

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Propheying Peace on a Two-wheeler

by Inam Ahmed

Six hundred litres of petrol, a Vespa scooter and a lot of courage and endurance—that's what took Giorgio Bettinelli to travel from Italy to Bangladesh in exactly four and a half months.

"During the journey, I had to sleep in a Beluch rebel camp in Pakistan, had to cross a desert in Iran and had to live only on biscuits for seven days in Calcutta," Bettinelli said, "but all these were added to my treasure of experience and lightened up my good humour."

Giorgio Bettinelli (37), an Italian writer now settled in Indonesia will not stop here, he will go on to the Ho Chi Minh covering a total of 12 countries. He will cruise all the way to Vietnam on his tiny 125 cc white Vespa scooter.

"I am on a peace mission," Bettinelli said, "I am carrying the message of unity and brotherhood among all creeds and cultures."

"When I thought of a peace mission, Vietnam popped into my mind, because as a youth the reports on the war in Vietnam often ravaged my conscience," Bettinelli said.

When one looks at the 37 year old writer, it is hard to believe that he travelled 18050 kilometers, reaching Dhaka on December 15th. For a man with a height of 5 feet 11 inches, Bettinelli is rather lean. The complexion was once fair, but now it has turned bronze. On top of the long wolfish face is a heap of backbrushed golden hair. "I chose a Vespa for my tour because I myself am a light weight man," grinned Bettinelli. The choice must be a vital one, as it is not recommended to go on such long tours with bikes under the capacity of 350 cc. "My decision paid off," said the Italian, "Believe it or not, the scooter did not give me the slightest of troubles during the trip. I did not have to tighten a single bolt nor even had to change the sparkplug that I plugged in at Rome at the start of the journey." Before the journey, I studied the weather of the countries I travelled," Bettinelli said, "and I scheduled the trip accordingly so that I do not have to face bad weather. Till now it worked out and I did not have to face even a slight drizzle." Bettinelli slightly customised his scooter and added two carriers, one in the front and another in the rear to carry his 20 kilograms of luggage. Other than clothes, he is carrying a Walkman, road maps, tools and a chess computer which he plays while camping. "I bought another bag



Giorgio Bettinelli in Bangladesh.

to carry books bought from India. But the scooter became unbalanced and I abandoned it," he said. "In the beginning I knew nothing about the engine of the scooter. But now, after all these miles behind me, I know every groan the engine makes, it has become an extension of myself," Bettinelli said.

The most hazardous journey for him, Bettinelli recalls, was a 200 km stretch path on the Iran-Pakistan border. "It was not a road, but only rocks. I had to keep the speed of the scooter down to only 10 km per hour and it took me two days to cross the 200 km."

On this part of the journey, Bettinelli had to spend a night at a Baluch rebel camp. "The rebels first brandished their Kalashnikov automatics at me, but later became friendly and offered me to share their camp. With weapons strewn all around, I slept the night peacefully."

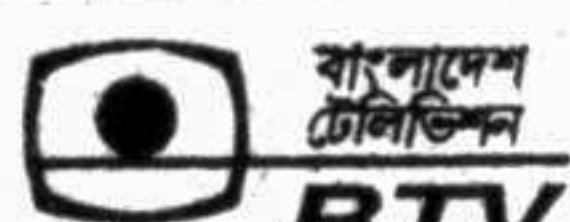
"In Iran when I crossed the Kerman desert, about 300 km, I did not have any problem at all. The road was good. All I needed was an extra can of petrol and extra water," he said. "I did not meet any accidents except the one in India. Then again, India is the most dangerous place for vehicles."

"It happened in Rajasthan. I did not notice the speed-breaker and I tumbled over, breaking the rearview mirror and the tip of the brakelever. In India, I also had the experience of near starvation. I was staying in the Muslim area in Calcutta and curfew was clamped down for seven days following the demolition of Babri Mosque. I had no food and stayed alive by eating biscuits." Which are the countries that he traversed during his tour? Italy, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh and Afghanistan also," Bettinelli grinned, though the visit was illegal. I just smuggled myself over to Afghanistan without any visa. "Is not he feeling fatigued mentally and physically?" "Oh no, absolutely not," the ever energetic Italian said, "I am only missing my girlfriend back in Indonesia. When I finish this trip, I hope to make another one also on a scooter from Alaska to Chili."

