

## Metropolitan

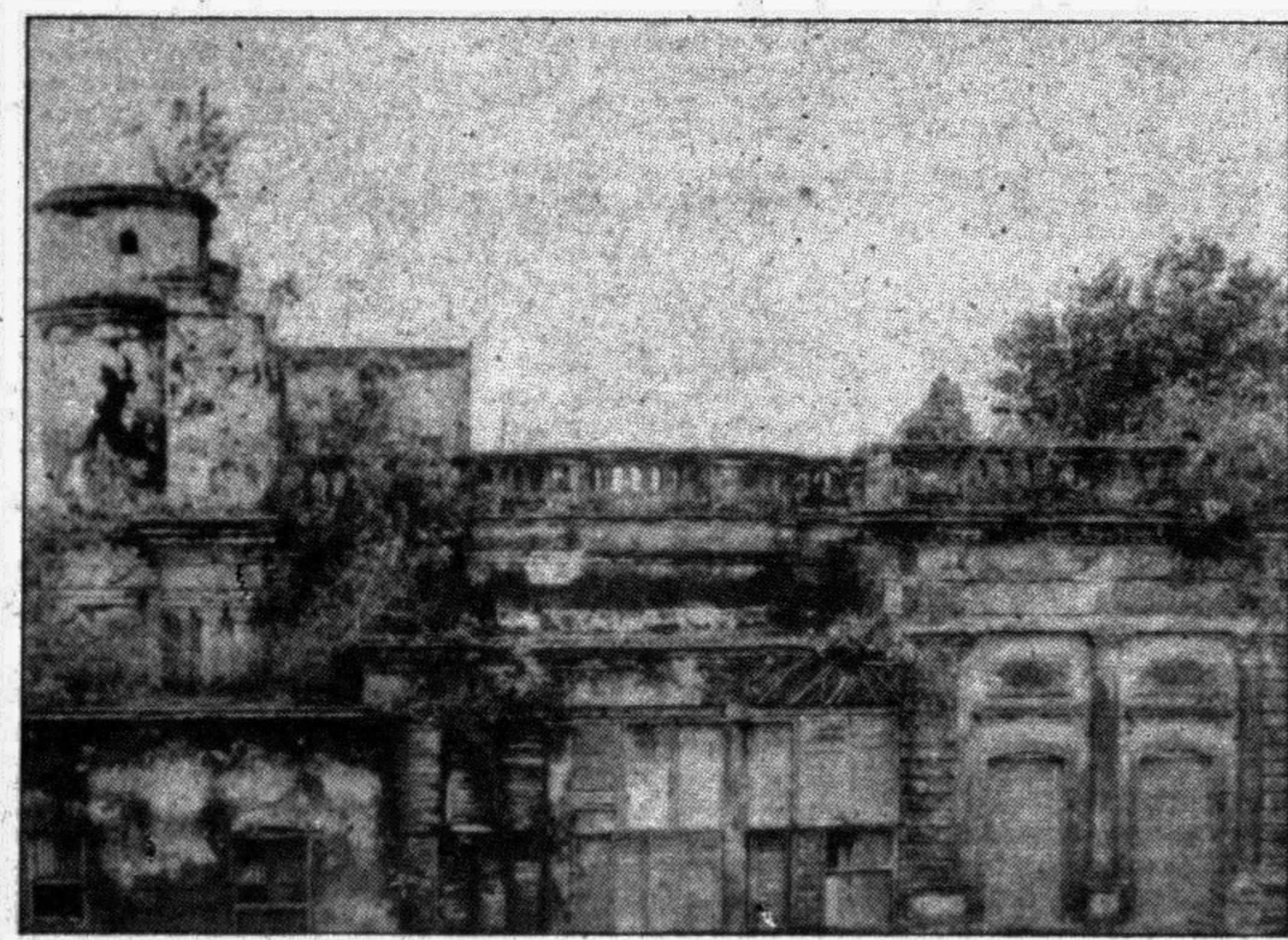
## Dhaka Day by Day

## Architectural Choice

by Neil Ray

A TV antenna and a number of plants seem to be busy stamping their seals of conquest on this building in the picture. A spiral staircase on the far corner and an opening on one side of the top flight gives the impression of an observation tower rather than an attic. Most probably it was a fort that smacks of Portuguese architecture. But the columns, the doors and windows have a distinctive Victorian touch. And this is not the only old building of Dhaka that has a tale to tell.

