

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Of Horns and Honkings

by Parveen Anam

The motor car was an invention for the benefit of mankind. Man could get places faster and save himself a lot of time and energy. Such were the noble thoughts, invading the better senses of the maker of the motor vehicle, when he went about the noble task of the said invention. So far so good.

But the maker of this very motor car put a little gadget or a button in the vehicle, to be used in times of dire need, i.e. get the unwanted out of its way, human or otherwise. But somewhere along the line, we in our beloved land, seemed to have lost track of the purpose of this little button, or switch — what's in a name —? and managed to convince ourselves with great gusto, that it is a gadget, meant solely for the entertainment of the driver of the vehicle, when the rigours of life are weighing him down. And life is a drag. And he can play around with this button, much to his whims. For who is to stop him from honking and honking all over the place, as if his life depended on it? And somehow, they seem to be even more enthusiastic outside the hospitals and schools, where there are very clear 'No honking' signs. Perhaps they suffer from the 'defiant syndrome'? If there is any such thing or phrase going around? What else could explain his inexplicable behaviour? That driver, as soon as he has made himself comfortable behind the steering wheel, will put his toe or thumb, (whichever is convenient) on the horn, and tear down the road, as if all the devils were in a race for his life, and not let up, till he has reached the end of the line — or his life — whichever, is faster. And in the process, take a few unwitting souls along with him, to the other world.

If they were not nimble-footed enough to take heed of his horns and honkings and beat a quick and effective retreat, to the farthest side of the road. For the benefit of the reader, who has somehow not managed to keep up with the latest in horns, the in thing is 'the air horn', which is used happily by all and sundry, regardless of the well-being or the hearing facility of the general population at large.

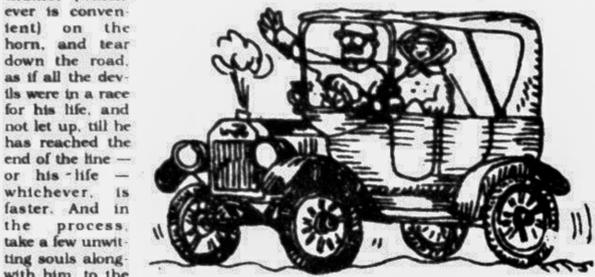
And if the unwitting driver of the car or vehicle in front of him happens to be a female, may the good Lord have mercy on her. From day one of his noble birth, the driver of the motor car has been imbued with the very considered idea, that he is a blessing to mankind and all beings other than him are inferior. No two ways about it. And driving is his distinct privilege, not to be encroached upon by other

lesser and inferior beings.

And if that being happens to be an inferior female, his superiority must be asserted, and what better way to prove it than to get that female, who has the gall to drive on the road ahead of him out of his way? So, he puts his entire mind and energy on the use of that gadget, the horn, until, for the sake of her sanity and hearing, she quickly moves out of his way. And while overtaking her, the expression on his face is enough to convince the poor female, that he would be an unsafe contestant to back in a beauty contest, where the only other contestants were Dr. Jekyll and Boris Karloff.

The red light is yet another gadget, which the average driver is convinced is there to test the usefulness of his horn, or its effectiveness. Because as soon as he screeches to a halt at the red light, he also simultaneously steps on this little horn, to announce to the world at large, that he is doing them a big favour by merely stopping at the red light. And even before the light has changed to green, is only amber, he has started to blow his horn at full blast, to get the inferior beings out of his royal way. As if they had all the intention in the world of spending the rest of the day at the lights, or were most certainly colour blind at the least, and it was his moral duty to remind them to get a move on.

And while we are on the subject of horns,



hooting and red lights, it would perhaps be a good idea to mention that the driver is also absolutely convinced, that the white lines in the middle of the road were put there for aesthetic value only. Surely the double lines, or broken white lines were put there to cheer him up and he can hoot at will, when he overtakes merrily along the double white line, admiring the way the paint man had been allowed to dabble with his brush and promising himself, to remember to apply for vacancies in the field, when he had finished with his horn.

However, since the drivers in this part of the world are so inclined to avail of the better uses of the horn, perhaps we should have an orientation course for them every so often, to acquaint them with the saner uses of that little gadget? That it is perhaps better used as a gentle reminder to the unwitting pedestrian, passerby or gentleman driver (ladies beware, anyway) and is certainly not to be used as an instrument of torture, hastening the poor soul to the ultimate end. It is a means to the end, perhaps, but not an end in itself.

### JU Deputy Registrar suspended

Deputy Registrar (Administration) Mohammad Araj Ali of Jahangirnagar University was suspended Thursday for allegedly misappropriating 50 metric tons of wheat which was allocated for development and afforestation in the university area.

Registrar of the University told BSS Thursday night that the authorities decided to suspend Mohammad Araj Ali for misappropriating the wheat worth about Taka 300,000.

