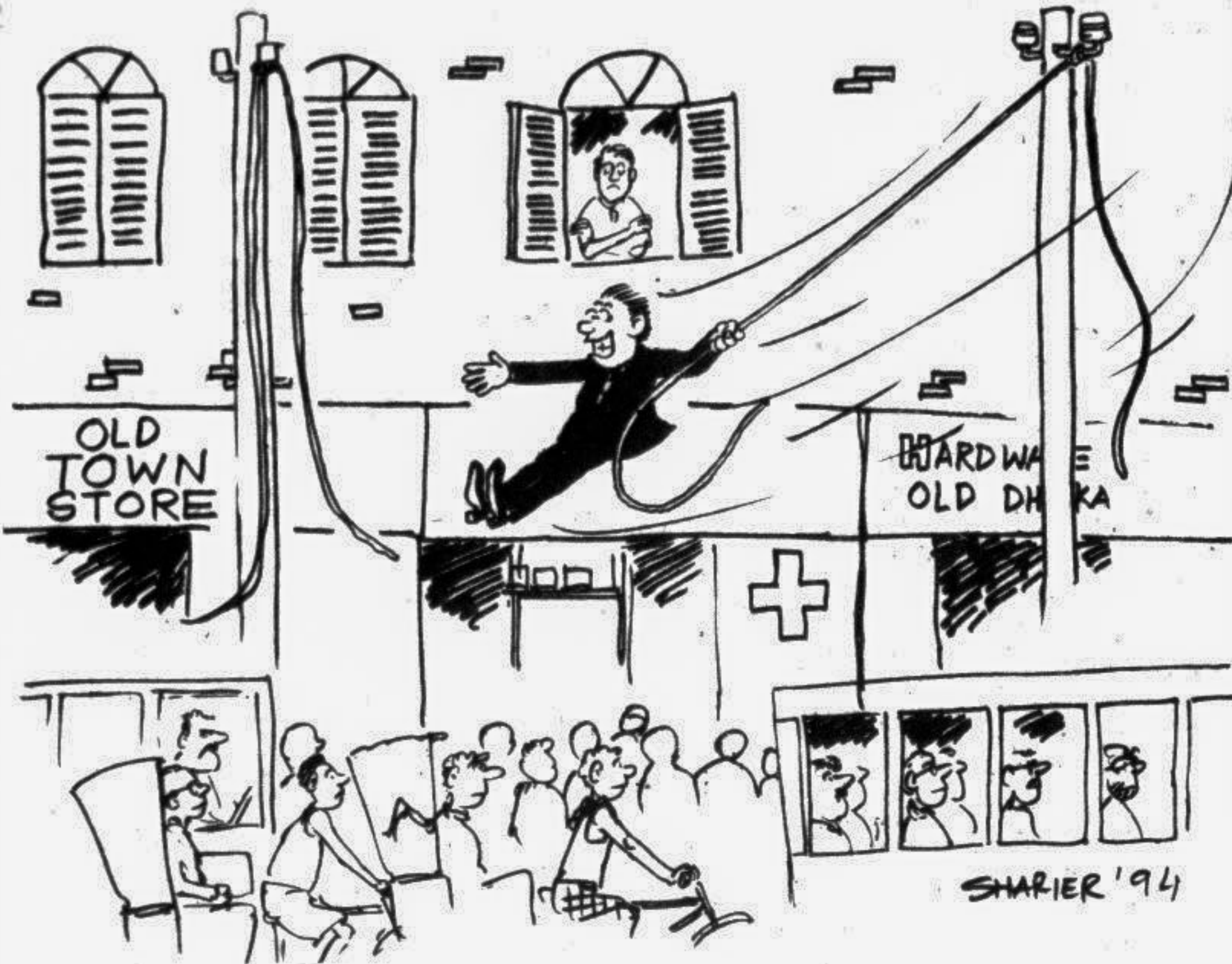


Dhaka Day by Day

Life in the Metropolis

by Mohiuddin Ahmed



Although there has been no dearth of assurance from those in authority that they were determined to build up Dhaka as a modern city with all the amenities of urban life, the charms of living here seems to be receding for the majority. Exceptions are those fortunate ones who have their houses/accommodation in the newly developed posh areas.

So far as the old portion of the capital is concerned, life here nowadays is simply miserable. It has become risky also day by day. The reasons for such unhappy way of life are not far to seek.

Problems which are plaguing the life of the residents in old Dhaka are mostly man-made and mainly attributable to indifference, inefficiency and lack of minimum coordination amongst the various bodies and organizations professedly set up and maintained for services to the city dwellers and development.

Some small fields which existed here and there are now mostly under occupation by unauthorised persons who have set up numerous haphazard structures there. A few small parks which were developed in the old city are under threat of extinction for lack of proper up-keep.

