

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Potholes and the Hardship Syndrome

by Parveen Anam



It gives us immense delight to sit back and hear the enlightened class narrate the 'hardships' of Dhaka. Dhaka, this gorgeous, noisy, polluted, dirty, dear city of ours is more often than not termed as the 'hardship posting' by the sophisticated majority. Marvellous description, we mutter sardonically to ourselves.

And never more than when we are bumping along those bumpy roads, so desperately spruced up for the Summit, which unfortunately fell on such hard times. Summit or not, the roads will hardly be recognizable now for the next three months or so. Then of course we are all back to square one till the next Summit. We hope. But till then perhaps the description of the 'hardship posting' can be changed to a 'tolerable posting' by the enlightened elite? Surely even they cannot complain when we are so spruced up and shiny?

We wonder at times if there is any sense in pointing out the merits of the city to the superior being busy describing it as the 'hardship training' ground. In spite of our faults and hardships we have our positive sides too. How else can we describe the ability of the potholes to disappear so miraculously come Summit time to reappear immediately afterwards? The potholes have their merits too, of course. No other 'hardship posting' gives the long suffering, whining multitudes such valid reasons to whine and grieve. The fact that they can so easily forget all the positive sides of the city is always cause for great wonder. Somehow, the potholes seem to be foremost in their minds when they refer to the 'hard points' of the place. What other reason can anybody have for calling this delightful city, such harsh names? The power situation is quite tolerable as

even the most critical will admit. Actually, the electric authorities deserve a resounding pat on the back for a credible performance. The water position may not be enviable but will suffice. But the suffering hordes, who are always grumbling about the 'hardship posting' certainly do not face these ordinary problems. In fact, in more candid moments they will probably admit to themselves that they have never had it so good. The 'hardship' bit is the facade they have to maintain to keep the extra allowance coming in and the 'R&R' ensured. Marvellous tactics, these.

Here we are, innocently presuming it is the potholes which make them unhappy; whereas all the time they have their wits working overtime to ensure their comfort. Clever. But coming back to the potholes, some big enough to accommodate a boat, will now be tolerable with the winter here. Gorgeous time of the year, winter for us. Even the 'hardship wallas' admit that. Potholes or not they cannot hide their euphoria at the gorgeous blue skies and endless sunshine. Much cheaper to lap it up here than make that trip to the Bahamas or the south of France. Quite compensates for the miseries of the place, they will whisper perhaps amongst themselves.

It is only the likes of us who will take the city for what it is worth, potholes and all. For nowhere else do we feel as comfortable as when we are bumping along the pothole bequeathed city roads, cursing, laughing and thoroughly enjoying ourselves as only the Dhakaites can in this 'hardship' place. The ones who cannot enjoy the joys of the city perhaps deserve our compassion. They are certainly missing out on a lot.

## Hindu Parishad call to rebuild Babri Mosque

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad at a rally yesterday demanded immediate reconstruction of the demolished historic Babri Mosque and accused BJP, Biswa Hindu Parishad, RSS and other fundamentalist forces in India of destroying communal harmony by razing the 15th century mosque in Ayodhya, reports BSS.

The Parishad also demanded formation of a parliamentary committee to resolve the problems of the minorities in Bangladesh.

Parishad President Prem Rankan Dev, General Secretary Sattyanarayan Das, Sadhana Das Gupta, Lakshmi Kanti Goswami, Ajay Mitra and Montimohan Biswas addressed the rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Reading out the declaration of the rally, the Parishad president charged that BJP in India and Jamaat-Shibir in Bangladesh were responsible for communal disturbances, in the entire subcontinent in the wake of the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque by the Hindu fundamentalists in

India. He blamed Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao for patronising the BJP and said it could be possible to come out of communal problem unitedly by removing all sorts of inequalities. He called for turning Bangladesh into a prosperous and respected country.

Sattyanarayan said that his organisation had protested the demolition of the historic mosque by the Hindu fundamentalists in India and urged the Indian government to rebuild it immediately.

He urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to apply the Anti-terrorism Act against those who would try to destroy the communal harmony in Bangladesh.

Das also urged the government to help build mandirs in the country.

Sadhana Das Gupta asked the Hindu fundamentalists of India not to do politics, using religion.

Lakshmi Kanti Goswami called upon all irrespective of religions to unitedly fight the fundamentalists.

## 'Govt committed to ensure health for all by 2000'

State Minister for Land M Kabir Hussain yesterday said, the government was committed to ensure health for all by 2000 years, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing the national conference of the BCS (Health) Association at EPI Bhaban here.

Deputy Minister for Health M Sirajul Haq spoke on the occasion as special guest. Among others, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed, Secretary General of the BCS (Health) Association also spoke on the occasion.

Kabir sought all-out efforts and cooperation of the members of the health services to achieve this objective for the welfare of the nation.

## Hearing of Golam Azam's citizenship petition Feb 10

The hearing of the writ petition filed by Prof Golam Azam seeking restoration of his citizenship will be held on February 10 before a single-judge bench of the High Court Division, Justice Anwarul Haq Chowdhury, reports BSS.

