

Dhaka Day by Day

The Three-Wheeled Menace

by Parveen Anam

Life in Dhaka is a mess. And please let us for once, not argue about it. Not that we can argue on anything so blatantly honest and frank. Even the Dhakaites, the most beloved and yet the most harassed of species to wander the streets of the city at this point of time, agrees on this one readily. Perhaps because he is on the receiving end. The battering he takes every day from life in general, as he meekly tries to go about his way, is something else again.

The rickshaw we all agree, manage to make life almost intolerable; it also gives the Dhakaites an invaluable opportunity, to practice his adjectives. The choice words so often heard as he rolls down the window of his car, to holler at the rickshaw puller, would be a delight to Prof. Higgin's ears. Give him something to work on.

However, what we would like to see being taken to task or at least taken in by the police, is the inevitable 'baby taxi' as we so lovingly like to call them, when we are not calling them

something else. The rickshaw at least moves at a speed which is not disastrous. In fact, some would swear they move far too slowly. The 'baby taxis' on the other hand are of course just the opposite. The driver of that vehicle, is of the very distinct impression, that he is in keen competition with the speed of time. He whizzes in and out of traffic with nary a thought about the safety of either his passenger or the pedestrian. His own existence he has put into the hands of the devil, so that does not matter. The fact that the passenger might think otherwise is apparently of no consequence to him.

It is interesting to see the driver of these

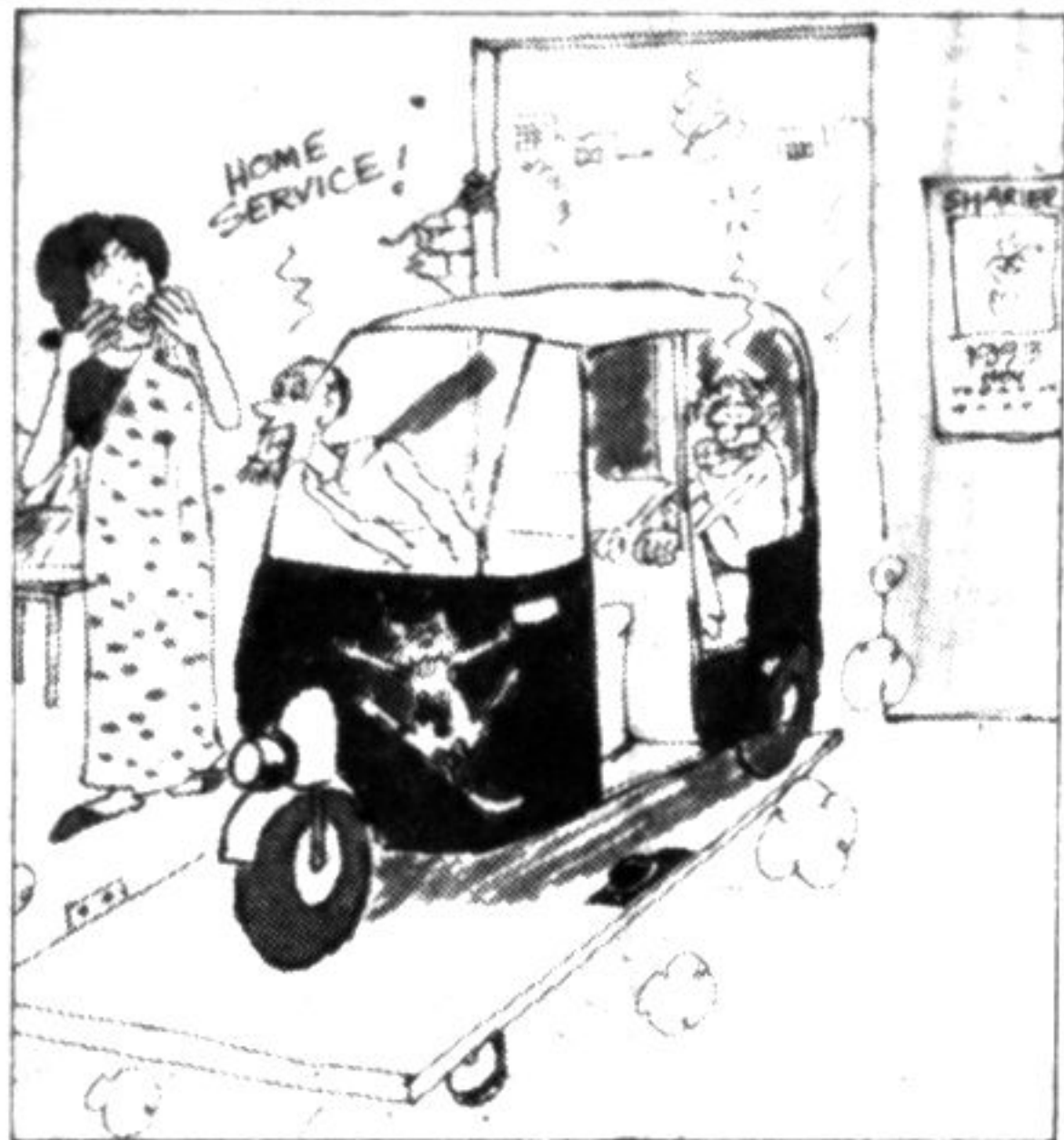
three-wheeled threat to humanity, line up in a straight line at the traffic signal, completely blocking the path of every other form of transport. Then they start to compete with each other in the magic of beating the rest of the traffic, in either trying to reach the next intersection or any destination.

