

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Gulshan Sans its Shine

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Once not too long ago, the name 'Gulshan' which can be interpreted as a place radiant with flowers, evoked an image of genteel elegance and quiet beauty. Yet Gulshan of now, is neither elegant nor quiet. With the encroachment of commercial enterprises and indiscriminate construction, the residential area has become a centre of chaos and ugliness.

Several years ago, Bichitra magazine had a cover story on the snobbish areas of Gulshan and Banani where the elites of society showed off their bare backs and pedigree dogs on the streets and whizzed their sports cars from one end to the other in decadent frenzy. This Beverly Hills kind of scene has been replaced by one with worn-out trucks screaming their obnoxious horns, armies of whimsical rickshaws and stray, mad, dogs with unpredictable natures. The composition of pedestrians has also changed with scores of garment workers, day labourers and small-time traders thronging the streets.

rickshaws, cycles and people spilling out from the overcrowded bazaar. Even the police station looks shabby and lacadasical with battered vehicles lying around in the front.

What about the neighbourhood itself? The older houses that represent what may be termed as the 'old rich' as opposed to the 'new rich' have still retained some of their past elegance with their quaint gardens, exotic creepers and hanging plants. Those that once had a lakeview, however, can now look forward to storeys of hard cement, the not very attractive backside of highrise apartment buildings. This rude intrusion is all over Gulshan using every little space there is, blocking views, sunlight and the gentle breeze from the ever diminishing lakes.

The overcrowding of Gulshan is reflected in the numbers of people loitering around on the little inner roads, once the haven for walking. Most of these idlers are the hired help of expatriates and local elite. In fact, the inmates of the houses are seldom seen, either out of



This 'cultural revolution' would not have been such a bad thing if the area had been large enough to accommodate the increased numbers of people and if there had been some sort of planning as far as the construction of buildings is concerned. A cinema hall with its vulgar posters of deformed women standing right at the corner of Gulshan Number one has ensured an everlasting traffic problem with hundreds of rickshaws taking up more than half of the street corner, the rest of it being occupied by tempos, buses and scooters. This makes driving through the chaos quite an obstacle race as one dodges star-struck cinema goers cum jaywalkers, rickshaws with no sense of direction, cows which think the road is a pasture field, goats, dogs, cats, you name it.

Shabby hardware stores, small eating places known as 'hotels', barber shops and electronic repair shops decorate the lower half of the circular cinema hall, only adding to the general unkempt look. Garment factories are everywhere in this once quiet neighbourhood occupying the top floor of buildings with their tiny windows that resemble a prison. Aesthetics seems to be the last thing on the minds of builders of these monstrosities that dot the two ends of Gulshan.

Gulshan number 2 is just as worse. Buses stop where they are not supposed to stop, right outside a restaurant. The road that goes to Baridhara is cluttered with unruly

town, at coffee parties or locked up in some corner of the house in the world of video games and films. It is therefore the cooks, the darwans, drivers the kitchen helpers, far outnumbering their employers, who laze around outside the gates of the ivory towers playing cards but generally ogling at the nervous garment worker or any other female that passes by, either by car, rickshaw or foot.

This makes activities previously so pleasurable and unhindered like walking, jogging or cycling, a royal pain. After all, who wants to walk along the road with fifty pairs of eyes looking you up and down? Snooty, risque ladies with their snooty poodles, so fondly depicted in the Bichitra article, are therefore, an extinct species on these roads nowadays. It is only a few, who brave the roads for a morning jog or evening walk by pretending not to see the potholes, defective street lights and the endless line of gaping men.

The snob appeal of an area like Gulshan, is thus, rather weak inspite of all the expensive restaurants, stuck-up shopkeepers, embassies and foreign clubs. In fact, a large proportion of the elite have moved to higher planes, Baridhara. What is left is a Gulshan that has neither 'gul' (flowers) nor 'shaan' (grandeur) but a locality that is overcrowded, disorganised and increasingly inelegant. Perhaps the author of that satirical Bichitra article would like to take a second look.

### Merrill meets Razzak

The US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill called on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali at his office at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of bilateral interest.

### Noman visits Mostaque

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman yesterday went to the PG Hospital to see the condition of Mostaque Ahmed Chowdhury, MP, reports UNB.

Chowdhury was injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagang highway.

### 47 arrested

Police arrested 47 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, one was wanted criminal, three were held under the Arms Law and three for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.



Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman (R) and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam (L) signing two agreements on expanding bilateral cooperation and international affairs at the state guest house Meghna in the city yesterday. —PID photo

## Directive to introduce laminated driving licence

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed yesterday directed Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to take immediate steps for issuing laminated driving licences, reports UNB.

