

Dhaka Day by Day

Novel way of Keeping Roads Clean

by Parveen Anam



The more crowded Dhaka gets in terms of its population and traffic, the dirtier it seems to become. Remember how clean and spruced up we all looked when we hosted the South Asian summit with the streets squeaky clean and the garbage all collected and taken away. The sage and the wise gave a cynical look, smiled and bore the audacity of the tall claims about how the pavements which were being washed down with detergent and pails of water, were only being done so as part of a routing cleanliness drive!

However, someone somewhere along the line, does seem to have pangs of conscience and to justify his paycheque at the end of the month, gives out orders that some semblance of cleanliness must be preserved at least on the big roads frequented by the paymasters, or the little man's pay might get help up. And that would never do, now would it? Hence, the order goes out to the brigade of road cleaners or 'sweepers' as they are technically called, to dutifully put in an appearance when they will be noticed most, and make a big show of cleaning and sweeping.

So, just as the poor Dhakaite, is on his way to earn his living bright and early and forms part of the 'rush hour traffic' to and behold, right in the middle of the road and bang in his path, there is the sweeper (woman, or man) with broom long enough to put the chimney sweep to shame, sweeping away the road as if his very life depended on it. Not only is he sweeping the road, he is also diligently making little mounds of the garbage he is collecting, in the centre of the road. As each passing vehicle scatters these little piles all asunder, he rushes off and starts to sweep all over again.

But his and the Dhakaite's woes do not end there. He also has his little wheelbarrow parked in a strategic position, i.e. in the way of the oncoming traffic and whatever little dirt he does

manage to collect with great gusto, he picks with his tin shovel and puts into the wheelbarrow. All this mind you, at the peak rush hour traffic period when the most patient Dhakaite is at the end of his tether. Just as you have managed to come out from behind the smoke belching overcrowded bus, you pull up short with this wheelbarrow and long broom holding sweeper in your path, only to be promptly hit by the bus from behind with the inevitable rickshaw piling up and adding to the snarl. All of you get down in the middle of the road and then starts the endless shouting match, with the hero of the hour, the sweeper and his wheelbarrow, showing the least bit concern for the entire fiasco. You stand there tearing your hair and grimacing at the sight of your car packed in at the rear like a caved-in tin jar while the supreme authorities of course, who are basically responsible for all this, are busy making sure their jobs remain secure.

Why it never, ever occurs to the magical being at the decision making level, that the sweepers should certainly put in an appearance at an hour when it is least inconvenient to the commuting Dhakaite Plus, does he also think that it is only the main roads which need sweeping while the inside roads of the city or the bylanes can be used as garbage dumps? For the sweeper, the cleaner and the garbage collector certainly never make detours into the interior of the city which is a story by itself, where cleanliness is concerned. But then, the big bosses who sign the paycheques, do not frequent the byroads so all is well if a sweeper is visible on the main road during the rush hour. And if the poor Dhakaite face inconveniences, that is the least of the authorities' problems. The Dhakaite only pays the tax; it is the authorities who collect it. And they are the ones who make the decisions. Like it or not.

New school in city

The Dhaka Grammar School, a new English medium institution in the capital, started functioning yesterday, says a press release.

Though intended to follow the GCE curriculum, the school will also give special stress on learning of local culture, history and tradition. Besides, it will include specialised programmes on environmental education and computer application.

Earlier, a milad mahfil was held at the school premises in evening on the occasion of the opening of the school.

Editor of Bangladesh Observer KMA Munim, ex-Minister Maj Gen (Retd) Abdul Munim, Director General of Shilpkala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan, ex-Ambassador Maj Gen (Retd) Golam Dastgir, journalists, teachers, parents and students of the school attended the milad.



Late King Baudouin of Belgium with Ms. Manjira Khatun, member of Board of Directors and a borrower of Grameen Bank, along with Professor Muhammad Yunus and Ms. Nurjahan Begum, on the occasion of the award giving ceremony of King Baudouin Foundation held in Brussels in April this year.

'Poor of Bangladesh lose a close friend'

By Staff Correspondent

The news of the sudden and untimely demise of King Baudouin of Belgium was received with profound shock by the Grameen Bank and its borrowers.

A message of condolence sent to the King Baudouin Foundation, by M. Khalid Shams, Managing Director of Grameen Bank said that 1.6 million borrowers of the Bank have known the King as a friend and well-wisher of the poor people of Bangladesh who have been struggling hard to attain development through self-respect and self-reliance.

The message recollects the gracious hospitality that was extended to Professor Yunus, Ms. Manjira Khatun and Ms. Nurjahan Begum by Their Majesties last April on the occasion of the award of the King Baudouin International Prize to Grameen Bank.

The condolence message further stated that Professor Yunus, who is currently on a trip to the USA and all other members of Grameen family would like to extend sincere condolences to Queen Fabiola, members of the royal family and the people of Belgium. Grameen and the poor of Bangladesh has indeed lost a close friend, it added.

Face natural calamity with courage : Hafiz

Minister for Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz yesterday visited different flood affected areas of Panchagarh, Paurashava and distributed relief materials among the flood hit people, reports UNB.

While talking to the people there Mirza Hafiz assured them of every possible government help for mitigating their sufferings and said necessary rehabilitation programme would be taken up on priority basis.

He also asked them to face natural calamity with courage and patience.

