

Dhaka Day by Day

Rickshy Business

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

We assume, in our naivete, that the rickshaw-wallah knows basic traffic rules before he gets on the busy streets of Dhaka. Regular rickshaw riders will tell you differently. The passenger of this highly precarious mode of transport not only has to master the art of survival — which means arriving at his destination in one piece — he must also be prompt in giving out signals left and right, looking out for killer buses, and locating unpredictable jaywalkers (who seem to have a desire to get their toes squashed).

The rickshaw puller, on the other hand, has only one task: to rush headlong blind as a mole, making swerves and turns that would be the envy of many a professional stunt man. Hence the rider has to use his ingenuity to avoid unnecessary injury to his person, and his nerves, which should preferably be made of granite.

One of the more legendary horror junctions of Motiheel is Dainik Bangla point. This is a place where anything can happen anytime. For a reason as yet undiscovered by scientists, this crossroad will cause everybody to rush at precisely the same moment at top speed towards the same spot. This includes our dear three-wheeled tin cans.

With traffic coming from all directions, the rickshaw rider has to use his two hands as indicators of going left or right. It is an interesting sight to see these admirable persons flaying their arms all over the place while gripping on for dear life to the edges of their seats. Facial expressions of these contortionists range from irritation to frustration to relief.

The rickshaw has a very peculiar structure. The rider must know its build intimately enough to be able to make strategies for survival. A trait of some rickshaws is the seat. This is made to ensure that the passenger slides down as soon as he is seated. He therefore has to master the art of pretending to sit even though his rear makes no contact with the seat — a bit like a hovercraft on water.

There are also corrugated seats for maximum discomfort and seats that wobble most disturbingly leaving one in constant anxiety of flying off into oblivion when the rickshaw puller de-

cides suddenly, to slam on the brakes. By the way, the last event is somewhat rare since many of these tricycles do not have any — brakes that is. The rider must therefore have the suppleness of an Olympic gymnast for these amazing acts of balance and concentration.

The hoods of these interesting vehicles are another story. Although originally made for the rider's comfort — to keep out the sun or act as a camouflage, they are not without side effects. The idea behind their creation seems to be that

all passengers should not be taller than 4 ft 11 inches. If one is not careful these lethal hoods may take off half of one's crowning beauty — or hair in less affected terms, leading to prolonged psychological illnesses.

Sometimes the hair gets entangled within the cracks or nails of the hood and then getting down from the rickshaw becomes a bit of a 'pain'. Here again the rider must know how to

