

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Developing Trading Tricks to Magical Perfection

by Neil Ray

Most of the seasonal fruits have a mouth-watering appeal. The tropical ones, in particular, known for their mellow ripeness and juicy deliciousness, have in some of them disproportionate share of an acid called tartaric that is indeed provokingly salivating. Leave alone those highly tempting fruits like green mangoes and tamarind, there are other more exotic ones. Cane fruits (betel) are so cute and irresistibly appealing to the palate that those sell like hot cakes at New Market. Deua and Cau are some of the little known but many varieties of our fruit species. Kamranga and Kad-bet have by this time earned quite a popularity with the city people.

Until recently however not all these fruits were given a high rating. Now people have become fruit-minded to a large extent, thanks to the various campaigns carried on by government and non-government agencies. The fruits that were looked down as the ones for the poor people's palate and purse have suddenly gained a grading a few notches higher. So have their prices registered a gradual move upwards. Nor there is any reason to think that these indigenous fruits are abundantly available. The little quantity produced in villages invariably makes its way into the more demanding market of the city.

So the growing interests of people in fruits have not been matched by adequate production of fruits. Even in the city, fruit markets are few and far between. Sometimes one has to spend more on transport to reach a fruit market than on the actual purchase of the fruits of one's choice. And the fruit vendors are taking full advantage of this situation where more demands than supply can match with, tips the balance in favour of the sellers. In fact, like fish vendors, fruit sellers also have developed a trading art of their own.

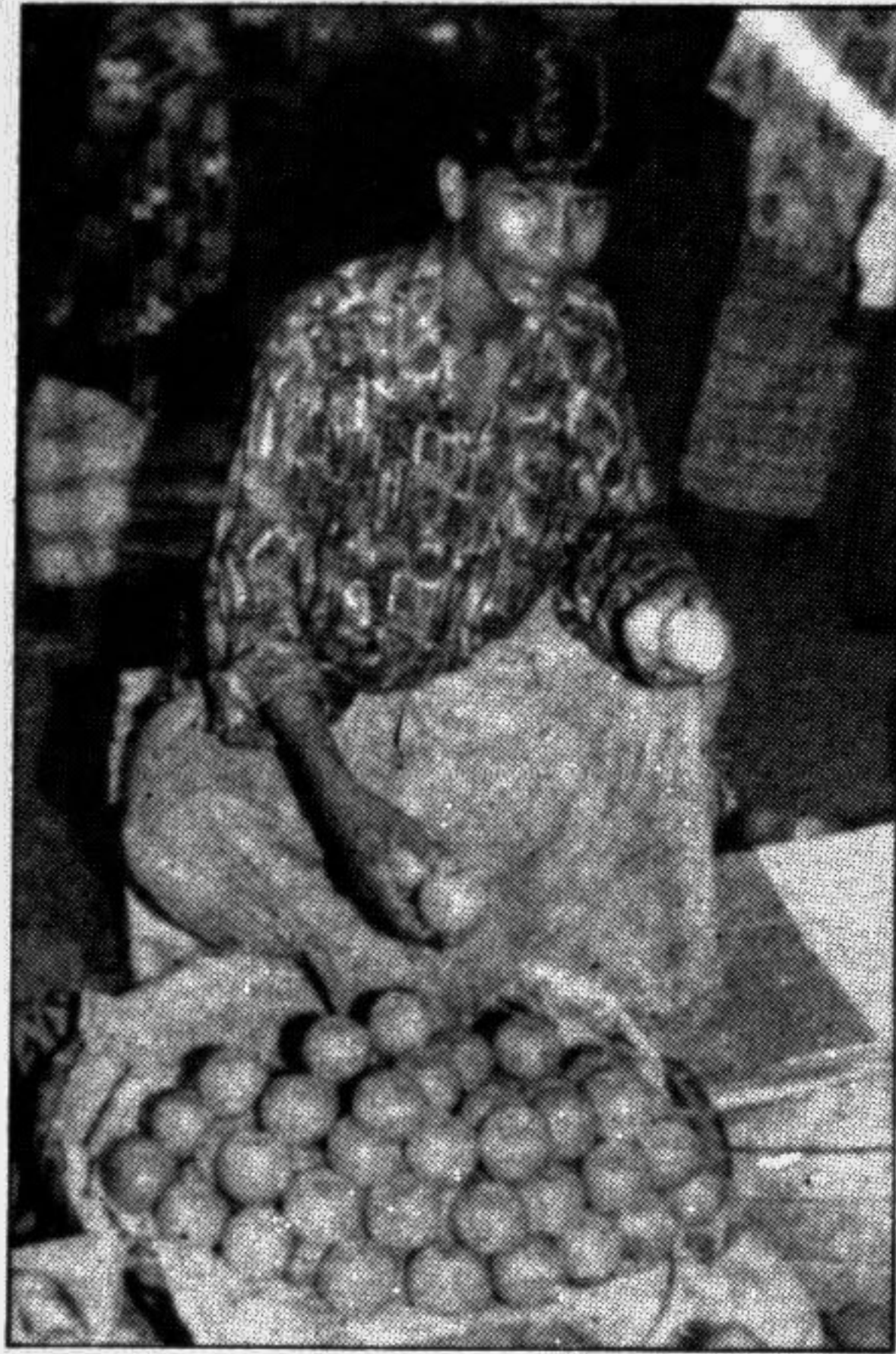
For example, the liches have just arrived in the market and nobody minds if the price of these temporary delicacies is somewhat forbidding. Those who cannot afford perhaps wait a while before the price comes down a little. But the high price is not the only snag.

