

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Good Use of Spare Time

by Fayza Haq

You would be surprised to find the amount of work that some Dhaka office workers put in their regular routine. Nigar, a personal secretary, working at Motijheel, has her boss leave the office for hours on end for official meetings. To fill the empty hours, this mother of three, takes out her coloured embroidery threads and does exquisite shadow-work and cross-stitch. In the past four years Nigar has done four bed sheets, three purjabis and a sari in her spare time. Earlier she loved to listen to ghazals with the ear-phone but now she is absorbed in her needle-point whenever she has some time to spare.

Shimu is another office worker at Kawran Bazaar, who deals with clients from time to time, as they come to the bank. She, however, has time to spare when the flow of customers diminishes. Like Nigar, who does not always have to receive phone calls, or deal with her boss's visitors, she spends a fair amount of time reading various newspapers, magazines, novels and books on poetry. Her friends tell her, "Why don't you try your hand at writing yourself?" Shimu might have tried that except that she is too preoccupied with bringing up her two children as a single parent since the premature death of her husband two years ago.

For a long while Rasheda, who worked at a busy office at Naya Palatan, complained that she could not keep up with her personal correspondence. She had come to Dhaka after years of living abroad in places like Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and London, and had most of her friends overseas. She managed to contact a few of her friends on the e-mail but that was not entirely satisfying. Now she has worked out a routine by which she can manage a letter a day, despite the rush of scheduled work at the NGO office. Thus she has six letters written in a

week. Coming to work at 8 a.m. and leaving at 7 p.m. left her little time at home for catching up with her personal mail.

Jamal, 55 years old, has been working as a newspaper desk hand for decades. His expenses with his four growing children at Tikatuly makes it difficult to be satisfied with his regular salary. In between his work, he does translation work which he finishes in an hour every day. His hours at his office are long and Jamal loathes taking home work. While dealing with his copies of news to be edited, he puts aside a little time, and completes his work without disturbing the office routine. Thus he gets Tk 4,000 extra to take home every month.

Shams, as a stenographer, studied shorthand by himself at a Dhanmandi office. He would also go through an English dictionary in his spare time. "I've studied the basics of shorthand. I'm just improving on my initial lessons," he told. After a year he had been rewarded with a good job at a commercial bank. He sure made good use of his leisure hours at the office.

Similarly, Jasim had no time to go for foreign language courses in the evening. He was at his office at Mohakhali quite often till late in the evening. In between his work schedule, he somehow fitted in French language learning from a set of teach yourself books and tape cassettes. This helped him get a scholarship in due time. Of course, Jasim knew the rudiments of the language having studied it for a couple of years at the preliminary level, while at school.

It is amazing how instead of spending time in and over gossip, small talk and cups of tea one can achieve so much along with keeping up one's schedules.



A colourful rally was brought out in observance of the World Population Day in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### AL committed to fulfilling election pledges: Zillur

General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman yesterday said that the Awami League government was completely aware of the responsibilities in running the state and fulfilling election commitments of the party, reports BSS.

Seeking cooperation of all in running the state, he said Awami League had always worked for people's welfare and would do so in future too. Rahman was speaking at a condolence meeting, organised by Bangabandhu Samajkalyan Parishad, in memory of its president and central advisory committee member of Awami League, A K M Fazlul Huq Mia.

Held in the Jatiya Press Club auditorium, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Finance Minister S A S M Kibria, State Minister for Women, Children Affairs and Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain, State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana M Nurul Islam, advisory committee member of Awami League A T M Shamsul Huq, former chief justice Kamaluddin Hossain and general secretary of the parishad M Zahiruddin Bhuiyan.

Acting president of the parishad, M Shamsul Huq Bhuiyan presided. The condolence meeting was followed by a milad mahfil where prayers were offered for peace of the departed soul.

### BAAS confce shifted

The 19th Bangladesh Science Conference under the auspices of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) scheduled to be held at the Jahangirnagar University Campus from July 23-25, has been shifted to October 29-31, 1996. The last date for registration is September 30, says a press release.

### Hasan's solo show in Japan

Syed Hasan Mahmud's third solo painting exhibition will begin tomorrow at Ikeda Cho, Gifu Ken City in Japan, says a press release.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by the mayor of Ikeda Cho, Gifu Ken City, Tatsuo Kubota, at the public hall of the mayor's office. The speaker of the Ikeda Cho parliament will be present as the special guest. A total of 30 recent paintings by Hasan will be displayed at the exhibition entitled 'Personal Feelings'. The exhibition will continue till July 18.

### US professor visits BPATC

President of American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Prof Gaig Boxter visited Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) at Savar, reports UNB.

Prof Gaig was briefed about the existing training facilities and overall activities of the centre. Prof Boxter called on BPATC Rector AZM Shamsul Alam at his office, said a press release.

The Institute president showed keen interest in the BPATC and went round various units of the centre along with the faculty members.

### Obituary

Md Zakir Hossain, son of late BSCIC director Md Nazmul Hossain died of a massive heart attack yesterday morning on way to Suhrawardy Hospital. He was 44, says a press release.