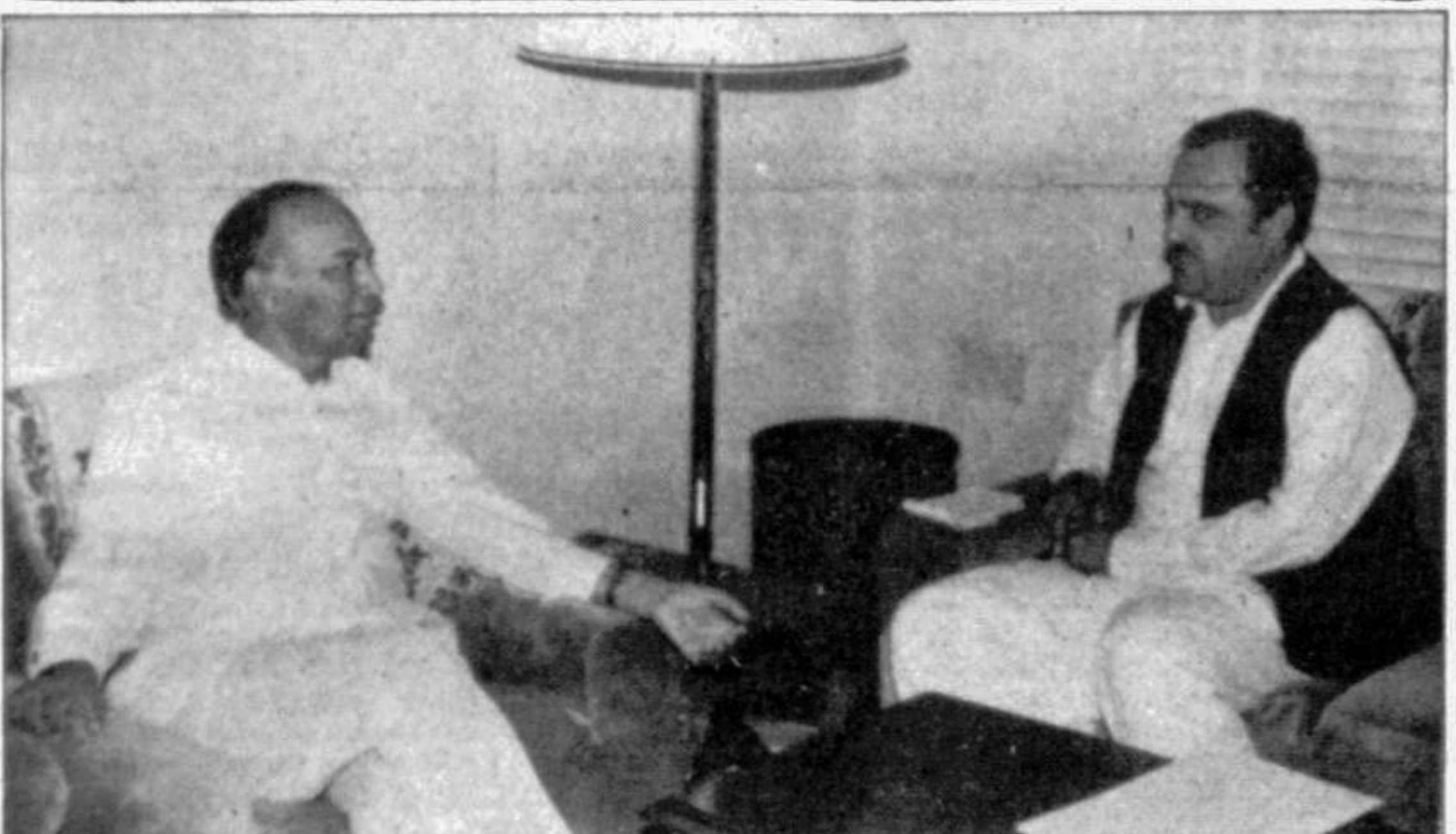
curl up his back in order to fit into these hooded contraptions.

If the rider happens to be female then there are difficulties that are exclusive to this gender. She must know how to manage her 'dupatta' and saree 'anchal' so that it does not end up entwined with one of the rickshaw wheels.

Then there are those memorable moments when two (or more) rickshaws get their wheels locked up in loving embraces. On such an occasion the passengers either fight with verbal terms of endearment for their respective rickshaw-wallahs or just sit there helplessly with 'No I am not embarrassed' look on their faces.

Other little hazards the rickshaw rider must be cautious of are the 'natural disasters' such as a sudden downpour, shooting phlegm from birds that seem to wait with a vengeance for the passing rickshaw. The rider has little else to do except duck if he's lucky or just accept fate's injustice if he's not.

With all due respect to the rickshaw puller who slogs all day to make a pittance of a living, we must also take off our hats to the rickshaw riders who have learnt with great pains the art of survival.



The High Commissioner of Pakistan Anwar Kemal called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his office yesterday. —PID photo

Shibir documents unearthed SCO raids 2 rooms of JU women's hall

By JU Correspondent

Members of the Sarbodoito Chhatra Oikya (SCO) yesterday raided two rooms of Fazilatunnesa Hall of Jahangirnagar University and found some secret papers of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS).

SCO activists searched the rooms No 502 of Bithi of Physics final year and room No 603 of Kakoli of Chemistry final year.

The SCO members claimed that the documents proved the involvement of ICS in a planned attack on the Jahangirnagar University campus.

The SCO, an alliance of all party student organisations of Jahangirnagar University yesterday brought out a procession on the campus chanting slogans against Jamaat-Shibir activists.

Later the SCO members at a meeting at the Arts Faculty premises declared 14 of the ICS activists unwanted in the campus.

Terming the Jamaat-Shibir forces as the enemy of democracy the SCO members pledged to resist the fundamentalist forces.

Appraising the students about the secret activities of the ICS, speakers at the rally said, "the conspirators are hiding among the students and everyone should be alert of their secret movement."

The SCO also expressed concern over the alleged recent political motivation of a section of the teachers.

The rally was addressed among others by JCD GS Aminul Hoque Alam, BCL (M-

J. GS Md Mostafa, Kazi Shahedul Islam of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Atiqul Akand of Bangladesh Students Union and Wahiduzzaman Apollon of JCD.