Bettinelli is taking some extra time visiting the places of archaeological interest as he plans his next book on this subject. "In Bangladesh, Sonargaon seemed very interesting for me. I can not say which is the most beautiful country that I travelled, but I can say for sure that the Bangladeshi people are among the friendliest in the world."



Poet Sufia Kamal addressing a discussion meeting on "Bangabandhu and Bangladesh" at the National Press Club auditorium yesterday. Story on Page 12 — Star photo



Thursday

5.00	Opening announcement
	Al Quran
	Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Gesta
5.25	School debate
6.30	Open University
7.05	Tanayana
7.20	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

## University of Dhaka Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for Works" are hereby invited from the enlisted 1st & 2nd class Electrical contractors of Dhaka University for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on the date mentioned against each work and opened on the same day in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of Taka as stated below in Demand Draft/Pay Order from a scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from the office of the undersigned up to 12 Noon on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender depositing the cost of tender forms and schedule as stated below against each work to the Janata Bank, Dhaka University Branch (non-refundable). The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason. The contractors are liable to abide by the decision of the authority. Tender form and schedule of works & special terms and conditions will be integral part of the tender. Contractors should write the name of the works and their's name on the envelope.

S1. No.	Name of work	Estimated amount	Earnest money	Price of tender form	Opening date
1.	Supply of electric goods for Dhaka University for the session 1992-93 (Group-A)	Tk. 2,37,622/-	Tk. 4,753/-	Tk. 100/-	5th January, 1993.
2.	Supply of electric goods for Dhaka University for the session 1992-93 (Group-B)	Tk. 2,06,780/-	Tk. 4,136/-	Tk. 100/-	Do
3.	Supply of electric goods for Dhaka University for the session 1992-93 (Group-C)	Tk. 2,21,620/-	Tk. 4,433/-	Tk. 100/-	Do

Md. Mazir Hossain Khan  
Executive Engineer (Elec.) (Incharge),  
University of Dhaka

D-706

Seminar on the role of NGOs held  
Dependence on foreign funds should be curbed

Proper coordination and understanding between the State, Local Governments and NGOs was stressed for sustainable rural development in a day-long seminar yesterday held under the auspices of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) here, reports BSS.

The seminar, on the role of NGOs in rural development, held at the BIBM auditorium, also observed that dependence on foreign funds should be curbed in this regard to ensure the long-term sustainability in rural advancement.

BIBM Director General A H M Nurul Islam Chowdhury, who conducted the seminar said, a recent trend has been observed among the country's commercial banks to withdraw branches from the rural areas and enhance their activities in industrial or commercial centres to earn more profits.

He urged all concerned to find out ways and means to ensure necessary fundings for the development of the masses in rural areas.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman of

BIDS said around 10,000 NGOs are presently registered with the social welfare department of which 300 are effectively working in different fields. Among these limited NGOs only 50 are working with much talked credit disbursement among the rural people, he said.

Referring to the BIDS studies he said the rural people who were benefitted by the NGO assistances in 80's could not maintain their economic status soon after the NGOs withdrew their programme in those areas. The issue of sustainability is the most serious challenge to the NGOs in their rural development efforts, he said.

Rahman identified dependence on foreign funds as the main weakness of the NGOs and emphasised local resource mobilisation to attain self-dependency for effective development.

A Q Siddiqui, Director of BRAC said, the NGOs in no conceivable way, can substitute the government. The ultimate responsibility for rural devel-

opment and poverty alleviation lies with the government, he said. But he opined that, the government structures often had not functioned in the desired manner due to lack of motivation, training and efficiency.

He stressed the need for cooperation between NGOs themselves as well as government organisation and NGOs for a healthy development process.

Dr Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan, consultant of ILO, said no government can give up the authority of rural development and poverty alleviation to the NGOs alone and neither the issue could be 'sub contracted' to the donor agencies. The NGOs have to work as the auxiliary forces for rural development. However, their activities should be transparent to the government and the people, he felt.

Dr Bhuiyan also observed the credit programme alone is not enough for sustainable rural development unless other relevant assistances were ensured.

## HERE and THERE

## BIBM

A 12-day training course on "Human Resources Management" ended here yesterday at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management Building.