The most favoured role in all this circus antics is of course that of the police man, who stands there with a most nonchalant expression. Those 'baby scooters' should either be

made to obey the traffic laws, to some extent at least, or banned from most city roads. They pose a threat not only to their passengers who are to tally by the mercy of that half-drunk driver, they are also a positive menace to the other safer forms of traffic. At times, the driver even manages to snatch the proverbial 'forty winks' as he weaves in and out of traffic. It is certainly not a particularly pleasant experience to see the driver of the 'baby taxi' dozing fitfully behind the

wheel, as a truck tears down at about sixty miles straight at the 'taxi'. He manages to wake up just in time to waver out of the truck's path. If he is lucky.

The Dhakaites seem quite placid about the entire situation, of course. Although one does get the sneaky feeling at times that he is just about fed up with everything. The Dhakaites can shout himself hoarse; the authorities never even have time to read the daily newspapers which at times can be pretty caustic about the antics of the 'powers that be'. It must be rather nice to have skin which is so thick.



Biswas, Khaleda greet Kafi, Malek of Algeria

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Ali Kafi, President of Algeria on the occasion of its national day, reports BSS.

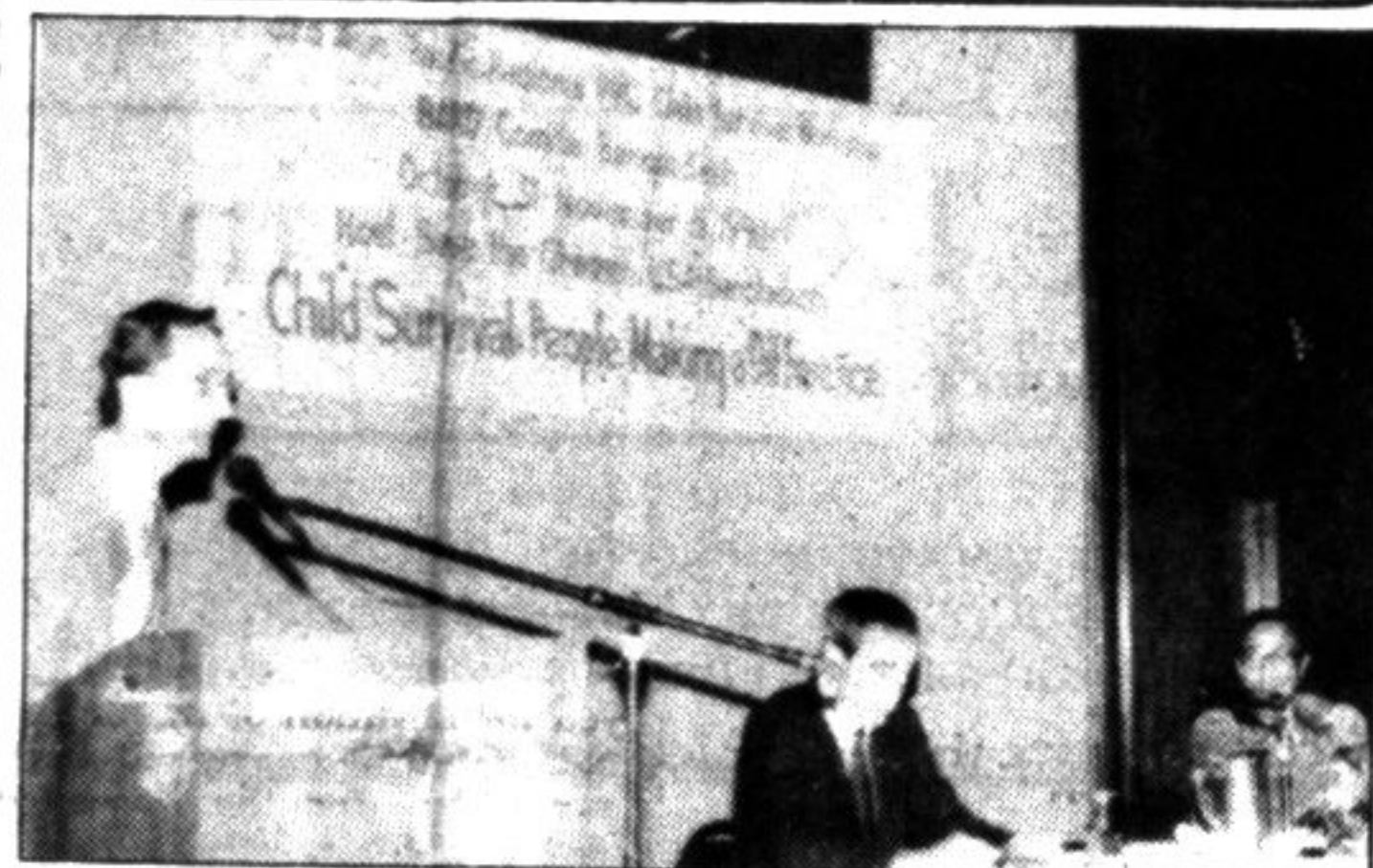
In a message President Biswas expressed his confidence that the fraternal relations between the two brotherly Muslim countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

He wished good health, happiness and long life of Kafi and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Algeria.

In a separate message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has greeted Reda Malek, Member of the High Committee of State and Head of Government of Algeria.

In the message Begum Khaleda Zia hoped that the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between the two countries would be further developed and strengthened in the years to come.

She wished personal well-being of Malek and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Algeria.



