

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Tempo Helper with a Dream

by Nurul Huq

Rahim dreams of becoming an army general, but he's only a tempo helper, 12 years old. He's a good-looking precocious Bihari boy dressed in a high-collared full grey shirt, black pants and black boots to match. When I ran into him at the BRTC bus-stand at Muhammadpur with my barrage of questions, he was more than willing to be "interviewed". In fact, he had his own volley of questions which he fired at me, launching several questions at once, and getting ready with the next salvo, "Are you married? Why not? Will I get paid for this interview? Why ever not? I'm giving you my time, am I not?", till I ended up wondering who was getting interviewed, him or me!



What did he do as a helper, I asked him. Plenty, said he. Our aspiring army general rides on the back-step of the tempo, zooming his way through the busy streets of the city. He collects the fares, and calls out the names of the various stops in route. He threatens passing cars and rickshaws with "khabardar" as the tempo goes careening at breath-taking speed from Muhammadpur to Farmgate and all the way to Gabtoli and back. He cleans up the tempo when he comes back to Muhammadpur for the last time at night.

As he chattered away, I looked at this daredevil with his thick mop of black hair, sharp eyes and sharper brains, and wondered. He was anything but the poor orphan boy slaving for a living, lost in a world of twinkling stars. But in fact he was an orphan. His father, a cashier at a bank, died eight years back. No

problem. He earns anything between 20-40 bucks a day, depending on the number of passengers he manages to coax into his tempo. Rahim lives with his mother and phupu (aunt) all the family he has — at Nurjahan road in Muhammadpur. Both the women work at a garments factory, and they pay Tk 800 for the house they live in. They eat rice and vegetables, and sometimes even manage fish or meat.

He's on his usual duties from 7am to 8pm every day except Friday. And what does he do on Fridays? He sleeps till 10 in the morning, then goes cycling with his friends. "Do you go to the cinema?" I asked him. "No", he said promptly, and I wondered if he was lying. "Did you ever go to school?", I said. "Till Class IV", he said.

"What are the risks in your line of work?", I said. He thought this one over. After a philosophical pause he rattled off again. "There could always be an accident or crash. Or I could fall off the back-step one day. It's possible. Once a passenger actually threw me off the running tempo. I smashed his glasses. If I were bigger, I'd have broken his bones. He wouldn't give me the actual fare. I've to coax, entice and sometimes even good the passengers into my tempo. Sometimes I even threaten them: "there's no gari (vehicle) for the next half hour — they don't know what's good for them, the fools."

"If you can't become a general, then what?", I said. "I'll become a tempo driver. Tempo helpers get the first chance", he shot back, before zooming away on his bike.



Prince Karim Aga Khan yesterday placed a wreath at the National Memorial at Savar as a mark of respect to the martyrs of the Liberation War.

### Biswas tells Aga Khan

## Govt providing lot of facilities to foreign investors

Prince Karim Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Ismailia community, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

He was accompanied by his younger brother Prince Ameen Aga Khan. During discussions, President Biswas said the present government has liberalised the industrial policy and introduced free market economy.

He said that the climate was absolutely congenial to investment by foreign investors. He added that the government had provided a lot of facilities to foreign investors.

They also discussed the urgency of checking the rapid growth of population.

Prince Karim Aga Khan appreciated the socio-economic reforms and policies of the government to improve the

condition of the people.

M A Mannan, State Minister for Textile, Ataul Huq, Secretary to the President, Hasan Ali Anjani and Mrs Ashraf Ali, President and Vice President respectively of the Aga Khan National Council for Bangladesh were present.

### Mostafiz meets

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman called on Prince Karim Aga Khan yesterday afternoon at the state guest house Karotoa. The Foreign Minister expressed his deep appreciation for the cooperation of Aga Khan Foundation in various fields of Bangladesh.

Mostafiz expressed gratitude to Prince Aga Khan and said we can work jointly in many areas of people's welfare and development of Bangladesh. He briefed the Aga

Khan about the rural electrification, communication, population control and health care and educational programmes of the present government and asked the visiting highness to extend cooperation in these fields.

Prince Karim Aga Khan appreciated the development programmes and assured all possible cooperation. He showed keen interest in health care and family planning, education and rural electrification sectors.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday called on the leader of the Ismailia community Prince Karim Aga Khan at the state guest house Karotoa yesterday afternoon.

They discussed industrial policy and the privatisation programme of the Bangladesh government.



A physician delivering a speech at a scientific seminar on "Proton pump blockers in acid-peptic diseases" chaired by Prof A K Azad Khan (second from left) at the IPGMR yesterday.

### 'Omeprazole has certain benefits to patients'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a scientific seminar yesterday noted that anti-gastric drug omeprazole has certain benefits in acid control among patients who are resistant to other conventional anti-acid drugs.

Leading drug manufacturers like BEXIMCO and Square Pharmaceuticals have started producing omeprazole for the first time in Bangladesh less than a month ago.

At the seminar on "Proton pump blockers in acid peptic diseases" organised by Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society, speakers agreed that since the drug was newly introduced in the country, proper understanding of the pharmacology and clinical implications of omeprazole would help ensure the rational use of the drug and thus render maximum benefit to the patient-care services.

The seminar sponsored by Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd was presided over by Prof A K Azad Khan while Assistant Professor of Gastroenterology Deptt, IPGMR Dr Atiqul Haq presented a paper on "Basic aspects of proton pump inhibition" and Associate Professor of the same deptt Dr M Tyebar Rahman presented a paper on "Clinical aspects of proton pump inhibition."

