

Dhaka Day by Day

Option for Vocational Training

by Raffat Binte Rashid

What can a young rickshawpuller, a grocer or a boatman have in common other than poverty, hunger and desperation? Well, dreams might be a possible answer. Since they all belong to the same social class, their desire for a prosperous, happy life is not unusual.

Three such young men or rather boys, aged between 18 to 20, are students of UCEP (Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme). They have completed junior school education (i.e. class eight) and are now taking vocational training in the same school. They are all in the three-year Automobile repairing training, which they believe will enable them to earn a passage to a decent life.

Life had always been cruel and hard for them, being forced to work at a very tender age. None realises more than these three, the usefulness of learning vocational trades or being educated.

For them technical education is a gateway to happiness, every thing they have always dreamt about. According to Nanto Miah, the rickshawpuller, to be an automobile mechanic can ensure his future, at least he won't be out of work. "What can I do with my general class eight education? With my background and such a simple education, I won't get permanent work anywhere but if I learn this trade well enough, I can go abroad or stay here and get a good job," Nantosaid casually while his friends nodded in agreement.

"Vocational training or education is vital, especially when it comes to the economic well-being of the under privileged children, which simultaneously helps the industrial revolution of the country," commented K M Mahbubur Rahman, coordinator of UCEP Technical School. He said that in Bangladesh, slum children have very little chance to exploit their economic potential on their own. They cannot come in direct contact with industry and put it to their own economic advantage, in spite of having their potential, but this opportunity or economic potential should be effectively exploited.

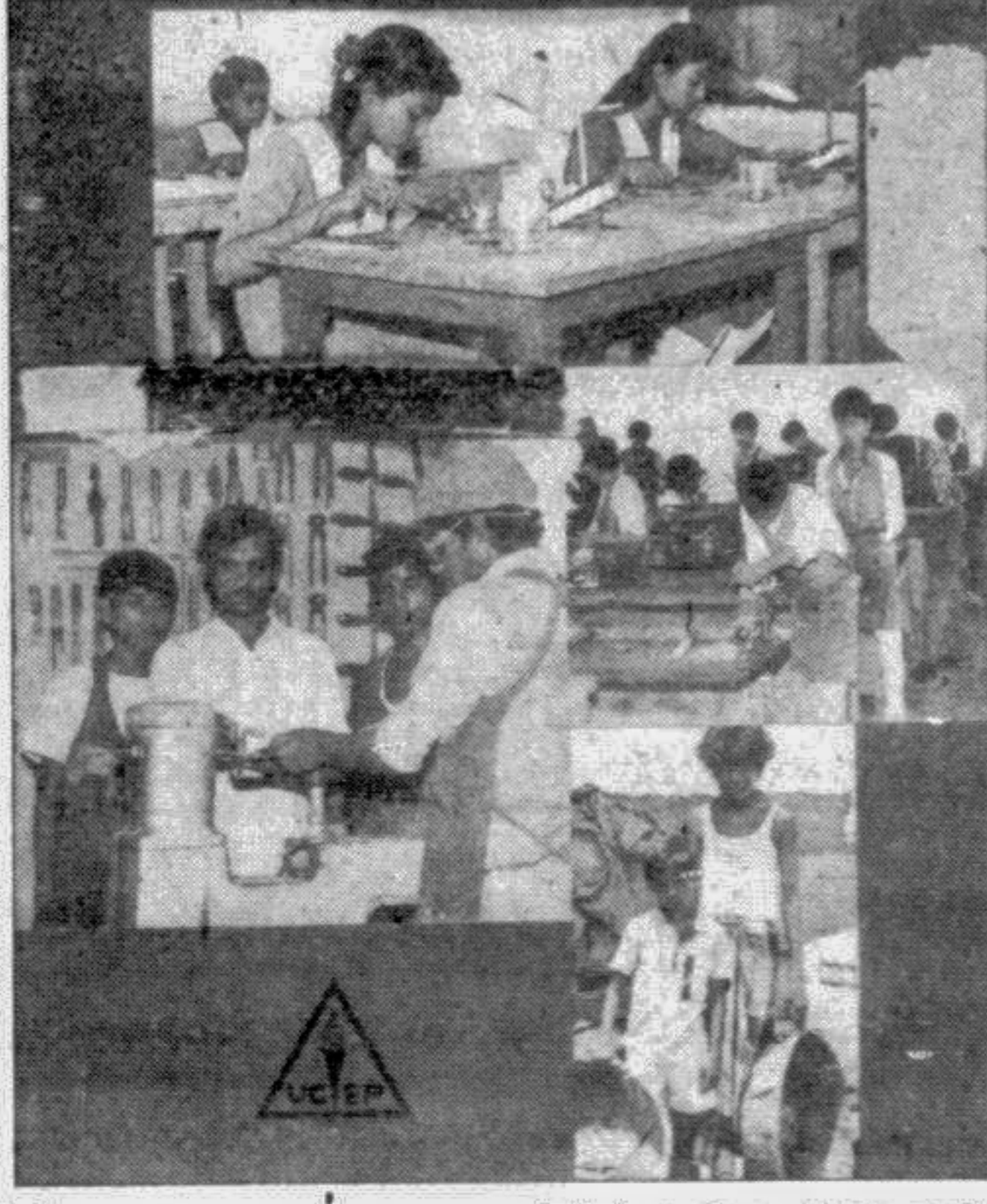
"In hard economic terms this means that the great mass of working children are 'the raw materials' and through appropriate education and training can be 'processed' into a 'product' which is marketable. In one word

