

Dhaka Day by Day

If You Can't Beat 'em, Join 'em!

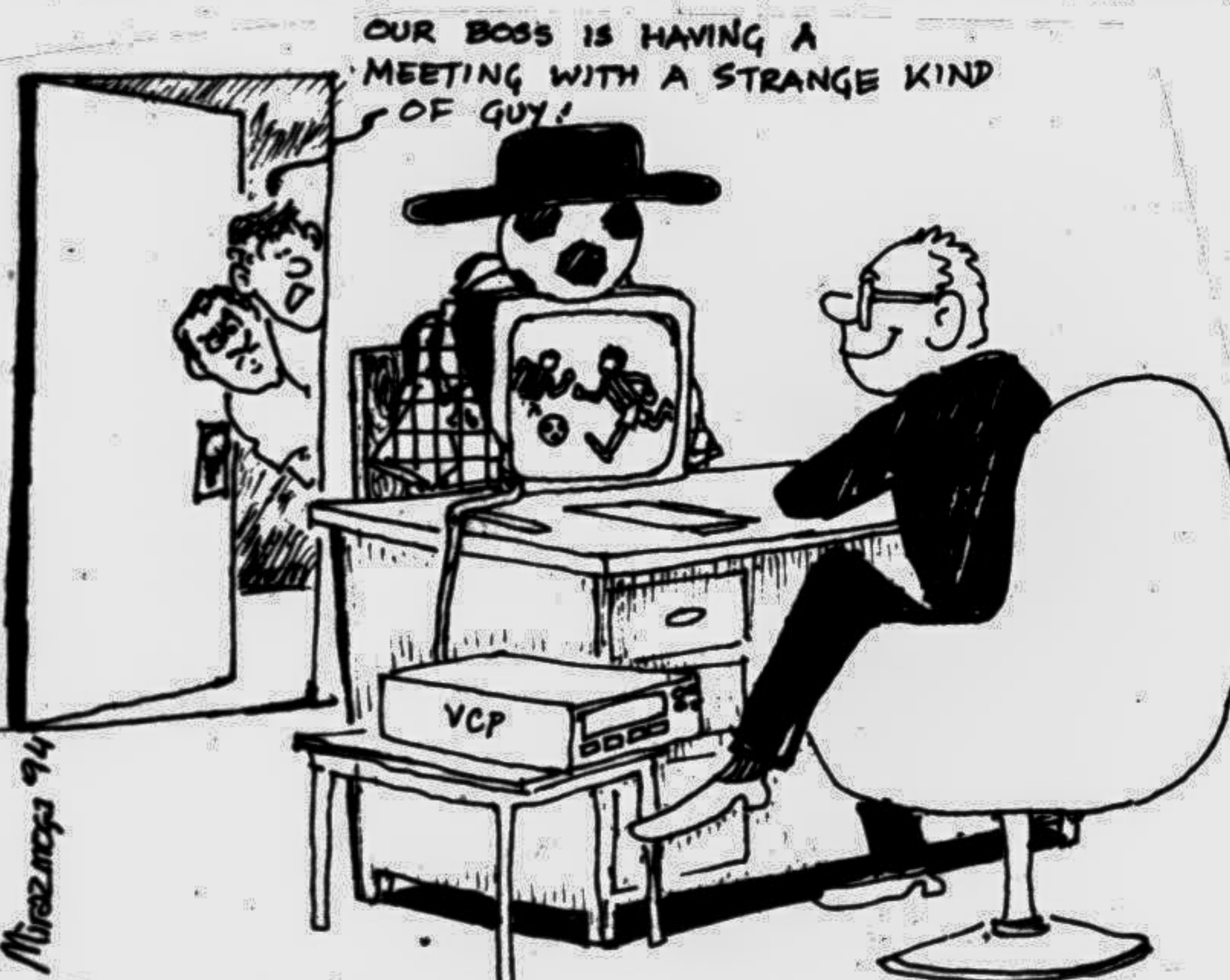
by Aasha Mehreen Amin

A viral fever has hit Dhaka city, attacking its residents with a merciless force. Yet another kind of epidemic has arrived here and perhaps the world over with equal virulence. This is nothing other than the World Cup Football fever that has seeped into every house and every building that has a TV set. The effect of the World Cup craze has an almost revolutionary flavour, creating both euphoria and devastation. Family members may come close together to watch the matches being telecast, thanks to BTV while others may fall out of favour if they support rival teams. Never before (except during the last World Cup Football perhaps) has Dhaka been more alive at night and more dead in the day.

