

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Fashion Fiasco

by Samia Islam

Recently an exclusive, privileged set of people got to witness a fashion extravaganza (referred to as a "fashion hungama" in the ads) in town. BATEXPO 95 featured the most talked about fashion show of the year held at the Hotel Sheraton. The show received rave reviews from many local newspapers, but this write-up begs to differ. It advocates that you swallow all the hype of such events with a pinch of salt; and offers a word of caution to the wise: in future when you buy Tk 3000 tickets to front row seats in a fashion show, make sure you pay the amount in dollars in NY or Paris or someplace else where they know what they are doing. "They" mean the organizers, the publicists, the apparel manufacturers, the choreographers, the models, the designers et al.

The evening was pleasant, the ambience promised an exciting night ahead, anticipation was reaching a crescendo as people started to trickle in at the scene. The volunteers assigned by the organizers mingled with the crowd to show people to their seats. At times they mingled a little too much with their acquaintances in the sea of faces and got engrossed in animated conversations neglecting the confused, unlucky ones who had to search for the right seats all on their own.

After a long wait and a nice display of lights, the show got under way when everyone's enthusiasm had thawed a little. Long waits always tend to do that.

A popular folk song filled the air as some girls in plain silk sarees paraded in sporting flower adornments. They were different coloured sarees but all of them had one common element, a plain, cotton black blouse, ill-fitted at that. How that qualified as a fashion statement eluded the audience.

The girls paraded endlessly until the song came to an end. Next came the boys in a trendsetting ensemble — sleeveless T-shirts, jeans, black glasses and ties with a yellow flower tucked into the knot. We know (and so do many accomplished people familiar with the fashion world) that designers design a few ensembles and accessories for the sake of creativity but the general public were far from appreciative. Even some foreigners could be seen bursting at the seams. The models appeared tense, uncomfortable, wobbly and not too sure of the next move. They needn't have worried what with the monotonous march-past-like choreography where they had to hurry from one end of the ramp to the

other. They rushed to and fro as if their life depended on it.

The following ensembles were familiar to the point of being boring. Oversize T-shirts long out of vogue; green faded jeans that were never quite 'in' to be 'out' now; ill-fitting dress shirts; lopsided baseball caps and slip-dresses not tapered enough to compliment the wearer. On top of that prudish shoes badly needing a thorough polish were put up for display. Regarding the RMG line, the designer really can't be held accountable since she had limited options to work with. But the question is why parade around in a fantastically out-dated boudoir and call it a "fashion hungama"?

This is where the innovative creations come in. However one has to be honest about one's feelings even if they don't conform to the politically correct standards. The crowd of laymen present found it hard to appreciate a man in a shalwar (or, was it baggy trousers, also out-of-vogue) and a *fatua* made of a material similar in appearance to that of the widely used striped cotton piece of cloth used in the rural areas or by the urban poor as a towel. Maybe, this particular version is finer in quality, finish or durability but it still resembles a "gamcha" to the desi eyes and to the foreign buyers it's a badly made, chaotically striped pair of baggy trousers predominantly red in colour. Being seen in public in one such outfit could spell the doom of one's social life.

One good thing about the show was the imaginative choreography arranged to the track of another folk song. The crowd appreciated it greatly, specially the youngest model who mesmerised the audience with her effortless dances and adorable smile. The little girl virtually had the public wrapped around her little finger.

When the show finally came to an end with an incompatible mixture of George Harrison's Bangladesh and a folk song (Tak Dhin, Tak Dhin Bajai), the performers got off the stage and once out of sight (but very much within earshot) they let out shrill cries of jubilation and screams and cheers to commemorate their supreme success. The hullabaloo left the audience dumbfounded and at a loss. They deserved the cheers, though. They had just finished the fashion fiasco of the season. That was no mean achievement. What if the people didn't understand!



