

Dhaka Day by Day

Stunt-jumping to Avoid Accident

by Lamis Hossain

"Vroom. Screech. Crash. Bang. Son of a Pig!" Such are the routine sounds of the city streets. In our zeal to criticise Dhaka traffic, we often overlook the person who faces it everyday. He/she is the humble driver of the private car, the government vehicle or the public bus.

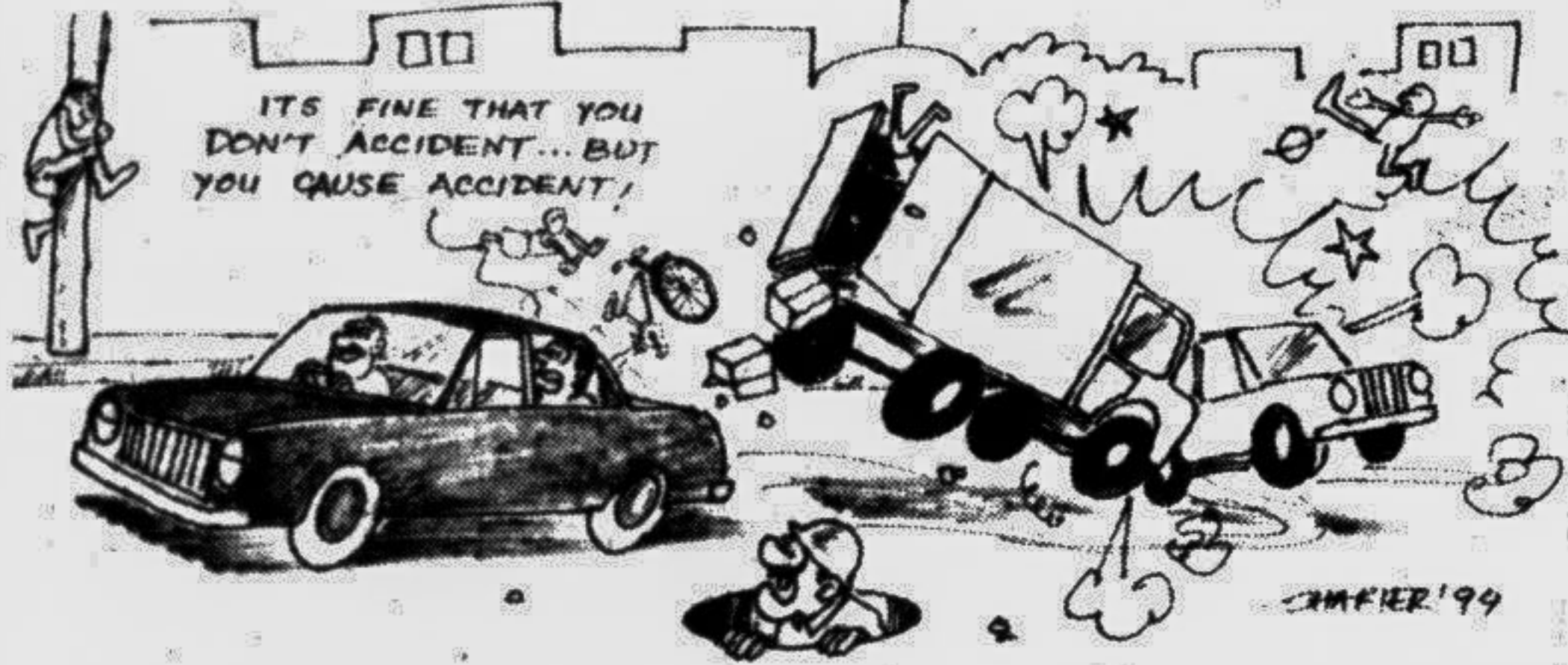
The private driver is innately a decent sort of fellow with dazzling social skills. Having deposited you at the proper destination, he loses no time to explore the area. You will find him far from the unlocked vehicle, yakking away to some total stranger as if they were long lost friends. No matter where you go, the chauffeur will find a way to start a conversation, get free tea from the neighbourhood shop and play ball with the street kids.

But this easy-going behaviour belies his die-hard road manners. The same laid-back individual will navigate suicidally down the

He resents doing anything "personal" as opposed to "official". Nor will he ever think it possible to do two things in one afternoon. "Sorry Apa I can either take you to the Daily Star or to the salwar kameez shops." A choice. While you stuff down your pathetic sandwiches in the back seat, the government driver will insist on taking the car back to his house for a one-and-a-half-hour lunch break. No doubt the half hour is needed to take some petrol out of the vehicle.

Of course, insisting on getting public holidays is all part of being a government employee. Unless you know how to drive, you are basically stranded on Fridays and other festive occasions. Just pray that your relatives will remember you (which they won't).

As much as private chauffeurs and government ones try to be "bad" nothing quite



metropolitan thoroughfare whether you are in a rush or not. He will think nothing of crossing double yellow lines and coming face to face with a huge bus while you turn white in the back seat. He will zig zag through a maze of rickshaws and baby taxis while bumping into a few pedestrians on the way. And the bravest part — he doesn't even wear seatbelts.

