

Dhaka Day by Day

Those Were The Days, My Friend

by Fayza Haq



From left to right: S A Mahmud, Zakaria Chowdhury, Anisur Rahman, Marium Khatoon and Rezaul Karim.

Mr. S. A. Mahmud, the ex-president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce, confiding while at a gathering for his old colleagues of Economics Honours '54 batch, said, "In our times we had a different way of life. We spent most of our time in reading books and magazines for pleasure but nowadays the young ones have the electronic media which takes away a fair portion of their time. We used to have a lot of cultural activities too and S.M. Hall was the source of numerous plays, recitation etc. We did not have student factions fighting each other as they have today. We had sports too. I don't think that today the students' political groups have constructive roles."

Commenting on his own career Mahmud said, "I enjoyed my career which began with an oil company and I had to travel to the interior regions which had quite an appeal for me, as I could mix with people of all classes. After leaving the oil company I began my own business and I now enjoy working independently."

Marium Khatoon, who studied in the same batch, commented about her times, "It was quite difficult for a young woman to study in the early 50's. The female students sat in front and the teachers made sure that they were not teased by the young men. The teachers even accompanied them to the common room. Today my own daughters have boy friends and speak freely with them, addressing them in the intimate term of 'tani' (you). This could not have been imagined in our times. I believe the cultural life in those days was much more enjoyable and not cluttered up with politics."

Dwelling on her work Marium Khatoon said, "I have been working in the Department of Social Welfare for 29 years. I've enjoyed every bit of my career, which involved travelling to USA, UK, and the Far East. I plan to do social work in my retired life as well and have established 'The Family Development of Below Poverty Level People.' Although social welfare programmes are centering around the slum dwellers, our problem of poverty is hard to tackle due to overpopulation."

Professor Anisur Rehman, who still continues to lecture at the Dhaka University from time to time, although he has retired, remarked, "In our times the behaviour of the students was very good. Today there are elements who are spoiling the atmosphere. Political leaders are using students, and these leaders have to be stopped."

When asked about his career he said that he was abroad, in UK and Geneva, for 15 years and worked with the ILO programmes the world over. In his spare time today, he writes books and columns for daily newspapers. He takes great delight in his two daughters who are both abroad, and in teaching at "Chhayanaut" as a hobby.

Zakaria Chowdhury, who was once a minister for manpower, labour and social welfare, talking about his student days and the current situation, said, "Youth as a whole is more restive. Perhaps as a generation we were not as knowledgeable and the young men in the university today are more socially aware. I am very unhappy about the situation in Bangladesh and we are losing our talents because of the violence in the campus area. If this continues, how can we have a future generation of educated people? Most of our talents are going abroad and are not coming back. We are thus losing our future policy formulators. The political parties should decide not to use the students for their political purposes. In Bangladesh today we are much more proud of our heritage than we used to be and this is one of the fruits of independence."

Chowdhury depends on business for a living and spends his spare time in writing and has had two publications of poems so far. He has three children.

Rezaul Karim, who has just retired as the High Commissioner for Bangladesh to UK, remarked, "The condition of the education premises has deteriorated so much that it has become almost pitiable. There is a vast difference between these times and our times. Today the students are not very serious, of course, with exceptions. They are involved in professional politics. We too were involved in the movement for the creation of independent Pakistan and then independent Bangladesh. In fact I myself officially hosted the flag of Bangladesh in London in 71. Students today are being guided by politicians to serve their own interest."

Comparing his active life with the retired one, Karim said, "I find a charm in both work and retirement. After working for 35 years I believe that one deserves a little bit of rest and I am glad to be back with my old friends."

It is not surprising that ex-students of decades back find the education scene today an unpalatable one and are surprised at the overwhelming changes that have taken place.

'Govt for equal uplift of all regions'

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq said here yesterday that the present government was committed to ensure equal development of regions of the country, reports BSS.

"The progress and prosperity of the nation lies with the rational, balanced and equal development of all regions of the country", he added.

The minister was speaking

as chief guest at the annual conference and cultural evening of Dhaka based Jessore Samity at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers here.

Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam attended the function as the special guest.

Presided over by Samity president Dr M H Akbar the function was also addressed, among others, by Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman of Dhaka

University, Dr Mohammad Shamsur Ali of Islamic University and Samity executives and elite of Jessore residing in the capital.

In his speech, Tariqul Islam said no development was possible without changing the existing mentality. The local and concerned people have to be conscious and devoted to materialise uplift of their respective areas, he added.

Rafiq murder BMA token strike today

By DMCH Correspondent

All the hospitals and medical institutions of the city will observe three hours strike from 10am to 1pm today (Saturday) to protest the killing of young physician, Dr Rafiqul Islam.

Bangladesh Medical Association in a meeting held on Thursday strongly condemned the killing of Dr. Rafiq and called for three hours token strike to be observed today.

They will also hold a rally at the P.G. hospital premises in the morning today.

Dr Rafiq was beaten to death by some hawkers after an altercation regarding the price of a moneybag at Farm Gate area in the city Tuesday night.

Dr Rafiq in student life was the President of Chitra Molloy of the Rajshahi Medical College unit.

Besides the BMA, Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association and 5 Party Alliance also condemned the killing of Dr Rafiq.

Zulfiqar's qulkhani held

The qulkhani of veteran journalist and poet Lutfor Rahman Zulfiqar was held at his residence at 189, Uttar Shahjahanpur here yesterday, reports BSS.



- 5:00 Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
- 6:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Amra Natun
- 5:50 Cartoon: Young Robin Hood
- 6:15 Samachar
- 7:00 Banshort: Folk songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Mati-o-Manush: Agriculture programme
- 9:00 Bolun Dekhi: Quiz programme
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Drama series: Dallas
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing.

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6am today (Saturday) says, moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded in Chuadanga and the lowest 20.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati.

Chief amounts of rainfall recorded during the day time yesterday across the country were: Barisal 103 mm, Khepupara 92, Teknaf 48, Cox's Bazar 25, Sylhet 13 and Chittagong 12mm. The sun sets today Saturday at 6:38 pm and rises tomorrow Sunday at 5:31 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	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.3	25.2	86	76
Chittagong	29.0	23.0	95	93
Rajshahi	33.0	26.6	90	74
Khulna	30.6	25.2	90	86
Barisal	31.0	24.5	93	93
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.5	97	85
Sylhet	30.4	25.4	87	89
Dinajpur	31.0	25.5	97	92



A delegation of Lawyers' Assistant Association yesterday met AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence and apprised her of their various problems.

Fish output target set at 3 lakh tons

The present government has set the target of producing additional 300,000 tons of fish in three years by the end of 1995, including 100,000 tons expected to be produced by the end of the current fiscal year.

Outlining the government's national fish policy, a competent source of the Ministry of Fisheries told UNB that Begum Khaleda Zia's administration had taken an all-out initiative to step up production and attain self-sufficiency in fish at the earliest possible time.

At present 43 million hectares of inland water reserves and 166,000 square kilometres of marine water of Bangladesh produce 900,000 tonnes of fish which fall far short of total national requirements.

The current per-capita availability of fish per day in 21 grams against the per-capita requirement of 45 grams a day, the source said.

With the production of additional 300,000 tons by the end of 1995, the country will still be left with a shortfall of

700,000 tons to meet the total national requirement. This is a reminder of the grim reality that a long way is ahead before achieving self-sufficiency in fish production.

To step up fish production, the present government has taken up a programme to release 70 million fish fry in ponds, lakes, beels, haors, flood plains etc known as closed inland water reserves throughout the country.

Besides, the administration has drawn up an extensive programme to transfer appropriate technology to fishermen all over the country to help them augment fish production.

The government is also making an all-out effort to create awareness among the people about rules and regulations of governing fish protection and preservation. In other words, laws prohibiting catch of fish below nine inches will be applied with greater degree of rigidity and rigourness.

Shun other CPB faction, says Selim

By Staff Correspondent

Mujahidul Islam Selim faction of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) urged its comrades to avoid the other faction of the party saying that it was far removed from communism.