Dhaka University Central Paribahan Parishad organised a band show at the campus yesterday in observance of the freshers reception and installation ceremony of the parishad. — Star photo

## Madame Rafsanjani for Muslim sisterhood

By Staff Correspondent

Madame Hashemi Rafsanjani, wife of the visiting Iranian President, yesterday called for increased cooperation and coordination between Muslim countries for upholding the dignity and respectful position of Muslim women.

Addressing a discussion meeting on 'The Role of Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran,' held yesterday at a local hotel, Madame Rafsanjani said, "I am proud, as a Muslim woman, to inform you that Iranian women are working shoulder to shoulder with their brothers to develop their country."

Madame Rafsanjani, an Islamic scholar, said, in the present day world situation, Muslim women need to stand by each other to maintain their honoured positions and dignity. Organised by the Iranian Embassy in Dhaka, the meet was also addressed by Fatemeh Hashemi, chairperson, Women's Solidarity Association of Iran and Fayeze Hashemi, vice president, Olympic Committee of Iran.

Sarwari Rahman, State Minister for Children and Women Affairs, attended the function as guest of honour. Masoumeh Bayet, wife of the Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh and Shahida Rafiq, Professor, Department of Physics, DU also took part in the discussion.

Elaborating, Madame Rafsanjani said, the status and

position of women in Iran can be well understood from their success at different elections, their activities under the banner of different groups and associations, their elevated position at the state level such as advisor to the President, parliament member and high officials in different ministries and government offices.

"Iran has promoted the status of women and created a conducive and healthy atmosphere for all specially women," she said. "But unfortunately, the world's arrogant mass media have closed their eyes from this reality," she added.

Madame Rafsanjani explained that the world media could not tolerate Islamic society and therefore, they were trying to tarnish the image of women in Islamic republic of Iran.

Begum Sarwari Rahman in her speech citing from the Holy Quran said Quranic rulings made it clear that as human beings, the status of men and women is equal as they have to play similar roles in society.

She termed Iran as a model of Islamic state and observed that this country had not only made progress in economic sector but also made commendable progress in establishing the rights of women, as provided by Islam, through bringing them into the mainstream of development.

**To-Let**  
Near Dhanmondi Lake newly-built 4 bed, attached bath, security with parking.  
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**Matrimonial**  
Muslim bride for postgraduate engineer (27.5 years), educated and settled abroad with parents. Bride should be Doctor, Engineer or Masters (completed or nearly completed). Details with picture may be sent to M. Rahman, House 87, Road 2, Sonadanga R/A, Khulna. Secrecy will be maintained. S-494

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Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)  
Phone : 812353, 316184, 327424, 324162-3

**SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF ADAB**

A Special Emergency Meeting of ADAB will be held on 14th October, Saturday, at 3:00pm at BMDC Auditorium, Sobhanbag, Dhaka.

All central members of ADAB are requested to attend the meeting.

Dr. Qazi Faruque Ahmed  
Chairperson, ADAB

**PLAY PEN**

House # 98/A, Road # 7 Block-F  
Banani, Dhaka-1213

Play Pen requires English and Mathematics teachers for its senior school. The candidates must have Masters degree in their respective subjects with an English medium background. Experience is essential. You are requested to come for an interview with the relevant papers and your passport size photograph on November 4, 1995 at 10:00 AM.

**PLAY PEN**

We have the pleasure to announce that Play Pen is expanding into a senior school starting with Std-VI in 1996.

Admission for Std-VI will be held on 21-10-95 at 9:30 AM.

**Uttara Bank Limited**

**Branch Shifting**

Uttara Bank Limited, Darus Salam Road Branch, Dhaka is going to be shifted from its present address situated at Plot No. 2/A, Darus Salam Road, Mirpur, Section - 1, Dhaka to its new address at 5-C, Darus Salam Road, Mirpur, Section-1, Dhaka on 14-10-95.

Our valued clients and well-wishers are requested to contact and transact at the new premises.



