

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Dream Unrealised

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Two bedrooms, one drawing cum dining space, spacious kitchen, store, two toilets and a small veranda. Well, doesn't it sound like the house of your dream? At least this is the sort of haven you promised your newly wed wife, when you were courting her.

"I am an engineer now, working in one of the country's biggest private companies, I can surely materialize you dream honey, you said. But that was just mere talks, reality presents you a totally different picture.

Your starting salary (now as a new employee) is nothing more than Tk 5,000 (including house rent, medical facilities, entertainment and of course conveyance and if you are lucky, maybe, another 1,000 to add up to it.

With this handsome amount in mind (and pocket too) you look up 'The Daily Ittefaq' every Friday, with the hope that you

will find that house of yours and of course within your house rent which is no more than Tk 2,000. Even if you want to add an extra Tk 500 to it, you will never get that house. This is the hard reality.

Such a two-bedroom house is not available at less than Tk 6,000 and if the locality is a posh one it will without any doubt, cost Tk 6,500 excluding utilities and other charges.

If such a blow instantly makes you realize that you cannot afford the luxury of a guest room or even a working room, you settle for an one-bedroom house.

A 'tiny, weeny' small apartment for two love birds will cost no less than Tk 3,500 to Tk 4,000 and if it is in any housing complex it is Tk 5,000 excluding other charges of course.

You can never rent such a place with one of you working. In that case you can only rent the house and nothing is left to eat or go to work with and forget about medical emergencies and entertainments.

House rents and income for a middle class Bengalee are two different things. You can never live well if you want to cut your coat according to your cloth — even if you two are

working members. That picture you painted before marriage will never take shape after your marriage.

Areas like Mirpur, Adabar some portion of Mohammadpur, Tejkuinipara, Khilgaon, Uttara, have reasonable good houses for reasonable rents that you can afford but going to work and

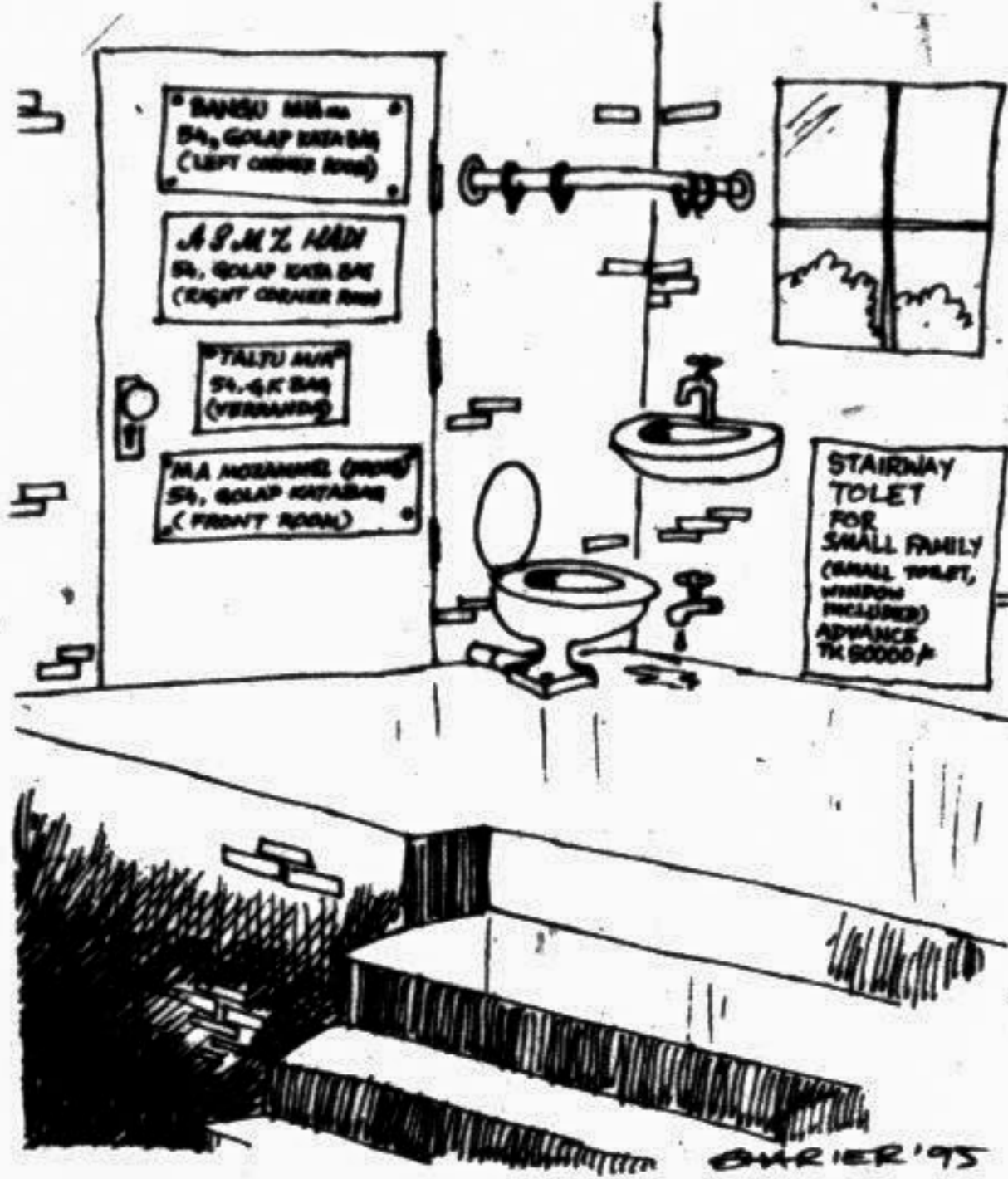
coming back (transport fare) take it all. Then you have the utilities left: water, electricity, gas bills are rarely included in house rents. Your landlord is never a saint. (Here begins another story.)

