

Dhaka Day by Day

Saving the Unfortunates

by Rahat Fahmida



The picture of 25 frightened, malnourished boys moved Abdul Momen into action. He was one of the main people involved in saving the lives of these children recently. They were all boys under 5 years of age, rescued by Bombay police in March just before being sold to Persian Gulf States as 'camel jockeys'.

Abdul Momen, a 45-year-old science professor of Merrimack College in Boston, emigrated to the USA 15 years ago. He has worked for six months to make it possible for the children to return to Bangladesh at the end of last year.

The brutal sport, for which little boys are strapped on the back of racing camels because their frightened cries spur the animals to run faster, has been reported widely in the international media.

Momen, now in Bangladesh, while talking to 'The Daily Star' said, 'I bought a fax machine recently for my West Roxbury home to speed up communication, for bringing these children back home.' He sensed that these children were Bangladeshis soon after the international media had given a wide coverage of their being rescued. Momen did not stop. With a little more investigation and queries he proved right. Now he got into the business.

This Bangladeshi professor, with the help of his other fellows of Committee for Democratic Bangladesh in Boston, wrote letters to dozens of American and foreign agencies, embassies, prime ministers and newspapers seeking their support and help.

Momen estimated that 95,000 children from Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, have been sold in Middle Eastern slavery in recent years. He said traffickers from South Asian or Arab countries buy the children from poor families, take them over land to the ports of Bombay or Karachi. As many Human Rights organisations have monitored, the sale of South Asians into bondage in Middle Eastern countries has long been one of the symptoms of the re-

gion's poverty, with the victims including Indian Pakistani and Nepali women and children as well as Bangladeshis.

As for the 25 kidnapped children— Momen arranged for their food and accommodation in an orphanage, 'Home of Joy' in Khulna. This is run by an American lady Faith Willard who spent more than a month getting acquainted with these 25 children in Bombay.

Without Momen, now an American citizen, and perhaps Willard, much of the world might not have been aware of the plight of the Bangladeshi children. Before going to states in 1978 on a Ford Foundation fellowship at Harvard University, Momen had worked in the Ministry of Commerce and rural development in Bangladesh. Now Professor of management and economics at Merrimack, he set into motion a chain of protests through telephone calls, the media, faxes, cables and letters to diplomats, politicians in the United States, India and Bangladesh.

Through Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II, Momen got verification from Bangladeshi ambassador in Washington that 'Home of Joy' was capable of providing shelter for the children. Once permission had been granted for Willard to take responsibility of them, there was the problem of their air fares from Bombay to Bangladesh. Through his contacts and initiative Momen got UNICEF to fund about US \$ 4,000 along with contributions from other quarters which helped the children to come back to their homeland. Seventeen were put in the orphanage in Khulna, while eight are being held in Bombay as witnesses against accused traffickers for trial in India.

Now Momen is pressuring the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to issue a joint resolution at its next summit providing for the enforcement of their existing laws against the sale of women and children.

BCL observes first death anniversary of Badal

By DU Correspondent

Different factions of the Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday observed first death anniversary of its leader Moniruzzaman Badal demanding immediate trial of his killers.

Moniruzzaman Badal, central Organising Secretary of BCL (M-I) was gunned down near the TSC of the Dhaka University (DU) following a factional clash on January 9 last year.

To observe the day, the pro-Awami League BCL (M-I) brought out a procession and held a rally on the DU campus yesterday morning.

Later, the BCL (M-I) submitted a memorandum to the Home Ministry demanding arrest and immediate trial of the killers of Badal.

The BCL rally held at the foot of Aporajco Bangla of Dhaka University was addressed, among others, by the BCL General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim, Shaifur Rahman Shaifur with the BCL President Mainuddin Hasan Chowdhury in the chair.

Earlier, the BCL unveiled a memorial plaque of Badal near the Shamsunnahar Hall where he was shot.

The Montu backed BCL (M-I) also brought out a silent procession on the campus.

The processionists wore black badges and carried a black banner.

Tk 350 cr Barind project undertaken

RAJSHAHI, Jan 9: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman today said the BNP government has come to power to consolidate democracy, augment development and establish peace in the country, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a public meeting at Godagary thana headquarters.

The meeting was addressed by State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Haque and Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu. Godagary thana BNP president Aminul Islam Punjab presided.

workout mechanism for its expeditious and timely implementation.

Saifur Rahman said BNP is committed to fulfil its election pledges and added government is embarked upon implementing massive development programmes through pragmatic policy reforms to bring out as comprehensive and harmonious development across the country.

Mahboob Alam made HC to Malaysia

The government has appointed Mahboob Alam, Director-General at Prime Minister's office, High Commissioner to Malaysia, reports UNB.

According to an official press release, Mahboob was born on June 14 in 1944. He is an MA in History from Dhaka University.

He joined Pakistan Foreign Service in 1968 and held various diplomatic assignments in Bangkok, Rome, Berlin, Belgrade, Jakarta, Ottawa, Washington, New Delhi and Calcutta.

Zahir visits Halishahar

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan today visited south Halishahar, Patenga, Bandartila and Jaley Para damaged in the recent violent incidents and asked the concerned authorities to provide necessary medicare facilities and ensure distribution of relief materials among the affected people, reports BSS.

