

Dhaka Day by Day

Tears Behind the Wheels

by Shamsad Mortuza

Just my luck... Why don't I ever get a customer like you... All those rowdy riders... ride on, Sir, ride on' insisted on the rickshawpuller who was paddling slowly parallel to me.

It was only yards away from home and taking rickshaw for such a distance would have been more than a luxury. Yet, half-flattered and half-inquisitive I succumbed to the request of the soft-spoken man.

You see, with my asthma it's very difficult to pull the rickshaw. It seemed to step onto some sort of hidden starting device that immediately initiated the story of the middle aged man.

'They just left without paying,' I missed some part of his story while telling him to turn left.

There were three of them, all of your age. They said I was too slow and got off from the rickshaw and took another. The crescendo of the voice showed clear discontent.

'They didn't even bother to pay for the distance I covered,' said the aging man with a sigh.

The rickshaw stopped at my home gate. And I took a good look at the man in the faded shirt and a worn out lungi.

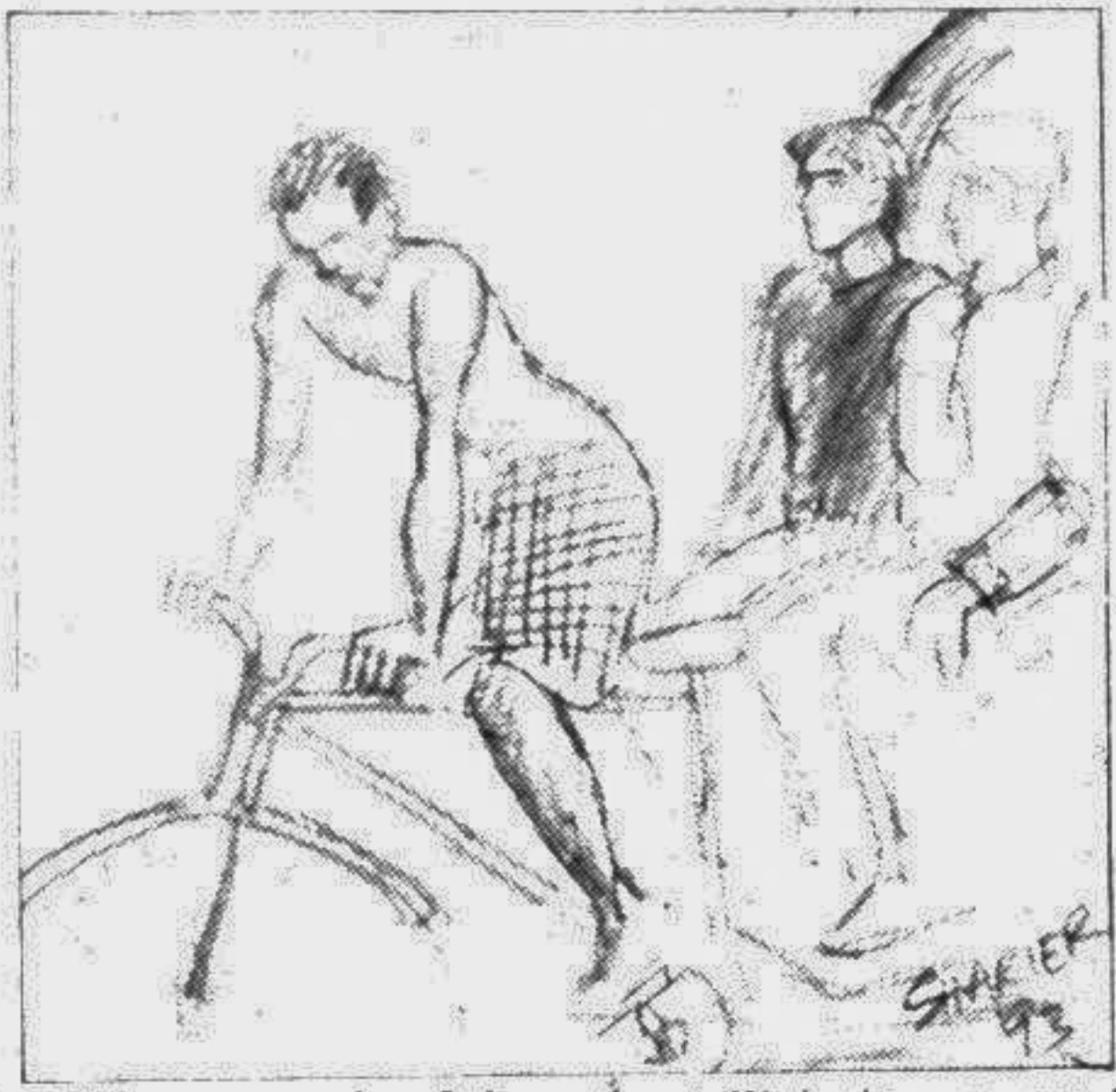
The middle height man behind the wheel was quite fair for the profession that demanded direct contact with the scorching sun.

