

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Plying the Roads with a Dream

by Fayza Haq

Continental novelettes and films sometimes portray chauffeurs as having smooth liaisons with the master's wife or daughter. Abul Kalam Azad, 25, from Barisal is a dashing young man, well dressed enough to be taken for an office worker, but he is a forthright and simple office driver with conventional eastern ideas, aims and ideals.

Azad works for a firm in Mirpur getting Tk 2000 per month, with Tk 15 for every overtime hour he puts in. He has been in Dhaka for 14 years, having studied upto class IX at "Shurobi" school, with the financial support of his brothers. His father died when he was 12 years old. Economic necessities and a keen interest for technical knowhow brought Azad into driving. Even in his children, while riding bicycles, he was enamoured with the way one must manoeuvre oneself on the roads.

In his work he is bothered by the rickshaws that ply pell mell and the baby taxis that speed recklessly. The black smoke-emitting overloaded buses and tempos also concern him. The constant remaking, digging and pitching of roads and detours that ensue irritate him as well. He says he is afraid of 'haartals' and processions; as one does not know when the crowds may go hostile, and begin stoning, breaking and burning cars. He reserves his comments on the police, and the manner in which they control the traffic, as he does not want to get into trouble with the authorities. He admits that they create problems for drivers with fake or questionable licences, and in the process the authentic drivers are sometimes stopped and harassed to make sure that they are not going scot-free with forged papers.

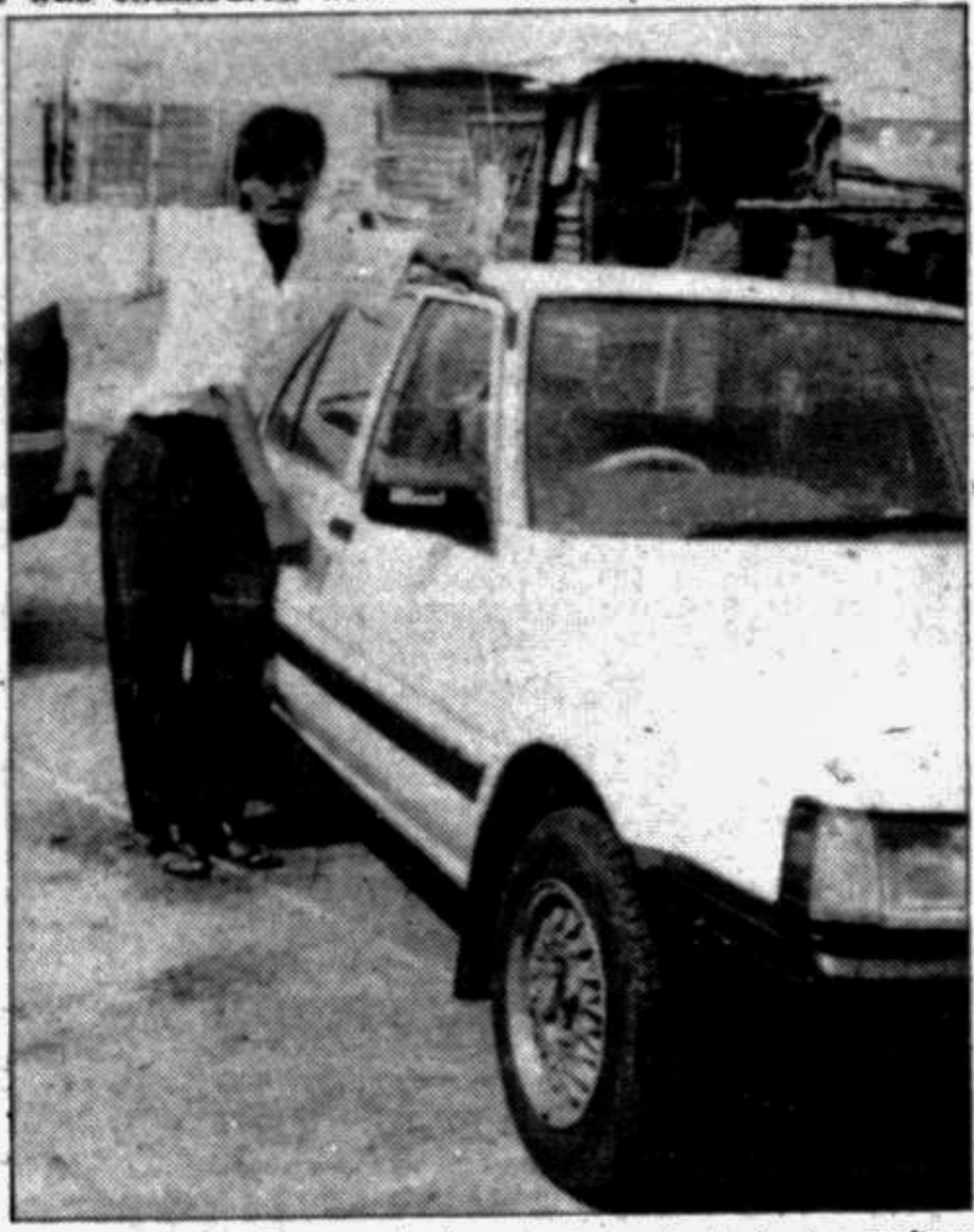
Azad would like to work for a bigger firm or go abroad, as many people have done, but he does not have a strong command of English, and he has no influential family members abroad to help and shelter him, as some people do. He has to complete his family duties by seeing to it that his youngest sister, Monju, who works in a garment factory, is married. He has two married sisters, Sufia, 30, married to a