The symptoms of this fever manifested themselves long before the games were about to start. It all began with people going into a frenzy trying to procure the box that would make or break their dreams. The stadium market, for example was jam-packed with buyers, some who were willing to sell even the

complete transformation takes place. All of a sudden frowns become clear, smiles and faces animated and full of expression. Even your grumpy, sour faced peon, and mind you every office has one, will grin as he says 'Actually I, unlike others supported Romania. I knew they were going to win!'. 'I can't believe Colombia didn't win,' says a disappointed fan, 'it's all because of that stupid goal keeper. Did you see how he fouled up?' The others nod their heads vigorously and give their own interpretations for the failure of the Colombians. Thus the conversations go on, all animosity and irritability forgotten. In the sea of speculations, condemnations and decisions on who the best or worst team is.

The World Cup Football competition is also a time of great tolerance and cooperation. BTV, as already mentioned, has been kind enough to show all the games, no matter how unearthly the hour. PDB (Power Development Board) has kept its promise, so far at least, of providing



shirts off their backs, figuratively speaking that is, to buy a television set. TV sales skyrocketed and business was booming for the electronics shops. Some borrowed, others rented and still others perhaps, robbed, until every football fan in the city — and this is a formidable number — was able to sit in front of the tube on 17th June to watch the grand opening of the 15th World Cup Football.

Now that the great event has already begun, nothing can keep away the football fanatic from experiencing that unique flow of adrenalin as his favourite player fights his way towards the goal.

All of a sudden night becomes like day with endless cups of tea, coffee, sodas, junk food and the warm feeling of sharing with one's friends or relatives, that priceless moment of glory — or the cold dread of disappointment. Shouts of 'yes!' 'come on!' and 'g-o-a-l!' from lighted houses reverberate at night drowning the crickets, the owls or even the stray mongrel's suspicious bark.

Just as the night is gay, so is the day dull and dreary. Office goers have to drag themselves to work where they arrive doozy-eyed and irritable. Files may get misplaced and documents mixed up with junk mail in the haze of stupor. While the big bosses may have the luxury of arriving at the office in the middle of the afternoon after a quick nap, the peons and the darwans have little option except to move about zombie-like with baggy eyes and scruffy faces until of course the magic word 'football' is uttered, even in a whisper. It is then that a

uninterrupted electricity during the matches although perhaps this is also from the fear of creating major riots. Friends and foes alike have shown great comradeship keeping each other company while viewing the games.

There is however, a minority group that has the status of atheists if exposed, for being completely disinterested in this 'silly obsession' with World Cup Football. For these non enthusiasts, the event is a big pain. Those who are defiant enough to declare their infidelity (to the sport that is,) run the risk of being ostracized and isolated. For it is sheer blasphemy to say in this 'football worshipped' land — 'I really don't care who wins. I just wish it were over.' Moreover, since the World Cup Football represents no doubt, a male-dominated sight, there are many women especially the wives of football freaks who find it extremely hard to keep their cool when their husbands thump their fists on the table and scream 'Gooo all!' at the top of their lungs in the middle of the night when sleep is so delicious. Most wives deal with the situation in one of two ways: Either scream equally loudly 'I want to sleep!' and thump their own fists on their spouses' heads — or, splash some cold water on their own faces and become converts. Needless to say, the second option has, so far, been more successful having fewer, less explosive, repercussions. After all, if you can't beat 'em, the best thing to do is join 'em!



A procession was brought out in the city yesterday commemorating the holy Ashura.

— Star photo

Police trying to rescue 20 kidnapped children

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury informed Parliament yesterday that police is trying to trace out 20 children, reportedly kidnapped by child traffickers, reports UNB.

