

Dhaka Day by Day

All-purpose Pavement Market

by Goutam Prosad Das

Motijheel and Dilkusha, the commercial hub of the city that hum with activities on all the working days of the week, have witnessed the growth of a kind of erratic but all-purpose pavement market.

The market is sprawling on two sides of the two-way roads and densely crowded at some places. It is a scattered market, and items ranging from tamarind pickle to readymade garments are abundantly available.



to another in search of your much-needed commodities. It is a bit similar to weekly held 'hat' in rural areas. In both the places massive gathering occurs in the afternoon, and as the sun dips in the crimson glow of western horizon, the crowd starts thinning.

The virtue of the market is that it offers women working in different offices a hassle-free shopping. They do not have to go to another market for the things like broom-sticks and cutleries.

Whether it has been extracted from an apriary or is simply a solution with higher proportion of sugar in water, requires you to be a veteran chemist to debunk the seller's strong claim about its purity.

At the same shop they sell other items, like mustard oil, ghee, coconut oil etc with unabated emphasis on and assurance of the quality.

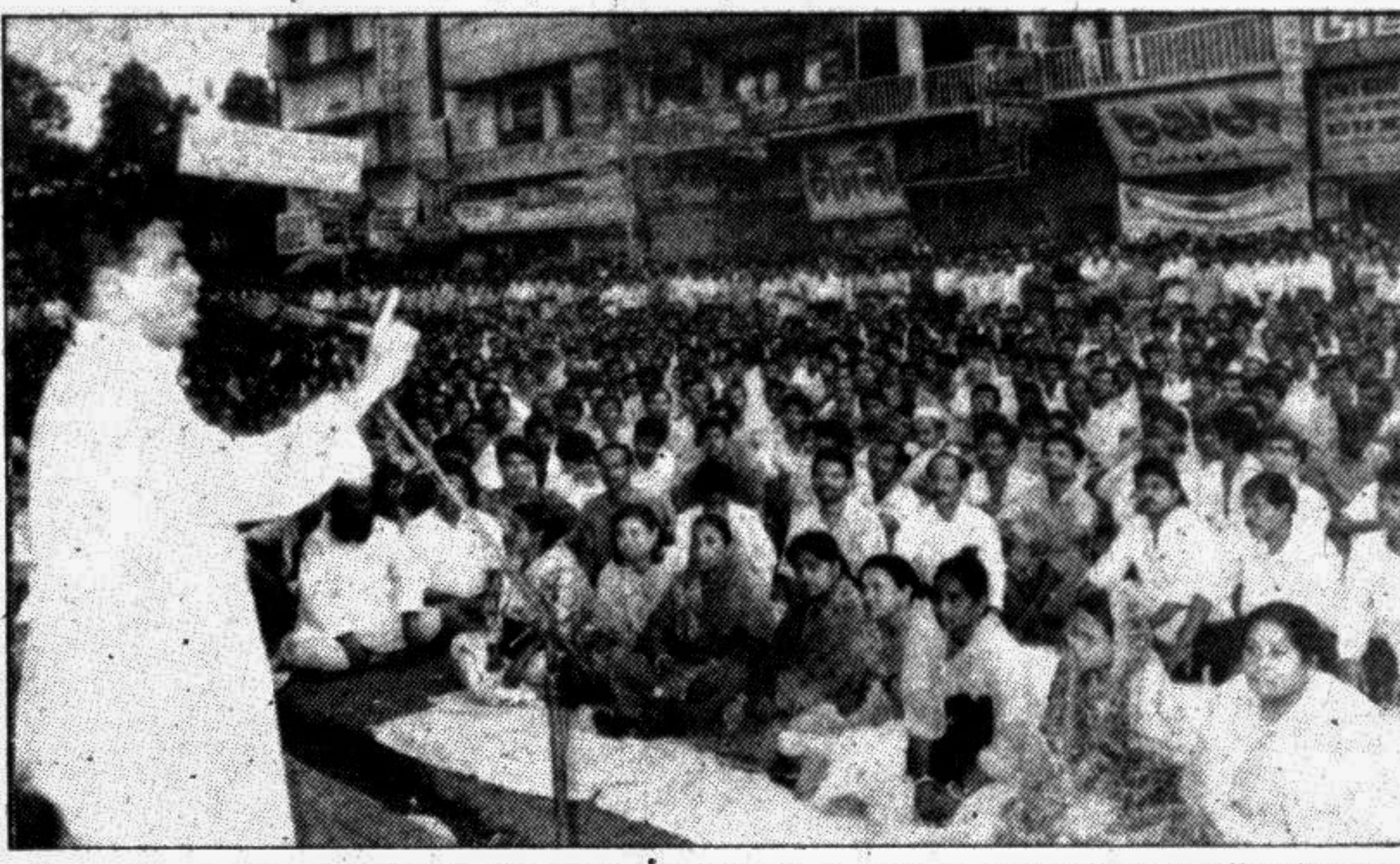
The unbridled proliferation of such unconventional shopping malls sometimes causes great difficulties in movement of pedestrians along the 'foot-path'. At times the crowds spill over to the streets, obstructing smooth movement of vehicles.