The SCO members also met Vice Chancellor Kazi Saleh Ahmed demanding expulsion of 14 of the ICS activists, within seven days.

The VC assured the SCO members that he would review the judicial process of the matter.

The Shibir activists remain outside the campus since the killing of Habibur Rahman Kabir. The JCD leader Kabir was killed by the activists of Shibir on August 15, 1989.

The normalcy of the university came to a halt on Wednesday when an ICS activist was rounded up by the general students of the university for his secret activities in the campus.

Acting on the confession of the Shibirite the SCO members held seven more Shibir activists with explosives and dangerous weapons in their possession. They were later handed over to the Savar police.

Meanwhile, Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) set September 25 as the deadline for the probe into the attack on the house of Dr Abdulla-hel Baki of Zoology department.

Dr Baki's residence was attacked Wednesday following a rumour that some ICS members were hiding at his place.

People urged to help disabled

A 30-member delegation of the national forum of the organisations working with the disabled called on President Abdul Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

While talking to them, the president underscored the need for intensifying the avenues for the disabled so that they could lead a prestigious life in the society. Awareness should also be created to utilise the potentials of the disabled, he said.

President Biswas called upon all to help the disabled provide with education so that they could contribute to the uplift of the socio-economic fields.

Earlier, the delegation submitted a memorandum to the President about their various problems. The president assured them that he would look into their problems.

President of the forum Khandekar Mohammad Zuhurul Alam led the delegation.



5.00	Opening announcement		
	Al-Quran		
	Programme summary		
5.10	News in Bangla		
5.20	Recitation from the Geeta		
5.25	Obhivandan		
6.10	Sports programme		
7.05	TV debate		
8.00	News in Bangla		
8.30	Aparaj Shashthaya		
9.00	Shatarupa		
10.00	News in English		
10.30	Film show: Hill Street Blues		
11.30	Khabar/ The News		
11.40	Tuesday's programme summary		
11.45	Closing		



The JAGPA backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (L-A) brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday in protest against the price-hike of newspaper recently. —Star photo

6 schools for under privileged open

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13: Six general schools constructed by Swiss Disaster Relief (SDR) for the under privileged children were inaugurated here today, reports BSS.

Albert Mehr, Charge D'Affaires of Swiss Embassy in Dhaka was present as chief guest at the function held in this connection at Pahartali this afternoon. Chairman of the Board of Governors of Under Privileged Children's Educational Programmes (UCEP) Major General (Retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury presided over the function while Chief Project Adviser of UCEP, Bangladesh, SO Storm, Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Managing Director of AK Khan Group of Industries and Abul Bashir, Coordinator, UCEP-Chittagong division addressed

it.

The six schools constructed at Charchaktai, Hamzabag, Bangla Bazar, Motijharna, Ambagan and Pahartali in Chittagong city at a cost of Taka 1.50 crore cater to the needs of the working children deprived of educational facilities and living mostly in slum areas. The Swiss Disaster Relief has financed the construction of the schools while Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) runs them. This programme was started in Chittagong in 1980. At present 3,550 under privileged children are getting education in all six schools. The students are imparted general education upto class seven and then they are admitted into vocational training centres of UCEP.

What's on today

Discussion on Ruhul Quddus

A discussion meeting will be held today (Monday) at 5 pm at the National Museum auditorium on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Ruhul Quddus. Secretary General of the provisional Bangladesh government, organiser of the Liberation War and first Principal Secretary to the post independent Bangladesh government.

Jatiya Sramik Party meet

A meeting of the Jatiya Sramik Party Central Committee will be held today (Monday) at its Dilkusha office at 3 pm.

Jana Parishad meet

A meeting of the Bangladesh Jana Parishad Executive Committee will be held today (Monday) at the Parishad's central office at Siddeswar at 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at Dhaka Club at 1 pm. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi will speak on 'Rotary in the West' as the guest speaker.

Children's Art Exhibition

On the occasion of Eid-e-Miladun Nabi and the Islamic unity week, the cultural centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran in collaboration with the Shishu Academy will organise a children's art exhibition today (Monday) at the Academy auditorium beginning at 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held today (Monday) at Sonargahon Hotel at 5:30 pm. M. Morshed Khan, President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), will speak on 'Role of MCCI in the present economic situation of Bangladesh' as the guest speaker.

Jatiya Shamonnay Committee meet

The convention of the Jatiya Shamonnay committee of Muktiuddher Chetona Bastobayon-O-Akattorer Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee will be held today (Monday) at the Institution of Engineers auditorium at 9 am.

