

Dhaka Day by Day

Learning to Live With Landlords

by Farah Ghuznavi

Judging from the frequency with which the subject crops up in casual conversation, it is safe to say that finding affordable rented accommodation is a major concern for the average Dhakaites. However, what many people don't realise is that finding a place to rent is just the beginning. The horrors of living with one's landlord afterwards can completely overshadow the difficulties of the initial search.

A survey of friends and colleagues indicates that there are some common problems with landlords in Dhaka, notably utility bills and the deadlines imposed for night-time curfews. One colleague found out that her landlord had connected an illegal line to hers and was therefore charging her for part of his electricity consumption as well. When she successfully charged him with this, she found that her utilities bill for the next month was less than half of what she had been charged the previous month!

Night-time curfews are also a frequent complaint. Many landlords will lock their gates by about ten at night, refusing to give the tenants their own set of keys. Sometimes landlords don't even keep the door open until the agreed time. One friend solved this problem by having a skeleton key made for the front door by bribing the landlord's servant, another by climbing over the garden wall. However, it must be said that not everyone is in the kind of athletic condition required for the latter activity!

A unique story came from my colleague who told us about the time she used to pay the landlord's family to cook for her. She frequently found that the amount of fish she paid for did not appear to be the same as the amount that she was provided with. She proved this conclusively one day, by fitting all the pieces of the cooked fish together, to find out that there were only three small pieces (which did not fit together!) between the head and the tail of what had been a fairly large fish when it was purchased!

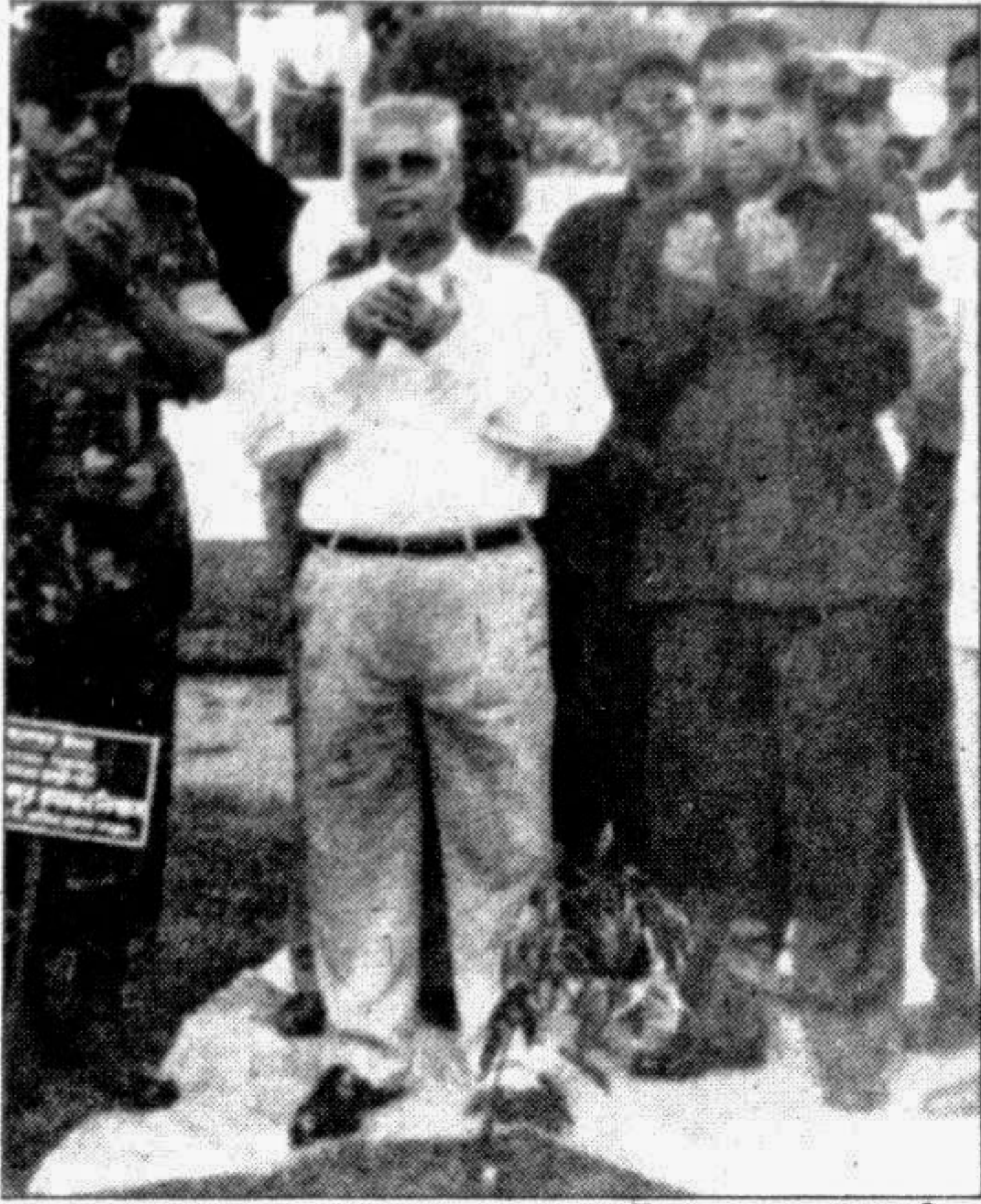
However, the ultimate landlord horror story comes from a foreign friend visiting Bang-

