

Dhaka Day by Day

Depriving the Deprived

by Warda Nasser Ali



Alongwith his tears he had resentment. He was deprived of his due, his wage. He was crying, rebuking and cursing the man a rickshaw-puller, who didn't pay his due. The teen-aged boy, Moti, is one of those boys who come as a great help to the rickshaw-pullers when they have to negotiate an uphill route, particularly on bridges and culverts.

All these helpless boys Moti, Anu, Harish gather on the problem spots for rickshaws to earn a modicum of daily, albeit highly uncertain income. When asked one of them replied usually he earns Taka 15 to 20 per day. Anu said he gets paisa fifty to one taka for per 'push'. Some rickshaw-pullers some times don't give us our due wage; after the push they go away hurriedly speeding and we run after them but we can't catch them. So we don't get our due', said Moti who has been doing this job for quite a long time.

However, not everyone is as heartless as the man who has just sped away on his wheels without paying. Sometimes, although rarely, on the rickshaw-pullers' refusal some passengers come to their rescue. 'There are some kind-hearted passengers who would not mind giving us money, although it was supposed to be paid by the pullers. Sometimes we even come across a few generous rickshaw-pullers who give us more than our due', said Harish, another teen-aged hard-working boy who has been in this profession of 'push' for nearly two years.

All these tender-aged boys come to their working site at dawn and work for hours together. Most of them have no particular place to spend their night. They pass their nights under

the stair-case of buildings, in the verandah or in the open space of a market. But those who live with their parents in huts in slums can spend their nights a bit comfortably. These boys come to a great relief to their parents who eke out a living below subsistence level.

Anu said with a sigh, 'what strength do we have to push the rickshaws with the puller and the passengers? But we must do it. I have no way out, so I do it. Initially it was too difficult but now I have become accustomed to it.'

'During rains and other abnormal situations like hartals I can't work and my income becomes very low and then my sufferings know no bound. I can't even procure my food,' said Anu with sorrow writ large on his face. When asked if they have some problems deciding who will push the rickshaw, they said they maintain a strict discipline and order as they find in case of buses, tempoes and baby-taxis. So they don't quarrel and face any problems at least in this matter.

These teen-aged boys have known the hard reality of life so early but necessity has forced them to face the largely hostile world. They are to earn their own livelihood.

These uncared, ill-fed and ill-treated are wasting their prime of life by keeping themselves engaged in works fit for only grown-ups.

But they are the victims of the circumstances. The prevailing system does not favour them in any way to come out of the wretched situation they are in. The provisions of human rights and equal opportunity for all sound hollow when these boys are condemned to suffer as they do. Society has shrunk from a vital obligation - both from a moral and social point of view.

City Corporation polls in Nov likely

LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that there was a programme to hold Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna City Corporations polls in November 1993, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, the Minister informed the House that the polls might be held even before that time-schedule.

Responding to another question from Awami League member A K M Jahangir Hossain, the Minister said that a Zila Parishad Bill would be placed before the House soon and after the passage of that bill steps would be taken to hold the elections of the Zila Parishad.

Govt plans to supply pure water to rural areas

The government has plan to ensure supply of pure drinking water to the rural areas by the year 2000, LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar told the House yesterday, reports UNB.

Responding to a question from Abul Kalam Azad, the minister said although there is no policy as such but the government every year supply deep and shallow tubewells in the rural areas for safe drinking water.

Responding to a supplementary, he said re-examination of ponds in the rural areas is going on.

The minister, replying to another supplementary, said there was no plan to exempt contribution money for deep tubewells as donors have objected to it. But during natural calamities, government had exempted the contribution money and would do it in time of need, he added.

Students urged to maintain discipline in college union polls

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah said here yesterday that BNK believed in the politics of development of the common people, reports BSS.

He was addressing a panel projection meeting at the Arahazar Government Safar Ali College in Narayanganj arranged by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

The meeting was also addressed by MA Hye, Deputy Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives, Rukunuddin Bhuiyan, president, Narayanganj District Unit of BNP, Fazlul Haque Milton, president, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, and some contesting candidates of the college students union.

Jute Minister urged the students to support the politics of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal which is determined to establish rule of law and pursue people-oriented development programmes.

Deputy Minister MA Hye urged the students to practise and maintain discipline in college union elections.



State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan inaugurated a three-day watercolour exhibition at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. — Star photo

Dhaka reaffirms commitment to ILO principles

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to the principles and purposes of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), reports BSS.

'Our growing democratic experience, the freedom of trade union movement and the free press are among the advantages which we have in making meaningful contribution as a member of the governing body of ILO,' the Minister said this while addressing the plenary session of the 80th conference of ILO in Geneva on June 7, according to a message received here yesterday.

Representatives from 163 member countries of ILO are participating in the conference.

The minister said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is fully seized of the challenges of harmonising the needs of structural adjustments, with the imperatives of employment generation, education, medical care and old age pension etc.

'Our government is particularly attentive to the need of employment generation in the rural areas of Bangladesh, which, we believe, is the key to social insurance and social protection,' he observed.

