

Dhaka Day by Day

Dhaka's Nightly Kafilas

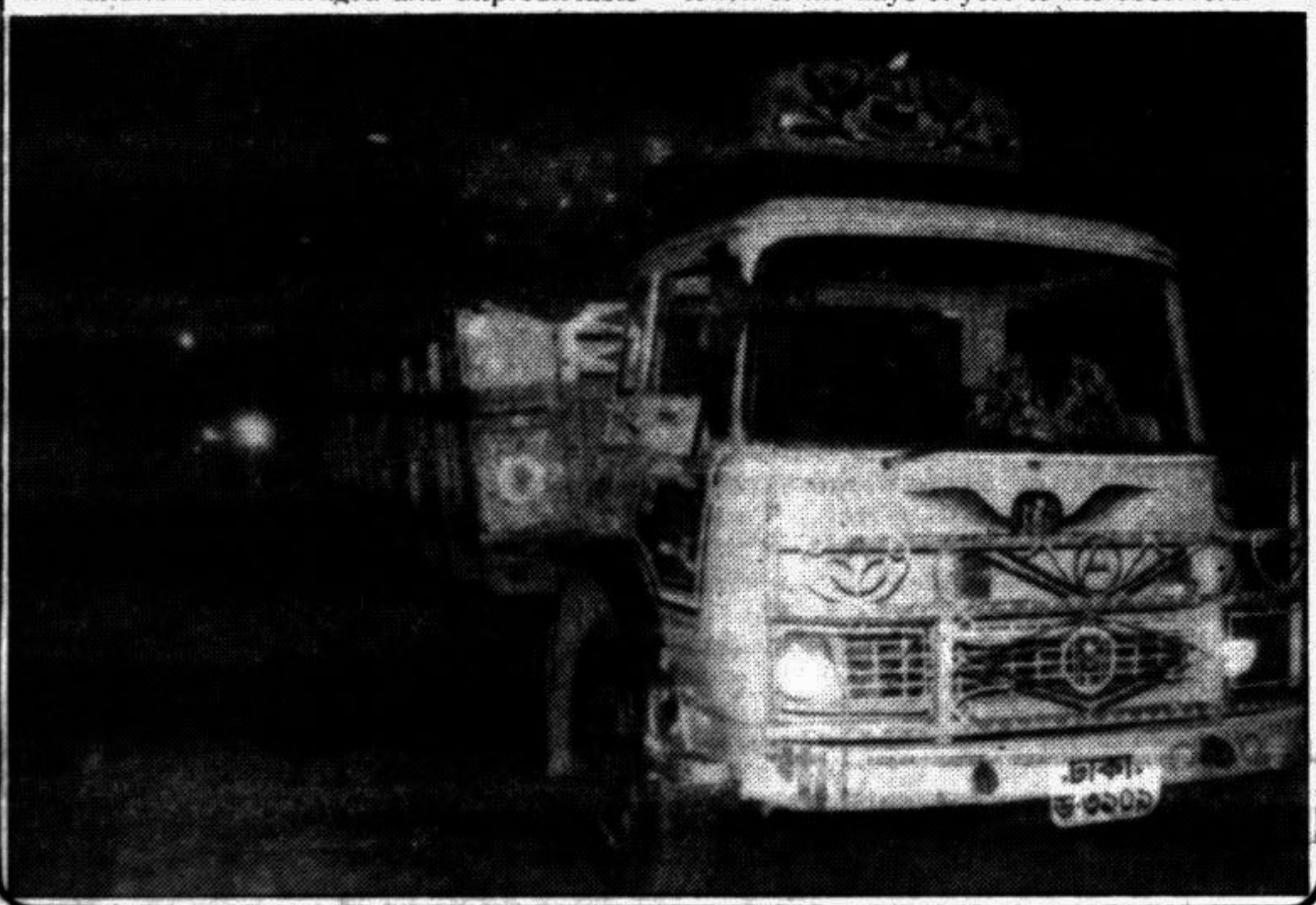
by Samia Islam

Have you ever seen the night life in Dhaka city? It does not have any Hard Rock cafes or Planet Hollywoods to colour our lives but it does have a phenomenon that is possibly ubiquitous to this city alone (at least in this century). Long time ago when the Bedouins roamed the deserts with their merchandise one would find silent herds of camel carrying their wares to distant places and greener pastures. The ships of the desert would be seen going off in one disciplined file following one another. This was known as the *kafilas*. Take the Gypsies for instance. These roving European brethren of the Bedouin were also not accustomed to staying in one place for long. In this case one would find their caravans going off into the sunset, not settling down anywhere for more than a few days. Then you had the first Frontier Settlers in North America. From what we have seen in the Client Eastwood movies they also appeared to have travelled to reclaim land for new settlements in Indian territories with a long line of carriages or coaches that would stretch on for miles carrying their life savings. This would at times attract bands of outlaws and robbers, whence we got the term *highway robbery*.

