

Dhaka Day by Day

Good Neighbours are Hard to Find

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

In the 'good old days' that we so fondly reminisce about, one of the greatest joys of life was the warm relationship shared by neighbours. It was a time when the dining table was always full with *halwas*, *pithas* and other delicacies sent by the next door neighbour for Shab-e-barat or Eid. The constant interactions of members of the neighbourhood created that "para" feeling where all the children of adjacent houses got together to play their regular games of *chiburi*, *hadoo doo* or *tillo express*.

As the years have gone by and we have fallen deeper into the rat race of urban life, the cozy houses have been replaced by high rise buildings where the only thing neighbours share is perhaps the dish antenna. That special sense of 'neighbourliness' is almost gone and relationships between people living so close to each other are as they impersonal as would be between strangers. This is true even of the few independent houses which have retained their individuality but lost a lot of their warmth.

Sometimes, the inmates of each house have become so alienated from each other that the slightest cause may trigger unbridled hostility. When the best mangoes of one's prized mango tree go missing, the pointed finger sometimes justified, sometimes not, is always directed towards the neighbouring house. Evidence of open disrespect include finding the debris of jack fruit from your tree left by your considerate neighbour's *darwan* on your side of the wall. Servants from either side will be constantly at each others' throats, their squabbles intensifying to the point where the mistresses of the neighbouring houses will open their windows and hurl insults at each other.

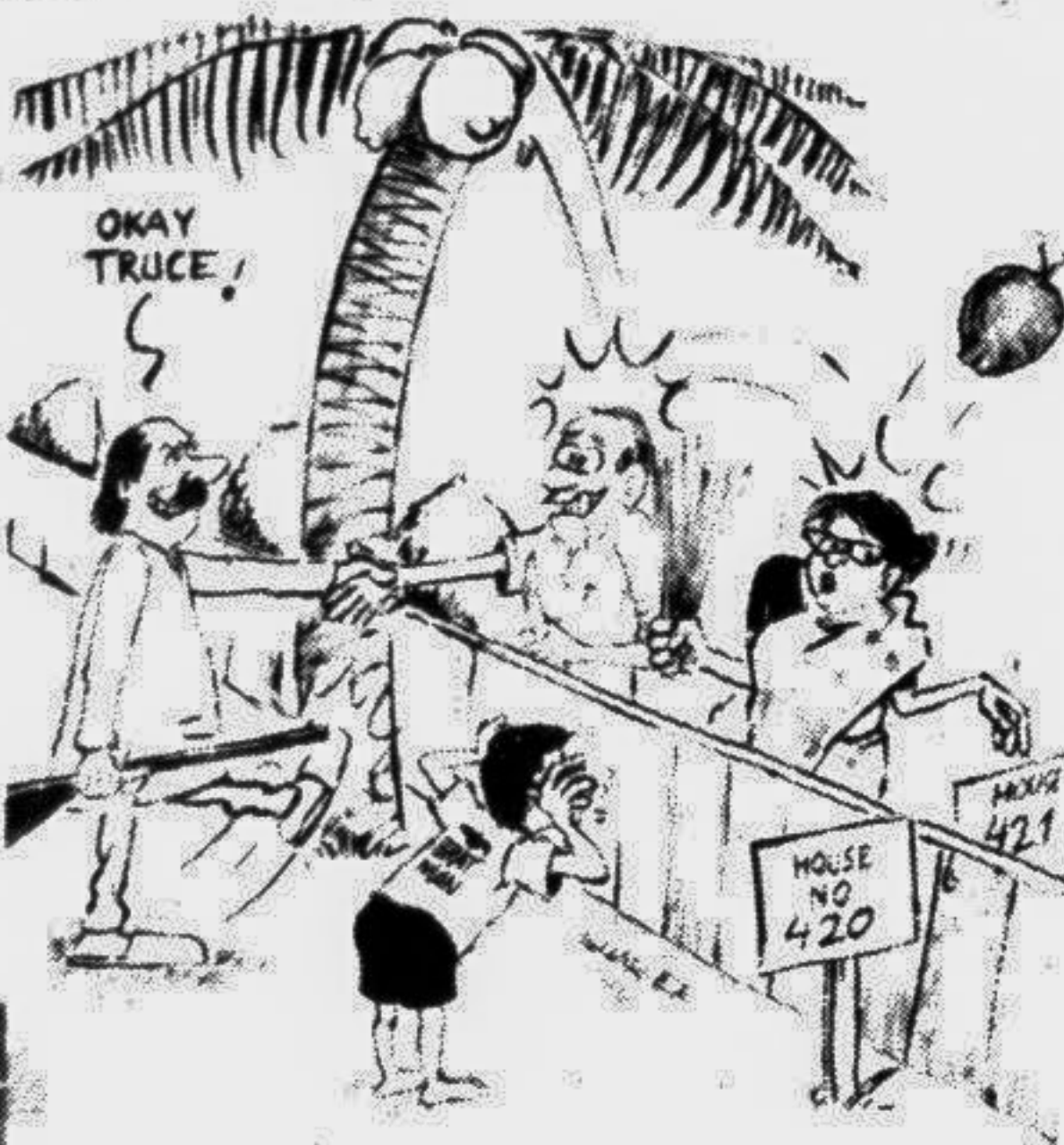
Often, a kind of cold hatred develops against one's neighbour when he decides to block your exclusive view of the lake (a source of great pleasure to you until now), by constructing the ugliest multi-storied apartment building almost neck to neck with your wall. The sun no longer reaches your garden, the gentle breeze no longer filters through your windows and the view you are left with is the backside of grey, uninspiring concrete.