**NOTICE**

IN THE SUB-JUDGE AND FOURTH LOAN COURT, DHAKA.  
Title Suit No. 117/94.

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd., Nababpur Branch, Dhaka. -----Plaintiff.

Versus

1. Md. Nurul Haque, S/o. Md. Altaf Hossain, Vill. Pathrail, P.s. Vangah, Dist. Faridpur, present address - 6, North Jatrabari, P.s. Demra, Dhaka. -----Defendant.

By this notice the above named defendants are notified that the plaintiff Bank has filed the above suit for realisation of Tk. 3,85,487/- (Taka three lacs eighty five thousand four hundred eighty seven) only as on 30-6-94 against you.

Therefore you are directed to appear in the court in person or through advocate on 19-10-95 and to repay if any otherwise the above suit will be heart exparte.

By Order  
Sherstadar  
Sub-Judge Artha Ria Adalat No-4, Dhaka

**Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Dinajpur

**PWD Tender Inviting Notice**  
No 7(B) 1995-96

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from enlisted & approved Special Class-I (One) and Class-I (One) bldg contractors/firms of PWD, and Class-II (Two) bldg contractors/firms of PWD, Rajshahi Zone, Rajshahi. According to financial limit for the undermentioned work, tender will be received by the undersigned & the Executive Engineer, PWD Divn, Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Lalmonirhat/Nilphamari/ Panchagarh & Thakurgaon in their office on 30-10-95 at 12.00 Noon & will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the tenderers (who may like to be remain present).

Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time for completion	Eligibility of contractor for submission tender
Group No 1 (One)	Improvement of site for internal approach road portion attached to Dinajpur Medical College at Anandasagar, Dinajpur under PWD Divn, Dinajpur during the year 1995-96 (South East portion).	Tk 23,97,519/-	Tk 47,951/-	3 (three) months	Special Class-I (One) & Class-I (One) bldg contractors/firms of PWD, Class II (Two) bldg contractors/firms of PWD Zone, Rajshahi.
Group No 2 (Two)	Improvement of site for internal approach road portion attached to Dinajpur Medical College at Anandasagar, Dinajpur under PWD Divn Dinajpur during the year 1995-96. (North West portion)	Tk 17,49,791/-	Tk 34,996/-	1/2 (two & half) months	do

Tender form, schedule of works, addl terms & conditions etc can be seen & obtained from the office of the undersigned & the Executive Engineer, PWD Divn, Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Lalmonirhat/Nilphamari/Panchagarh & Thakurgaon & the Sub-Divnl Engineer, PWD Sub-Divn III/E/M, Dinajpur & Phulbari on any working day during office hours up to 5.00 PM on 28.10.95 Eng on payment of usual cost (Non-refundable) if the same rate quoted by lowest tenderers. The lottery will be held on 8.11.95 at 11.30 AM in the chamber of the undersigned for selection of contractor.

Sumsul Kabir  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Dinajpur.

DFP-24487-8/10  
G-1495

**Urgent International Tender**  
**Notice for French**  
**Manufacturers/Suppliers**

Tender No Betar/22-91/(Part-1)/621/Betar Dated: 11.10.1995

Assistant Inspector-General of Police (Telecom), Police Telecom, Bangladesh Police, Rajarbagh, Dhaka invites the following international tender from French Manufacturers/Suppliers under French tied grant obtained through "Bangladesh-France Financial Protocol-1995."

Equipment: H F wireless equipment of France origin for 10 coastal districts of Bangladesh Police.

Price per tender document: Tk 5000/- (Taka five thousand) only per set. Non-refundable.

Terms of delivery: C & F Dhaka by Air.

Tenders shall be received till 12.00 hours on 26 November, 1995. Tender document is available for sale on cash payment at the Office of the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (Telecom), Police Telecom, Bangladesh Police, Rajarbagh, Dhaka during office hours. No tender document shall be sold on the opening date of the tender i.e. on 26 November, 1995.

