

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Satellite and Sensibilities

by Farah Ghuznavi

There has been much debate in this column recently about the effects of satellite TV on the children of Dhaka, with the columnists firmly being on one side of the debate or the other. For myself, I have to say that I have mixed feelings about the whole thing, since certainly some of the programmes available on satellite would be extremely beneficial viewing for kids.

My eight-year-old niece, Sianie, is addicted to various nature programmes particularly those on wildlife. In fact, when viewing one programme about bears, during a scene where the bears were eating a freshly killed deer (with the film-makers making no attempt to spare us all the blood and gore!), she turned to me (while I was slowly turning green, due to my notorious squeamishness for such scenes), and said kindly, "phuppi, they just don't like vegetables, you see!" On the other hand, the same child refers to the BBC as the "Boring, Boring Channel", so it's definitely easier to pick out programmes which would be educational viewing than it is to persuade children to actually watch them!

Many people consider this generation of tots' addiction to Hindi movie songs to be particularly off-putting. My friend's five-year-old nephew loves watching Zee TV, but interestingly, he is deeply offended when she teasingly tells him that she sometimes dances in those videos. Not only does he spend ages scouring the TV in the horrified anticipation of seeing her in one of the dance sequences, he has also told her firmly, "Women like you don't dance in these videos! Only bad women do that, not good ones!" So with the eternal double standard the enjoys

watching them, but his aunt cannot possibly dance around shamelessly like that) being applied at such a young age, conservatism is clearly alive and well in Bangladesh!

Another six-year-old niece of mine, Meera, has her own way of censoring what she watches. Her mother watches "Santa Barbara" when she visits me in Dhaka (they live in Tangail), and since Meera is addicted to TV, she also uses that chance to watch it. Her mother doesn't seem to have any objections, but she knows that I don't consider "Santa Barbara" suitable viewing for her. Perhaps in order to avoid any hassle, when I am watching it with them, she will suddenly jerk her head away and stare at the wall while a kissing scene takes place! She does not turn back to the TV until the scene is over. I once asked her how she managed to figure out when the scene was over, and she said simply, "The music changes to a faster beat!"

But the most telling story about the effects of satellite TV on youngsters in Dhaka comes from a colleague of mine, whose five-year-old son returned from school recently, looking a bit disconsolate. On enquiring, it emerged that his teacher had told the students to each sing a song, and he had come up with two Hindi songs he wanted to sing, but had been beaten to it by two of the other students. "Finally, I thought that perhaps I would sing a Rabindra Sangeet, which I learned from Apu. But than all the other sang Hindi films songs, and I thought the teacher might mind if I sang a Rabindra Sangeet, so I ended up singing another Hindi song, which I didn't know very well!" What the cultural purists would make of that, I hate to think.



The Dhaka district unit of the Bangladesh Chhatra League staged a token hunger strike, demanding release of its leader Manzoorul Alam Rajib in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 2nd SAARC quiz contest begins July 26

The second SAARC quiz programme begins in the city July 26, an official announcement said yesterday, reports UNB.

Competitors from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives and host Bangladesh will take part in the three-day programme, organised by Radio Bangladesh.

Each side will consist of two national-level competitors from universities or colleges of the country concerned.

Participants from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, along with a moderator for each of them, will arrive in the city today.

Preliminary selection will be held on the inaugural day

while the semifinals will be held on July 27 at 5 pm at Jatiya Betar Bhaban at Agargaon.

The final of the competition is scheduled for July 27. Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman will attend the final competition as chief guest and distribute prizes and certificates among the winners.

Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam will be present on the occasion as special guest.

In the quiz, the host side will be represented by Hafiz Bin Azhar from Jahangirnagar University and Manjil Ahmed from Dhaka Medical College. They were selected through national competition in June.

## Puja body meet

An extended meeting of the Bangladesh Puja Uddjan Parishad Central Committee will be held on July 28 at 10 am at Dhakeswari Mandir Mela Angan in the city, reports BSS.

All central committee members and the presidents and the general secretaries of all district puja parishads have been requested to attend the meeting.

