

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Buying Some Bananas? Look for Mukarram at Bijoy Sarani

by Enamul Huq



Ali carries his business to customers.

One runs into any number of fruitshops in different parts of the city, from Uttara to the New Market, from Gulshan to the old town. Pity, there are not that many sweet small pineapples available any more. But mangoes still seem plentiful. And there are bananas — real good ones — for which Bangladesh has remained famous. Some say, they are the best in Asia.

When it comes to buying bananas, I suggest you stop by the Bijoy Sarani and the Sangsad Avenue crossing, if you happen to be in that area, and buy fruit from Mohammad Mukarram Ali at a good price. However, it is neither the price nor the quality of the fruit that serves as a real reason for patronising Ali.

Mukarram Ali, a young man who may be in his early forties, is a disabled person, with problems in both his legs. Originally from Sherpur, Ali came to Dhaka several years ago and joined the rank of beggars.

Then, one day, a man whom he had asked for a rupee, chided him for begging. "You may not be walking well," the man said. "But you seem to be in reasonable health otherwise, and you speak well."

Mukarram Ali was taken aback by this admonition from a total stranger. Then, he heard the man say, "You must do something worthwhile, instead of suffering the humiliation of begging." Having said it all, the stranger drove off, leaving Ali in a kind of shock. When he got over the shock, he decided to change his life.

How and when Ali hit on the idea of selling fruits — bananas to start with — remain a little unclear. He is certainly articulate, but not necessarily trained in giving press interviews. After a short conversation, it was revealed that somehow he managed to raise a capital of some 20 to 30 taka and buy his first supply of bananas, from a wholesaler. It was a shaky start, but Ali was in business. For his first lot, he could only buy some 40 pieces. Then, the supply increased

in number and in quality. Now, on any average day, he sells as many as 240-280 pieces, making a net profit of anything up to 70 taka per day. However, much depends on the weather. Ali can put up with the sweltering heat when he limps to a car that has stopped near the traffic light. But a downpour makes things difficult, especially because Ali is a handicapped person.

Ali has worked out his own business practices. He pays in cash, to the last taka, when he buys his supply. "Who would give any credit to a disabled person?" he asks. However, he treats his customers differently, with trust and friendliness. Once in a while, he offers his commodity on credit even to a stranger, especially when, with the traffic light changing from red to green, the customer has to drive off with the bunch, without making the payment. "But he or she invariably comes back later to pay me," he adds. From time to time, the police bothers him a bit, particularly because of the signboard advertising his disability. "Somehow, I have never really harassed. So, I am allowed to carry on," he says.

What will Ali do when the banana season is over? Obviously, he will look for other fruits. The other day, he carried a medium-sized jack fruit, rather heavy for a handicapped person. "I have to do some careful planning on this matter," he adds in a voice of authority.

Ali lives in a small place in Mirpur with a somewhat large family, a wife, as many as five daughters and a son. If Ali is a symbol of self-reliance, another side of his life shows how he has failed to make him — and his wife — accept the concept of family planning. Three of his daughters have started going to schools. So, life is getting tough for Mukarram Ali.

Cheerful, almost jovial, and full of confidence, Ali turns out to be a good conversationalist — and a good host. At the end of the meeting, he says, "Do please have a banana. That's all I can offer you."

World breastfeeding week begins today Breastfeeding can help reduce 20 pc infant mortality

By Staff Correspondent

Extensive breastfeeding can help reduce 20 per cent of infant mortality in a developing country like Bangladesh where the rate is still as high as 110 per 1000, campaigners for breastfeeding said yesterday ahead of World Breastfeeding Week beginning today.

"Five months of exclusive breastfeeding makes a child healthy enough to fight any disease," Prof M Q K Talukder, Chairman of the Campaign for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding (CPPBF) told a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

The CPPBF in collaboration with the UNICEF will observe the campaign in favour of breastfeeding. This year's slogan of the day is "The Mother-Friendly Workplace Initiative."

Prof. Talukder said that there were misconception among the people that a mother need sumptuous food to feed her breast to her newborn. A mother can feed her child by having slightly more than normal food regularly, he added.

The press conference was addressed, among others, by CPPBF executives Dr Jahangir, Dr SK Roy, Dr Rukshana Haider, Abdul Mannan and Sarwar Jahani.

Dr Talukder said that CPPBF started campaigning for exclusive breastfeeding in 1989 and so far the organisation succeeded in popularising the slogan of breastfeeding among the people.

Because of the campaign the free supply of milk powders to hospitals by the powered milk companies has been stopped since 1990 and a programme is on to make the hospital child-friendly by the year 2000, he says.

He said that if it was a particular challenge to assist working women to practise optimal breastfeeding.

So goals of the 1993 breastfeeding week are: to enable women to breastfeed with confidence by informing them of benefits of optimal breastfeeding.

