

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Brass Band with Suavity and Savoir-Faire

by Fayza Haq

It was refreshing to talk to the young and committed players of "The English Brass Band" at the Sheraton pool-side. They appeared to be well acquainted with Western music of various centuries as well as the music of the East. The seemed to be hard-working, yet full of fun. It was felt that they knew their job, and yet would prefer have hidden their light under the bushel.

Paul Archibald, the trumpeter, said that although they were an English group their repertoire was cosmopolitan. "We play music from different countries, such as Russia, Spain, Czechoslovakia and USA. We span four centuries in our music. We begin with John Dowland of the 17th century," he informed me.

They have played in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and finish their present tour in India, where they will be playing in the large cities like New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Pune and Madras.

"We find it exciting to play for the Subcontinental audience. The people in Pakistan and Sri Lanka were enthusiastic. The listeners who come have a knowledge of Subcontinental classical and pop music, no doubt, appeared to be delighted to hear English and European music. They loved the American Jazz too, that we play," Paul added.

"Our music spreads from the 16th century to the music composed only several years ago. Our repertoire includes Bach, Handel, Mozart, and L. Greig. We play jazz songs from Broadway and film music by Henry Mancini too," the trumpeter continued.

Stephen Wich, who plays the tuba commented, "We

are all interested in a wide range of music. We use tunes from different countries in our input. The includes the Spanish style music by Moszkowsky, the Polish composer. When I work in London, I am not only a free-lancer but work with an ensemble and often go in for jazz. This applies to all four of the players in our group."

Paul continued, "It is by choice that I work with ensemble or the Philharmonic Orchestra. We are all involved with commercial films and TV jingles. It is important for a musician to have a wide style. Stephen, for instance, plays for the jazz band regularly. It's not for money that we go in for different types of music but to cultivate a variety of taste."

He added, "We choose the music to give the group an identity. We undoubtedly have a wide range of music. It does not matter that the Subcontinent listener is not necessarily acquainted with western music. The quality of the music is such that it speaks for itself. The audience, undoubtedly, respond, whether we play in the Subcontinent, or in Europe or USA. We are proud that we are introducing a music of a different type, when playing in the east, as in Dhaka."

"Eastern musicians," Paul held forth, "are highly regarded by the musicians and composers in the west. This is not only because of the quality which is different, but because of the integrity and sincerity of the musicians. Eastern music is becoming very popular in the west as in England. The musical sessions in London, start at 11 p.m. and end at 4 a.m. People listen to players of



The English Brass Band, now in Dhaka.

the standard of not only Ravi Shankar and Irshad Khan but many different artists."

Stephen added, "We are beginning a sophisticated understanding of Indian classical music. I can recognise different 'ragas' they have the exact correspondence with the scales in music such as church music of the 16th century."

"If you have to be a musician you don't decide consciously," said Paul, when asked what made him take up music as a career. "I enjoyed studying and doing the scales everyday. Doing one's work can be enjoyable and not necessarily a chore."

Richard Martin, the trumpeter remarked, "If we were not all professional instrument players, we would have performed on various instruments as a hobby. We love playing."

Stephen said, "I work seven days a week. Yet I do a lot of reading and spend all that time that I can at home, with my wife and children. None of us have become musicians to become rich. We all have to work hard. None of us married for money either. All of us have families and pets like cats and dogs to see to, after our schedule work. We then have our garden and vegetable patches to take care of. You can well envisage that we are seldom idle."

Paul next put in, "Most of our work outside U.K. We play to a people of different cultures. Music is something that has no racial prejudices. It is something everyone can understand and appreciate. You can play for the royalty and for the common people. We are proud of the fact that we cater

to all. Yet we must admit that we can only do this as they have the backing of the organiser, such as the British Council, as in the case of this particular tour. When touring USA and Europe, we work with other commercial agents. It is impossible to play in places such as Canada or the Subcontinent, without somebody to promote you."

"We all play brass instruments," Stephen pointed out to me. "There is the French horn, the trombone, and the tuba. Our families have been playing brass instruments for generations. I would like to add that brass instruments have an illustrious history. The kings of Europe valued them highly, as in the east. I am sure. Brass musical playing used to be held in high esteem in the past, and King Christian IV of Denmark paid his trumpet player as much as his admiral of the fleet," he said.

