

Dhaka Day by Day

Stop, Shop and Go

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



Lake-fresh fish may be deceptive. It may not be the ultimate shopping experience yet it certainly is the fastest. Fast enough to allow one to stretch the imagination and compare it with the 'drive-through' marketing so prevalent in many developed countries. The 'mobile market' of Dhaka comes to you, rather than you going to it, when you stop at the traffic lights.

If you happen to be a city dweller, chances are that you will be confronted by this mini-market at least twice a day. One of the prime spots for the sellers of this market is the traffic light at the Mirpur Road intersection before the Dhanmondi Govt Boys' School. From five o'clock (in the afternoon) onwards when the traffic rush begins to build up to a terrific jam, the vendors of various products can be seen running towards the cars persuading and pleading prospective buyers to buy something. The strategy is usually to target first the most expensive looking car where some tired passenger sits with an 'I am a sucker' expression on his or her face.

The vendors wait stealthily on the pavements until the lights change from green to red. All on a sudden, a 'fishwala' or a 'murgiwala' (chicken vendor) will appear from nowhere pleading you with 'Aja/Saar taza maachh achhe' (I have fresh fish) or 'Atta murgi dia det, akdom shosta' (Let me give you all eight chickens, they are very cheap).

Since getting customers is a touch-and-go thing literally, the vendors will try to sell all they have at, sometimes, exorbitant rates. The fishwala, for example, who sells big fish such as *rai, katla, pangas* and *chitol*, may begin with 200 Taka per fish or even higher. One may wonder who would be foolish enough to buy these poor, dead fish, probably stuffed with poisonous carbon monoxide from passing cars, when a short trip to the market offers a whole range of fish that is both fresher and

cheaper. But then one should also keep in mind that for every wise guy who knows what a 'fair price' is, there is a fool waiting to be ripped off.

Yet the variety of products never fails to interest the passing traveller. There are the little girls and boys selling flowers — *rajanigandha* sticks for two taka apiece, worn out roses for four taka apiece or even a handful of sweet-smelling *champa* flowers for three taka a flower. There is the handicapped *bananawala* who, if you are a regular customer, is trusting enough to give you a dozen bananas on credit, knowing full well that you are bound to meet him the next day. Same place, same time.

For the greedy, unscrupulous, there are plenty of vendors selling exotic wild geese, guest birds from Siberia who have been caught to fill self-indulgent bellies.

There is also the lady who sells newspapers and magazines, again, at the same intersection. Frail yet smiling, she will come to you with the latest issue of 'Sanonda', and unlike other vendors, knows when 'no' means 'no'.

For the most part, however, the weary traveller feels quite irritated to be pestered by these travelling salesmen. It is particularly nerve-racking when one has decided to buy something and just as one is frantically rummaging through pockets or hand bags, the lights go green, the cars start honking and still the right amount of change is not found. To add to the frustration the traveller is further plagued by the beggars who are persistent toll collectors of the road. On the other hand, perhaps they could be regarded as vendors of a different kind in this fluid market, selling their 'doa' (prayers) for health, prosperity and happiness for a taka or two.

SSC vocational course introduced in 63 instts

SSC vocational course has been introduced in 52 vocational training institutes and 11 technical teachers training colleges of the country from the current year, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at a two-day workshop on this course inaugurated at the Technical Education Board in the city yesterday.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar formally inaugurated the workshop here laying emphasis on technical and vocational education for creating effective manpower for eradication of poverty.

Presided over by the chairman of the Technical Education Board Abdur Rafique, the function was addressed by Education Secretary Irshadul Haq and DG of the Board

Rafiqul Haq.

The education minister said that the government had given importance to technical education for achieving national development. He said the government plans to increase enrolment at vocational education from 10 per cent to 20 per cent by the year 2000. He said that introduction of vocational course at the SSC and the HSC levels will make education system pragmatic and work-oriented.

Speaking as special guest Irshadul Haq said, creation of effective and technical manpower was necessary due to limitation of natural resources.

Some 75 technical teachers and supervisors of vocational institutes taking part in this two-day workshop.

'Collection of plant specimens essential'

By Rathin Sanyal

A day-long seminar on 'Management Development and Functions of Natural History Collections' was held at the National Museum yesterday.

Topics including 'Herbarium Specimens: functions, management and development in Bangladesh', 'The Natural History Museum in London', 'Research and Natural History Museum', 'Proposal for National Insect Collection in Bangladesh', 'Natural History at the Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka' were presented by a number of scientists working in these fields.