How long our law enforcing agency will allow such pavement vendors to do their business is not known.

However small traders and even farmers of Savar, Gazipur, Joydebpur and other nearby areas come with their commodities by the incoming city buses and trucks to directly off-load their wares at the stoppage near 'Shapla Chattar' (Shapla Square).

This makeshift market has been very handy to help ease our pressure for time and make a good purchase at reasonable price even in the midst of tight schedule.

The market seems to burst at the seams with customers at the end of office hours. There is every possibility to be shoved and elbowed while you scramble through the crowd from one spot



Awami League leader Abdur Razzaque addressing a rally at city's Bangabandhu Avenue during yesterday's countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal hours.

Britain keen to invest in energy, textiles sectors

The visiting British trade delegation showed keen interest to invest in the exploration and development of energy and mineral resources sector in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The interest was shown during the talks with officials of the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry yesterday, a government handout said.

Tony Baldry, MP and British Parliamentary under-Secretary, and M Faizur Razzak, the Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary, led their respective delegations in the talks.

Razzak apprised the delegation of the government's proposed petroleum policy and reforms programmes in the power sector, highlighting their key-features.

He also outlined the prospects and possibilities of the country's energy and mineral resources and detailed a break-up of investment requirements in the sector in next 15 years.

Tony Baldry appreciated the government's initiatives in developing the energy and mineral resources and said there was a tremendous opportunity for private investment in the sector, specially in the exploration of oil and gas, electricity generation and exploitation of mineral resources.

He said British participation in the sector will hopefully increase in the near future.

BSS adds: The visiting delegation yesterday lauded the programme Bangladesh attained by exporting its textiles products and expressed their keen interest to participate in the investment in textiles and other allied industry in Bangladesh.

An eight-member British trade delegation led by Linn L Dale Obe called on State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan here yesterday.

The state minister briefed the delegation of the structure of textile industry, fast growth of export-oriented textiles sub-sector, demand-gap for fabrics and other various issues related to textiles of Bangladesh.

In response to a query of the delegation, the state minister said there is huge potentiality of foreign investment in dyeing, finishing, weaving and other textile industry. The government is ready to provide all-out support for such foreign investment, the state minister added.

Call to solve political problems thru' discussion

Leaders of the Zia parishad yesterday called upon the politicians of both the camps to resolve the current political problems through discussions, reports BSS.

"Time has not yet run out," the leaders said and asked all to unitedly solve the problem. There is no final word in politics, the Zia parishad, leaders said in a statement released to the press.

The parishad leaders said there is an imperative need to resolve the problem immediately. They said since hartal has negative impact on the economy it should be the task of all politicians, teachers and service holders and people at large to come forward to solve the problem.

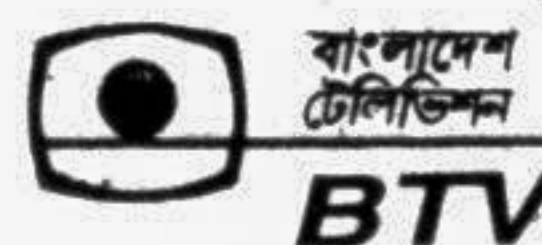
They maintained that the opportunities, opened up for economic development, should not be missed.

