

Dhaka Day by Day

Ship Broken and Home Furnished

by R Ahmed

Over the past two or three years a number of new furniture establishments have sprung up on Pantha Path. A short browse through any one of them will reveal that the furniture for sale is rather unique. It is all of foreign make and style and yet can be bought relatively cheap.

However anyone from Chittagong will soon inform you of their source, being no stranger to the sight of such items. For all the items of furniture being sold on Pantha Path have come from disused ships that have ended their seagoing lives in Chittagong. The chairs, tables, wardrobes, cupboards, sofas and armchairs that are to be seen are all products of the ship-breaking industry.

While there has always been a demand for such items in Chittagong, it is quite recently

that those in the business have decided to expand and try their luck in the capital. Business is apparently good judging by the rate at which the number of shops has been increasing.



Much of the furniture originating in such countries as Japan, Sweden and Germany, is made from pine and oak which are not readily available in Bangladesh. These woods are hardwearing, but pine in particular is also lightweight, making transport by road from Chittagong fairly easy.

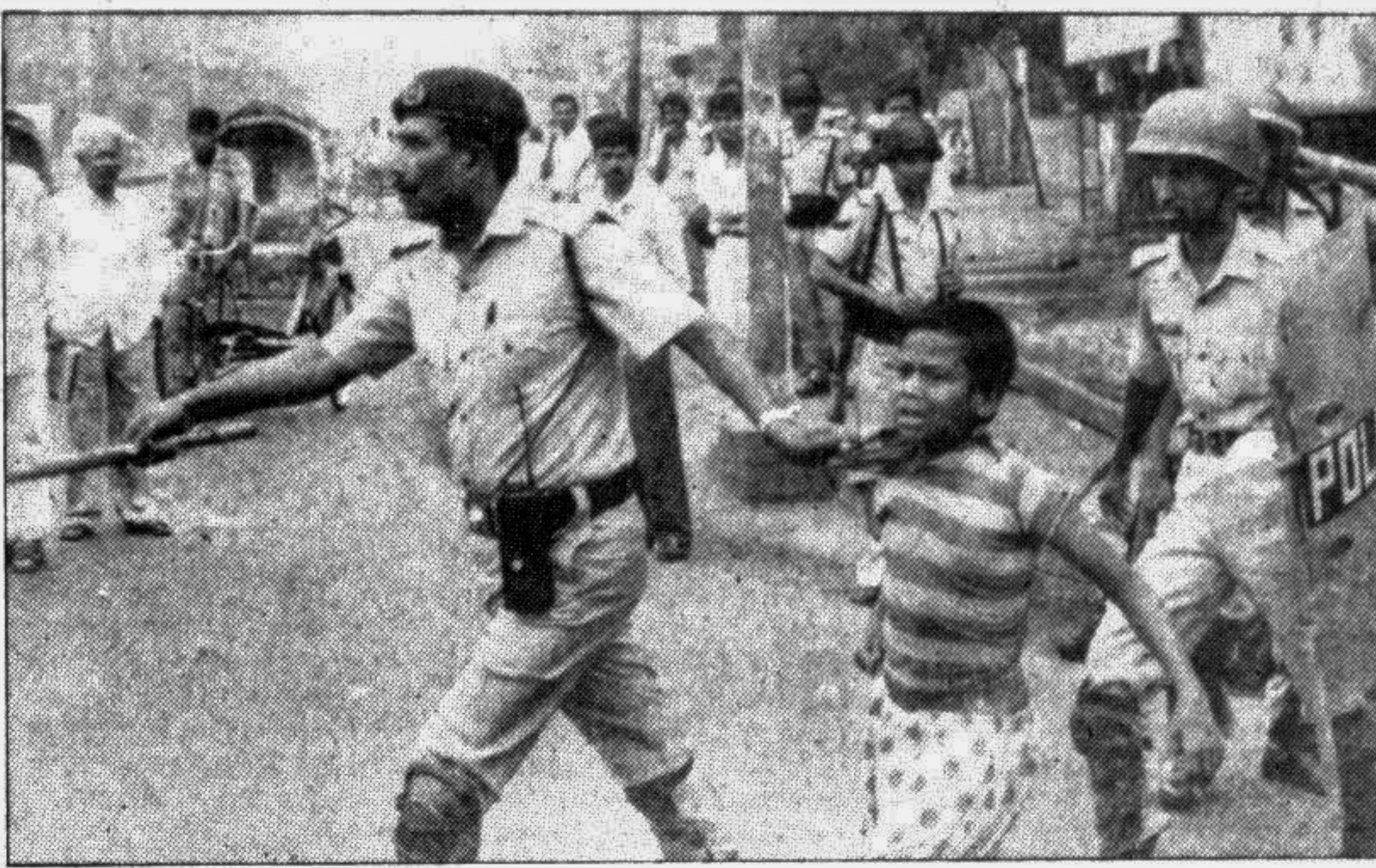
Although the furniture is secondhand, the attraction lies in its longevity. Most pieces, though they may be as much as thirty years old, are in good condition. Just surface repairs are done in some cases before they are brought to Dhaka. Wood such as oak in fact matures and actually improves with age.