If you tried to copy him, things wouldn't be so straightforward. The cops who were oblivious to everyone else's transgressions, will hone into yours immediately and slap you with a hefty fine.

There are no rewards for the obedient motorist either. A speeding truck would be likely to run you down, ruin your new paint job and even cuss you off before it zooms away. Don't try acing the judgement in demand compensation — you'll be surrounded by goons threatening to shake your skinny body and silence you forever. To make life worse, the driver gets immense satisfaction from your mishaps — they confirm his superiority. Watch him smirk till the next paycheck.

Count your blessings if you have a private chauffeur — it's at least one notch better than a government driver. The latter has all the recklessness of the former minus the charm.

matches the sheer audacity of bus and truck drivers. They terrorise the various highways around the city — knocking pedestrians down, overtaking recklessly, falling headlong into ditches.

The bus driver's ability to bail out of a moving vehicle and escape injury is mind-boggling. Did he get special stunt-jumping lessons in driving school? Or does the fear of being lynched motivate him to run for his life? Whatever the case, he almost always avoids the consequences of his reckless motoring.

But there are others to be castigated as well. Accidents are caused not only by daredevil driving but also by the plying of buses and trucks without proper fitness certificates. Drivers often allege that owners procure such documents illegally. Instead of pursuing the tottering smoke-discharging buses, the police seem busier harassing the perfectly fit private cars.

The situation remains the same for the commuter regardless of who is to be blamed. He is resigned to the daily white-knuckle ride — where drivers flout the law and the next bus he takes could be unfit for use. There seems to be only one solution — take stunt-jumping classes.

Mother, Child Survival Fortnight ends

The countrywide Mother and Child Survival Fortnight 1994 which began on August 25 concluded yesterday, reports UNB.

The fortnight was aimed at creating awareness among the people of all walks of life on health promotion of mother and child.

Loadshedding at Shantibagh

People of Shantibagh Mosque Road area of the city have been suffering due to continuous loadshedding since Monday, reports UNB.

Local people complained that the area plunges into darkness soon after sunset and it continues till morning of the following day.

18 secure first division in SSC exams in Jeddah

By Staff Correspondent

Eighteen students out of a total of 20 examinees of the Bangladesh Embassy School and College in Jeddah, have secured first division in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

Of them, 11 students obtained the star marks. A fax message issued by the Consul General of the embassy, Mohsin Ali Khan yesterday expressed satisfaction at the performance of the students and said the results reflected the high standard of teaching as well as the efficiency of the management of the school.

MALAYSIA
THE RELIABLE PRODUCER OF QUALITY AND NUTRITIOUS PALM OIL

The Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council is seeking to appoint a suitable candidate who would be appointed on contract and will be responsible for:

- Generating market information on oil and fats in Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Facilitate the dissemination of promotion materials.
- Arrange speaking engagements with various target groups.
- Develop and implement annual market promotion plans.
- Submit monthly reports on activities undertaken, as well as the market information obtained.

The candidate should possess:

- Degree in Food Technology, preferably with Business Administration & Marketing experience and qualification.
- Some experienced in the oils & fats industry.
- Fluent in English and Bengali spoken & written. Knowledge of Burmese would be an added advantage.
- Experienced in handling a Personal Computer.
- Possess strong organisational ability, with good analytical mind and initiative.

Handwritten application providing full personal and educational particulars, detailed working experience, present and expected salary, a day time contact telephone number, together with copies of relevant certificates and recent passport sized photograph (n.r) should be received not later than Saturday, October 8, 1994.

Only short listed applicants will be contacted for the interview.

Please address your applications to:

The Chief Executive,
The Malaysian Palm Oil Promotion Council,
c/o The Malaysian High Commission,
House No. 4, Road No. 118,
Gulshan Model Town,
Dhaka,
People's Republic of Bangladesh.



Dr Kamal Hossain, president of the Gano Forum, addressing a Left Democratic Front, an alliance of eight left-leaning parties, rally at Tophkhana Road in the city yesterday. The rally was organised to create mass awareness against communalism, fundamentalism and fatwabaz.

Sadeq tells JS Tk 2.50 cr playground project approved

A Taka 2.50 crore project has already been approved for the development of hundred playgrounds in 84 thana headquarters of 16 districts under the current five-year plan, State Minister for Sports Sadeq Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

An amount of Taka 65 lakh was sanctioned for the project for 1994-95, he said in reply to a question from treasury bench member Sardar Sakhat Hossain Bokul. This amount would be spent for the development of playgrounds in 20 thana headquarters.

Answering a question from absentee Jamaat-e-Islami member Hafeza Asma Khatun, placed in the House by a BNP member, the state minister said the number of government controlled stadiums in the country is 72.

Replaying to another question he said the government had given financial grants totalling Taka 91.25 lakh to dis-

trict sports associations of special level, old district sports associations and new district sports associations during fiscal 1993-94.

Of the amount, Taka 15 lakh was given to six district sports associations of special level, Taka 22.50 lakh to 15 old district sports associations and Taka 53.75 lakh to 43 new district sports associations.