Kabir Murad, chairman and Syed Meshbahuddin, Prof Ershadul Bari, Prof Enamul Haq, Prof Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Prof Mahfuzur Rahman, Prof Sohrabuddin, all vice presidents and Taranga Anwar, secretary general of the Zia parishad among others issued the statement.

Honoured

Major General Mohammad Abdur Rab, PSC, Master General of the Ordnance, Bangladesh Army has been appointed 2nd Colonel Commandant of the Army Service Corps, says a press release.

The conferring ceremony, held at the Army Service Corps Centre and School, Jahanabad Cantonment in Khulna on Friday, was attended by all senior officials of the Bangladesh Army and Jessore area.



- 4:30 Opening announcement
4:45 Cartoon film : Captain Planet and Planetears
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 Sports programme
6:30 Moder Garab Moder Asha
7:00 Open University
7:25 Nazrul song
8:00 New in Bangla
8:25 Janmabhumi
8:30 Population programme: Shukher Thikana
9:00 Women's programme: Ghare Baire
10:00 News in English
10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
11:00 Comedy series: Coach

Weather

Dry weather likely

Dry weather is likely to prevail throughout the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period.

The maximum temperature in Dhaka was 31.8 degrees Celsius and the minimum was 19.6 degrees while the country's highest temperature was recorded 32.8 in Khulna and the lowest 16 degrees in Dinajpur.

The percentage of humidity was 71 in the morning and 83 in the evening.

The sun sets today at 5:13 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:13 am.



Matiur Rahman Nizami, secretary general of the Jamaat-e-Islami, addressing a rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday.

Minister tells JS Garments export fetches \$200 cr annually

Bangladesh earns about 200 crore US dollars annually by exporting 128.49 crore pieces of garments produced in 1757 garment factories in the country, Textile Minister Abdul Mannan informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

He was replying to a question from M Niamat Ullah (BNP-Dhaka) A T M Alamgir (BNP-Comilla) moved the question in absence of Niamat Ullah.

In reply to a supplementary, Mannan said 10 lakh workers were employed in the garments industry and there was no children working there now. He said, most of the industries had health care facilities for the women workers.

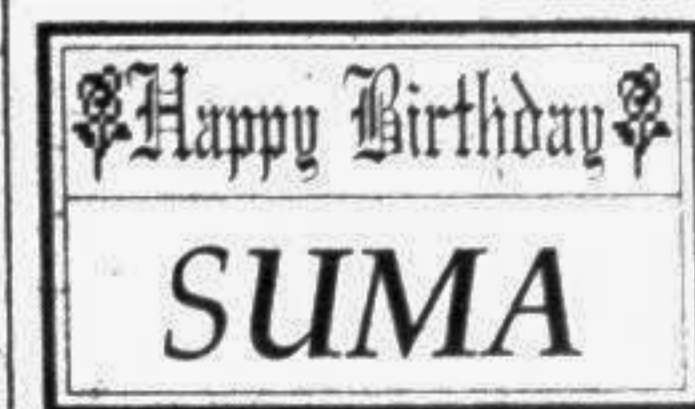
In reply to another supplementary, he said that more garment industries in different cities of the country would be set up in near future as the export market was expanding everyday.

He said, 40 per cent of

garments is exported to the United States and the rest to Europe, Australia, Middle East, Russia and other European countries.

He said that fabrics and different accessories of garment industries worth US dollar 120 crore were being imported annually through back to back LC.

Efforts had been taken to produce the fabrics locally and it is expected that most of the need will be met locally within next three years, he added.



Happy Birthday SUMA Happy Birthday To He-Man Farhan Baba, Amma, Adnan Bhaiya and Fahd

Advertisement for 'দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Notice of Invitation for Tender) for the construction of a building. It includes details about the project, the bidding process, and contact information for the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

Advertisement for Reliance Insurance Limited. The ad features a large stylized 'R' logo and text that reads 'At Reliance Your Security Comes First'. It highlights the company's experience, strength, and security, and provides contact details for their Dhaka office.



The non-gazetted employees held a rally in Secretariat premises yesterday during their five-hour work abstention programme to press home their charter of demands.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shipping Corporation. It features the company logo and text: 'Bangladesh Shipping Corporation MV BANGLAR KAKOLI (VOY. 62-OW)'. It provides information about cargo loading for various destinations and lists contact details for Dhaka, Chittagong, and Khulna offices.