

Dhaka Day by Day

Clinging to Hope

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

The little girl was sitting on the bed, playing with a piece of paper and pencil at the diarrhoea ward of ICDDR,B. She kept looking up every two minutes to check whether her mother was watching her or not. At first, Alo seemed to be a normal child, bright and lively with no major problem. But the six-year-old already had to suffer a great deal. An accident had left her retarded at the age of two and her family has slowly learnt to deal with the difficult situation.

The accident had hampered Alo's immune system, her mother believes. In spite of the medication and extra care, she is still very frail and disease-prone. This time it was an acute case of diarrhoea which brought her to the centre but said the worried mother. "It's one ailment after another. She is always suffering from fever, cold or diarrhoea." Prior to the mishap, the family lived near TNT colony at Malibagh. The mother talked about how the tragic event occurred. One day four years ago Alo was playing on the roadside near the house with her older brother, who was eight years old then.



Alo, a victim of accident.

Their mother was busy with housework inside. Suddenly she heard a piercing scream and frantic cries all over the place. When she rushed out, she found people surrounding her baby who was, she still vividly recalls "in a terribly bloody state". "My head wasn't working, I couldn't comprehend what was happening" — she said. According to eye witnesses a microbus hit her daughter. They took her to the PG hospital where doctors immediately operated on her. The operation took a long time and poor Alo had to stay at the hospital for almost six months. To make matters worse, her son also had become seriously ill at that time.

First he had measles then, pneumonia therefore he too, was admitted to the hospital. After several months Alo's physical damages more or less healed, but it was little consolation to her family. The biggest scar still remains. She hit her head badly, during the accident which caused severe brain damage. The doctors fear that the damage is permanent. The doctors fear that the damage is permanent. The doctors fear that the damage is permanent. The doctors fear that the damage is permanent.

Then there were also the exorbitant medical bills to worry about. Alo's father had left the family about a year after her birth. But the mother said that he had provided financial assistance for some time. She herself used to work at a clinic in Shantinagar as an aya. She took a loan from the clinic and was forced to sell their land in Malibagh at a very cheap rate for her daughter's treatment. The microbus people who

are responsible for Alo's condition didn't escape from the accident scene, right away. They offered a paltry sum of Tk 2000 as compensation. But the indignant family turned down the money — "How could they offer such an amount, when they knew how impossible it was for us to bear the expenses?" cried out the appalled woman. She claims that the costs amounted to over 1 lakh taka. She couldn't carry on working at the clinic for long, as Alo requires constant attention. She was in utter despair, not knowing what to do, when a distant relative Nurunnabi Babu quite selflessly offered his help.

Alo's mother remarried Babu two years ago and the latter willingly decided to share her responsibilities. The family now lives in Badda. Babu in his mid twenties is quite an interesting person. He said he pulls rickshaws for a living — and one can simply dub him as an enlightened, trendy rickshawwalla. Dressed in a t-shirt, jeans and black shoes, Babu looks more like a University student.

It was obvious from his Bangla and English mixed vocabulary that he had received formal education up to some level. "I passed my HSC exams in Science from Rangpur" — he informed. Why didn't he continue his studies? A little embarrassed to talk about himself he simply said that he is from a 'high' family but he had become quite unruly during his student years, hence he didn't think about the future at all. But later on, he tried to mend his ways. "When I learnt about how a woman was bravely and single handedly coping with her miseries, I decided, here is a chance to do something useful for once in my life" — he explained. Unfortunately, rickshaw pulling is an extremely strenuous job. He thought about private tuition, for some time, but changed his mind because he can make more money from rickshaw pulling. He has learnt how to drive a baby taxi and wants to change his line of work, once his family life is more stable.

In the meanwhile, the couple had just had a baby a few weeks ago. This new baby means more responsibilities, more worries for the family. Despite all their problems, the couple remains unusually calm and unruffled. They are optimistic about Alo's recovery. Alo can now say words like *abba*, *amma*, *bosho*, *khabo* etc. Her condition is gradually improving, her parents observe. Alo tugged at her stepfather's t-shirt and he picked her up from the bed, "someday, I hope I can take her abroad for treatment" — he solemnly stated. The family doesn't know what the future has in store for them, but they assure, they are ready to face any challenge.



Another batch of Bangladeshi returnees from the UAE arrived at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today

- Inaugural of integrated FP-MCH campaign:** The inaugural ceremony of the integrated FP-MCH "Green Umbrella" Logo Campaign will be held. Chief guest: Salah Uddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: Indoor Stadium, Mirpur. Time: 9:30 am.
- IJO workshop on jute geotextiles:** A two-day international work-shop on 'jute geotextiles,' jointly organised by the International Jute Organisation and Silsoe College, Cranfield University, UK, will be inaugurated. Chief guest: State Minister for Jute and Textiles AK Faezul Huq. Venue: Main Ballroom, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30 am.
- Short film show:** Goethe Institut has arranged a showing of 'Chakkar' (The Labyrinth), a short docufilm by Dolon Chowdhury, based on the life of destitute children. Venue: Institut auditorium, House: 10, Rd: 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.
- Zahir Raihan Film Society:** As part of the Society's 3-day Mrinal Sen Retrospective: Part 3, the film 'Genesis' will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House: 25, Rd: 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka New City:** The weekly meeting and 'ladies night' of the club will be held. Venue: Gulshan Club. Time: 7 pm.

