

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Dependence on Domestic Help

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

If one asks what's the common characteristic of the Bengali home? The answer should likely be the domestic help. No Bengali home is complete without them. With hardwork and problems outside home the average Bangalee likes nothing better than to sit back and be waited on at his home. In fact, the smooth running of our lives depends so much on them that we often become lazy, inept or simply unwilling to deal with even the easiest of household chores. All of us can recount at least one time what a living nightmare life turned into in the maid's absence.

That housekeeping is no joy (to say the least) to us, the comfort loving Dhakaites, becomes clearer everyday, when you think about washing clothes, preparing meals, cleaning the house and even filling the water jug and so much more. All things you previously took for granted, when the experienced *buja* was around. You might pretend to overlook the layers of dust covering the framed family photos and knick-knacks, but what about the incessant ringing of the doorbell, disturbing your pleasant siesta? Then why does your long-lost relative along with her two brats have to visit you in those tough times? She is sympathetic about your situation she says, but not enough to shorten her stay with you.

Probably the younger generation is the worst example of the dependence on domestic help syndrome (DDHS). Having relied on numerous servants since birth, it's only natural that *deshti* kids usually grow up not learning some of the basic home responsibilities, unlike their western peers. It's part of our social system and hey nobody is complaining! So, it's not surprising when your 'not-so-little' daughter asks you thrice to make sure which is *mushurti dal* and which is *mug*, or looks everywhere but still can't find the 'Ariel' detergent or the box of matches. In any case they

always have a string of excuses ready for not running an errand. "But, mom, how can I go to the laundry, I'm meeting friends at Dolce Vita?" — declares your outraged son. Or, "I can't set the table now, I am watching Remington Steele" etc. etc. As for dumping the garbage in the nearby bin, that's far too demeaning for today's conscious youth. Indeed, our young adults have their own 'special duties' such as — making telephone calls, cable viewing, socialising and so on to keep them busy 24 hours a day.

In a certain city household the mother hands the daughter a list of chores for the part-time maid before rushing to work. Thankful and relieved if the 'reliable' Hons final year student remembers only to supervise them. Another mother calls her grown-up offsprings hotel boarders, never around when the work is being done but always in time for meals. Many of the city dwellers, no doubt the sufferers, are in favour of domestic help supplying agencies. That would certainly be an innovative and profitable venture.

A young philosopher (in the making) comments that dependence starts at home. First with the house workers then we switch to foreign big powers for aid. It's in our blood, the process is perpetual.

Meanwhile, the good old maid is still away for about a month (!) and during lunch the family members earnestly exchange news of finding a replacement. Have they asked all the neighbourhood maids and mistresses? The office employees? The *darwan*? The sweeper and the newspaper hawk?

On the other hand, the miserable experiences have forced everyone to attend to one's own responsibilities. But for how long? Most certainly till the new recruit comes and takes charge once again.



### 100 rounded up

Police rounded up 100 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges. A DMP press release said yesterday.

Of the arrested, 19 were wanted criminals, four were held under the Arms Act, one for dacoity, two under the Explosive Act and five for stealing.

### Chhatra Union reunion held

An air of nostalgia and fellow feeling pervaded the occasion when leaders and workers of the Chhatra Union of bygone days and contemporary ones met in the city at a 'reunion' to recollect the good old days and present-day Chhatra Union activities, reports BSS.

Held at the Shilpakala Academy in an informal atmosphere a large number of Chhatra Union activists gathered to meet fellow members of the student organisation. The attendees included veterans like the leaders of the first Chhatra Union committee in the early 50s to the recent ones.

Members of the Chhatra Union — an organisation that gloriously maintains its existence spanning more than four decades weathering many a storm, were invited to the 'reunion' which was an emotional event for the participants. Many of the participants are now grey-haired and aged, and recalled their association with the organisation many years ago. Many of the once Chhatra union members are today's prominent figures in different fields — politics, culture, medicine, teaching, journalism, diplomacy, business and others.

One speaker told the gathering that schisms have crept into once acclaimed ideology of the Chhatra Union which made historic contribution to the struggles of the people of this country towards creating a progressive, democratic and non-communal society. The political, cultural and literary movement in the country would have been much more effective and forceful today if the Chhatra Union leaders and members would not have fallen apart these days.

The speakers recalled the stormy and turbulent days during the long and chequered history of the organisation and were unanimous that the ideology of Chhatra Union had not only embellished and invigorated the literary and cultural identity of this nation but also greatly helped attain the independent entity of this country.