The directive came at the 28th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications at Sangsad Bhaban.

It was informed that the revenue earning of BRTA this year would rise up to Tk 60 crore.

The committee discussed the report presented by BRTA Chairman AHMB Zaman on the

overall activities of the organization.

The report disclosed that a good number of steps were underway to make the organization dynamic and improve the standard of customer-service, including setting up of 5 vehicle inspection centres in the country, updating the relevant laws as and where necessary through amendment and computerisation of registration and licensing.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, Whip Abdul Karim, Golam Mohammad Siraj MP (BNP) and Golam Hussain of Jatiya Party attended the meeting.

## Weather

### Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagang and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country. Day temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period.

Country's highest temperature was 35 degrees Celsius at Satkhira and the lowest 22.5 degrees at Dinajpur yesterday.

The Sun sets today (Friday) at 6:40 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:11 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures of some major cities recorded yesterday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.5	24.0	91	78
Chittagang	32.7	26.5	75	79
Rajshahi	33.5	24.5	78	66
Khulna	34.4	25.4	78	72
Barisal	30.0	23.7	98	79
Sylhet	31.4	24.7	85	80

### Govt college teachers meet Sircar

Leaders of the Bangladesh Government College Professors' and Lecturers' Associations held a meeting with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed the 12-point demands of the associations. The demands include promotion of the teachers against 20 per cent reserve quota in second phase by June 17, creation of new posts in 118 colleges, higher scale of pay for all levels of teachers and promotion of librarians and demonstrators.

Leaders of the Professors' Association Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman, Prof Badul Alam, Moyed Ahmed, Prof Mohiuddin and leaders of the Lecturers' Association Altaf Hossain and Abul Kalam Shamsuddin were, among others, present.



### Friday

#### Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Alor Dishari
- 8:35 Our Friends the Dolphin
- 9:00 Sports Programme: Khelar Jagot
- 9:20 Comedy series: Major Dad
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:15 Moner Mukurey
- 11:25 Film show: Taarzan
- 11:45 Prescription
- 11:55 Documentary: World Cup Football '94

#### Evening Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 3:15 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3:45 Bengali Feature Film: Duriya
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 6:50 Open University
- 7:20 Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Stranger
- 9:00 Ektarate Sur
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film show: L A Law
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

## Bangladesh's urban growth rate highest in Asia

Bangladesh's urban growth rate is the highest in Asia and it is growing by an average of 5 per cent every year, says a survey report of the United Nations, reports UNB.

There are 23 million urban dwellers in Bangladesh making up 20 per cent of the country's total population, according to statistics compiled by a number of survey groups of different UN bodies.

By the year 2001, the country's urban population will be more than 25 per cent, said the UN report prepared early this year.

The annual growth in the four major cities of Dhaka, Chittagang, Khulna and Rajshahi was calculated at 6 per cent.

In 1991, Dhaka's population was estimated at 6.95 million while Chittagang had 2.08 mil-

lion residents, Khulna 0.9 million and Rajshahi 0.51 million.

Showing migration as one of the major reasons for rapid growth in urban population, the UN report revealed that at least half of the growth rate is being fuelled, by migration from the countryside.

Most of the people migrate from rural areas with a hope of getting more work in the cities. Disasters also play a part — 20,000 people are made homeless every year through each natural hazard and come to the cities to seek emergency shelter.

The migration also took place in the urban areas having the best job prospects because around one-third of the country's manufacturing industries are in the cities and towns.

The survey further revealed that the migrants tend to go to

place where they already have relatives, and this 'chain migration' polarises city growth.

It found that although the migration had been taking place in the urban areas from the countryside with the idea of working in the city factories or offices, but in practice, a very few rural immigrants get jobs in the formal sector.

The most pressing issue for the urban poor is housing. When 95 per cent people of the rural areas own houses, in urban areas, this falls to 60 per cent, and for Dhaka only 30 per cent, the report said.

About 30 per cent of the urban dwellers are considered to be "hard-core" poor.

The UN survey further revealed that Dhaka slums offer only 30 square feet per person and they rarely have access to safe water or sanitation.



### KARNAPHULI FERTILIZER COMPANY LIMITED (KAFCO)

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) invite sealed offers for supply of:

1. Structural Materials, Fabrication and installation of Warehouse M.S. Racks.
2. Bin Boxes - G.P. Sheet and wooden.
3. Lockers, Reagent shelf, Tool Cabinet and Steel Almirah.

For the KAFCO Fertilizer Factory, Rangadia, Chittagang.

