

Dhaka Day by Day

The Custodian of Cars

by Parveen Anam

Zahid is 12 years old. Or, so he claims. We have of course learnt by now, that age is a very vague idea for most in this land and is often counted or related by relating to the year the floods washed away Hena's father's cow or remember the year the crops were so bad we had to go into the awful city to look for work! The associations are endless, quite throwing the ignorant into a mess and left guessing forever. So most times, we just make a rough calculation and leave it at that. In fact, most of the youngsters probably look younger than what they actually are, because of lack of proper nutrition, etc etc. Not that this stops the Senators in Washington passing bills prohibiting them to work until they attain adulthood. But again, that is a complicated delicate issue, best left to the experts. We prefer to stick to our simpler things in life.

Coming back to Zahid, the likes of him are present at all parking lots in the city, for the cars of the affluent as they park their vehicle and go off to their respective offices. For a paltry five taka for a day long parking space, his loyalty and cheerfulness gladden the heart of the weary Dhakaite beating the mad traffic downtown to make it to the workplace. As soon as you turn into the parking lot, he will come charging down from wherever he was arguing with a customer who will insist on going away without paying, to guide you into the most convenient parking space, only requesting you as you alight not to pull the handbrake, which makes it difficult for him to move the vehicle, should the car behind want to leave.

He is an innovative chap. He does not moan or whine; yet his earnings at the end of the month, is hardly sufficient to keep body and soul together. His honesty is refreshing. He will take his five taka and look after your car all day. The amazing thing of course is that he re-

members each owner and driver not only by name but also by the car and woe befall any individual trying to touch a car that does not belong to him. The racket he puts up is enough to deter many a car thief and your car is in safe hands. Perhaps his loyalty could be an eye opener for the 'high-ups'? When and if they bring themselves down to the level of ordinary people of course. They live in a class all by themselves and the Zahids of our every day lives do not mean anything to them. Zahid supports a family of seven: an infirm father, mother, and five brothers and sisters. His brother will sometimes work as a rickshaw-wallas assistant, but most times he is out of work so the onus of looking after his rather large family falls on the shoulders of this man-child. His philosophy is simple; six days a week he gets paid, when he is not there, there is nothing for him. Illness or holidays mean no earnings for him and a day's rest could mean loss of a day's earnings. No complicated pay scales for him, no strikes because of non-payment or no bonus. Those are for the privileged. SKOP does not include him on its list of demands. And he does not

know that such an organisation exists. Perhaps after all, ignorance is bliss. In Zahid's case it most certainly seems that way. He is quite happy to stand all day in that parking lot, busily guiding cars in and out, arguing with the stingy customers who will begrudge him his five taka, singlehandedly handling all the dozens of cars all day. Once in a while a kind driver will reward him with an extra 10-taka note but the reward for the driver is probably greater as a smile lights up Zahid's face and he will smartly salute the driver as he directs his car back on to the busy Motijheel traffic and turns away with a smile, to greet his next customer.



SHARIF '93



Radio Bangladesh Shilpi Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding introduction of pension for them. —Star photo

Disciplined youth force a source of strength: Biswas

A 28-member delegation of Zia Juba Mancha, a youth organisation, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation was led by its President Masum Sheikh. The members of the delegation apprised the President of the aims and objectives of their organisation and said that they would contribute to combating terrorism, spread of mass education, family planning, self-employment of youths through proper training and attaining self-reliance in various sectors.

They informed the President about holding of a SAARC youth fair on the occasion of the World Youth Day in November this year. They said it was Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman who was really sympathetic to the cause of the youths and took positive steps for their betterment. They also submitted a memorandum to the

President and sought his support to their programmes.

Talking to them President Biswas said a well-disciplined youth force is a source of strength of a nation. He stressed the need for their proper education and guidance. He encouraged them to go ahead with their various welfare oriented programmes with utmost sincerity and dedication, so that they could contribute to the over-all socio-economic development of the country.

President Biswas also recalled the pioneering role of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in organising the youths of the country and providing them a sense of direction for their proper grooming in shouldering future responsibilities of the nation. The youths of the country would remember him with gratitude for all time to come, he added. He assured to extend his cooperation to their organisation.

What's on today...

Tax Lawyers' Assoc press conference

Bangladesh Tax Lawyers' Association will hold a press conference on Budget at the National Press Club today (Wednesday) at 10:30 am.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel. William B Milam, Ambassador of the US in Bangladesh, will speak on the Role of Civil Society in Democracy and Economic Development.

UNAB symposium

In observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa (declared by UN), the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium today (Wednesday) at 5:00 pm at the auditorium of the United Nations Information Centre, House No-25, Road No-11, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

Eminent economist Professor Muzaffar Ahmed will be the main speaker. W Fischer, Acting Resident Representative UNDP will be the guest speaker.