### BNP MP off to UK

Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP, left Dhaka for the United Kingdom last night, at the invitation of the British Foreign and Commonwealth office, to attend a seminar on 'Towards better government: some current concerns,' reports BSS.

The seminar will be held from June 4-11 at Eynsham Hall near Oxford. He is being accompanied by Tofail Ahmed, MP of Awami League.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina with members of a US students delegation of Juniata College, Pennsylvania, at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

## 'Reflect people's aspirations, hopes in our culture'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for reflecting people's faiths, religious spirits, lifestyles, hopes and aspirations in our own culture, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Our Culture: Issues and Challenges' at Hotel Sonargaon in the city organised by Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT).

President Biswas urged the cultural activists and patriotic citizens of the country to contribute so that our culture and literature could play more effective roles in realising ideals of nationalism and our national goal.

"He said that Bangladesh came into being through huge sacrifices. The objective of in-

dependence of a nation is to march towards development protecting its ideals and cultural entity," he said.

He said that a country's independence in the field of culture could be examined by evaluation how it was reflecting its own ideals successfully in society.

Dr M Shamsher Ali, chairman of BIIT and vice-chancellor of the Open University, chaired the seminar while Mahub Anam, editor of the Bangladesh Times, Ahmed Farid, adviser of BIIT and M Zohurul Islam, secretary general of BIIT spoke.

National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan presented a key-note paper at the seminar.

## JU suffers 30 days 'holiday' in 14 months

Jahangirnagar University (JU) clocked some 30 days of unscheduled closure due to different reasons in the last 14 months.

Hartals, strikes, seige programmes were the main causes of the closure.

The university, however, remained generally unaffected by the acts of terrorism last year and closures a prolonged as the ones in 1992 and 1993 did not occur.

In 1992, a clash between the JU students and the transport worker's on the Dhaka-Aricha highway led to the closure of the university for about a month.

In 1993, the students had to suffer a loss of 110 days from their academic lives following an incident in which about ten JU teachers were attacked by supporters of the JCD.

Some unscheduled 'holidays' paralysed the university due to several other incidents during those two years.

Despite the congenial academic atmosphere in the JU during the last year, some two years of accumulated session jam has not yet been removed.

The JU is now lagging behind the academic session by two years and the authorities

seem to have no definite plans to make up for the lost time.

Reluctance of some teachers to take their classes regularly and frequent changes in examination schedules are being seen as the main reasons behind the lingering session jam.

As a result, the courses remain mostly incomplete when the academic year ends.

The authorities have, till now adopted no serious measures to solve these problems and to remove the session jam.

No exact system is being followed in the university and in such a situation no one can expect an improved scenario," said the president of the JU Teachers' Association (JUTA) Prof Enamul Haq Khan.

"Administrative discipline as well as the co-operation of the students is required to improve the situation," he observed.

Formulation of an academic calendar and strict adherence to it can help reduce the jam, students feel.

But, despite the massive problems created by these jams, the authorities seem to lack concrete initiatives to implement the academic calendar," they observed.

### Four teenagers hurt in blasts

By DMCH Correspondent  
Four teenagers were injured in bomb explosions in separate parts of the city yesterday.

Mukul, 19, and Mizan, 18, received bomb injuries during a clash between two armed groups at Monipur under Mirpur thana in the afternoon.

In another incident, Mintu, 13, was wounded in a blast near Chhata mosque in Gulshan at about 3 pm.

Meanwhile, one Shahid was injured when unidentified persons hurled bombs near Dhakeswari municipal mosque at about 6 pm.

All the injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital DMCH, medical sources said.

### Hannan lays foundation of bridges

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah yesterday said the government is determined to develop the rural infrastructure, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a public meeting at the Suruj Ali High School premises in Kapasia, Gazipur.

Earlier, the minister laid the foundation of 54-meter Chalar Bazar Bridge to be constructed at the cost of Tk 42 lakh and 90-meter Monohordi-Kapasia Friendship Bridge on Brammaputra to be constructed at the cost of Tk 72 lakh.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong Division and the regions of Mymensingh during the 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office says the weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day temperatures are likely to remain nearly unchanged. The country's highest temperatures yesterday was 38.6 degrees Celsius recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest was 24.2 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka 3	4.5	22.8	77	69
Chittagong	33.5	27.8	77	72
Rajshahi	38.6	28.4	75	53
Khulna	36.1	28.0	76	63
Barisal	34.5	27.6	86	75
Sylhet	31.5	24.2	100	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	27.0	72	79

