

Dhaka Day by Day

When Greek Meets Greek

by Shamsad Mortuza

Who sells the construction materials to us? Who sells the household stuff to us? ... Yes it's people like you ... You have your access to others' places; you have your chances to pick things from there ... and how can you call me a thief.

The torrents of accusations by the buyer (and seller) of old newspapers were flung in a very agitated mood and they were directed at Mohammad Salim, a house painter.

Notwithstanding such a heated temper, the accused had nothing to do but extend a lopsided smile.

Salim was putting another coat of paint to the walls of our house which concomitantly brought out all the stacked newspapers and other useless old things like cans and containers.

Evidently, to relieve us of such a mess the newspaper-buyer rather 'kagojwala' was the perfect man, but who knew the soft-spoken polite man — who even greeted our maid — had such tricks in her bags (well, the measure red to be precise). How much newspaper you put, like the blind lady justice the measure rod of our kagojwala denied to cross the one kilogram range.

And Salim was the one to discover a secret attached to the measure plate that only indicates in favour of his master, our sober kagojwala.

The discovery precipitates the altercation, and not to mention the loss for the man of

middle height, whose voice in a monotonous way articulates through the city lanes and by-lanes.

It was a great loss for our kagojwala, he could not cheat us in the weight — thanks to Salim — but I wonder why did not the latter protest such attacks on his profession.

When the kagojwala went away muttering with a heap of old things on his head, I asked Salim about his profession.

Salim is not just a wall painter, he is a contractor. At least 40 persons work under him. "Usually I don't paint walls now-a-days, but our shaheb (landlord) is so meticulous, he likes my work and he likes me to do the works," Salim informed.

"So far I've taken seven lakh taka for painting this six-floor apartment building on several occasions," the man in a simple lungi and a plain vest with spots of paints all over said.

He climbed up the bamboo scaffold and started brushing the wall with regular strokes.

"Shaheb, who is in the manpower business, has told me that he would send me to Japan."

My life is almost spent out ... but I'm working for my college-going brothers. I hope some day they will be educated and

recall the meeting of the two professionals.



Dhaka-Moscow sign accord on cultural exchange

Bangladesh and Russia yesterday signed a bilateral cultural exchange programme for 1993-95 term, reports BSS.

Russian Ambassador in Bangladesh ES Shevchenko and Bangladesh Cultural Secretary Islam Uddin Malik signed the exchange programme on behalf of their respective governments at the conference room of the Cultural Ministry.

Under the programme their will be regular exchange in the fields of science and education, culture and arts, mass media, youth and sports.

According to the programme, Russia would provide fellowships for Bangladeshi students for higher studies in Russian educational institutions.

Both the countries will ex-

change cultural delegation to strengthen friendly relation. In the field of mass media there will be exchange in radio-television programmes and films and delegations to hold film shows.

The two sides will exchange delegation of journalists to study the functioning of the mass media, establish contacts and discuss on mutual cooperation.

The Russian side will send coaches to train Bangladeshi players under contract basis. A Russian football team will participate in the President Gold Cup tournament and a junior Russian tennis team will participate in the International Junior Tennis competition.

Both the countries will explore possibility for promoting tourism sector.



Amanullah Mia (right), Managing Director of Bangladesh Beverage Industries, received the Pepsi-Cola outstanding service award. Leslie G Harr (left), President of the Pepsi Asia Division, is seen holding the Quality Award which was presented to the Bangladeshi company at a ceremony yesterday. Asadullah Siraji, Pepsi Country Manager, is also seen. — Star photo

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Tk 129 cr realised as JMB surcharge, JS told

Government realised Tk 129.59 crore as surcharge for the construction of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) through different organisations till May 31, 1993, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said this in parliament yesterday replying to a question from Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of this Awami League.

The minister said organisations which realised the surcharge are Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), Roads and Highways Department, T&T Board, Bangladesh Railway, Inspector General of Registration (IGR) and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

12 NICAR projects completed

The 17th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Communications was held at the committee room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with State Minister for Communications Mohammad Fazlur Rahman in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting was apprised that the roads constructed with 155 crore taka from NICAR fund mainly in the rural areas would link the district and then headquarters with the important growth centres to play a tangible role in the socio-economic development of the country.

The meeting, reviewing the progress of NICAR projects and added projects was also informed that 12 projects were completed during the financial year 1992-93.

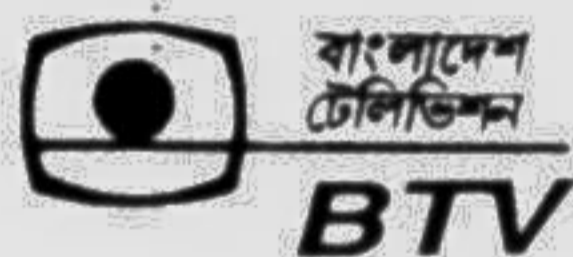
Out of 12 bridges under Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), six have so far been completed and opened to traffic while 6 more will be completed in the next month on Dhaka-Mawa and Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

Members of the committee Whip Mohammad Abdul Karim Advocate, Majibur Rahman Sarwar and Golam Mohammad Straj of BNP and Advocate Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman and Mohammad Shamsul Huq of Awami League attended the meeting.