Tom Krift, Director Save the Children (USA), Bangladesh, welcoming the guests at the inauguration of the Third Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on 'Child Survival: People Making a Difference' yesterday. On his left sitting are Richard M Brown, USAID Mission Director, and Dr K M Fariduddin, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare.

21 arrested in city

Police arrested 21 people in the city yesterday on the 21st day of their month-long special drive, reports UNB.

The arrested were involved in serious crimes, including murder, terrorism and illegal possession of firearms.

Police also rounded up another 53 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges.

Workshop on 'Child Survival' inaugurated

The inauguration of the Third Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on 'Child Survival: People Making a Difference' was held at the Hotel Sonargaon, yesterday, says a press release.

Organised by the Save the Children (USA) Bangladesh Field Office, it was participated by representatives from 6 countries — India, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Vanuato and an organisation resource team from the Johns Hopkins University (USA).

Tom Krift, Director Save the Children (USA), welcoming the guests, stressed the need for strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of the human resource and to promote their ability to ensure survival and well-being of the children.

Richard M. Brown, the USAID Mission Director, focussed on the worldwide effort to improve child survival and the Clinton administration's priority and support in this area.

Programmes to observe Solidarity Day

The government has planned elaborate programmes to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7 with due respect and enthusiasm, reports BSS.

On the eve of the occasion, the President and the Prime Minister will give messages to the nation.

National flags will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings on the day. Milad mahfil will be held and special prayers offered in all mosques soliciting blessings of the almighty Allah for peace and progress of the nation. Special prayers will also be offered in all temples, churches and other religious places of worship for progress and prosperity of the nation.