The Minister said that some highly innovative and success-

Art exhibition in Sonargaon Hotel begins

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan inaugurated a three-day water colour exhibition organised by Sonargaon Hotel here yesterday, reports BSS.

A total of 185 original water colour paintings by local artists were on display. In an attempt to patronise the young aspiring artists, Sonargaon Hotel in association with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism will collect a large number of original water colour paintings.

Emphasising the need for patronisation of the local arts and crafts, Mannan urged various organisations to come forward and lend a 'helping hand'.

The Sonargaon Hotel approached the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, to arrange a series of exhibitions beginning yesterday. The next exhibition is scheduled from July 15 to 17.

A special committee formed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism selected the paintings for the exhibition for the Sonargaon Hotel. The remaining paintings are open to the public for sale.

The paintings will be a valuable collection for the hotel especially when placed in the renovated rooms depicting the culture and heritage of Bangladesh.

Among others, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Habibur Rahman and renowned artist Mustafa Monwar were present.

CIRDAP seminar opens

Discussants at a seminar here yesterday stressed the need for developing an analytical framework for evaluation of the distributional implications of alternative macro-policies along with a mechanism for continuous monitoring of poverty, reports UNB.

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) organised the seminar on 'Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty (MAP) in Bangladesh' to suggest concrete policy issues to set up a regular monitoring and evaluation mechanism to minimise adverse impact of structural adjustment policy on the rural poor.

The MAP project funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has been implemented by CIRDAP in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Experts, policy makers, senior government officials and representatives of international agencies participated in the seminar at CIRDAP headquarters.



Dr. M A Wajed, Dr. Ahsan made BAEC members

Dr M A Wajed Miah and Dr Muhammad Ahsan, Chief Scientific Officers of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), have been appointed members of the Physical Science and Planning and Development Divisions of the BAEC respectively with effect from June 7, reports BSS.

Before their assignments, Dr Mia was the Director of the Atomic Energy Centre at Dhaka and Dr Ahsan was the Director of the International Affairs Division of the Commission. Both of them are nuclear physicists.

Dr Mia has 24 significant research publications to his credit and wrote two text books for university students in Physics, Applied Physics and Engineering.

Dr Ahsan's scientific contributions include (1) resolving a 20 years old debate in reactor physics, (2) invention of poly boron world's one of the finest and unique neutron shielding materials, (3) discovery of a large number of mathematical 'identities' and (4) presentation of a 'proof' of 'Fermat's last theorem'.

Tk 4.27 cr allocated to modernise police force

The eleventh meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Home Ministry was held yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in details the law and order and crime situation of four metropolitan police areas. It took some proposals to improve the situation.

The meeting unanimously emphasised the need for increasing budget allocation in the police sector. It stressed modernisation of the police by providing modern equipment and logistic support so that police can better ensure security and safety of life and property of the people.

It was informed that a special fund of Taka four crore 27 lakh had been allocated recently for modernising the police force.

The meeting proposed to constitute a metropolitan magistrate court in Rajshahi and provide at least one vehicle for every police station in phases.

The meeting asked the concerned high officials to take stringent actions against criminals and law violators irrespective of their social and political identities.

Committee members Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, Abdur Rauf Chowdhury, Shahjahan Chowdhury and Abu Yusuf Md Khalilur Rahman of BNP, M Rahmat Ali and Abul Hasanat Abdullah of Awami League and Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami took part in the discussion.

Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed, Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan, Director General of Ansar and VDP Major General Syed Badruzzaman, Metropolitan Police Commissioners of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi were present.

