

Dhaka Day by Day

Airport Adventures

by Reeli Trooli

How many Dhaka Day by Days and various other opinion pieces have been written about the shock and trauma of foreigners arriving in Dhaka, stepping out of Zia International Airport, and being mobbed by the unruly crowds waiting there? Stories of being scuffled by scooter-wallas, tackled by taxi-drivers, buffeted by beggars and touts and hustled to within an inch of their lives were not few.

Well, don't believe everything you read! Recently returning from India, a comparative experience was a real eye-opener. Relative to the airports of our subcontinental neighbour, our own demure terminal is a breeze. Step out with your luggage trolley and, yes, there are countless expectant faces waiting eagerly for parents or offspring, uncles and aunts, friends, in-laws or spouses. And, yes, it can be a bit disconcerting when, jettisoned or disorientated from your excursion into the clouds, you find yourself at the centre of rapt attention from a large number of complete strangers. In front of such a captive audience you may well get an inexplicable urge to burst into a song and dance routine or, worse, feel suddenly paranoid that after going through customs and getting your bags checked, your underwear is now trailing out of your suitcase on display to the appreciative crowds.



LOOK! HAVE NOT ARRIVED... JUST DEPARTING! PLEASE DEPART BY MY TAXI!

SHARER '95

However, after only a minute or so of dazed blinking and embarrassed self-consciousness, you're soon back to your senses and ready for the onslaught awaiting you (after checking that all your undergarments are quite safely tucked away inside your suitcase, that is).

You may well expect to be dragged by the elbow by some taxi-driver firing rapid questions at you — "Hotel? Where coming from? Which country? You want to buy carpet? My brother's shop is on the way to hotel..." — while his friend makes a grab for your luggage and swiftly sticks it into the boot before you've even had the chance to open your mouth and inform these eager chaps that, no thank you, you don't need a hotel and you're not here to buy carpets.

Or perhaps you're expecting a queue of people the end of which disappears out of sight somewhere on the horizon, while twenty taxis are lined up conveniently next to the kerb, but none of them with drivers.

Perhaps, even, you are the unwitting cause of the fight taking place between two scooter-wallas surrounded by onlookers a few feet away. One of them was convinced you were about to get into his scooter for three times the normal fare when the other scooter-walla tried to undercut him by offering to take you for only double the normal price. Meanwhile, entirely unaware of this whole interaction, you finally spot your friend who is supposed to pick you up, but is late because of traffic. Searching frantically, he hasn't spotted you yet among the dense mass of people, but you realise it is hopeless to

shout or call as you will never be heard. So, you wait patiently with your luggage, trying to signal, waving and making faces to attract his attention, while surrounded by beggars, touts, curious spectators, sneering children and fighting scooter-wallas.

These are all too common scenes at most Indian transport terminals. You may choose the luxury of flying, but once you step outside the airport, you're back down to earth with a crash.

After such experiences, landing in Dhaka can actually be a refreshing change. Most foreigners are usually greeted inside the airport by those waiting to usher them into a private vehicle, with the minimum of hassle. Those of us being met by relatives or friends will walk onto the raised platform outside, a calm island of concrete free of turmoil amid the crowd, and wait until they spot you or you spot them. OK, so you feel a bit like a caged specimen at the zoo, as hundreds of unknown people's friends and relatives, waiting on the other side of the barrier, entertain themselves by assessing you and your luggage. But it really is a small price to pay for not being tussled to death.

If, on the other hand, you are arriving unexpectedly and are prepared to take a taxi or scooter into the city, the politeness of the scooters, rickshaws or taxi-driver may at first overwhelm you after your encounters in India. They will not shout at you while maniacally gesturing to rival drivers what will happen to them if they come anywhere near you. On the contrary, they will approach calmly calling you *apa/bhai*, they will clear the way for you through the crowd. Don't panic, this is normal behaviour. Word of warning: do not be so grateful for this normal behaviour that you immediately empty your wallet and offer the driver US \$ 50. He will not stop being normal/polite if you firmly declare you will be paying the normal fixed fare, which in fact will be made known to you by all if by any unlikely chance a rogue scooter/taxi walla attempts to fix an exorbitant fare.

Unbelievable, is it not? Too good to be true after a month, or however long, in India battling the forces of do or be done by. But really, in the normal course of events there is little to grumble about. Dhaka airport may not offer the ease, luxury and comfort of JFK or Heathrow. There's a world of difference between such places and our own small but international terminal that cannot be ignored or dismissed, true. But then, there's a world of difference, which goes without saying, between such countries and ours that cannot be ignored or dismissed. Thankfully, however, there is also a difference between our humble airport and what may be regarded as the less humble (but definitely more of a jumble) airports of our great neighbouring nation.