He added, "In England, the children of Islamic families from the Sub-continent, hear different types of music at school. I am sure it must be a trifle difficult for them to adjust to the two different cultures at one time, although the answer to this problem is not for us to solve."

James Handy, commenting on the two workshops that the group was handling on Thursday, said that he was looking forward to being with the army bands, as well as the children of the American School.

Paul, Richard, James, David and Stephen have two children each, and have five boys and five girls between themselves.

## Public sector textile mills to be disinvested in phases

The government has a plan to disinvest the public sector textile mills in phases. State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mustafizur Rahman (Awami League), the State Minister said the process would start from June next year.

Mannan, in reply to a question from Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul (BNP), said the annual demand for raw cotton in the textile mills under Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation was about two lakh bales. He said steps had been taken to purchase two lakh bales to raw cotton in the current financial year.

Replying to a question from Ataur Rahman Khan (BNP), the State Minister said the annual demand for textile in the country is 121 crore metres.

To a question from Mohammad Asaduzzaman (Awami League), the State Minister said the number of weavers in the country is 10,27,407 and they produce 57.35 per cent of cloths of the total demand.

Meanwhile, the government has formed a 13-member committee headed by the Principal Finance Secretary to take necessary steps, including determining policy for disinvestment of the nationalised industries.

This was stated by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan in the Jatiya Sangsad in reply to a question from Mohammad Abdul Awal Mia (AL).

Khan said the committee would submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC). The committee is yet to finalise its recommendations.

The Industries Minister said the value of the industries would be fixed after finalisation of the list of industries to be disinvested.

In reply to a written question from Nurul Islam Mont (Ind), Shamsul Islam Khan said since independence the nationalised industries under the Ministry of Industries had been given subsidy of more than Taka 71.27 crore.

## Bangladesh-Japan cultural evening today

The 13th annual "Bangladesh-Japan Cultural Evening" organized by embassy of Japan in cooperation with the Asia Bunka Kaikan Dosokai (ABKD) will be held at Sonargaon Hotel today (Friday) from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, reports BSS.

Bangladeshi and Japanese nationals including school children will take part in the cultural show.

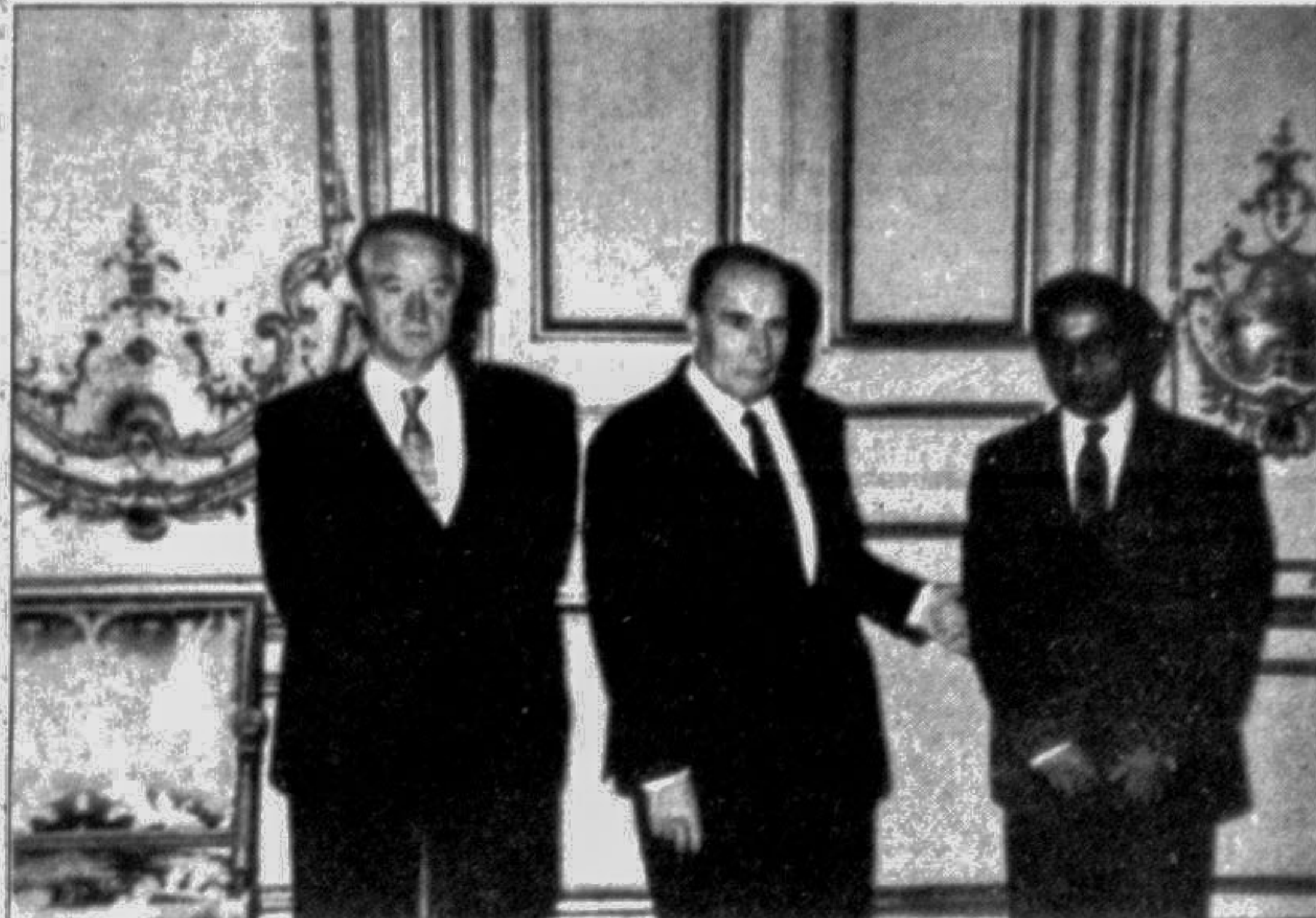
Education Minister Jamruddin Sircar will attend the function as chief guest and Professor Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka, will be present as special guest. Toshio Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh will also be present on the occasion.