The metropolitan nose of mine tried to sneak into the realm of suspicion. Well, sometimes you got to believe in something; at least for your own existence. Living a message at home, I accompanied the man in an afternoon ride.

'Considering my asthmatic tendency, the rickshaw mahajans (owners) don't like to give

me their vehicles,' went on the man in a painting voice.

Father of three daughters and head of the six-member family slowly paddled on. He was continuously haunted by the thought of supporting his family at the Islambagh slum in the city.



'I was lucky to be saved from the great fire that broke out few days back.' Words came halted and the breathing was irregular. 'My house is on the lower section,' he added.

'Paddling is too much for me. Riders too prefer a young rickshaw puller,' conceded my travelling mate.

'Paying forty Taka to the mahajan for an eight-hour shift, I hardly have enough money to sustain my family.'

'Two of my girls are school going and they need good clothes. With this present health condition, I am not sure how long will I be able to support my family,' uttered the man in the driving seat of his family.

'If only I had money I would have gone into hawking business long ago.' His voice was totally trapped between hope and fiasco. 'Selling banana or vegetables from door to door is much easier and you have the liberty to rest,' the driver tried to enlighten things. 'To start afresh I need about five hundred Taka or so.'

All of a sudden a sense of helplessness gripped me. I told him to pull off the tricycle and got off.

Paying him his fare with a little extra, I trudged along the sidewalk. After a while, I remembered that I have forgotten to ask the name of the man behind the wheel, who had borne me for quite some time.



A sequence of drama 'Marma Rupkatha' by Selim-Al-Din at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday in observance of Bengali year 1400. —PID photo

Scientific planning of Ctg, Mongla ports suggested

Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) yesterday proposed for scientific planning and forecasting of Chittagong and Mongla port facilities, reports BSS.

He stressed the need for maintaining the draft level at both the ports.

Prof Shahjahan was addressing as the chief guest at a seminar on 'Bangladesh food-grain importation: Two ports vs one port discharge' at the seminar room of BUET here.

Organised by the National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI), the seminar was presided over by Prof Dipak Kanti Das, chairman of the NOAMI. Prof Golam Mohiuddin of industrial production engineering department of BUET presented the key-note paper.

Prof Mohiuddin in his paper stressed the need for making

shipping contract on one port basis specially for the importing foodgrains. He showed that in 1990-91, a total of 635000 tonnes of wheat were unloaded in both the ports. If sixty percent of quantity could have been unloaded at one port basis at Chittagong Port and the rest were unloaded at Mongla Port by a lighter vessel instead of a mother vessel, the government could have saved Taka eight crores, he said.

Prof Mohiuddin, who is also a former additional director of the Food Department, proposed to increase the daily foodgrain unloading rate from present 1,500 to 2,000 tons per day to at least 3,000 tons. This will also help direct saving of about two dollars per tons of the government, he added.

Earlier Prof Shahjahan inaugurated a two-day workshop on 'sustainability of water re-

source projects in Bangladesh' being jointly organised by the Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research (IFCDR) of BUET and the Royal Institute of Technology (RIT) of Sweden.

While inaugurating the workshop, Prof Shahjahan said sustainable development in the water resource sector must be an integral part of the strategy of all government, non-government and private sector organisations.

He said the multi-objective character of the water resources development and use, policies and programmes must integrate both social and economic objectives as well as short term economic targets with a long term goal.

Presided over by Prof Syed Mohib Uddin Ahmed, director of the IFCDR, it was also addressed by Dr Ashraf Haque of RIT and Prof Md Mozammel Haque of the IFCDR.

