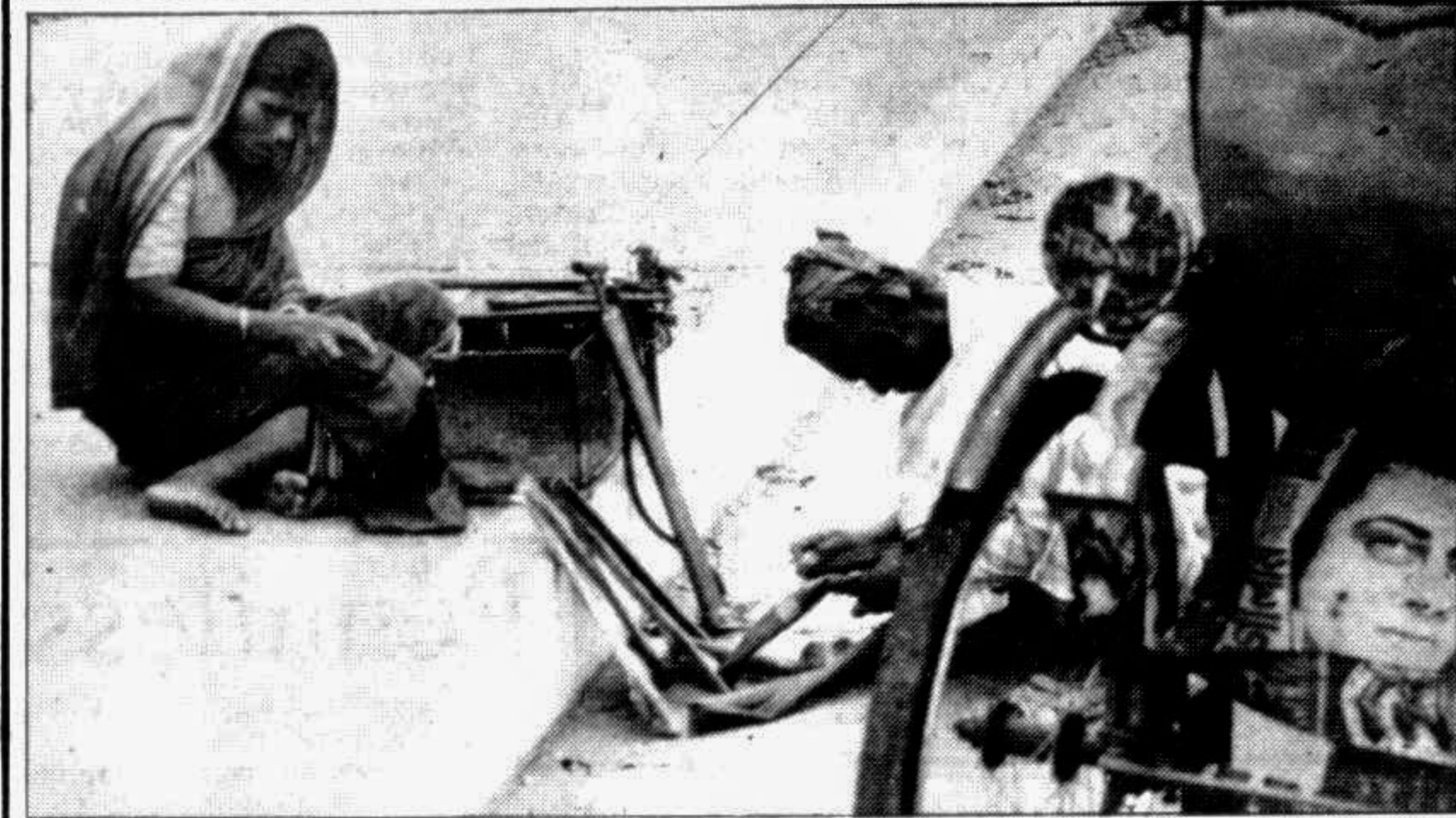


# Dhaka Day by Day

## Repairing Wheels through the Rain

by Fayza Haq

DHAKA is a city of thousands of rickshaws with their gaudy hoods and eye-catching paintings at the back, just above the wheels. It requires quite a number of repair workers to keep the rickshaws on the street. With no prospects in the near future of better means of transportation the rickshaws will have to ply the roads as people go about their work.



Salaha Begum: Life's like that.

Salaha Begum, 36, born at Jessore, is one of the many repair workers who keep the rickshaws fit and road worthy. Salaha, who has been working for nine years at Shahbagh, opposite the National Museum, can fix tyre leaks, repair broken wheels, and tighten loose machine parts of rickshaws. She has learnt the repair work from her husband and now controls the business herself.