Prior to the cultural show there will be an Ikebana Contest from 2:00 pm to 3:45 pm. Bangladeshi ladies will participate in the Ikebana Contest.

## Death anniversary

The death anniversary of Prof M U Ahmed, a renowned psychotherapist of the Subcontinent, will be observed today, says a press release.

A miah mahfil followed by a discussion will be held today at Psyche, 135 Azampur in the early after Asr prayers to mark the occasion.



K M Shehabuddin, the new envoy of Bangladesh to France, has presented his credentials to the French President Francois Mitterrand. Picture shows K M Shehabuddin (R) with President Mitterrand (C) and Roland Dumas, French Foreign Minister (L).

## What's on today . . .

**Solo painting exhibition**  
The solo painting exhibition of Artist Ibrahim opens today (Friday) at 5 pm at the Alliance Francaise gallery.  
The French Ambassador to Bangladesh M Serge Degallatz will inaugurate the exhibition as the chief guest. Renowned painter Aminul Islam will remain present as the special guest.

**Dewanbag Darbar Sharif**  
Dewanbag Pak Darbar Sharif will organise a waj mahfil near Fakirpool Bazar today (Friday) in the afternoon.

**SIPHSA**  
The emergency general meeting of Smoking and Intoxicant Preventive Human Service Association (SIPHSA) will be held today (Friday) at 4 pm at its Malibag head office.

**UNAB**  
The United Nation Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium today (Friday) at the United Nations' Information Centre (UNIC) Dhanmondi, at 5.30 pm on the occasion of the fifth founding anniversary of UNESCO.  
National Professor Professor Muhammad Shamsul Haq will attend the function as chief guest while W Fischer Acting Director of UNIC will be the main speaker.

**Kaunia Mia Bari Shangrakshan**  
The Executive Committee of the Kaunia Mia Bari Shangrakshan and Unnayan Committee meets at the Uttara residence of M N G Azam Khan today (Friday) at 5 pm.

**Chudanga Zila Samity**  
The Executive Committee meeting of Chudanga Zila Samity Dhaka will be held at 4 pm Today (Friday) at its Green Road office at 4 pm.

**Free Birds International Club**  
The Free Birds International Club will provide treatment and medicine at the SK Das Lane of Gandaria today (Friday) at 9 am.

**Aparajeya Bangali**  
Aparajeya Bangali, an organisation of regaining the spirit of the independence war, will hold a press conference at the Press Club today (Friday).  
The organisation will also organise a blood donation session on the occasion of death anniversary of Jahir Raihan the same day.