Once Dhaka city was dotted with buildings like this one. Its landscape is now changing fast, so is its architecture. Much of the vertical and horizontal growth of the city is a necessity of time. But in the name of modernity and maximum usability aesthetics and architectural



beauty are becoming a regular casualty. Most of the high-rise buildings of Dhaka seem to be ill at ease with their surroundings. The indigenous touch is missing. So conspicuous is their alien look that people marvel at the imposing structures but hardly think of those having a cosy closeness with the soil.

However, none has so far pronounced in very many words his or her opposition to the chaotic jumbles of concrete. Even Prince Charles, breaking with the royal norm, finds time to complain against the architectural savagery in London. Alas, we have none like the heir to the British throne to count upon. So we have reconciled with the idea that the moneyed men would give a full play of their whims in building their own abodes, meaning that in their private buildings they will try to bring a little of Hollywood, some of Paris, a small portion of Greco-Roman architecture and even a touch or two of the Japanese spatial expanse. A concision of everything.

Then what about the state or public build-

ings? Starting with Louis Kahn-famed parliament building, Osmany Memorial Hall and the recently constructed Prime Minister's office and the Mayor Bhaban — all announce in no uncertain terms their isolation from the local architectural mould. Both Bangabhaban and Ganabhaban, however, somehow do not distance themselves from the people's mental reach. How the Shilpkala Academy will shape in its final stage is yet to be seen. The architectural design of the proposed permanent stage for theatre and the auditorium itself should also find their relations to the indigenous type.

The fallen poet-president spared hardly any area of art and craft without tinkering. He was manifestly on an Islamisation campaign, appar-

ently to appease his mentors in the Arab world. That, neither, is a solution to our mental poverty. Modern architecture is here to stay and there is, perhaps, hardly any point in complaining against it. The important point is to give a full play of the architectural imagination and bring about an indigenous version distinct from the rest of the world. We cannot go back 200 to 400 years into the past. An architect like Fazlur Rahman Khan, the designer of world's once tallest building the Sears Tower, can surely be inspirational in this task.

However, the construction of new buildings ought not to be the only concern for the nation. The old ones need to be restored to keep alive part of our history. Ahsan Manjil was lucky enough to draw the attention of the authority. But there are others, which have been subjected to gross neglect throughout the ages, needing urgent repair and restoration. The real Dhaka is represented more by them than the glittering sky-scrappers of the commercial centres.

## NOTICE

In the Court of Sub-Judge and Artha Rin Adalat, No. 3, Dhaka  
Title Suit No. 101 of 1993.

**Eastern Bank Limited** incorporated under the Companies Act 1913 having its Principal Branch at Jibon Bima Bhaban, 10 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

.....Plaintiff

## VERSUS

1. **Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd.**, 11 A Eskaton Garden, Dhaka.

2. **Mr. Nazim Kamran Choudhury**, Chairman and Managing Director Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., 11 A Eskaton Garden, Dhaka.

and

House No. 46, Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 2, Dhaka.

3. **Mr. Nazim Ahmed Choudhury**, Director, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., House No. 132, Road No. 13C, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka.

4. **Mr. Abu Raihan Omar**, Director, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., House No. 2, Road No. 3, Section-6, Block-A, Mirpur, Dhaka.

5. **Mr. Luthfur Rahman Choudhury**, Director, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., 63 Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 9/A, Dhaka.

6. **Mr. Nazim Kois Choudhury**, Director, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., Nezirgarh, Khadimnagar, Sylhet.

7. **Mr. Nazim Tarek Choudhury**, Director, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., 6/6 Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

8. **Mr. Rafiqul Islam**, Director, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., 297 Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 15A (Old 26), Dhaka.

9. **Mr. Abdul Mokim Choudhury**, Shareholder, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., Nazimgarh, Khadimnagar, Sylhet.

10. **Mrs. Geetara Safiya Choudhury**, Shareholder, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., 46 Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 2, Dhaka.

11. **Mrs. Riya Choudhury**, Shareholder, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., House No. 132, Road No. 13C, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka.

12. **Mrs. Molly Chowdhury**, Shareholder, Bangladesh Dyestuff Industries Ltd., Nazimgarh, Khadimnagar, Sylhet.

13. **Mrs. Shahida Khatun**, 46, Dhanmondi R/A, Road No. 2, Dhaka.

.....Defendants

14. **Zaman Agencies**, 53, Motijheel C/A, Modern Mansion (12th Floor), Dhaka.