Conference on Tall Buildings

The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB) and Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) have jointly organised a two-day International Conference on "Tall Buildings: Tall Buildings in Developing Countries" at the auditorium of the IEB Headquarters, Ramna beginning today (Wednesday).

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Minister for Works, will inaugurate the conference at 9:00 am.

Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, president, the Institution of Engineers, will preside.

Pharmaceutical Society

Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society will hold a discussion at Hotel Purbani today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm in observance of Commonwealth Pharmacy Day.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Haque will remain present as chief guest.

JEXCA convention Maniruzzaman Miah accredited to Burkina Faso

The second Convention and Extra-ordinary General Meeting of Jhenidah Ex-Cadets Association (JEXCA) will be held on July 8 at 3 pm at Hotel Purbani International, Dhaka, says a press release.

The members of the association are requested to contact the JEXCA office for registration before June 24.

The government decided to concurrently accredit Dr Mohammad Maniruzzaman Miah, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Burkina Faso (formerly Uper Volta), the foreign office announced yesterday, reports BSS. He is based in Dakar as Bangladesh Ambassador to Senegal.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions during the next 24 hours from 6 am today (Wednesday).

Rain and thundershower of same nature is likely to occur at a few places over the divisions of Dhaka and Rajshahi during the same period.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the coastal districts while it will remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Danajpur and the lowest 24.5 degree was recorded in Teknaf.

Rainfalls recorded in day time yesterday across the country were: Teknaf 46 mm, Khulna 10 mm, Cox's Bazar 7 mm, Tangail 6 mm, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Rangamati and Srirangal 2 mm each and Hatia and Comilla 1 mm each.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.11 pm.

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	32.5	26.8	82	82
Chittagong	32.8	25.5	72	73
Rajshahi	34.2	26.3	76	66
Khulna	31.6			86
Barisal	33.0	27.0	80	83
Cox's Bazar	27.0	25.0	92	95
Sylhet	34.4	27.0	71	74
Dinajpur	34.6	27.7	72	65



'Bangladesh 2000' held a seminar on "Involvement of youths in the village level mass literacy programme for poverty alleviation" at a city hotel yesterday. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain was present as chief guest. Canadian High Commissioner Emile Gauvreau (far right), among others, took part in the discussion. —Star photo

Khaleda greets Campbell

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday greeted Kim Campbell, on her being elected as a leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, reports UNB.

In a message the Prime Minister said "... I warmly look forward to your assumption of the high office of the Prime Minister of Canada."

Huda in Pyongyang

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda arrived in Pyongyang Monday as the head of a delegation to represent Bangladesh at the 4th meeting of the Information Ministers of non-aligned countries which began in Pyongyang yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Amrita Lal Dey dead

Amrita Lal Dey, founder of Amrita Lal Dey College in Barisal and a renowned social worker, died of heart failure in Calcutta on June 14 (Sunday). He was 75, says a press release.

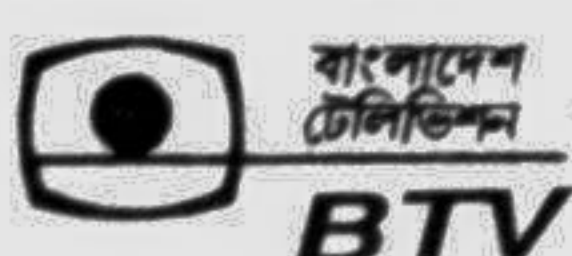
He went to Calcutta on May 6 where he had undergone a successful open heart surgery. He had been recovering from illness but suddenly fell sick on Sunday and expired.

His body was sent to Barisal Monday night for burial.

Biswas condoles

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of Amrita Lal Dey, reports BSS.

In his condolence message, President Biswas said that late Amrita Lal Dey was dedicated to the cause of the poor and had played a significant role in spreading education to the commonman. His quality of head and heart would always inspire people in rendering more services to the people, providing education to them and volunteering humanitarian efforts for their welfare.



Wednesday

5:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Khelur Jagat
5:50	Baranafi
7:00	Open University
7:25	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Special discussion on 'Freedom of Press'
9:05	Film: The Fall Guy
10:00	News in English
10:30	Dance programme
10:45	Film: The Fabulous Joe
11:30	Khobar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class civil contractors for construction of 2 Nos inter manholes near House Nos 25 & 31, Road No 5, Dhanmondi Residential Area at an allotted cost of Taka 31,198/-. Tenders will be received up to 12:00 Noon on 21-6-93 and opened on the same day at 12:30 pm in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Schedule of Tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka & all MODS Zone Offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address: Lalmita Steel Tank Compound, Dhaka

Md Ashraf Uddin Khan

Executive Engineer MODS zone-3 Dhaka WASA

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