Before you rent a house he will ask you the number of people that will permanently reside in your flat. How many maids you will have? How frequent you will have house guest? No he is not curious but simply counting overhead for the water bill that he will hand you at the end of every month.

Moreover there is the question of attitude (which includes no financial dealings but...) if he is living just the flat below yours, you will have to practice weightlessness; no loud music and night dance, no chairs that screech, no hanging pictures on the wall, no entertaining friends after 10 pm. He can be as bad (or as good) as your in-laws. Some landlords even ask for an extra charge if you ask them to run the motor for the second time for water.

He will always get you but of course once in a while you can get him too, when the income tax men walk in. Landlords (most of them) avoid taxes, putting up fake rents for the tax people. However he is the lord of that place you need so desperately and when he wants Tk 8,500, excluding utilities for a 1400 sqft house on Green road, in Elephant Road or in Dhanmandi, you are left with no option but share it with your parents.

Postponing the dream till the next promotion. By that time you will have a kid to worry about as well. But don't be disheartened. You are (and will) always be few inches away from the dream.



Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh Arne Roy Walther presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. — PID photo

### What's on today....

**Rotary Club of Dhanmondi:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** As part of the retrospective of contemporary world cinema, the following films will be screened: "Distant Voices, Still Lives" (UK). Time: 4:30 pm; "Yaaba (The Grandmother)" (Barkina Faso). Time: 6:00 pm; "A Short Film About Killing" (Poland). Time: 7:45 pm. All the films will be shown at the new auditorium of the German Cultural Centre, House-10, Rd-9, Dhanmondi.

**Discussion:** To mark the first death anniversary of Md Nasiruddin, former editor of "Sawgat," the Nasiruddin Birthday Celebration Committee has organised a discussion meet. Venue: VIP Hall, National Press Club. Time: 5:30 pm. Prof Kabir Chowdhury will preside.

**Apex Club of the Dhaka Mid-Town:** A general election to elect office-bearers for 1995-96, followed by a dinner meeting will be held. Venue: Ramna Green Restaurant. Time: 6:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotaract Club of Dhaka Buriganga:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 3:00 pm.

**Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka:** The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, 26, Bailey Road. Time: 5:15 pm. It will be followed by a cultural programme.

### Boy missing

Mohammad Kamruzzaman Mithu, son of Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) has been missing since Wednesday last, reports the agency. Mithu, 11, of mixed complexion, went to the playground of Rustum Ali High School in the city in the afternoon of May 17 and has been missing since then. Any person knowing the whereabouts of Mithu is requested to inform his father at 68/2, Purana Paltan or over Phone No 235036 9.

### Adhunik appeals to Imams

Anti-smoking organisation Adhunik yesterday urged the country's imams to advise the *mussallis* to give up smoking, reports UNB. In a statement, Adhunik President National Professor Nurul Islam and Secretary General Enayetullah Khan requested the imams to launch an anti-smoking drive through their *Khutabs* at the *Juma* prayers on Friday next.



Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam presided over a meeting of Taskforce on Export at the Commerce Ministry in the city yesterday. — PID photo

### American Express grant for nurses course

An estimated 3.3 million children under the age of five die of diarrhoea every year in the developing nations. Most of these deaths result from a lack of knowledge about a simple and inexpensive oral, rehydration treatment, says a press release.