their hands should be turned into hands of semi skilled or skilled labourers," he explained.

The country should broaden the scope for these semi-skilled labourers, or technical experts. An industrial revolution could benefit in two ways: making the country's industrial sector strong and profitable and at the same time allowing these deprived unemployed semi-skilled labourers or technicians acquire the economic stability they need so badly.

In Bangladesh, there are about 18 polytechnic institutes at the district level, four technical colleges or BITs (Bangladesh Institute of Technology) and two universities.

The UCEP coordinator of the technical school said that students are very enthusiastic about such training. Presently, the training centre can accommodate 700 students, with



about 650 students attending these courses. Not all UCEP students can attend this school; students are admitted according to merit. This vocational training centre offers courses in electronics, repair of refrigerators and air conditioning, printing, carpentry, welding and general fitting, auto repair, textile, tailoring and making export-oriented garments. Usually, however, students are more interested in being automobile mechanics. Rahman informed that the UCEP students or semi-

skilled workers, from working class backgrounds, with a grounding in industrial fundamentals, are very much in demand. In the textile sector the whole batch of such students are employed even before they could complete the course.

This is definitely praise-worthy. It shows that the two-way system is working where industries are coming up and profiting, at the same time, allowing employment for the mass of underprivileged population.

But one thing that should be made clear is whether the policy-makers are serious or whether the political will, which is the determinant factor here, is strong enough to work this out to the optimum level. So far many reports, articles or policies, have been written and undertaken, but when it comes to implementation, the picture that emerges is not so satisfactory.

Metropolitan

Lanka to help implement low cost housing project

Visiting Sri Lankan Minister for Housing and Construction B Sirisena Cooray said yesterday that his country was ready to cooperate with Bangladesh in implementation of low cost housing project.

In an exclusive interview with the BSS here, Cooray was optimistic that the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with its political determination would succeed in implementing its pro-people programmes including poverty alleviation and housing. "We are willing to share our experiences and expertise in the field," he said.

Cooray described assassinated president Ranasinghe Premadasa as the Architect of the low-cost housing plan under "millage reawakening" programme which was launched in 1978. He said the late president had promised in 1977 to build one lakh houses for the rural poor and the target was exceeded by 53 thousand within that time schedule.

The visiting Sri Lankan minister dwelt at length phase-wise successes of low-cost housing project for rural and urban population. He said former President Premadasa had later announced construction of one million houses in 1982 and the target was complete in 1989. During campaign in the presidential election in 1989, Premadasa had pledged to build

1.5 million houses, he said. Cooray said, the interesting aspect of the programme was that no time limit was fixed for achieving the target. He, however, expressed the hope that the current target would be completed by 1995.

The secret of success of the project, he said, was that the plan was divided into 16 sub-programmes.

B. Sirisena Cooray said under the sub-programmes different agencies were entrusted with specific responsibilities. The agencies, he said included private companies and individuals.

The Ministry of Housing and Construction, Cooray said, was not directly involved in construction of houses except in urban areas where it built high-rise flats and different types of houses for the middle class other than low cost houses. He said the houses and flats were sold at economic prices among government employees and middle class people in urban areas.

Cooray said for the rural areas, the government was providing land free of cost, loan and other technical assistance for infrastructural development.

During the interview Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr N Haniffa was present.

Earlier, Cooray visited Rajdhani Unnyan Kartipakhyia

(RAJUK) office where he addressed senior officials.

Presided over by RAJUK Chairman Humayun Khadem, the gathering was also addressed by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia.

Referring to his 16 years experience in the field of housing Cooray said, "We are the best planner for our country as outsiders do not understand our society better than us." He said it was the responsibility of the concerned agencies for implementation of any plan.

