

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Diggers and Repairers

by Parveen Anam

The Dhakaite is a breed about to become extinct. And if he has not yet realized it, he better did so fast. Or perhaps he does not admit it publicly. Actually that might be just his manifestation of an escapist mentality. Escape from the hoodlums who patrol the streets turning them into havens only for those who matter, or escape from the ingredients which would make life so intolerable that he would at last think it fit to end it all and jump into the Buriganga, cement blocks round his ankles. Pretty desperate scenario I paint. I am afraid.

But the scenario is only made desperate by the powers themselves. And the Dhakaite, poor soul, pays the price. How else can we of the beleaguered species, ever open the newspaper early in the morning to be informed in 'no uncertain terms' by the city fathers that henceforth, the strips of metal which he, the city father laughing calls a road, will be a delight to the eye and will all be completed and shining in 15 days' time. All to a round of public applause of course, by his little minions. However, we the ordinary sort breathe a sigh of relief and say "Bless his soul." Oh, and he also orders the opening of files on each and every road that will be constructed in the beloved city. A lot of files there, mind you. But then it provides employment. I guess for the ranks of the unemployed who will be engaged at the tax payers' expense to (a) carry the files back and forth between the office desks and (b) charge the same tax-payer money, to do so. Ah well. That is neither here nor there. Roads it is we want to discuss here, please.



So, as we are cruising along on the biggest and most magnificent road the country has to offer, when it is not being rented out, full of lofty ideals and noble thoughts, we are met with the horrific sight of the diggers, in close competition with the builders, who have just departed, having fixed the damage done by the renters of the road. And quite a poor job they have done, apparently, by the way your car and rickshaw bumps along the holes which were dug there for the poles of the meeting.

However, back to the road. You do a double take and pull up short, stuttering and stammering. "But — but, the road has just been fixed" and the mayor did promise to fix all the roads within fifteen days' you manage to garble in indignation, because you can just visualize the finance bill, with a fatter road tax, presented by the esteemed gentleman in charge of the finances, at the end of the fiscal year, or whatever they like to call these things. The little chaps seem to be completely oblivious of everything and everybody, most certainly the directives of the guardians of the city precincts. What is the idea behind the rhetorics of fixing the roads when even as the grand declarations are being made and the road rollers creating mayhem on the city roads, trying to fix them during the peak hours, because they must sleep during the nights, the diggers are creating mayhem on the other end, by digging up everything that has just been fixed? Meanwhile of course, we the ordinary mortals grind our teeth and bear it. Or try to till election time.



A rush of visitors at the last day yesterday of two-day computer show at Hotel Sonargaon organized by the Bangladesh Computer Society. — Star photo

BCS computer show ends

By Staff Correspondent

Visitors in large numbers poured into the Sonargaon Hotel on the concluding day of the two-day computer exhibition forcing the hotel authorities to take special security measures yesterday.

Organisers said that some 40,000 people visited the exhibition but the rush was comparatively higher yesterday than the previous day. The hotel authorities closed some of the entrance inside the hotel to check the visitors' movement.

"We are surprised at the response of the people," Abdullah H Kafi, convener of the organising committee of the exhibition told The Daily Star.

The Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) organised the fair where some 48 companies have participated. Another BCS member, Ciproco, organised a separate exhibition at the nearby hall room after it failed to manage space in the exhibition.

"We had no idea about the awareness of the people about computer," Kafi said adding that "we should have doubled our space to facilitate the visitors."

The visitors — men, women and children — had to squeeze through their way at the fair and it would take several minutes and enormous efforts to reach a stall.

The visitors, however, felt comfortable at the Ciproco stall as it was spacious.

The centrally controlled air conditioning system of the five-star hotel apparently remain inoperative because all the four doors were kept open for the visitors.

"It was possibly the highest ever turnout in any function at the hotel," a hotel employee, who as on duty to check the visitors' movement told The Daily Star.

Expressing the feeling President of the BCS, Sajjad Hossain said "it is encouraging and tiring."

He said that the BCS would organise such exhibition regularly in future.

"All the computing solution under one roof" was the slogan of the exhibition, which most of the visitor agreed.

'Make people conscious about malnutrition'

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called for an effective campaign in the society to make the people conscious about malnutrition particularly among the rural poor, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a 3-day Bangladesh Nutrition Conference at the Central Public Library auditorium in the morning. Prof Chowdhury said that lack of consciousness about malnutrition has been causing serious health hazards for mother and children in the country. This problem, he pointed out, is more acute in the villages where most of the people are illiterate.

