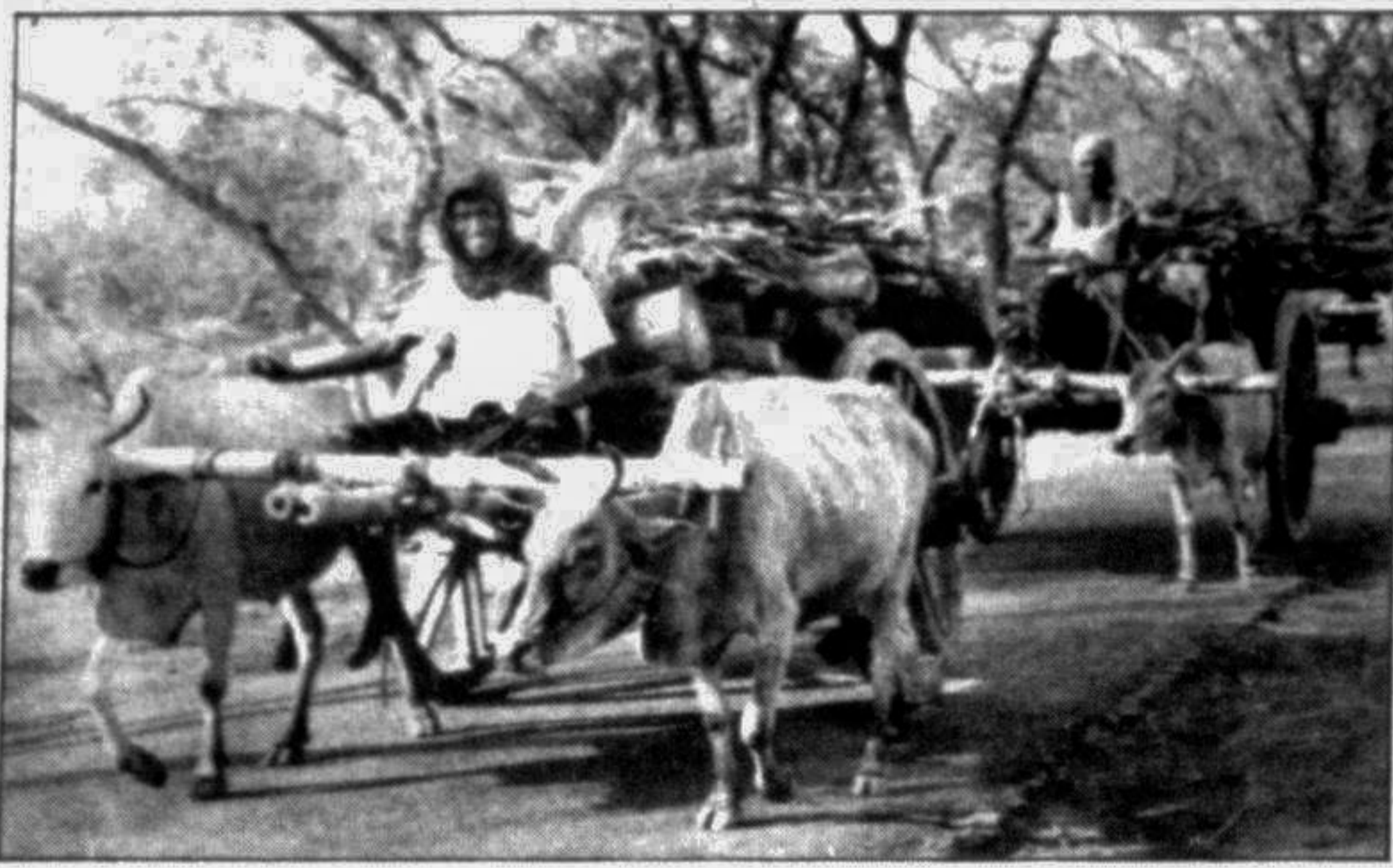


# Dhaka Day by Day

## Pioneer in Ecology

By S Y Bakht



Fuel for peoples' homes: coffins for the forests of the earth.