Responding to a call notice from Farida Rahman, the minister said that Ramna thana police is investigating the matter and making all out efforts to rescue the children reported missing.

The present government is determined to curb crime, he said adding that the trend of crime is declining in the country.

Police recovered 200 people, including 86 children during 1993.

The Home Minister informed the House that there were 19 trafficking cases in

1993. Charge-sheet was submitted against 12 of the cases while investigation was in progress in the remaining seven cases.

He said existing laws of the country provides for maximum capital punishment for killing or injuring children under nine. Earlier, in her notice, Farida Rahman (BNP) said child traffickers have again become active these days.

Citing a recent case, she mentioned that Fahim Rahman Amit, kidnapped from Dhaka on June 12, could manage to escape from the clutches of traffickers.

According to Fahim 20 children, along with him, were being taken towards Indian border for smuggling when he managed to flee the traffickers.

360 die of malaria in six months

At least 360 persons died of malaria at 34 affected thanas in six bordering districts of the country in six months from January this year, a Health Directorate press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Of the total deaths, 160 were clinically diagnosed suspected malaria deaths and 200 were laboratory positive deaths.

All the incidents of clinically diagnosed suspected malaria deaths were reported from Sunamganj district. The break up of the laboratory positive deaths were 63 in Khagrachhari, 50 in Netrokona, 35 in Sunamganj, 33 in Bandarban, 15 in Rangamati and four in Chittagong.

The total number of malaria cases reported so far stood at 97821.

Listing measures to control the malaria situation in the country, the press release said the Ministry of Health mobilised all available resources to face the malaria attack.

The Health Directorate press release said that a total of 160 medical teams had been deployed in the affected areas to treat the malaria patients. Thirteen temporary treatment centres have also been opened for early diagnosis and prompt treatment of malaria.

All health assistants as well as doctors and other health personnel in the affected areas have been instructed to administer the best injectable drug to severe malaria cases from the start of the disease to prevent deaths.

The press release said, 'sufficient antimalarial drugs are available for proper implementation of the Early Diagnosis and Prompt Treatment (EDPT) drive.

CCC to plant 20000 saplings

CHITTAGONG, June 20: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will plant 20,000 saplings of different species in the corporation area during the current year as part of its afforestation programme, reports BSS.

CCC Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said this while inaugurating tree plantation programme of the corporation here yesterday. The mayor planted a coconut sapling at Shah Amanat Road Junction.

Mayor Chowdhury called upon the ward commissioners and the citizens to plant as many plants as possible on the road side, vacant spaces and on the banks of ponds. He said tree plantation would benefit people in four ways: Fruit bearing trees will grow fruits, trees can be used as fuel, trees will add to the beauty of the city and lastly more and more trees will help maintain ecological balance.

What's on tomorrow

Ceramics Exhibition: Entitled 'Love' by renowned studio ceramist Sayeed Talukder. Prof Mir Mustafa Ali will inaugurate the event. Guest of honour: National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq. The exhibition will remain open till July 3 from 10 am to 8 pm everyday. Venue: Gallery Tone, House 29/B, Road 1, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy: Certificate awarding ceremony of a six-week drama workshop. Chief guest: State Minister for Planning Dr. Abdul Moyn Khan. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7:15 pm. A drama Titled 'The Lion and The Jewel' will be staged.

Krishibid Institution: Has organised a day-long workshop on 'role of Agriculture in Improving City Environment and Self-Employment Generation.' Chief guest: Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali. Special guests: Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah al Noman, Minister for Environment and Forests Akbar Hossain and DCC Mayor Mahammad Hanif. Venue: BARC auditorium. Time: 10 am.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: Regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.



The Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) brought out a procession in the city yesterday supporting the programme of various cultural organisations to resist fundamentalism and the June 30 hartal.

— Star photo

Weather

Rain likely

Heavy falls are likely to occur at places over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal, Patuakhali and Khulna during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Tuesday, reports UNB.

Met office said occasional moderate rain or thunder-shower is also likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions.

Occasional light to moderate rain or thundershowers may occur at many places over Rajshahi division.

