

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Darker side of the shine

by Sabah Chowdhury

"I am happier than most of my customers" said Binod Chandra Das, the man with a shoe shine shop on the pavement outside Cafe Jheel, in the busy Mitthiheel Commercial Area.

I had noticed this man, often on my way to office, busy at work. He usually has a number of customers in front of him and was hardly visible from afar.

Therefore, he was the first person who came to my mind, when I was assigned to do a story of our column "Dhaka Day by Day". So I just crossed over, and there I was taking to him.

Binod has been polishing shoes since he was a boy of 12. That was far back, just after the country became in dependent. And he was still at it, working merrily. Clad in alungi and shirt with a chaddar wrapped around him, to protect him from the winter chill. Binod had a smile of contentment for his customers.

"How many customers do you approximately have each day?" I asked.

"Well I really do not count, but it will be in the range of about 20/25. That is of course speaking about a normal day, starting at 7 am/5 pm except on holidays. Things are different on a rainy day. The number of customers are much lesser."

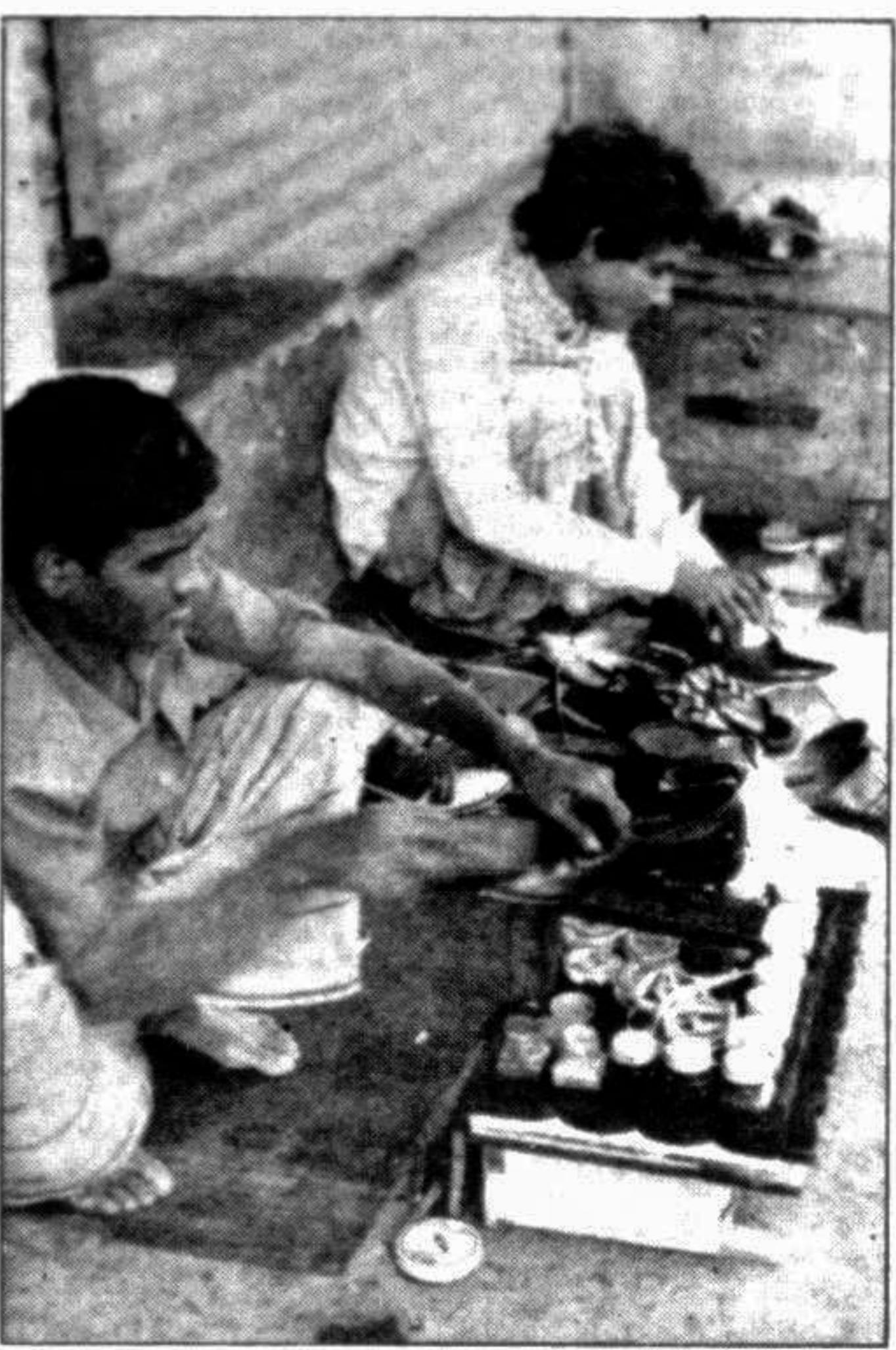
"How much do you charge your customers? Anything between take 3-5."