The quality of the finishing is also an added bonus considering the low prices due to low taxes on secondhand goods. The pieces are in addition cleaned and revarnished to look almost new.

Customers from a wide ranging backgrounds appear to appreciate all the advantages of buying long lasting and solid secondhand furniture for their homes. But they should be careful as some unprincipled furniture dealers are now attempting to pass off native timbers as foreign by copying the styles of the genuine articles.

Another problem to look out for is woodworm, indicated by tiny pinhead sized holes, and rot, seen as soft flaking or powdery wood. Most people have a sensible attitude towards buying these secondhand, foreign items. For example they are aware that viruses cannot be transmitted through inanimate objects. And that recycling is always a good idea, especially if you can get a bargain out of it.

So if you are looking for a good old oak dining table, that will add character to your home — and you don't want to pay Gulshan prices, you know where to look for.



Two police personnel rounding up a *tokai* on the city street during yesterday's half-day hartal called by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) —Star photo

Dutch envoy urges PM to open a mission in Hague

Newly-appointed Ambassador of the Netherlands Robert Arthur Vormis paid his first call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed bilateral issues of mutual interests.

The ambassador appreciated the Prime Minister's observation and requested her to open a mission in the Hague for further strengthening relation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister welcomed the new ambassador and assured him of all cooperation and assistance of her government during his tenure in Bangladesh.

Begum Zia emphasised on further strengthening bilateral trade, economic and cultural ties between the two countries. She also laid importance on exchanging business delegations in the private sector between Bangladesh and the Netherlands to increase the volume of trade.

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D-1145



The Bangladesh-India annual border co-ordination conference was held at BDR headquarters in Dhaka yesterday. Director General of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain and Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) DK Arya led their respective side. —PID photo.

Bangladesh Institute of Administration & Management (BIAM) Eskaton, Dhaka

AMENDMENT NOTICE

Memo : BIAM/21/C-1 November 10, 1994

The notice inviting tender (2nd Call) vide this office memo no BIAM/21/C at 26-10-94 for Manufacture and Supply of Steel and Wooden Furniture for BIAM project is amended due to unavoidable circumstances as under:

1. Extended date and time for receiving tenders : Up to 12:00 Noon of 20-11-94.
2. Extended date of time for opening tenders : Up to 12:15 PM of 20-11-94.
3. All other terms and conditions of the notice inviting tenders will remain unchanged.
4. The amendment notice will also form a part of the tender document and will be binding upon the tenderers.

Mohammad Shahidul Alam
Director General, Anti-corruption Bureau &
Project Director
Bangladesh Institute of Administration & Management (BIAM)
Eskaton, Dhaka

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AMENDMENT NOTICE

Memo : BIAM/21/C-1 November 10, 1994

The notice inviting tender (2nd Call) vide this office memo no BIAM/21/C at 26-10-94 for Supply of Bedding, Draperies and Kitchen Wares for BIAM project is amended due to unavoidable circumstances as under:

1. Extended date and time for receiving tenders : Up to 12:00 Noon of 20-11-94.
2. Extended date of time for opening tenders : Up to 12:15 PM of 20-11-94.
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BSB to disburse Tk 200 cr in credit this fiscal

The bad loan-ridden Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) will disburse Tk 200 crore in fresh credits during the current fiscal year (1994-95) while realise Tk 80 crore from outstanding loans, reports UNB.

The projections for disbursement and recovery were disclosed at the bank's annual conference that began at its head office in the city yesterday.

In 1993-94 the BSB sanctioned Tk 128.8 crore, including a foreign exchange component of Tk 2.7 crore, more than double of the

previous year's figure. The bank recovered Tk 69.4 crore during the year which is Tk 11.8 crore more than the amount recovered in the previous fiscal (1992-93).

Inaugurating the conference, State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman suggested BSB to continue efforts to realise outstanding credits through negotiations. He disclosed that the number of credits facing cases was on the rise.

He, however, cautioned against unacceptable delays in the name of negotiation.

The minister also asked the BSB authorities to remain extremely vigilant against any misuses of credits, including partial diversion of funds into other areas.