500 smugglers surrender in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, June 27: About 500 smugglers of different bordering areas of the district today surrendered to the BDR at a function held at 20 Rifle Battalion office premises, reports BSS.

Addressing the function commanding officer of 20 Rifle Battalion Major Nasimul Gani Chowdhury said the economy was being ruined due to smuggling. The industries were facing manifold problems due to the adverse effects of smuggling, he said adding as a result many people became unemployed.



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
- 6:30 Shamachar
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Sukher Nir
- 9:00 Bhara Nadir Banke
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11:00 Musical programme: Disco Rally
- 11:30 Khabor /The News
- 11:45 Closing

BRAC relief programme

BRAC is carrying relief programmes in the flood-hit thanas of Moulvibazar and (Hobiganj) under greater Sylhet district, says a press release.

BRAC has sanctioned Tk 20 lakh so far for relief operation.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Light to moderate rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division, one or two places over Khulna, Barisal divisions and over the regions of Rajshahi and Mymensingh, Met Office says.

Weather is likely to be dry elsewhere.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius. Outlook for a subsequent two days: Rainfall activities to increase.

Extended outlook for another five days: Little change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.8	25.5	78	71
Chittagong	32	25.6	75	78
Rajshahi	33	26	90	78
Khulna	33	26.5	77	86
Barisal	32.5	27	84	79
Jessore	33.2	26	X	85
Comilla	32.8	26	80	74



Bangladesher Communist Party (Selim) brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding subsidy on agricultural inputs. — Star photo

BIDS seminar on budget Economic policies in right direction

By Staff Correspondent

A seminar on the "Budget for 1993-94" organised by the researchers of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) observed that the overall thrust of various economic policies of the budget are in the right direction.

However, there are scopes for improvement in institutional mechanism, industrial policies and better balanced allocation with stricter fiscal control, it pointed out.

Held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium, the seminar was presided over by research director of the BIDS, A A Abdullah. Papers were presented by A Gafur, Omar U Chowdhury, Dr Qazi Shahabuddin, Dr Zaid Bakht, and Dr K S Murshed.

Dr Fashituddin Mahtab, former planning minister observed that the views of the BIDS researchers should be reflected in the budget.

The speakers at the seminar also maintained that the greater allocation to the education sector in the budget would help raise the skill of the workers and would lead to the growth of productivity.

The speakers felt that enhancement of public investment, directed particularly towards the agricultural and the rural sector, would raise the purchasing power of the poor.

They also suggested the

need for collaboration efforts between public and private sectors in the field of education and training.

The shifting of the seminar venue to the Jatiya Press Club auditorium from the BIDS auditorium was due to the ongoing work abstention by its staff.

Seminar organisers reported that the director general of the BIDS against whom the researchers are protesting wrote a letter to the Planning Minister terminating the seminar 'unauthorised'.

Barri to be new Saudi envoy to Bangladesh

The government has accorded its agreement to the proposal of the Saudi government for appointment of Abdullah Omar Barri as an Ambassador of the Kingdom to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Omar Barri is a career diplomat. He served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as Saudi missions in Libya, Karachi and UK. He joined the Saudi Embassy in London as Counsellor in 1974 and until recently was serving there as minister.

Omar Barri was born in Medina Munawwara in 1937.

RU Senate polls Aug 3

RAJSHAHI, June 27: The election of registered graduate representatives to Rajshahi University Senate will be held on August 3, reports UNB.

Earlier, the election was scheduled to be held on July 12. But the date was cancelled and the Registrar refixed the new date following a court injunction.

A total of 119 candidates from four panels have submitted nomination papers to contest the election. Twenty-five senate members will be elected from the registered graduates.

There will be 20 election booths throughout the country for about 20,000 voters to conduct the election smoothly.

Self-employed youths rally held

RAJSHAHI, June 27: A rally of self-employed youths and a certificate giving ceremony organised by the Youth Development Department was held at its office today, reports BSS.

Director General of the department Lt Col (Retd) Zainul Abedin, psc, attended the function and distributed certificates among the youths.

The DG called upon the trained youths to engage themselves in self-employment activities to reduce unemployment problem.

Earlier, the DG attended a function of Razabarhat youth training centre.

JS body on Foreign Affairs meet held

The "maritime policy of Bangladesh with special reference to the delimitation of maritime boundary with India and Myanmar," was discussed at the 11th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee Foreign Affairs held here yesterday at the cabinet room of parliament bhaban, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was in the chair.

The meeting discussed the issue and considered various aspects of the submitted proposal up to this time on the subject.