Presided over by Dr A J M Omar Faruque, president of the Bangladesh Nutrition Society, the inaugural session was addressed, among others, by World Bank Representative in Bangladesh Philip Goweus, UNICEF Representative Dr Than O K Minp, secretary of the society M A Mannan.

Badruddoza Chowdhury mentioned that due to lack of proper knowledge, among the rural poor, the malnutrition problem has become one of the major social problems. He said if mothers suffer from malnutrition their children are sure to be sick. Therefore, he sought effective campaign particularly by the media, to educate the people about dangers of malnutrition.

Referring to the situation in the rural areas Prof B Chowdhury who is also a leading physician observed that about 90 per cent of the mothers and children in the villages are suffering from malnutrition mainly due to their ignorance.

He also called for overcoming the superstitions about food habit or requirement for which women in particular suffer.

There should not be any discrimination between men and women with regard to food in the interest of active presence of women in the society.

Attempt on Mizan Chowdhury's life condemned

Former minister and Vice Chairman of Jatiya Party Mahbubur Rahman yesterday condemned the "attempt on the life" of party's acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and "state patronised" violence in JP meetings, reports UNB.

25 double-deckers on city routes

Twenty-five out of 30 newly-imported double-deckers by BRTC have already been put into operation on different city routes, reports BSS. The routes are Gullistan-Tongi Station Road, Gullistan-Gabtol and Gullistan-Mirpur, Section-2. A total of 12 buses will ply on Gullistan-Mirpur, Section-2 route via Mirpur, Section-1 while eight buses will operate on Gullistan-Gabtol route.

Branch Shifting

NCC Bank's English Road branch has been shifted from 10/2 English Road, Dhaka to the following address with effect from the 27th November, 1993, 13 Augrahan 1400 Bangla:

Hazi Yusuf Mansion
56, Mitford Road
Babubazar, Dhaka

Our esteemed clients and wellwishers are requested to contact and transact at the new premises.

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Bank Service with a touch of heart

BSP's concern over nominations by Press Council

The Bangladesh Sangbad-patra Parishad (BSP) in a meeting held on Friday expressed grave concern at the nominations given to its dissent group of newspapers in the reconstituted board of Press Council, reports UNB.

A press release issued yesterday by BSP said the dissent group of newspapers cannot legally represent BSP to any forum. "The nominations to this group have been given without the knowledge of the legally constituted BSP. The nominations given by Press Council without intimating BSP is considered highly illegal and a clear case of conspiracy against it."

If Press Council does not take step to rescind the "unilateral" nominations, BSP may be compelled to go for legal action.

It further stated that the meeting took a serious view of the government's advertisement policy which is "detrimental" to a sound growth and expansion of newspaper industry as a whole.

