

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Smells Evil and Ugly

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



Dhanmondhis overflow of garbage

It used to be the best residential area in the city. Unlike uppity areas such as Gulshan or Banani, Dhanmondi was where neighbours actually interacted with each other and children from all the houses gathered together for a game of 'ha doo doo' or 'chiburi'. Lovers walked under beautiful *Krishnachura* trees while the fragrance of *sheuly* and *gondhoraj* from neatly kept gardens would intoxicate the most dulcet of minds. Now, although there are still remnants of the old Dhanmondi, the trees are still there at least, its quiet glamour has been totally marred by a flood of garbage at every corner.

The fragrance of flowers has been replaced by an intoxication of another kind. Even the most besotted lovers wear ugly contorted expressions as they pass by the drains of Dhanmondi overflowing with grungy black stuff that makes the senses reel into oblivion. Recently, to prevent the blocking of the drains, the evil smelling mush has been deposited in big blobs right on the pavements. Even the slightest distraction could lead to irrevocable damage when one finds one's foot sinking into dark, smelly, slime.

The open garbage dumps are the greatest menace. The residents of this township have the qualms of vultures as they happily empty their trash outside a nearby but never inside the pathetic looking cement dumpsters. Thus one finds rotting rice, soddy hay, the insides of poultry

and damp polythene bags all decorating the dumpster like a gruesome cake in samcon's worst nightmare.

Walking on the pavements has become a challenging task as one has to dodge quite a number of things. If it isn't the spaghetti-like garbage of the open dumps, it is the blobs of black mouse or with any luck, a two legged creature relieving himself into the drains. The combination of these odours is lethal. You may try to hold your nose to numbness, but somehow you just cannot escape a whiff of ammonia or something that smells like a bad egg. In these preciously memorable moments one may wish for something drastic: that one was born without a sense of smell.

The Municipal Corporation seems to be blissfully unaware of all this. The trucks may or may not come to pick up the odious stuff. Even at 10 am, when the roads are busy with cars and rickshaws going to offices or schools, the garbage dumps are shamelessly filled beyond the brim and overflowing.

As one slips on a putrid banana skin left by the considerate (!) passerby who just missed the garbage dump, one may wonder - whatever happened to the clean, picturesque old Dhanmondi. Is it callousness or inefficiency on the part of the Municipal Corporation? Perhaps it is just a momentary lapse of reason.

Offer to help flood victims gets wide media coverage in US

Bangladesh's offer to donate tea and jute bags for the flood victims of the United States has got wide media coverage in US television, radio and newspapers, reports BSS.

The New York Times in its July 21 issue reported "Just as the victims of hurricane Andrew sent fresh water, the people of Bangladesh offered jute sacks, like those used for sandbags and tea."

The news item captioned "Dhaka donates to flood relief" said "The Foreign Minister, Mustafizur Rahman, conveyed his country's offer to the American embassy in Dhaka." The report said, "jute and tea are the main sources of foreign exchange for Bangladesh."

US national television networks also covered this news item prominently on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Earlier, Bangladesh has decided to send tea and jute bags to the United States to contribute to the ongoing relief efforts in the flood-affected mid-west areas of the United States.

Jute bags are learnt to be used for stopping the overflow of water in the flood-affected areas.

Mannan visits flood victims

State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan yesterday visited the flood affected areas of Feni district to see for himself the overall loss and damage and the conditions of the affected people, reports BSS.

Joyal Abedin Hazari MP and Halima Khatun MP and Abdur Rahim, Principal Information Officer accompanied the minister in the visit.

State Minister talked to the flood affected people and enquired about their living condition. He advised them to face flood with courage and assured them of all sorts of government help and assistance.

Later, State Minister addressed the district level officers at the Feni Collectorate Bhaban.

He was apprised by the Deputy Commissioner of Feni that out of 5 thanas of Feni district 16 unions under Feni Sadar, Chagalnasa and Parsuram thanas are badly affected by flood. The worst affected unions are Shuvoapur, Ghopal Darbarpur, Phulgazi, Munsirhat and Anandapur. About 10 thousands houses have been damaged by the flood in the district.

