

# Dhaka Day by Day

## City's Problem of Rendezvous

by A S M Nurunnabi

Dhaka is on the threshold of becoming a megacity. Growing urbanisation exacts a price in the form of gradual social isolation among the dwellers caught up in the process. With the fast pace of urbanisation, the process of social isolation has intensified all the more. Yet the urge for socialization is inherent in man. Hence the citizens adopt sundry means to meet one another under varied circumstances.

The scope of finding a suitable rendezvous for social exchanges is getting increasingly limited in this sprawling city. Some may disagree. They may point out the home or the office for the purpose. Here also the perspective has changed. The cramped-up accommodation coming up in large numbers in our urban life provides no longer suitable facility for that purpose. Similarly an office is mostly found unsuitable as a proper meeting place. Thus the opportunities in these respects which were easily available in the fifties and the sixties are no longer in existence. Changes have overtaken our life-style, taste and ethos.

The city itself has undergone tremendous changes. Being a city of a developing country, no city culture has yet developed for the teeming millions of its inhabitants who dominate the urban picture. No adequate provision exists for their healthy recreation. The horrendous traffic jams, the chockingly crowded public places and a chaotic public transport system are among the many ills that plague the city life. Lack of orderliness and discipline is the hallmark of this unplanned city.

Young men and women, particularly the latter of the middle class are the worst victims of the existing paucity of suitable meeting places. The city's public transport system is such a shambles that those who are compelled to use it by sheer necessity always remain worried about their own safety. They are therefore reluctant to use it as a means of going to some places to meet a friend or a relative if it involves travelling some distance.

This situation tells heavily particularly on young girls with limited financial means who are consequently forced to remain cooped up within the four walls of their house. They find the only outlet for some relief from their boredom in the TV pro-

grammes. The story is, however, different with the affluent classes who have their own cars to go places of their choice as a meeting place.

There are, of course, many people, bereft of the luxury of independent transport of their own, who resort to certain alternatives as a meeting place which are an outgrowth of new developments in the urban life. One such new development is the growing number of ice-cream parlours in the city. They serve as good spots for meeting people at reasonable cost. They are mostly popular among the young generation. Though ice-cream is yet to emerge as an integral part of our life style, many have found in the ice-cream parlours a convenient means of escaping the humdrum existence of city life with their friends and relatives. In the evenings and on sultry days, they tend to become overcrowded, which is their only drawback as a meeting place.