Day temperature likely to fall by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over Barisal, Khulna, and Chittagong divisions and likely to remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period.

Meantime, Cox's Bazar experienced the highest 37 mm rain yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet while the lowest 23.5 degrees at Kutubdia yesterday.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5:12 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.6	26.3
Chittagong	29	25
Rajshahi	31.5	26.2
Khulna	31.2	26.4
Sylhet	33.7	26
Barisal	30.8	25
Cox's Bazar	26.5	24
Dinajpur	33	26.5
	9:00 am	6:00 pm
	76	80
	88	87
	85	93
	89	86
	71	86
	92	92
	95	95
	77	70

Possibility of US aid in fisheries sector discussed

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill called on the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman at his secretariat office yesterday.

They discussed different matters of mutual interest and exchanged views on the possibility of US aid in the development of fisheries and livestock sectors in Bangladesh.

The Fisheries Minister recalled US aid in the socio-economic development in the country and referred to the important role of fisheries and livestock in the implementation of poverty alleviation programme of the government.

The US envoy showed keen interest in various measures of the Bangladesh government.

Merrill also assured of his good offices in creating favourable atmosphere for US aid in the form of transfer of technology and production of veterinary medicines and cattle feed.

Thai envoy meets Noman

The Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyam yesterday called on the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman at his office, reports UNB.

They discussed the scope of preservation of marine fisheries in the water areas of Bangladesh.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AAMER



