

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Leaves and Little Children

by Parveen Anam



Dhaka is an overpopulated city. That according to some, is an understatement. It is teeming with people, with cars, with bullock carts, with rickshaws. And last but not the least, with the little children, running about everywhere, easy prey to the heart-rending poverty and misery which are their lot, for the time being at least, in this our beloved city of Dhaka.

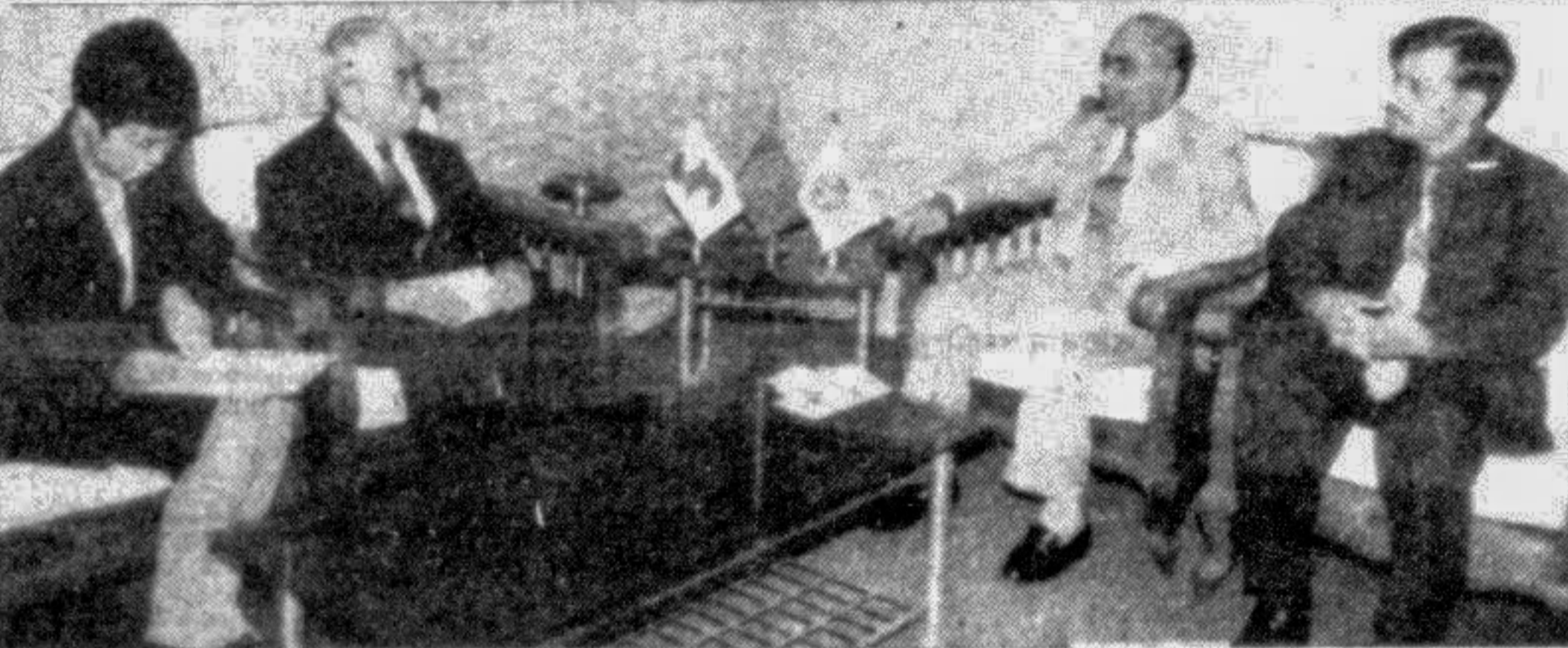
It is a situation which is difficult to describe. The little boy, selling newspapers or rather the Dhaka version of the tabloid, a two-page printed stuff screaming the most scandalous headlines and even more scandalous pictures, is someone for the Dhakaite, thanks to the latter's pretension, does not exist. For after all, we believe in what we think. And rather not what we see. We all see the little eight-year-old, shivering in the cold with hardly a shirt on his back, or getting soaked in the rain, standing at the traffic lights and running up to each car as the lights go red, in the hope of selling one paper, which does not cost much. Two taka is all he asks for. But as the Dhakaite sits there staring through the windscreen at nothing, it hardly occurs to him that the two taka will make the difference between the child going to bed hungry that night or not. And yet, somehow, the effort of leaning over and taking the two taka out of the purse or wallet in the airconditioned comfort