The culture of Gypsies, Bedouins and Frontier settlers haven't got much to do with this write-up though. Rather it's specifically about their indigenous form of transportation — the caravans, trailers and *kafilas*. The monotonous lines of weary camels and horses that invoked so much curiosity in us, and imbued us with a sense of adventure that overcomes the mind when we read Steinbeck wherein the hero is off to strange and dangerous territory in search of his identity and a place to call his own. To fight all odds with the shotgun slung in his saddle. Not fearing the bandits or the enraged and unpredictable

Indians portrayed to be the symbols of notoriety.

A similar caravan can be seen plying the streets of Dhaka at night. In the 20th century, they are not living, breathing, snoring animals but long lines of trucks carrying all sorts of things from the city to the northern districts of the country. Due to regulations, these trucks don't have permission to enter the city limits before sundown. So they wait in the outskirts of the city (unless special provisions are made) till it's time to get in. Once inside they unload their wares. The merchandise mainly comprises supplies of vegetables, fruits and perishables from the villages in the northern districts to the capital. Soon they are ready to start off once again with truck loads of goods that are necessary to meet the demands in the markets of the districts and towns of their origin. They go in single file making their way through the darkness. However, they do know where they're going and where they've been unlike the heroes in the movies. That doesn't make it any less scary or unsafe. A solitary vehicle if waylaid has lesser probabilities of getting away. So they flock together and find comfort in the knowledge that they are not alone. It is hard to believe that even with the 21st century when criminals are using Cyber technology, we in our country still live in fear of highway robbers and bandits. This doesn't, however, imply that dacoits are less fearsome than computer hackers or mad bombers or strange cult followers. When one is all alone, so many things can go wrong. The mind could play tricks if nothing else. It is therefore quite appreciable on the parts of the truckers to have devised this age-old technique in a new package to match the times. This gives them a sense of security and a touch of the days of yore to the observers.



'Expand community policing system'

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner A N Hussein called upon the city dwellers and senior citizens to actively participate in strengthening and expanding the initiatives of the community policing system.

The police commissioner was addressing a meeting organised on the occasion of

the first anniversary of the local crime prevention committee of community policing system in West Kafilul under Cantonment thana of the city yesterday.

Hussein, recalling the 'Panchayat' system of the ancient Dhaka, said that the practice of community policing system is aimed at solving

any problem locally by curbing criminal activities.

The meeting was also participated by local committee president Ali Asgar Matabbar, vice president Mukit Khan, general secretary Alamgir Hossain Dulal and Deputy Police Commissioner (North) Waliur Rahman.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina receiving a bouquet from ex-BNP MP Matiar Rahman Chowdhury on the occasion of his formal joining of the party in the city yesterday.

BNP using EC: WP

By Staff Correspondent

The politburo of the Bangladesh Workers' Party criticised the government for influencing the Election Commission (EC) for the benefit of the ruling party.

They criticised the 'farical' decision of the EC to hold by elections few days ahead of the general elections and then postponing the same on the pretext of natural calamity. The credibility of the EC for its own actions will now come under scrutiny, they added. They also criticised the EC for having raised the election expenses to 9 lakhs from its earlier limit of 3 lakhs.

Rather than stretching its tenure, they urged that the ruling party should take measures to hold general elections under a caretaker government.

BIGU concerned over fire-deaths

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Independent Garment Workers Union (BIGU) expressed its deep concern at the death of 9 workers in fire incidents at Lusaka Fashion Ltd and Paa Apparels recently.

They condemned the management of these factories for its negligence regarding the safety measures of the workers and criticised the government for its failure to ensure factory regulations in the garments industries.

'Follow ideals of Prophet for peaceful life'

Tamaddun Majlish

Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali yesterday called upon the Muslims to adhere to the ideals and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SM) to be able to live a peaceful life both in this world and here after, reports BSS.

He was addressing a seminar held on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi organised by Bangla Academy in the city. Presided over by Mohammad Ferdous Khan, the seminar was also addressed by Prof M A Jabbar, National Prof Sufia Ahmed and the Director General, Bangla Academy Mansur Musa. Prof Anisuzzaman read the key note paper.

Bangabhaban

A milad mahfil was held at Bangabhaban Thursday on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, cabinet members, heads of diplomatic missions, Supreme Court judges, MPs, political leaders and senior civil and military officials and elite of the city attended the milad.

A seminar on 'The role of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi for unity and uprising of the Muslim ummah' was held at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed was the chief guest at the seminar organised by the cultural centre of the Iranian Embassy here.

Organised by Tamaddun Majlish, the seminar was presided over by National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf.

Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum

Bangladesh Women Journalists Forum held a discussion in celebration of Eid-e-Miladunnabi at the Jatiya Press Club on Thursday.

Write-ups on Madhuda invited

The Madhuda Smrite Sangsad has invited write-ups for a commemorative book to be published on the 25th death anniversary of Madhusudan Chandra Dey popularly known as Madhuda, says a press release.

The write-ups may be either on anecdotes on Madhuda or on the socio-cultural and student movement of the period they (the writers) belong to.

The write-ups can be sent either to the Parishad's office at 32 E. Staff Quarters, Dhaka University or to the president and secretary at 47/2 and 82/1, Indira Road respectively.

