

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Enigmatic Endeavour

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

As you pass by the busy Kakrail VIP road, the name of a small shop in bold orange and black letters might capture your attention. You could be tempted to take a peek into 'Enigma' house of style — a new name in designer wear.

Located next to the Rangs Ltd Service Centre, this boutique just came into being on October 19. 'Enigma' is the creative outlet of the four budding young designers. Samia Islam, a student of Economics, DU, her sister Farah Islam, studying Architecture in BUET and their two cousins Shazia Narmeen and Ratna, both students of Economics.

Talking about the season behind launching the boutique Samia says, "Most of our customers in the west have part-time jobs, whereas here, the students sit idle doing nothing constructive in their leisure. New ventures of any kind taken up by the young here are not greatly encouraged and even looked at with cynicism."

We wanted to change the outlook and started a business of our own. The boutique seemed to be a good idea as we always had a keen interest in designing clothes. About a month back the four got together, estimated the costs and discussed how much money they could each invest in their joint venture. That's how they got the ball rolling.

Looking inside the shop one can see that everything there, from the soothing decor to the clothes in soft muted hues are simple yet chic. The girls preferred earthtones and ethnic designs for their creations, which are all the rage now. The price of the 25 outfits displayed at the fall collection ranges from Tk 680 to Tk 1100. They are made out of voiles, swiss voiles, linens and handloom materials and are highlighted with hand-painted, block print motifs.

applique, embroidery, mirror and beadwork. When asked why the name 'Enigma'? the girls exchanged mischievous glances, stating humorously, "Our garts will hopefully attract the enigmatic ladies". True to its name some of the tags show elusive and mysterious names, not to mention the designers' love for the French language. Jole (joy), Peut-etre (maybe), Charmante (charming), reve (dream) etc. are few of the examples. In any case there is certainly something sunny about soleil (sun) a three-piece ensemble in pale yellow self check print with neat hand-painted patterns in shades of orange and green in its kameez and dupatta. A short sleeved, flared ash coloured

kameez paired with an off-white and ash checked shalwar and contrast dupatta shows African motifs at the yoke. "This was inspired by the African 'Ndebele' tribe" — as the designers say. Their designed clothes are practical and down to earth, perfect for everyday wear as well as for casual parties. Speaking about their designs the ladies explain that all their outfits are original and not a single one is repeated. Zee TV's 'Khoobsurat', Star Plus's Video Fashion and magazines help them to find out what's 'in' and 'out' in the fashion arena.

Setting up the boutique was quite a tedious job, the entrepreneurs confide. First they had to renovate a virtually dilapidated old store room. From buying the cement, bricks, distemper to supervising the construction work everyday, the energetic quartet did everything themselves. "Since we are an all-girl bunch, we received curious, speculative glances wherever we went." They added regretfully that the Dha-