Press Conference

Bangladesh Madrasa Teachers Association will hold a press conference today (Monday) at the National Press Club at 11 am.

Rotary Club of Gulshan

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Gulshan will be held today (Monday) at the Gulshan Club at 5:30 p.m.

A discussion on drug abuse awareness among parents and youth will also be held. The guest speakers will be Hafizur Rahman, Director, Preventive Education Department of Narcotics, Dr. Wazul Islam, Medical Officer and Consultant of Drug Abuse Treatment and Anthony SK Roy Assistant Director, Awareness of Drug Abuse Programme.

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light to moderate rain or shower is likely over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Sylhet, Patuakhali, Dhaka, Tangail and Mymensingh during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday.

Meteorological office forecast that weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may rise by 2-3 degree Celsius over the country during the period.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather is likely to improve.

Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activity may increase.

Major rainfall was recorded on the day in Bogra 59 mm, Chandpur 21 mm, Tangail 15mm and Bhola 10mm.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:04 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:44 pm.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Sunday were cities/towns temperature in degree Celsius humidity in percentage.

	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.8	25.1	80	77
Chittagong	31.0	22.6	87	86
Rajshahi	31.1	24.6	97	77
Khulna	33.3	24.7	86	85
Barisal	32.5	23.8	85	82
Cox's Bazar	30.5	23.0	77	85
Sylhet	30.7	22.4	82	93
Dinajpur	30.2	24.0	98	82

A tribute to Saleheen

By S. M. Ali

A cross-section of people in this country, not to mention just the banking community, mourn the death of Mushfeq-us Saleheen who passed away in a London hospital on Friday. It was the end of a distinguished career in banking, spanning nearly four decades, marked by dedication, financial discipline and commitment to public duty.

When the news of his death reached here on Saturday, there was hardly anyone in the banking community or in the business world who did not feel a sense of personal loss over the demise of Saleheen. A friend who worked with him as his deputy, in one of our leading banks here, soon after liberation, describes the late banker as a "legend" whose many qualities of head and heart included his incredible capacity to remain totally composed and unruffled under pressure. It is said that the day his mother passed away, he chaired an important meeting in the bank, instead of putting it off which his officers had advised him to do, and conducted the business, keeping the sense of bereavement to himself. Such was his commitment to duty, his friend says, which manifested itself through his chequered career.

Saleheen, a graduate of the Presidency College, Calcutta, started his banking career with the Dhaka branch of the former Imperial Bank of India in 1950, an ideal institution to help in the shaping of the life of a young officer along the right lines, with all the emphasis on financial discipline, values and standards. Many of his contemporaries also got their training in that old colonial style building at Sadarghat. Almost all of them eventually rose to the highest positions in various banks in the then East Pakistan and later in Bangladesh. Saleheen was not just one of them. He was one of the best.

After liberation in 1971, he was the Officer on Special Duty, looking after the establishment of the Bangladesh Bank, virtually as its first Governor. During his short but eventful career at the central



bank, he was responsible for taking a number of crucial decisions, like naming our currency as Taka, which made life easier for his successors.

From the Bangladesh Bank, he moved to other banks, bringing with him his capacity for hard work, his attention to details and his innovative spirit. In one of these jobs, he was assigned by the Government to form the country's first investment company, known as the International Finance and Investment Company Ltd., later converted into IFIC Bank Ltd, which is regarded by many as the most significant contribution made by Saleheen to the development of banking in Bangladesh.

Yet, despite his almost round-the-clock involvement in banking, Saleheen found time for social activities, mainly through the Lions Club, even in sponsoring sports.

In mourning the death of Saleheen, many would be wondering if the new generation of bankers would know anything about the working style of the older ones, those who entered the profession in the fifties, and worked their way up, about the sense of discipline and dedication they practised and, finally, about the way — often subtle but sometimes blunt — they refused to bow to political pressure or to listen to signals from high circles. One only hopes that the legacy of Saleheen will be revived one day, not just to honour the man but to give a new life to the banking system in the country.

'Some leaders trying to mislead people'

Commerce Minister MK Anwar yesterday said that the present government wanted to put an end to all sorts of terrorism in the country, particularly the educational institutions, reports BSS.

He said, a handful of political leaders are trying to misuse the students by instigating them to continue terrorism in the educational arena.

