

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Copycats on the Move

by Fayza Haq

A lot of what women do in the city is a repeat or an imitation of what their friends, colleagues or cousins are doing. Nasima, a heavy-set woman in her forties decided to chop and perm her hair. She had seen the lithe and willowy girls with permed and 'cropped' hair. However, Nasima herself realised that the hairstyle did not suit her. So, she went back to the same hair-dresser and had her hair straightened. Today when you go to her Purana Paltan office you see little traces of the perming escapade, except that some of her hair has fallen.

Tarana, Mehreen and Sohaili occupy the same workplace at Mohakhali. They talk about saris, shalwar-kamiz, and artificial jewellery fifty per cent of the time when they are free from their office work. When one goes out on a shopping spree, the others follow suit. As a result they have clothes and accessories which make them look like triplets. They have the same Singapore bags and shoes, the same printed and embroidered saris, and even the same drop-pearl earrings with a row of seed-pearl choker to match with.

Another fixation with fads and fashion among women is 90's hang up with slimming

Sharmeen, a school-teacher to her colleagues. Coffee breaks, lunch breaks, phone-calls, evening tea-time get-togethers often confine women's conversations to dieting, one taking tips and ideas from the other. "Eat raw carrot, papaya and Pineapple," says one to another. "Have sour yoghurt. Don't touch anything sweet. Go on a vegetable diet," they add.

Women not only ape each other about brand of colognes or soaps or the length of their hem line but also about how to run the house. What make of car to keep and what school to send their children. "Shoma has sent her children to India and later to USA. If we can economise on the daily expenditure we can do the same," says Rumana to her husband. This keeping up with the Joneses attitude is not limited to the Dhaka middle class, but it is certainly there. "Why don't you join a club instead of being a couch potato?" Tehmina's husband goes jogging. Shahrulk's fiancée goes for tennis every evening and my cousins go fishing in the Dhanmondi Lake. Develop a pastime apart from reading and gazing at the TV," the shrewish wife carries on.

If it is not one thing it is the other that catches the attention of our Dhaka women,



Bangladesh Ahle Sunnat Wal Jama'at brought out a procession in the city yesterday in observance of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi. — Star photo



and dieting with women all over the world aiming at having their stomachs as flat as pancakes. Dhaka sees ads for slimming on billboard magazines, and newspapers. A major portion of women's conversation centre around where to go for slimming. Dhaka may not be as sophisticated as Monte Carlo or New York, but the bourgeois, Bangladeshi woman is extremely figure conscious.

"I'm taking these slimming pills that guarantee a figure of 36-26-36 along with machine operations like the vibrating belt spot reducer 'slendertone'. Why don't you try Samina and get rid of your midriff tyre too?" says

"Why can't we have an expensive chauffeur like the Khans? Why can't we have a flat in Uttara like the Chowdhurys? You earn just as much as Mira's husband. It's time we had a washing machine and a freezer as well as a dish antenna for the TV," are some of the nagging requests of the ambitious wife who does not wish to be outdone by her friends and relatives.

The boutiques, beauty-parlours, restaurants, coffee-shops, jewellery shops and sari emporiums flourish in the city courtesy of the women who do not wish to be outdone by their friends and acquaintances.



Detective Branch of police arrested these persons for possession of illegal arms from different parts of the city yesterday. — Star photo

### What's on today . . .

- ICFTU-BC confec:** The three-day conference of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Bangladesh Council (BC) will begin. Venue: BMDC auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.
- Film show:** Two British films *Widow's Peak* and *Enchanted April* will be screened. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 4 pm and 6:30 pm respectively.
- TCSO workshop:** The concluding ceremony of the fourth drama workshop of Theatre Centre for Social Development will be held. Venue: Theatre Centre auditorium. Time: 7 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka New City:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Seminar on irrigation:** The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh has organised a seminar of 'Towards Sustainable Minor Irrigation Development in Bangladesh'. Dr Atun Nishat of BUET will present the keynote paper. Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury will attend the seminar as chief guest. VC of BUET, Dr M Shahjahan and president, IEB M Anwarul Azim will be present as special guests. Venue: IEB auditorium. Time: 10 am.
- Goethe Institut:** The Zahir Raihan Film Society will present a 3-day Krzysztof Kuskowski Retrospective (Part-1). Venue: Institut auditorium, House-10, Rd/9, Dhamandi. Time: 5 pm.
- Prize-giving ceremony:** Awards will be distributed among winners of the S. M. Sultan Gold Medal Painting Competition 1996. Chief guest: Rafiqun Nabi. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

### Weather

**Moderate rainfall likely**

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions in the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office forecast moderate rain of thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind also at many places over Khulna and Sylhet divisions.

The day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period throughout the country.

Weathermen predicted increase in rainfall activity in the next two days while a little change is likely during the next week.

Meantime, Cox's Bazar experienced the country's highest 32 mm rain followed by Mymensingh with 12 mm shower.

The country's highest temperature 33 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest at 23.2 degrees at Chittagong.

The sun sets today at 6:46 pm and rises Wednesday at 5:24 am.

Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
 Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat  
 Old Airport Building, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
 No. BPPCS/R/-3/PE-6/95/2952 (500) Dated: 10.7.96

## NOTIFICATION

**Subject: Senior Scale Promotion Examination for BCS Cadre Officers to be held in August, 1996.**

It is being notified for general information that the Senior Scale Promotion Examination for BCS Cadre Officers to be held on 10 & 11th August, 1996 at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna Centre. The Schedule of the examinations is given below:

Date and Time	Subject
10th August, 1996 From 10 AM to 1 PM	1st Paper : Bangladesh and Current Affairs.
10th August 1996 From 2 PM to 5 PM	2nd Paper : Rules, Regulations Applicable for all Govt. Offices.
11th August, 1996 From 10 AM to 1 PM	3rd Paper : Papers Concerning Related Cadre.

**SEAT ARRANGEMENT**

- Bangladesh Public Service Commission : All the Candidates of Dhaka Secretariat, Dhaka. Centre.
- Women's Govt. College, Chittagong : All the Candidates of Chittagong.
- New Govt. Degree College, Rajshahi. : All the Candidates of Rajshahi.
- Polytechnic Institute, Khulna. : All the Candidates of Khulna.

DFP-15941-18/7  
G-875

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**DUJ meet July 26**

A meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held on July 26 at 11 am at the Jatiya Press Club, a DUJ press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

### Housewife succumbs to burn injuries

by DMCH Correspondent

A teenaged housewife succumbed to burn injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning. Jharna, 19, of Kapasia, Gazipur, suffered from first degree burns when her husband, Minu Miah, reportedly poured kerosene over her body and set it alight at around 10 am Sunday, claimed some relatives of Jharna, who had rushed to the DMCH yesterday. Some others alleged that Jharna caught fire when she was cooking.

Seriously injured Jharna was taken to the DMCH Sunday night where she succumbed to her injuries yesterday morning, hospital sources said.

Jharna, who married Minu Miah about six months ago, had a family feud with her husband, DMCH sources said quoting relatives.

### June phone bills must be paid by July 25: T & T

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board has already issued digital telephone bills to the subscribers of Dhaka multi-exchanges for the month of June 1996, reports UNB.

The bills, which were sent by post July 10, will have to be paid to the specified branches of Agrani, Krishi, Janata NCC Bank Limited BSIC Bangladesh Limited and City Bank Limited by July 25, said an official handout.

It also requested the subscribers who will not get the bills by July 20 to collect the duplicate bills from the concerned telephone revenue offices and make payment within the last date July 25.

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