— to ensure that the national legislation to protect the rights of working women to breastfeed is implemented in as many countries as possible;

— increase public awareness of the benefits of combining work and breastfeeding to women, children and society at large;

— encourage unions and workers groups to advocate for maternity entitlements which support women workers who breastfeed;

— foster the establishment of mother-friendly workplace everywhere.

Dr Jahangir said that the code of the marking of the breastmilk substitute should be enforced rigorously.

BSS adds: In a message on the occasion Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said that her government was pledged to protect the health and nutrition of level of mother and children.

The Prime Minister said initiatives should be taken to spread the message that "Breast milk is the best food for children" among the people of all spheres.

She said with a view to discouraging the use of artificial baby foods, the government has imposed restrictions in the marketing of substitute food for children.

Rly completes 3 development projects

Bangladesh Railway has completed three development projects out of 18 undertaken in the Annual Development Programmes of 1992-93, reports BSS.



The Campaign for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding held a press conference on 'The Mother-friendly workplace initiative' at the Press Club on Saturday. Picture shows from right: Prof M Q K Talukdar, Dr Jahangir, Dr S K Roy and Dr Rukshana Haider. — Star photo

Fish fortnight begins today

By Staff Correspondent

Countrywide 'fish fortnight' begins today. In observance of the fortnight the government has taken up elaborate programmes.

The Prime Minister will release fish fry in the Arial Beel of Munshiganj district Tuesday and visit various shrimp culture projects in Teknaf and Cox's Bazar on August 16.

Begum Zia will also participate in a discussion on 'Prospect of shrimp culture in coastal areas.'

Radio and television will air special programmes. Booklets, posters, banners will be distributed marking the occasion.

BSS adds: In a message on the eve of countrywide 'fish fortnight,' President Biswas called upon the people to take a determined pledge for making a revolution in fish production by ensuring proper utilisation of all derelict tanks and ponds of the country.

In this connection he underlined the need for a total commitment by the non-governmental and voluntary organisations to turn this movement into a long-term programme along with the endeavour of the government.

In her message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia hoped that the people, various non-governmental and voluntary organisations would take up fish production programmes side-by-side with the government efforts to raise fish production in the country.

Wishing all success for the fortnight, the Prime Minister said that her government was taking necessary measures to develop and preserve the country's fish resources.

Gunshots on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Some five rounds of gunshots were fired from near the Zahurul Huq hall of the Dhaka University Friday midnight.

A tense situation was prevailing on the Dhaka University campus after the incident, campus dwellers said.

Ashari Purnima to be celebrated today in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 31

Ashari Purnima, one of the most sacred festivals of the Buddhists will be celebrated here tomorrow with solemn devotion and traditional enthusiasm, reports BSS.

The Buddhists celebrate the day commemorating the first preaching of religion among his five disciples by Lord Buddha for the welfare of all beings.

The Buddhists monks will go into three months seclusion in all monasteries from today.

Buddhists organisations have drawn up day-long programmes to mark the occasion which include chanting or verses from the sacred scriptures, hoisting of the national and religious flags, breaking of fasting, shligrahan, discussions highlighting the significance of the day, mass prayer and Prakup Puja.

Special prayers will also be offered at the monasteries seeking peace and prosperity of the country as well as global peace.

Boudha Purnima will also be celebrated in all monasteries of Buddhist populated regions of three hill districts and Cox's Bazar through similar programmes.

64 held on various charges

Police rounded up 64 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, four were wanted criminals, one under the Anti-terrorism act, one accused of robbery and six of stealing.

Happy Birthday

to

ANEK

From Adeebe, Abbu, and Ammu

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. MAHA BHUM V-166 M.V. XETHA BHUM V-04 from Bangkok, ex. M.V. GURU BHUM V-199N from Jakarta, ex. M.V. ALLIGATOR MIRACLE V-22093 from Nagoya, Yokohama, Hongkong, Tokyo, Kobe have been relayed to M.V. EPONYMA V-EP07N, Imp. Rot No. 80693 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 1-8-93 from Singapore. Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.

103, AGRASAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS: MITSUBISHI O.S.K. LINES LTD., TOKYO.
PHONE: 503317, 500686, 500687-88

WE MOURN

Our beloved founder Director of our Company Mrs. HEMNOLINI BISWAS w/o. Mr. A.K. Biswas (Mother of Managing Director Mr. T.P. Biswas) expired at 1.08 AM on 27th July 1993. We are in deep sorrow on her demise and pray to the Almighty for salvation and peace of her departed soul.

Employees of
Limo Electronics Ltd.
Manufacturer of

NIPPON
TV • DISH ANT

Armed vandalism at JU protested

By JU Correspondent

Different political bodies brought out processions on Dhaka University campus protesting the armed vandalism at Jahangirnagar University.

Muktijuddha Chhatra Command (MCC) in its rally demanded proper punishment of the persons responsible for the attack and damage of property. It also demanded immediate reopening of the institution.