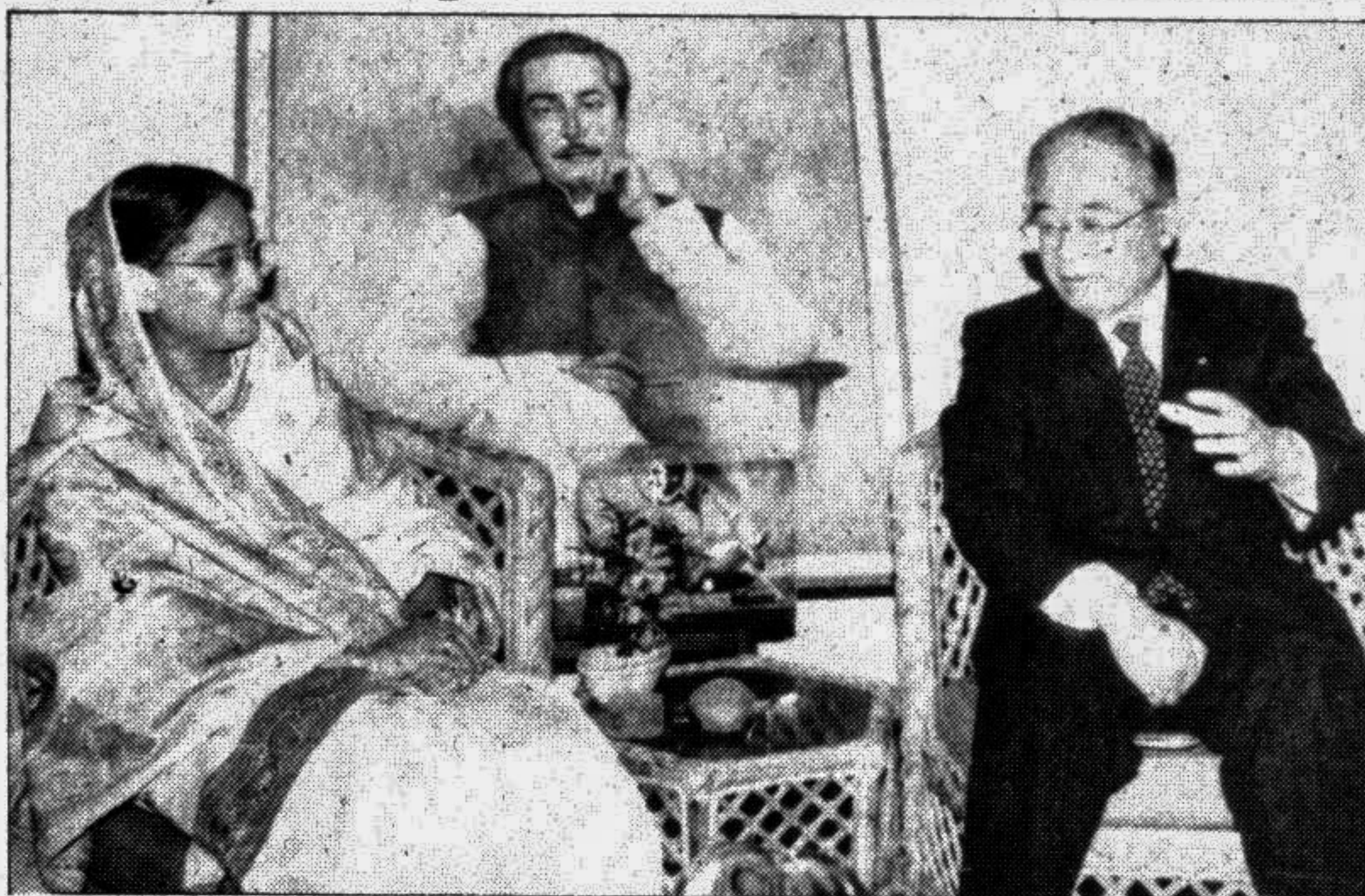
kaites are not ready to accept student entrepreneurs, especially the female ones. There were also financial constraints and unavailability of skilled workers. Also, as the boutique is located in a conspicuous area, the shop often attracts the wrong crowd. But, still these problems don't discourage them from their endeavour, as the moonlighting business women shrewdly believe in the old saying "no pain, no gain."

Besides clothes, there are also some multi-coloured hand-painted bags, pretty dresses for the 1-2 year olds, and cute wall hanging pieces. Newborn baby kits, a display of exquisite pottery along with funky metallic pendants for trendy youth are available there.

Their future plans include introducing emboss, tie and dye, spray paint in their next lot.

This competitive fashion business has suddenly become the 'nouveau' pastime of the female Dhakaites. What do the quartet think their chances are of succeeding? "Pretty good" — was the prompt and confident reply. "We are not one of the run-of-the-mill boutiques blindly copying Indian and Pakistani trends. We are offering quality wear for an affordable price." After all, effort, determination and sincerity can surely guarantee the success of any project.

It is a welcome change that instead of falling prey to the vices of our present society, the young people are coming up with more innovative ventures.



Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, MP, leader of the visiting Japanese delegation yesterday called on Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her official residence at city's Minto Road. — Star photo

## Japanese team shows interest in pulp, paper sector

A seven-member Japanese delegation called on Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan at his office in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, MP and president, Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Association led the delegation.

During the call on, they discussed the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The Industries Minister thanked the Japan government for its support in different projects in Bangladesh.

The delegation showed interest in the pulp and paper sector based on green jute and cellulose fibre.

They also discussed the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (KAFCO), a large joint venture in Bangladesh which is expected to be on operation from January, 1995.

Industries Minister sought technical cooperation of Japan particularly in the field of technical training to accel-

ate the pace of the industrial development of the country.

The minister stressed the need for closer economic relationship between the two countries.

Mitsuzuka said, Bangladesh is a good friend of Japan and Japan would continue its all-out support for the overall development of Bangladesh.

Shin Sakurita, MP and Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka were present.

The visiting Japanese delegation also called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

During the meeting they discussed the matters relating to functioning of parliaments in Bangladesh and Japan. Shaikh Razzak Ali invited a parliamentary delegation from Japan to visit Bangladesh at a time convenient to both the countries.

Chief Whip Khandker Dewar Hossain and Ambassador of

Japan to Bangladesh Takenaka were also present on the occasion.

