

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Close Encounters of the Worst Kind

by Farah Ghuznavi

While many of us have a strong aversion to various creepy crawlies, most people seem united on the fact that cockroaches are the worst offenders in this category. They seem to terrify the greatest number of people on the most consistent basis. When you add to the general revulsion they create, the fact that they are likely to survive a nuclear holocaust, being unaffected by radiation, unlike the rest of us, it raises the rather worrying question, who will indeed inherit the earth.

It is embarrassing, in one's twenties, to have to confess to a fear of cockroaches. Yet on a trip to a fish farm while ago, I was informed that there were so many cockroaches in the living quarters there that one was advised not to shake the curtains in any of the rooms since several would fall out each time. Despite my embarrassment, I mentioned my cockroach phobia to the manager there, who reassured me by saying that his daughter (who was about twelve) would sleep in my room. I was rather put out to find out later that evening that she was even more terrified of these disgusting bugs than I was. I was also puzzled as to why her father had suggested to me that she stay with me, until she pointed out that her father's way of trying to break her fear was to throw live cockroaches at her! He may have thought it was character-forming, but at that price, who needs character!

But my embarrassment at having to mention my fear to the manager (it is hardly compatible with the professional image one wants to cultivate) pales when compared to my colleague's experience a few years ago. As a firebrand young politician at RU, she was given the task of inspiring some of the newly arrived first year students. She began to address the gathering, and had just built up some momentum, when a cockroach descended from the ceiling, flew straight at her and landed on her nose! Her duties forgotten, she gave a howl and ran out of the room,

bounding over some of the first years sitting in front of her. It was almost half an hour later before she could make herself return to the room, and take up where she had left off (albeit somewhat shakily). Apart from her acute embarrassment, as she puts it, that cockroach almost put a premature end to her political career! Talk about losing credibility.

Let people begin to think at this point that it is only women who are afraid of such creatures, let me ask you to give up that notion. A male friend of mine who visited Dhaka a few years ago, assured me shortly after his arrival that cockroaches would be "no problem. After all, I've lived in New York and dealt with the roaches there — how bad can the ones here be?" He lived to regret those words.

One morning, he was seen to be looking rather more pale than usual. Upon questioning him about what was troubling him, he said that the previous night a huge cockroach had walked into his bedroom from the adjoining toilet. "Oh, what happened? Did you kill it?" I asked, in all seriousness. "No, it walked out of the bedroom door into the living room. But I couldn't sleep all night, worrying about whether it would come back! Besides, if it came back while the lights were off, it might even have landed on the bed with me!" "Well, why didn't you just kill it when it was in your room, before it escaped to the living room?" I said. "Are you kidding? That thing had a mean look in its eye," he screamed. "What if it had reached me before I reached my slipper?"

So much for his cool claim that no cockroach here was likely to bother him, given his experiences at home. Clearly, in whatever other ways we are lagging behind the US, we definitely have bigger and better cockroaches right here in Dhaka! Hmm, now if we could just figure out a way to market them, what an export earner it would be!

BEATS SRIDEVI!



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

An USAID intermediary working in Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care (FP-RH) field seeks to recruit following positions on a yearly contractual basis:

- PROGRAM OFFICER:** Based outside Dhaka, will be responsible to develop FP-RH project proposals, refunding proposals, monitoring and providing technical assistance to local level project around the country.

**Qualification and Experience:** Masters degree (with emphasis on economics/public health/management/demography or statistics) with minimum 5 years experience in similar position with a donor agency or a large NGO. Excellent English writing skill is essential. Must be a skilled computer user. Must be able to undertake extensive travel by public transport. Salary: Negotiable. (Individuals drawing salary below Tk.12,000 need not apply).

- PROGRAM OFFICER (Publication):** Based in Dhaka, will be responsible to creative development of FP-RH related publications, training manuals/curriculum/tools, newsletters, reports including cover design and layout. Responsibility also includes editing documents, translation and oversee distribution.

