

Dhaka Day by Day

Illustration is Like Magic

by Fayza Haq

Illustrations play an enormous role in getting young children to take an interest in reading books, says Leen Averik, a Dutch layout design expert working with the National Textbook Board to improve the standard of books for millions of children in Bangladesh. I consider illustrations to have magical components. The first exercise we all do on paper is drawing. When you draw on paper it conveys a message for years on end to anyone who sees it — whether he be a Chinese, Taiwanese, American or German. Recently, in southern France, drawings were found on the walls of a grotto. These animal figures were made 20,000 years ago and seeing them you feel that someone from the Stone Age is talking to you. Inspite of the emergence of modern inventions like electronics, digital and laser systems, a drawing on paper today can last an eternity.



Leen Averik

Asked if the present text books were appealing enough for children, Leen replied, "The appeal is certainly not enough. I have visited the schools in Dhaka and Khulna and I feel that the equipment were not adequate; the places were overcrowded and the children had little interest in the books. The books they used were not easy to follow. I would like the illustrations and texts to be such that even if the child is absent from school sometimes, the adult at home — whether it be parent, brother or neighbour — will be able to guide him despite the lack of the teacher."

Enquiring about the current use of newsprint for text books one learnt from Leen that this was "inevitable" but down cost, and "the use of newsprint should not necessarily result in bad printing."

Dwelling on difficulties he had to face during his work, Leen said, "The problem is the infrastructure of Bangladesh. To study the present conditions in relation to one's work at Rangpur, Sylhet or Jessore one faces transport difficulties. Our NCTB office in Motijheel does not even have a proper phone. The other handicap is the language barrier. People I deal with do not understand English easily. That is

why I am all for teaching English in Bangladesh from an early age.

Talking about the work that he has been doing in Bangladesh, Leen said, "Seeing the poor way the learning contents have been represented in these books makes one aware of the importance of exciting and narrative type of illustrations. In Dhaka, going in and out of the Institute of Fine Arts, and seeing exhibitions at numerous galleries all over the city, I realised the tremendous amount of talent that is available. My basic work at the NCTB is that of a talent scout — to get illustrators who will draw in such a way that their work will be self-explanatory. Apart from running workshops I have been giving basic graphics courses at the Institute of Fine Arts."

In order to improve the overall look of the books Leen suggested, "Local printers can easily learn from visiting experts like those from GMDC, based at the Hague, the authorities that I work for. Workshops can be arranged. There are good printers in Bangladesh but somehow the school books remain badly printed. The people in NCTB don't have an easy task themselves. They are restricted by limitation of funds and administrative rules. They are faced with negative comments from teachers, parents and even the government."

Leen, born and trained in Amsterdam in graphics designing, lived in Milan for five years in the mid-fifties when everything had to be built after the World War II. Having worked and travelled in most parts of western Europe, specially in France, Leen went on to work in Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and the Philippines.

Giving his impressions of Bangladesh he said, "It may not have progressed professionally but it remains an artistic place, I am sure its economic conditions will improve. I am afraid, however, that Bangladesh will, sooner or later, be victim of Coca-Cola, hamburger and Mickey Mouse fads. This will be a loss to the cultural heritage of the country."

— Star photo.



The Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Theatre Day. — Star photo

New Pak HC meets Khaleda

Karam Elahi, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Welcoming the new envoy, the Prime Minister expressed her optimism that bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan would strengthen in the days ahead.

During the meeting, Begum Zia also raised the issue of the stranded Pakistanis with the High Commissioner.

She told him that the problem of repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis, living for years at different camps in Bangladesh, has been a humanitarian issue.

The Pakistani government should take necessary steps for their early repatriation, the Prime Minister said.

Karam Elahi assured Begum Zia that he would convey the sentiment of Bangladesh on the stranded Pakistanis' issue to his government in Islamabad.



ANNOUNCEMENT

KLM regrets to announce that due to circumstances beyond its control the introduction of the third flight scheduled to operate every Saturday with effect from April 1, 1995 has to be postponed till the end of October, 1995.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused to our valued passengers and travel agents.

For more information please contact:

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Jahangir Tower, 10 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215
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Tel : 503537 501407 503112
711492 711493 Fax : 710285

* Chowhatta, Kotwali, Sylhet
Tel : 5377 2231

Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail and Dhaka during the next 12 hours ending 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country during the period and day temperature is likely to rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius. Met Office forecasts.

