

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Proud but Lonely Krishnachura

by Parveen Anam

The famous saying, "The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on...." brings memories flooding back to those of us who have been around in this beloved city of Dhaka for a while.

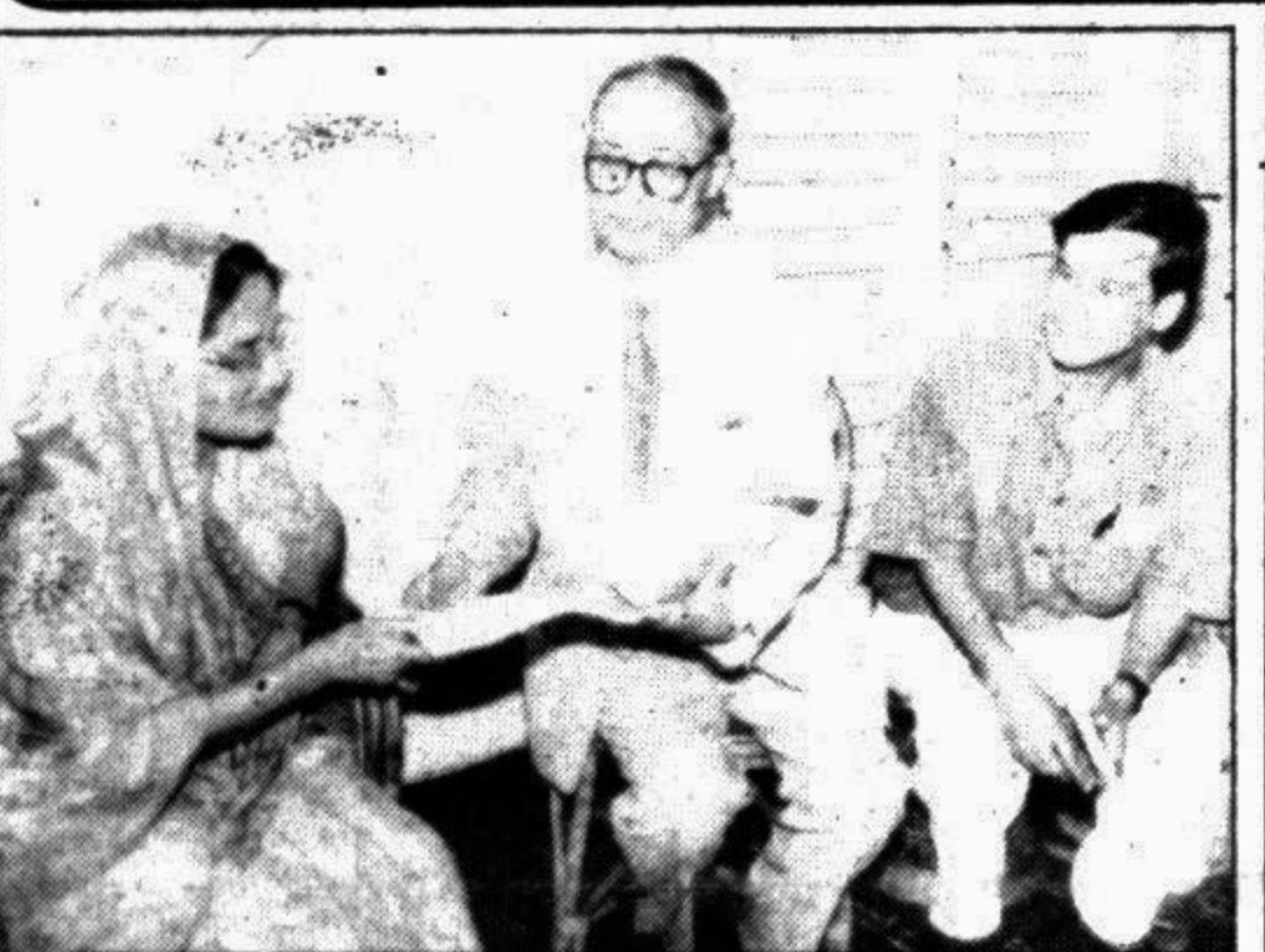
The Dhakaite, trodden upon, smashed apart, (remember those cars being smashed?) caught up for hours in the traffic snarls, is a mute sufferer. His complaints are few and he demands even less. Perhaps that is why he suffers. And gets taken for a ride. By the beloved 'Authorities' so gallantly elected to public office, with promises made to be broken as soon as they are elected. But that again is a different story. Let us here concentrate on things that are. Or were.