**Qualification and Experience:** Minimum Masters degree (Social Sciences/English literature — preference will be given to candidates having schooling in English medium) with minimum 5 years proven experience in similar position. Excellent word processing skill is essential. Must be able to undertake extensive travel by public transport. Salary: Negotiable. (Individuals drawing salary below Tk. 12,000 need not apply).

- PROGRAM OFFICER (Clinical):** Based in Dhaka, will be responsible to develop FP-RH project proposals, refunding proposals, monitoring and providing technical assistance to local level project around the country. Conducting training on clinical contraception and reproductive health care with emphasis on quality of care.

**Qualification and Experience:** MBBS with minimum 5 years experience in similar position with a donor agency or a large NGO. Excellent English writing skill is essential. Must be a skilled computer user. Must be able to undertake extensive travel by public transport. Salary: Negotiable. (Individuals drawing salary below Tk. 12,000 need not apply).

- SECRETARY:** Will be responsible for typing project proposals, reports, documents, routine correspondence and other regular secretarial duties.

**Qualification and Experience:** Graduate and Secretarial Course completed. Should have minimum of 3 years experience. Must be skilled and proven user of WP 5.1-6, QPRO 4, HG 3.1 and Dbase. Salary negotiable.

Applicants may send their bio-data with a recent passport size photograph, names of two referees and expected salary by July 15, 1995 to:

The Advertiser, Box No. D-642 C/O. The Daily Star, House No-11, Road No-3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.



The newly-appointed Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh Raffaele Miniero called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Seminar on electronic media concludes

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day seminar on "the future of electronic media in Bangladesh" concluded in the city yesterday with emphasis on the development activities in the electronic media.

Organised by Ganadham Kendra, the seminar was held at the German Cultural Centre.

Mohammad Ibrahim presented a paper titled "Development Thoughts and Electronic Media."

Aziz Ul Haq chaired the concluding session while Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, economist Dr Atiur Rahman, Producer of BTV M Hamid, media worker Muhammad Jahangir and journalist Selim Samad took part in the discussion.

Mahfuz Anam said, the electronic media could not produce effective development programme due to lack of political will. He criticised the government for not free-

Muhammad Jahangir said effective development programme should be produced despite limitations. He suggested formation of three separate cells for entertainment, education and informative programmes.

In his presidential speech, Aziz Ul Haq said that the BTV should televise foreign films less to accommodate more development programmes. He said the electronic media from its control.

Dr Atiur Rahman said "the government is not, the only one working for the development of the country. Hundreds of non-government organisations (NGOs) are also involved in the process but the Bangladesh Television doesn't give coverage of their activities."

M Hamid said BTV can not expect better programmes from the producers as programmes were designed only to kill time.

## Tk 13.76 cr JU budget approved

By JU Correspondent

A Tk 13.76 crore budget of the Jahangirnagar University for the 1995-96 fiscal year was approved at the university's senate session yesterday, held with Vice Chancellor Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

Treasurer of the university Prof. Ataur Rahman Khan presented the budget at the senate session.

Addressing the session, the VC said Jahangirnagar University was the first in introducing the integrated course system. The system helped remove session jams substantially, he added.

He also urged the political leaders as well as the govern-

ment to help curb terrorism on university campuses.

Meanwhile, a group of activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal marched towards the Senate Bhaban while the session was in progress, demanding trial of the killers of Dipu, a JU student killed on November 23 last year, following an intra-party feud.

The Vice Chancellor came out of the meeting to listen to the JCD activists.

At one stage, however, the JCD workers became enraged and reportedly misbehaved with the VC.

The VC has convened a special meeting of the university syndicate tomorrow.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation is organizing a short Training Course on "working with children who have mental retardation" from July 8, 1995 to July 15, 1995 at Kalyani, 12 New Circular Road, West Malibagh, Dhaka-1217. Persons willing to join the course are requested to contact the following person latest by July 3, 1995 as seats are limited.

Mr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

Administrative Officer

Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation

12, New Circular Road, West Malibagh

Dhaka - 1217. Phone 415880

Time: 8 AM - 2 PM

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## RECRUITMENT

A local NGO working for equality for disabled people requires: Electronic Technician (Diploma Min) experienced in office equipment repair & teaching electronics. Salary: Tk 5,000 per month.