BSS adds: Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, president of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Association and former Japanese foreign minister met with Prime Minister's special envoy M Morshed Khan at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Mitsuzuka said Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Association laid emphasis on the very strong and close ties between the two Asian countries.

He also thanked Japan for extending financial and technical support to Bangladesh in various sectors, especially in the communications.

Khan sought the assistance of Japan to construct some more bridges saying Bangladesh was a riverine country and still a lot of rivers had to be bridged for which Japan could provide financial support.

## 1 lakh subscribers in waiting list Three lakh telephone connections given

Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (T&T) has so far given three lakh telephone connections throughout the country while another one lakh subscribers are now in the waiting list, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at the 22nd parliamentary standing committee meeting of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications held at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. State Minister for Establishment Md Aminul Haque presided over the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the number of telephone subscribers would be raised to six lakh by the year 1996-97.

There were only 65,000 telephone connections in Bangladesh in 1971 and the number rose to 2,43,000 in 1990-91.

Although the telephone sector is considered as a service-oriented one, but it is one of the main revenue earning sectors in the country. The sector contributed about Tk. 1134 crore to the government exchequer in the last three years.

The meeting was apprised that to improve the overall condition of telecommunication service in the country, T&T Board had so far established 10,590 trunk automatic exchanges and 780 international circuits.

By the end of the 1995-96 fiscal, another 5,000 automatic exchanges and 1270 international exchanges are expected to be established.

The meeting stressed on further efficiency of the telecommunication sector, including improvement in the management.

The meeting asked the T & T authorities to find out the problems in the development and extension of telecommunication network.

The meeting was attended by Salahuddin Ahmed MP, Barkatullah MP and Mohammed Azizur Rahman MP of BNP.

Post and Telecommunications Secretary Dr AMM Showkat Ali, Chairman of T&T Board Fazlur Rahman and Director-General of Postal Department M. Badiuzzaman were present.

## Loko Natyadal to honour five theatre activists

By Staff Correspondent

The Loko Natyadal, a group theatre, will honour five theatre activists for the year 1994 for their praiseworthy role in country's cultural arena. They are — Aly Zaker, Ramendu Majumder, Syed Shamsul Haq, Ferdousi Mazumder and Nasiruddin Yusuf.

The Loko Natyadal will award gold medals to the five personalities at a function at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium on November 13.

## 88 arrested

Police rounded up 88 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, eight were wanted criminals, one was held under the arms case and eight for stealing.

## Punishment of Zakir's killers demanded

By DU Correspondent

The students of the Sociology Department of Dhaka University Saturday demanded punishment of the persons involved in the killing of Gazi Zakir Hossain, an MA final year student of this department.

Some unidentified gunmen killed Zakir at the North house of the Jagannath Hall early Thursday.

The students of the department brought out a mourning procession from the Aparajeo Bangla Saturday and held a rally in front of the Arts Faculty building.

The rally was presided over by Abul Kalam Azad Khan, an M Phil researcher of the department.

Meanwhile, the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-P) also held a condolence meeting at the Aparajeo Bangla.

The BCL (S-P) demanded punitive action for the killers of Zakir.

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## IN MEMORIAM



**DR. ABDUL MAJED KHAN**

**ON THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH**

**Mrs Roquaiya Majed Khan**  
Tutul, Minu, Rinu, Babla, Mitul, Happy, Najmul, Bobby, Mei, Kakon, Renata, Arneeb, Ritu, Naim, Rajan, Akeek, Kimmee, Aquib, Ayman, Adel.

## World Thrift Day today

The World Thrift Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today, reports UNB.

To mark the day, Internal Resources Division of the Finance Ministry will hold a programme at Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) auditorium at 9 am. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will be the chief guest on the occasion.

State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman and Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed will be present as special guests.



- 4:30 Opening announcement
- 4:45 Cartoon film: Captain Planet and the Planetes
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports programme: Football
- 6:30 Sukh Dukher Nadi
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Sukher Thikana
- 9:00 Musical programme: Geeti Shatodal
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11:00 Comedy series: Coach
- 11:30 Khabar/The News

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Mainly dry weather with partly cloudy sky is likely across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days the Met Office predicted that weather is likely to deteriorate while giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen says weather may improve.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 19.7 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 5:20 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.0	22.0	73	77
Chittagong	34.6	21.7	78	73
Rajshahi	32.0	20.9	77	75
Khulna	32.8	22.8	78	72
Barisal	31.6	21.4	81	84
Sylhet	31.0	21.0	80	83
Cox's Bazar	33.0	21.8	66	64