- Morning Session**
- 8:00 Opening
 - 8:15 Religious Programme: Alor Disher
 - 8:40 Film show: Wind in the Willows
 - 9:00 Ei Prithibi
 - 9:30 Cartoon show: Batman
 - 10:05 Moner Mukurey
 - 11:15 Film show: Tarzan
 - 11:40 Health programme: Prescription
 - 11:55 Musical programme: Marami
 - 12:30 Closing
- Evening Session**
- 3:00 Opening
 - 3:15 Cartoon show: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - 3:40 Movie of the week: Bengali Film
 - 5:10 News in Bangla
 - 5:25 Sports programme: Open University
 - 6:00 Musical programme: Malancha
 - 6:30 News in Bangla
 - 6:50 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
 - 7:25 Magazine programme: Manobadhiker
 - 8:00 News in English
 - 8:30 Drama series: Law and Order
 - 9:00 Khabar/The News
 - 9:40 Announcement of tomorrow's programme
 - 11:45 Closing

Biennial confce

By Staff Correspondent

The fourth biennial conference of the Bangladesh College University Teachers Association was held November 4 at the Shiddheshwari College auditorium.

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif attended the function as chief guest.

The conference honoured Md Tahajjat Hossain principal of the Shiddheshwari Girls College and Dr Shamsul Alam, principal of the Adarsha College for their contribution in the field of education.