The Minister was addressing a public meeting at the Sonarchar High School ground in Daudkandi.

He expressed the government's firm determination to wipe out terrorism forever with the active support and cooperation from the people.

Referring to a particular move in the political arena, the Commerce Minister said those who were trying to 'divide the people as pro-liberation and anti-liberation forces were not real friends of the people'. He said 'they want to create con-

fusion among the people and fish in troubled water'. The Minister urged the people not to be misled by the sweet words of those 'so-called patriots'.

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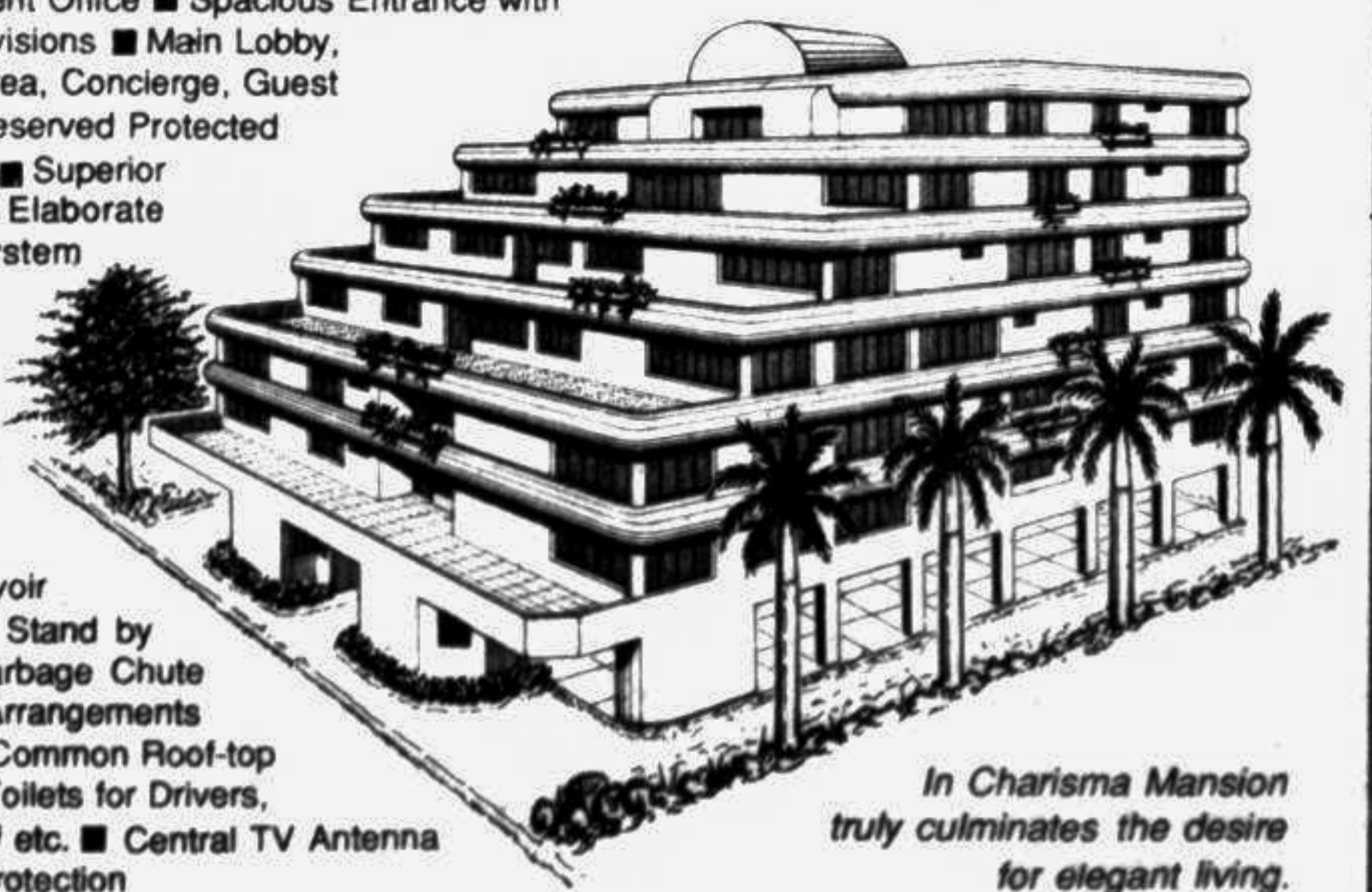
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