Tenders shall be opened at 12.30 hours on the same day i.e. on 26 November, 1995 in presence of tenderers (if any present).

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

Md Anwar Hossain  
Assistant Inspector-General of Police (Telecom)  
Police Telecom  
Bangladesh Police,  
Rajarbagh, Dhaka-1217.

DFP-25055-12/10  
G-1494

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Education  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No. S. 14/1-29 (Pak)/93/413-Edn Dated: 11-10-95Eng, 26-6-1402 BS.

**Notice regarding admission under Pakistan**  
**Technical Cooperation Programme**

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi students (male/female) interested in Graduate level study of the undermentioned subjects at educational institutions in Pakistan during 1995-96 session under Technical Cooperation Programme of the Government of Pakistan: (A) Engineering, (B) Medical Science, (C) Pharmacy.

2. Number of seats is 2 (two) in each subject. Candidate will be selected on the basis of total marks obtained, together, in SSC & HSC examinations. An individual candidate can apply for a single subject only. Applying for more than one subjects will tender the application invalid.

3. Applicant should have 80% marks, separately, in SSC & HSC examinations and 75% marks in relevant subjects (physics, chemistry, mathematics/botany) in HSC examination.

4. Under this programme, candidates shall have to go to Pakistan and study at own expenses. Government of Pakistan generally provides monthly stipend, on recommendation of the Ministry, to two candidates having highest marks out of the six candidates. But this not a written obligation.

5. Application should be made in the prescribed proforma with 1 (one) copy passport size attested photograph, and attested copy of original certificates & marksheets.

6. The proforma of application is as follows:

Application for study under Technical Cooperation Programme of Pakistan.

Subject applied for:

(A) Name:	
(B) Father's name:	
(C) Present address (including Telegraph Office & Telephone No):	
(D) Results of SSC & HSC examinations:	

Name of Examination	Year of passing	Division	Total marks obtained
SSC			
HSC			

Total of marks obtained in SSC & HSC examinations:

(E) Marks obtained in relevant subjects in HSC examination:				Aggregate of three subjects
Physics	Chemistry	Mathematics for Engineering Subject	Botany for Pharmacy/ Medical Subject	

(F) Date of birth:  
(G) Permanent address:  
(H) Declaration: I declare that, on getting a chance of admission to above course, I must go to Pakistan and study the course.

Signature in full of the candidate

7. Application should reach the address of the undersigned or wooden box No 2 kept at the Gate of Bangladesh Secretariat by 21-10-95. Application should be submitted in large size envelope and "subject applied for" and "total of marks obtained in SSC & HSC examinations" should be clearly superscribed in block letters on the envelope.

8. Merit list of the primarily selected candidates shall be hung at the Scholarship Section of the Ministry of Education & Gate No 5 of the Secretariat on 24-10-95 and, on the same day, 4 (four) candidates in each subject, according to merit serial, will be supplied with the prescribed form. Candidates should fill in the form and submit with relevant papers by 10-00 am on 28-10-95. No correspondence will be made with the candidates. Result may be obtained by contact in person. In the interest of depositing the form in time, candidates are advised to keep four copies certificates & marksheets (attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and four copies photographs.

9. Father/legal guardian of the primarily selected candidate shall have to submit an affidavit (given before 1st class magistrate or Notary Public), that if finally selected the candidate should go to Pakistan and his/her expenses would be met. If on final selection, any candidate does not get admitted, he/she will be excluded from foreign scholarship opportunity & government facilities in future.

10. Candidates finally selected for any other scholarship by the Ministry of Education need not apply.

11. Criminal action will be taken against any one furnishing false/wrong information.

12. Decision of the authority is final in case of selection of candidates. Incomplete application will be treated as cancelled.

Md Akram Hossain  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
(Scholarship)

DFP-24916-11/10  
G-1491