

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Nightmarish and Yet Unavoidable

By Saifa Rashid

It has been reported that a squat, broad, three-wheeled, gaily coloured vehicle is on the prowl in the city streets. The word 'prowl' is used because many city dwellers consider this vehicle to be a nightmare. Some even rank it just lower than Frankenstein and would have it shot on sight. These extremists usually have their own cars and do not depend on other forms of transport. But most of the middle class are dependent on the baby taxi or scooter and thus their nightmare intrudes in broad daylight and the real world.

No matter how much the Dhaka city dweller maligns the baby taxi, it cannot be de-

people or four very skinny people with ease. However, there is no extra space for luggage. It can go quite fast but not as fast as cars. This is a disadvantage for the car drivers because a baby taxi considerably hampers the speed of a car and this can lead to traffic jams.

Another disadvantage of baby taxis is that they are light and being three wheeled they are relatively unstable. So if a car and a baby taxi collide, the baby taxi almost inevitably turns turtle.

The most important complaint of all customers is the arbitrary prices charged by the



ned that it is of great use. Dhaka has greatly increased in size and it is no longer possible to traverse it from one end to another by rickshaw, a feat which was possible 15 years ago. Apart from that there are various V.I.P roads running through the city, such as Bijoy Sarani, where rickshaws are not allowed to ply. Taxis have a limited number in Dhaka and are not easily available on the streets. They also charge exorbitant fares. The cabs are, therefore, primarily meant for foreigners. Therefore, baby taxis are one of the main modes of transport in Dhaka today.

A baby taxi can accommodate three fat

baby taxi driver. Unlike the taxis of other countries, the ones here have no meters and, therefore, the taxi driver charge forces at will and customers have to haggle fiercely. People not familiar with the ways of this city are usually cheated. The drivers mostly charge more from women, women with children or people with lots of luggage.

In spite of all this, the baby taxis flourish. Their numbers increase day by day, considerably adding to the confusion and din of Dhaka traffic. Perhaps one day Dhaka will be known as the city of baby taxis!

## Biswas, Khaleda greet Mugabe

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted President Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe on the occasion of independence day of his country, reports BSS.

He wished continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Zimbabwe

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday in a similar message felicitated President Mugabe.

In her message the Prime Minister expressed firm conviction that the existing bonds of friendship between the two friendly countries would further strengthen in the years to come.

## Interview date announced

Interview of the candidates for the posts of Anti-Corruption Officers of Anti-Corruption Bureau and District Anti-Corruption offices will be held in the city on April 19-30, reports UNB.

The interview will begin at 2:30 pm every day at the head office of the Public Service Commission, said an official handout.

Interview cards of the candidates who have come out successful in the selection test, have already been sent to their respective addresses by post.

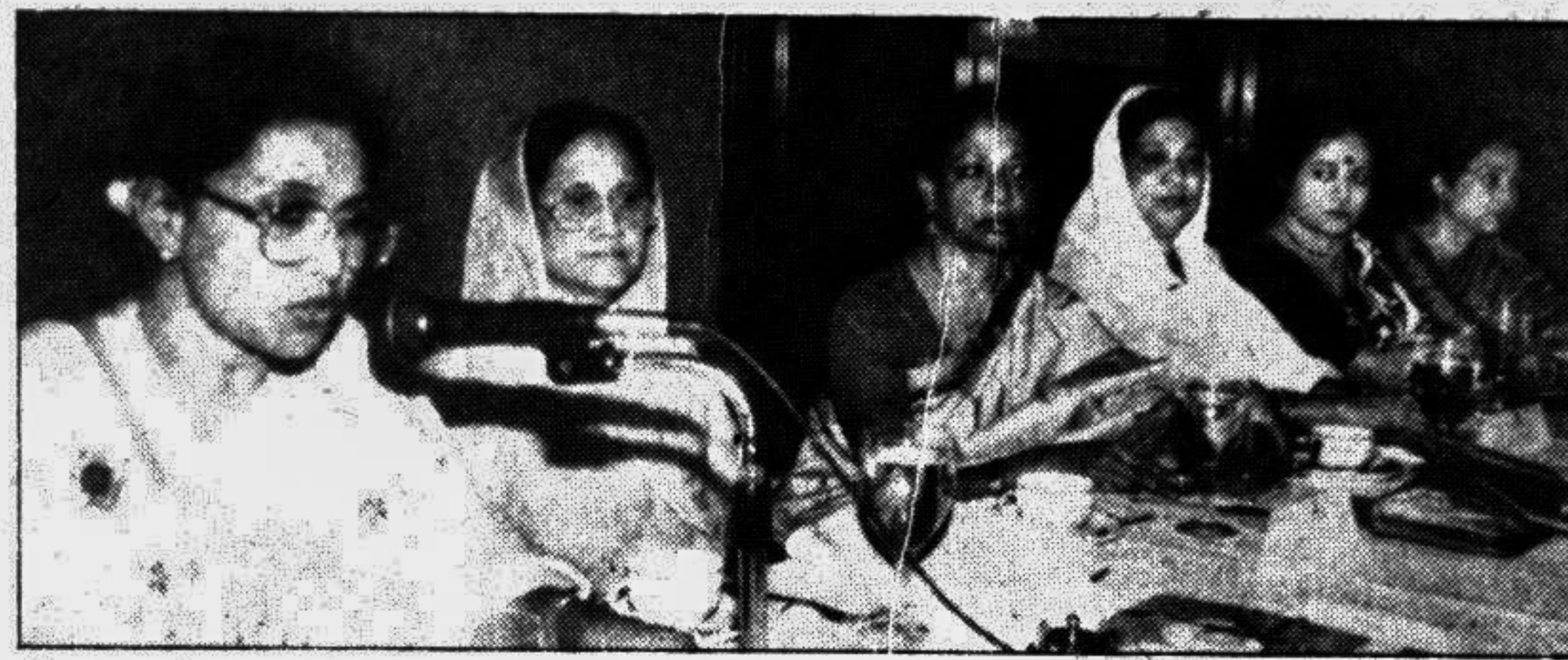
Any candidate who did not receive the interview card is requested to contact with the Dhaka office of the Public Service Commission with a passport size photo on April 18.

