

Dhaka Day by Day

A Brave Girl Battling Against Odds

by Fayza Haq

Khurshida, 22, lost her father at the age of ten and had an ailing mother since a year, when she too died of a malignant disease. She was at first employed in Bangladeshi homes. She began with Tk 100 per month plus food twice a day which were inevitably stale and left-overs. The lady of the house, Khurshida says, was moody and hot tempered, but the master, a businessman, sometimes tipped her on the quiet. "The mistress didn't like me going about well-dressed. There was a TV but I wasn't allowed to go to the first floor to watch it. The daughter of the house beat and bruised me if I dared to. If I overslept I was thrashed and kicked. Should the cooking be slow the same ensued. They were so harsh that they made me wear old clothes during one Eid," she says with a bitter look.

"I began working abroad as a girl of 15, when I went to Karachi. There I had to get used eating 'chapati' thrice a day. I hated it and protested loudly but it did me no good. I wasn't allowed to leave the house because my mistress said that I would be taken away by the police or the owners of local brothels. I literally lived in fear," Khurshida recounts.

"After two years I got a job with a Dutch family who was helping in constructing the Karnaphuli Bridge. A local cook at Chittagong helped me with the job. There was a vast difference in the behaviour of the foreigner and my earlier local masters. He paid me Tk 500 and gave me good food. I was given a blanket, a mosquito net and old clothes. The two children (both boys) were gentle and understanding. When they left in two years, they gave me left-over dishes and other household utensils," Khurshida recounts.

"I had no job for six months that followed and had to rely on my savings. I then got myself another foreign master, a Japanese, who was a kind aged man. He paid me Tk 2,000 for cleaning, washing, ironing and other odd jobs of a housemaid. There was a cook there and I learnt a lot from him. Apart from my master, who worked in a steel mill and his wife, there was nobody else in the house as the children were grown up and lived overseas. Here I worked quite contentedly for a while," she narrates.



Khurshida (R) with another girl at work.

WE REMEMBER

WE REMEMBER WITH FOND MEMORIES OUR MOTHER AYESHA AZIZ, ON HER TENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY. MRS. AZIZ DIED ON 9TH JULY, 1985, IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM. MAY HER SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.



DR. NAJMA RIZVI
MAJ. GEN. NURUL ISLAM (RETD)
DR. MOHAMMED ANIS
DR. MONIZA JOHNSON
MOHAMMED KAISER AZIZ
MOHAMMED IQBAL AZIZ
HABIBUR RAHMAN SANNI
MAHMUD RAHMAN
YASMIN RAHMAN

Members of Rural Development & Health Centre Foundation, Pagla, Sunamganj.

People of Pagla, Sunamganj who benefitted immensely from her Rural Development & Health Centre Foundation in the area.

CMC first year classes July 15

CHITTAGONG, July 8: Classes of first year MBBS of the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) will commence on July 15, a CMC press release said here today, reports BSS.

First year students and their guardians have been asked to attend a reception at Dr Shah Alam Bir Uttam auditorium of the college on July 14 in the morning.

Anniversary of Kim-Il Sung's death observed

The Embassy of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Dhaka yesterday observed the first anniversary of death of Kim Il Sung, reports UNB.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, political and business leaders, journalists and admirers of the late leader placed wreaths before the portrait of Kim and paid their respects.

DPRK Ambassador in Dhaka Jang Won Sik welcomed the visitors at the Embassy at Baridhara, said a press release.



The Jatiya Party (JP) brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the death of Swapan Ghosh, a JP activist killed in Mymensingh on Wednesday during a party meeting.

Liberation War medals-'95 distributed

Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday called for concerted efforts of all to bring about economic emancipation for realising the dreams of the Liberation War martyrs, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a "Liberation War Medal 1995" awarding function, organised by Barisal Division Association at the Central Public Library auditorium in the city.

Paying tributes to the Liberation War martyrs, Islam said: "Freedom fighters are the best sons of the nation for all ages."

Dwelling on the political and economic background of the liberation struggle, the minister said, "We must project the true picture of the Liberation War to the present and future generations."

He said that the valiant freedom fighters should take the responsibility of projecting the true picture of our liberation to the next generation.

