

Dhaka Day by Day

Avoidable Vehicular Backache

by Rashida Ahmad

NA, BHAI, I PAY YOU
AND YOU LET ME DRIVE



Some of the most common physical ailments in Dhaka have got to be back problems. Whether it's sciatica, spondylitis or a slipped disc (and how come they all start with 's'), either you're suffering from one (or all) of them or else you know people who are — be they in traction, bed-ridden, unable to climb stairs etc. etc.

Although no clinical studies have so far been carried out on the subject, one likely cause has been unduly overlooked. Being jiggled, juddered and jolted in rickshaws, scooters and buses must be more than a negligible factor in the matter. Add to that the humidity of the climate and you have a veritable breeding ground for aching backs.

What solutions are there then, for avoiding the agony of back trouble? Well, it's all too easy to avoid buses completely. In fact, you're lucky if you can get on one, let alone get a seat — which is the spot to avoid at all costs if you want to give your back a break (no pun intended). But, if you must take a bus, stand up for the duration of the journey. Or, better still, do like those in the know do — hang from the doorway with one hand (and you always thought those people were crazy!). For long distances, however, a train is most definitely the safest option, in all respects.

But back in the city, scooters and rickshaws are unavoidable and indispensable forms of transport for most of us. We can't all afford cars to drive, or be driven around in. And if we could, considering the number of people in Dhaka, it would certainly be an environmental disaster. Which brings us to a complaint against scooters. They're disgusting, dirty little monsters, belching out black fumes and suffocating every one. Quite apart from the issue of

aggravated backs, they imperil lives! But, let us not digress. Returning to the subject of backs, some practical advice follows: if it is absolutely necessary to make use of a scooter, do not for any reason make contact with the seat — excepting when the auto three-wheeler is stationary — and keep your bottom raised a few inches above the seat at all times by holding on to the one of the roof-rods. However this may be impractical for those who are weak or infirm, or for particularly long journeys where the arms may tire. In these cases it is permissible to remain seated, provided a watchful eye is kept on the road ahead in order that one may raise oneself off the seat when approaching a bump or hole in the road.

And finally, the rickshaw. Environmentally-friendly they may be, user friendly they most certainly are not. What, with sloping seats and flapping hoods, there is little scope for holding on to anything that doesn't move in order to brace yourself against the onslaught of bone shaking, teeth-rattling, eye-popping quakes, that would surely score not too modestly on the Richter scale.

But one piece of information may be relevant to our need for an ache-proof ride. An authoritative source discloses that rickshawallas themselves suffer from relatively few back problems. It would appear that as they pedal their rickshaws, their legs provide natural suspension as the rickshaw bumps along. Their backs are thus protected from the effects of uneven road surfaces. Note how infrequently they make use of their seats — they know a thing or two!

So the solution would seem incredibly simple and clear. If a rickshaw is the only option, make sure you're in the driving seat!

DCC implementing Tk 257 cr projects in this fiscal

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has been implementing 911 projects at a cost of Taka 257 crore and five lakh during the current fiscal year (1994-95) to improve the civic amenities for the city, reports BSS.

This was informed at the 29th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The meeting was presided over by Deputy Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives M Abdul Hye.

The meeting reviewed in detail the programmes of the Dhaka City Corporation. It was informed at the meeting that implementation of the projects taken up during the current year is expected to be completed by May 31 next.

The minister asked the officials concerned to complete the work of the projects in time and at the same time maintain the standard of work. The development programmes of the city corporation included improvement of roads, footpaths and drains, lighting of roads, repair and renovation of building of markets, building and improvement of bus terminals, soup up recreational facilities, undertaking of social welfare activities, removal of garbage, mosquito control, improvement of slums, development of environment, development of infrastructure and flood protection.

The meeting was attended by members of the committee Ukil A Sattar, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Abdul Wahab and Zainul Abedin Farooq, Secretary, Ministry of LGRD

and Cooperatives Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury attended the meeting.