Tender documents containing schedule of jobs to be performed including other terms and conditions will be available in KAFCO's Dhaka office at 90-91 Motijheel Commercial Area, Uttara Bank Building (15th Floor) and Kashfia Plaza (2nd Floor), 923/A, Sk. Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagang, on all working days against payment of Tk 500/- (Taka Five hundred) in cash for each enquiry package (non-refundable) during office hours. No document shall be sold on the day of closing of the tender.

Interested reputed Engineering workshops who can arrange power generators so that they are able to fabricate the Racks at site and finish the jobs within 90 (ninety) days are invited to participate in the tender. It is to be noted by all concerned that this notice includes 3 (three) separate independent packages and the bids received against each package shall be evaluated separately for awarding an order. The last date and time for submission of the tenders is 15th June, 1994 at 11:00 hours.

The tender must be addressed to Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (ATTN: General Manager, Purchasing) 90-91 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka and should be submitted at the same address within the specified time. The tenders will be opened in public immediately after closing time in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives.

KAFCO reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

## রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ

সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, যানবহান দপ্তর  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

### পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকের নিম্নলিখিত ১০টি গাড়ী "বেথানে বে অবহার আছে" তিথিতে নিম্নে বিক্রয়ের জন্য আর্থী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারী কর্তৃক সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং	গাড়ীর ধরন	সিটি	মডেল/ক্রয়ের সাল	বেথানে রাখিত আছে
১।	ঢাকা-১৩৫৪	হেভা সিটি	১১৭৮ সিটি	১৯৯২ ইং	হাবহার পূ, ঢাকা। (ই-শাহাদী কলোদী)
২।	ঢাকা-১৩৫৫	-২-	-২-	-২-	-২-
৩।	ঢাকা-১৩৫৬	-২-	-২-	-২-	-২-
৪।	ঢাকা-১৩৫৭	-২-	-২-	-২-	-২-
৫।	ঢাকা-১৩৫৮	-২-	-২-	-২-	-২-
৬।	ঢাকা-১৩৫৯	-২-	-২-	-২-	-২-
৭।	ঢাকা-১৩৬০	মাল্লা কর	১৩০০ সিটি	১৯৭৭ ইং	-২-
৮।	ঢাকা-১৩৬১	-২-	-২-	-২-	-২-
৯।	ঢাকা-১৩৬২	ডটমাল কর	১০০০ সিটি	১৯৭৮ ইং	-২-
১০।	ঢাকা-১৩৬৩	ট্রেটরি কলো	১৫০০ সিটি	১৯৬৭ ইং	-২-

এক বা একাধিক গাড়ীর জন্য আর্থী ক্রেতাদের দরপত্র সমূহ আর্থী ১৩ই জুন, ১৯৯৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১০-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৩৪, সিলকুয়া বা/এ, ঢাকা এই ঠিকানায় রাখিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে প্রদান করা হবে এবং ঐ দিন বেলা ২-০০ টিঃ এর সময় দরপত্রের সমূহ (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) বেলা হবে। দরপত্রগুলি ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করা যাবে, তবে রেজিষ্ট্রেশন সমূহ অবশ্যই দরপত্র বেলায় তারিখ অবশ্যই বেলা ১০-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সঠিক বিজ্ঞপ্তি হস্তান্তর হতে হবে। অন্যথায় তাহা প্রদানযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে না। প্রত্যেক গাড়ীর জন্য পৃথক পৃথকভাবে দরপত্র উল্লেখ করতে হবে। দরপত্র উল্লেখিত টাকার ১০% হারে আনুমানিক তকসীলি ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডার/ডিমান্ড ড্রাকট রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ-এর অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হবে। আনুমানিক ব্যতিরেকে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অনুকূলে দরপত্রের আনুমানিক সমস্তমত কোন সেরা হবে। দরপত্র পূর্ণ বা আংশিক পূর্ত হওয়ার পর নির্বাচিত সরদারদেরকে ব্যাংক হতে পর দেওয়ার পর দরপত্র উল্লেখিত টাকার অবশিষ্ট ৯০% সম্পূর্ণ পরিমাণে করে ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে গাড়ী গাড়ীগুলি জেলিভারী দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় আনুমানিক ব্যতিরেকে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। ব্যাংকের কোন কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী কোনভাবেই সঠিক দরপত্র গ্রহণ প্রদান করতে পারবে না। ব্যাংক কর্তৃক কোন কারণে সঠিক বিজ্ঞপ্তি হতে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র পূর্ণ আংশিক গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করলে।

(এম.আই. চৌধুরী)  
উপ-সহকারী/সহকারী

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