farmer, and has three children, and Piara, 28, who has a rickshaw-puller for a husband and is the proud mother of a boy and a girl. Each time the sisters have got married the family has had to feed about 60 people, and spend Tk 15,000 in jewellery and clothes, though none of those was elaborate, as he explains. "We gave no dowry like a motorbike, watch or radio, but even the 'panchini' alone cost Tk 1000. There was also the 'hoid' that could not be avoided," he adds.

Azad, who lives with his mother, spends Tk 800 on rent per month for a room and a covered verandah in Jhikatola. He does not have to bother about payment for electricity or water. But he must pay Tk 800 again for the monthly food, and that leaves him little in hand to fritter away. He has nothing in the bank and lives on what he brings home every month. Yet he is not depressed and is full of joie de vivre and optimism. He does not waste his money on 'paan' or cigarettes, but has the occasional tea, peanuts and other small snacks with his friends, and listens to their radio for entertainment. He takes in a good movie when there is one in town, but this is not frequent.

He loves watching football and listening to Hindi films in the small cassette in the car that he drives. He adores reading poetry, short stories and novels in Bangla. He adds that he loathes 'chotis'. Azad, the countryboy from Mehendiganj 'thana', has not done badly for himself and has his entire future before him. With his 'Seiko' watch of Tk 800, his three trousers, five shirts and two 'lungis', he is ready to grapple with any obstacle or take up any opportunity. His dream is to marry a tall, slim girl who has an 'ujjal shemla' complexion, at least. "She must have long hair, and will have to get along with my mother," Azad adds.

For someone with a salary of Tk 2000 a month, Azad is an epitome of contentment and hope. Tea, biscuits and occasional 'addas' are all he craves for, except for a wife of his own. "I don't want to spend my time flirting uselessly. I am serious about leading a straight life with an adequate measure of happiness," he confides.



### Looters out to destroy democracy: Rafiq

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia yesterday accused Jatiya Party of hatching conspiracy to kill the hard-earned democracy, reports UNB.

"Ershad killed democracy in 1982 and plundered the national economy during nine years of autocratic rule. Looters are now out to destroy the infant democracy," he said addressing as chief guest the 20th founding anniversary of Employees Union of Public Works Department.

The minister urged all to protect the country from the design of "nation's enemies." Referring to SKOP's 48-hour strike November 29-30, the Works Minister called for sorting out differences, problems and demands through discussions.

Strikes will only hamper national progress and production, he said, adding local and foreign investments were being discouraged by political instability.

Barrister Rafiq said the government would duly consider the just demands of the PWD Employees Union, which include cancellation of decision to form a min-PWD in different departments, promotion and regularisation of those working on master-rol.

"It's now time to build the

### PM shocked at loss of lives in China

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her profound shock at the Chinese plane crash on Tuesday in which a large number of valuable lives were lost, reports UNB.

### Weather

#### Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry over Bangladesh during the next 24 hours commencing 6am today (Thursday). The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The minimum temperature of 14.2 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday and the maximum of 29.0 degree was reported from Kutubdia.

The sun sets today Thursday at 5.11 pm and rise tomorrow Friday at 6.22 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	25.8	16.6	92	77
Chittagong	27.0	17.8	-	68
Rajshahi	27.0	15.5	80	86
Khulna	25.8	16.2	94	85
Cox's Bazar	28.0	20.7	78	71
Sylhet	25.0	14.3	98	81
Dinajpur	26.2	14.8	97	82
Barisal	25.6	15.0	100	91



The admission seekers in the final year Dhaka University Masters degree course under the traditional system went on token hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

### Sustained IMF support will yield positive result: Saifur

The visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) team led by Assistant Director, Southeast Asia and Pacific Department, Khadim A al-Eyd called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his office here yesterday, reports BSS.

According to an official source the team, which came here Tuesday on a 17-day visit, stayed with the Finance Minister for over an hour and discussed matters of mutual interests, particularly the success of Extended Structural Adjustment Facilities (ESAF) programme in Bangladesh.

Besides Khadim, the team comprises IMF Advisor Arun Adarkar, Senior Economist David J Robinson, Economist Kenichiro Watanabe and IMF Washington office Represent-

tative Benedict Clements.