IN MEMORIAM



On this day in 1988 I lost my beloved mother Begum Anwara Khatun. I remember and miss her. May Allah bless her soul. IQBAL ANSARI KHAN

Happy Birthday



Nibras

From: Nilu, Biltu, Tulu, Mintu & Tom Thumb

Weather

Temperature may fall

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets today at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25 am.

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

City/Town	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6am	6pm
Dhaka	29.1	15.1	69	79
Chittagong	28.0	17.0	85	68
Rajshahi	27.4	15.0	-	-
Khulna	28.4	17.2	93	87

Orthopaedic conference

By Staff Correspondent

The Save the Crippled International, a voluntary organisation, yesterday began a scientific conference at the BIRDEM auditorium in the city.

Noted orthopaedic surgeons from home and abroad participated in the opening session of the conference.

Dr Yoshihiro Watanabe of Japan presented the key-note paper in the conference while other orthopaedic surgeons from the same country Dr Hidio Ida, Dr Michio Mori, Dr S Maya Kowa, Dr H Jowa and Bangladesh's Dr MD Shamim, Dr M Awal, Dr Ekhlashur Rahman, Dr Ibrahim Hassan and Dr Shyamol discussed on it.

Noteworthy

By Staff Correspondent

A poor laundry worker has set an example of honesty by returning Tk 1000, he found from the pocket of a panjabi while washing.

All Noor, an employee of the Chadni Dry Cleaners of Goran area in the city, recovered two notes of Tk 500 from the pocket of panjabi while washing it and returned the money to the owner Alhaj Efazuddin Mallik, president of Latifa Gana Sohay Angan, a social organisation of the locality, said a press release.

Obituary

Mohammad Altaf Hossain Talukder, 50, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Establishment died of cancer Sunday, says a press release.

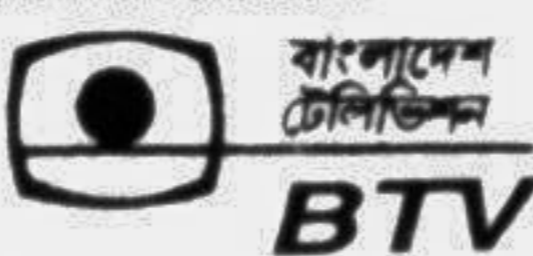
He hailed from Panchakroshi village of Kamarkhand thana in Sirajganj district. He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. His qulkhwan will be held today (Wednesday) after Asr prayers at Mousumi Eskaton Govt Quarters.

Fazle Rabbi, Chief Editor of the 'Amode', Comilla, died of brain haemorrhage on Monday night. He was 69, reports UNB.

Death anniversary

The sixth anniversary of death of Anwara Khatun, a former MLA, Bengal Legislative Assembly and MPA, East Pakistan Assembly will be observed today, says a press release.

A condolence meeting and a milad mahfil will be held on the occasion at 3:30 pm at 23, Green Road. Well wishers, admirers and relatives have been requested to attend.



Wednesday

- 4:30 Opening announcements
- 4:45 Programme summary
- 5:10 Sports programme
- 5:10 Sangbad
- 5:25 Sabar Sathe
- 6:00 Indrajal
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Nritter Taale Taale
- 9:00 Mini series
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Samakal
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Close down

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
Sheema Huq
Company Secretary

ADVANCED CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Registered Office: 9 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that the Company has issued a letter of Offer dated 28 November 1994 to shareholders whose names appeared in the Share Register of the Company as on 21 November 1994 offering Rights Ordinary Shares on basis of 2 for 5 at the rate of Taka 130 per share (i.e. at a premium of Taka 120 per share).

The funds being raised through this Rights Issue will be utilised to finance expansion of the Company's business. Details of the investment plans as well as financial information have been enclosed with the letter.