## CONDOMINIUM TO LET

'PURVIEW PARK', a select condominium located on Road No. 14, Block - K, Baridhara is available for letting out on long term tenancy. This south facing condo has 10 Luxury Apartment Homes with all attributes of modern living. The Apartments (5 Units 2525 sq ft and 5 Units 2350 sq ft) are spacious each having 3 beds with attached baths/dressing, Living room with split-level coffee lounge & a patio, Dining, Family lounge with patio, a modern Kitchen with Breakfast Nook, Box-room, Store, 2 Utility Spaces and Maid's room with toilet. The condo has a modern 630 Kg lift, a Standby Power Unit with Auto-changeover, Cable TV system, 24 Hrs running Hot water from central Geyser system, elaborate Intercom system, 24 Hrs Guards, a Gymnasium, a unique roof-top Terrace Park and 11 reserved Car Parks. All 10 Apartments are ready for immediate occupation.



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837354

## DEVELOPMENT POSITIONS

A major international development agency is soliciting applications from Bangladeshis for contract positions (renewable) based in its Dhaka office. Applications must be received at Box # D-760, C/O. The Daily Star, House-11, Road-3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205 by Wednesday, June 14, 1995.

All applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. Excellent communications skills, including ability to read, write and speak clearly and fluently in English and Bangla.
2. Hold a graduate degree in a relevant discipline.
3. Ability to use a personal computer.
4. Willingness to travel (accompanied) within Bangladesh.
5. Program or project management experience including: managing budgets and contracts, supervising consultants, planning, organising meetings, preparing reports, working on committees. Experience in development work with a donor agency or NGO is desirable.
6. Overseas working or educational experience is desirable.
7. Female applicants are encouraged to apply for all positions.

### Position # 1: Development Adviser (Economics)

The incumbent will advise on Bangladesh's economic development and the donor's development program in Bangladesh. The development adviser (economics) undertakes a research and analysis function by personally writing reports and managing the work of others. This person provides policy advice on major development issues especially in the areas of macroeconomic and social policy, financial sector reform and public service reform, and private sector development.

This position requires an advanced degree in economics or a closely related discipline, work experience at a senior level, and a demonstrable capacity to organize, analyze, write and edit economic studies.

### Position # 2: Development Adviser (Information)

The incumbent will be primarily responsible for the development information service of the donor embassy and its satellite office. The development adviser (information) will transform the development library and information centre into a full information resource with computer-based user access; establish on-line connections with other national and international databases and information networks; and manage documentation storage and retrieval, both paper-based and computer-based.

This position requires an advanced degree in library science or a closely related discipline, work experience at a supervisory level, and a demonstrable capacity to organize and manage information services around personal-computer based applications.

## Dhaka WASA Tender Notice (2nd Call)

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority invites tender from bonafide firm to undertake Crash Metering Programme within Dhaka city and Narayanganj. The cost of the proposed services contract is expected to be financed by the World Bank/IDA. Dhaka WASA intends to appoint firm(s) to undertake METER INSTALLATION AND METER REPLACEMENT at the consumers' holdings along with some related activities like meter testing and documentation. Firms having experience in works stated above may obtain copy of the bidding documents (terms of reference) on written request and on cash payment of Tk 1000/- (Taka one thousand only), non-refundable.

Requests for bidding documents are to be addressed to the Chairman, Dhaka WASA "WASA Bhaban," 2nd floor, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, (Karwan Bazar), Dhaka-1215.

Tenders in two separate sealed envelope (one for technical offer and the other for financial offer) will be received in the Office of the Chairman, Dhaka WASA up to 12:00 Noon on June 10, 1995. Only technical offers will be opened at 12:30 PM on the same date in presence of the representatives of the firms (if any). The financial proposals will be opened on a later date of which the concerned firm will be notified.

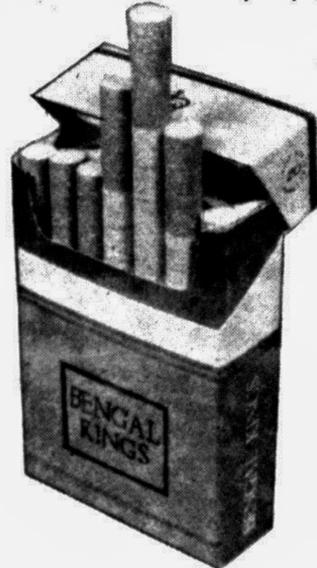
If the financial offer of any firm is included in the technical offer then the tender of that firm will be disqualified.

Dhaka WASA reserves the right to accept any offer and to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Chairman  
Dhaka WASA

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