The vendors have perfected their art almost to the point of magic. The will tie a bunch of 100 liches and swear that there are no fewer than what they are claiming it to be. To make you convinced of their good intention and honesty the vendors would even add a few extra in case one or two has come off the bunch. You come home and find to your utter surprise that the bunch has no more than 80, or if you are lucky, 90.

The higher the prices of fruits are the more widespread and greater the cheatings. Obviously, the imported fruits have offered the vendors to invent a whole range of trading techniques. It is exactly here that the fruit vendors have developed the art to magical perfection. Orange and apple are highly costly but there is no knowing what you will actually take home even though you have made a good bargain and taken a close look before making the purchase. The vendors would not like you to examine each of his fruits. If you buy a dozen of orange, the vendors would in his most innocuous way volunteer to make the dirty work of examining the fruits for you. He would even show the freshness of the fruits to you, displaying the perfect round skin of the fruits.

At home you come under a barrage of verbal attack for not looking at things before making any purchase. You wonder what has gone amiss! For you saw the vendor select all the good and wholesome ones for you. The thing you did not notice is the vendor's left hand which actually has exchanged the packet at the time of your paying from the money bag. Or perhaps he showed you the better side, keeping the other side hidden. The same is true to apples and other fruits where number matters. Many people are aware of this unethical business practices but you are one of the privileged class to buy and enjoy those costly fruits. Moreover, you are not a member of an organised group. So consider it a luck rather than making a protest. For you also can meet the fate of the young doctor who is no more. His fault was that he protested and the vendors fell on him, leaving him dead at Farmgate.

Appearances are Deceptive. — Star Photo



Official talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar were held at the state guest house Padma in the city yesterday. Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam and the visiting Myanmar Trade Minister Lt Gen Tun Kyi led their respective sides. (Story on Page 1) — PID photo

### SAARC workshop on S Asia's future from May 19

A two-day workshop on the role of regional cooperation in shaping South Asia's future will be held in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu from May 19 to 20, reports UNB.

Friedrich, a German foundation with regional offices in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka has organised the workshop. About one hundred participant from diverse disciplines will take part in the workshop aiming at forging a consensus on the means by which a stable future can be guaranteed for South Asia.

The conference is a follow-up to the two-day regional workshop which took place in Kathmandu in November 1993 on the theme, "South Asia: The Roads Ahead."

### Ahad's death condoled

By Staff Correspondent

Different organisations have condoled the death of Abdul Ahad, a celebrity in the musical arena of the country.

Ahad passed away Sunday noon at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital after a prolonged illness.

United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) Secretary General Syed Ahmed Hossain in a condolence message described Ahad as a great son of the country who dedicated his life for the development of music.

Hossain expressed his deep sympathy with the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

### WP observers Farakka Day

By Staff Correspondent

The Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday observed the Farakka Day demanding due share of the Ganges water.