Seed laboratory at BAU

A "seed pathology laboratory" will be set up at the Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh with the financial assistance from Denmark, reports UNB.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Shah Mohammad Farook was the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of the laboratory on Wednesday.

Noted seed pathologist of the sub-continent and the VC of Khulna University Prof Mohammad Golam Ali Fakir attended the function as special guest.

Prof Shah Mohammad Farook in his speech stressed the need for preserving seeds in a sophisticated way

to ensure quality crops. Prof Golam Ali Fakir termed the establishment of the seed laboratory as a milestone in the development of the country's agriculture.

The function was also addressed by Project Director Prof Abdul Momin, Prof H Ashrafuzzaman and Engineer M Rahmatullah. Dean of the Agriculture Faculty Dr Mohammad Idris presided.

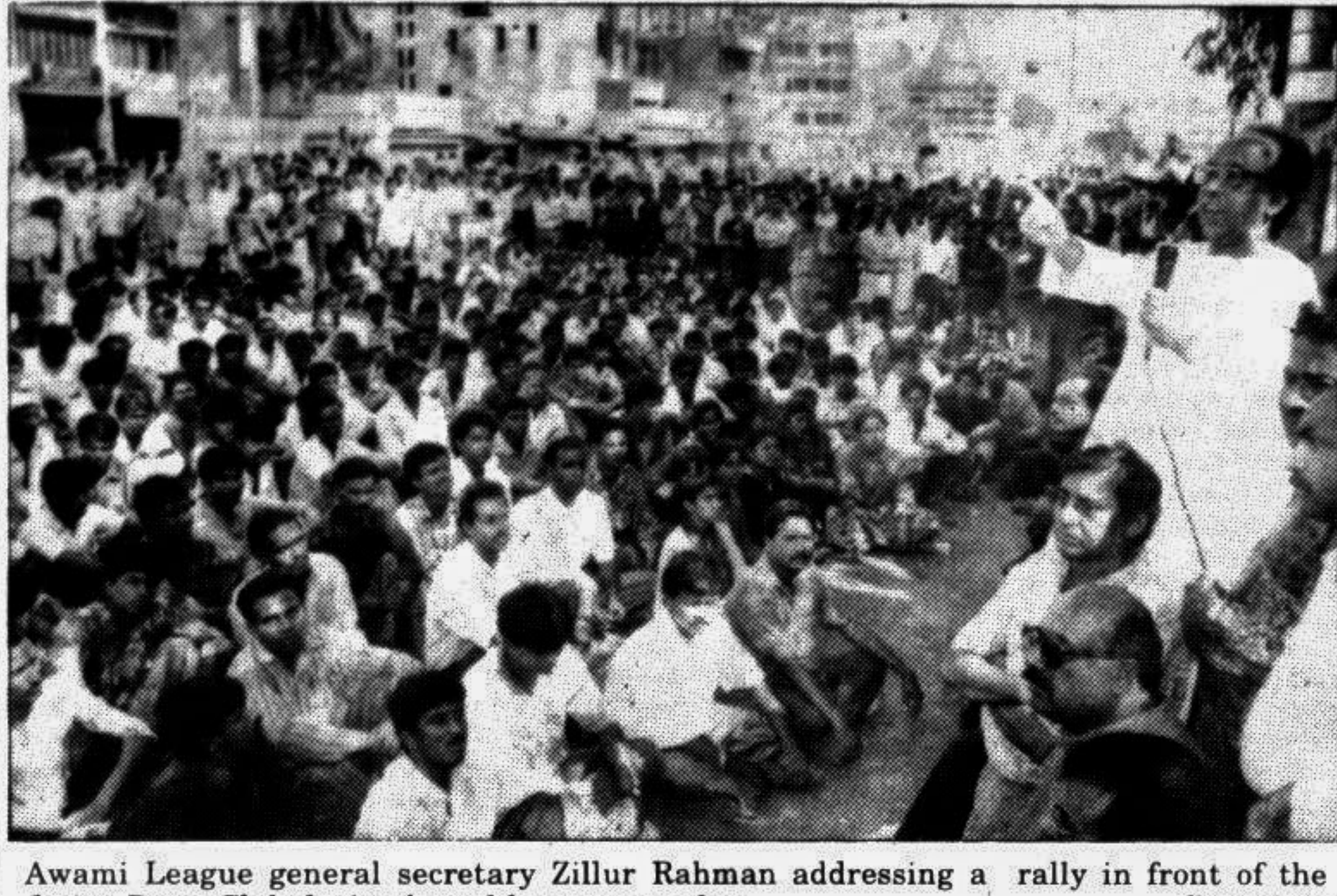
The estimated cost of the project is Tk three crore, with a Danish grant of more than Tk two crore. The rest Tk 55 lakh will be provided by the government of Bangladesh.