Applications with CV & experience details to: GPO Box 4208, Dhaka 1000 by 14 July '95.

Shortlisted candidates interviewed. Female/disabled applicants welcome.

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## WANTED

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi Nationals for the post of "Deputy Director, Training" under Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB).

Candidates having at least second class Master's degree in any subject of Social Science with at least 8 years experience in Developing Training curriculum, Training materials, need assessment and Evaluation of Training Programme may apply. This will be a contractual appointment with a total emolument of Tk. 12,000/-pm. Experience in FP related training activities will be considered as an additional qualification.

Female candidates are also encouraged to apply. Please send application with full bio-data, attested copies of educational qualification and experience certificates and 2 copies of recent passport size photograph to the Director General, Incharge, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), 2 Naya Paltan, Dhaka - 1000 by 13 July, 1995.

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## Fifth Wage Board demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Newspaper Press Workers Federation yesterday demanded immediate formation of the Fifth Wage Board for journalists and press workers and announcement of 60 per cent dearness allowance.

In a joint statement, Mosharrar Hossain and Bazlur Rahman, president and secretary general respectively of the federation, said the press workers were frustrated and confused as the government was yet to announce formally the formation of the wage board.

## Teacher commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

A teacher of a primary school in the city allegedly committed suicide in Narda under Gulshan thana yesterday.

Ambia Khatun, 37, a teacher of Narda Primary School hanged herself from the ceiling fan with a rope at her residence at Ka/11/3, Narda, early morning yesterday, police sources said.

Ambia, a mother of three, was said to be mentally unstable following the death of her son a couple of months ago.

Gulshan police recovered the body at about 10:30 am yesterday.



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

This is for information of all concerned that the office of this company located at 65, Dilkusha C/A. will now be shifted to the following address with effect from July 01, 1995. All valued customers and patrons are requested to contact at the new address.

Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (Bangladesh) Ltd.  
85, Gulshan Avenue  
Dhaka-1212  
Phone -883675

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

MOON MOONS INTERLINING (FREUDENBURG + VILENE) LOOKING FOR YOUNG SMART AND ENERGETIC PERSONS TO WORK WITH AS A SALES EXECUTIVE. THE INTERESTED PERSON SHOULD APPLY IN CONFIDENCE BY POST ON OR BEFORE JULY 7TH 1995.

THE CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE FEW YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING & SALES (PARTICULARLY GARMENTS ACCESSORIES).

- FAMILIARITY WITH EXPORT ORIENTED GARMENT INDUSTRY AND BUYING HOUSE / AGENT WILL BE AN ADDED ADVANTAGE.
- SHOULD BE CONVERSANT AND FLUENT IN BOTH WRITING AND SPOKEN ENGLISH.
- WILLING TO UNDERTAKE TRAINING AT HOME AND ABROAD.
- WILLING TO UNDERTAKE EXTENSIVE MARKETING & SALES GARMENT ACCESSORIES PRODUCTS DOOR TO DOOR.
- CAPABLE OF PROCURING ORDERS MAINTAINING LIAISON WITH THE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT AND FOLLOWING FOR TIMELY DELIVERY TO THE CLIENT.
- NEGOTIABLE ATTRACTIVE SALARY.

YOUR APPLICATION IN OWN HAND WRITING WITH C.V. & 2 COPIES PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD REACH BY POST ON OR BEFORE 7TH JULY 1995.

MOON MOONS INTERLINING

46, PALWEL SUPER MARKET (1ST FLOOR), NAYAPALTAN, DHAKA-1000.

Ad/Wa

Progress at a Glance	(IN TAKA)	
	1994	1993
Premium Income	11.16 Crore	9.07 Crore
Underwriting Profit	2.10 Crore	2.17 Crore
Pre-tax profit	2.06 Crore	3.40 Crore
Reserve & Retained Profit	4.98 Crore	4.61 Crore
Dividend	16%	15%
Total Assets	38.74 Crore	39.50 Crore



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