of his vehicle, is at times too much for the Dhakaite, pedicured, well coiffured, over-fed Dhakaite.

Going past the Suhrawardy Uddyan, or any area which has survived the onslaught of the axe and is still with some greenery the Dhakaite, if he bothers to look out his window, will be astonished to see the little girls, not more than six years of age but old beyond her years, gathering leaves. She has a little sack, which is bigger than her in size, into which she stuffs every little leaf which falls off the trees and the shrubbery, around the area. These she will carry off a long distance to her home, wherever that may be and her mother will either use it as fuel or sell the leaves for a pittance with which to buy other necessities of life.

The little girls seldom smile. They have nothing to smile about. But if the Dhakaite will roll down his window and smile at the little girl who is there through no fault of hers, he would be surprised to see the flashing grin come right back in an instant, as that little girl who is already tired of life, forgets her lot for a minute and returns a very human gesture.

Yet, in the rush of everyday life and the task of simply getting anywhere within the city be it to keep appointments or merely get to work — the Dhakaite has perhaps forgotten that little human gestures do not cost much.



Kikuo Ikeda, President, Japan-Bangladesh Joint Economic Committee and Leader of the Japanese delegation called on Mahbubur Rahman, President, FBCCI yesterday at his Federation Office and discussed on the Agenda of 6th Joint Economic Committee meeting to be held today. Among others Masao Sawaki, Deputy Leader of the Japanese delegation and K M Shafiqul Islam, Vice-President, FBCCI were present.

Salt producers hopeful about reaching production target

Country's salt producers are optimistic about achieving the production target of 7.5 lakh tons this year, reports UNB.

The optimism was expressed in a coordination committee meeting at the conference room of the Industries Ministry. The committee consists of representatives of salt producers, crushers, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and financial institutions.

Chaired by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, the meeting was attended, among others, by Industries Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye, BSCIC Chairman M Moniruzzaman, President of Salt Mill Owners Association Mohammad Shahidullah and President of Salt Producers and Mill Owners Association Zainul Abedin.

"We don't want to import salt any more... we want to be self-sufficient in salt production", the minister told the meeting. He also stressed on more production of fine quality iodized salt.

The Industries Minister said that 7.2 lakh tons of salt were produced on 37,000 acres of

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
 Second Bhola Irrigation Project
 7/18, Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207

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Memo No. LGED/DP/BP-2/T-11/93/177 Dated: 30th March, 1993
 Tender No. 93001

The tender invited under the office Memo No. LGED/DP/BP-2/T-11/93/161 dated 12th February, 1993 is hereby corrected as follows:

1. Bid documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions and other papers may be purchased on all working days up to 17th April, 1993 in place of 27th March, 1993.
2. All bids must be delivered on or before 12:00 hours (local time) on 20th April, 1993 in place of 30th March, 1993.
3. In schedule of equipment and technical specification (Section-4), the specification required for engine, the sentence "engine shall be capable of developing continuous output of 45 KW (minimum) within the range available between its rated and intermediate speed" is to be read as engine shall be capable of developing continuous output of 30 KW (minimum) within the range available between its rated and intermediate speed.