ladesh for the past six months. Some of the other tenants in her house have also contributed to the problems, since it seems that everyone there feels quite at home helping themselves to her possessions. Being an extremely polite and pleasant person, she had not objected to these incursions as such (not wanting to offend anyone), but recent events finally led to a confrontation.

After returning from a field trip, she found that her new broom was missing. The tin of milk powder she had left in her kitchen had also disappeared. Finally, even her two buckets, which she used for washing clothes and doing the dishes, appeared to have shrunk! Upon enquiring about her broom, she was informed that the other tenants had "borrowed" it (the latest in a long line of things "borrowed" and never returned). She requested that they replace the broom, but did not say anything about the tin of milk, as she was not sure whether she was just imagining things.

The next day, she found two brooms left by her door, each consisting of a few rushes. Both put together would not make one decent broom. When she pointed this out to the landlord's daughter, she looked at them, said to her, "this one is better than the other", and left her holding one of the useless brooms while she took the other one away. So she ended up with one useless broom instead of two! Goaded beyond endurance, she told the landlord's daughter that this kind of behaviour was just not acceptable.

The broom business never got sorted out, but the next day the tin of milk mysteriously reappeared in her kitchen. It was just too bad that almost two thirds of its content had disappeared in the meantime! As for the buckets, they have definitely changed size, since neither now holds what it used to. Or rather, someone has switched buckets with her! She is afraid of being considered pathologically paranoid if she brings up this issue as well, but in reality it is her landlord and his family who are completely insane! Who knows what further surprises lie in store for such unwary tenants.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas offering munajat after inaugurating the National Tree Plantation Campaign '95 by planting a sapling in Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Biswas opens Tree Plantation Campaign '95

President Abdur Rahman Biswas inaugurated the National Tree Plantation Campaign '95 by planting a sapling of *Nageshwar-Chapa* at Bangabhaban premises yesterday, reports UNB.

On the occasion, he stressed on systematic tree plantation and called upon all to take care for protecting and nourishing the planted saplings.

Mentioning about the contribution of timber to country's economy, President Biswas said the grown up trees are essential for keeping the balance in the environment.

In this regard, the President referred to the efforts of certain desert-country for making planned forestry to maintain ecological balance. He also called upon the people to help the government in making the tree plantation programme a total success by planting as many trees as possible.

Bangladesh 2000

BSS adds: Bangladesh 2000 — a voluntary organisation organised a tree plantation programme yesterday marking its participation in the national

tree plantation campaign '95 by planting few saplings at its office premises in the city.

Similar plantation programmes have also begun at their project sites at Akhaura, Comilla sadar, Gouripur, Sarisabari, Shibalaya, Sadullapur and Saghatta from yesterday, Bangladesh 2000 has planned to plant 7000 saplings of different varieties during the current rainy season in the respective project areas by involving the educated youths of the project sites.

Jahan Ara Begum

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum yesterday called upon the students to plant at least one sapling a year at the premises of their respective educational institution or home for maintaining ecological balance, reports BSS.

She was addressing a students rally at Habibullah Bahar College in the city.

Another reports says, a massive tree plantation programme has been launched in the Rajshahi region from yesterday to help lessen ecological, environmental and soil erosion problems created by the adverse effect of Farakka.