Every major city has a landmark it is proud of. And Dhaka till the mid-seventies could be justly proud of its magnificent Krishnachura, a riot of flame orange from the present-day Sheraton Hotel, right past the Radio Office upto the Police Station at Ramna. A walk down

Majestic Krishnachura in bloom.

Courtesy: Pragati Insurance Limited.

that road was a joy. And a 'thing of beauty is a joy forever'; however, the 'forever' in this case was unfortunately struck down or rather, cut down by self-appointed guardians of the country in the guise of 'government'. Perhaps the people responsible for that criminal act, of cutting down the rows of the proud Krishnachura, should be rounded up and brought to trial. That would of course deter future govern-



Dr Nurul Islam, National Professor and president of Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation, submitting a memorandum to the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in the city yesterday.

Media can help reduce number of smokers

By Staff Correspondent

Adhunik, an anti-smoking organisation, yesterday urged the mass media to launch all-out campaign against tobacco which is affecting health of some two crore people of the country.

"Somewhere in the world one person is dying every 12 seconds because of diseases caused by smoking. In the year 2000, it is estimated, more than 20 million people will die annually because of tobacco-related diseases," said National Professor and president of Adhunik Dr Nurul Islam at a press conference in the city yesterday.

"In Bangladesh, some two crore people smoke, among whom about 50 lakh are women. Another 50 lakh women will be added to this number as they are addicted to chewing tobacco," he added.

The press conference, held at the National Press Club, was addressed by secretary general

Azad Rahman enthrals German audience

Azad Rahman, noted composer and music director of the country, enthralled German audience on Sunday with recitations of Raga on piano at a concert at the Augustinum Theatre in Bad Neuenahr, 50 kms from Bonn, reports UNB.

According to a message received here yesterday, the Orchestra of Ahrweiler Music School also played compositions by Azad Rahman. Azad Rahman accompanied on the tabla. Rahman also presented a composition on harmonium.

The German audience repeatedly expressed their appreciation of this presentation by the noted artiste which seeks to build a bridge between Eastern and Western music.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh to Germany A H Mahmood Ali and the Mayor of Bad Neuenahr were present.

Azad Rahman is expected to present his recitals to audiences in Bremen, Grieswald, Frankfurt and Vienna.

80 held in city

Police rounded up 80 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

NGO Forum workshop held

In such situations, the mass media can provide great help. The newspapers may avoid cigarette advertisements and print human interest stories depicting the harmful effects of tobacco," he said.

"Radio and TV, which reach the illiterate people easily, can broadcast interesting programmes on the harmful effects of smoking 'bidi', or chewing tobacco," Chowdhury said.

He was speaking at a national workshop titled the 'Role of Partner NGOs in Social Mobilisation for Sanitation' organised by the NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation held in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Dr T V Luong, Sanitation Coordinator of UNICEF and Fariduddin Ahmed Mia, Superintending Engineer, DPHE were present as special guests. S Pereira presided over the inaugural session while the concept paper was presented by S M A Rashid, Director and Qazi Mahbubul Hasan, Information Officer of NGO Forum also spoke.

Dr A M S Hoque, Project Director (SOCMOB), DPHE, speaking at a workshop on the Role of Partner NGOs in Social Mobilisation for Sanitation in the city's Lalmoni area yesterday.

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