The converse is also true. Take the gentleman who decided to extend his one storied house by one floor for his sons to live in when they get married. Diligently adhering to all the legal procedures and respecting all the DIT restrictions, he started this venture. Yet only a few weeks after construction had begun, his kindly neighbour being a big shot in the government circles, used his influence to stop any further building. He had decided that the back view of his house which in any case over

looked a huge mansion, should not be 'blocked'. His neighbour, meanwhile, is left with a half finished top floor for which the materials have been 'bought' and the engineers hired, all sitting idle until the green signal is flashed. Needless to say, all this has only increased the tension between the two households.

There are also certain peculiarities special to modern neighbours. One of them is that although inmates from the adjacent houses will never take the initiative to introduce themselves, curiosity about each other knows no bounds. If you are on the terrace, for example, to do your hundred laps of walking, be sure to have five pairs of eyes belonging to your neighbour's army of servants, staring unblinkingly as if at an exotic beast in the zoo. A household squabble between a couple of one house will prompt numerous heads to come out from neighbouring walls to watch the fun. Yet if the same house is robbed and the inmates murdered, not a soul from these houses will be seen or heard.

Apathy, seems, therefore, to be the predominant sentiment shared among neighbours. When the next door coconut tree became a life threatening weapons with 'daabs' falling helter skelter inside the house missing by only an inch someone's head, the members of a certain house sent repeated messages to the neighbour requesting him to cut down the lethal coconuts. Yet all the pleadings fell on deaf ears and the poor victims still live in fear that some day one of them will have a big dent on the head by a falling 'daab'. So much for good old neighbourliness!



The non-gazetted govt employees staging a rally to press home their charter of demands in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday — Star photo

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers may occur at several places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions, at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions in the next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

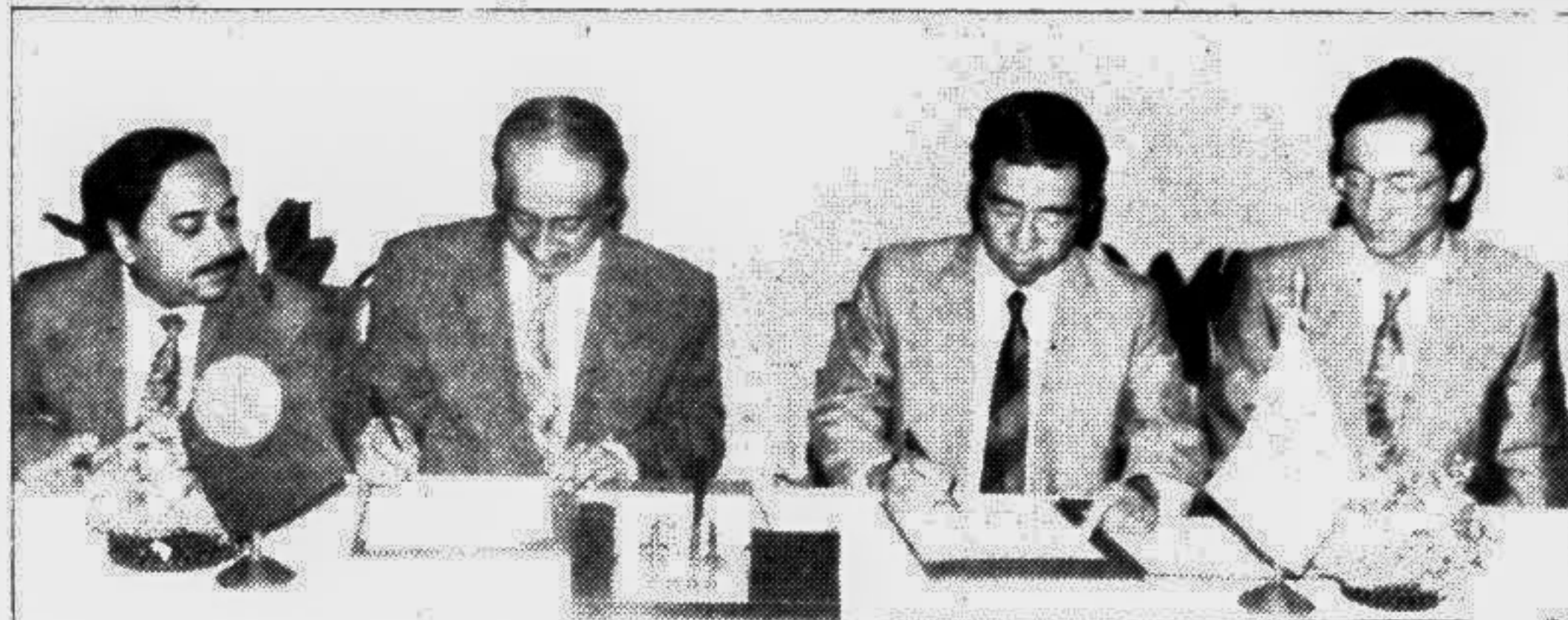
The Met office says during the period day temperature may remain unchanged over the country.