Though construction and reconstructions of buildings in old Dhaka ought to have been under rigid regulation for prevention of environmental pollution and other allied reasons, the real picture is otherwise. Buildings, including multi storied ones, are coming up on both sides of narrow lanes and by-lanes without any spaces whatsoever, creating serious problems of sanitation. Even access of emergency vehicles like fire service or ambulance is also not possible to these buildings.

Some trades are described as "offensive trade" under the Municipal Law. These are prohibited in residential areas. But there are hundreds of such units in the thickly populated pockets creating offensive sound, emitting heat and black smoke almost round the clock. Legally prohibited trade seem to have got defacto approval from the authorities who are ordained by law to stop their proliferation in thickly populated areas.

The less said about the tyranny of mikes, music, and meetings, the better. Whether someone is a pedlar of indigenous medicine or amulets, an announcer of lottery (which has assumed the nature of public gambling by now) or seller of a tooth paste or collector of donation, he is miking at the top of his voice at any place of his choice. Blaring of music has become a menace. Fire-works and bursting of crackers add to the fortune and potential danger.

Traffic jam is an endemic problem in the old part of the city.

Frequent rallies and meetings on important roads and road crossings cause unmitigated suffering to the common people.

Removal of serious patients to hospital or movement of emergency vehicles also becomes impossible. To rub salt to the wound most public vehicles plying on the roads are emitting black smoke. Many are blaring hydraulic horns use of which is prohibited under the law. Some of the vehicles, not road worthy, are driven by unqualified drivers and fatal accidents are the consequences. Such a share of daily miseries should not qualify a Dhakite to be a very privileged citizen.



Visitors looking at the art works at a painting exhibition by T A Kamal Kabir which began yesterday at the Alliance Francaise in the city. — Star photo

Commemorative stamps on martyred intellectuals

Bangladesh Post Office has issued a set of 16 commemorative postage stamps each of Tk 2 denominations and two First Day Covers valued at Tk 5 each in memory of 16 Shaheed Intellectuals, reports UNB. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali formally released the stamps at his parliament office yesterday. A special Cancellor was used and a souvenir valued at Tk 8 containing brief life sketches of the martyrs was also brought out. Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Secretary Dr A M M Shawkat Ali, Parliament Secretary Abul Hashem, Director General of Bangladesh Postal Department M Badiuzzaman and other senior officials were present. The stamps will be sold from all GPOs and head post offices throughout the country. The commemorative postage stamps will subsequently be sold from all post offices including the extra departmental ones. This is the third set of commemorative stamps issued by the Bangladesh Post Office commemorating the shaheed intellectuals.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Engineer
Construction and Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU)
House No. 80, Road No. 11, Block-E
Banani, Dhaka

Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/Bid/94/3428 Dated: 14-12-1994

Amendment of Bid Notice

The following amendments of Bid Notice published vide the Chief Engineer, CMMU's office memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/Bid/94/3192, dated 28-11-1994 for Repair & Renovation works of different Thana Health Complex, Rural Health Centre and Hospital under GOB fund have been made for unavoidable circumstances.

1. The last date of selling Bidding Documents will be on 21-12-1994 instead of 17-12-1994.
 2. The date of receiving the Bid will be on 27-12-1994 instead of 25-12-1994.
 3. The date of opening the Bid will be on 27-12-1994 instead of 25-12-1994.
 4. Other terms & conditions of the Bid Notice will remain unchanged.
- D-1270 Chief Engineer, CMMU

What's on today

- Remembering War of Liberation:** The Chhayanoti, a cultural organisation, will hold a programme to recall the Liberation War. Venue: Shrish Tala, DU (in front of VC office). Time: 5:30 pm.
- Charity musical soiree:** A charity musical soiree to raise funds for the treatment of ailing artiste Ustad Aziz Khan will be held. Venue: Gendaria High School auditorium. Time: 6 pm. Renowned vocalists Rathindranath Roy, Dilruba Khan, Subir Nandi, Shakila Zaffar, FatematuZZohra and Alam Ara Minu will render songs on the occasion, organised by the Manab Kalyan Kendra, a social welfare organisation.
- Print of Impression-6 show:** A week-long print show will be inaugurated. The show will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm daily till December 22. Venue: Jojon Contemporary Art Gallery (74, Central Road, Dhanmondi). Time: 5 pm.
- Drama show:** Drama *Adim* (The Genesis) will be staged. Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhaka (23, Dhanmondi, Road-2). Time: 7 pm.
- Seminar:** A regional seminar will be held under the auspices of the Economics Deptt. JU and the Bangladesh Economics Association. Venue: Social Science Faculty gallery. Time: 10 am.
- Cultural evening:** The Institution of Engineers will hold a cultural programme on the occasion of its annual conference '94. Venue: Institution of Engineers auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.
- Bahai community:** The Bahai community will hold a programme in observance of the Human Rights Day. Venue: National Bahai Centre (7, Naoratan Colony, Santinagar). Time: 5 pm.