## BNP Ctg div confec today

CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: The Chittagong divisional conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at Chittagong stadium tomorrow, reports BSS.

BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to attend the conference as chief guest, party sources said today.

Party sources also said that all preparations to hold the conference had been completed. A meeting of the party was held on Sunday



Present chairman Lutfar Islam addressing the celebration ceremony of "One Decade of Inner Wheel in Bangladesh" at Sonargaon Hotel on Friday in the city. Seen from (L) are Begum Sarwari Rahman, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, Munira Khan past chairman, Khaleda Rahman, vice chairman, Rozina Afzal, Dist ISO and Mahmuda Siddique, Dist-Editor.

## 'Educate women for balanced dev'

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman said, women should be educated and engaged in self-employment and be politically conscious for balanced development of the country, reports UNB.

She was addressing as chief guest a function of Inner Wheel District 328 in connection of a decade of Inner Wheel in Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

She said, the government has been implementing 18 development projects for the welfare of women and children under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

The State Minister said, under these development projects, employment generation

for rural women and creation of awareness among them are also being implemented by the ministry.

Stressing the need for female education, she said, the government has been providing all possible assistance for girl students of rural areas for spreading female education.

Begum Rahman called upon the Inner Wheel members to make concerted efforts for welfare of women and children and urged them to work for the destitute women of the rural areas in particular.

Chairman of the organisation Begum Lutfar Islam and secretary Inu Shamsuddin also spoke on the occasion, said an official handout.

## Punish admn officials for urea crisis : Prokrichi

By Staff Correspondent

The Prokrichi-BCS central action committee Sunday urged the government to take steps necessary to punish DCS, TNOs and administrative officials responsible for the fertiliser crisis.

At a meeting, presided over by Dr M A Mazed, the Prokrichi-BCS also called upon the government to suspend the officials concerned for a judicial investigation into the

fertiliser crisis. The committee urged the Prime Minister to implement the four-point agreement made between Prokrichi and the government in April 1993.

It also demanded cancellation "the illegal order" promoting 19 officials in 1991.

The meeting was addressed, by A N H Akhter Hossain, Md Abu Hena, Md Ibrahim Mia and Javed Iqbal.

## Nirmul body concerned at Jamaat activities

By Staff Correspondent

The Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee Sunday alleged that the Jamaat-Shibir clique with the help of police and administration was terrorising people in different parts of the country in the name of holding rallies.

At a joint meeting of its central executive committee and city convention preparation committee, the leaders demanded arrest and trial of Golam Azam and a ban on the politics of the Jamaat-Shibir.

The meeting held in the city was presided over by Shahriar Kabir.

## Rotarian honoured

By Staff Correspondent

Rotarian Prof Jalal U Ahmad, Past District Governor of Rotary International District 3280, Bangladesh and a member of the Rotary Club of Dhaka South has been appointed honorary Fiscal Agent of Rotary International in Bangladesh for his service to Rotary for the year 1995-96, says a press release.

Ahmad has been awarded by Rotary International and other international organisations for his involvement in social work.

## BGMEA move to eliminate child labour

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has prepared a draft of memorandum of understanding on modalities and mechanism for the phased elimination of child labourers, reports BSS.

According to a press release Sunday, the draft was prepared following prolonged negotiations on the matter between the BGMEA and concerned international organisations.

The draft will now be placed before the general members in the extra-ordinary general meeting of the BGMEA to be held on May 18 this year.

## Two killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed and two others injured in separate incidents in the city Sunday. The body of a minor girl was also recovered by police.

Akkas Ali, 30, a rickshaw-puller, died on the spot when a speeding truck hit the rickshaw from behind at Nimtola crossing under Gulshan police station at 2 pm. Asaduzzaman, 32, a pedestrian and another unidentified person were injured in the mishap.

Police nabbed driver Sharif, 30, and seized the vehicle.

An unidentified man, aged about 55, was run over by a truck at Alish Diponkar Road under Sabujbagh police station at 1 pm.

## Nat'l confce on Vocational Training Policy

A two-day national conference on the proposed Vocational Training Policy will be held at Hotel Sonargaon from Sunday, reports UNB.

It has been organised by the government in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Dr Harunur Rashid, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower, will inaugurate the conference as chief guest.

A NEW PACK.  
THE SAME GREAT TASTE.

GOLD LEAF

PLAYER'S GOLD LEAF

A TASTE APART.