Noted journalist and the 'Charam Patra' reader of the Swadheen Bangla Betar Kendro MR Mukul, president of Barisal Division Association, Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed, and general secretary Sirajuddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Later the minister distributed the

3 stabbed in city

By DMCH Correspondent
Three young men were stabbed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

One Jahangir, 24, a salesman of an auto rickshaw spare parts shop, received bullet injuries in his abdomen as he refused to give Tk 5000 to the extortionists.

The unidentified armed group attacked Jahangir near his house at Malibagh in the afternoon. He is now under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another incident, unidentified youths stabbed Babu, 20, at Jahuri Moholla in Mohammadpur in the morning.

Some miscreants shot one Selim, 21, at New Paltan. He was first admitted to the DMCH and later shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital at Mahakhali.

JCD rally on DU campus Wednesday

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will arrange a rally on the Dhaka University campus on Wednesday to demand announcement of the date of overdue DUCSU polls, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a JCD rally held in front of DUCSU Bhaban yesterday with JCD president Fazul Haq Milan in the chair.

Last DUCSU elections were held on June 6 in 1990 and JCD won the polls.

Appointment & transfer

By Staff Correspondent
The government has transferred the Joint Secretary of the Defence Ministry, Md Akhter Hossain Khan as Member (admin) of the Power Development Board under the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, said a handout issued last night.

Mohammad Akhter Kamal, Director (Commercial) of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), has been given the additional charge of the Director of Finance while the BCIC Director for maintenance, M Siddique Rahman, would be carrying out the additional responsibilities of the Director for Technical and Engineering of the organisation.

'20000 more pry teachers to be recruited next yr'

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said the budgetary allocation for development of the education sector has been doubled during the last four years, reports BSS.

If voted to power again, the BNP government is committed to making the education for all by the year 2000 programme a success, he added.

The finance minister was reviewing the primary education activities of Moulvibazar district at a meeting there Friday.

The finance minister said the government will recruit another 20 thousand teachers next year in addition to the 30 thousand recruited in recent years under the massive education expansion programme of the government.

Among others, district BNP president Abdul Khaleque spoke on the occasion.

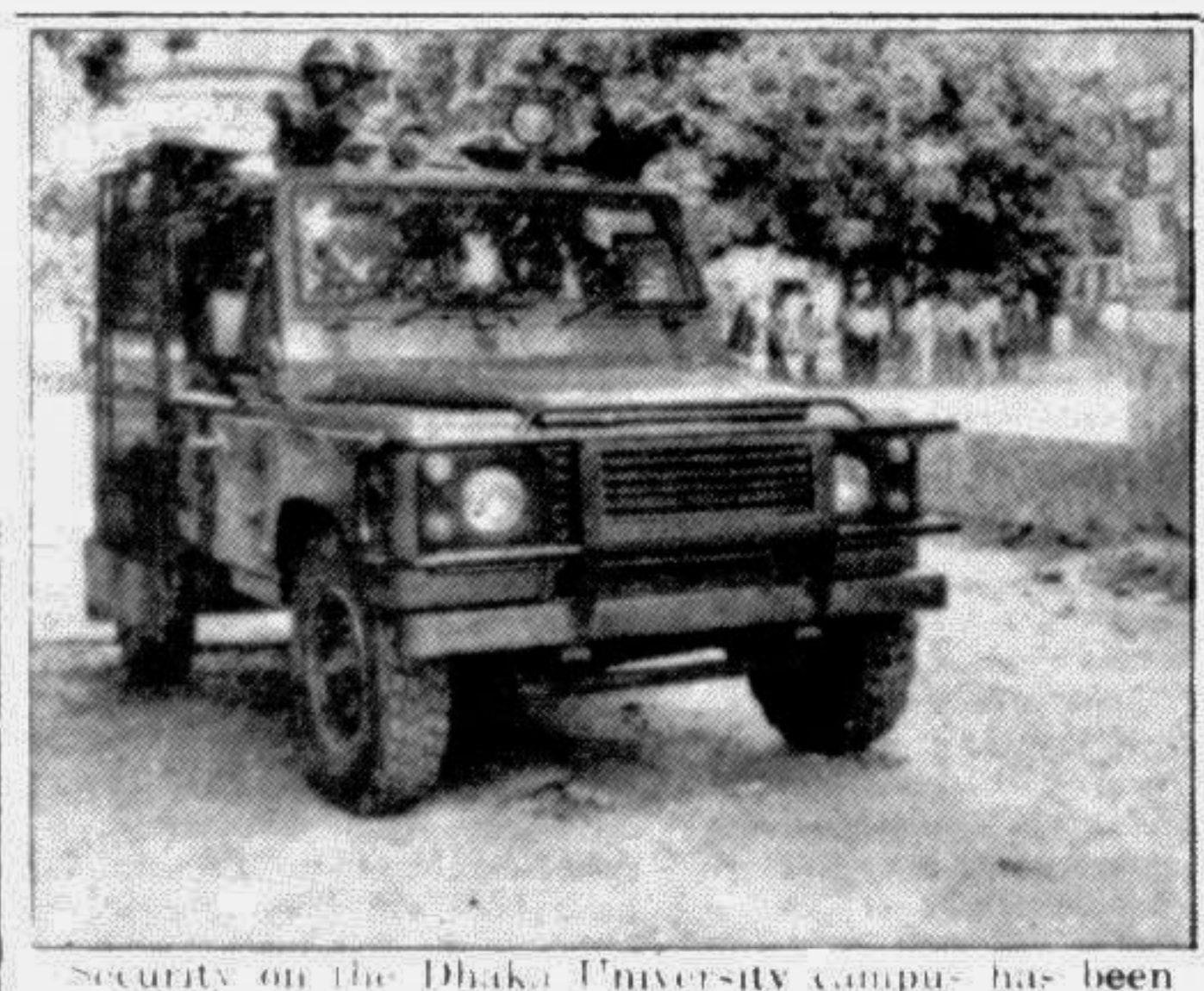
The Finance Minister said human resource development is the priority sector of the government and it laid particular emphasis on the expansion of primary education which is the basis of all human resource development.