BCPFA team leaves for China tomorrow

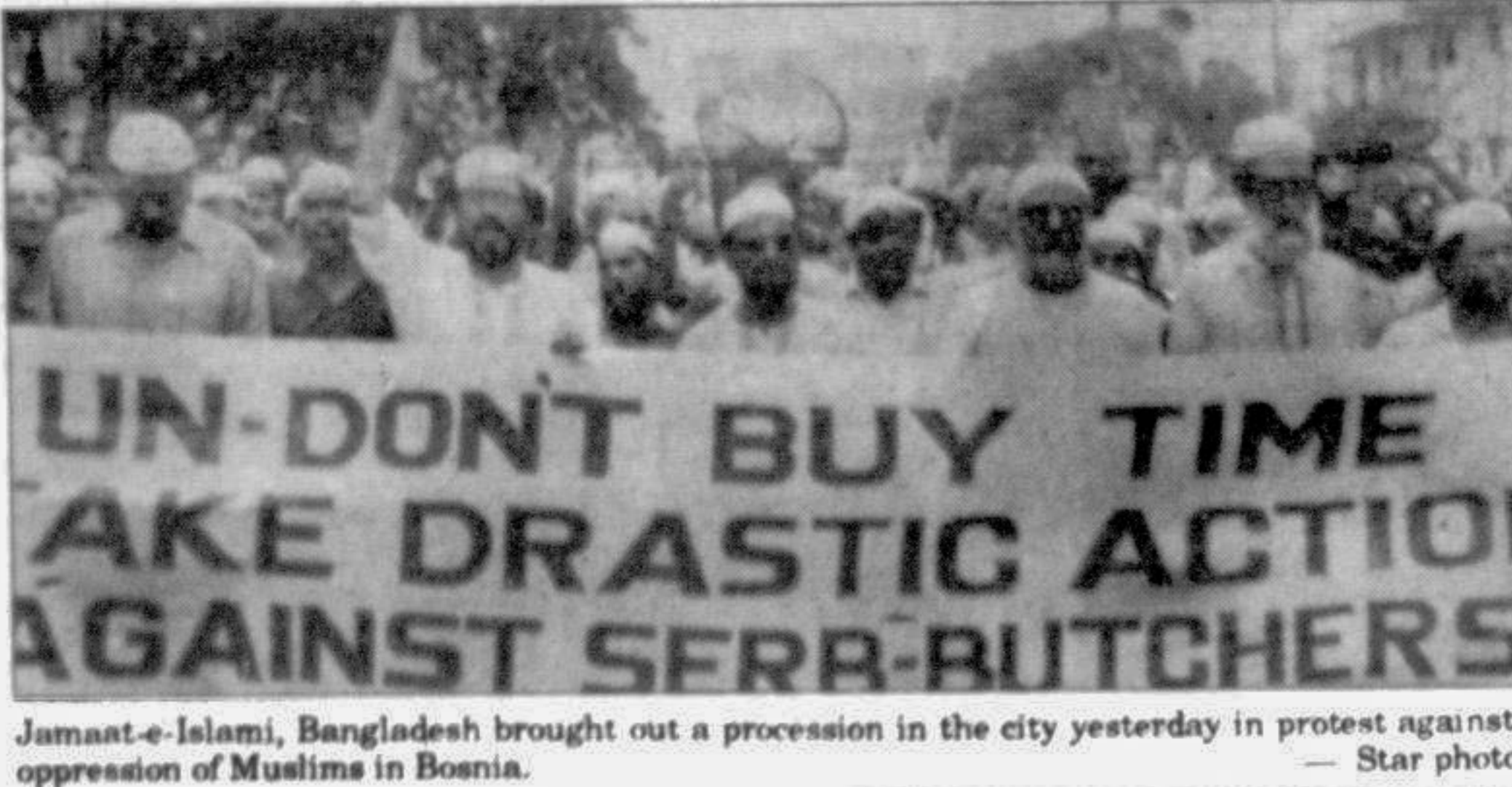
A six-member friendship trade delegation from Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA) led by Iqbal Hassan Mahmood, former member of Bangladesh Parliament and Deputy Managing Director of Messers Apex Food Ltd Apex Spinning and Knitting Mills Ltd leaves for China tomorrow at the invitation of Guangdong People's Association for Friendship with foreign countries, reports BSS.