In a central committee meeting of CPB presided over by its President Shahidullah Chowdhury and General Secretary, Selim said that the leaders of the other faction was trying to create a liberal party with the help of outsiders but keeping the party name of CPB.

"The Communist Party has been never involved with the process of being merged into a single democratic forum," Selim clarified.

The meeting was also addressed among others by Shamsuzzaman Selim, Abdur Razzak, Abu Jafar, Enamul Haq, Prashad Roy, Firoze Ahmed and others.

'City water bodies to be utilised for pisciculture'

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities will take up adequate measures for cultivation of fish at every water body in the city, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Mirza Abbas, MP announced yesterday.

"There are thousands of derelict ponds in the city which are now contributing to the breeding of mosquitoes. We are planning to cultivate the water bodies for meeting the demand of fish of the city-dwellers," the DCC Mayor told a function before releasing fries at Gulshan lake in the city.

Director of the Directorate of Fisheries, Abdur Rahman chaired the function.

In Memoriam



The death anniversary of Janab Syed Mustafa Ali, a writer, a liberal humanist and a civil servant, is being observed today, Saturday, August 7. He is respectfully and fondly remembered by his wife, Hur Ekbal Khanam, his children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grand children and other near and dear ones.

May his soul rest in peace.

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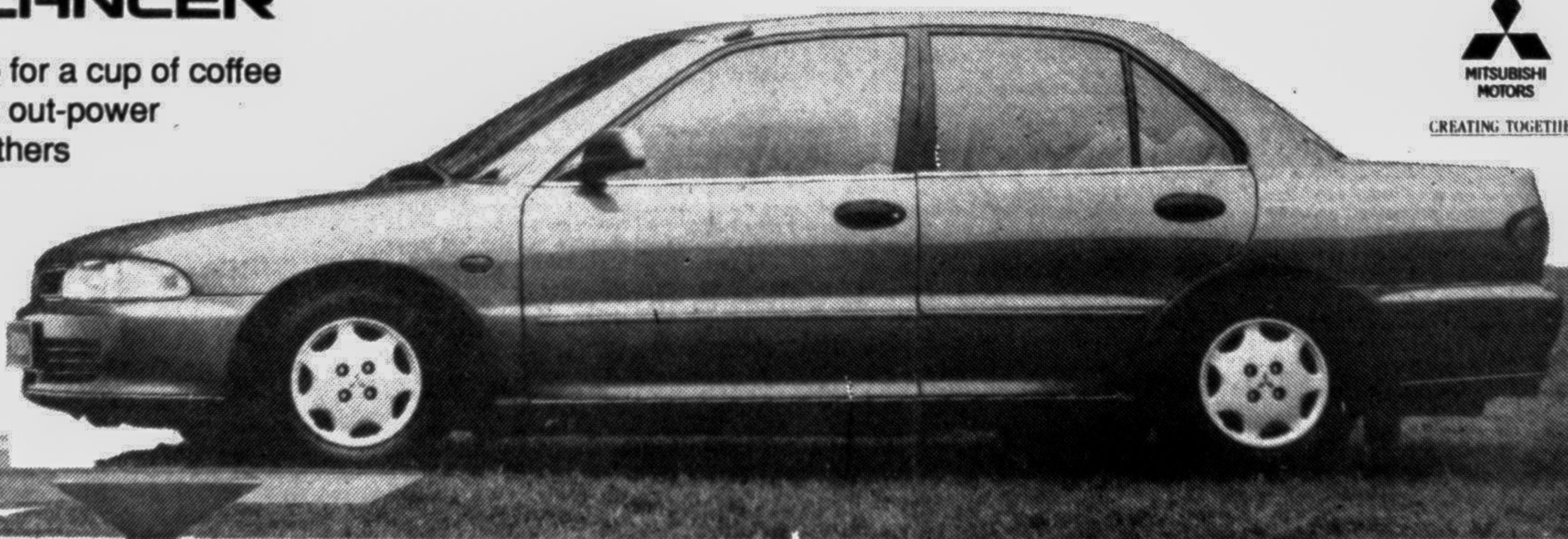
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