"Then your income is not too bad" I commented.

"It is alright considering the market price of these days. That is precisely the reason why I am quite satisfied with what I earn."

Binod a young boy of 12, had come to the capital, from his village Bazipur, in Mymensingh. He had come to the city of big buildings and offices, chasing an even bigger dream of becoming a man of moderate income one day so that the task of maintaining those dependent on him would be an easy task.

He had high hopes those days. Often while roaming around for a small job which would provide his meal, or sitting idly somewhere. As he was unemployed, Binod would imagine that one day he would be able to go back to his mother in the village, and tell her that her hard days were over. That he earned enough for her to be proud of. But that was not to be. It did not take him very long to realize that such things rarely happen. Although he had studied



Polishing Dreams

Take 1500/- . The rest of the money, he sends to the members of his family.

Not very keen to take about them, Binod informed that besides his mother, he has about 5/6 brothers and sisters who live on his carnal.

The total savings after meeting all expenditure comes to about taka 500/- per month or even less sometimes.

"I visit my village on all important religious and social occasions. I forego my income for those few days, as I need a break from this never-wrecking toll of each day."

I felt good at the attitude. Binod had taken towards life. The smile on his face reminded me of a man whom life and its struggles has not been able to break. Though his dreams have turned to ashes today, he continues to fight back the pangs of defeat with a smile which speaks of firm determination. He has the right spirit for a city like Dhaka-a city where only those survive who have that special quality.

"Carry on crusader," I silently said. "It is people like you who turn failures into successes and do not let any obstacle daunt their spirits."

Workshop on water begins

Weather

Cold wave to continue for two more days

By Staff Correspondent

The moderate cold wave, which is sweeping over Bangladesh for the last four days is likely to continue for another couple of days, the Meteorological Department said.

The Met Office on Thursday forecast dry weather all over

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

37	Leather belt
38	Motif
39	Collar
40	Symbol
41	Surprise
42	4 Fish sauce
43	Sylvan deity
44	Sent forth
45	Solemn
46	wonder
47	Foreigner
48	Guido's high note
49	Throne
50	holding office
51	Telegraph system
52	Inventor
53	Obscure
54	5 Is borne
55	6 Paid notices
56	7 Century
57	8 Symbol
58	9 Trends
59	10 Footlike
60	11 Golf mound
61	12 Underfoot
62	13 African
63	14 River
64	15 Whisper
65	16 Is ill
66	17 Stay am
67	18 Substantiates
68	19 Olio
69	20 Ate
70	21 Task

Temperature and humidity recorded in major cities Thursday were as follows :

	Temp.	Hum.
1	23.4	75
2	23.1	76
3	23.0	75
4	23.0	75
5	23.0	75
6	23.0	75
7	23.0	75
8	23.0	75
9	23.0	75
10	23.0	75
11	23.0	75
12	23.0	75
13	23.0	75
14	23.0	75
15	23.0	75
16	23.0	75
17	23.0	75
18	23.0	75
19	23.0	75
20	23.0	75
21	23.0	75
22	23.0	75
23	23.0	75
24	23.0	75
25	23.0	75
26	23.0	75
27	23.0	75
28	23.0	75
29	23.0	75
30	23.0	75
31	23.0	75
32	23.0	75
33	23.0	75
34	23.0	75
35	23.0	75
36	23.0	75
37	23.0	75
38	23.0	75
39	23.0	75
40	23.0	75
41	23.0	75
42	23.0	75
43	23.0	75
44	23.0	75
45	23.0	75
46	23.0	75
47	23.0	75
48	23.0	75
49	23.0	75
50	23.0	75
51	23.0	75
52	23.0	75
53	23.0	75

Japanese envoy calls on Musa

Mr Takeo Iguchi, Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh, called on Mr A K M Musa, Adviser for Industries, Jute and Textiles at the Shilpa Bhaban in Dhaka Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

More 142 prisoners released

More 142 prisoners at Dhaka Central Jail were released Wednesday under a government amnesty, reports BSS.

A batch of 152 prisoners were released from the Central Jail on Tuesday.

Among the prisoners released Wednesday, 103 were convicts, 32 under trial prisoners and 7 detainees, jail sources said.

Meanwhile, 44 prisoners were released from Khulna district jail Wednesday after 58 were released Tuesday.

Eventually his own helplessness and despair evaporated, as he saw over the years the increasing number of unemployment all around him, as the city kept on expanding. "I have studied only upto Class VIII. Ironically many of my customers are graduates from the university, but are wandering in search of job. This makes me thankful to my creator and gives me a feeling of contentment which I did not have before", said Binod.