Why does she choose to do a job which is normally done by men in Dhaka? She admits she would have preferred a job in the garment factory, or an easy task of minding children as a house-maid, or working in the kitchen of the well-to-do in the city. But her husband is eccentric and cannot either do the jobs accurately nor keep accounts. "People get

meals. Salaha pays a rent of Tk 150 a month. "Even on occasions like Eid we cannot afford luxuries like sweetsmeats or fruit. Something like meat and fish is also beyond our means."

Salaha who had voted for "Dhanet sheesh" had believed at that time that the symbol represented security of food. Her neighbours and companions voted otherwise. But they all want peace and stability of job so that their income is steady.

There is constant trouble at the Dhaka University and the traffic where I operate is held up so that I get little work. I would have preferred it if there was not so much of political trouble", Salaha comments.

Salaha who comes from Barisal had met her husband, when he came from Jessore to work for his 'khalu' as a day labourer. The future prospects seemed rosy enough for her at that time. She was fascinated with the idea of coming to the vast city of Dhaka. She had no idea that she might get less to eat than a farmer's wife, and have more labour to put in to justify her existence.

But then, life is like that for the average bread-earner in Dhaka city.

## Hasina visits Waziuddin

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition at the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina Thursday visited Waziuddin Khan. President of Pabna district Awami League, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

## First Haj flight arrives today

The first return Haj flight of Bitman leaves Jeddah for Dhaka Thursday night with ballotee Hajts, reports BSS.

## Woman snatcher arrested

Tejgaon police on Thursday morning arrested one woman snatcher from Old Airport Bus Stand.

## Asadul Karim dies

Asadul Karim, a well-known journalist and former Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Star, passed away on Thursday.

## Retired CSP officer dead

Helaluddin Chowdhury, a retired CSP officer, died at his Asad Avenue residence in Dhaka Thursday afternoon. He was 66, reports UNB.

## Jamaat blasts BJP decision

By Staff Correspondent  
Jamaat flayed the reiteration of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to construct Ram Mandir (temple Ram) on the site of Babri Mosque.

In a press release on Thursday Secretary General and Parliamentary Party Leader of Jamaat Mowlana Motiur Rahman Nizami said that the reiteration of BJP decision has challenged the faith and belief of the muslim all over the world.

BJP is trying to ignite "communal fire" in India by this announcement, he said. Nizami urged the Indian government to prevent BJP from any attempt of constructing Ram Mandir in place of Babri Mosque and to stop repression on the Muslims of Kashmir by accepting their demand of independence.

## Rubber output to fall by 500 tons

The rural electrification programme sustained a great loss as the infrastructures of the power system in 65 upazilas of 11 coastal districts were badly affected by the recent cyclone, according to official sources.

The sources said the system was severely affected in 20 upazilas and partially in the rest of the areas. The maximum damage to the system was in the districts of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Barisal and Barguna.

## Ahmediyya relief for cyclone victims

Hazrat Mirza Taber Ahmad, fourth Caliph and present Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, being deeply soaked has expressed his profound sympathy for the recent cyclone stricken people of Bangladesh.

## 68 held in city

Dhaka Metropolitan Police have arrested 68 persons on different charges during the last 24 hours and sent them to court, a DMP press release said in Dhaka Thursday night, reports BSS.

## Training on 'Human resource management'

A senior and mid level training programme on 'Human resource management' will be held today (Friday) at 9 pm at hotel Purbani International in the city.

## Workshop for anti-drug workers

Bangladesh Anti-Drug, Smoking and Alcohol Society (BADAS), in observance of the World Anti-Drug Day, will organise a workshop for the anti-drug workers today (Friday) from 4.30 pm to 7 pm at the auditorium of the United Nations Information Centre in the city.

## Chittagong TV sub-centre resumes operation tomorrow

CHITTAGONG, June 27: After long wait Chittagong sub-centre of Bangladesh Television will broadcast its programmes again from Saturday next, reports BSS.

The microwave system between Dhaka-Chittagong was completely snapped when T and T tower along with TV antenna were totally destroyed during the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of April 29.

Since then the people of the port city, greater Chittagong and elsewhere of the district were deprived of enjoying the BTV programmes.

## Anniversary of Abul Kashem's birth today

Different cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the 71th birth anniversary of Principal Abul Kashem, a leader of the historic language movement today (Friday).

## Imposition of VAT to hit potato farmers

Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA) urged the government to exempt cold storages from Value Added Tax (VAT).

In a press conference on Thursday at National Press Club, Chairman of the BCSA Nurul Islam said that potato has been exempted from VAT but the fresh imposition of VAT on the services of cold storage would indirectly affect the potato farmers as well as common people.

It will also affect the government's programme to introduce potato as principal food, he said.