Thundery activity likely to continue in the next two days and may remain nearly unchanged in the following week, weathermen said.

The country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Dhaka and the lowest 21.4 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 6.13 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.54 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity percentage recorded in major cities of the country yesterday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Mymensingh	30.4	23.2	73	97
Faridpur	32.7	22.5	70	55
Chittagong	30.0	24.6	82	78
Cox's Bazar	31.0	23.5	80	80
Sylhet	33.0	23.0	70	73
Rajshahi	34.0	21.9	63	45
Rangpur	32.6	21.5	70	50
Khulna	33.0	22.0	87	96
Barisal	31.8	23.4	85	65

KAFCO

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Kamaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) is the largest multinational joint venture company with a US\$ 500 million Ammonia/Urea Complex located at Chittagong.

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90-91, Motijheel C/A., (15th Floor), Dhaka-1000

IDLC Industrial Development Leasing Company of Bangladesh Limited

Head Mansion (8th Floor), 2 Diksha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Notice of the 10th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of IDLC will be held on 26th April, 1995 Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Ball Room of the Sonargaon Hotel, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka to transact the following business:

- A9510-01 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting.
- A9510-02 Adoption of Directors' Report, Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements for FY 1994.
- A9510-03 Declaration of Dividend for FY 1994.
- A9510-04 Election of Directors.
- A9510-05 Appointment of Auditor and fixation of their remuneration.
- A9510-06 Other matters, with the permission of the Chair.

By the order of the Board

B. C. Kim
Company Secretary

Dated: March 27, 1995

NOTES:

1. In terms of Article-58 of the Articles of Association, the Company suspends the registration of transfer of shares for the period from April 18, 1995 to April 26, 1995 (both days inclusive).
2. A Shareholder may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead by filling the proxy form as per Article-103 of the Articles of Association. The proxy form, only completed, must be affixed with a revenue stamp of Tk. 5 and deposited at the office not later than 72 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.
3. In pursuant to Article-81 of the Articles of Association a corporate member of the Company, by resolution of the Board of Directors or other Governing body of such body corporate, may authorise such person as it thinks fit, to act as representative at any meeting of the members of the Company.
4. Members are requested to notify their change of address, if any.

Reception accorded to Chief Justice

Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday was accorded a reception by the Supreme Court Bar Association on his selection as an "honorary bencher of the Lincoln's Inn" of the United Kingdom, reports BSS.

Presided over by M Hafizullah, president of the association, the reception was also addressed by Justice Mustafa Kamal, Justice T H Khan, Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Sabita Ranjan Pal and Attorney General Aminul Huq.

Former Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was elected an honorary master of the bench by Grey's Inn of the United Kingdom last year.

Postponed

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka, scheduled for today, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release of the club.

The next meeting of the club will be held on April 4.

ROK envoy meets health minister

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Jong Kyu Byun yesterday called on Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Ubbayeh at the latter's Secretariat office, reports BSS.

ACC library closed Apr 2-13

The American Cultural Centre (ACC) library will remain closed from April 2-13 for inventory, says a USIS press release.

Although no books will be circulated during this period, books may be returned. The library will be open as usual from April 16 at 11:00 am.

CIDA chief meets Mostafiz

The visiting president of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Huguette Labelle called on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

During the discussion, the foreign minister said that Bangladesh felt happy with the excellent relations existing between Bangladesh and Canada.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

