

Dhaka Day by Day

How Dutiful!

by Lamis Hossain

The sign above his head read "Duty Officer". The man in question was clad in blue surrounded by the pistachio green walls of a police station somewhere in Dhaka. Rubber stamp stains covered the cheap plastic sheet on the table in front of him. Three phones, moss green, yellow and brown sat next to each other. The duty officer promptly picked one of them up as it rang. He muttered a few urgent sounding orders, and then stared into space.

One might have mistaken him for the Officer in Charge were it not for the absence of an authoritative pot belly. He was a man most Dhakaites would have to meet at some point of their existence.

The Duty Officer looked up as a well dressed gentleman strode up to his desk. "I am a government officer," the gentleman announced as he walked towards the man in blue. "My brief case has been stolen."

"Indeed," the Duty Officer remarked without feigning interest. "How interesting". Surely, he thought, they both had better things to do. Did this gentleman actually think the police could retrieve his stolen items?

But having heard the words "government" coupled with the word "officer", the policeman decided not to take a risk.

"Hm...," he said hoping to sound helpful this time. "Well, my briefcase was left in the passenger seat of my car," the bureaucrat began without further encouragement. "I had sent my driver to run an errand for me. Well, the foolish chap left the case in full view on the front seat when he came back 15 minutes later, the case was gone..."

He was interrupted by the moss green phone. The Duty Officer soon became engrossed in another conversation and completely forgot the case of the stolen briefcase.

Others present in the room began their own interrogation. "Sir, where exactly did this happen?" "Did anyone see the thief?" "What a shame!" "How careless," and so on. These strangers certainly showed more concern than the Duty Officer himself.

Strange screams pierced through the pistachio walls. The bureaucrat looked alarmed for a second until someone explained that a pagol (mad) was being held at the thana.

The civil servant glanced at the wall behind him. A large sheet behind a glass frame was covered with black and white passport size mugshots, accompanied by different headings. "Pickpockets, burglars..."

"Would you like to record my statement?"

the burglary victim ventured as the Duty Officer replaced the hand set "I would like to get this done with."

The Duty Officer nodded indifferently. "Why don't you give us a written application, Sir?" he countered.

The bureaucrat began jotting his experience down in earnest, carefully selecting his words and sprinkling choice phrases here and there. He handed the finished masterpiece for the policeman to read.

The Duty Officer quickly pored over the story. "I don't believe it," he stated simply while staring pointedly at the civil servant's driver. "You see, nothing of this sort has happened in that area before," the Duty Officer explained rather condescendingly. "There have been no such crimes reported there, and I don't think someone would risk breaking into a car near all those shops," the doubting Thomas concluded, his gaze still fixed on the driver.

"Do you think anyone would report the crime if it happened? If I came here with the same complaint, would you even listen to me?" the driver burst out with indignation, sensing that he was about to be made the scapegoat. "Do you think ordinary people would even bother coming to you? You are only pretending to show interest because 'Sir' is here."

"I told you the incident has happened, so it has happened," the government officer told the Duty Officer in a less amiable mood. "Send someone to the place of the occurrence. You just tell me what you can do."

Having stated his case, there was nothing more the bureaucrat could do. The entire exercise seemed strangely futile. The Duty Officer didn't ask to check the car's broken lock, or ask for the colour of the briefcase, the contents, and the value of the items lost. How could the police possibly attempt a serious search without these details?

The bureaucrat despite his respectable social standing could not stir the men in blue to action. What chance did anyone else have? The crime victim walked dejectedly back to his car. Somewhere in Dhaka another petty thief was sporting his Porsche sunglasses and trying to flog off a "digital diary". His income tax papers were probably recycled as egg packaging and God only knew where his daughter's sari-clad Pabla Baishak photos were...

"We are getting on the case immediately," the Duty Officer called out. "Please phone us tomorrow."

Somewhat the words rang hollow.



The Awami League brought out a procession in observance of the "Protest Day" in the city yesterday. — Star photo

RU 1st year admission test 56,314 applications for 3,105 seats

RAJSHAHI, May 4—A total of 56,314 admission seekers have applied for 3,105 seats in first year honours courses in six faculties of Rajshahi University this year, reports UNB.

Official sources said, they will be appearing in the admission test for the 1993-94 academic session.

On an average, 19 students have applied for one seat. The total figure marks an increase of 28,013 students over the last year's 32,103 admission seekers.

Of the total, 6,534 students have applied for 150 seats in the Law Faculty, that is, 34.43 students for one seat.

In the Arts Faculty, 12,320 students — 8,926 from humanities and 3,394 from science group — applied for 915 seats while 15,525 students for 630 seats in Social Sciences Faculty.

The numbers of applicants in three other faculties are — 9,210 students for 560 seats in Science Faculty, 6,335 students for 350 seats in Life and Earth Faculty, and 6,399 students for 500 seats in Commerce Faculty.

Call to make child survey a success

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), a network of 60 NGOs working for child rights in the country, in a statement yesterday, called for making the child survey undertaken by the government a success.

BSAF urged children organisations, NGOs and all people to cooperate those engaged in the survey.