Late Zakir was manager, Kawran Bazar branch of Pragati General Insurance Company Limited.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at West Raza Bazar mosque after Asr prayers.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard here.

He left behind his mother, wife and two sons.

His Quikhwani will be held at his residence at 56/C, West Raza Bazar on Sunday after Asr prayers.

### Call to reduce rate of population growth

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday called for facing future challenges by keeping up the success in family planning sector and reducing the country's population to a tolerable limit, reports UNB.

The rate of the country's population increase has been reduced to 1.84 per cent, but it is not enough. We have to continue our efforts to bring the rate to the desired level," he said at the inaugural function of World Population Day 1996 at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday.

He called for making health and reproductive health care development programmes undertaken by the government a success in order to improve the quality of people's life.

The health minister said a large portion of our population is still deprived of proper health care facilities and about 28,000 mothers die every year in the country while giving birth to children.

Referring to AIDS and reproductive health, the focus of this year's World Population Day, he said, "We have to be aware of this deadly disease and create mass awareness through information-education-motivation programmes."

Yusuf urged the voluntary organisations to play an effective role side by side the efforts of health and family wel-

fare department to create social awareness in this regard.

The minister emphasised improvement of the standard of service in the health centres and bringing all eligible couples, particularly newly-married ones, under the family planning programme by motivating them to use contraceptives.

Addressing the function, Country Representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Alain P Mouchiroud stressed the need for improving reproductive health care and educating both men and women to prevent HIV-AIDS in Bangladesh.

He said though the problem of AIDS was not a serious one in the country yet, the onslaught of the deadly disease should be stopped by preventive measures.

Presided over by Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Khan Amir Ali, the function was also addressed by Joint Secretary of the ministry Sirajul Islam and DG of Family Welfare Directorate Khairuzaman Chowdhury.

The minister later distributed certificates and awards among 18 government and non-government field workers for their outstanding performance in population activities.

## Weather

### Light rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days weathermen forecast increase in rainfall activities. Giving extended outlook for another five days Met Office predicted little change.

Sylhet experienced the highest 51 mm rain in the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Dinajpur had 22 mm rain, Rangpur 19, Chittagong 17, Barisal 15, Mymensingh 10 and Rajshahi 8 mm shower during the period.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sathira and Patuakhali today, and the lowest 24.0 degrees at Barisal and Kutubdia.

The Sun sets today at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19 am.

## আবশ্যিক

১০০% রপ্তানিমুখী তৈরি পোশাক শিল্পে (জ্যাকেট ও ট্রাউজার) জরুরী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগ করা হইবে।

- ১। ফ্যাঙ্কট্রী/প্রোডাকশন ম্যানেজার ৭-৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞ-১জন।
  - ২। প্যাটার্ন মাস্টার ৭-৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞ-১জন।
  - ৩। ফিনিশিং সিনিয়র সুপারভাইজার ৭-৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞ-১জন।
  - ৪। মার্কারম্যান-৫ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞ-১ জন।
  - ৫। মার্চান্ডাইজার-গ্রাজুয়েট-৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞ-১ জন।
  - ৬। পার্সোনেল ম্যানেজার ৫ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞ-১ জন।
- ১ নং পদের জন্য মাসিক বেতন ১৮,০০০/- টাকা এর কম বেতন পান এমন প্রার্থীর দরখাস্ত করার প্রয়োজন নেই।
- বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা ও আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে বেতন নির্ধারণ করা হইবে।
- সকল পদের জন্য দরখাস্ত আগামী ২০-০৭-৯৬ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বক্স নং S-355, প্রযুক্তি ডি ডেইলী স্টার, বাড়ি নং-১১, সড়ক নং-৩, ধানমন্ডি আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৫ এই ঠিকানায় অবশ্যই পৌছাইতে হইবে।

### LDF to resist 'any conspiracy' to free Ershad

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has warned that people will resist "any conspiracy" to free Ershad who is guilty of capturing power through illegal means, reports UNB.

At a meeting Wednesday the city coordination committee of the Front expressed concern over the issue of Ershad's release being discussed officially.

The LDF meeting demanded filling of cases against former President H M Ershad for capturing power violating Constitution and killing political activists.

### Memo to Labour & Manpower Minister

A delegation of the Kuwait-Iraq Repatriated Bangladeshis Association (KIRBA) Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the State Minister for Labour and Manpower, MA Mannan.

During a meeting with the State Minister, the representatives of the repatriated Bangladeshis drew his attention to the issues of UN compensation to the Gulf War victims and urged him to revive the task force set up by the former government for looking into various alleged irregularities in this regard, says a press release.

### Aminul Huq's death anniversary

The first death anniversary of Attorney General Aminul Huq will be observed tomorrow.

The Aminul Huq Smriti Sangsad has arranged a memorial meeting tomorrow at 10 am in the Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban.

Former Chief Justice Badrul Haidar Chowdhury and Barrister Shaikat Ali Khan, president of the SC Bar, will attend the meeting as chief guest and special guest respectively. Advocate Zakir Ahmed, convener of the Sangsad, will preside. Aminul Huq died in harness this day last year. He was 63.

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