

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Putting up with Inconsiderate Visitors

By Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

Some people have all the time in the world. "You silently mutter, looking pointedly at the watch for the umpteenth time. Of course your neighbour doesn't take the hint. You have an assignment to finish within an hour or so, but she has been trying to get hold of you for days. And now that she has finally 'captured' you, she won't leave without telling you about her five-year-old 'gifted' son's latest achievements. The teacher praised his pictures of Batman. He is so artistically 'inclined', don't you think? I should enrol him in an art school?" — she drones on.

The only thing you can think of at that point is to find the address of an art school and tell her to go there immediately, so that she would shut up and leave!

Sad but true we have to endure many irritating and trying situations in life. Dealing with unwelcome visitors is just one of them. The busy generation of the '90s bogged down

by job and home responsibilities barely has the time or energy to socialise or be sociable all the time. Yet, there are still some of us in the city who have an annoying tendency of showing up at one's place at the most inopportune moments — just like the Brindles in *Small Wonders* and the insufferable guy-next-door in *Empty Nest*. Too bad our 'proper' social upbringing prevents us from saying 'bye' and simply slamming the door on their faces. Of course when it comes to coping with surprise visitors, we all have our share of bad luck. The experience is just as awful as surprise exams. It's all the more infuriating when someone or some people decide to drop by exactly when you are going out, watching your favourite TV show, busy with work or perhaps simply too tired to play the charming host.

We are all more or less familiar with this inconvenient and at times embarrassing situation. You are dressed up, ready to attend a wedding (and being Bangalee, naturally you're late), when out of the blue your husband's not — so popular distant relatives decide to pay you a visit. You know practically nothing about them but apparently they seem to know a lot about you. Even when they have learnt that you were on your way out, the thoughtless, exasperating individuals still sit down and chat. Since you can't be rude, you go to the kitchen fuming and prepare tea for them.

Then there are those outgoing ones who live by the saying 'the night is still young'. These natural beings start their daily rounds at 8pm and often don't return home before midnight. A young couple with a two-year-old baby daughter makes it a point to visit as many places as possible in one night. The home of the husband's uncle is one of the places the tireless two loves to visit. Needless to say, much to the displeasure of the poor victims. They always make an appearance after 10pm when the family has just finished dinner and stay till 11-12pm. Therefore, their relatives can hardly be blamed for being more than a little disappointed to see them. "When the doorbell rings late at night, we don't need three guesses to figure out who the callers are," says the cheeky youngest member of the family. Another woderers: "Why do they keep coming back, we are not that cor-

diat with them?" But probably the worst offenders are the persistent lot. Folks who normally come to you at odd hours for vested interests can easily break the perseverance record any day. Here is an example: when a family returned home from a long and tiring trip from Sylhet at 5pm, they found a smiling duo sitting in their living room. The guests were mere acquaintances, who waited for them for more than an hour. Considering the fact that they don't live far away, they could've easily come back. But no, they chose to wait. Even after knowing that their hosts were dead tired, the self-centred ones didn't part before 8pm, mentioning the objective of their visit only at the time of leaving.

Seriously, putting up with incorrigible, insensitive people can be quite an ordeal. What to do? In order to get rid of a detestable person, a woman professes to have used an effective method. She pretended to be the maid and told the visitor (of course not opening the door) that she is not home. Then again, we are not always so lucky. Our domestic helps at times, let people in, unless we brief them before hand.

It is perhaps better to be blunt and frank. "I'm sorry but I have an appointment now, I'll get in touch with you later" — should do the trick. When subtle hints don't work, never hesitate to use the direct approach.



SHARER '96

## ITI executive body elected

In the triennial general meeting of the Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) held in the city Tuesday, a 19-member new executive committee, with **Ramendu Majumdar** and **Ataur Rahman** as president and general secretary respectively, was elected for the next 3 years, says a press release.

The other members of the committee are: Aly Zaker and Abus Selim — vice presidents, Asaduzzaman Noor — secretary, International Affairs, Nasiruddin Yousuf — organising

secretary, Md. Fidul Hoque — publications secretary, Sara Zaker — programmes secretary, Liquat Ali Lucky — archive secretary, Devaprasad Debnath — finance secretary and **Abdullah Al-Mamun**, Mamunur Rashid, Dr. Nazmul Ahsan, Laila Hasan, Sisir Dutta, Tariq Anan Khan, Shaf Ahmed, Milon Kanti Dey and Ahmed Iqbal Haidar — executive members.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Syed Shamsul Huq were named presidents of honour of the Bangladesh ITI.

## Four Luxury Apartments To-Let in Banani

Duplex (split-level) three bed rooms with bath, imported fittings, drawing, dining, family room, 3 verandahs, modern kitchen, separate wet kitchen, servant room with bath, laundry, two separate staircases (2500 sq feet); garage. Site: Road 16, Block: A, House 54, Banani. Phone: 418255, 833582, 327635. S-516

## VC pledges to free DU from terrorists' grip

The acting Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Shahid Uddin Ahmed, yesterday said that the university authorities would take necessary steps against those whose names would be submitted by the Chhatri League and the Chhatri Dal, reports BSS.

"I have taken effective measures to free the university from the grip of outsiders and armed terrorists as the guardian of the 28 thousand students of the university since my appointment," he added.

He was talking to the members of the Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) when they met him at his official residence yesterday evening.

Prof Ahmed informed them that he would not contest for the vice chancellor panel election due to be held on September 25 at the special senate session.

## BCL rally held

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatri League (BCL) Dhaka city unit yesterday organised a rally in front of the National Press Club protesting the alleged threat to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The board in its working session re-elected Dr Nasir A Al Dekhyel of Saudi Arabia as chairman, Ahmed Adel Sobhy Charge d' Affairs of the

The BCL rally was addressed, among others, by Sultan Mohammad Monsur MP, general secretary Ishaque Ali Khan Panna, city Awami League leader SA Mannan and BCL DU unit secretary Abdul Wadud Khokon.

Addressing the rally Sultan Mohammad Monsur said that the BNP could not accept the results of the June 12 parliamentary polls. From the very beginning, BNP has started conspiring against the AL government, he said, adding that the threat to kill or launch a movement could not legalise the corruption of the BNP leaders during its rule.

Ishaque Ali Khan Panna urged the student community to resist the terrorists unitedly.

**Qualifications:**

- i) Degree in Computer Science or
- ii) Diploma in Computer Science with special expertise in System Analysis & Design and Programming.

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The closing date is : 22-09-96

The application should reach :

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Human Resource Department  
Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra  
1/1-Ga, Section-2, Mirpur-2  
Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh.

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