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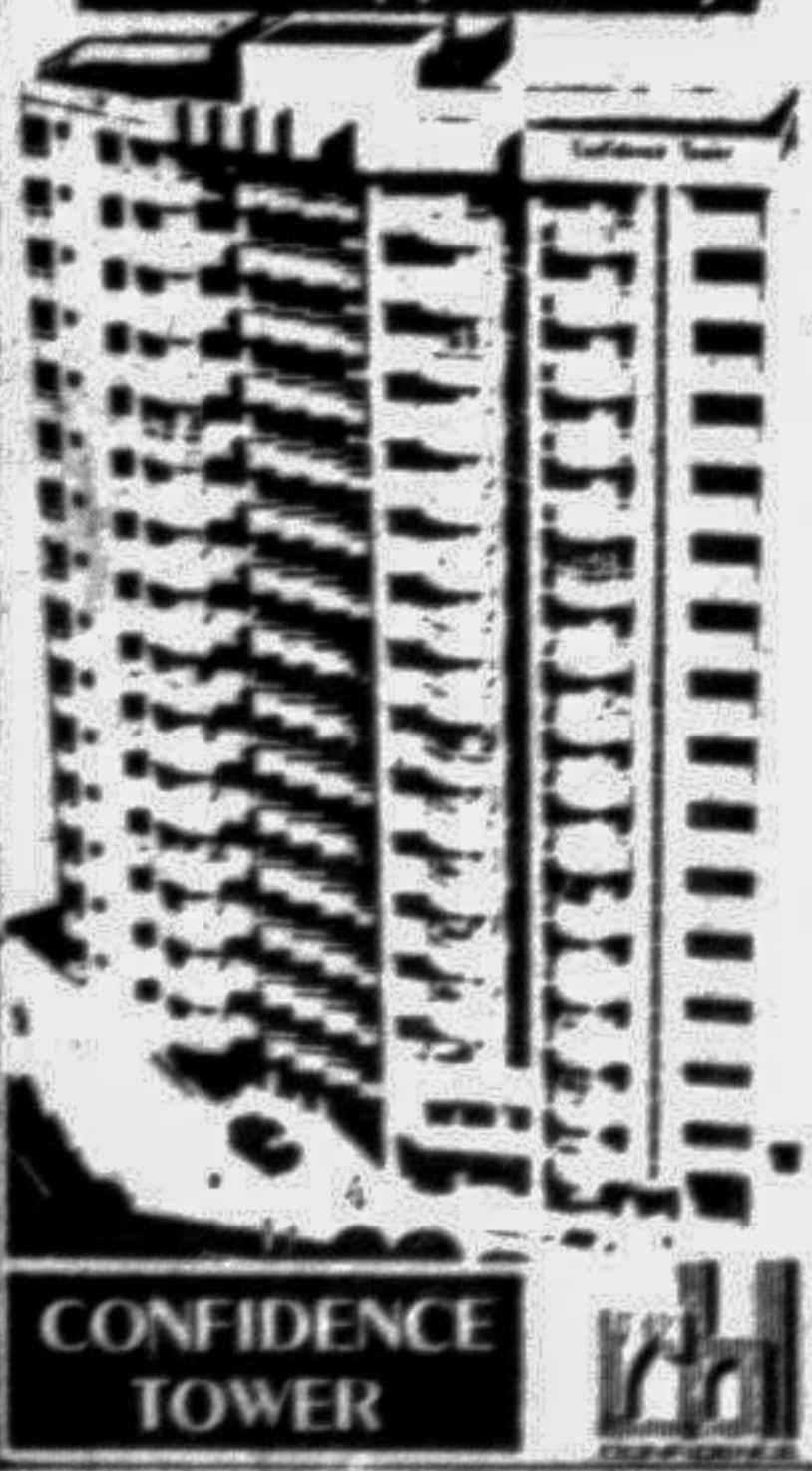
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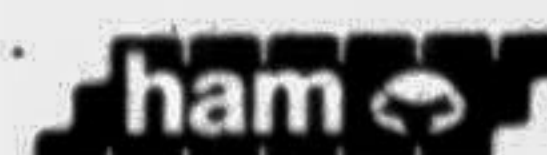
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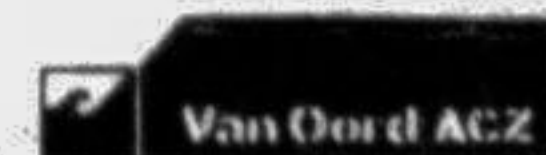
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