Human ecology is about the interaction of man and human society with the environment, observes Zena Daysh, the visiting Executive Vice-Chairman of the Commonwealth Ecology Council (CHEC).

"Human ecology is about balanced development, it is a very broad-based concept that allows you to see the wide inter-connections between man, society and the environment," explains the New Zealander who has been involved with the Commonwealth ecology movement for over 30 years.

In the global ecology movement, she points out, the Commonwealth system is valuable and can play a leading role as it has century-old records and experience and above all kinship among the member nations.

Nearly 70 per cent of the rain-forests in the world are in Commonwealth countries and an overwhelming majority of the expertise on rain-forests in the world come from these nations, she adds.

The Commonwealth, she says, can play a leading role at the upcoming Earth Summit of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) due to be held in Brazil next June.

"I want the Commonwealth to go to Brazil with a united voice, with a functional ecological consensus under a broad framework, which would deal with ethno-biology and human ecology, so that they can all come to an agreement," Daysh hopes.

With this aim in view, CHEC is holding a per-UNCED consultative conference in London this April on "sustainable development through cultural dialogue".

The objective of the conference is to promote the 'capacity' of consensus of the Commonwealth, to strengthen world-wide participation of voluntary agencies interested in sustainable development and the environment and to serve as a forum for the people of the Commonwealth and the world.

She is soft-spoken but with firm convictions, and this is her third visit to Bangladesh. She came to Dhaka in 1974 to initiate, along with the convenor of CHEC, Bangladesh Dr. Anwar Hossain, three ecological studies on the Sreepur forest area, on coastal embankments and a study of the haor area in Sylhet.

In 1976, the CHEC conference was held in Dhaka and two important concepts on self-reliance and cooperation between government and non-government organisations was adopted in the form of the Dhaka Declaration.

CHEC, Bangladesh currently has two ongoing projects in Dhaka — both are community-based self-reliance projects and are located in Shahzadpur and Hasnabad.

Recalling her initial training and working experience as a Physiotherapist in London in the 50s, she says,

"I went from Physiotherapy to public health to individual nutrition to healthy agriculture and to equitable economics." She went on to convene the pro-genitor body of the Committee on Nutrition in the Commonwealth in the early 60s.

In her 70s, Daysh recalls that she has attended nine Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGM) during the period of 1973-91 — more than any single head of government has done, as she puts it.

Indira Gandhi was the first world leader to have introduced the concept of human ecology in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) meeting in New Delhi in 1983, Daysh notes fondly recalling her meetings with the late Indian leader, but she rues the fact that it was not until the 1989 CHOGM in Kuala Lumpur that the activities of CHEC was endorsed.

"Now, as far as CHEC is concerned we have become the voice and conscience of the Commonwealth on ecological and environmental issues," she proudly points out, as the Commonwealth Secretariat cannot deal with the totality of development.

"And now they can talk to us officially," she remarks, adding "and furthermore they are counting on us to help them integrate their own programmes."

Based in London, her husband died almost ten years ago and she says she did not have any children because of her life-long pre-occupation with the 'maitical' idea of ecology.

Although a pioneer in her field, she is reluctant to dwell on her achievements.

"I am looking forward and not backward," she says, adding "you cannot be satisfied in life and moreover I have not finished the work I started out to do."

The real lesson of human ecology, she points out, is to get rid of self and ego.

She adds that the central ecological theme is human development, to get rid of the extreme poverty in many parts of the world.

"Human ecology is now a tool to solve the world's problems as it deals with society, religion, philosophy, economics, health, politics, environment and because it is dedicated to improving human life," she concludes.

## Govt to blame if situation worsens, BCL leaders say

By DU Correspondent

The Chhatra League (S-A), student wing of the Awami League, Monday warned that the government would be responsible for any further deterioration of the campus situation if the identified terrorists were not arrested immediately.

This was stated at a press conference held at the National Press Club yesterday.