Islam said that the cold storage owners would demand extra charges for VAT from the farmers and businessmen who stored their potatoes in the storages which would lead to confrontation.

He also said that the decision will hamper the cultivation and production of potato and further weaken the sick cold storage sector.

"Probably the policy makers generalised the cold storage and as such they have taken this contradictory decision that potatoes either cold or normal are out of VAT but it has been imposed on the storage services," Islam said.

He refuted a question that the storage owners are charging high rate of rent at their will from the farmers as the production was huge in this season.

He said that 16 lakh tons of potato have been produced in the country during the season out of which three lakh 60 thousand tons have so far been stored.

The capacity of country's 168 vegetable and potato cold storages is 4,25,000 tons, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the programmes are seen partially in other parts of the Chittagong district by putting up special and high powered antenna atop the buildings.

The people of the port city and greater Chittagong were deprived of enjoying some rare and attractive programmes for the last two months. The programmes which were not watched in the television screen from Chittagong sub-centre including: Live telecast of sacred Haj performance, illustrated news of the assassination and the cremation ceremony of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi, BTC cub football tournament between Bangladesh and India, three-day long special programmes on Eid-ul-Azha, most favourite drama series 'Ayomoy' and 'Macgyver'.

The people of Chittagong meanwhile demanded re-broadcasting the important programmes which they had missed.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

The sky will remain mainly cloudy over the country. Rain or thundershower likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and weather is likely to be mainly dry over Dhaka and Khulna divisions. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershower occurred at one or two places at Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions on Thursday. The rainfall was recorded at Rajshahi 36 mm, Sylhet 25 mm and Rangpur 4 mm. The maximum temperature of 35 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activity likely to increase.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Thursday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.6	27.6	79	78
Chittagong	30.8	26.5	82	75
Rangpur	32.2	24.8	97	84
Khulna	34.8	27.8	82	78
Cox's Bazar	31.8	26	78	79
Rajshahi	35	27	86	100
Sylhet	27	24	95	78
Jessore	34.5	-	89	79

## Crossword Puzzler

**ACROSS**

1 Word of sorrow  
5 Tail  
8 Explosive  
12 Ravellings  
13 Ventilator  
14 Arabian commander  
15 River in Germany  
16 Silly  
17 Williams  
17 Weary  
18 Landed property  
20 Gained  
22 Vesel  
23 Anger  
24 Rents  
27 Nail or Lynda  
31 Everyone  
32 Building cry  
33 Collect  
37 Fiftly

**DOWN**

40 Dined  
41 Statesmate  
42 Woeful  
43 Dreadful  
45 Changes  
49 Sea in Asia  
50 Priest's vestment  
52 Spoken  
53 Unusual  
54 Beams  
55 Capital  
56 Lartive  
58 Interwise  
57 Summer: Fr.  
58 Abound

1 Medicinal plant  
2 Covers  
3 Dilated  
4 Leather belt  
5 Military

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

STOIC BESTS  
BERATE ENTREE  
ARAR READY LA  
REP NEEDS YES  
SERIALS PARTS  
ERS ARID  
SPEED BLESSSES  
PASS FALSE FA  
ODE FARES APT  
OR SLING ALOE  
REPAIR ENTERS  
SHIPS SHEET

students  
11 Raised  
19 Pedal digit  
21 Period of time  
24 Fall behind  
25 Guide's high note  
26 in music, high  
28 Bushy clump  
29 Wallach  
30 Crimson  
34 Small town  
35 Greek letter  
36 Tail  
37 Horse's home  
38 Lubricate  
39 Sharp reply  
40 Dismal  
43 Tehran's country  
44 Hindu garment  
45 One of HOMES  
46 Bridge term  
47 - of  
48 Angles  
49 Bridge term  
51 Illuminated

## TV Friday

Time	Programme
8:00	Opening announcement Al-Quran
8:10	News in Bengali
8:15	Documentary Film: Zoo 2000
8:40	Natun Kuri - '97
10:00	News in English
10:05	Animation special
11:15	Moner Mokure: 'Sukher Chhapatra'
12:30	Closing down
3:00	Opening announcement Al-Quran
3:12	Programme summary Recitation from Tripitak
3:15	Alor Dishari
3:40	Health programme
4:10	Drama series: Chronicles of Narniya
4:40	Perspective
5:20	News in Bengali
5:30	Sports programme
6:30	Shikkhagan Education programme
7:10	Madhu Chhanda
8:00	News in Bengali
8:40	Drama: 'Swapner Simana'
10:00	News in English
10:30	Drama serial: LA Law
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Saturday's programme Verses from Al-Quran
	National Flag and National Anthem
11:45	Close down