A case has been instituted with Savar Thana in this connection.

### Three corruption cases filed against Zafar Imam

State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday that three corruption cases had been filed against the former Textiles Minister Zafar Imam, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Zainal Abedin Hazari (AL-Ferd), the State Minister said the complaints against the former Textile Minister are: Use of Tant Board vehicles for personal work and thereby incurring financial loss of Taka 30,808.15 as cost of fuel, rejection of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation's proposal for increasing prices of yarn with the intention of providing financial benefit illegally to the yarn traders and appointment of four fake yarn trading firms as agents by personal initiative in violation of the rules of the corporation.

### World Children executive in city

Rudolf Deibel of World Children Netherlands and Mrs Deibel are now in Bangladesh on a short visit, says a press release.

During the visit, they will meet senior government officials and local leaders in connection with expansion of World Children's activities in Bangladesh.

World Children have been supporting several projects for the benefit of distressed mother and children, the press release added.

### Justice Chowdhury to attend peace confce in Kuwait

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, President of the Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs and Chairman, Liberty Forum, will leave for Kuwait to attend the World Conference on Peace and Solidarity to be held there from January 19, reports BSS.

From Kuwait Justice Chowdhury will proceed to Geneva to represent Bangladesh at the conference of the International Commission of Jurists, says a press release.

### Ctg Bar Assoc executives

CHITTAGONG, Jan 16: Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza and Advocate Khorshed Alam Chowdhury were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Chittagong District Bar Association for the year 1992 in the election of the association held here Thursday, reports BSS.

Other elected office-bearers of the association were: Senior Vice-President-Avocate Abul Kalam Azad; Vice President-Avocate Abu Muhammad Hashem, Assistant Secretary-Humayun Akhtar, Library Secretary-Mujibur Rahman and Cultural Secretary-Sami Uddin.

### Ursekul Majlis Jan 19

The annual Ursekul Majlis (Urs) of the respected holy Muslim saint of the sub-continent, Hazrat Moulana Shah Sufi Azangachhi (RA), will be held on January 19 at Olganj Haqqani Masjid, opposite to Dhaka Sadarghat Terminal, reports BSS.



Members of the Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association brought out a procession in the city Thursday protesting alleged malpractices by Association's President Abul Kalam Azad. —Star photo

## Educational institutions to be nationalised

Educational Minister Jamiruddin Sircar Thursday said the present government was actively considering formulation of a policy to nationalise educational institutions for maintaining proper management in the educational arena, reports BSS.

Addressing two separate rallies of teachers and students at Government M M College and City College premises in Jessore, the Education

Minister said more educational institutions would be nationalised by considering their positions and population of the respective localities.

He said, the unplanned nationalisation of some educational institutions by the past autocratic regime had caused problems for the present government.

Stressing the need for maintaining academic atmosphere in the educational in-

stitution, the Education Minister said the government was trying to remove prevailing unrest and indiscipline from the campus.

Addressing the meetings, Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam said the present democratically elected government was accountable to the nation and it was committed to do everything possible for the welfare of the people.

He called upon the student community to devote themselves to studies for making them worthy citizens of the country. Principals of the colleges also addressed the meetings.

Later, the ministers addressed several other meetings at different educational institutes of Bagharpara Upazila of the district and other places under Narail district.

## Prices of yarn, cloth to be reduced

The government will lower the prices of yarn and cloth following the fall in the price of cotton in international market, State Minister for Textiles Major (retd) MA Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday, reports BSS.

Despite blacklisting of Bangladesh by American Cotton Exporters' Association there was no problem for the country to procure cotton from alternate sources, he said. Against the annual requirement of about two lakh bales of cotton, the country has already imported one and a half lakh bales, he said. The tender for importing another 50,000 bales has already been floated, he said.

Earlier, answering a ques-

tion from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind) the State Minister said the government had scrapped all the five agreements signed under past government irregularly with American traders for supply of cotton to Bangladesh. The decision was taken to protect the country's interest, he said.

He said the American Cotton Exporters Association had blacklisted Bangladesh for scrapping the agreements. He, however, said despite such decision of American Cotton Exporters Association many cotton producing countries including Pakistan, Russia, Columbia participated in the tender floated by Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

## Railway takes up special arrangements for Ijtema

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has taken up special arrangements at Tongi Railway Station for the convenience of the devotees coming to join the Bishwa Ijtema beginning from January 18 at Tongi, reports BSS.

A BR press release said Thursday the railway authorities had set up additional ticket counters for the round-the-clock ticket sale, installed additional water taps for adequate supply of water and established necessary number of latrines and urinals on temporary basis at the station.

Besides, a physician with adequate quantity of medicine will remain present at the station for rendering quick medical care to the Musallis.