Zahiruddin went to the houses of deceased drivers Afsar and Abu Zafar

Kabhi Khatmo Aap Ka Safar Na Ho



From Ripon, Lorna, Feroj & Saklaen

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd

Corrigendum to International Tender Notice for Procurement of RBD Palm Stearin

The quantity and closing date of International Tender No. PD-IX/KCC/19/4564/92-93 dated 29-11-92 for procurement of 1000 Metric Tons RBD PALM STEARIN has been amended as follows:

- Quantity to read as 2000 Metric Tons instead of 1000 Metric Tons.
- Closing date to read as 10.00 A.M. on 02-02-93 instead of 10.00 A.M. on 12-01-93.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

D-21 Managing Director

Weather

No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or drizzle is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet and weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, the Met office forecasts adding that, weather is likely to improve during the next two days.

The minimum temperature of 12.0 degree Celsius was reported from Dinajpur yesterday (Saturday) and the maximum of 28.7 degree from Khulna.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.29 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.44 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	26.0	19.5	90	78
Chittagong	26.0	15.3	86	-
Rajshahi	20.5	16.6	89	98
Khulna	28.7	16.0	98	76
Burisal	27.5	18.4	100	83
Cox's Bazar	27.0	15.0	81	-
Sylhet	20.5	15.0	97	89
Dinajpur	17.2	12.0	95	89
Ishwardi	23.2	16.3	88	86



Sunday

- 3-30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 4-00 Live telecast of President Gold Cup football: Romania vs Czechoslovakia
- 6-00 2nd match: Bangladesh (Green) vs South Korea
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Discussion programme
- 9-00 Film show: The Wizard
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Chhayachhanda
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-40 Monday's programme summary
- 11-45 Closing



দামের চেয়েও দামী কোহিনূরের তিক্কত বল সাবান

‘তিক্কত বল সাবান এখন আরো উন্নত-আকারেও বড়। আমার যা চাই--এর সব আছে সব জন। অনেক কাপড় তো অবশ্যই ধোয়া যায়। তিক্কত বল সাবানের প্রচুর ফেনা খুব সহজেই কাপড়ের একদম গভীরে পৌঁছে দূর করে সমস্ত ময়লা। সুতি, রিডিন, অটোপৌরে যে কোন মনের কাপড় নিশ্চিন্তে ধুয়ে নিন তিক্কত বল সাবান দিয়ে। তিক্কত বল সাবান ত্বকের মশুণতা রাখেবে অটুট। আপনার পরিবারকে দিন গুহ সতেজ অনুভূতি আপনার কাপড়গুলো রাখুন নতুনের মত স্বচ্ছকে।’

স্বাস্থ্য স্থানিক

কোহিনূর কেমিক্যাল কোম্পানী (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ
(বি সি আই সি র একটি সাবসিডিয়ারী কোম্পানী)

BREAKNECK SPEED AT A BREAKTHROUGH PRICE

Introducing the COMPAQ ProSignia PC server: winner of the "PC Week" file server shoot-out. (If this result doesn't surprise you, perhaps the price will.)

The "PC Week" File Server Shoot-Out is the acknowledged, industry-standard test of PC Server performance. And the COMPAQ ProSignia just clinched top prize.

This new class of PC Server redefines file server price/performance, speeding user response time 64% over the Dell PowerLine 450SE, 83% over the IBM PS/2 Model 95 XP 486-OMF and AST Premium SE 4/33 by 52%. Just think, the COMPAQ ProSignia 486/33 performs more than 1.6 times faster than competitors' 486/50 at an amazing low price.

The range of COMPAQ ProSignia PC Servers includes disk-configured models ideal for cost conscious users with Power hungry LANs. They come equipped with 32-bit fast SCSI-2 controller and hard drives. Plus a 32-bit NetFlex Controller that supports both Ethernet and Token Ring networks.

For even faster performance you can choose the 32-Bit IDA-2 Controller Option.

The new ergonomic tower design gives the COMPAQ ProSignia more growth potential than most expandable desktop PCs. You can boost internal storage to more than 6 GB of internal Fast-SCSI-2 hard drive storage or over 3 GB of drive array storage and still have room for a tape drive for backup. And by adding external COMPAQ ProLiant Storage System, you can boost your total storage capacity to over 29 GB.

So whether you're after a flexible PC Server for your network, or a high-powered stand-alone for yourself, it makes sense to have a COMPAQ ProSignia. After all each ProSignia has passed the industry's most ruthless testing programme and backed by 3-year warranty.

ASTONISHING FEATURES OF COMPAQ ProSignia PC SERVER

PROCESSORS: Intel 486DX/33MHz and 486DX2/66MHz 32 Bit, EISA with Integrated 387 Compatible Coprocessor. 256-KB Cache memory.

MEMORY: 8 MB 32-Bit SIMM RAM expandable to 128 MB on the system board

HARD DRIVE: Fast SCSI-2. 130 MB, 550 MB, 1.05 GB

DRIVE CONTROLLER: Integrated 32-Bit FAST SCSI-2 Controller

EXPANSION SLOTS: Eight 32-Bit EISA SLOTS

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STORAGE: Eight Mass Storage Device

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