

Dhaka Day by Day

Canine Mastans of the City

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

It was almost midnight when Hanif, a journalist whose real name cannot be published, was walking along the narrow lane towards his home. It was a lonely still night and thoughts of vicious muggers with knives and guns were not out of his mind. Yet it was not a human enemy that shocked Hanif from his reverie, but a pack of 'pye dogs'. With their spiky, canines they snarled, barked while every second moving menacingly closer and closer to the petrified man who could only blink in fright and mumble a few prayers. Then as sensation came back to his legs, his first instinct was to yell a pathetic "babago, maago" and run for his life.

Usually it is this leader who has the first right to the neighbourhood's garbage dump. The others have to wait their turn until she has finished, unless they want their heads bitten off — literally speaking! Any 'outsider' from a different area who ventures into her majesty's territory therefore, will end up being attacked and possibly maimed for life.

Class hatred is also very characteristic of this species. The relationship between street dogs and domesticated dogs is one of intense animosities and mistrust. While the spruced up Great Danes, German Shepherds and Doberman's sniff with disdain at their lowly counterparts they meet on their afternoon walks, the pye dogs snarl with contempt and perhaps a little envy. Often the opening line is a torrent of abuse by loud barking on both sides while the poor house boy struggles to hold the reins on his master's overexcited pet. He pelts the stray dog whose ear is half torn and whose coat is old and lustreless with stones or sticks and hurries along dragging his ward with him. If a physical brawl does not occur, the street dog will just give a last snarl of scorn and lay off.

But let us get back to how the city dweller reacts to the presence of these pye dogs. The current season being the mating season, dogs are at their most aggressive and promiscuous selves. Many human citizens of Dhaka are kept awake at night by the constant howling, barking and fighting between rival candidates. For those who have a mortal fear of our canine friends, walking along the streets with a straggly, smelly dog sniffing at their 'bazaar' bags, these encounters are always traumatic. Visions of fourteen needle shots keep them on their heels.

Yet dogs whether pedigree or mongrel, are still the most endearing of creatures. Many city dwellers have adopted those neglected creatures and have been rewarded by their undying affection and loyalty.

At times even the class hatred between dogs has been overcome when the Alsatian from the Ivory towers has run off with the emaciated mongrel from the opposite basti to have adorable little half breed pups and live happily ever after.



Unfortunately this was just what his predators were waiting for. Growing more excited and vocal in their abuse, the three stray dogs chased poor Hanif who ended up climbing a pole with an alacrity that would put any 'cliff hanger' to shame. Thus the poor man spent the entire night suspended on the lamp post, gripping on to it for dear life, until in the early hours of the morning his canine attackers got tired and went off perhaps to bully some other hapless soul.

Even the most ardent of dog lovers may feel some compassion for poor Hanif whose only fault was that he had unknowingly entered enemy territory. In general, the term 'man's best friend' is quite apt for those four legged creatures, with their friendly wags and irresistible eyes. But street dogs like many street people, have been hardened by constant hunger, abuse and neglect in their struggle for survival and so are not as amicable as your limpid eyed, tongue hanging Cocker Spaniel at home.

The similarity between a dog and a man is striking. Street dogs have the same territorial possessiveness as people. Just as each 'para' has its own 'mastaan' who controls the area with his special privilege of being the first to bully, loot or just throw his weight around, each corner of a neighbourhood has its own mastaan dog. Curiously, this creature may be a female and have all the qualities that a 'bitch' should have. She is as fierce as a wolf, constantly followed by obsequious males who are only too anxious to be the father of her children. She defends her territorial rights with a reign of terror, assisted by her loyal gang.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the Mother and Child Survival Fortnight '94 at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

IDB chief assures to solve problems of ICTVTR

Visiting Islamic Development Bank (IDB) president Osama Jaafar Faquih made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Welcoming Faquih on his first visit to Bangladesh as president of the IDB, Begum Zia hoped that the Bank will play stronger role in development of the Islamic ummah under his new leadership.

The Prime Minister thanked the IDB chief for the agreements to assist North Rajshahi Integrated Rural Development Project and for development of the Islamic University which she had proposed to his predecessor.

The IDB will provide US dollar 6.5 million to the Islamic University in Kushdia for construction of three faculties consisting of 17 departments. The other assistance of US dollar 2.74 million will help implement the North Rajshahi Integrated Rural Development Project aimed at alleviating poverty in the area.