Dhaka elected WFP member

Bangladesh has been elected member of the Executive Council (EC) of the World Food Programme (WFP) for a period of two years, reports BSS.

In the election held at the council meeting of the FAO Bangladesh defeated Syria by 32:16 votes.

The other countries which have been elected WFP members are: Barkina Faso, Burundi, Algeria, Nigeria, China, Brazil, El-Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, France, Germany, Australia, Canada, The Netherlands, USA and Albania.



Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

Shomoy's street drama festival from Dec 1

By Staff Correspondent

Shomoy — a cultural organisation has organised a week-long street drama festival on the War of Liberation beginning December 1.

The festival will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar everyday from December 1 to 7. Noted freedom fighter Dr. Abdul Alim will inaugurate the festival while Robi Noigi, an associate of Surya Sen will attend the programme as

chief guest. Twenty-eight drama groups from outside the capital will also participate in the festival.

There will be a display of books, documents and photographs on the liberation war from 10 am to 4 pm everyday. A painting competition for children will also be held on December 7.

Workshop on AIDS projects

The Salvation Army, Bangladesh organised a workshop on Transferable Concepts in a Community Development Response to HIV/AIDS at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium recently, says a press release.

The AIDS Technical Assistance Team from the headquarters of the International Salvation Army conducted the five-day workshop.

Representatives from Jessore and Khulna zone attended the workshop.

Call to make CSYO more dynamic

The Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation (CSYO) called for making the organisation more dynamic, pragmatic and up-to-date, reports UNB.

The CSYO organised a meeting in the city Saturday marking the biennial summit at Auckland in New Zealand.

CSYO president K M N Monzurul Haq Lablu presided. The meeting urged the Commonwealth leaders to pay attention on various matters including providing higher number of scholarships for the students of member countries.



Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, handing over the regimental colour to the Mrittunjoyi Pochish, a battalion of the East Bengal Regiment, at the Jessore Cantonment yesterday. — ISPR photo

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়
সংস্থাপন শাখা-২
শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।
তারিখঃ ০৪-১১-১৯৯৫
নং-২(১৫)/৯৫-সংস্থাপন-২(৩৯৫) ২০-০৭-১৪০২

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে লোক নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:-

ক্রমিক নং	পদনাম	বেতন স্কেল	মুদ্রা পদের সংখ্যা	সরাসরি নিয়োগের যোগ্যতা
(১)	স্টাফ সচিব (ইংরেজী)	১৪৭৫-৩১৫০/-	০২	(১) কমপক্ষে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ বা সমমানের শিক্ষাপ্ত যোগ্যতা। (২) ইংরেজী সচিবালয় ও মুদ্রাক্ষরে প্রতি মিনিটে যথাক্রমে ৮০ ও ৩০ শব্দের গতি থাকতে হবে।
২।	দরখাস্তের আবেদনকারীর পূর্ণ নাম, পিতার/স্বামীর নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, শিক্ষাপ্ত যোগ্যতা, নিজ জেলা/নাম, ধর্ম এবং অভিজ্ঞতার (বদি থাকে) পূর্ণ বিবরণ ইত্যাদি উল্লেখ করতে হবে।			
৩।	দরখাস্তের সঙ্গে সত্যতা তিন কপি সত্যায়িত পাসপোর্ট আকারের ছবি, শিক্ষাপ্ত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র, ইংরেজি সচিবালয় ও টাইপিং-এ দক্ষতার সনদপত্র, ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যানের কাছ থেকে নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র এবং দু'জন প্রথম শ্রেণীর পোস্তেড কর্মচারীর কাছ থেকে ২ কপি চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।			
৪।	নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে প্রচলিত বিধি মোতাবেক জেলা কোর্ট, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/মহিলা/উপ-জাতীয়/এতিম প্রার্থীদের কোর্টা অনুসরণ করা হবে।			
৫।	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ে দৈনিক ভিত্তিক সাংবাদিক কর্মরত কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে এবং মাননীয় স্পীকার, ডেপুটি স্পীকার, চীফ হুইপ, সংসদ উপ-নেতা, বিরোধী দলীয় নেতা, উপ-নেতা ও হুইপদের কার্যালয়ে তাদের অতিরিক্ত অস্থায়ী (প্রতিসেড এন্ড অস্থায়ী) কর্মরত কর্মচারীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য।			
৬।	মহিলা ও মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের ক্ষেত্রে অন্তর্গত ৩২ বছর এবং অন্যান্যদের বেলায় বয়স ৩০ বছর।			
৭।	চাকরির প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত প্রেরণ করতে হবে।			
৮।	দরখাস্ত আশামী ১৫-১২-১৯৯৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে সিদ্ধান্তকারীর কার্যালয়ে পৌঁছাতে হবে।			
৯।	নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ করা হবে না।			
১০।	জটিল বা অস্পষ্ট দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।			
১১।	ইন্টারভিউ গ্রহণের সময় শিক্ষাপ্ত যোগ্যতার মূল সার্টিফিকেট ও অন্যান্য সনদপত্র পেশ করতে হবে।			
১২।	ইন্টারভিউতে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার অর্থ/দৈনিক ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না।			
১৩।	আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বর্জনের বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।			