Dr Salar Khan, a retired professor of the Dhaka University, in his paper said that 'herbarium' is a new term in Bangladesh.

He said, it is very essential to collect different specimens of plants in Bangladesh and catalogue them according to their correct botanical names.

Prof Khan said that even to-day some areas of the country have not yet been visited for collecting specimens.

Prof Khan emphasised that there must be a proper collec-

tion of herbarium specimens and the collected samples should be processed, mounted and preserved in a systematic manner.

Dr Michael G Fitton of the Natural History Museum (NHM) of London talked about different functions and achievements of the NHM. In London, the NHM has introduced a number of techniques for specimens collection which is totally absent in Bangladesh. He said many more species remain to be discovered.

Dr Fitton is the head, collection management division, Department of Entomology of the NHM, which has a collection of nearly 27 million specimens.

Another participant in the seminar, Dr Donald Quicke, an NERC Advanced Fellow in Taxonomy at the Imperial College, London said Natural History Collections (NHC) can serve several functions and become an important economic asset for any country if the specimens are properly curated, preserved and identified. The collections must be stored and maintained so that they will retain their usefulness for posterity because much of their value lies in the historic record.

Prof S Haider Chowdhury of the Zoology Department of Chittagong University, emphasised that the government, particularly the Ministry of Environment, should take initiatives for a national insect collection drive in Bangladesh. He said collection of species is a continuous process which should never stop.

M Nazrul Haque of the National Museum gave a brief description of natural history at the Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka.

Dr Harry Potter of the British Council, Dhaka said the application of modern technology like e-mail, CD-ROM, closed circuit TV, etc are totally absent at the Bangladesh Museum.

He said in order to survive skilled manpower must be developed by the museum itself. The donor countries can only help so much.

Dr Kazi Zaker Husain, a renowned zoologist of the country, was present as chief guest while M Moslem Ali, Director General of the Bangladesh National Museum, presided over the seminar.

FOWA raffle draw results

Following are the ticket numbers of the lucky winners of the Foreign Office Wives Association (FOWA) raffle draw held at the WVA mela on Friday: 2479, 1068, 2092, 3106, 2280, 87, 819, 97, 606, 1236, 2831, 658, 795, 2290, 2053, 717, 625, 2458, 2543, 2627, 811, 3129, 629, 1851 and 1502.

The winners have been requested to contact telephone 831106 or 831106 at the Foreign Office soon, says a press release.

CHEHLUM

The Chehlum of Late Dr. Muhammad Abdul Wahab of V.I.L. & P.O. Syedpur, Dist. Sunamganj will be held on Sunday, 29th January, 1995 at 4-15 P.M. at 182 East Kampers, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. All relatives, friends and well wishers are cordially invited to attend.

With regards:

Mrs. Wahab (Moinaka), Shahtiar, Shibly, Shaheen, Shaban.

Tel: 86 43 57

Weather

Dry weather likely

Dry weather may prevail over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office says night temperature may rise by 1.2 degree Celsius over Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions, and it will remain nearly unchanged over Khulna and Barisal divisions.

Country's lowest temperature 6.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimangal and the highest 28.5 degree Celsius at Teknaf.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.2	10.3	62	48
Chittagong	27.0	12.0	74	45
Rajshahi	25.7	10.0	67	66
Khulna	26.6	9.6	87	68
Barisal	26.2	9.4	95	61
Sylhet	27.0	12.4	70	53
Cox's Bazar	28.0	13.0	59	58

To My Aquarian

Shilpi

Happy Birthday!

Lots of Love and Best Wishes

Yours — Towfique

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Bangladesh Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank has a vacancy for one experienced secretary, preferably female. The candidate should preferably be a graduate with the following qualifications:

- good working knowledge of English
- excellent typing skill and speed with knowledge of short-hand preferred
- knowledge of computer operation in Word Processing & Spreadsheets essential
- experience of working at similar organization
- knowledge of library science preferred

Interested candidates fulfilling the above requirements should submit application with bio-data and a recent photo by 15 February 1995 to:

Mrs. R. H. Choudhury, Administrative Officer
Asian Development Bank
BSEC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Suitable candidates will be interviewed by appointment only. D-101

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INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

APPOINTMENTS

The Governing Council is inviting applications from ethnic Bangladeshis resident in the country or abroad for the post of Vice Rector and a number of faculty positions. An unique opportunity for highly qualified persons with the taste and dedication to raise the quality and usefulness of national higher education. Flexible appointments and salaries competitive to some of the best in the country. Appointments will be based on high academic qualification (minimum M.A./M.S. for Assistant Professor and Ph.D/equivalent with research experience for Associate Professor), professional reference and recent international experience. Only persons with relevant qualifications and experience may apply. The last date of posting: 15 February 1995 and applications mailed from abroad will be received at IUB office until 28 February 1995.