BDRCS lottery prizes distributed

The prizes of the 10th lottery of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) were distributed yesterday at a ceremony held at the headquarters of the society, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibn Yusuf handed over the prizes.

The first prize was won by Nazrul Islam, a rickshawpuller of Kachua under Chandpur district, the second prize by Harun-al-Mamun, a student of Gazipur under Gazipur district. Abdul Jalil, a government official of Shyamali, Dhaka won the third prize.

Workshop on blindness

By Staff Correspondent

A workshop-cum seminar on cataract and blindness was held at Islamiya Eye Hospital auditorium in the city recently under the aegis of Globex Marketing Company of Bangladesh and Elcon International of USA.

Australian eye specialist Adrien Coke conducted the workshop.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely over the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Dhaka, Pabna and Sylhet during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

According to Met Office, weather may remain dry elsewhere across the country.

No appreciable change in day temperature is likely over the country.

Country's highest temperature 41.1 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 23.0 degrees at Faridpur.

The sun sets today at 6:29 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21 am.

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	37.6	25.5	73	54
Chittagong	33.8	27.8	72	72
Rajshahi	41.1	26.0	66	34
Khulna	37.0	26.6	86	56
Barisal	36.1	26.8	83	80
Sylhet	34.1	23.6	68	68
Cox's Bazar	34.6	28.0	69	72

Campaign against Farakka in Canada

By Staff Correspondent

A Bangladesh-born Canadian geologist has launched a campaign in Canada against the unilateral withdrawal of Ganges waters by India, according to a newspaper.

The Calgary Sun, a newspaper based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in a recent report said, M A Haque hoped to collect 50,000 signatures on a petition to the United Nations (UN) against the adverse impact of Farakka barrage.

Haque, 51, a geologist, who has been living in Calgary for 25 years, said the dam's effects in Bangladesh during dry season was 'horrifying'.

Happy Birthday to

ALIF
Mr. Baba, Dada, Dadi, Durba, Marli

We Thank You

A large number of well-wishers, friends and relatives found time to console and sympathise with us and many others sent messages at the sad demise of our very dear soul, Syed Mozammel Huq of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS). At this hour of grief, it is not possible to respond to all individually. Our heartfelt gratitude to all of them, and our apologies for this inability.

Bereaved wife, sons, brothers and sister

Dhaka College Ex-Students Reunion

The "Dhaka College Ex-Students Reunion Observance Committee" is contemplating to organize and observe a reunion of the former students of the College. With this view in mind, the Committee is requesting the former students of the college to provide the following information personally/by post to the contact persons specified below at their earliest convenience.

a. Name 2. Session 3. Degree obtained 4. Subject 5. Occupation 6. Business address (with Phone/Fax) 7. Home address (with Phone) 8. Mailing address (with Phone/Fax).

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Nasim Mahmud
Member-Secretary
Dhaka College Ex-Students
Reunion Observance Committee
House No. 49, Road No. 1
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205
Phone: 862504 (Res) | 2. Helaluddin Ahmed
First Secretary (Customs)
National Board of Revenue
Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
Phone: 835872 (Off)
401377 (Res) |
| 3. Syed Salauddin Zaki
Director (Production)
BFDC, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Phone: 325320 (Off)
327627, 325364 (Res) | 4. Dr (Capt) Mashoodur Rahman
Chief Medical Officer
BCIC, Dhaka
Phone: 505168, 508172, 508275 |

Ataul Haq
Convener
Dhaka College Ex-Students
Reunion Observance Committee
and
Secretary
The Office of the President
Bangabhaban, Dhaka.

Courtesy: The Daily Star



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শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতাল, নয়াবাজার, ঢাকা
ফোন-২৪০০৬৬-৯

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন পরিচালিত নয়াবাজার শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতাল ও মৌলভীবাজার মাতৃসদনের ১৯৯৫-৯৬ অর্থ বৎসরের সিডিউল-এ বর্ণিত লিফেনসমূহ যৌতকরণের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১ তে প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। উক্ত দরপত্র আগামী ৮-৫-৯৫ইং, ২৫-১-১৪০২বাং রোজ রবিবার বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পরিচালক, শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতাল, প্রধান স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তা, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন ও আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাদের সংরক্ষিত সীলমোহরকৃত বাস্তব গৃহীত হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতা/তাহাদের প্রতিনিধি (কেহ উপস্থিত থাকিলে) সম্মুখে পরিচালক, শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতালের কক্ষে খোলা হইবে। নিম্নে বর্ণিত হারে জামানত যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে ডাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে মেয়র, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুকূলে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। টেন্ডার নোটিশ ফরম ও সিডিউল নিম্নে বর্ণিত হারে নগদ টাকায় রশিদের মাধ্যমে (যা হা অফেরতযোগ্য) অত্র করপোরেশনের কাশিয়ার, শ্রমজীবী হাসপাতালের কাশিয়ারের নিকট ও আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাদের দপ্তরে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পাওয়া যাইবে। প্রদত্ত দর অংক ও কথায় লিখিতে হইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সিটি করপোরেশনের কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।

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Salt	to taste

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