. . . . and tomorrow

Khandoker's painting show: A week-long 5th solo water colour and acrylic painting exhibition of Sayeed Khandoker will open. The show will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm till December 22. Xavier Van Migem, the Ambassador of Belgium, will perform the opening. Venue: Gallery Tone (House No-29/B, Road No-1, Dhanmondi). Time: 4:30 pm. Special guests: Md Abul Kalam Azad, managing director of the Azad Products Pvt Ltd and noted artist Mohammad Eunus.

Weather

No change in temperature

Dry weather will prevail all over the country during the next 12 hours ending 6 pm today, reports UNB. No appreciable change in the night temperature is expected during the period, Met office said. But rise in the night temperature is predicted in the next two days and little change over the weekend. The sun sets today at 5:14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34 am.

Yesterday's temperature readings and humidity percentage of different parts of the country are:

City/Town	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	14.7	61	67
Chittagong	25.5	13.2	70	65
Cox's Bazar	29.2	16.0	64	64
Sylhet	26.5	12.5	71	58

New series of UN publication

A new series of the United Nations publication — The United Nations Blue Books Series — will be launched today with the publication of the "The United Nations and Apartheid, 1948-94," reports UNB.

The 572-page publication is a unique record of more than four decades of debate, policy-making and action, and of the valuable contribution made by the UN to the historic events in South Africa, said a UNIC press release.

It focuses on the historic transformation in South Africa from the inhumanity of apartheid to the establishment of a non-racial democratic government.

The publication will be available at the UNIC reference library in Dhaka for researchers, policy makers and interested organisations.

Lecture on photojournalism

A lecture on photojournalism by Eleanor Tylor will be held at the USIS Auditorium on December 21 at 4 pm, reports UNB.

Ms Taylor, Assistant Picture Editor of the Time Magazine, will present slides at the discussion showing how stories are covered, its impact and ethics in photography.

Ms Taylor, a specialist in photo editing, will participate in the World Press Photo Exhibition and International seminar on Photojournalism in the city from Dec 16 to 23, said a press release.



- Thursday**
- 4:30 Opening
 - 4:45 Dance programme for children - RumiHum
 - 5:10 News in Bangla
 - 5:25 National school level TV debate competition
 - 6:30 Mass education programme - Esho Para Shikhi
 - 7:00 Religious programme - Jiboner Alo
 - 7:25 Nazrul songs
 - 8:00 News in Bangla
 - 8:30 Drama of the week - Redyae Jataria Ekhan
 - 10:00 News in English
 - 10:30 Film show - The Equaliser
 - 11:30 Khabar / The News
 - 11:40 Announcement of tomorrow's programme
 - 11:45 Closing



President Abdur Rahman Biswas placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur in the city. — Star photo

Workshop on radiation

A two-day national workshop on "Safe Use and Control of Ionizing Radiation in Medical Fields" began at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) in the city yesterday, reports UNB. Inaugurating the workshop, State Minister for Science and Technology Prof M A Mannan said the government attached priority to raising the standard of the health services through optimum utilisation of atomic technology.

At present health services are being rendered through one atomic medical institute in Dhaka and nine other atomic medical centres throughout the country under Atomic Energy Commission based on higher technology.

Prof Mannan said steps have already been taken to establish four atomic centres at Mitford, Faridpur, Bogra and Comilla.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mohammad Sirajul Haque, Atomic Energy Commission members Dr M A Wazed Mia and Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed also addressed the inaugural function chaired by Chairman of the Commission M A Quatium.

Some 63 physicians and scientists are participating in the workshop.

Tk 57.8 cr varsity projects to be implemented

A total of Tk 57.87 crore will be spent for implementation of different projects of 11 universities of the country, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at a project review meeting held at the conference room of the Ministry of Education in the city yesterday with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair.

The education minister directed the project officials of the universities to spend all released money by December 31, an official handout said.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of other ongoing projects of the Ministry of Education.

The meeting was informed that a total of Tk 643 crore 85 lakh and 59 thousand has been earmarked for implementation of 57 projects under the current annual development programme (ADP). Out of the total allocation, Tk 204 crore 26 lakh and 71 thousand has been spent and Tk 375 crore 40 lakh 42 thousand has been released up to November last.

The officials were directed to implement the projects on schedule. It also laid emphasis on appointment of a full time project director for each project. Education Secretary Ershadul Hoq, Joint Secretary Motiur Rahman Shah and other high officials of the ministry, directorates and projects attended the meeting.

Qirat competition Dec 28

The third international qirat competition will be held in the capital December 28-30, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a discussion meeting on "Necessity of International Qirat Competition," organised by the Al Quran Foundation, Bangladesh at Jatiya Grantha Bhaban yesterday.

Happy Birthday
To darling
NAJIBEH
— Fayza

Happy Birthday
To the best
mother in the world
from Zia, Fayza & Zaki

আন্তর্জাতিক

রয়কো

বাসমতি চাল

পিলফারপক্ষ
৫ কেজি
ব্যাগে

আনন্দ উৎসবে আসল বাসমতি রয়কো বাসমতি!
শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, খুলনা শহরে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।