The Minister visited the town protection embankment and erosion affected areas in and around the Paurashava. He di-

rected the water development authority to extend the town protection embankment to the eroded portion of the river Karatola in the next phase.

Later the minister formally inaugurated the fisheries fortnight 93 in Thakurgaon district through a formal function held here at local Paurashava auditorium.

Khurshid Jahan Haque, MP also spoke on the occasion. The Minister also formally released fish fries at the local Comilla Hari pond and planted saplings on its bank.

British ODA grant for Sylhet flood victims

The British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) has made a grant of Tk 30 lakh to alleviate the effects of flood damage in Sylhet, reports UNB.

Of the total grant, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), a non-government organisation, has been allocated Tk 27 lakh for sinking and repairing of 1,000 tube-wells.

The rest Tk 3 lakh will go to the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) for purchasing oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets and seeds for distribution by the local NGOs working in the field.

Akramuzzaman who died in Singapore on July 26, was the brother-in-law of the Foreign Minister.

Metropolitan

Backwardness in science reason for poverty: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said backwardness in science and technology is the main cause of poverty, the country's biggest problem, reports UNB.

To remove technological backwardness is not a big job. But needs political sincerity, specific technological policy, proper planning and integration of technology with productivity," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the first meeting of the National Council for Technology and Science (NCTS) at the International Conference Centre (ICC) last evening.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, Energy Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Education Principal Eunus Khan, Barkatullah Bulu MP, National Professor M Innas Ali, BUET VC Prof Mohammad Shahjahan, National University VC Prof Shamsher Ali and Prof Iqbal Mahmud also addressed the meeting.

"Let science and technology be the effective weapon in the overall development process of the country," she asserted.

The Prime Minister emphasised on proper application of technology in daily life of the nation. "Effective application of technology in agriculture, pisciculture, poultry, dairy and forestry will help create employment opportunities for the rural masses," she hoped.

Winding up the meeting, Begum Zia reiterated her assurance that a separate ministry for science and technology will be formed soon.

The Prime Minister called upon the country's scientists to carry forward need-based research.

She particularly urged them to intensify research on saving jute, the environment-friendly natural fibre, which once was the key cash crop of the farmers.

Science and Technology Division Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha gave a brief re-

port on the activities of the Division.

The Prime Minister said the country's human resources and many other natural resources could not be put to effective use due to backwardness in science and technology.

She said the present government is carrying forward with new commitment and initiative the policy of late President Ziaur Rahman for the development of science and technology. "We have adopted a new national science and technology policy based on the present day demand."

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting a stall after inaugurating 'Fish Exhibition '93' at the premises of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council at Farmgate in the city Sunday. Story on page one.

Unidentified body found

By DMCH Correspondent

Police recovered the body of a person from Sobhanbagh, Savar, hanging to a tree at about 11am Sunday.

Khulna

Fisheries Fortnight began here as elsewhere in the country today with a street march at the initiative of the Fisheries Department, reports UNB.

A rally started from the Khulna Circuit House marking the start of the fortnight and ended at the Hadis Park

The 25 year old victim was not immediately identified.

Police, however, could not say whether it was a case of suicide or not. Police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Our valued shareholders are requested to kindly collect their Dividend Warrants for 1992 from Company's Registered Office during office hours from 02 August 1993.

Uncollected Dividend Warrants will be mailed by Registered Post.

UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Share Department
Hadi Mansion (7th Floor)
2, Dilkusha Commercial Area
Dhaka-1000

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Qualifications : * Very good academic track records with masters degree in a social science subject, preferably in Business Administration. Relaxable in exceptional cases. * At least 10 years' experience (no preference to insurance experience) in marketing management in a reputed organisation. Relaxable in exceptional cases. * Excellent communication skills in both English and Bangla. * Proven record of leading independently a team of high calibre staff.

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GQ BALL PEN INDUSTRIES LIMITED
29, BANGABANDHU AVENUE, DHAKA-1000.
EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an extra Ordinary General Meeting of GQ Ball Pen Industries Limited will be held at the Factory premises of the Company, BSCIC Industrial Estate, Jhumjhumpur, Jessor on Wednesday, the 25th August, 1993 at 9:00 A.M. to pass the following resolutions as special resolutions with or without modification for amending some clauses of Articles of Association of the Company.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolved that in the second line of Article '68' of the Articles of Association of the Company figure '25,000' shall be substituted by figure '10,000'.
2. Further resolved that Article '71' which reads as under: "The remuneration of the Directors shall from time to time be determined by the Company in General Meeting. The Directors will be entitled to the actual travelling and hotel expenses incurred by them for attending the meeting of the Board, subject to the prior approval of the Controller of capital issues" shall now be substituted to read as under: "The remuneration of the Directors shall from time to time be determined by the Company in General Meeting. The Directors shall be entitled to the actual travelling and hotel expenses incurred by them for attending the meeting of the Board. In addition, they shall be entitled to a fee of Tk. 750/- for attending each meeting of the Board."

Dated : August 02, 1993.

NOTE :

1. All members entitled to attend and vote at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. Such proxy shall be a member of the Company. The instrument appointing a proxy, together with the power of attorney (if any) under which it is signed or certified by Notary Public thereof, shall be deposited at the office of the Company atleast 72 hours before the scheduled time for holding the meeting.
2. Members are requested to notify change of address, if any, to the Company.

By order of the Board
Executive Director
&
Secretary