The BCL (S-A) president Shahe Alam read out a statement at the press conference attended by the BCL general secretary Asim Kumar Ukil, Dhaka University unit president Golam Mustafa Sultan, GS Qamruzzaman Ansari, Mantajuddin Mehdil.

Addressing the press conference BCL president Alam said that the BNP government had betrayed the blood of the student community by ignoring the Joint Declaration of the three alliances and the students' 10-point charter of demands.

The leaders condemned the government's role in rehabilitating anti-liberation forces and its unwillingness to repeal the Indemnity Ordinance.

The ruling party's student wing, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was carrying out all the terror activities on campus by supporting and sheltering all the expelled armed hoodlums in the residential halls of the DU, the BCL leaders added.

## Thimpu keen to buy jute bags, edible oil from Dhaka

The visiting Bhutanese Minister for Trade and Industry Lyonpo Om Pradhan Tuesday called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at latter's secretariat office here, reports BSS.

The Bhutanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Karma Dorjee, Director of the Department of Revenue and Customs of Bhutan and high officials of the ministry of Finance and Commerce of Bangladesh were present.

During the discussion, Rahman underscored the need for upholding the SAARC spirit for further strengthening co-operation among the member country.

He said, late President Ziaur Rahman had pioneered the formation of SAARC with

the objective of attaining collective self-reliance among countries of the region and bring about socio-economic emancipation of the 100 crore people.

The Finance Minister and the Bhutanese Trade and Industries Minister dwelt on bilateral relations, particularly, ways and means to increase volume of trade both way.

Rahman assured Pradhan all possible support and cooperation for enlarging area of trade and economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Bhutan. He also underscored the need for promoting tourism both way for furthering relations between the two countries. He hoped that the bilateral links between the two traditional friendly neighbours would grow further in future.

Pradhan felt unanimous with the observation of Bangladesh Finance Minister for upholding the spirit of SAARC and bring forth benefit to the people of the region through mutual cooperation and support. He underscored the need for further increasing trade volumes between Bangladesh and Bhutan.

In this context, he mentioned that Bhutan was interested to buy edible oil, dry fish, jute bags etc from Bangladesh.

Peter Unwin

Another report says: The visiting Deputy Secretary General of Commonwealth, Peter Unwin also called on Finance Minister at his secre-

retariat office in Dhaka Tuesday. He stayed with the Finance Minister for about half an hour and discussed matters of mutual interests.

Saifur Rahman underscored the need for greater participation of Commonwealth in the socio-economic uplift process in Bangladesh. He said, the Common Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) should be best utilized for training manpower of different disciplines. He also pointed out that the Commonwealth equity fund should be utilised for investment in Bangladesh.

Peter Unwin hoped that he would take up the issue of Commonwealth fund equity participation investment in Bangladesh in the forthcoming meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund and meeting of the Commonwealth finance ministers.

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## Romanian envoy meets Speaker

The Romanian Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dumitru Motoc, called on Speaker Shahab Razaque Ali at his office chamber at the Sangsad Bhaban in the city Tuesday, reports BSS.



Happy Birthday Super Shak

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

## US professor talks on New World order

Dr Roger Kenet, Professor of Political Science of the University of Illinois, USA Tuesday gave a talk on "Russian and the US perceptions of the New World Order," at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Presided over by Barrister A K H Morshed, Chairman, Board of Governors of the BISS, the function was attended among others by scholars, educationists, and members of the diplomatic missions.