The party workers laid siege to the thana administrative offices and banks in the districts as part of their programme, according to a press release.

The speakers at different rallies said those who wanted to be benefited politically keeping the Farakka issue alive did not want welfare of the country.

They alleged that no government had so far worked sincerely to solve the Farakka problem.

## Biswas for advanced technology transfer

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed the need for gradual transfer of knowhow and technology from the advanced countries for the benefit of the people in the developing countries, reports UNB.

"This is the era of technology... there should be gradual transfer of knowledge and technology from the advanced countries for the benefit of the people developing countries," he said while talking to a delegation of American college teachers and students.

Led by Prof Frederick Norling of Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, the delegation called on the President at the Bangabhaban.

The US undergraduate students are on a two-week orientation visit to Bangladesh under the auspices of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), an association of 14 well-known US universities and institutions of higher learning, represented by the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB).

### DU Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Dhaka University Alumni Association will be held on Friday, May 27, 1994 at 5:00 pm at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium at Babupara, Nilkhet. Election of executive committee members, besides other matters, will be held at the meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a cultural function and dinner. Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka is expected to grace the occasion as chief guest. Separate cards for the cultural function and dinner have to be obtained on payment. The rate is single Tk. 150.00 and couple Tk. 250. The following telephone numbers may be contacted for the purpose: 815119, 317366, 501329, 406633, 405021, 504797, 507627, 401100, 317035, 833204 & 882955.

All members of the Association and other interested old students of the university have been requested to attend.

Secretary General  
Dhaka University  
Alumni Association

D-397



### UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

#### NOTICE OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Ninth Annual General Meeting of United Insurance Company Limited will be held at Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka on Thursday, 23 June 1994 at 3.00 p.m. to transact the following business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 1993.
2. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1993 and the Auditors' Report thereon.
3. To declare dividend for the year 1993.
4. To elect Directors of the Company in the vacancies caused by retirement of the Directors as per Articles of Association of the Company.
5. To consider appointment of Auditors for the year 1994 and to fix their remuneration.
6. To transact any other business which may be placed before the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

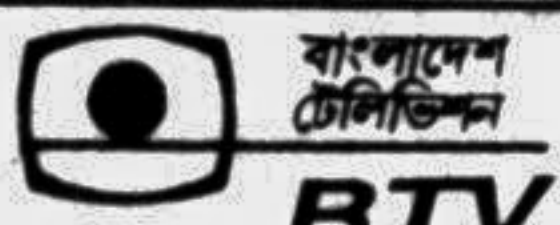
By order of the Board of Directors

M. Harunur Rashid  
Secretary to the Board of Directors  
& Executive Director

Dated, Dhaka  
17 May 1994

Notes:

1. A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting may appoint another member as his/her proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead.
2. The register of members and the share transfer register of the Company will remain closed from 04 June 1994 to 23 June 1994 (both days inclusive).
3. For the sake of convenience shareholders are requested to submit their queries on the Directors' Report/Audited Accounts for the year 1993, if any, at the Head Office of the Company (22, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka - 1000) preferably 72 hours before the day of the General Meeting.



### Tuesday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- 4:45 Al-Quran Programme summary
- 4:45 Mass education programme: Esho Para Shikhi
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Cartoon: Captain Planet
- 6:00 National TV debate competition
- 6:50 Open University
- 7:15 Musical programme: Sangeeta
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Fortnight drama serial: Etikatha
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Discussion on World Telecommunication Day
- 10:50 Film Show: Northern Exposure
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

### Promotion

Ghulam Mustafa has been promoted to Director of News of Radio Bangladesh from Director of Monitoring, reports UNB.

Starting his career as Sub-editor in the Central News Organisation of the then Radio Pakistan in Karachi, Mustafa has been serving Radio in various capacities, including News Editor, Regional Controller and Controller of News, a press release said yesterday.



Prof T A Chowdhury honoured

Prof T A Chowdhury, Director, Institute of Postgraduate Medicine and Research, Dhaka, has been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) of Edinburgh, UK, says a press release.

He is the first Obstetrician and Gynaecologist of this country to receive this honour, and is the only doctor in this country who is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Surgeons and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of UK.

Prof T A Chowdhury has also been honoured with the Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan recently.