CSYO greets top SSC students

The Commonwealth Student and Youth Organisation (CSYO) yesterday congratulated the students who secured positions in the merit list of the SSC examinations held under the four education boards, reports UNB.

2000 children die a day

CHITTAGONG, Aug 11: About 2,000 children are dying everyday in the country with one-third of them from malnutrition, reports UNB.

This was stated by Prof Harun-ur Rashid of Nephrology Department of IPGMR at the inaugural session of a two-day seminar on 'Recent Advances in Medicine' at the auditorium of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) yesterday.

He said about 30 lakh under-six children are suffering from night blindness due to vitamin A deficiency and 30,000 of them are getting blind every year.

Prof Harun, who is also the Secretary General of Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Medical Sciences (BAAMS), maintained that about 3.5 crore children out of total 4 crore are being affected with worms.

Founder President of USTC Prof Nurul Islam presided over the inaugural session of the seminar jointly organised by BAAMS and Beximco Pharmaceuticals. Health Secretary Sayed Ahmed, Director General of Health Services Prof Shamsuddin Siddiqy also spoke.

The Health Secretary said the government will establish seven diabetic hospitals in seven districts at a cost of Tk 21 crore in this fiscal.

The government has spent Tk 700 crore for the development of health sector in the last fiscal.

The Director General of Health Services said the government is considering to appoint teachers of medical colleges through competitive examination under common infrastructure.

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Invitation for bids (I.F.B) for Procurement of Gas Pipeline Materials & Equipment under Cash Foreign Exchange

Date of Issuance of IFB: 8th August, 1995

1. Sealed bids are invited from the bonafide manufacturers or their authorised agents for supply of Gas Pipeline Materials & Equipment as listed below under Cash Foreign Exchange:

Sl No	IFB No	Description of Materials	Cost of Tender Document	Bid Closing Date
1	PD 2312/366-SCT/BELABO	Scraper Launching, Receiving Trap & Scraper Signaller	Tk 1,000.00 or US\$ 25.00	18 Sep '95
2	PD 2312/366-FIT/BELABO	Butt Welding Fittings & Screwed Fittings	Tk 500.00 or US\$ 12.00	18 Sep '95
3	PD 2312/366-F/BELABO	Weldneck & Blind Flanges	Tk 1,000.00 or US\$ 25.00	18 Sep '95
4	PD 2312/366-OM/BELABO	Orifice Meter	Tk 1,000.00 or US\$ 25.00	19 Sep '95
5	PD 2312/366-MISC/BELABO	Spiral Wound Gasket, Insulating Joint & Van-Mist Eliminator	Tk 500.00 or US\$ 12.00	19 Sep '95

2. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy General Manager (Purchase) at the above address.

3. Tender documents may be purchased by any interested bidder or their authorised representative upon payment of the cost of respective documents from Accounts Department of this Company at the above address from 09:00 Hrs. to 13:00 Hrs. on all working days with effect from 15th August, 1995. Copy of Money Receipt evidencing purchase of tender documents is to be furnished with the bid. No document will be sold on the bid closing date.

4. All bids accompanied by a bid security for 2.5% of bid amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank located in Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank, duly endorsed by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh must be delivered to Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd. at the above address on or before 11:00 Hrs of the closing date of the respective IFB. The bids will be opened on the same day at 11:15 Hrs in presence of bidders, if any. Should this day happens to fall on any holiday, bids shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day.

5. The company reserves the right to accept any bid or reject all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

"গাছ লাগান; বাগের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বীচান"-প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Titas/PR 17/95-96
D-801

— Deputy General Manager (Purchase)

INVESTMENT SEMINAR FOR THE HOUSEWIVES

WHY AND HOW OF STOCK MARKET August 27, 1995 at 9:00 am Sonargaon Hotel Housewives interested in generating income through participation in stock market and keen to know all about why & how of stock market in a seminar are requested to send their name, address and educational qualification. Invitation letter will be sent on selection. No registration fee is required. The application for participation must reach not later than August 20, 1995 to:

RAPPORT BANGLADESH LIMITED management consultants trainers & publishers 98 Malibagh (DIT Road) Dhaka-1217 Phone: 400419 Fax: 408159

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi invites sealed quotation for supply and installation of voltage stabilizer of computer against tender No UFFL/LP-112/94-95. Tender will be opened on 20-08-95 at 3:00 PM. Tender documents will be available on all working days on cash payment of Tk 25.00 per set (Non-refundable) from (i) BCIC Bhaban, 30-31 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (iii) UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 821/3/8/95
DEF: 19240/6/8

G-1198

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Bangladesh Insulator & Sanitaryware Factory Ltd., Bux Nagar, Mirpur, Dhaka invites sealed tender in two envelope system for supply of "HARDWARE ITEMS" against Tender No. 417. Tender documents obtainable from (i) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka (ii) BCIC, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (iii) BISF at Tk 25/00. Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM on 29-08-1995 at BCIC Head Office & BISF and opened immediately thereafter. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC 814/3/8/95
DEF: 19234/6/8

G-1200

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