## What's on today . . .

- Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga**  
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at the Sonargaon Hotel beginning at 5.30 pm. Mahbubur Rahman Khan, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank will speak on financial sector reform as the guest speaker.
- CPB Discussion Meet**  
On the occasion of the International Women's Day, Bangladesh Communist Party will organise a discussion meeting today (Wednesday) at the party central office starting at 4 pm.  
Two outstanding women personalities of the country will be honoured at the meet. They are the Editor of the weekly Begum Nurjahan Begum and political leader and social worker Monorama Basu (Posthumously).
- Lecture on Human Rights Convention**  
The Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs will jointly organise a lecture on "British adherence to the European convention on human rights and the legal tension between the rights of state and individuals" today (Wednesday) at the Bangladesh management development centre at 3 pm.  
The lecture will be delivered by Anthony Lester QC, a special advisor to the British Home Secretary and Roy Jenkins, MP, with responsibility for policy advice on human rights.
- Jazz Concert**  
A concert by Jazz pianist Holger Mantej from Germany will be held today (Wednesday) at the German Cultural Centre Auditorium.
- Bangla Academy Discussion**  
To mark the historic March 11 of the Language Movement (Bangla Academy) will hold a discussion today (Wednesday) at the Seminar Room of the academy beginning at 12.30 pm.  
The key-note paper will be presented by Bashir Al-Helal while the discussants would be Professor Ataur Rahman, Abdur Matin and Professor Abdul Kashem Chowdhury. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will preside over the meeting.

## BACH project

The orientation seminar for the Australian rover-rangers who will work for the Bangladesh-Australia Child Health (BACH) project will be held today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at Guide House in the city.

## Rotary Club of Dhaka North West

Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North West to be followed by Iftar hosted by Kazi Enamul Huq and AN Nebitha Begum Huq will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at 20/20 Tajmahal Road, Block-C, Mohammadpur, in the city.

## ... and tomorrow

The BCCI Depositors Association will hold a depositors meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at the BCCI Bank premises at Motijheel at 11 pm.

## Weather

Light rain or shower is likely at one or two places over the regions of Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet and Mymensingh during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday. Meteorological office source forecast.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period.

Weather may deteriorate in subsequent two days. The sun sets in Dhaka today (Wednesday) at 6-07 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6-11 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	7 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.2	20.5	77	44
Chittagong	29.0	21.0	82	80
Rajshahi	32.4	12.8	58	-
Khulna	30.8	20.8	85	56
Barisal	30.8	21.4	95	70
Cox's Bazar	29.4	20.5	75	74
Sylhet	29.5	15.5	73	49
Dinajpur	30.0	13.4	53	31
Ishurdi	32.5	13.3	58	41

## Plea to change food habit

Deputy Leader of Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday underlined the need for changing the food habit of the people and thereby minimise the pressure on rice and wheat, reports BSS.

Addressing as chief guest a seminar on bio-medical study of spirulina, a highly nutritious plant Prof Chowdhury, also an eminent physician, said it had been proved that 'spirulina' could help meet the nutrition gap in the country.

Prof SAR Chowdhury, Head of the Department of Pharmacology of the Institute of Post Graduate and Medicine (IPGMR) was the keynote speaker at the seminar, organised by the Centre for Scientific and Technical Information (CESTI) of the French Embassy and the Alliance Francaise.

The French Charge d'Affaires Michel Penaud also spoke at the inaugural session. Prof Chowdhury suggested

increasing the in-take of potatoes including the sweet potatoes and various kinds of green leaves available in the country. He regretted that despite Bangladesh, being a rich source of Vitamin-A, a large

## Plot allotment A clarification

Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor and Managing Director of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) in a clarification to a news item creeded by BSS and published in various dailies on March 10 regarding framing of charges against former President H M Ershad for illegal allotment of RAJUK plots to some persons including journalists said, "I am not the Enayetullah Khan referred to in the said list."

He said he had never applied for allotment of such a plot and former President never allotted such plot to him or in his name.

number of children were getting blind every year due to lack of proper food habit and guidance.

Prof Chowdhury urged the physicians as well as health conscious people to popularise different kinds of green leaves including Kachu Shak and Lal Shak and thereby help stop blindness in the country.

Referring to the on-going research on 'spirulina' Prof Chowdhury said apart from having many nutritious elements the plant was also being used to make various types of medicines.

Prof SAR Chowdhury said that 'spirulina' had proved to be highly effective for cure of the diseases like diabetes, heart diseases, hypertension and various types to arthritis and anemia. Spirulina has no side effect, he said.

The inaugural session was followed by an open discussion which was participated by a number of researchers and medical practitioners.



A group of bus drivers barricaded the road at Saidabad in the city yesterday following altercation with the traffic police. — Star photo