The highest rainfall, 56 mm, was recorded at Cox's Bazar in the last 24 hours while Dinajpur had 31 mm and Rajshahi 19 mm.

The country's highest temperature 33.5 degrees Celsius was registered at Jessore and the lowest 23.5 degrees at Feni. The sun sets today at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47 am.

Temperature readings in different parts of the country and humidity percentage are given below:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	26.9	89	84
Chittagong	27.9	25.6	100	95
Cox's Bazar	29.0	24.0	98	88
Sylhet	29.7	26.2	84	98
Rangpur	31.0	26.0	90	87
Dinajpur	30.1	24.6	92	86
Faridpur	30.7	26.0	82	92
Comilla	29.5	24.5	95	92



Bangladesh will receive from Japan a grant assistance of Taka 34 crore approximately. To this effect an Exchange Note was signed here yesterday. Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division Dr Saadat Husain and the Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka signed the Exchange Note on behalf of their respective governments. (Story on page 6) — PID photo

ICB okays Taka 13.20 cr assistance for 6 projects

The Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has approved Taka 13.20 crore assistance for six projects, reports UNB.

ICB approved the financial assistance in the form of underwriting, bridge finance and purchase of debentures for one existing and five new projects out of the proposed public issue of shares and debentures of Tk 51.39 crore.

The balance amount of Tk 38.19 crore will be provided by other banks, financial institutions and foreign investors.

The approval was given at the 175th meeting of the Board of Directors of ICB held Sunday with its Chairman Sardar Sakhwat Husain Bakul MP in the chair.

The board also approved the proposal of a company for ICB to act as trustee to the debenture issue of Tk 30 crore.

The six projects are two spinning units at Madhabpur, Habiganj, and Barisal, a sweater manufacturing unit at Narayanganj, one composite knit garments manufacturing unit, a textile dyeing, printing and finishing unit and one denim garments manufacturing unit at Gazipur.

Three of the projects are 100 per cent export-oriented. ICB's assistance to these projects will help mobilise total equity investment of Tk 48.70 crore and create employment opportunity for 2,221 people.

Airport emergency exercise Oct 1

The Airport Emergency Exercise, scheduled for Sept 17, will now be held on October 1, says a press release.

The time and sequence of the exercise remains unchanged.

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Training programme

Supervisors and teachers of selected non-government organisations are being imparted training for conducting innovative non-formal education under government aegis, reports UNB.

Five supervisors and 50 teachers from five NGOs are taking part in the training programme at the Orkist auditorium since September 15. Expansion of Integrated Non-Formal Education Programme (ENFEP) has arranged the training.

On completion of the training, the supervisors and teachers will engage themselves in expanding literacy in their respective areas.

The selected NGOs are Halim Foundation, Organisation for Social Action and Development, Women Development Centre and Pushpo Social Welfare Organisation.

The NGOs have been entrusted with the task for one year and ENFEP will provide funds for the programme.

DUJA founding anniversary

Dhaka University Journalist Association (DUJA) yesterday observed its 9th founding anniversary at TSC lounge, reports UNB.

A discussion was held on the occasion which was addressed, among others, by DUJA founding members Khairul Anam Mukul, Aini Ilias, Rezoanul Haq Raza and Sayed Istiaque Reza.

DUJA President M Tareq Al Naser and General Secretary Saleh Shibly also spoke.

Ruling, opposition parties' hectic programmes in Khulna

KHULNA, Sept 19: Leaders of the different opposition parties demanding national elections under a caretaker government will address series of meetings in the city beginning tomorrow, reports UNB.

The ruling BNP has also taken up hectic programmes apparently to counter the Opposition move.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address a meeting here September 22 before embarking on a 'train march' on September 23 across North Bengal.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address a meeting on September 25.