Bangladesh Railway provided special train services from Mymensingh, Bhairab Bazar and Akhaura to Tongi from Wednesday for the Ijtema participants.

Besides, all inter-city train services, except the Mahanagar Express, will stop at Tongi Railway Station for two minutes from Thursday for the Musallis.

### JS Business Advisory body meet held

The 9th meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Business Advisory Committee was held at Sangsad chamber Thursday morning, reports BSS.

The Chairman of the committee Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali presided over the meeting.

A Sangsad press release said, the committee discussed in details matters relating to the transaction of business of the House during the remaining period of current session and took a number of decisions.

Those who attended the meeting are LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pannu, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Deputy Leader of the opposition Abus Samad Azad, Begum Farida Rahman, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Md Shamsuddoha, Whip Shahjahan Mian, Opposition Chief Whip Md Nasim, Shahjahan Siraj, and Sheikh Anwar Ali.

### Green panel sweeps RUTA election

RAJSHAHI, Jan 16: Professor Shamsur Rahman of green panel was elected President in the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) election held today, reports UNB.

Prof Rahman won the election bagging 232 votes beating his nearest rival Prof F R Khan (Yellow panel) who got 187 votes.

Prof Pataal Islam Parooki of green panel was elected Secretary having 223 votes beating his nearest rival Prof Saedur Rahman of yellow panel who got 195 votes.

Dr Mohammad Delwar Hossain became Vice President, Samad Abedin Treasurer and Dr Abdul Wahab Joint Secretary.

A total of 423 voters cast their vote in the election held at the varsity premises.

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Employees of the Public Works Department holding demonstration in support of their demands. —Star photo

## 150 ideal villages to be set up

State Minister for Land Muhammad Kabir Hossain Thursday directed the Deputy Commissioners to complete the process of executing exchange deeds in favour of the real claimants within three months, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing the Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners (Revenue) at the Divisional Commissioner's Conference

Room in Dhaka. Kabir Hossain said the government will set up 150 self-reliant ideal villages in the current financial year. He advised the concerned authorities to ensure all facilities while planning these ideal villages.

The State Minister for Land said government has been trying its best to evolve a flawless and perfect land and revenue system to ensure better management of the land and welfare of the people.

Presided over by Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka Walail Islam, the conference was also addressed by Land Secretary M Aminul Islam, Chairman of Land Reforms Board Enamul Hoq and Director-General of Land Records and Survey Abdus Shakoor.

Land Secretary emphasised the need for expediting the payment of compensations to the land owners.

**The Daily Star**

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**Weather**

**No change in temperature**

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Friday says it is likely to remain dry over the country. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Meanwhile, the weather was dry on Thursday. The minimum temperature of 9.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and Khulna.

Outlook for subsequent two days: No appreciable change. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. The temperature and humidity of some cities on Thursday were:

City	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	24.6	13.5	76	66
Chittagong	26	14.1	89	77
Rajshahi	24.5	9.6	91	73
Khulna	26.2	9.6	89	69
Comilla	25.5	12.5	93	82
Sylhet	24.5	12.8	100	78
Jessore	26.2	10.6		

**ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন**

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
আপনার শিক্কে টাকা দিন।

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা নিয়ে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের যাত্রিক বিভাগে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারসহ সকল সরকারী ও আধা-সরকারী সংস্থার যাত্রিক সার্কেলে/বিভাগে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২৯১১তে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ২০-১-৯২ ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ ও নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কর্তৃক টেন্ডার গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১.৩০ ঘটিকার পর সকল প্রকৌশল বিভাগ হইতে সীল্ড টেন্ডারসমূহ প্রাপ্ত সাপেক্ষে উপস্থিত দরদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে খোলা হইবে। শতকরা হারে দর থেকে এবং কথায় উভয়ই লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুকূলে ঢাকাহু যে কোন শিডিউল ব্যাঙ্কের ব্যাঙ্ক ডাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বায়নার টাকা ও তালিকাভুক্ত সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কাগজপত্র দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়ে এবং হিসাব বিভাগের পোন্দারের নিকট ও নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে তালিকাভুক্তির বৈধ দলিল পত্রাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক নগদ অর্থের বিনিময়ে (অফেরতযোগ্য) টেন্ডার, শিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, যাত্রিক - ২ এর দফতরে জানা যাইবে।

কোন দরপত্রদাতা প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যের ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) এর অধিক উর্ধ্ব নিম্নদর প্রদান করিলে উক্ত দরের ৫-পক্ষে দর বিশ্লেষণ সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। ৫% এর অধিক নিম্নদরপ্রদানকারী নিম্নদরদাতাকে কার্যদেপ প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে সে ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত বায়নার টাকার বিস্তপ পরিমাণ টাকা জমা দিতে হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে দরপত্রের কোন শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো বাতিরেকেই গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষের সরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

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