6th Dr ZI Chy Memorial Law Lecture

Need for changing 'age-old' police laws stressed

Speakers at a law lecture yesterday emphasised the need for changing the age-old police laws and criminal justice administration in Bangladesh, in keeping with democratic values and human rights, reports BSS.

Youth and Sports Secretary and former Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan, Supreme Court Advocate Nizamul Haq Nasim and Dhaka University Law Professor Dr Shahin Huda, among others, participated in the Sixth Dr ZI Chowdhury memorial Law Lecture, organised by Law Review at the British Council auditorium in the city.

Describing police law and criminal justice administration as 'century-old,' the former Inspector General of Police said with only some minor changes, done in 1961, police act of British days remains to this day, and it requires a lot of more changes, including case recording system, investigation procedures and confessions.

Shahjahan described police law as the vehicle of justice and said Bangladesh police force is fighting the crimes of today with the weapons of colonial British days.

He said a total of 72 thousand cases are being filed per annum in Bangladesh, compared to 55 lakhs annually in England and Wales.

He also emphasised the need for obeying laws in society, rather than enforcement of rigorous laws and said when someone is not obeying a particular law only then question of enforcement of it comes.

Earlier at the opening ceremony of the lecture speaking as the chief guest, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, member of Law Reform Commission, underlined the need for collective pursuits of all to establish rule of law in society.

Justice Ahmed said the fundamental rights of the people were incorporated in the Constitution through collective pursuits and on the basis of consensus.

He said, instead of thinking much about the conflict between society and the individual, all of us should go for collective endeavours to establish rule of law in the country.

The 'Concept of criminal justice and police administration' was the subject of the opening session of the Dr ZI

Abul Hasan condoles Murtoza's death

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, has expressed his deep shock at the death of Murtoza Bhutto, the brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, reports BSS.

In a message of condolence to Benazir Bhutto yesterday, state minister said the tragic circumstances leading to the death of Murtoza was indeed very painful.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was also very saddened by this tragic event as "someone who had also lost her three brothers, she is naturally very moved and joins you in sharing the grief."

"May Allah grant him eternal peace and give you the strength to bear this irreparable loss," he said.

WHO'S 16 TODAY!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
D-1018

Death Anniversary
TODAY IS THE 3RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF BEGUM SHAKERA BANU W/O LATE KHAN BAHADUR MUJIBUR RAHMAN.
FRIENDS & RELATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO OFFER A SPECIAL PRAYER.
D-1019

CHEHLAM
Our beloved father and much respected personality Md. Yakub Ali Miah breathed his last from heart failure on 1st of Bhadra 1403, 16th August 1996 Friday at 8.30 pm. We convey our sincere gratefulness to our aggrieved relatives, friends and neighbours. Fathers chehlam will be held at Eidgah's residence of Chittagong on Wednesday on 10 Ashwin 1403, 25th September after evening prayer. We request all to kindly take part in this chehlam and pray for the departed soul.
Sons & daughter of Late Md. Yakub Ali Miah

Attention: Pre-owned Textile Machinery
Gibbs International, Inc is a trading company dealing worldwide in the purchase and sale of pre-owned textile machinery. Our parent firm is located in the USA with branch offices throughout the world. Mr. Arlis Owen, one of our international sales representatives will be in Dhaka from September 23 to October 3, 1996 at the Sheraton Hotel. During this time he would like to meet with anyone interested in purchasing pre-owned textile machinery or becoming an agent for the purpose of importing preowned textile machinery.
If not possible to meet with Mr Owen please send particulars by fax to Gibbs International, Inc/USA fax number 00 1 864 439 7544.

BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION OF BANKS
Uttara Bank Bhaban (4th floor)
90, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
CAREER OPPORTUNITY
Bangladesh Association of Banks seeks young and energetic persons for appointment in the position of **Research Officer**.
If you are prepared to face challenge, able to work in a team and fulfil the following criteria, you may apply:
Age: Not over 30 years on September 30, 1996.
Qualifications: a) BBA / MBA with major in Finance
b) CGPA - not below 3.00
c) High skill in computers
d) Good Command of English Language
Salary and other allowances will be fixed on negotiation.
Eligible candidates should send C.V. with passport size photograph and other relevant papers addressed to the Secretary, Bangladesh Association of Banks, Uttara Bank Bhaban (4th floor), 90, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 to reach within October 10, 1996.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Family Planning
Family Planning Clinical Services Project
House No 3/A, Road No 15 (New), Dhanmandi, Dhaka.
Memo No DFP/FPCS/C-3/93/973 Date: 16-9-96
Appointment Notice
Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladesh citizens for filling in a vacant post of driver of Family Planning Clinical Services Project, a development project of the Directorate of Family Planning