**American Bangladesh Economic Forum:** The May Luncheon Meeting. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 1:00 pm.

**Rotary Club of Ramna:** Regular meeting. Guest Speaker: Prof Golam Mohiuddin of BUET. Subject: GATT — Its implication in Bangladesh. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30 pm.



The Bangladesh Chhatra Union held a colourful rally on the occasion of its 23rd national council in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Weather

#### Temperature may fall

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius throughout the country during the period.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 33.4 degrees Celsius and minimum 22.4 degrees while the country's highest temperature was recorded 38.2 in Jessore and the lowest 20.2 in Bogra.

Percentage of humidity was 70 in the morning and 89 in the evening.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6:34 pm and rises tomorrow Wednesday at 5:15 am.

## যত্ন করে লাগালে গাছ তাতেই ভাত তাতেই মাছ

প্রকৃতি আর গ্রাম পরস্পর নির্ভর। সবুজ শ্যামল জীবনের জন্য বৃক্ষ বাস্তব উপলব্ধি। কিন্তু মুখে যাচ্ছে এই সবুজের শ্যামলিমা। নিবিচারে বৃক্ষ-নিধনের ফলে প্রকৃতির ভারসাম্য বদলে যাচ্ছে। কড়, কঙ্কা, খরা আর গ্রাবনে দেশ আজ বিপর্যস্ত। একটি দেশের ২৫% বনভূমি হারা আবশ্যিক হলেও, আমাদের রয়েছে মাত্র ৮%। তাই আজ প্রয়োজন ব্যাপক বনাড়ন।

সরকারের দেশব্যাপী বনাড়ন কর্মসূচির সাথে একাত্ম হয়ে বিটিসি গত ১০ বছর ধরে বনাড়নের লক্ষ্যে প্রায় ১ কোটি ২৫ লক্ষ চারা রোপণ কিংবা বিনামূল্যে বিতরণ করেছে। এ বছরও বিটিসি ৩০ লক্ষ চারা বিতরণের পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেছে। বিনামূল্যে চারা এবং প্রয়োজনীয় পরামর্শের জন্য বিটিসি-র কুষ্টিয়া, ঝিনাইদহ, আশাশুনি, সুনামগঞ্জ, মেহেরপুর, মানিকগঞ্জ, রাঙ্গুনিয়া, রংপুর, পলাশবাড়ী, ঝালকাঠী কেন্দ্রে যোগাযোগ করুন।

একবার ভেবে দেখুন, আমরা প্রত্যেকে যদি একটি করে গাছ লাগাই, তবে এক বছরে ১১ কোটি গাছ লাগানো হয়ে যায়। এখনই সময়, আপনিও আপনার সহায়তার হাত বাড়িয়ে দিন। আমরা তো রয়েছি।



BANGLADESH TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED  
বাংলাদেশ টোব্যাকো কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

উন্নতমানের সিগারেট প্রস্তুতকারক

BTCL/93/18/94

### Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Comilla Road Division, Comilla, Phone-6156

### Notice Inviting Tenders (3rd Call)

1. Tender Notice No
2. Name of work : 166/E.E. RHD Road Divn, Comilla of during 1993-94.
3. Estimated cost : Tk. 6,00,129/-
4. Earnest money : Tk. 12,003/-
5. Name of office where tender bids will be received : Addl. Chief Engineer RHD, Comilla Zone, Comilla/ Superintending Engineer, RHD Road Circle, Comilla/Maintaining & Evaluation Circle R&H Dhaka & Office of the undersigned.
6. Name of office of availability of tender bids : Office of the undersigned/EE, RHD, Road Division, B.Baria/ Noakhali/ Chandpur /Lakshmipur/ Planning & Design Division Comilla/ Planning Division R&H Dhaka & all SDE's office under Division.
7. Time allowed : 30 (thirty) days.
8. Last date of selling of tender bids : 29-5-94/16-2-1401 during office hours.
9. Last date of receipt of tender bids : 12:30 PM of 30-5-94/17-2-1401.
10. Date & time of opening of tender bids : 12:45 PM of 30-5-94/17-2-1401.
11. Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "D" general category of contractor.

Gyasuddin Ahmed  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Comilla.

DFP (G) 9419-12/5  
G-846