The team expressed satisfaction over the success of the programme and lauded Bangladesh performance in stabilising macro-economic management, having bumper crop in agricultural sector and bringing economic discipline in the financial sector. The IMF team observed that Bangladesh was one of the few countries to successfully implement the ESAF programme.

The source said, this speaks of the competitiveness and ability of the present BNP government for sound fiscal and monetary management and this success encouraged the development partners to extend support to Bangladesh in its effort for development.

The team also felt it imperative to explore the means for better utilisation of the fund for Bangladesh after the conclusion of ESAF programme.

Saifur Rahman informed the team that the economy was picking up gradually. He said a number of applications for overseas investment were received by the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA). Shrimp culture, pisciculture, leather industry, dyeing and printing industry etc are showing encouraging trend, he told the team.

The Finance Minister hoped that the sustained IMF support to Bangladesh would bear a meaningful and positive result in the socio-economic uplift of the country.

### Mostafiz opens 'Kuwaiti Model Village'

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman inaugurated a model village at Hatibandha in Rangpur yesterday, reports UNB.

The village dubbed the "Kuwaiti Model Village" was upgraded with the financial assistance of the people of the oil rich Gulf State to accommodate 44 families of Bangladesh.

About Taka 40 lakh was spent to set up the model village in an area of nearly 2 bighas of land where each family was provided with a cow, 10 ducks or chickens, clothings, and utensils.

The Foreign Minister said that the gesture of the people of the fraternal Kuwait has further strengthened the already existing good relation between the two countries.

Members of a high powered Kuwaiti delegation which arrived in the city on Tuesday attended the inaugural ceremony. The visiting delegation included chief of Kuwait Mutual Relief Committee Yusuf Al Hiji, Kuwait Zakat House Chief Abdul Kader Al-Ajil.

Kuwait Ambassador Md Al Nazran and Chief Coordinator of Mutual Relief Committee of Bangladesh Dr Sharful Anam were also present on the occasion.

Addressing a gathering at Voltmari High School premises Mostafiz thanked the people and the government of Kuwait for extending assistance for the welfare projects in Bangladesh.

Referring to the close economic cooperation between the two countries of the OIC, Mostafiz offered more Bangladeshi manpower to become a partner in rebuilding the war

### Mosharraf visits Bangladesh army camp in Kuwait

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khanker Mosharraf Hossain, who is now in Kuwait on an official tour, yesterday visited the Bangladesh army camp engaged in helping the war-shattered economy of the tiny Gulf state, reports UNB.

Addressing the Bangladesh army team, the Energy Minister said Kuwait is a close brotherly Muslim country of Bangladesh.

### USIS keen to offer stipends to female students

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This was revealed when a team of US Information Service (USIS) officials called on the Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Striar at his office yesterday.

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### BSB earns Tk 8'9 cr profit

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) has earned a pre-tax net profit of Taka 8.9 crore during last fiscal years (1991-92), according to an audited accounts of the bank approved by the share holders at the 6th Annual General Meeting held here yesterday, reports BSS.

Total recovery and disbursement of the bank during the same period was Taka 51.36 crore and Taka 35.4 crore respectively.

An amount of Taka 12.4 crore including a foreign currency component of Taka 5.8 crore was sanctioned to 25 industrial projects by the bank during the audited fiscal year.

The AGM was presided over by Chairman, BSB Board of Director ATM Alamgir.

Happy Birthday to darling SONA with lots of love Flopsy & Fayza

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2070 sq ft 4 bed all mosaic apartment, sliding aluminium windows, three tiled toilets, kitchen with sink and cabinet, servant annex, Intercom, Car Park and security arrangements.  
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### Change of Address

Our Benapole Branch, Jessore is going to be shifted from today, 26th November '92 from its previous address to the following new premises.

New Address	Previous Address
Janata Bank Benapole Branch Jessore	Janata Bank Benapole Branch Jessore
Dag no-332 Khatian no-425 Land area- 9 3/4 Shata	Dag no-332, 333 Khatian no-94/2 Land area 13 1/4 Shatak
Mouza: Bhober Ber JL no-88 (Benapole Bazar) Post: Benapole Thana: Sharsha Dist: Jessore	Mouza: Bhober Ber (Benapole Bazar) Post: Benapole Thana: Sharsha Dist: Jessore

We draw the kind attention of our patrons.

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Polycoton SA, Geneva, Switzerland.

Agents:

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150, Motijheel Comm. Area, "Nahar Mansion" 3rd & 4th Floor  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Cable: QUALICOT, Tlx: 671002 COTON BJ, Phones: 250137, 231721,  
After Office: 891298, 814093, 319354, Fax: 880-2-893101

**BTV**  
Thursday

5.00 Opening announcement Al-Guran Programme summary  
5.10 News in Bangla  
5.20 Recitation from the Geeta  
5.30 School debate  
6.30 Open University  
7.05 Campus  
7.30 Jiboner Alo  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.40 Drama of the Week  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Film show: China Beach  
11.30 Khabar / The news  
11.40 Friday's programme summary  
11.45 Closing