Referring to the financial constraint on the part of the ICTVTR due to delay in releasing funds by the donors, Begum Zia asked the IDB president to use his office in helping run the institution smoothly.

Tk 33 cr for women development sector

The government has allocated Tk 33 crore for the women development sector in the current Annual Development Programme. The amount is more than three times higher than last year's ADP allocation, reports UNB.

This was stated by State Minister for Planning Abdul Moyeen Khan at the 26th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Planning Affairs at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The meeting, chaired by the State Minister, reviewed and evaluated the progress of activities of the Women's and Children Affairs Ministry, its directorates, departments and other organisations towards promoting the socio-economic condition of the women community.

The meeting also underscored the need for full utilisation of the allocation for women welfare in different projects within the specified time.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Yusuf and ERD Secretary Lutfullahil Majid were present during the meeting.

'Wakf complex a symbol of cooperation'

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman laid the foundation stone of the IDB Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (BISEW) complex at Agargaon in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

IDB will provide US dollar 10 million for the 13 million dollar Wakf complex while government of Bangladesh had given two acres of land at Agargaon for the complex, which is expected to be completed within two and a half years.

When completed, the proposed 20-storied office cum-commercial complex having an area of three lakh square feet, is expected to generate an income of Tk 8.30 crore annually as rent of the commercial shops and business offices.

The income generated from the complex will be distributed as scholarships and stipends to the meritorious Muslim students.

Addressing the function Saifur Rahman said that the proposed Wakf complex would remain as a symbol of cooperation between the IDB and Bangladesh.

Terming the bank as the only successful Islamic institute in the entire Muslim world, the Finance Minister praised the contribution of the IDB for the sake of Muslim ummah.

Tk 83 cr Ctg development projects to be implemented soon

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will execute half a dozen development projects at a cost of Tk 83.11 crore during the next few months, reports BSS.

The works on the projects will start in the first half of November next.

The Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury told journalists at the CCC conference hall today that closer cooperation and coordination was needed between the corporation and the government for smooth implementation of the projects.

He said the allocations for the projects included Tk 57 crore for road building and reconstruction, Tk 8.16 crore for drain construction and reconstruction, Tk 1.32 crore for foot-path construction, Tk 2.03 crore for bridge and culvert construction and Tk 14.60 crore for environment development.

Mayor Mohiuddin said the construction works of a public park at Jamboree Maidan, Agrabad, will also start while the Zia Shishu Park in front of the old Circuit House will be inaugurated soon. A Botanical Garden and a tourist corner will also be built in the city.



Friday

Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement
- 8:10 News in Bangla
- 8:15 Alor Dishari
- 8:40 Our Friends: The Dolphins
- 9:00 Chetona
- 9:30 Film show: Batman
- 10:00 News in English
- 11:15 Film show: Tarzan
- 11:40 Programme of Health: Prescription
- 11:55 Musical Programme: Morami

Evening Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement
- 3:15 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3:40 Movie of the week: Quo Vadis
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports Programme
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Musical programme: Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:00 Magazine programme: Charupath
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film show: Law and Order
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing

What's on today . . .