Barrister AR Yusuf, counsel for the petitioner, mentioned and prayed this morning before the court for early hearing of Prof Azam's writ petition.

Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif prayed for few days adjournment because the Attorney General Anwarul Haq is preoccupied with some other cases outside the High Court Division.

## Murad's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent  
Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-K) will observe the first death anniversary of Abu Hassan Murad today Saturday.

Murad, a leader of the PRO-JSD Chhatra League, was killed by terrorists on this day last year when he had been returning home at Maghbazar in the city.

The central committee and the Dhaka University unit of the student body have drawn elaborate programmes to mark the day.

## JU to announce new exam schedule

Jahangirnagar University will announce a new schedule of examinations after reopening of the University, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of deans, provosts and departmental chairmen held with the JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed in the chair, a university press release said yesterday.

The new time-table will include all postponed examinations and those scheduled at the end of the winter vacation, the press release added.

## CU Pol Science Assoc Confce begins today

CHITTAGONG, Jan 22: The two-day seventh national conference of Bangladesh Political Science Association begins tomorrow at the Institute of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Chittagong University, reports BSS.

## Weather

### Dry weather to prevail

Mild or moderate cold wave prevailing over the country may continue for another 36 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

The Met office forecasts dry weather with clear sky will prevail over the country today, while night temperature will fall further by one degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature of 4.6 degree Celsius was reported from Ishurdi yesterday (Friday) and the maximum of 24.7 degree was reported from Jessore.

The sun sets today Saturday at 5.38 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6.42 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	22.6	7.2	68	49
Chittagong	23.0	11.5	78	66
Rajshahi	23.5	5.8	63	49
Khulna	23.5	7.0	82	59
Barisal	22.8	7.2	95	73
Cox's Bazar	24.0	12.8	62	59
Sylhet	21.0	8.5	95	66
Dinajpur	20.1	7.5	91	74

short film as alternative cinema  
**3RD INTERNATIONAL GOLD LEAF SHORT FILM FESTIVAL, DHAKA**  
January 21-29, 1993  
Central Public Library Auditorium, Shahbag  
Daily at 11 am, 3 pm, 5 pm & 7 pm  
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Organiser: BANGLADESH SHORT FILM FORUM  
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Divn-V  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka

### Short Notice Inviting Tender

Memo.No. SA-NA/1747 Dated: 7-1-93 Eng/24-9-99 Bang

Sealed cover tenders are hereby invited from PWD Special 1st Class/Class-I/II, E.M. Contractors those have got valid ABC/BC Contractory and Supervisory Licence from Bangladesh Licensing Board in Bangladesh Form No 2911 for the undermentioned work. The tender papers will be received by the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E.M. Divn. 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/ Workshop Divn/Wood Workshop Divn and PWD Eden Bldgs Divn, Dhaka up to 12 Noon on 27-1-93 and opened on the same day at 12-30 pm in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representative (who may like to remain present). The tender paper will be available in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E.M. Divn 1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/ Workshop Divn/Wood Workshop Divn. and PWD Eden Bldg Divn, Dhaka on cash payment of usual charges (Non-refundable): 2% (Two) Earnest Money of the estimated cost to be submitted along with the tender, in favour of Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division No V, Dhaka through Bank Draft/Pay Order/SDR/CD from any scheduled bank approved by the Bangladesh Bank. Authority have got right to accept any tender or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. The contractor or their authorized person can purchase tender papers after showing the contractor registration book and other documents. The last date of selling tender papers is on 26-1-93.

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed
1.	Providing & installation of 20 HP deep well turbine water pump motor set at Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters at Siddique Bazar, Dhaka.	Tk.3,08,569/75	2% of the estimated cost	30 (thirty) days

Executive Engineer  
PWD E/M Division-V  
Dhaka

DFP (G) 891-18/1  
G-100

**Saturday BTV**

5.00 Opening announcement  
Al-Ghuran  
Programme summary  
5.10 News in Bangla  
5.20 Cartoon: Care Bears Family  
6.00 Moner Katha (Children's programme)  
6.30 Open University  
7.05 Barnshari (folk songs)  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 Maati-o-Marush  
9.00 Ararban  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Drama series: Dallas  
11.30 Khabar/ The News  
11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary

### Obituary

Chowdhury Imamuddin, a former member of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and Joint Secretary, Ministry of the Food died here yesterday morning at a private clinic. He was 81, reports BSS.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held after Juma prayers at Baitul Aman Mosque in Dhanmondi.

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6 pm  
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Advance tickets available (from Jan. 23) at :  
 \* Dhaka Sheraton Hotel  
Tel : 863391, 861191  
 \* Filmfair Video, Sobhanbagh  
Tel : 314718, 316201  
 \* Swiss Bakery, New Bailey Road  
Tel : 834121  
 \* Rainbow, New Elephant Road

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BTC/1436(E)/93