ডিএকপি-২৭৬১৪-৮/১১
সি-১৬৭৯

সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব
ফোনঃ ৩২৪০৭২।

বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি
ইব্রাহিম মেমোরিয়াল ডায়াবেটিক সেন্টার
১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ডায়াবেটিক সমিতি ডায়াবেটিক রোগীদের সুবিধার্থে নিম্নলিখিত ইনসুলিনের মূল্য হাস করে পুনঃ নির্ধারণ করেছেঃ

ইনসুলিনের প্রকার	পরিমাণ মিল্লিগ্রাম	পূর্ব মূল্য (টাকা)	বর্তমান মূল্য (টাকা)
১। এক্টোপিড এইচএম (১০০ আই ইউ)	১০	৪৬০	৪১৫
২। এক্টোপিড এইচএম (৪০ আই ইউ)	১০	১১৭	১১০
৩। মিল্লিচার্ট এইচএম (১০০ আই ইউ)	১০	৪৬০	৪১৫
৪। মিল্লিচার্ট এইচএম (৪০ আই ইউ)	১০	১১৭	১১০
৫। ইনসুলোটার্ভ এইচএম (১০০ আই ইউ)	১০	৪৬০	৪১৫
৬। ইনসুলোটার্ভ এইচএম (৪০ আই ইউ)	১০	১১৭	১১০
৭। মিল্লিচার্ট পেনফিল এইচএম ৩০ (১০০ আই ইউ)	৭.৫	৪৪০	৪০০

ডি-১১২২

ডঃ ফসিহ উদ্দিন মাহতাব
মহা-সচিব।

What's on today . . .

- Rotary Club of Dilkusha:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Press conference:** A press conference of the Jatiya Party will be held. Venue: House A/1, Gulshan 2. Time: 5:00 pm.
- Diabetic Association of Bangladesh:** The body will hold a press conference. Venue: BIRDEM, Room No 227. Time: 4:30 pm.
- French film show:** The film Richard et Cosima will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 8:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

- Lions Club of Dhaka Pallabi:** The club has organised a seminar on 'Educated Nation Prosperous Future.' A rally will follow. Venue: Harokandi Govt Primary School. Time: 10:00 am.
- Discussion on Hazrat Fatima:** The Cultural Centre of Iran has arranged the discussion on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima Zahra. Venue: Iranian Cultural Centre.

Role of govt, NGOs to protect environment stressed

Speakers at a function here Friday stressed on joint initiatives of government and non-government organisations to protect environment from fast degradation, reports BSS.

Secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Environment Sayed Marghub Murshed was the chief guest on the occasion which marked the certificate-awarding ceremony of the 'training on investigative reporting on environment issues' held at the National Press Club here.

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA) organised the training course last month which was participated by 13 reporters from various dailies and weeklies of the city.

ADMISSION GOING ON

Dawn Grammar School

Play Group — 'O' level
Contact : Principal Mrs Yasmeen Sadiq
Tele: 603796, 601621
Add : Road 35/37
House No -36
Gulshan

OBITUARY

Mrs. Maniza Husain, 85 years, wife of Late Khan Sahib Muhammad Najmuddin Husain, retired Divisional Inspector of Schools died on Friday 10th November 1995 at 8:00 P.M. of old age complications. She left behind 3 sons and 4 daughters to mourn her death. Qul Khani of Late Mrs. Husain will be held on Monday, November 13th after Maghreb Prayers at the family home at 3/1-D Purana Paltan, Dhaka. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Qul Khani and pray for her departed soul.

Sons & Daughters of
Late Mrs. Maniza Husain

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