.....Proforma Defendant

**Suit for realisation of money by sale of mortgaged property and Charged/Mortgaged/Pledged/Goods and Property**

By this notice the above named defendants are notified that the Plaintiff bank has filed the above suit for realisation of Tk. 6,58,93,635.00 (Taka Six Crore Fifty Eight Lacs Ninety-Three Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty-five only) as on 17.10.93 against you. Therefore you are notified to appear in the Court in person or through Advocate on 22-10-94 and to state your reply if any failing which the above Suit will be disposed of ex parte.

By order of the court  
Serestadar



The 11-member team from the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), UK led by Rear Admiral T.J. England, RN called on Foreign Secretary MR Osmany at the foreign ministry on Sunday.

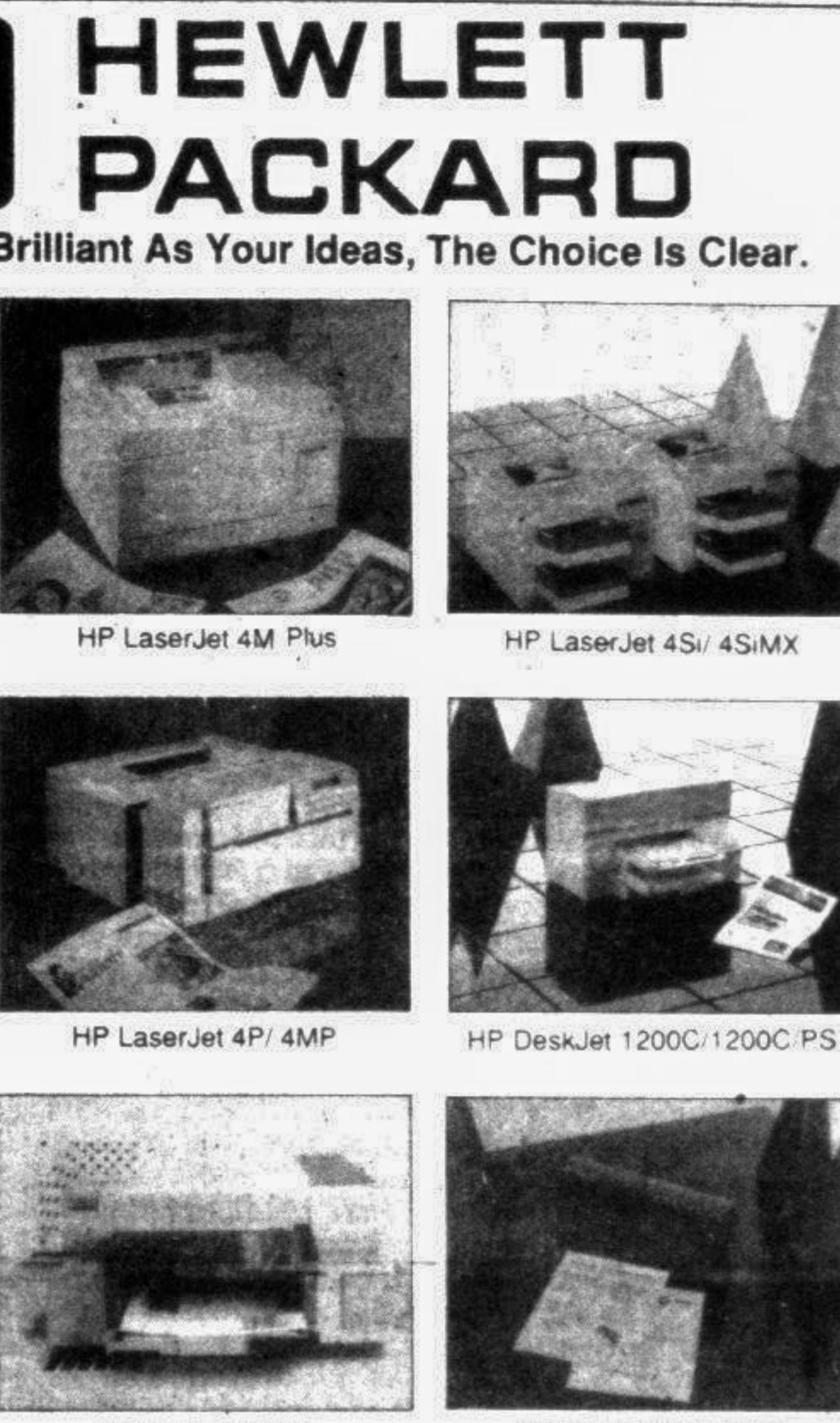
**Contraband**  
RAJSHAHI, Oct 10: A special squad of the 20 rifle battalion of the Bangladesh Rifles destroyed nine thousand Indian eggs, 350 kg of sugar, 550 kg of salt, 630 kg of pulse and 780 kg of onion at the battalion area of the district recently, reports BSS.