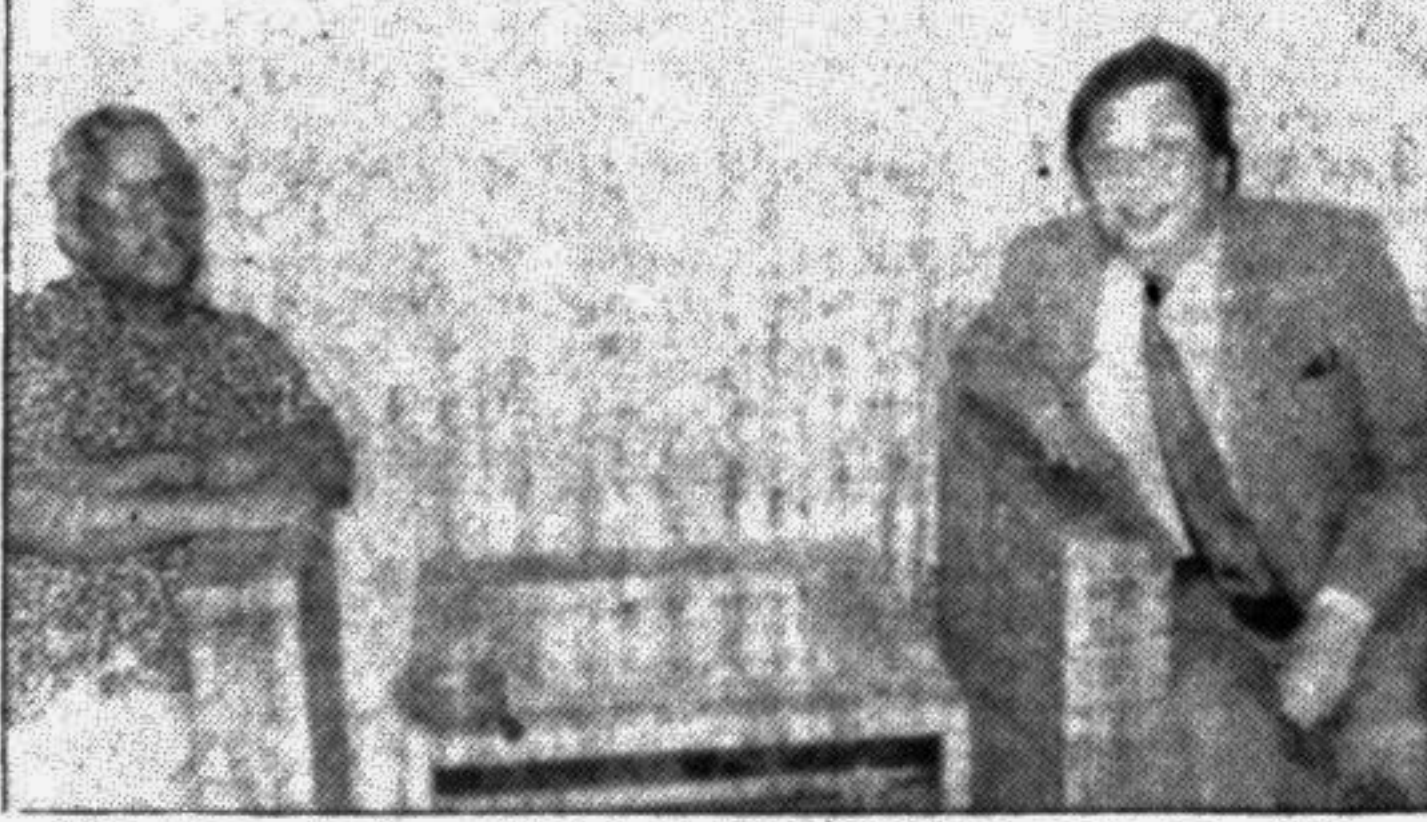
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh: The seventh monthly general meeting will be held. Dr M Mufakharul Islam, Professor of History, University of Dhaka will deliver a talk on Punjab Agriculture under British Rule. Professor Abdul Momin Chowdhury will pre-side. Venue: Seminar room of the society. Time: 5 pm.

Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League: An open discussion on 'Bangladesh trade union movement' will be held to mark the league's 25th founding anniversary. Main speaker: Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Nazrul Islam Khan and Nurul Islam will also speak. Venue: Jatiya Grantha Kendra auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

Ctg College Ex-students' Assoc: The inaugural ceremony of the Dhaka coordination office of Chittagong College ex-students' Association will be held. A mezban, the traditional feast of Chittagong, has been arranged. Venue: 68 Outer Circular Road, Maghbazar. Time: 10 am.

Bangladesh Santa Mahamandal: A conference of the Santa Mahamandal will be held. Venue: 42/2 Sree Sree Jagatbandhu Mahaprakash Math. Time: 9 am.