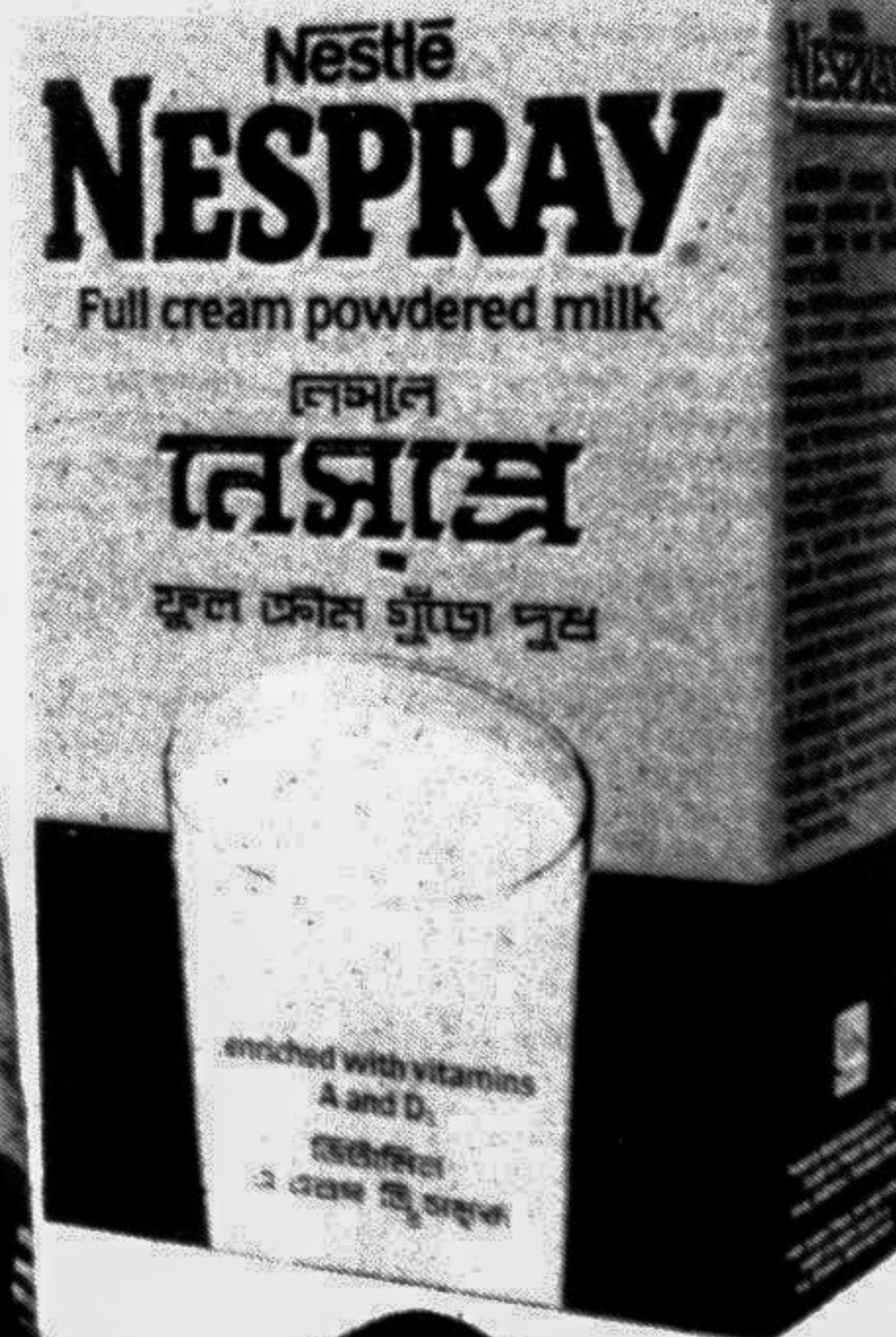
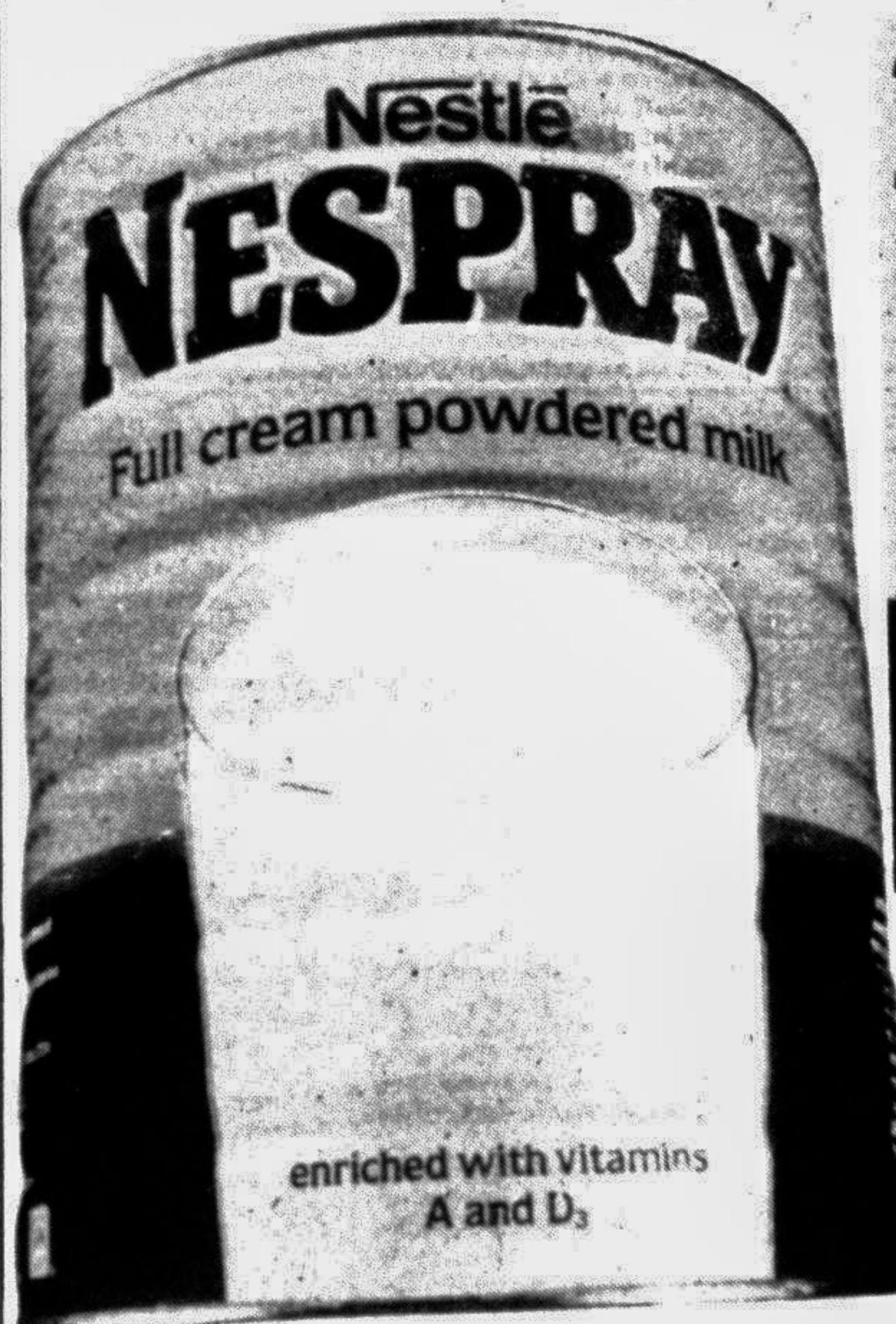
Later, a seminar on 'Our education system and crisis in admission in the higher education' was held.

Besides, the new office bearers of the Dhaka Metropolitan unit of the association took place in which Prof M A Bari and Prof Abu Bakar Chowdhury were elected the president and general secretary respectively.

Twenty three members of the executive committee were also elected.

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