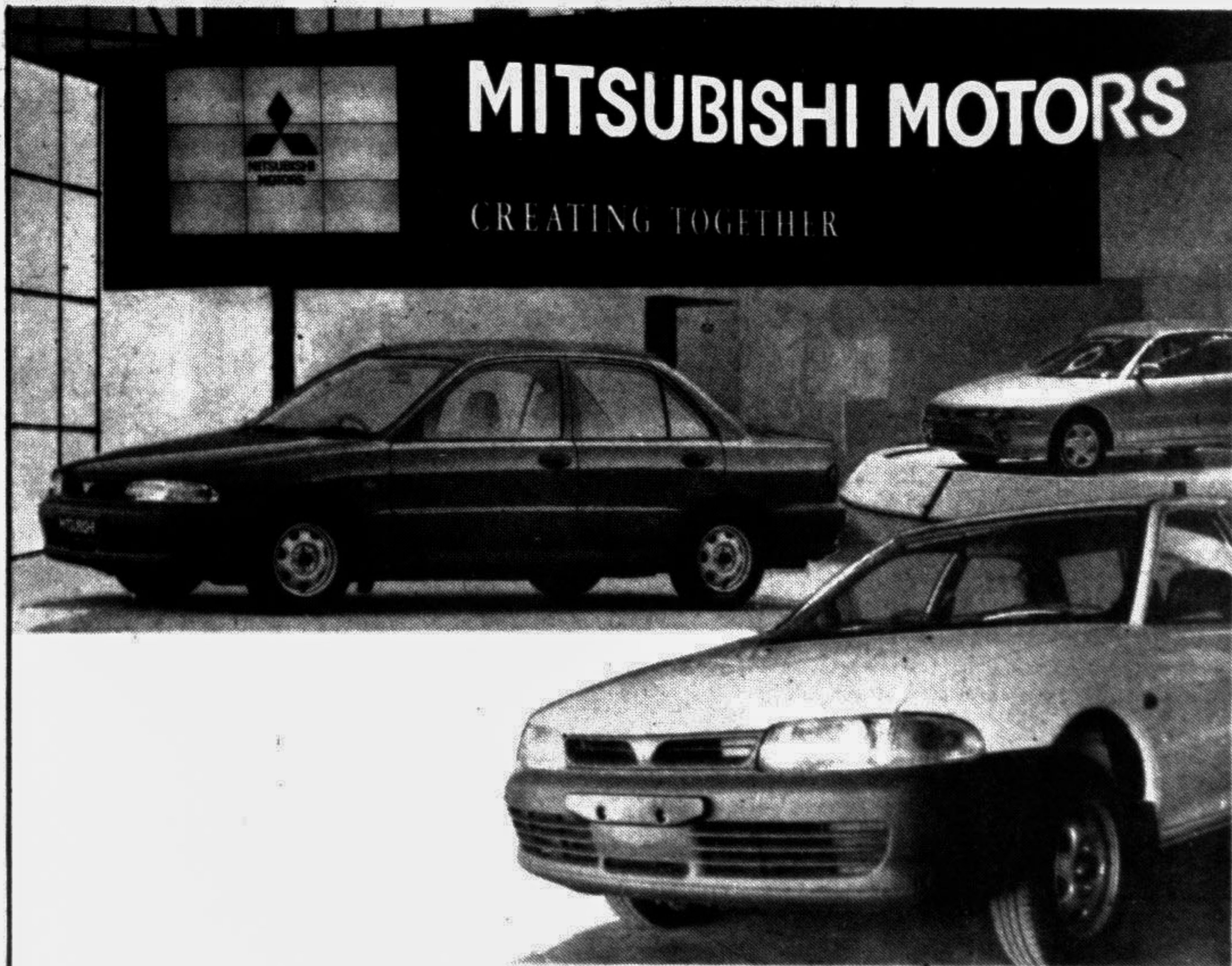
Shareholders accepting their Rights Shares are required to make payment for the shares to the Company from 5 December 1994 to 19 December 1994 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on all working days.

Shareholders not taking up their Rights Shares in full or in part may renounce the same on Form "B", with or without consideration, in favour of others and in that event the renouncee must make payment for the shares by 19 December 1994. Rights Shares not paid for by 19 December 1994 will be deemed to have been declined.

Dated 30th November, 1994



Special envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan addressing as chief guest at a seminar on 'Two Decades of Japan-Bangladesh Cooperation' at a local hotel in the city yesterday. — PID photo



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