Members of the committee renewed their opinion expressed in the previous meeting that the subject was too complicated requiring "more consideration and examination before coming to a concrete decision."

The Foreign Minister told the members that matters concerning foreign affairs would be duly communicated to them in pursuance of following transparency of administration under the democratic government.

The meeting was attended by Tofael Ahmed of Awami League, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party and Major (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed of BNP.

Govt urged to observe Int'l Aborigines Year

The Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) yesterday urged the government to observe the International Aborigines Year at national level, reports UNB.

The CCHRB alleged the International Aborigines Year declared by the United Nations is not being observed in Bangladesh. It is a violation of the United Nations Charter and the constitutional rights of the aborigines.

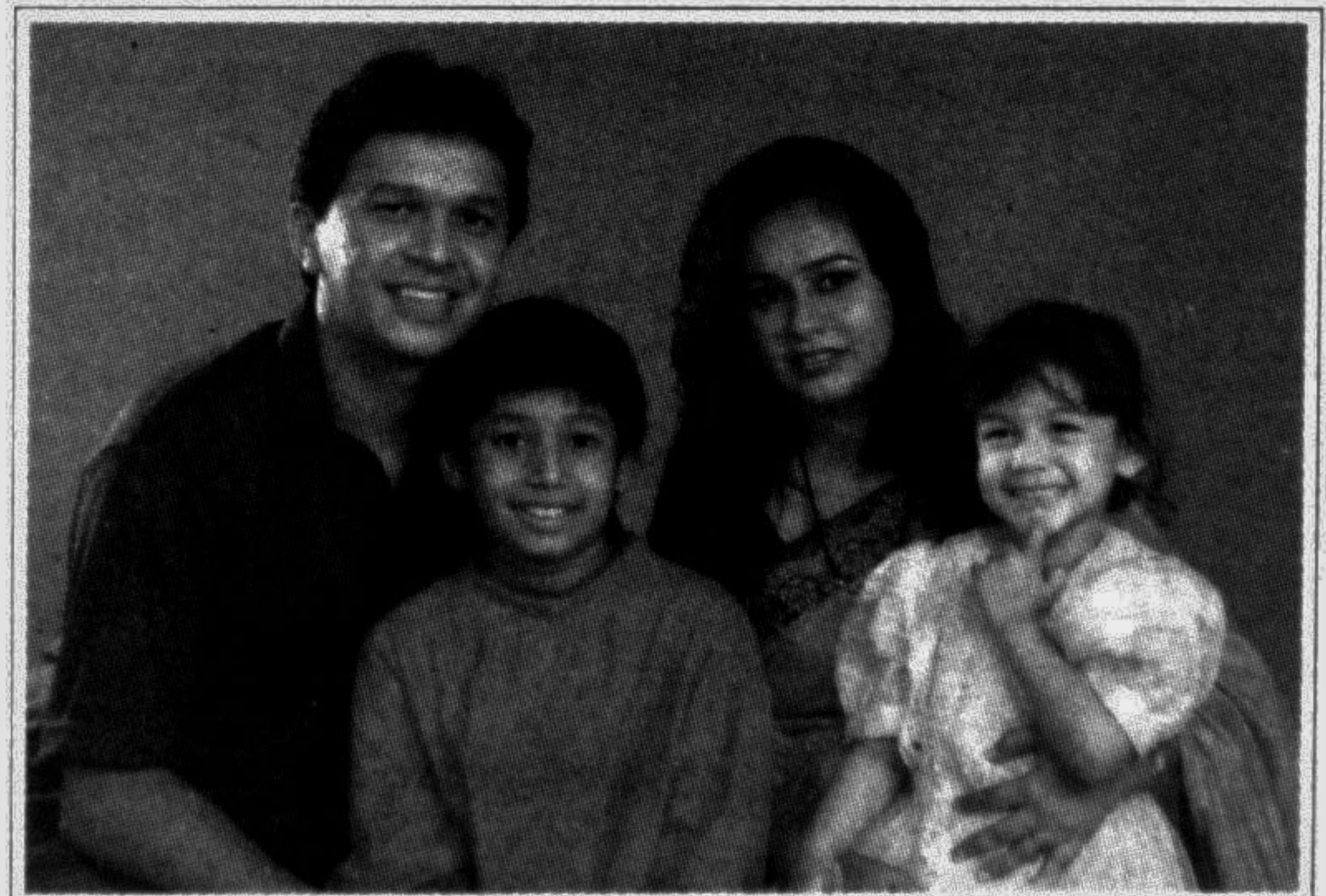
Citing an article published in a local daily, the CCHRB said observance of the Aborigines Year was suspended following suggestion from the Director of Foreign Ministry of UN.

The Human Rights Council called upon the government to be more attentive towards the development of heritage, culture, language and literature of the tribals and consolidate national unity by observing Aborigines Year at national level.

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