Special and improved diets will be supplied to the inmates of hospitals, jails, orphanages, child homes and destitute centres.

The newspapers will publish special supplements while Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will put on air special programmes highlighting the significance of the occasion.

Shilpakala Academy will arrange sessions of patriotic songs in the afternoon while the cinema halls will screen documentary films for school children.

In some specific places of Dhaka city special bands will be played by members of Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR, Police, Ansar and VDP. The Ansar and VDP directorate in Dhaka will also arrange cultural functions. Besides, in the cities and towns including Dhaka, exhibition football matches will be arranged.

Public holiday will be observed on November 7 on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Enhancement of water tariff criticised

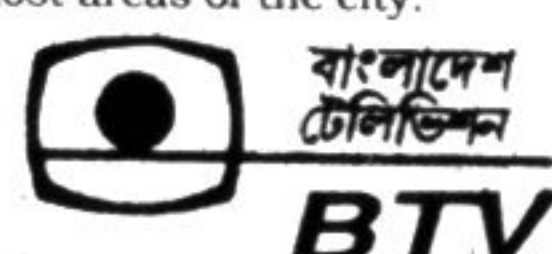
By Staff Correspondent

The Citizen's Vigilance Council (CIVIC) yesterday criticised the government for raising water charge by ten per cent saying, Dhaka WASA had done nothing significant in the recent past to justify the rate-hike.

In a joint statement president of CIVIC A K Faezul Huq and general secretary Mesbahuddin Sabu said, the rate-hike was most untimely and without any justification.

It said, the middle-class, the lower middle-class and the fixed income group would be the worst victims of the WASA rate-hike.

In contrast with the rate-hike, it said, the WASA was responsible for double-billing and irregular supplies of water in most areas of the city.



Monday

- 5:00 Opening announcement
- 5:10 Al-Quran
- 5:15 Programme summary
- 5:25 News in Bangla
- 5:30 Sports programme: Football, A.C Milan vs Lazio
- 6:25 Documentary film under the programme exchange among SAARC countries: Potter and Handicrafts of Bangladesh
- 6:50 Open University
- 7:20 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 A special programme on recent visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia: Bangladesh at Commonwealth Conference
- 9:00 Magazine: Balun Dekhi
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 A special programme on 'World Youth Day'
- 10:55 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

The weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Monday) says, the sky will remain cloudy over the coastal regions of the country and partly cloudy elsewhere.

The Met Office forecasts, meantime temporary light rain may occur at one or two places over the divisions of Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal and the region of Pabna while weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere.

The night temperature will remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 31.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and the lowest was 19.3 degrees in Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5.19 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.05 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and the maximum and the minimum relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.0	23.6	70	70
Chittagong	26.5	23.5	83	80
Rajshahi	29.9	21.3	83	81
Khulna	29.2	26.2	78	78
Barisal	28.8	23.6	90	90
Cox's Bazar	27.0	22.0	91	88
Sylhet	28.0	22.4	88	83
Dinajpur	31.0	19.3	66	62

Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

1. Tender Notice No. : 02-KRD/1993-94.
2. Name of work : 1) Construction of R.C.C. Box Culvert (2x6.10 Metre) span at 2nd K.M. of Patgram-Tinbigha Road and (2) Construction of R.C.C. Box Culvert (2x4.57 Metre) span at 7th K.M. of Patgram-Tinbigha Road under Road Division, Kurigram during 1993-94 (In 2 (Two) Groups).
3. Estimated cost. : As per tender schedule.
4. Earnest money : -do-
5. Time allowed : -do-
6. Eligibility of contractor : A to D Special category contractor of RHD within financial limit.
7. Name of offices where document will be available : Executive Engineer, (RHD), Road Division, Kurigram/Rangpur/Bogra/Rajshahi/Planning Division (Road & Bridges), Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Kurigram/Lalmohar.
8. Name of offices to receive tender bid : 1. Addl. Chief Engineer, (RHD), Rajshahi Zone, Rajshahi.
2. Superintending Engineer, (RHD), Road Circle, Rangpur/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
3. Executive Engineer, (RHD), Road Division, Kurigram/Rangpur/Bogra.
9. Last date of selling tender documents (within office hours) : Up to 8-11-93.
10. Last date and time of opening of tender : Up to 12.30 PM on 9-11-93.
11. Date & time of opening of bid : At 12.45 PM on 9-11-93.

Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Kurigram

DPP(G) 17524-28/10
G-1481



A S Mahmud, Managing Director of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star (foreground, second from right), addressing the journalists and staff of the newspaper at its office yesterday. On his left (with backs to camera) are Azimur Rahman and Latifur Rahman, Directors of the company. Mahfuz Anam, the new Editor, is seen on the extreme right. Star photo

Road projects : Progress 8pc till September

Roads and Road Transport Division of the Ministry of Communications is implementing 38 development projects throughout the country at a cost of Tk 1074.50 crore, reports UNB.

Of the projects under ADP and NICAR fund, 35 are being implemented by Roads and Highways Department at a cost of Tk 1032 crore, two by Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority at a cost of Tk 35 crore and a single project by BRTC at a cost of Tk 7.5 crore.

From the fund allocated to the Roads and Highways Department, the highest-ever quantum will be spent for constructing roads, highways and bridge and other infrastructure projects.

A quarterly meeting of the Ministry of Communications held yesterday with Communications Minister Oli Ahmad in the chair reviewed the progress of the development projects and was apprised that about 8 per cent progress had been made till September 30.

The Communications Minister took stock of the entire gamut of the development projects and instructed all concerned to do their best to implement the aided and other projects in time.

He also cautioned against 'cost overrun and time overrun' and directed the implementing

agencies to start works at the beginning of the dry season with a fixed time-frame.

Secretary of the Roads and Road Transport Division Syed Rezaul Hayat, heads of subordinate departments and representatives of the Implementation Monitoring Evaluation Division (IMED) and the Planning Commission attended the meeting.

School teacher killed in road mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A school teacher was killed in a road accident at the north-east corner of Mottijheel Post Office High School in the city yesterday morning.

The victim, assistant headmaster of the school, Moham-mad Shahjahan, 38, was run over by a speeding bus while he was crossing the road on the way to school around 9 am.

Fatally injured Shahjahan was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries around 5 pm.

Mottijheel police arrested the bus driver Ataur Rahman and seized the bus (Dhaka B-2677), said police.

Eye bank inaugurated in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 31: An eye bank and tissue processing centre in collaboration with the International Federation of Eye Banks of USA was established at Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

Industries Minister A M Zahuruddin Khan formally inaugurated the centre at a simple ceremony.

With the establishment of this centre, cornea preservation, processing and restoration would be possible according to the latest international standard. This processing centre would be able to preserve cornea lively for a long period.

In his inaugural speech, the industries minister said, blindness is one of the major health and social problems in the country. He said there are at least a million blind people in this country and a great majority of these blindness can either be prevented or cured provided timely and appropriate intervention can be made.

Mayor, Chittagong City Corporation Mir Md Nasruddin, chief executive officer and chairman of Tissue Bank International and International Federation of Eye Banks (IFEB), Frederick N Griffith, Professor Dr Rabiul Hossain and Professor Dr H N Amin also spoke on the occasion.

Death anniversary of Fani Bhushan observed

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad yesterday called for building a strong movement against communalism for banning communal politics in the country, reports UNB.

The 5th and 8th amendments to the constitution were the basis of communal politics in the country, the Awami League presidium member said while speaking at the seminar on 'Fundamental Principles of the 72 Constitution and Communalism' at the National Museum auditorium.

The Fani Bhushan Majumder Smriti Sangsad organised the seminar to mark the 12th death anniversary of the noted politician and former minister. It was presided over by sangsad president and journalist Santosh Gupta.

103rd Birth Anniversary



late Abdul Aziz Khan
November 1, 1890-April 26, 1972

With fond memories and pride, we remember, on this 103rd birth anniversary of Late Khan Saheb Abdul Aziz Khan of Pabna, the many social and humanitarian services he rendered to the people of Pabna.

Tanveer Aziz Khan
Ahmed Raihan Khan
Taneem Aziz Khan



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Mr Mrs Miss Other Title

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