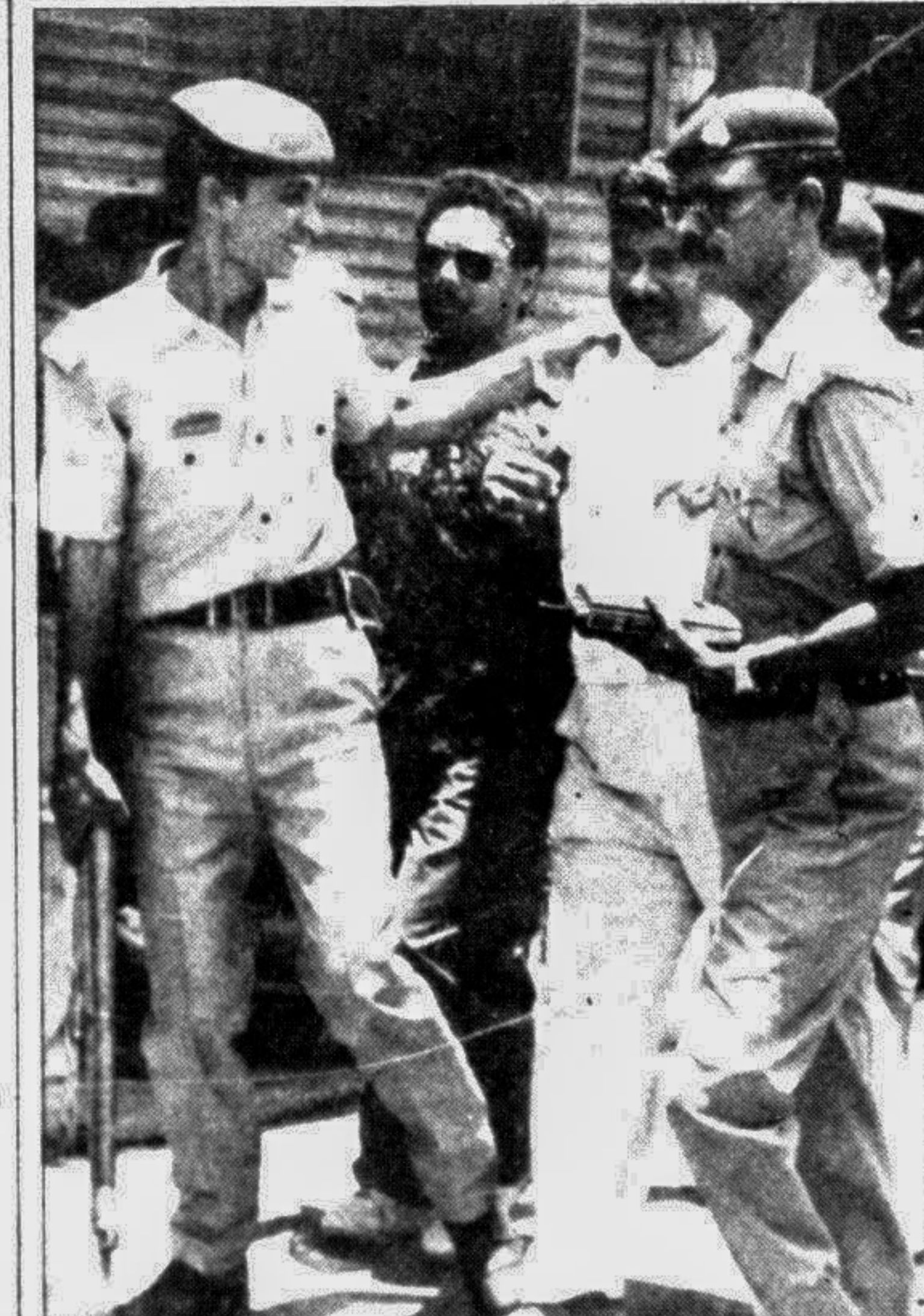
What's on today

ICDDR,B meet
The mid-year meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) begins today (Thursday) at the Centre's premise. The meeting will be chaired by Dr. D. Ashley.
The BOT meeting will review and consider reports of the programme committee for scientific activities, and those of the committees for finance and personnel, which met in Dhaka during 8-9 June 1993.



JAGPA staged a rally in the city yesterday demanding a 'pro-people' budget for poverty alleviation. — Star photo

BTV
Thursday
2:45 Opening announcement, Al Quran
3:00 Programme summary, Live telecast of National Budget announcement from Jatiya Sangsad.
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 School Debate
6:10 Eao Para Shikhi
6:55 Jiboner Alo
7:25 Nazrul Songs
8:00 News in English
8:30 Drama: Samikaran
10:00 News in English
10:30 Film: China Beach
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:45 Closing



A Jatiya Party procession seeking release of H M Ershad was intercepted by police in front of National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Weather
Moderate rain likely
By Staff Correspondent
Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today says, light or moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division.
The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The country's highest temperature yesterday of 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest 22.4 degree was recorded in Faridpur.
The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.46 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.10 am.
Rainfall recorded during day time yesterday across the country was: Srimangal 26 mm and Sylhet 19 mm.
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 degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.8	23.6	85	72
Chittagong	33.0	26.3	75	81
Rajshahi	34.3	23.0	86	75
Khulna	35.0	24.0	86	67
Barisal	33.6	24.8	81	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.5	73	81
Sylhet	28.0	23.4	95	85
Dinajpur	32.1	23.2	87	84

Fisheries Research Institute Mymensingh
National Consultant Wanted
Applications are hereby invited from Bangladesh citizen having requisite qualifications and experience for appointment of the following short-term National Consultant under the FAO/UNDP-assisted project "Assistance to the Fisheries Research Institute." The name of the position along with required qualifications and experience are given below :-

Sl No	Name of position	Job tenure	Academic qualification and experience
1.	Shrimp culture specialist.	4 man months	1. PhD in shrimp culture fisheries or related disciplines with at least 10 years experience in Brackish-water Fish/Shrimp culture, research/development/extension, or MSc in above mentioned subjects with 15th years experience in the above. 2. Should have practical experience of undertaking shrimp culture on commercial scale.

The applications complete with full bio-data must reach the undersigned on or before 15 June, 1993. The candidates who are in service should apply through proper channel. The position carries attractive salary as per UNDP/FAO rules. The details of terms and conditions may be obtained from the office of the undersigned in all working days.

Dr M A Mazid
Director
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G-766