### 28 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 28 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, reports UNB.

One of them was wanted, another accused under the Anti-terrorism Act, two were held for kidnapping and another two for robbery, six for stealing and one caught for burglary.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

## Tk 47 lakh sanctioned for voluntary bodies

Bangladesh Jatiya Samajkalyan Parishad has approved an annual sanction of Taka 47.18 lakh as token grant to local registered non-government voluntary organisations, reports BSS.

This token money will help stimulate their development activities.

The sanction was announced at the 19th session of the Bangladesh Jatiya Samajkalyan Parishad here yesterday.

Chairman of the Parishad and Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam presided over the session.

The minister called upon the representatives of N G O's to make evaluation of their activities and avoid overlapping with same activity of different N G O's in a particular area.

He said the present government was considering to set up social services offices gradually in every district.

About 16 thousand registered local N G O's are striving to augment the socio-economic condition of the dis-

ressed.

Renowned social workers of national and local levels attended the session.

Secretary of Social Welfare Ministry, Dr K M Fariduddin, and Director General of Social Services Department were also present.

### Chinese team calls on Hafiz

The visiting six-member Chinese delegation led by Vice-Minister for Justice Jin Jian called on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Ghulam Hafiz at his secretariat office on Tuesday morning, reports BSS.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Haque and Secretary of the Ministry Mirza Asaduzzaman Al Faruq were present on the occasion.

Law Minister and Chinese Vice-Minister for Justice exchanged views on existing bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

## Diversify jute products, Hannan tells workers

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah yesterday urged the workers and management of jute mills to work hard for saving the jute mills from ruin, reports BSS.

"We must have new thinking to reduce cost of production and diversify our products and maintain working atmosphere in our mills for taking advantage of reawakened market due to growing conscious-

ness of environment at home and abroad, he said.

Jute Minister was speaking at a meeting of labour leaders and officers and staff of BJMC, held at BJMC head office to review the experience of eight trade union leaders, who recently visited Singapore, Thailand and India on study tours.

The experience of the labour leaders highly impressed the Jute Minister and he announced that government will send two ten-member teams of labour leaders abroad each year to enrich their knowledge in modern management of mills and factories.

Trade union leaders Kazi Md Quddus, Abul Khair, Abdul Gafur, Shahidullah Choudhury, Momtazuddin, Abdul Malek, Farid Mia and Rehanuddin Rehan apprised the minister of their experience.

The delegation visited ship yard and National Trade Union Centre at Singapore, met trade union leaders and government officials at Bangkok and visited some jute mills at Calcutta. Narrating their experience, the labour leaders highlighted different aspects of labour-management relationship and maintenance of machinery productivity, wages and attitude towards work and productivity.

The meeting first of its kind was rounded off with question-answer session, conducted by Chairman, BJMC, Maniruddin Ahmed.

## Sino-Bangla economic ties underscored

The visiting Chinese judicial delegation led by Jin Jian, Vice-Minister for Justice of China called on the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Haque, Whip Mahbulul Alam Tara, Whip Ashraf Hossain and Secretary, Ministry of Law Mirza Asaduzzaman Al Faruq were present.

During the meeting Shaikh Razaque Ali recalled the traditional friendship between Bangladesh and China and expressed the hope that this friendship and cooperation would further grow in the coming years.

He emphasised the need for economic cooperation between the two countries and said that China was a tested friend of Bangladesh.

## Weather

### Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says, rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at few places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet with moderately heavy falls at places and rain or showers with gusty wind may occur at one or two places elsewhere over the country.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The maximum temperature of the country recorded yesterday (Tuesday) of 36.2 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and the minimum of 20.4 degree reported from Chaudanga.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.29 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.21 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.5	22.5	85	77
Chittagong	32.7	20.8	78	76
Rajshahi	36.2	22.6	87	74
Khulna	33.5	28.0	78	78
Bairsal	31.6	22.4	86	89
Cox's Bazar	32.6	24.5	72	82
Sylhet	29.5	21.5	98	80
Dinajpur	29.2	22.9	93	92

## Loan disbursed among 311 poor women in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, May 4: Rajshahi city office of Social Welfare Department today disbursed loan amounting to about Taka six lakh among 311 poor and distressed women of Maldah colony in the city, reports BSS.

The main objective of the programme is to develop socio-economic condition of the women by providing their self-employment devices. Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu distributed the loan at a function held at Maldah colony of the city.

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন  
**BTV**  
Wednesday

5.00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	Khejar Jagat
6.00	Hijal Tamal
7.00	Open University
7.25	Tagore songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Dance programme
	Nritter Taalik Taalik
9.00	Film show: The Fall Guy
10.00	News in English
10.30	Ujiban
11.30	Khabar/ The News
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES**  
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. DSR ATLANTIC V-WF-319 from Osaka, Yakoyama, Kaohsiung, Pusan, ex. M. V. DSR EUROPE V-EE317 & EF 312 from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp. Ports Mouth, ex. M. V. PETER METZ V-6 from Istanbul have been relayed to M. V. BENVALLA V-039 Imp. Rot. No: 347/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 6-5-93 from Singapore.  
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
The Royal Netherlands Embassy acknowledges with gratitude the messages of felicitation on the occasion of the **Queen's Day** of the Netherlands on 30 April, 1993.  
The expressions of warm friendship to Her Majesty The Queen and to the people of the Netherlands are highly appreciated.  
The Royal Netherlands Embassy  
Dhaka

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