Held at the TSC premises, the MCC leaders in the rally alleged that the government was using its student wing to create anarchy on the campus, just to present Golam Azam's trial. Speakers at the meeting, also accused the university administration for helping the government in carrying out its evil designs.

The rally was addressed by MCC convenor Kamal Pasha Choudhury, Secretary Alzal Hossain and Ziaul Haq Mukta. Ganatantrik Chhatra Otkhya

(OCO), in another rally brought out Saturday morning blamed the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for the violence on JU campus.

BTV Sunday

5:00	Opening announcement
5:10	Al Quran
5:20	Programme summary
5:25	News in Bangla
5:30	Recitation from the Bible
5:35	Let's Watch
5:40	(Educational programme)
5:45	Sports Programme: Cricket
5:50	SAARC exchange
5:55	programme: Pakistan
6:00	Special programme on World Breastfeeding Week
6:05	Open University
6:10	Tagore songs
6:15	News in Bangla
6:20	Antorale Ami
6:25	Film: Earen
6:30	News in English
6:35	Soor Lahori
6:40	Khobar/The News
6:45	Closing

BCS General Edn Assoc threaten strike Sept. 1, 2

The members of the BCS General Education Association threatened to observe a token strike on September 1 and 2 if the government fails to fulfill its 16-point demands by August 31, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in an extended meeting of the association chaired by Prof ABM Ganab Ali held at the Jagannath College Friday.

The meeting decided to declare a greater movement in the general meeting to be held on September 3, if their demands including creation of posts and scope of promotion were not materialised.

The meeting demanded the immediate withdrawal of administrative cadre members who had been posted in general mass education project, stopping creation of posts of ADC (Education) in each district and vacating the Education Ministry's order that provided unwanted authority to the Deputy Commissioner in the supervision of ongoing honours examination.

World press photo exhibition begins tomorrow

Drik Picture Library will sponsor a World press photo exhibition at the Drik Gallery from August 2-15, says a press release.

The travelling exhibition unique in its kind, is the result of a worldwide annual contest on press photography.

The exhibition will be officially opened jointly by Deputy Leader of the House Dr A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad.

Obituary

ZAM Mahmudul Hoque (Kemul), managing director of Vantage Group and president Bangladesh Boys Club, died recently at Ramkhamhaeng Hospital, Bangkok, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

His death was held Monday at his residence at 49/4D RK Mission Road after Asr prayers. All relatives, friends and well wishers have been requested to attend the gal.

Weather No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday) says, light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The country's highest temperature was recorded at 34.8 degree Celsius at Rangpur and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:28 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	27.4	77	72
Chittagong	33.0	26.0	72	73
Rajshahi	33.5	27.1	83	88
Khulna	33.0	28.6	78	77
Barisal	33.2	27.0	78	82
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	75	78
Sylhet	33.8	26.4	74	72
Dinajpur	33.6	27.5	95	80

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

(নিয়মিত পানি ও পর্যায় বিল পরিশোধ করুন)

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class mechanical & electrical contractors/bonafide supplying contractors/bonafide manufacturing contractors for the undermentioned works.

Sl No	Name of Work	Allotted Cost	Date and time of Receiving Tender
1.	Rewinding & repair of 6 nos 20-cusec sub-pumps.	Taka 2,20,954/-	9-8-93 up to 12-00 Noon
2.	Repair of 1 no Turbine pump set of Narayanganj Division	Taka 40,270/-	-do-

Tenders will be opened on the same day of receiving tenders at 2:00 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 of the office of the undersigned.

Address
Hatkhola Road, Dhaka
WASA-P.1-318/93
DFP(G)-11850-28/7
G-1011

Iqbal Hossain Bhuyan
Executive Engineer
F M Division
Dhaka WASA

Pfizer

PFIZER LABORATORIES (BANGLADESH) LIMITED

Registered Office: 6/3, Segun Bagicha, G.P.O. Box-303, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

Date: August 1, 1993

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Twentieth Annual General Meeting of Pfizer Laboratories (Bangladesh) Limited will be held at Sonargaon Hotel, 107, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka on Tuesday, August 24, 1993 at 12 Noon to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and the Audited Accounts for the year ended November 30, 1992.
- To declare a final dividend as recommended by the Board of Directors.
- To elect Directors in place of those who retire by rotation and being eligible offer themselves for re-election.
- To appoint Auditors and to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Board
S. H. Kabir
Chairman and Managing Director

NOTE:

- A Member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting may appoint a proxy. Such proxy need not be a member of the Company. The proxy form must be stamped with revenue stamp of Tk. 5.00 and should be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company not later than 72 hours before the Meeting.
- 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, during which period no shares transfers will be effected.
- Members are requested to notify change of address, if any, to the Company.
- The Company is taking steps for change of its name to **RENATA LIMITED** and when all legal requirements to change the name are complied with, the name will be changed to **RENATA LIMITED**.