Relief for flood victims

The Ministry of Relief has so far sanctioned Tk 36 lakh in cash, 2050 tonnes of rice, 2600 pieces of saree, 2600 pieces of lungi and 1900 tins of biscuit as gratuitous relief and 2080 tonnes of wheat as Test Relief in aid of the people affected by current flood that hit several districts of the country, a PID source said, reports BSS.

District wise break-up of the sanction is: Sylhet Tk 8 lakh, 500 tonnes of rice, 300 pieces of saree, 300 pieces of lungi, 400 tins of biscuit and 300 tonnes of TR wheat; Moulvibazar — Tk 14 lakh, 700 tonnes of rice, 1000 pieces of saree, 1000 pieces of lungi, 700 tins of biscuit and 930 tonnes of T R wheat; Habiganj — Tk 7 lakh, 400 tonnes of rice, 400 pieces of saree, 400 pieces of lungi, 300 tins of biscuit and 850 tonnes of T R wheat; Sunamganj — Tk 5 lakh, 300 tonnes of rice, 300 pieces of lungi and 300 tins of biscuit; Chittagong — Tk one lakh, 50 tonnes of rice, 300 pieces of saree, 300 pieces of lungi and 100 tins of biscuit and Khagrachhari — Tk one lakh, 100 tonnes of rice, 300 pieces of saree, 300 pieces of lungi and 100 tins of biscuit.

162 people killed in 25 months, JS told

Some 162 people were killed and 1,113 injured in violence throughout the country in 25 months till April 30 this year, reports UNB.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said this in Parliament yesterday in reply to Mostafa Rashid Suja of Awami League.

Replying to another question from Begum Matia Chowdhury of AL, the Home Minister said 1176 people were arrested during 1992-93 for repressing women.

In reply to Dr AKM Asjad of Jamaat, Chowdhury said there had not been any incident of looting arms from any police station or outpost. He, however, said 40 arms, including 35 rifles and one SMG, were looted from bank guards and Ansars on duty in different motor launches.

Food festival begins at Hotel Sonargaon

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday inaugurated a week-long food festival at Hotel Sonargaon here, reports BSS.

The festival, which will continue till June 26 from 7 pm to 10.30 pm every day, is a part of the efforts of the hotel to improve tourism in Bangladesh.

'The Bangladeshi food festival is our way to supplement the spirit of tourism. We will decorate the lobby area leading to the Cafe Bazar with traditional Bangladeshi stalls that depict the country's rich culture and heritage.'

'The set up will be such that it creates a typical Bangladeshi bazar theme' says Andrew McBurnie, General Manager of Sonargaon Hotel.

During the festival, there will be cultural programmes every evening from 7 pm to 10.30 pm.



City Awami League President Mohammad Hanif addressing a public meeting at the Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday protesting the proposed budget for '93-94 fiscal year. —Star photo

Steps taken to expedite Chakma repatriation: Oli

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, who is also convenor of the committee relating to Chittagong Hill Tracts, said here yesterday the government has taken a number of steps to expedite the repatriation process of the Chakma refugees, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Begum Rawshan Ara Hena (BNP) in the Jatiya Sangsad he said a consensus was reached at the ministerial level to ensure speedy repatriation of Chakma tribal refugees when the members of the committee relating to Chittagong Hill Tracts visited the Indian state of Tripura recently under his leadership and held talks with the Indian representatives on this issue.

The committee, the minister said, comprised five members of the Jatiya Sangsad and Secretaries of Home and Foreign Affairs Ministries as well as Special Affairs Division.

Oli Ahmed further said that a joint statement on this issue was issued simultaneously from the capitals of the two countries on May 10 this year. The government has constituted three committees to speed up the repatriation of the Chakma tribal refugees from India. The committees are: Central Co-ordination Committee, Monitoring Committee and Zila Committee, he said.

The Communications Minister said the government has in the meantime set up two reception centres at Ramgarh thana sadar and Dabochhari of Matiranga thana and four temporary shelters, one each

at Khagrachhari district headquarters and thana headquarters of Matiranga, Dighinala and Manikchhari for smooth repatriation of the Chakma refugees.

Oli Ahmed said arrangement has been made for food and entertainment of the Chakma refugees at the reception and the temporary shelters as soon as they arrive there. Arrangement for round the clock medical team for the medicare of the refugees, potable water and other measures have also been taken at the shelters, he added.