During the week long visit the delegation will explore the possibilities of setting-up of joint-venture projects in Bangladesh and increase import and export business under private sector.

Egyptian envoy hosts reception

The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt here hosted a reception at his residence yesterday evening on the occasion of the national day of his country, reports BSS.

Ministers, Members of Parliament, diplomats, editors, journalists and elite of the city attended the reception.



Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh brought out a procession in the city yesterday in protest against oppression of Muslims in Bosnia. — Star photo

Allout efforts to be geared up to combat flood situation : Noman

CHITTAGONG, July 23: Minister for Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman today said that allout efforts would be geared up to combat the flood situation in the country, reports BSS.

He was talking with the local people while visiting some flood affected areas of Hathazari, Nazirhat and Rouzan thanas of Chittagong district.

The minister visited Dabua, Sultanpur, Chikdair and Gohira union parishad of Rouzan thana, Meghal, Guanmardan, Chhipatali, Nagalmora and Kathirhat of Hathazari thana, Mirjapur union of Nazirhat and a part of Patickchhari thana.

The minister said Chittagong region was not flood-prone area. But this time it has occurred as a result of torrential rainfall in the hilly region.

Noman observed that though the flash flood water would begin to recede soon the short-lived strong velocity of flood water had washed away many

USIS discussion on 'Women in Journalism' July 27

A discussion on "Women in Journalism" will be held Tuesday, July 27 at 11.00 am at the United States Information Service (USIS), Jiban Bima Bhaban at 10, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka, according to USIS sources.

Noted US journalist, Ms Carolyn Niehammer will lead the discussion programme. She will also be leading a session for journalist at USIS.

'Help repressed Bosnian Muslims'

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan and Secretary General Maulana Matiar Rahman Nizami in a statement Thursday called upon all to come forward with a helping hand for the repressed Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jamaat has opened a relief fund to help the Bosnian Muslims. Those who are interested to donate, are requested to deposit the money in the account No. 12776, Islami Bank Bangladesh, Local office, Dhaka

BTV

Saturday

5.00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary

5.10 News in Bangla

5.20 Recitation from the Triptak

5.25 Moner Katha

6.00 Cartoon: Young Robin Hood

6.30 Samachar

7.00 Banashori: Programme of folk songs

8.00 News in Bangla

8.30 Mati O Manush

9.00 Onirban

10.00 News in English

10.30 Drama series: Dallas

11.30 Khabar/The News

11.45 Closing

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Moderate rain or showers are likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged across the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur and lowest 21.6 degree Celsius was in Rangamati.

Chief amounts of rainfall recorded in day time yesterday across the country were: Jessore 112 mm, Madaripur 75 mm, Sitakunda 54, Khulna 48, Kutubdia 45, Bogra 36, Chandpur 29, and Bhola 20 mm.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.46 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6.25 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 degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.0	25.7	90	95
Chittagong	27.8	23.8	100	90
Rajshahi	29.5	24.3	96	90
Khulna	26.2	24.0	100	93
Barisal	26.6	23.8	98	93
Cox's Bazar	29.8	23.6	92	87
Dinajpur	32.0	25.6	95	77
Sylhet	28.1	24.0	100	89



An international colloquium on Building Good Governance was organised by Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC). Sir Derek Andrews is seen speaking. Also seen in the picture from (L) Dr Dai Young Kim, Dr AT Raffiqur Rahman, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz and BMDC DG MA Hena — Star photo

Make administrative system transparent, seminar told

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a colloquium on 'Building Good Governance' Friday called for overhauling the country's existing administrative system making it transparent, accommodative and more accountable.

They also suggested building up the mass media to help create consensus on the major national issues.

Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC) organised the international colloquium at its auditorium in which Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz attended as chief guest.