## Dr Stewart due tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent  
Noted British academician in the field of Development studies Dr Frances Stewart will arrive in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

The British Council in collaboration with the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has sponsored the visit.

The British Council, as part of its support for industrial reform and privatisation in Bangladesh is funding a research link between the BIDS and the Developing Countries Research Unit of Strathclyde University, UK.

Dr Stewart is currently the Director of the International Development Centre of Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford. She has held important posts as special adviser on adjustment policies to UNICEF in 1985, to the president of the UK and Irish Development Studies Association and member of the United Nations University.

Dr Stewart has made an extensive contribution to the field of development studies, specifically in the areas of adjustment and poverty, development during conflict, basic needs and appropriate technology.

During her stay, Dr Stewart will deliver lectures at seminars on "Development in Conflict Situations" and "Poverty and Adjustment Options", arranged by the Centre for Policy Dialogue and BIDS respectively.

The seminars have been designed for a cross-section of academicians, policy makers and partners in development.

Best book in field of women and politics  
Women and Politics Worldwide co-edited by Barbara J Nelson and Najma Chowdhury has been adjudged as the best book published in the field of women and politics last year by the American Political Science Association and awarded Victoria Shuck prize, says a press release.

The award ceremony will take place in Chicago on August 31. This is the highest award the book could win within the field in USA. It has been published by the Yale University Press.

Prof Barbara J Nelson, a former professor at the Hubert Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, is presently the vice president of Radcliffe College, Massachusetts.

Prof Najma Chowdhury is the professor of Political Science at the University of Dhaka and is currently involved with NGO preparatory activities as chairperson of NGO Preparatory Committee for Beijing Conference.

She has recently been nominated as member of the National Council on Women.

## 3 women MPs to attend OIC meet

A three-member women delegation of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad will attend the first Muslim Women Parliamentarians' Conference to be held in Islamabad on August 1-3, reports UNB.

Begum Shamsun Nahar Khawaja Ahsanullah, MP, will lead the delegation. Other members are Begum K J Hanida Khanum, MP, and Rabeya Chowdhury, MP.

## Weather

### Thundershower likely

Moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at many places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and the regions of Khulna with heavy fall at places over Chittagong division during the next-24 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Weathermen predicted that day temperature may remain unchanged over the country.

### SHORT COURSE ON MICROPROCESSOR

Dr. M. Rafiquzzaman, Professor, Electrical & Computer Engg. Dept., California State University, Pomona, will offer a two-day short course covering the MICROPROCESSOR BASICS AND THE MOST STATE-OF-THE-ART 16- AND 32-BIT MICROPROCESSORS including Intel 80386/80486/Pentium, Motorola 68020/68030/68040 and the popular RISC microprocessors IBM/Motorola/Apple powerPC. An overview of typical 64-bit RISC based Superscalar Microprocessors including PowerPC 620, DEC's Alpha 21164 and sun ULTRASPARC will also be included. The course is based on popular short courses offered by Dr. Rafi on Intel and Motorola microprocessors to the industries of southern California. This course has been designed to enhance each individual's background in microprocessors.

Dr. M. Rafiquzzaman has been a Professor in USA for the last seventeen years. He was also the Dept. Chairman. Dr. Rafi has published seven successful textbooks on microprocessors which have been translated in Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. He has been involved in the space shuttle programme and consulted in microprocessors for several large corporations including ROCKWELL, ARCO, BEL-NORTHERN RESEARCH, PARSONS AND ESSO. He was involved in managing the 1984 Olympic Swimming and Diving. He has been the "Motorola Professor" for Southern California since 1984 and offered courses to NORTHROP, LOCKHEED, MCDONALD DOUGLAS, TRW, and others. Dr. Rafi has published numerous papers on microprocessors. His current research interests include microprocessor-based robotics control and optical character recognition (OCR).

**Location And Date:** Exact location in Dhaka and the dates in August to be announced.  
**Enrollment:** Limited on first come first served basis.

**Background:** Degree in Electrical/Computer Engg. or Computer Science or Physics or experience in an 8-bit microprocessor.