A bachelor, Binod stays in a mess at Gopibagh in the old part of the city. He pays Taka 300/- as seat rent, for a single bed and the use of a common toilet. He has to manage his own food. His total expenditure on himself comes to about

10 days. The rest of the money, he sends to the members of his family.

Not very keen to take about them, Binod informed that besides his mother, he has about 5/6 brothers and sisters who live on his carnal.

The total savings after meeting all expenditure comes to about taka 500/- per month or even less sometimes.

"I visit my village on all important religious and social occasions. I forego my income for those few days, as I need a break from this never-wrecking toll of each day."

I felt good at the attitude. Binod had taken towards life. The smile on his face reminded me of a man whom life and its struggles has not been able to break. Though his dreams have turned to ashes today, he continues to fight back the pangs of defeat with a smile which speaks of firm determination. He has the right spirit for a city like Dhaka-a city where only those survive who have that special quality.

"Carry on crusader," I silently said. "It is people like you who turn failures into successes and do not let any obstacle daunt their spirits."

PROGRAMME

Pizza promotion

Dhaka Sheraton will start 10-day pizza promotion at its Bithika Restaurant from tomorrow. The pizza promotion is aimed at popularizing this Italian speciality in Bangladesh, according to a press release.

A special prayer was held for the peace of the departed soul.

Oldham battery dealers

The first annual conference of "Oldham" battery dealers organized by messrs Latik Ali Limited will be held on January 20 at 6:30 p.m. at a local hotel, a press release said.

She will also address a public meeting at 3 p.m. today at Mohammadpur Bus Stand.

BNP leaders including Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Mir Shawkat Ali, Prof. Jahanara Begum and Amanullah Aman will address the meeting.

They are not meant for any offensive actions and neither our Army had the firepower for that purpose, he said.

The Adviser said the Government was also keeping constant touch with Bangladesh missions in the Gulf countries about the safety of its nationals in the Gulf region.

The Gulf developments were under constant monitoring of the Government, Mr. Ahmed said.

Presidential Adviser on Foreign Affairs Fakhrudin Ahmed told BSS that Bangladesh contingent had been sent for purely defensive purposes and latest reports spoke of their safe position in Saudi Arabia.

They are not meant for any offensive actions and neither our Army had the firepower for that purpose, he said.

The Adviser said the Government was also keeping constant touch with Bangladesh missions in the Gulf countries about the safety of its nationals in the Gulf region.

The AGM will be held at 3 p.m. on January 24 at Khadya Bhavan, 16 Abdul Gani Road.

Willes Little Flower School

Willes Little Flower School in the city will hold a press conference in the room of the Headmaster at 3pm today, a press release of the school said.

Decorator's shop gutted

One decorator's shop was gutted and a fireman was seriously injured when some unruly mob set ablaze the shop at Bhairo Bazar on Wednesday afternoon, Fire Service sources said, reports BSS.

The unruly people did not allow the firemen to extinguish the fire to the shop named 'Shebasanga' Decorator's as a result fireman Anwar Hossain was seriously injured.

Some political issue was stated to be the cause of setting the shop on fire, the source added.

Dr Habibuddin conducted the election.

Wazed elected Atomic Scientists Assoc President

Dr M A Wazed Miah, Director Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka was elected President of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Scientists Association (BAESA) on Wednesday, says a press release.

Dr F R Al-Siddique, Dr Habibul Ahsan and Mr Minhazul Islam were elected as Vice President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the Association.

The country has sufficient stock of all kinds of petroleum products and there should not be any cause of "concern and anxiety" in view of the outbreak of war in the Gulf.

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed said on Wednesday.

"We are well covered as far as the stock position of petrol, diesel and kerosene is concerned. And there is no reason for being panicky", Mr. Ahmed told BSS.

He said the Government was constantly monitoring the supply and consumption of the petroleum products. "We have also been keeping watch on the impact of the development.

Major parties present manifesto

Major political parties, outlining their economic manifestos at a discussion in Dhaka Wednesday, rated an honest and accountable administration as most vital for giving the present fragile economy a strong base, reports BSS.

Agriculture, poverty alleviation, rural development and mass education are the common features in their top priority list.

On the concluding day of three-day discussion, all the major parties spoke in favour of a mixed economy and committed themselves to remove all anti-people legacies from the socio-economic infrastructure.

Economic Study Center, a forum of Dhaka University students of economics, arranged the discussion on "Future

of Bangladesh".

BNP leader Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury said that the main objective of his party's economic policy would be to salvage the rural economy and bring major reforms in agriculture, land ownership and resource distribution system.

If voted to power, Awami League will exempt all outstanding farm loans upto Tk. 5,000 and also waive interests on agri-loans upto a maximum Tk. 10,000, Mukul said. On foreign trade, the Awami League leader said import of luxury items would be discouraged