Seminar: On the occasion of holy Eid-e-Miladunabi (SWA) and Islamic Unity Week (12-17 Rabiul Awal), Cultural Center of Iran has organised a seminar on "Hazrat Muhammad (SWA). Symbol of Blessings & Unity". Chief guest: Keramat Ali, Minister for Religious Affairs. Special guest: Mahmud Bayat, Ambassador of Iran and National Professor M Innas Ali. Venue: Press Club auditorium. Time: 9:30 am



Nepalese Ambassador Lok B Shrestha calls on Vice-Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University, Professor Anwarul Islam Chowdhury in the city yesterday.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places over Chittagong divisions till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says light to moderate rain or thundershower may occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged across the country today.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest 23.0 degrees at Hatiya.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 6:23 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:38 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.2	26.0	86	84
Chittagong	31.6	25.4	89	81
Rajshahi	30.2	25.8	88	88
Khulna	28.3	25.5	90	90
Barisal	28.0	24.0	100	92
Sylhet	33.8	25.6	87	81
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.0	98	85

10700 km power distribution lines to be constructed

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: A total of 10,700 kilometres of distribution lines will be constructed all over the country to expand the power distribution network, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khader Mosharraf Hossain said here today, reports BSS.

This will be the highest volume in power distribution network in the country, he added.

Addressing the Power Development Board (PDB) officials in Chittagong the energy minister said, a total of 4,716 kilometres of distribution lines were constructed in 1991-92, 5,915 kilometres in 1992-93 and 8,795 kilometres in 1993-94 under PDB, DESA and REB. The highest distribution power lines in the current year includes 1,766 kilometres under PDB, 1634 kilometres under DESA and 7,300 kilometres under REB, he said.

The officials informed the minister that system loss of PDB in Chittagong region has come down to 23.86 per cent and the revenue collection has increased substantially. The minister asked the officials to gear up the drive for reducing system loss and increasing revenue collection.

Zahiruddin goes to Brazil today

Industries Minister A Z M Zahiruddin Khan will leave Dhaka for Brazil today to attend the seminar on "Education for All" to be held at Brasilia from August 29 to September four. Khan will lead a four-member delegation which include Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Division, Director General of Primary Education and one representative from Prime Minister's office, reports UNB.

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ১৯৯০-৯১ শিক্ষাবর্ষের মাস্টার শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ফলাফল ঘোষণা ও ভর্তির সময়সূচী নিম্নরূপ নির্ধারিত হয়েছে:

ক. ফলাফল প্রকাশ: ৩০-৮-৯৪ ইং তারিখ।
খ. মেধা-তালিকার ভর্তি: ৩০-৮-৯৪ তারিখ থেকে ১৫-৯-৯৪ পর্যন্ত।
গ. অপেক্ষা-তালিকার ভর্তি: ২১-৯-৯৪ তারিখ থেকে ২৭-৯-৯৪ তারিখ বেলো ১২ টা পর্যন্ত।
ফলাফল সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগ থেকে জানা যাবে।

D-872 **উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার (শিক্ষা)**

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The inaugural Ceremony of "PEACOCK KNIT FABRICS LTD." (a sister concern of Manita knit Fabrics Ltd. Composite Unit) at 74/E, New Airport Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka will be held at 6.30 P.M. on 26th August 1994.

Dr. Fasih Uddin Mahtab, Chairman, Board of Directors & Mr. Mustafa Aminur Rashid, Managing Director, Agrani Bank, will be present as Chief guest and special guest at the Ceremony.

All the buyers, Buying houses and Buying agents are most cordially invited on the occasion. Gratitude to Agrani Bank, Principal Branch, Dhaka.