He informed the House that

each repatriated family would be provided with Taka 4,800 as house building and agricultural loans immediately on their return to make them self-supportive. Each of the families would also be given Taka 200 as communication expense. Besides, 21 kgs of rice would be supplied to each family free of cost for six months, he said.

Ahmed held out the assurance that returning Chakma families would be sent to their respective areas with necessary security and that rehabilitation to their own homes and lands would be ensured.

Seven-day eye camp opens at Sreepur

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan yesterday inaugurated a seven-day eye camp at Sreepur thana under the district of Gazipur organised by Islamic Mission with the cooperation of Bangladesh Lions Foundation, reports BSS.

This eye camp will render treatment to about 400 eye patients of the locality free of cost and conduct eye operation to the deserving patients.

The inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by the Director General, Islamic Foundation Mohd Shaftuddin and the President of Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Ulama Dal Moulana S M Ruhul Amin.

The function was presided over by the Director, IFA Wing Commander (Retd) Delwar Hossain Bari, a PID source said.

The State Minister said that the present government is committed to ensure health for all by the year 2000. He said this government has been working ceaselessly for the well-being of the common people. He urged all to cooperate with the government for implementing all commitments made to the people.

Referring to the budget for 1993-94, the State Minister said that new tax was imposed. Highlighting the importance of education Prof Mannan said that the highest allocation of Taka 2727 crore have been given to education sector for ensuring education for all.

He also stressed the need for popularising Islamic education among the people to attract them towards religion.

Card phones open

Two card phones provided by Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) were inaugurated at Faridabad here yesterday, according to a press release, reports BSS.

Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury inaugurated the card phones at a simple ceremony. It was organised jointly by UNESCO Club and International Pen Pals Club.

Mahabubuddin Chowdhury, president of Pen Pals Club also spoke. Speakers at the function thanked the TSS for its contribution to the development to telephone communications in the country.

Happy Birthday

To

SHONA BUBU

From

BHAJJAN, SAMIRA, TUBLA & MAHSIMA

SENA

Wish you many happy returns of the day

Amma, Abba & Sheahan

June 21, 1993

BTV

Monday

- 5-00 Opening Announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5-25 Cartoon : The Universe of Music
- 5-35 Sports Programme: Football
- 6-25 Interview
- 7-00 Open University
- 7-25 Nazrul Songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Janomat
- 9-00 Magazine Programme Arshi
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Comedy Series: Murphy Brown
- 11-00 Musical Programme: Disco Rally
- 11-30 Khabar/The News

BANGLADESHI FOOD FESTIVAL AND CULTURAL SHOW

At *Cafe Bazar*

from 20 to 26 June 1993

The Hotel Lobby and Cafe Bazar passage will be literally transformed into a Mini Village Market. Numerous stalls depicting local products, artifacts and heritage will be erected creating the Village Market. Come along and just browse.

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What's on today....

Yoga Foundation

Yoga Foundation will arrange a joint meditation and discussion meeting of quantum graduates today (Monday) at 4 pm at the seminar room of the foundation at 119, Shantinagar.

Dr Fazlur Rahman will present a paper on 'Power of Positive World in the seminar. Yoga Guru Mahajataq will conduct the joint meditation.

BCL (M-I)

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) will bring out a procession from Madhu's Canteen of Dhaka University today (Monday) at 10 am in demand of violence free campus. The processions will follow a rally in front of the same.

Weather

Temperature likely to rise

By Staff Correspondent

Monsoon was still active over Bangladesh and under its influence moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday.

Metorological office forecast day temperature is likely to rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius during the period.

Southwestern part of the country experienced rain on Sunday and 74mm of rain was recorded in Cox's Bazar, 67mm in Teknaf, 58mm in Chittagong, 13mm in Rangamati, 21mm in Sylhet and 25mm in Khepupara.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:11 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	30.8	24.5	90	79
Chittagong	27.2	24.2	98	90
Rajshahi	33.5	23.6	87	92
Khulna	34.1	26.7	81	90
Barisal	32.4	26.5	88	89
Cox's Bazar	26.5	25.0	98	92
Sylhet	29.2	23.2	98	97
Dinajpur	32.0	24.8	80	86

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. FONG YUN V-9317 IMP. ROT NO. 495/93 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 21ST JUNE 1993 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS PORTS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED, IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 477/93 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, U.K., CONTINENT, MEDT FAREAST/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

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