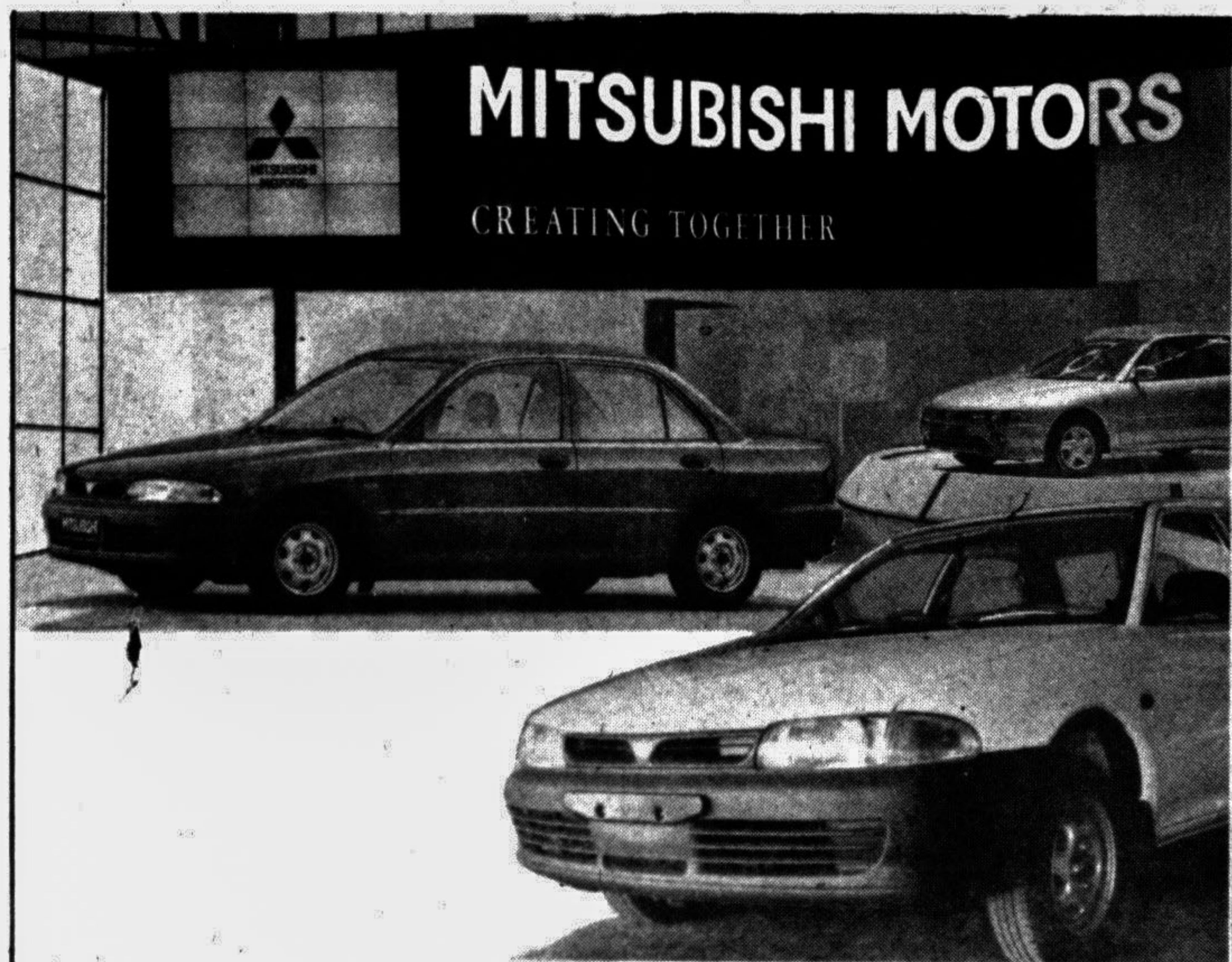
Applications are invited for The White Castle-an upcoming new exclusive restaurant at 20, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Dhaka for the following positions:

- **Hostess**
Candidates having minimum H.S.C qualification and good command in English.
- **Floor Manager/Captain**
Candidates having minimum H.S.C qualification and good command in English. Experience in Parjatan or any Five Star Hotel will be given preference.
- **Waiter**
Candidates having qualification not less than S.S.C with experience in Parjatan, any Five Star Hotel or in a similar position in any foreign country.
- **First Cook, Second Cook and Helper**
Candidates with skill in Thai, European and Indian Food.
- **Pantry Man**
Candidates having experience in a similar position will be given preference.
- **Cashier and Accountant**
Candidates with qualification not less than I.Com.
- **Security Guard**
Candidates having experience in a similar position. Background in Defence (Army, BDR, Ansar etc.) will be given preference. Candidates are requested to contact in person with their application, relevant papers and 2 recent passport sized photographs on April 04 & 05, 1995 from 3 pm to 6 pm at Chillis Restaurant, House-2, Road-11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

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