The JP leaders Moudud Ahmed and Khaledur Rahman are expected to speak at a meeting tomorrow.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal will organise a meeting on September 21. Forest Minister Akbar Hossain and Amanullah Aman MP will attend it.

UNICEF official visits BRAC school

The President of the Executive Board of UNICEF Anna Makinda visited a non-formal primary school of BRAC at Agargaon in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Makinda, Minister for Women and Children's Affairs of Tanzania, evinced keen interest in the teaching method of BRAC's non-formal education system. She said she was impressed with the standard of education in such schools.

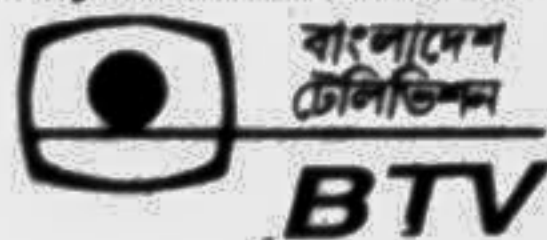
Earlier, during a briefing session at the UNICEF's Dhaka Division office, she was told that BRAC had introduced its non-formal primary school in urban areas two years ago. The capital city has now 140 such schools located in different slum areas. Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi cities will have 60 schools each by the year-end.

Publication ceremony

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman yesterday said literature is the documentation of the mental progress of a nation, reports BSS.

He was addressing the publication ceremony of the first Malaysian novel in Bangla translation. "The last days of an artist" by noted Malaysian writer Anwar Ridwan has been translated into Bangla under the title, "Hasan Bayatir Sukh Dukkha."

Chairman of Bangla Academy Gazi Shamsur Rahman presided over the meeting while State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh Ahmed Fuzi Bin Haji Abdul Razak, Cultural Affairs Secretary Mohd Mokhlesur Rahman, Professor Dr Mohammad Maniruzzaman and Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Harun-ur-Rashid also spoke on the occasion.



Tuesday

4:30	Opening session
4:40	Geeta recitations
4:45	Mass education: Esho Para Shikhi
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Comedy series: Coach
6:00	National TV Debate Competition: For college and university students
7:00	Open University
7:25	Modern Songs: Sangeeta
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama serial
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: Northern Exposure
11:30	Khobar/The News
11:40	Summary of tomorrow's programme

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Chairman, BMSP/CCHRB
5/4, Block-F (1st Floor), Lalmatia
Dhaka-1207

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নিম্নে বর্ণিত আমদানীকারকের লিমিটেডের আওতাধীন নিলামবিধি বহুস্তরিত মালামাল ব্যাংকের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন ওদামে "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের জন্য নিম্নের শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী আত্মীয় ক্রেতাদের কাছ থেকে সীল মোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	বাতকের নাম ও ঠিকানা	হিসাবের প্রকৃতি	মালামালের বিবরণ ও পরিমাণ	যে দেশ থেকে আমদানী করা হয়েছে
১	মেসার্স আহসান-স-মিল মালিক-মজলুদ আহসান চৌধুরী পিতা-মুজিব ইসলাম চৌধুরী ৬০ অভয়মিত্রাট, চট্টগ্রাম	লিম	সেকেন্ডারী কোয়ালিটি টায়ার কর্ড, ফ্রেঞ্জি। আনুমানিক ১৫০০০ কেজি	আমেরিকা যুক্তরাষ্ট্র

শর্তাবলী

- ১। দরপত্রের সাথে "রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড" জাহান বিল্ডিং শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম-এর অনুকূলে দরপত্র উন্মোচিত মূল্যের ১০% আনুমানিক (অকৃতকার্যতার ক্ষেত্রে যোগ্য) যে কোন ভবিষ্যতী ব্যাংকের ডি/পি/এফ-এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বিবেচিত হবে না।
- ২। উন্মোচিত মালামাল সফটিক শাখা ব্যবস্থাপকের সাথে যোগাযোগ করে পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।
- ৩। দরপত্র ১.১০.৯৪ ইং তারিখে বেলা ৩.০০ টা পর্যন্ত রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, জাহান বিল্ডিং শাখা, চট্টগ্রামে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং এদিন বেলা ৪.০০ টার সময় দরপত্রদাতাদের সমুদায় যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন, খোলা হবে।
- ৪। টেন্ডার কমিটি কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন টেন্ডার গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- ৫। অকৃতকার্য দরপত্রদাতাদের আবেদন মালিক সচিব সচিব ক্ষেত্রে দেয়া হবে।
- ৬। দরপত্র অনুমোদনের তারিখ হতে ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে অকৃতকার্য দরপত্রদাতাকে অবশ্যই অবশিষ্ট ৯০% টাকা এককালীন জমা করে মালামাল জেলিভারী দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় জাহানবীর টাকা বাজেয়াপ্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

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