He termed the RAJUK Master Plan of 1959 as outdated in today's context and favoured realistic plan in the light of existing needs.

The Sri Lankan minister said plans which displaced people from their ancestral houses should be avoided.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia in his speech gave a brief historical background of the growth of the Dhaka city as the capital of Independent Bangladesh. He recalled how the city had undergone changes during the British rule.

He said since independence in 1971, Dhaka had grown rapidly with the current population of six million. He said "The strain imposed on the physical and social fabric of Dhaka by the growth rate have been compounded by the city's acute problems of widespread poverty and physical vulnerability."



Executive committee of the Gano Forum held a meeting at a city hotel yesterday. In the picture (from right): Nurjahan Murshed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Advocate Jahurul Islam, Matu Rahman and Maj Gen (Retd) Khalilur Rahman.

— Star photo

Two killed in separate road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons including a school girl were killed in two separate road accidents in the city Tuesday.

Sona Miah Talukder (80) was killed when a speeding minibus ran over him at Taltola Agargaoon in the city at about 9 am.

In another road mishap a school girl was seriously injured

after being hit by a minibus at Jatrabari bus stand in the city Monday evening.

The victim, Masuda Begum (16) was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but she died yesterday morning.

Both the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Workshop on 'Urban and Shelter Sector' begins

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia inaugurated a two-day workshop on 'Urban and Shelter Sector' in Bangladesh at a hotel yesterday, reports UNB.

Organised by the Urban Development Directorate (UDD) of Ministry of Works and United Nations agencies, the inaugural session was addressed, among others, by M Mokammel Haq, Member of Planning Commission, A C Das, Director, UDD, Ministry of Works.

Speaker elected CPA EC member

Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali has been unanimously elected to the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) for a three-year term as Regional representative for Asia, reports UNB.

The election was held Monday on the opening day of the 39th CPA conference at Limassol in Cyprus, according to a message received here yesterday.

Round-table on Dhaka's petroleum investment begins in USA Sept 14

A round-table conference on petroleum investment in Bangladesh will be held in Houston, USA from September 14-16 at the initiative of World Bank, reports UNB.

American Ambassador in Dhaka William B Milam called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday and discussed various aspects of the round-table.

During the meeting at the minister's Secretariat office, they also discussed different issues of mutual interest, particularly the ways and means of cooperation of USA for the promotion and development of energy and mineral resources of Bangladesh.

The Energy Minister briefed the envoy on the initiatives of the present government towards the exploration of energy resources in the country.



Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan addressing a workshop of the Economic Association at the Family Planning Academy in the city yesterday.

Two factions of JCD share posts in Ctg Polytech Instt polls

CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of ruling BNP, won the Chittagong Polytechnic Institute Students Union election which was held peacefully today, reports UNB.

Two factions of JCD contested the election and shared all the 21 posts. One group bagged 11 seats while the other 10.

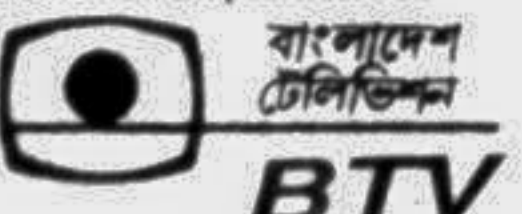
JCD was divided as a sequel to the dispute of local BNP. Arifuzzaman Arif, Muhammad Jamiruddin and S M Kaiser were elected VP, OS and AGS respectively. The JCD contested the election from Didar-Jamir-Kawar and Arif-Farid-Kawar panels.

However, Awami League-backed Chhatra League and pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir, in separate statements, termed the election "a stage-managed affair," alleging that the authorities had announced the election schedule only four days before the polls.

Sirajul Alam off to London for treatment

Sirajul Alam Khan yesterday left here for London for treatment, reports BSS.

Khan, who is known to be the founder of Jatiya Samantrik Dal (JSD), underwent a spinal cord operation last year at the PG Hospital here.



Wednesday

5.00 Opening announcement
Al Quran Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
5.25 Umesh
6.05 Tagore songs
6.40 Open University
7.10 Sangbad Parikramma
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Special programme on International Literacy Day
9.05 Film: The A-Team
10.00 News in English
10.30 Kathamala
11.30 Khabor/The News
11.45 Closing

Weather

Day temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says occasionally moderate rain or thunder-showers accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Barisal, Khulna divisions and at many places over Chittagong division and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka divisions.

Met office forecasts, day temperature may fall by two to three degree Celsius over the coastal regions and fall by one to two degree Celsius elsewhere over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 34 degree Celsius was recorded in Sylhet and lowest of 22 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati yesterday.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:10 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:43 am.