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| Sl. No. | Name of Posts | Pay Scale | Qualifications |
|---------|---|---|---|
| 01 | Assistant Professor English & Chemistry | Tk. 4800-10X175-7250/- | B.A./B.Sc. Hons. M.A./M.Sc. Minimum two First Class & two Second Class starting from SSC to Masters. Minimum 7 years of teaching experience. |
| 02 | Lecturers Bengali, English, Botany, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Statistics, Geography, Islamiat, Agriculture Science & Management. | Tk. 2850-7X125-3725-EB-11X130-5155/- | B.A./B.Sc./B.Com./B.Ag. Hons., M.A./M.Sc./M.Com./M.Ag. At least two First Class & two Second Class from SSC to Masters. Teaching experience will be considered as additional qualification. |
| 03 | Medical Officer (Part-Time) | Tk. 4000/- (fixed) | MBBS or equivalent with 01 year experience. |
| 04 | Rharmacist/Medical Assistant | Tk. 1725-7X105-2460-EB-11X115-3725/- | HSC with diploma in Pharmacy with minimum 1 year experience or Retired Medical Assistant (NCO) from any Government Hospital/CMH. |
| 05 | Computer Lab. Assistant/Operator | Tk. 1725-EB-3725/- /Tk. 2300-EB-4480/- | HSC/Graduate with 01 year experience as Computer Operator. |
| 06 | Laboratory Assistant (Biology) | Tk. 1725-7X105-2460-EB-3725/- | B.Sc. with one year experience. |
| 07 | Stenographer | Tk. 1475-7X90-2105-EB-11X95-3150/- | HSC with Short-hand speed 100 words in English & 70 words in Beng per minute. Experience as PA will be considered as additional qualification. |

Notes: a. Retired, Experienced & Physically fit candidates may also apply.
b. Highly qualified, experienced and meritorious candidates may be given higher initial salary and other facilities on negotiations and appointed on contract basis.
c. Applicants having passed in English Medium will be given preference for Sl. No. 1 to 3.
d. Contributory Provident Fund, Time Scale, Gratuity, Group Insurance, Medical Allowance, Festival Allowance, Dress Allowance (for Sl. No. 1 & 2 only) etc. will be provided.
e. House rent as per Govt. rule will be provided in lieu of accommodation.
f. Special allowance will be provided for any additional appointment.
g. Free medical attendance by the College Medical Officer may be provided.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Typed application with applicant's full name, father's name/husband's name, permanent address, date of birth/age, educational qualifications, experiences etc. is to be submitted to the undersigned.
- Two copies of recent passport size photographs, attested copies of certificates of all academic qualifications and experiences are to be submitted along with the application.
- Serving candidates are to apply through proper channel.
- A bank draft/pay order amounting to Tk. 100/- (non-refundable) for Sl. No. 1 to 3 and Tk. 50/- (non-refundable) for Sl. No. 4 to 7 must be attached along with the application in favour of the Principal.
- Applications must reach the undersigned by 05th July, 1995.
- Incomplete applications and applications not fulfilling requisite qualifications will not be considered.
- After preliminary scrutiny the applicants will be called for written and Viva Examinations.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for the written and Viva Voce examinations.

Lt Col
Principal & Member Secretary
Board of Governors.

Diabetic Association of Bangladesh Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000 Local Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/agents of the following items/equipments as stated below. Detailed description of the items can be found in the tender documents.

| Tender No. | Description of Tender | Value of Tender Document | Date of Receiving |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| DAB/P(L)/06/95 | Supply and Installation of Fire Fighting equipments. | 300 | 19.06.95 |
| DAB/P(L)/07/95 | Supply of Analyser with Immunoturbidimetric facility. | 300 | -0- |
| DAB/P(L)/08/95 | Supply of Compl. Automated Plate/Strip Washer. | 200 | -0- |
| DAB/P(L)/09/95 | Supply of IBM Compatible Computer (PC) with Printer & Accessories. | 300 | 17.06.95 |
| DAB/P(L)/10/95 | Supply of equipments & reagents for Immunology Deptt. | 300 | 19.06.95 |
| DAB/P(L)/11/95 | Supply Steam regulator & vacuum pump set. | 200 | -0- |
| DAB/P(L)/12/95 | Supply of white Drill cotton cloth. | 200 | -0- |
| DAB/P(L)/02(R)/95 | Supply and Fabrication of a coldroom. | 400 | -0- |

Terms and Conditions:

- Tender documents are available from the Cash Section of BIRDEM (Room No. 208).
- Tenders will be received in a Tender Box kept in front of Room No. 224 on the receipt date (s) up to 12.00 hours and be opened at 12.10 hours in presence of the tenderers (if any).
- The Association reserves the right to accept or reject whole tender, any tender schedule or any part of it without showing any reason whatsoever.
- No Tender schedule will be sold on the receiving date.