All faculty posts carry responsibility to develop curriculum, design syllabus, conduct courses, and guide tutorials; and design and guide field survey/project for the students as may be necessary to integrate theoretical knowledge with applied experience and guide/execute research. All candidates must be conversant with technological aid in teaching and learning and be skilled in their application. The status and grades of appointment will be according to qualification and experience. All posts are permanent but can be held on contract for a minimum period of 1 year. The specific requirements are as under the different posts describe below:

- Vice Rector:** The Vice Rector is to assist the chief executive officer responsible for academic administration. He together with the Rector is responsible for the implementation of the policies and decisions of the Governing Council. He is also the liaison between the Governing Council and the IUB community. In consultation with the Rector, he is expected to make policy recommendations on behalf of the academic community to the Governing Council. He will be concerned with fund raising and will assist the Rector. He will represent the Rector and may preside over the Academic Council and the administrative directorate concerned with academic activities and the Academic Council. The appointment is on contract for 3 to 5 years.
- Asst./Associate Professor, Communication:** to teach the undergraduates and access students oral and written communication, study skills and composition in English, French and Chinese. Vacancy 3.
- Asst./Associate Professor, Mathematics/Computer Science:** to teach mathematics and mathematical application in business; principle of computing, computer application and programming and software development. Vacancy 2.
- Asst./Associate Professor, Environmental Science:** to teach and to conduct field survey/projects in resource management related to geology, population, ecology and environmental health (Community medicine). Vacancy 2.
- Asst./Associate Professor, Business Management:** to teach Management Science with particular emphasis on application of quantitative methods and to the analysis of decisions in business and industry. Also to teach basic undergraduate courses in Patterns of Business Organization, Principles of Marketing and Management Accounting, Finance, etc. Vacancy 2.
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Social Science:** to teach Sociology/Economics/Social Psychology/Anthropology with emphasis on field application of principles and methods in these fields. Besides teaching, the candidates must have recognized field research experience. Vacancy 2.

Application and Enquiry:
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
G.P.O. Box 138, Dhaka-1000. Fax 880-2-881959

AUSTRADE
Australian Trade Commissioner

MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

The Australian Trade Commission (AUSTRADE) is seeking a skilled marketing professional for its Dhaka office. AUSTRADE is Australia's international business development agency. We operate a comprehensive marketing program to expand Australia's business with Bangladesh.

AUSTRADE is seeking a business person with 5 to 10 year's relevant experience, capable of developing sound relationships at senior levels in the private & government sectors. Sound tertiary qualifications and a proven commercial track record will be key selection factors.

Commencing salary will be in the range of Tk. 33,000 to Tk. 48,000 per month, plus benefits.

Written applications only to:

Colin Hook, Senior Trade Commissioner, Australian High Commission, 184 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan, Dhaka.

Application close 16th February

WANTED

Application are invited for the following posts:

Sl.No	Name of Post	Qualification	Experience
1.	Social Counsellor (Gross emoluments between Tk.18000-20000/- p.m.)	M.S.S./M.Sc. in Psychology/M.Ed. Computer Literacy desirable	Counselling to asylum seekers and refugees on all personal matters.
2.	Legal Counsellor (Gross emoluments between Tk. 15000-18000/- p.m.)	LL.M./M.A., LL.B./ Computer Literacy desirable	Advising asylum seekers and refugees on all legal aspects of their situation and secure them their rights.
3.	Case Worker (Gross emoluments between Tk. 15000-18000/- p.m.)	M.S.S./M.Sc. in Psychology/LL.M. Familiarity with Software is necessary	Maintaining and updating information and records relating to Social and Legal Counselling.
4.	Secretary (Gross emoluments between Tk. 8000-10000/- p.m.)	Graduate and Diploma in Secretarial Science. Familiarity with Software is necessary	Sufficient experience in correspondence, preparing Reports and maintaining records.

For all the above posts an excellent command of English is necessary. Initially the appointment will be made on year to year basis. CV together with two copies of photographs, copies of certificates and testimonials, names of two referees should reach the Advertiser on or before the 12th February, 1995 at House No. 19, Road No. 12 (new), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209.