**Seminar held**  
Speakers at a seminar held in the city yesterday on the occasion of 45th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China lauded China's tremendous economic development following her open door policy in recent years, reports BSS.

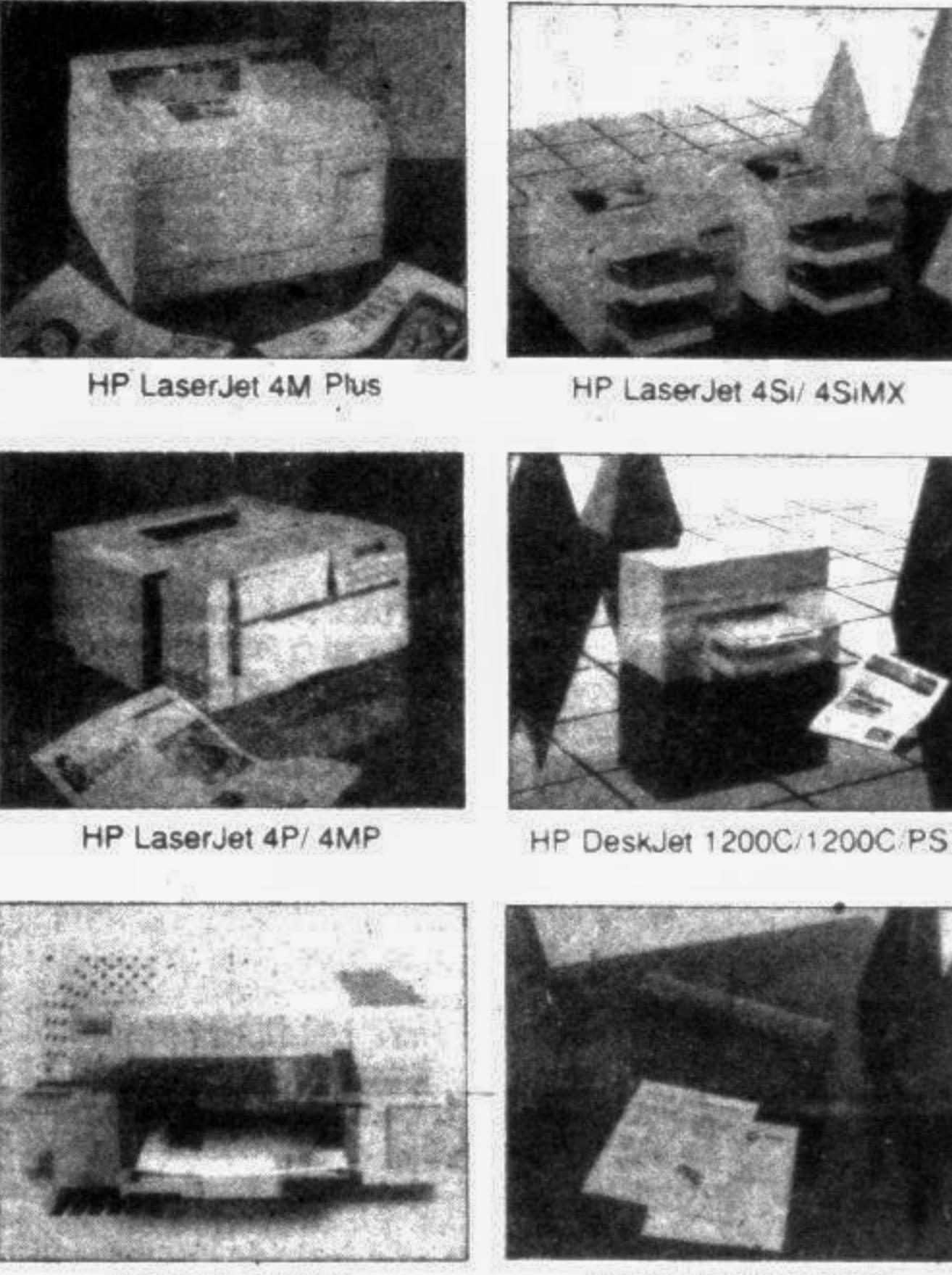


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