The concluding session was presided over by A H M Nurul Islam Chowdhury, Director General of the institute.

A total of 19 officers from different banks and financial institutions participated in the course.

## DU Alumni Association

Dhaka University Alumni Association in a meeting held recently with its President Prof M Inas Ali in the chair decided to hold a get-together and cultural function on February 2, 1993 at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

On this occasion, former students of Dhaka University and distinguished personalities of the country will be invited to attend the function.

## Geological Society

A Two-day long 8th Geological Conference of Bangladesh Geological Society concluded Monday at the auditorium of the Planning & Development Academy, Nilkhet Dhaka.

The conference was inaugurated on December 20 by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Twenty one scientific papers were presented by the geoscientists of the country.

After the technical sessions general meeting and election were held. A new committee was elected comprising SKM Abdullah as President, Rafidul Islam Khan, DK Guha, and Dr S Taher Ahmed — Vice Presidents, Shahidul Hassan — General Secretary, Kamrul Hasan Mannan — Cultural Secretary, Ahsanul Bashar — International and Publicity Secretary, Nazimuddin Ahmed — Treasurer. Eleven Executive Members were also elected.

## What's on today . . . .

## Film show at Alliance Francaise

Zahir Rathan Film Society in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise will screen a film "Gate of Lilacs" by French Avant-garde film maker Rene Clair at the Alliance's auditorium today (Thursday) at 5.30 pm.

## Institution of Engineers' conference

The annual conference '92 of the Dhaka centre of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh will be held today (Thursday) at the IEB premises. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the programme as chief guest at 4 pm.

## Discussion on communal harmony

Proyas Sangskriti Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting on "communal harmony and cultural crisis" which will be followed by a poetry recital programme and a musical programme today (Thursday) at 5.30 pm at Gana Unnayan Granthagar Auditorium House 39, Road 14.A, Dhanmondi. Shamsur Rahman, Kabir Chowdhury, Shahriar Kabir and Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq will be present on the occasion as chief guest.

## Dr Mahanabrata's birth anniversary

Dr Mahanabrata Brahmachari Maharajar Janmajayanti Jatiya Uddayan Parishad will hold a three day programme beginning from today (Thursday) to mark the 89th birth anniversary of Dr Mahanabrata Brahmachari Maharaj at the Prabhu Jagadandhu Mahaprakash Math.

The inaugural function will be presided over by Principal Naren Chandra Ghosh Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya, R N Duttgupta, and others.

## Federation of Shop Owners discussion

The officials of Federation of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association will participate in a discussion meeting analysing the five points charter of demands of the Federation today (Thursday) on the eve of the annual general meeting of Nababpur Dokan Malik Samity at 64/65 Nababpur Road at 5.30 pm.

## Weather

## Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky will prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

Slight fall in night temperature in Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Maymensingh, Tangail and Sylhet is expected and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, the Met office forecasts.

The minimum temperature of 8.6 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday (Wednesday) and the maximum of 27.0 degree was reported from Bogra.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.18 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.39 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	max	min
Dhaka	26.1	11.5
Chittagong	25.0	13.8
Rajshahi	25.2	10.5
Khulna	24.0	11.8
Isurdi	25.6	10.8
Cox's Bazar	25.6	11.0
Sylhet	25.5	13.0
Barisal	25.1	11.0
	9am	6pm
Dhaka	73	63
Chittagong	82	63
Rajshahi	91	73
Khulna	89	80
Isurdi	95	70
Cox's Bazar	76	73
Sylhet	71	57
Barisal	98	79

Wishing a happy birthday to  
**Iqbal Bhai**  
Polly



## Notice for Annual General Meeting

This is for information of the valued members of Bangladesh Handicrafts Manufacturers & Exporters Association (Banglacraft) that the 13th Annual General Meeting of Banglacraft will be held on 29.12.92 (Tuesday) at the premises of Banglacraft office at 68, Outer Circular Road, Moghbazar, Dhaka-1217.

The valid members of Banglacraft are requested to attend the meeting.

M. R. Sikder  
Secy  
Banglacraft

## Qulkhwani



Mr. Gholam Muquitt, son of late Mr. Gholam Sarwar, died on 22nd December, 1992 after a prolonged illness. He hailed from the village of Guniak, Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria. He is survived by his wife Abida Fahmi, Headmistress, New Govt. Girls' High School and Finance Commissioner, Bangladesh Girl Guides Association, and son Ruffy.