**Peace For All**  
The regular weekly meeting of the 'Peace For All' will be held today (Friday) at its office at 6 pm.

**Lions Club of Dhaka Progati**  
Lions Club of Dhaka Progati has organised a seminar on 'Mas Literacy' today (Friday) at 4:30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel.  
Education Minister Jamruddin Sircar will be the chief guest at the function. State Minister for Education Principal Younus Khan, UNICEF representative in Bangladesh Cole P Dodge, Director General of Primary Education Abul Hossain will be present as the guest of honour.

**Computer Courses**  
The inaugural ceremony of the computer courses for 1992 of Computer Education and Training Centre (CETC), International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) with technical support of AIT will be held today (Friday) at 10:00 am in the auditorium of the Academy for Planning and Development, Babupura Nilkhet.

**Meenabazar**  
In aid of its social welfare projects Women Voluntary Association (WVA) will hold its annual meenabazar today (Friday) at Gulshan Shishu Park from 11 am to 5 pm.  
Meenabazar will have international as well as local handicraft stalls and food stalls. Entry cards will be available at the venue.

## Weather

**Light rain likely**  
By Staff Correspondent  
Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday. Met office forecast.  
Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country except Rajshahi division and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet where temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius.  
Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	27.0	16.5
Chittagong	28.4	16.0
Rajshahi	27.4	15.0
Khulna	28.0	14.2
Feni	29.3	14.7
Barisal	27.8	14.2
Dinajpur	27.0	14.3
Srimangal	28.2	12.9
Cox Bazar	29.5	16.2
Maximum and Minimum temperature in major regional cities were:		
Katmandu	20.7	5.3
Colombo	32.5	23.1
Male	30.4	25.9
Islamabad	12.3	10.0
New Delhi	16.0	15.1

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:44pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:40 am.

## Tk 1546.71 cr loss due to system loss, JS told

The government incurred a huge loss of revenue amounting to Tk 1546.71 crore due to non-technical system loss in Power Development Board (PDB) in last 19 years since 1972, reports UNB.

This was stated by Energy Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain in parliament yesterday while replying to Nurul Islam Mont (Ind).

In 1991, he said, the government was deprived of the revenue Tk 34.79 crore under the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and Tk 12 crore under the Rural Electrification Board due to system loss.

Replying to a supplementary question from Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury and Abdul Awal Miah, the minister said disciplinary actions were so far taken against 106 officials of PDB, seven officials and employees of DESA and a good number of officials and employees of Rural Electrification Board were penalised for the system loss.

The minister admitted that with the functioning of DESA from October 1 last year the system loss has decreased by two per cent.

In last September, the system loss under PDB was 36.26 per cent but it came down to 36.60 per cent in last December under DESA.

The minister said a number of steps had already been taken to bring down the percentage of system loss. The steps include collection of data about consumers through computers, hundred percent correct billing and recovery.

**Mrs. Sohana Asad**  
**Mr. M. Asadullah**  
Happy Marriage Anniversary. On this special event we wish you both all the best and a bright, Prosperous Future.  
Jui and Wahed

**It's new just for you**  
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**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES**  
The containerised cargo ex. M. V. "Ocean Centaurus" V-32014, from Yokohama, Nagoya, M. V. "Pacific Arrow" V-19015 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, M. V. "Maha Bhum" V-91, from Bangkok have been relayed to M. V. "NEW GENLORD" V-7092, Imp. Rot. No. 58/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 31-1-1992 from Singapore.  
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from "FCL" containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
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**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES**  
The containerised cargo ex. M. V. Choyang Star V-EM 202 from Hamburg and containers originated from Singapore have been relayed to M. V. KOTA BUANA V-KBN-203 Import Rotation No. 57/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 31.01.1992 from Singapore.  
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from "FCL" containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
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**SUZUKI R RANGS**

আকারে যেমন বড় ইঞ্জিনও তেমন শক্তিশালী

**চিক ঘমনারি চেয়েছিলেন**

**সুজুকি জিএস১২৫**

সুজুকি এএস ১০০

এখনো অপ্রতিদ্বন্দী

রিয়ান মটরস্ লিমিটেড  
রাপেশ্ব রূপ অব কোম্পানীজ-এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান  
১৮/১৮৫, মেইনপীঠ বিদ্য লেকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮ ফোন: ৬০৪০৯৯