Serial No	Name of Post	Pay Scale	Age	Qualification
1	Driver	All inclusive pay Tk 2475/- (two thousand four hundred seventy-five) only	18 to 30 years	A) Class VIII passed B) Should possess valid heavy vehicles driving licence

The following information should be provided with the application:
1. Attested photocopy of educational certificate
2. Attested photocopy of valid driving licence
3. Experience certificate
4. Character certificate by first class officer
5. Nationality certificate by Union Parishad/Pourashava Chairman
6. Bio-data: (a) name, (b) father's name, (c) permanent address, (d) present address, (e) educational qualification, (f) nationality, (g) religion, (h) date of birth, (i) experience, (j) two copies recent passport size attested photographs.
7. Candidates in service of govt/semi-govt/autonomous organisation should apply through their appointing authority.
8. This appointment is purely temporary and will be made effective each year subject to retention of the post by the ministry.
9. The authority reserves the right to reject any application or relax conditions without assigning any reason.
10. The selected candidate should be duty bound to work anywhere in Bangladesh.
11. Bank Draft/Pay Order for Tk 25/- (twenty-five) only (non-refundable) in favour of the undersigned should accompany each application.
12. Application should be sent by 07-10-96 to the undersigned. No application will be acceptable after that date.
Dr Zahir Uddin Ahmed
Project Director (Clinical Services)
G-1112

Tender Notice
No 24(1996-97)
Memo No. 6-4/608 Dated 17.9.96 Eng. 2.6.1403 BS
Tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Directorate's special first class and E/M works enlisted first/second class contractors for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/Public Works E/M Workshop Division, Public Works Wooden Workshop Division & Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours up to 12.00 noon of 10.10.96 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12.30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their nominated representatives. Tender schedule form and terms & conditions etc. can be purchased against usual payment of Tk 425/- (four hundred twenty five) only (Non-refundable) from the office of the Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/Public Works E/M Workshop Division, Public Works Wooden Workshop Division and Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours latest up to 9.10.96. Earnest money at the rate 2% (two per cent) of estimated cost in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-6, Dhaka must be submitted with each tender. This office authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. The contractor himself or his representative carrying his attested letter can purchase the tender form by producing the registration book with necessary papers.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Advance earnest money	Approved time
1.	Internal electrification work of under-construction ground floor & 1st floor of proposed Police Barrack No. 4 at Mirpur Police Complex	Tk 4,13,667/54	Tk 8,274/-	3 (three) months

Md Waliullah
Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Divn-6
Dhaka
Phone No: 414608
DFP-21102-19/9
G-1114

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Women's & Children, Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
Sub: Appointment Notice
Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladesh citizens for appointment on purely temporary basis to the undermentioned vacant post under the project "Begum Rokeya Training Centre", Chhatrapur, Mymensingh run by the Directorate of Women's Affairs under the Ministry of Women's & Children's Affairs. The selected officer shall have to reside wholetime in the project area.

No	Name of Post	No. of Post	Pay Scale	Age	Educational Qualification & Experience
1	Production Officer	1 (one)	2850-125-5155/-	Maximum 18-30	A) 2nd class graduation (Honours) / 2nd class Post-graduation degree from approved university. B) Should have 4 years practical experience in women's development activities.

Terms and conditions of application
1. (A) Self handwritten application containing the applicant's name, father's/husband's name permanent address, present address, date of birth, age (as on 1/9/96), nationality, educational qualification & experience etc should reach the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notice. No application will be received after the prescribed time.
2. The undermentioned papers must be attached with the application:
(A) 3 (three) copies recent passport size photographs attested by 1st class gazetted officer.
(B) Attested true copies of certificates as proof of all educational qualification & experience.
(C) Character & nationality certificate issued by a 1st class gazetted officer.
3. Name of post & name of home district should be superscribed on the envelope.
4. Erroneous or incomplete application will be treated as cancelled outright.
5. Candidates in service should apply through proper channel.
6. Age limit relaxable for departmental candidates.
7. No allowance is admissible for taking part in written test or viva voce.
8. Any type of persuasion recommendation will only disqualify the candidate.
9. The authority reserves the right to stop/cancel the notice & appointment.
10. The authority's decision will be treated as final in all matters of appointment.
A S M Saleh Ahmed
Senior Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Women's & Children's Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat,
Dhaka
DFP-20977-17/9
G-1111

Weather
Thundershower forecast
Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.
Met Office said weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period throughout the country.
The country's highest temperature, 34.5 degree Celsius, was recorded at Khulna today and the lowest 23.8 degrees, at Rangamati yesterday.
The sun sets today at 05:53 pm and rises tomorrow at 05:49 am.
Maximum and the minimum temperatures and humidities recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.8	26.6	81	82
Chittagong	32.6	25.8	89	82
Rajshahi	33.7	25.2	86	81
Khulna	34.5	25.8	83	82
Barisal	33.8	25.0	86	82
Sylhet	31.5	25.3	90	81
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.8	81	82