Col. Dr. Sultan Ahmed (Retd.)
Director, Hospital

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টেভার নোটিশ

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত সকল শ্রেণীর টেন্ডারপ্রার্থীদের নিম্নে উল্লিখিত বসানো নম্বর ২৯১১ কে পিসনোমেরকৃত নামে টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১৮/৬/৯৫ইং. ৪/০/১৯০২ বাংলা তারিখ ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় বিজ্ঞপিত কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ে ঢাকা জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এবং সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল অঞ্চলের প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক টেন্ডার প্রদান করা হইবে এবং ৪ দিনই বেশী ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত টেন্ডারপ্রার্থীরা অন্যত্র তাহাদের প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতায় সম্মুখে যোগ দেই উপস্থিত থাকেন। খেলা হইবে। পরিকল্পনা হইবে এবং কাজের শিডিও হইবে। অন্যথায় নগর কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতি হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুমতিসহ নগরপ্রার্থীদের সকল আর্থিক কার্যক্রমে প্রকৌশল বিভাগে এবং হিসাব বিভাগের হিসাব কর্মকর্তার (পেমেন্ট) এর নিম্নে উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কাজের শিডিও হইবে। টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী অর্থিক শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে। নগর কর্তৃক এক শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে। টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কাজের শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে। টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কাজের শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে। টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কাজের শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে।

কোন টেন্ডারপ্রার্থী নগরপ্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে ৫% এর অর্থিক উপহার বা শিডিও প্রদান করিতে উক্ত নগর প্রার্থীদের নগর কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে হইবে। ৫% এর অর্থিক শিডিও প্রদান করিতে নগরপ্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে ৫% এর অর্থিক উপহার বা শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে। টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কাজের শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে। টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কাজের শিডিও প্রদান করা হইবে।

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|-----------|--|-----------------|---------------|----------|
| ১। | উত্তর বাহাজানপুর উপশিবা সি-ক্যাটেড কুল হইতে কিলপাট মসজিদ কালচার্ট পর্যন্ত রাস্তার উন্নয়ন কাজ। | ৳. ২,২৬,৬৯৭.০০ | ৳. ৬,১০০.০০ | ৩০ দিন |

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ডি-৫৮৭

Biological science instt set up in Rajshahi

Government has set up an Institute of Biological Science (IBS) under the Rajshahi University to promote and provide facilities of higher studies and coordinated research in biological fields in the country, reports BSS.

Government has provided over Tk one crore to the IBS for implementing various research activities.

A total of forty researchers are now working under the institute for advancement of biological sciences in the country.

The director of the institute said "The IBS is working for the development of biological organisms, systems and processes for utilisation in food and agriculture, health and medicines, industry and energy through scientific researchers."

Meanwhile, British Council has donated 394 books on biology to the IBS to help in its work.

Star reporter gets US fellowship

Ten foreign journalists, including one from the country, have been named 1995 Alfred Friendly Press Fellows. The Fellows were selected from nearly 200 applications received from 58 countries with emerging free press systems, says a USIS press release.

Bangladesh's Fellow, Masud Hasan Khan, 29, is working as a staff reporter in The Daily Star. He covers development issues, NGO affairs, health, environment and human rights issues.

Masud obtained his master's degree in English from Jahangirnagar university. He started his career as a journalist while studying in the university, first as a stringer for The Daily News, then for the privately-owned news agency United News of Bangladesh (UNB).

The 1995 programme runs from June 10 through December 1. The Fellows participate in a two-week orientation programme in Washington, DC before beginning their reporting assignments. Masud's assignment is to The Detroit News published in Detroit, Michigan, the press release adds.

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