**Fee:** Five thousand taka per person.

**Certificate:** Certificate of accomplishment personally signed by Dr. Rafi will be issued upon successful completion.

If interested, please fax your name, address, and a one-page resume to: Dr. M. Rafiquzzaman, Professor Elect. & Computer Engg. Dept. Calif. State Univ. Pomona, California 91768, USA. Tel: 909-869-2544 Fax: 909-869-1034

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- Assistant Engineer**  
Graduation in Civil Engineering with minimum 5 to 8 years experience in supervision of construction of buildings.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with full confidence along with Curriculum Vitae, passport size photographs, experience certificates to Box No. A-59 C/o, The Daily Star, Dhanmondi, Dhaka within 31st July, 1995.

Name of the post applied for should be mentioned on the top of the envelope.



Artistes of the Eugene Ballet Company, a popular dance group in the United States — (L-R, top row) Jauris Owens, Jennifer McNamara, Mathew Hope, and Britt Mills and (L-R, bottom row) Julie Grooters, Frank Affranti, Verna Carter and Carlos Diaz-Velez. The troupe will perform in the city today and tomorrow. — USIS photo

## Memorial fund at DU English Dept

A scholarship fund in memory of Shaheed Nasim Mohsin was set up at the Department of English, Dhaka University, said a press release yesterday, reports BSS.

At a simple ceremony held at the vice-chancellor's office yesterday, mother of Shaheed Nasim Mohsin,

handed over a cheque for Tk 2 lakh to the Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed to institute the fund "Shaheed Nasim Mohsin Memorial Scholarship Fund."

The function was attended by chairman of English Department Prof Fakhru Alam, Dr Ekram Hossain, son-in-law of Mrs Mohsin, Towhid Feroze,

nephew of Shaheed Nasim and teachers of the department Sadrul Amin, Dr Showkat Hussain and Syed Anowarul Huq.

Then a second-year student of the department and a freedom fighter, Nasim was killed by the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971 in Comilla.

## Government of Bangladesh

### Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)

#### Chittagong Road Division

Chittagong  
Tel: 614897

### Notice Inviting Tender

1	Tender Notice No	1 (one) of E.E. (RHD), Chittagong Road Divn., Chittagong during 1995-96.			
2	Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the enlisted Contractors of RHD according to their financial limits for the following work.				
T. N. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Tk)	Earnest Money (in Tk)	Category of purchase tender	Completion time from the date of Work Order
1	Construction of Sub-Structure of 313 Meter Bridge over river Karnashuly at Godown Ghat near Rangunia under Chittagong Road Division.	As per schedule	2% (two per cent) of the estimated Cost	'A' Category	30 (thirty) Months
3	Name of offices from where tender documents can be purchased	1) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Chittagong/Feni/ Dohazari/Cox's Bazar 2) Executive Engineer (RHD), Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. 3) Executive Engineer (RHD), Planning & Design Division, Dhaka/Chittagong (H. Q. Laxmipour/Rajshahi/Khulna/ Barisal/Rangpur/Comilla). Add: Chief Engineer (RHD), Dhaka/Rajshahi/ Khulna/ Barisal/Rangpur/ Comilla Zone.			
4	Name of offices where tenders will be received	2) Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Chittagong. 3) Superintending Engineer (RHD), Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka. 4) Executive Engineer (RHD), Monitoring & Evaluation Division, Chittagong (on behalf of Addl. Chief Engineer (RHD), Chittagong Zone). 5) Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Divn., Chittagong/Feni/ Cox's Bazar/Dohazari.			
5	Last date of purchase of tender document (during office hours)	16-08-95.			
6	Last date and time for receiving tender	21-08-95 up to 12:30 Hours			
7	Date and time of opening of tender	28-08-95 at 12:45 Hours			
8	Date of lottery (if necessary)	30-08-95 at 11:30 Hours			
9	In case of any sudden declaration of Government Holiday by the Government on 16-8-95, tender documents can be purchased on 19-8-95 and in case of sudden declaration of Government Holiday by the Government on 21-8-95, tenders will be received on 22-8-95 and date of opening and date of lottery will remain unchanged. No separate notice will be issued for this.				

Arwar Ahmed  
Executive Engineer (RHD)  
Chittagong Road Division.

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