He said this year, Tk 300 crore will be spent for the food for education programme of the government under which three lakh metric tons of wheat will be distributed among the primary students.

Moreover, the finance minister said another two thousand primary schools will be set up during the next year. He said adequate training facilities for newly recruited teachers will be made available during the coming years.

What's on today

Share investors confce '95: The conference of the Bangladesh Share Investors Forum and a seminar on capital market will be held. Venue: National Press Club Hall Room. Time: 4 pm. Chief guest: Minister for Finance M Saifur Rahman.



Security on the Dhaka University campus has been strengthened recently. Star photo

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy rainfalls at places during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office said light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are also likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the period.

The day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. The country's highest temperature was recorded 34.2 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 24 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.18 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	27.1	79	73
Chittagong	32.0	26.5	75	81
Rajshahi	34.2	26.8	96	86
Khulna	34.0	27.1	78	75
Barisal	32.5	25.7	82	81
Sylhet	31.0	25.5	89	68
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.0	78	85

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Interested candidates are requested to send in applications with detailed resume and 2 passport size photographs which must reach the following address on or before **20 JULY 1995.**

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DHAKA-1205

ANNOUNCEMENT

ASA reduces service charge 2.50%

For the sake of peoples interest and informal request from Mr. Md. Saifur Rahman honourable minister of finance, ASA has decided to reduce the rate of service charge from 15% to 12.50% effective from 1st August'95. Association for Social Advancement (ASA) has introduced a self-reliant sustainable development model for poverty alleviation by creating self-employment opportunity for the disadvantaged rural women. ASA has disbursed cumulative Tk. 230 crore among 3 lac and 50 thousand beneficiaries through 350 units under this model. The rate of repayment is 99% and self-reliance is 100%. The speciality of ASA's model is to make a single unit self-reliant within a short period by providing small amount of fund through a cost effective mechanism. This model is also being implemented in Tajakistan and Afganistan.

Comparative Status of Service Charge

Types of Credit	Present service charge	Reduced service charge	Repayment period
Supervised credit	15%	12.50%	1 Year
Sanitary credit	8%	5%	1 Year
Rehabilitation after disaster	Without service charge	Without Service charge	2 Years

The self-reliant status will remain 100%, after the reduction of 2.50% service charge.

Association for Social Advancement (ASA)
23/3, Block-B, Khilji Road, Shamoli, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.
Phone : 316375, 819828, 810934, 810935 Fax : 880-2-811175

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In view of the seniority and responsibility attached to the position, the remuneration & perquisites offered shall be comparable with the best in the Corporate Sector. A fair upward mobility in scope and responsibility, based on performance, is foreseen. Please apply in confidence within two weeks with full details, a passport size photograph and contact telephone number to:

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