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

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.6	26.0
Chittagong	32.5	24.7
Rajshahi	30.6	25.8
Khulna	29.6	25.4
Barisal	29.5	25.0
Dinajpur	31.4	25.7
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0
Sylhet	34.0	24.4

Diphorn calls on BUET VC

First Secretary of The Netherlands Embassy, B Diphorn, called on Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at the latter's office here yesterday, reports UNB.

54 bottles of Phensydil seized

A special squad of Narcotics Control Department seized 54 bottles of Indian Phensydil syrup from a house of Gopibagh area in the city Monday, reports UNB.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. CHOYANG PARK V-EE336 from Antwerp, Bremen, ex. M.V. CHOYANG MOSCOW V-WA334 from Busan, Oakland, ex. M.V. PANAMA SENATOR V-WM332 from Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. FONG YUN V-9323, Imp. Rot. No. 703/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 10-9-93 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 AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS, DSR-SENATOR LINES, GERMANY.
PHONE: 503317, 50068/88

WANTED

For immediate appointment by a reputed Buying House for their KNIT GARMENTS operations

Quality Inspectors— to conduct in-line and final inspection.

Quality Controller— to oversee and direct a team of 10-15 inspectors.

Production Executive— to co-ordinate and report on production activities of factories.

EDUCATION— AT LEAST GRADUATE

EXPERIENCE— 4/5 YEARS AT LEAST

Candidates must be energetic, hardworking and reliable and must have a thorough understanding of (a) cutting, making and finishing of T-SHIRTS (b) construction dyeing finishing of KNIT FABRICS.

APPLY with detailed bio-data by 10th September 1993 to

UDDIN & CO (BANGLADESH)
41 Dilkusha C A Dhaka 1000

NOTICE

COURT OF THIRD ARTHA RIN ADALAT, DHAKA

TITLE SUIT NO. 135 OF 1992

Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.
Motijheel Branch
BSB Building, 8, Rajuk Avenue
P.S. Motijheel, Dhaka.

Plaintiff.

- Versus -

1. Mr. Mozammel Haque
Son of late Md. Misir Ali
Proprietor of Gear Master Engineering Works.
2. Mr. Mahub Alam
Son of late Md. Misir Ali
- both of village Beara, P.S. Keraniganj, Dhaka.
at present 43/1, Saidabad, P.S. Demra. Dhaka.

Defendants.

The above suit has been filed against you on 12.11.92 by the plaintiff Bank for realisation of Tk. 10,65,981.76 only upto 30.10.91. You are notified to appear in the above suit pending before this Court on 26.9.93 at 10.00 a.m. either in person or through an authorised Advocate, failing which the suit would be disposed of ex-parte.

Sherstadar
by the order of the learned Court

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class civil contractors for the undermentioned works.

Sl No	Name of work	Allotted Cost	Time & date of receiving tender
1.	Extension of 100 mm dia water line near holding No. 14 at Sanatan Garh Road by lane in Rayerbazar area	Taka 29,541/-	13-9-93 upto 12 Noon
2.	Extension of 4" dia water line at Road No. 3/A in Dhanmondi Residential Area	Taka 25,620/-	-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 description will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address:

Lalmatia Steel Tank Compound
Dhaka
WASA — P.I. — 379/93
DFP (G) 13617-1/9
G-1161

Md Tajul Islam
Executive Engineer
MODS Zone-3
Dhaka WASA

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
বরিশাল.

স্মারক নং-২৬৪০/ই তারিখঃ ০২-৯-৯৩ ইং

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বরিশাল জেলা পুলিশ বাহিনীর রেশন স্টোরের জন্য আসবাবপত্র (যাহা সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকিবে) সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে তফসীল বর্ণিত নিয়ম ও শর্তানুযায়ী প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে উক্ত প্রতিযোগিতামূলক সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ইং ১৬-৯-৯৩ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর ব্যবসারে পুলিশ রেশন স্টোর, বরিশালে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে ফেলিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। এই দিন বেলা ১৩-০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রাদাতাগণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে পুলিশ রেশন অফিস হইতে দরপত্র শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত প্রতি তফসীলের মূল্য বাবদ ৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা) (অফেরত-যোগ্য) নগদ প্রদান করিয়া তফসীল গ্রহণ করা যাইতে পারে। দরপত্র গ্রহণের দিন কোন তফসীল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। তফসীল ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকেই যে কোন বা-সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সত্ত্বাধীন করেন।

মোঃ আনিসুর রহমান খান

পুলিশ সুপার
বরিশাল

DFP(C) 13609-49
G-1162