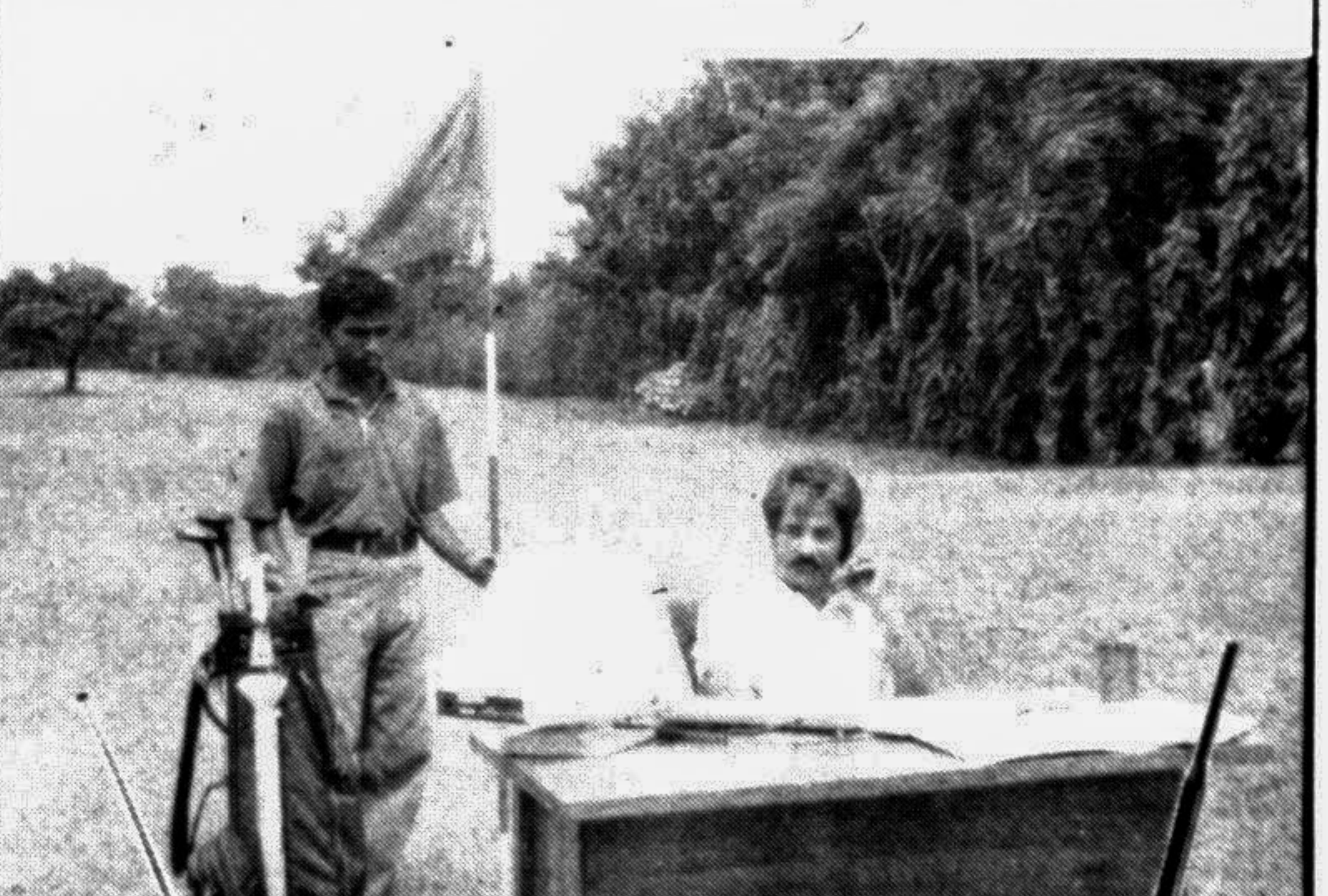
JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited for the following posts for a Group of 'A' class Tea Estates in the greater Sylhet district:
Manager (Position: 1): 2 Years experience in similar position or 7 years as Asst. Manager in a reputed Tea Estate.

Asst. Managers (Positions: 2): Minimum 3 years experience in similar position in a reputed Tea Estate Graduate from any recognised University, preferably in Soil Science or Agriculture. Attractive compensation package commensurate with experience is offered to the right candidate.

Please forward applications in your own handwriting along with an one page resume and a recent photograph to: Marina Tea Co. Ltd., 15, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000, to reach by 8th September 1994.

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শাখা স্থানান্তর ও নাম পরিবর্তন

সন্মানিত গ্রাহক স্তানুধ্যায়ীদের অধিকতর ব্যাবিক সেবা ও সহযোগিতা সম্প্রসারণের লক্ষে আমাদের চান্দা বাজার শাখাটি বর্তমান অবস্থান থেকে গত ১৭ই আগষ্ট হতে নতুন অবস্থানে স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে কার্যক্রম শুরু করেছে।

সন্মানিত গ্রাহকদের নতুন ঠিকানায় ব্যাবিক কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

বর্তমান নাম ও ঠিকানা: **সহযোগিতা ব্যাংক**

পূর্বের নাম ও ঠিকানা: **সহযোগিতা ব্যাংক**

সহযোগিতা ব্যাংক

দেশ ও জাতীয় সোনার প্রতিচ্ছবিতে একটি ব্যাংক।