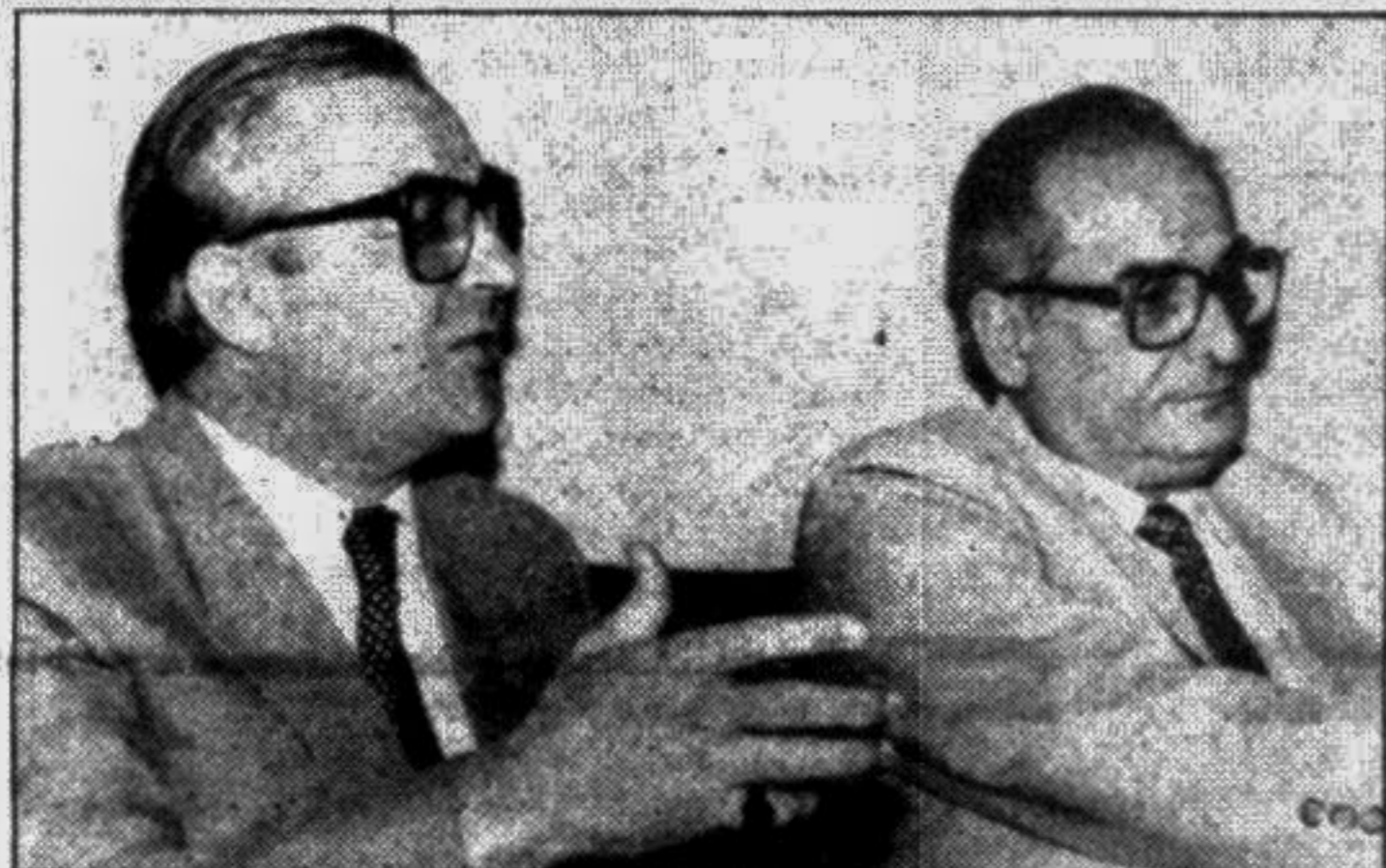
BSP, according to the press release, proposes a meeting to be attended by national newspapers and news agencies as well as regional dailies and weeklies for discussion and final formulation of a comprehensive advertisement policy reflecting consensus of the newspaper industry as a whole.

The meeting also invited all newspapers to apply for BSP membership.

It also plans to hold a meeting with newspaper agents to sort out all problems relating to newspaper distribution and commission.

The meeting was attended by Enayetullah Khan, Secretary General of BSP, Liaqat Ali, Elthamas Kabir, Mahfuz Anam, Atiquallah Khan Masood and Barrister Mainul Hossain.

President of BSP Col (Rtd) Shahed Ahmed was in the chair.



Outgoing Romanian Ambassador in Dhaka Dumitru Mociocu (left) briefing newsmen on the National Day of Romania which will be observed on December 1. Ambassador-designate Liviu Radu sitting beside him. (Story on P-12) — Star photo



2.15 Opening announcement. Al-Quran
Programme summary
2.30 Live telecast of the singles final of the Gold Leaf ITF from the Ramna Tennis Complex.
5.15 News in Bangla
5.35 Cartoon show: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
5.55 Sports Programme: Wrestling
6.25 Population programme: Mayeder Janya
6.55 Open University
7.25 Rabindra Sangeet
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Probaho
9.00 Drama series: The Sword Of Tipu Sultan
10.00 News in English
10.30 Surbani
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Tomorrow's programme

Obituary

Retired Assistant Director of the Department of Industries Syed Abdur Razzaque died of Hepatitis at BIRDEM Hospital at 2-30 pm yesterday. He was 73, reports BSS.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy over the southern part of the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Saturday, Met office forecasts.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry during the period across the country, it says.

Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over Bangladesh, it adds.

The highest temperature of the country Saturday 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Feni and the lowest 15.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5-10 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6-23 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday are as follows:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.0	17.2	86	78
Chittagong	29.7	17.0	82	61
Rajshahi	29.7	16.2	86	82
Khulna	29.3	15.8	78	78
Barisal	29.8	16.2	87	80
Cox's Bazar	30.5	19.0	72	70
Sylhet	29.2	17.6	66	59
Dinajpur	29.0	15.8	73	74

115 held on various charges

Police rounded up 115 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, eight were wanted criminals, five under the Anti-Terrorism Act, three on charge of robbery, one for kidnapping and four for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

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