Draft agri policy formulated, JS told

The government has formulated a draft agricultural policy for overall agricultural development in the country, Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul-Haq told Parliament Tuesday, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from K J Hamida Khanam, the minister said his ministry is finalising the draft policy in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

In reply to another question stood in the name of Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat), Haq said pesticides worth about Tk 70 crore was imported in the last fiscal year.

The government also warned the any firms not to make any cylinder without prior permission of the Explosives Department.

The government expressed concern over manufacturing of the unauthorised gas cylinders of 6-16 liters capacity and marketing them illegally by filling Liquid Petroleum Gas (LP Gas) in a risky manner a press release issued by the authorities concerned said.

It also said, no individual or institution has the right to make cylinder below 26 liters capacity. The LP Gas Company Ltd is the only authorised firm for filling gas in cylinder. The company's only plant is at Patenga in Chittagong.

The LP Gas cylinders of 26-litre capacity filled by the company are marketed and distributed all over the country through the Padma Oil Company, Meghna Petroleum and Jamuna Oil Company of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

"It is highly risky and illegal to use the cylinders filled by any other company except LP Gas Company Limited, it said warning that there is possibility of explosion.

Keeping unauthorised cylinders is illegal and a clear violation of gas cylinder law under Explosives Rule-1991, for which five years imprisonment or a fine of Tk 50,000 may be enforced.

US theatrical group due Tuesday

A renowned US theatrical group "Artists Repertory Theatre", will visit Bangladesh from September 13-16, reports UNB.

The group will give two performances at the National Museum auditorium and another at the Bangladesh Television auditorium for invited guests.

Indian goods seized Children's art competition

RAJSHAHI, Sept 7: BDR personnel of 20 Rifle Battalion seized Indian goods of more than Tk five lakh from different parts of the district, reports UNB.

The contrabands seized on Tuesday included saree, current net, wine, phensidyl, blade, insecticide, tyre and tube of by-cycle.

The goods were deposited with the Rajshahi customs authorities.

A children's art and painting competition was held at Shishu Academy in the city yesterday on the occasion of "Mother and Child Health Fortnight," reports UNB.

Organised by Health and Family Welfare Ministry, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman inaugurated the function.

Some 300 children took part in the art competition.

GRATITUDE TO THE MOURNERS

The Management of Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel and Mrs. Linda Vrijmoet express heartfelt gratitude to all concerned, who have very kindly sent their messages of condolence at the sad demise of Mr. Richard Vrijmoet, General Manager of the Hotel and to all those mourners who have kindly showed their last respect to late Mr. Vrijmoet by attending the memorial ceremony, held on September 6, 1994 at the Ballroom of Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Ordnance Factories

Ghazipur Cantonment, Ghazipur

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in prescribed form are invited from bonafide manufacturers/local agents/suppliers for supply of GMCS Strip in local currency to BOF as mentioned below:

Sl No	Tender No & Date	Name of Item	Qty
1	BOF/FP/22/94-95 Date 28-8-94	GMCS Strip for Bullet JKT	50 M. Ton

2. Tender shall be dropped in the tender box kept in the purchase office of this Factories on 28 September 1994 up to 11-45 AM and will be opened on the same day at 12 Noon in presence of participants or their representatives (if any).
3. Tender form with detailed specifications and terms & conditions will be available in the purchase office of this Factories on cash payment of Tk 200/= (non-refundable) per set on all working days between 8-30 AM and 12-30 PM up to 27 September 1994. Schedule will not be sold on the opening day.
4. Commandant Bangladesh Ordnance Factories reserves the right to reject any or all of the tenders without showing any reason thereof.

ISPR/Army/94/1649
DFP-3495-3/9
G-1384

Md Mozammel Hoque Molla
Manager Material
for Commandant

Thursday BTV

4:40	Greta recitation
4:45	Children's dance programme: Rumjhum
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	National TV School Debate: For students of Class IX, X
6:30	Mass education programme: Esho Para Shukhi
7:00	Programme on Islam: Jiboner Alo
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama of the week: Uttaradhikar by Mozammel Hossain Khan
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mini series: Marcopolo
11:30	Khabar/The News

Weather

Temperature may rise

Temporary light to moderate rain or shower likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions, and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions, according to Met office forecast effective till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius across the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and lowest 24.7 degrees at Feni.

Weather may deteriorate in the following week but, little change is predicted in the next two days.

Highest rainfall 23 mm was recorded at Rajshahi during the last 24 hours, while 12 mm in Barisal, 3 mm in Comilla and Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets today*at 6.10 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.43 am.

Yesterday's temperature and humidity percentage registered in different regions of the country are given below:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.4	27.2	83	71
Chittagong	33.6	25.0	74	73
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.4	77	85
Sylhet	34.0	26.0	82	72
Rajshahi	34.0	26.1	82	86
Rangpur	34.3	25.5	86	84
Barisal	33.5	25.8	86	86

CREATING TOGETHER

MITSUBISHI LANCER

IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST MONEY TO GET A SMILE

RANGS LIMITED

113-116, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215 PLOT # 3, CDA AVENUE, SHOLSHANAR C/A, CHITTAGONG