cent higher than the previous year. "We are confident that all our borrowers would return the loans in time."

"We have learned about the power of the poor people and we are confident in the youth. The Grameen Bank has over 11,000 young people who work as the mechanism of the money lending process. These people personally reach the loans to people, yet none of them ever brought any trouble to the bank," Dr Yunus said. The reception meet was also addressed by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed.

## Workshop on entrepreneurship development

A week-long workshop on entrepreneurship development begins tomorrow in Khulna, says a press release.

Jointly organised by the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (CESBD) of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University and the Business Administration Discipline of Khulna University, the workshop will be attended by 25 entrepreneurs, entrepreneur trainers and entrepreneurship promotion officers.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali will inaugurate.

The Association of Management Development Institutions of Bangladesh (AMDIB) is sponsoring the programme.

## Bibi Russel's clarification

By Staff Correspondent

Model and fashion designer Bibi Russel in a statement yesterday rebutted her involvement with any move to establish modelling schools or organise workshops on modelling as published by different quarters through advertisements in different weeklies and dailies, excluding The Daily Star.

Bibi contradicted the contents of those advertisements, saying she would not conduct such schools or workshops and requested all concerned not to be misled by those publications, said the statement signed by Bibi.

## Optimism over eugenic khesari

A renowned neurologist has suggested that lathyrus sativus-free khesari pulse be developed through genetic research to get rid of lathyrism disease, reports UNB.

"We cannot ban khesari because it is very popular to the poor people... there is also a great potential of good quality protein from the pulse," Prof Anisul Haque said while stressing further research to be carried out to develop toxin-free pulse.

Lathyrism is a type of human paraparesis caused by toxin ingredient "Odap" present in lathyrus sativus, a pulse grown and consumed in some African and Asian countries.

Presenting findings of a recent research on the disease at a seminar on "Lathyrism in Bangladesh", Haque also revealed that 14 people out of 10,000 in Rajshahi and Natore were suffering from the disease.

He said 26 unions of the two northwestern districts were surveyed covering a population of 625,762. A total of 2,567 neurologically crippled patients were examined and 882 patients were ultimately diagnosed as lathyrism positive.



A Samad, Chairman of the Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) discussed with the World Bank consultants B L Salinger and Jeffrey C Metzler regarding agriculture diversification and fertiliser marketing and distribution system in Bangladesh yesterday.



Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman (L) looking at art works after inaugurating the 6th solo painting exhibition of Kazi Anower Hossain on Wednesday at Gallery Tone in the city. Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain (MPR) is also seen. The show will run until November 24.

## Workshop on land reforms ends

By Staff Correspondent

A week-long workshop on land management concluded at the conference room of the Land Reforms Board in the city yesterday with distributing certificates among the participants.



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## What's on today . . . .

**Photo exhibition:** A week-long photo exhibition of Pavel Rahman will be inaugurated. The exhibition will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm till November 24. Pavel is the photo editor of the daily Janakantha and photo journalist of the Associated Press. Venue: Jojon Contemporary Art Gallery, 74, Central Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

**Launching ceremony:** The launching ceremony of Tagore singer Flora Ahmed's cassettes — *Achha Antare Chitradin* and *Redyae Chhila Jage* — will be held. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Mini-marathon:** A mini marathon, organised by the Bangladesh Police, will take place. Venue: Police headquarters. Time: 6 pm.

**Asiatic Society:** The society will hold the Professor Muhammad Ishaq Trust Fund Lecture '94. Venue: 5, Old Secretariat Road. Time: 4 pm.

**Workshop:** A four-day workshop on regulated market study begins. Venue: CEA conference room, Khamarbari (6th floor), Farmgate. Time: 9 am.

**Gano Forum:** The Gano Forum will hold a blood donation programme. Venue: 81/B, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10am.

**Rotary International:** A two-day seminar of the Rotary International District 3280 will begin. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4:30 pm.

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