All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Sd/-
Md. Maniruzzaman
 Project Director
 Second Bhola Irrigation Project
 Local Government Engineering Department
 7/18 Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

DFP (G) 4806-31/3
 G-451



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the foundation laying ceremony of the Dhaka Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building at Kakrail yesterday. —PID photo

What's on today

Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee
 The sixth meeting of Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation will be held today (Monday) at 9-45 am at the Hotel Sonargaon under the auspices of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the meeting as chief guest and inaugurate it. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan and Commerce Minister M K Anwar will be present as the special guests.

OCAB
 Overseas Correspondent's Association, Bangladesh (OCAIB) will hold a press briefing with World Bank mission Chief Christopher Willoughby at National Press Club today (Monday) at 4 pm.

Discussion on Freedom of Press
 A discussion meeting on "Freedom of Press and Democracy" will be held today (Monday) at 4-15 pm at the Guide House auditorium on the occasion of the first founding anniversary of the Weekly Tritico Dhara.

Exhibition by Ilse Hilpert
 An exhibition of mixed media works, "Another Vision" by Ilse Hilpert will remain open today (Monday) from 9 am to 8 pm at La Galerie.

. . . . and tomorrow

Parjatan Club
 Parjatan Club has organised a cultural function tomorrow (Tuesday) at its office at Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur on the occasion of Eid-reunion.

The Convening Committee of the club will hold a meeting prior to the function to discuss the opening of its units in Rajshahi and Rangpur.

Hasan presents credentials
 Bangladesh Ambassador to Luxembourg S Hasan Ahmed presented his credentials to the Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg Thursday, reports BSS.

Following the presentation of the credentials the Grand Duke conveyed his warmest greetings to the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

He showed keen interest in Bangladesh and enquired from the envoy about the progress of work of the projects to control floods.

The Grand Duke praised the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for leading the country ahead on the path of progress.

BTV

Monday

- 5:00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Cartoon Film: The Three Mousketeers
- 5:35 Sports programme
- 6:35 Samachar
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 9:00 Barnali
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy Series: Murphy Brown
- 11:00 Musical Programme: Disco Rally
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather is likely to remain over the country with partly cloudy sky at Rajshahi Division during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Monday. Met office forecasts.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period across the country, it adds.

The highest temperature of the country Sunday 38.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest, 15.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangpur.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6-16 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5-46 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka:	35.5	23.2	62	38
Chittagong:	35.0	21.0	64	59
Rajshahi:	38.0	17.8	65	25
Khulna:	35.3	23.2	83	52
Cox's Bazar:	36.8	23.4	64	68
Buraid:	34.5	24.0	92	79
Sylhet:	34.2	20.4	64	27
Rangpur:	34.8	15.6	43	38

PM lays foundation of YMCA building

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that her government would always encourage and supplement the efforts of those who would stand by the side of the people and the country, reports BSS.

"The present government is the people's government. To bring welfare to the people is our only vow", said the Prime Minister.

She was presiding over the foundation laying ceremony of the Dhaka Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building to be constructed at Kakrail.

The multi-storied Dhaka YMCA building is being constructed after the transfer of the plot of land to YMCA by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Late President Ziaur Rahman had allotted the plot of land to YMCA for constructing its own building. But the past autocratic regime did not transfer the land.

The Prime Minister felicitated the office-bearers and workers of YMCA on this happy occasion and said the foundation-laying ceremony was the first step towards materialising their long standing hope of possessing a building of their own.

The Prime Minister urged every citizen of the country to contribute to nation-building activities from his own position for building a bright future for the next generation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

To meet our growth objectives, particularly relating to marketing and distribution of the internationally renowned Nestle range of products, the following opportunities have arisen. We are looking for a select number of young and dynamic individuals to fill up the positions.

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Educational Qualification: Minimum Honours Graduate in any Science subject.

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We are grateful to Janab SHAMSUL ISLAM KHAN Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Govt of Bangladesh and His Excellency A. R. AHMAD FUZI the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh for kindly attending the Introduction Ceremony as Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively

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