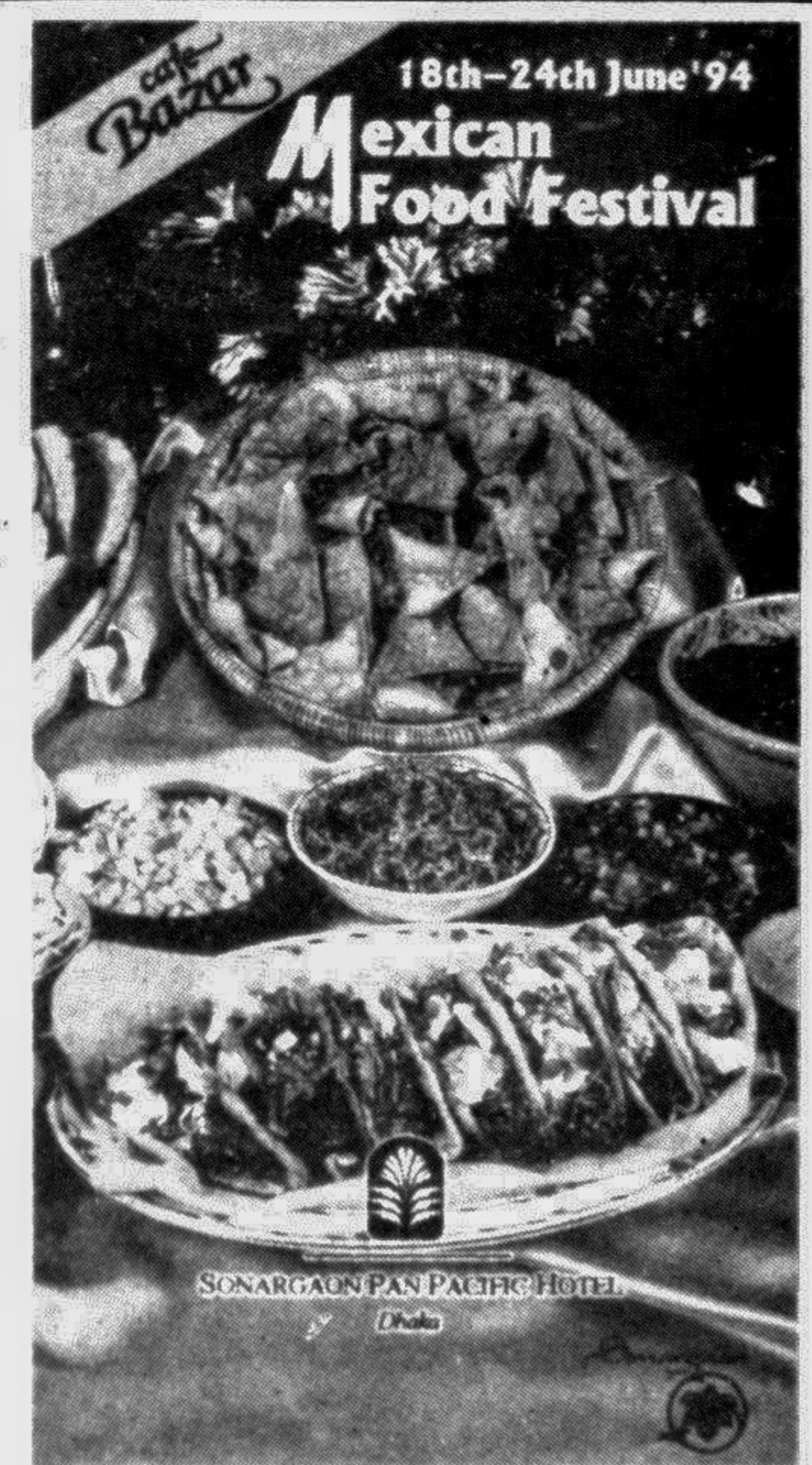
DADA ABBU AMMI OMAR

Tomorrow five years ago we lost you



MUNAWAR MUJIB

In fond remembrance
The bereaved family and friends



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh P.W.D/E/M Workshop Division Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

PWD Tender Notice No 67/93-94 Group-A & B (Short)

Item rate tender in sealed cover in Bangladesh Form No. 2908 are hereby invited from the Class-I and Class-II E/M Contractors of this Department who possess the valid ABC/BC Electric License as well as Supervisory License issued from the Electric Licensing Board for the Work: Supply of Electrical/Mechanical equipment for the use of PWD Division, Rajbari for maintenance of the various building fixing the date of receiving of tender up to 12:00 Noon of 26/6/94 and shall be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of the Contractors available at the time of opening.

Earnest Money Tk. equivalent to 2% (Two P.C) of the quoted amount by Bank Draft or Treasury Challan in the name of the undersigned must be deposited along with the tender, failing which the tender shall summarily be rejected.

Tender paper can be had on payment of Tk. 410/- per (Non-refundable) from this office and from the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division No. 1/II/III/IV/V/VI/VII/VIII, Dhaka and the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Wood Workshop Division, Mirpur, Dhaka and the Executive Engineer, P.W.D Eden Bldg. Division, Dhaka during office hours on or before 25/6/94.

No tender shall be sold on the date fixed for opening.

DFP (G) 11833-19/6
G-1059

Md Shamsul Huda
Executive Engineer,
P.W.D E/M Workshop Division,
Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka.

** NEW ** Taxi dial up service

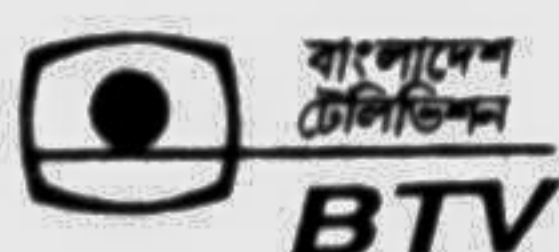


601592 / 605870

Tk 150 within Dhaka
Tk 200 to Airport

DOOR to DOOR!

(Between 9.00 pm to 6.00 am a 20% surcharge is applicable)



Tuesday

- 4:30 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
- 4:45 Children's Programme: Karbala Forat
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Special Programme on Life of Hazrat Imam Hossain: DUT
- 7:30 Open University
- 7:40 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Documentary on Islamic Architecture in Bangladesh
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:35 Live telecast of World Cup football: Argentina vs Greece
- 1:55 World Cup football: Germany vs Spain
- 5:25 World Cup football: Nigeria vs Bulgaria

Wednesday

- 4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 4:45 Sports programme: News in Bangla
- 5:10 Programme on population: Agami
- 6:00 Musical programme: Unmesh
- 6:55 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore song
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 9:05 Film show: The A-Team
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Magazine: Kathamala
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 2:00 Live telecast of World Cup football
- 5:35 World Cup football