His qulkhwani will be held on Friday 25th December 1992 after Asr prayers at 7/4, New Eskaton, Ghaus Nagar, Dhaka.

Abida Fahmi  
7/4 New Eskaton  
Ghaus Nagar  
Phone 400401

District Council Office, Dhaka  
(Engineering Section)

## Tender Notice No. 4/92-93

Sealed tenders in prescribed 'A' Form are invited from current 1992-93 financial year renewed/enlisted contractors of District Council, Dhaka & Local Govt. Engineering Directorate for the undermentioned works. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office chamber of the undersigned and the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Dhaka up to 12-30 PM on 4-1-93 (21-9-99 BS) and opened on the same day at 1-30 PM before the tenderers or their authorised representatives present. Tender document can be purchased from the office of the undersigned at prescribed price (non-refundable) up to 5-00 PM of 3-1-93 from the date of issuing the notice. No tender can be purchased on the date of receiving the tender. Dues of tenderer is payable subject to availability of fund. Earnest money at the rate 2 (two) per cent of the estimated cost should be deposited through Pay Order/Bank Draft. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any tender without assigning any reason.

Serial No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money 2 (two) per cent	Price of Tender Document	Time	Remark
1	Development of Gobindapur Churnin Model College Road with HBB under Nawabganj Thana.	15,70,000/=	31,400/=	1000/=	75 days	
2	Construction of RCC Bridge on Jantrail-Kahar Road.	6,45,100/=	12,900/=	500/=	120 days	

DFF (G) 22014-20/12  
G-1671

Assistant Engineer  
District Council, Dhaka

Bangladesh Railway  
International Tender Notice

The Notice for "At Parbatipur (Backshop)" supply and installation of 6 (six) nos. single phase automatic step type voltage regulator with a nominal voltage of 11000V including 11KV underground cable etc. in the Backshop 33/11KV (2x2.5)=5MVA Sub-station on Turnkey basis."

Sealed tenders addressed to the CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER/DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION, Bangladesh Railway at Backshop, Parbatipur are hereby invited in 6 (six) copies from the bonafide manufacturers, suppliers and contractors having experience of similar work of the value of Bangladeshi Taka not less than 25 (Twenty-five) lac or equivalent in other currencies for single tender/work order for At Parbatipur, Backshop: Supply and installation of 6 (six) nos. single phase automatic step type voltage regulators with a nominal voltage of 11000V including 11KV underground cable etc. in the Backshop 33/11KV (2x2.5)=5MVA Sub-station on Turnkey basis at Parbatipur in the district of Dinajpur under the following conditions:

- 1) Name of work: At Parbatipur (Backshop): Supply and installation of 6 (six) nos single phase automatic step type voltage regulators with a nominal voltage of 11000V including 11 KV underground cable etc. in the Backshop 33/11KV (2x2.5)=5MVA Sub-station on Turnkey basis.
- 2) Complete tender forms with other documents etc. may be obtained from Parbatipur Headquarters or Dhaka Camp Office of the undersigned on payment of an amount of US\$ 20 (Twenty) non-refundable convertible to Bangladeshi Taka or equivalent amount of Bangladesh Taka in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft/Crossed Cheque from a bank represented in Bangladesh between 9-00 hrs. and 13-00 hrs. on all working days from 2nd January/93 to 31st January/1993.
- 3) Tenderers will be required to submit a Bid Bond security in the amount of not less than five per cent (5%) of the quoted price in Bangladeshi Taka or equivalent amount in US dollar or shall be either through a Payment Order/Bank Draft or a Bank Guarantee in favour of Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer/Project, Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong. Bid Security shall be released in prescribed manner.
- 4) Tenders will be received in the offices of the undersigned up to 12-00 hrs. (noon) local time of 7th February, 1993 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 hrs in presence of the tenderers (if any).
- 5) The Railway Administration reserves the right not to accept the lowest bid and can reject any or all bids or may accept partially or wholly any bid/bids or divide the work among the selected tenderers or increase/decrease the volume of work or any part thereof without assigning any reason.

Chief Mechanical Engineer  
Design, Development & Construction  
Bangladesh Railway, Parbatipur

D-707