A US \$ 75,000 grant from the American Express Foundation is being used to fund an ICDDR,B workshop to train nurses to teach health care workers the use of Oral Rehydration.

The two-week "train the trainer" workshop began on May 15 at the ICDDR,B hospital in the city.

### Star staff mugged

A sub-editor of The Daily Star was mugged in broad daylight at Agargaon yesterday.

Two armed muggers in an autorickshaw from behind intercepted the other autorickshaw in which the sub-editor Nurul Islam was travelling.

The muggers attacked Islam when he was coming to the office at 2:00 pm.

Islam prevented the muggers from snatching his wrist-watch but he was robbed of his cash.

### Anniversary

The third founding anniversary of Shri Shishu Sahitya Kendra, a literary and cultural organisation for children was observed in the city on Friday, says a press release.

Mobarak Hossain Khan, director-general of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy attended the function as chief guest.

Hasanur Rahman, director of the organisation, presided.

### Obituary



With deep and profound sorrow we announce the sad news of the demise of our Factory Manager Mr. Mahub Alam Chowdhury (Kamal) at Birla Heart Center Calcutta on May 19, 1995.

Mr. Chowdhury joined Organon UK and was later transferred to Organon Bangladesh, where he worked for more than 30 years.

He was a veteran footballer, National Sportsman, University Blue and founder of Kamal Sporting Club.

He left behind a large number of friends, relatives and well wishers to mourn his death. He is survived by his wife, two son and a daughter.

His *Namaz-e-Zanaza* will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque on Sunday 21st May 1995 after Zohor prayer and The *Qul-Khani* will be held on Monday 22nd May 1995 after Asar prayer (5.30 pm) at his residence at house # 111, Road # 7, Sector # 4, Uttara.

We pray to Almighty Allah for salvation of the departed soul.

**MITSUBI O.S.K LINES LTD., JAPAN**  
**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES**  
 The Containerised cargo ex. M.V. CYCLADES V-19AB from Karachi have been relayed to M.V. IRINI V-201 Import Rotation No. 451/95 Which is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 22-05-1995 from Singapore.  
 Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing. If the cargo is not cleared within 45 days from landing then the disposal of the cargo will be governed by the relevant Customs Act.  
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**Qulkhwani**  
  
 Mrs Ayesha Akhtar Khatoon, died of old age ailment on Friday 19th May, '95. She was wife of Md. Chand Khan, a businessman of Dhaka. She left behind her husband, six sons and two daughters. Her *qulkhwani* will be held on Monday, 22nd May after Asr prayers. Relatives, well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.  
**Husband, sons & daughters**  
 House No. 10, Road No. 8  
 Dhanmondi R/A.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 বাংলাদেশ সরকারী কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়  
 পুরাতন বিমান বন্দর ভবন  
 তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা - ১২১৫  
**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
 নং: বাসককস/এস,আর-৪/১ আর-৫৮/৯৪/২০২৫ তারিখ: ৮/৫/৯৫  
 বাংলাদেশ সরকারী কর্ম কমিশন কর্তৃক প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়াদীন দূনীতি দমন ব্যুরোর দূনীতি দমন অফিসার/জেলা দূনীতি দমন অফিসার পদে নিম্নলিখিত রোল নম্বরধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে নিয়োগের জন্য মনোনয়নের সুপারিশ প্রদান করা হয়েছে :-  
 ৪০৮৩, ৯৬২৭, ১০৯৪৯, ৭৪৭, ১৪০, ২৬১৫, ২৯৮৬, ৭৬৭৯, ১৪০৩, ৯০০১, ৯৪৭, ১৫৩, ৫০১৬, ২৪৬১, ৫৪৯০, ২৮৯২, ১২৭১, ১২২২, ১১১০, ৭০০৫, ৬৩৮১, ২৮১৭, ৯৫২৪, ১০৭৬২, ৪৪৬১, ১৫৫৩, ৪৮৩৬, ৫৪১৩, ৩৩০০, ২১২।  
**মোঃ রবিউল ইসলাম**  
 পরিচালক।  
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**FM meets US students**  
 Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said visitors, specially young students from developed countries, can project an objective and realistic image of Bangladesh abroad, reports UNB.  
 He was addressing a group of visiting undergraduate students from Juniata College, Pennsylvania, at his office yesterday.  
**82 held in city**  
 Police rounded up 82 people, including 15 wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours, said a DMP press release yesterday, reports UNB.  
 Among the arrested were two under Arms Act, two for robbery and six on charge of stealing. All the arrested people were produced before court.

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