Dr A T R Rahman, chief of public administration branch of the UNDESD, former British Permanent Secretary Sir Derek Andrews, visiting fellow of the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlement Dr Dai-Young Kim, special adviser, public administration branch of UNDESD Dr Jeanne-Marie Col, international consultant on public administration study Dr Robert Laporte, Jr, Editor of The Daily Star S M Ali, noted economist Dr Rehman Sobhan, former Planning Minister Fasihuddin Mahtab, former Executive Secretary of ESCAP Shah A M S Kibria spoke, among others, at the colloquium.

BMDC Director General M A Hena presided.

Opening the function, the Law Minister said that, though administrative restructuring was needed to suit the need of a democratic government and its accountability to the people.

However, he added, "though we are aiming at separating the judiciary from the executive, but we strongly feel that a close cooperation and coordination between the two can better ensure general and legal administration."

Dr Rehman Sobhan said that series of attempts have been made earlier for administrative reforms in the country.

Steps are necessary to identify why one government performs better than other and how to chart an well-articulated framework to understand good governance.

Shah AMS Kibria identified widespread corruption and lack of public trust as major problems in administrative reforms.

Public disclosure of movable and immovable property by the politicians could be a good start for the desired goals for achieving good governance in the country, he suggested.

Sir Derek Andrews, Dr Kim and, Dr Laporte described the recent changes in the administrations in the United Kingdom, South Korea and in the United States.

Khaleda shocked at loss of lives in Nepali flood

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed her deep concern at the severe floods and landslides in Nepal and the resultant loss of lives and property, reports UNB.

In a message to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala of Nepal, Begum Zia said "We in Bangladesh are deeply concerned at the severe floods and landslides in Nepal and the resultant loss of lives and property."

Begum Zia, on behalf of her government and the people, extend heartfelt sympathies to him saying "We would be happy to offer in our modest way any assistance that you may require."

'Self-reliant rural economy to be established'

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday said the present government will provide all possible cooperation to dairy farms in the country to increase milk production in the country and discourage the import of powder milk as baby food, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at a cheque handing over function in Munshiganj as a part of country-wide government grant to the private dairy farm owners.

The Deputy Minister for LRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye also addressed the function.

Referring to the adverse consequence of import of milk powder worth Taka about 400 crore every year, the food minister said the present government is determined to increase the domestic milk production to establish a self-reliant rural economy. "We cannot depend on others for our baby food as we are attaining food self-sufficiency", the minister said.

Islam called upon the people to utilise the facilities being provided by the government in generating self-employment activities, particularly in the rural areas.

Deputy Minister for Co-operative Abdul Hye said two milk purchasing centres will be established in the district very soon for expanding the marketing facility of milk.

Later, the food minister handed over ten cheques for Taka three lakh and seventy five thousand

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Book of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, August 18, 1993 to Tuesday, August 24, 1993 (both days inclusive).

By Order of the Board

S. H. KABIR
Chairman & Managing Director

Dated, Dhaka, July 24, 1993.

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Earn a free Singapore Airlines return ticket to Singapore.

Answer correctly on a separate sheet of paper the following questions on the TV Commercials shown in the L.A. Law episode last night and write the most convincing reply to the last question. And you may win your way to the most favoured destination in the east.

- Which city in North America is being featured in the advertisement?
- Which Asian country is depicted in the advertisement featuring local dances?
- How many passenger services does Singapore Airlines operate to Dhaka?
- Write in not more than 12 words why you would choose to fly Singapore Airlines on your next trip out of Dhaka.

Prizes: Two SIA tickets will be awarded, one for each competition to be held in July & September, 1993.

Rules:

- A competitor cannot enter more than once, in one month.
- Immediate family members of SIA, their ad agency and travel agent employees and children below the age of 16 years are not eligible to enter this competition.
- Closing date of entry for July is 7 August, 1993.

Winner will be notified by post.

Mail your entry to:
Singapore Airlines
C/O. 4, Naoratan Colony
New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000.

Competitor's Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Singapore Airlines reserves irrefutable right to choose the winning answer and disqualify any entry.