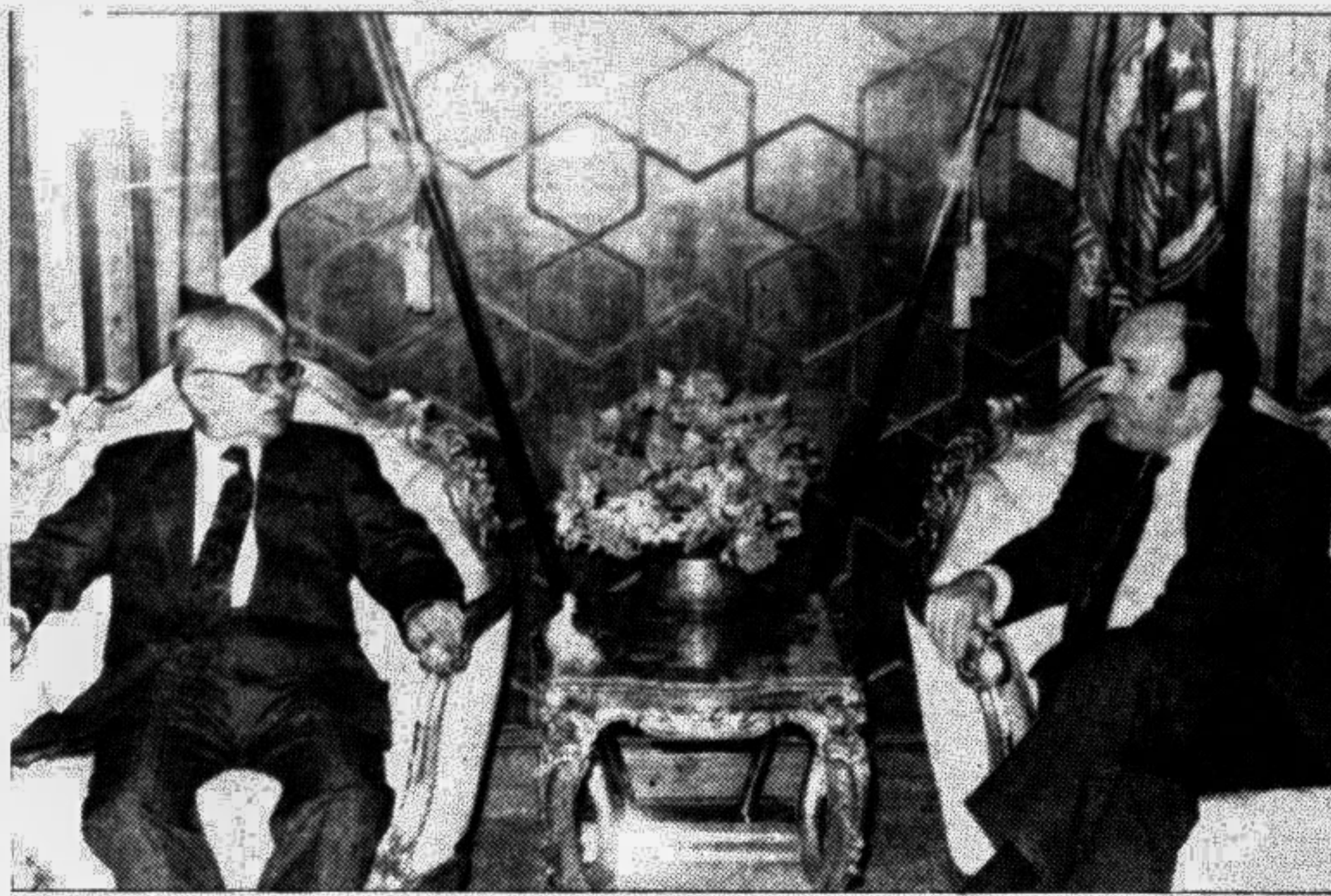
Other suitable venues for meeting people without much cost include the proliferating fast food shops. However, the number of coffee-shops which may be used for such purposes is comparatively small. At all these places, there is much overcrowding particularly in the evening which is compounded by the presence of some undesirable elements at times. This vitiates the atmosphere for free and frank talks among friends.

Cinema houses are no longer regarded as suitable meeting places, because of the presence of anti-social elements. Similar is the situation in the city's parks and open spaces. The so-called community centres are normally venues for large gatherings for the purpose of entertainment for such occasions as marriage receptions and birthday parties, etc.

The city dwellers have radically changed in their mode of life. With their exposure to new ideas through many sources — mainly through such media as cable TV, CNN, BBC, etc — their outlook has been patterned on rejection of old ideas. But the present city life has failed to keep up with the new-fangled ideas of the generation of people faced with the problem of finding suitable places for social exchanges in a peaceful atmosphere.



SHAPIER '95



The visiting Member of the British House of Commons Gary Waller called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday — PID photo

## Caution for vehicle owners

The government authorities have asked people concerned not to bring vehicles of garage without 'original' fitness certificate and warned of fine for violation of the order, reports UNB.

The warning came yesterday from the Department of Environment after a week-long mobile court since September 23 which found a huge number of vehicles emitting black smoke and using high-sounding horns in Dhaka and Chittagong metropolitan cities.

Representatives from Department of Environment, Metropolitan Police, Metropolitan Magistracy and Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) took part in the court.

In Dhaka, some 564 motor vehicles were examined, of which 26 were fined a total of Tk 4,600 on charge of emitting black smoke and using high-sounding horns while cases were filed against 105 vehicles.

Examining 313 vehicles, the court realised an amount of Tk 1,950 from 25 vehicles in Chittagong city.

Black smoke is mainly caused by lack of regular servicing and maintenance of vehicles.

The smoke, containing carbon mono-oxide and poisonous sulphur and lead, may cause various complicated diseases like cancer in lungs,

## BCL blames BNP for Dhali murder

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By DU Correspondent

The Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the killers of AL activist Ahmed Ali Dhali.

Dhali was reportedly beaten to death on Thursday at Tejgaon truck-stand in the city in a clash between the AL activists and the transport workers.

The BCL leaders at a rally held in front of the DUCSU building yesterday blamed the ruling party for the murder. The leaders alleged that the BNP had let loose terrorism across the country.

They also condemned the recent threat by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal about Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina saying that, any one who has least respect for democracy cannot pass such remarks.

## RU admission test results out

RAJSHAHI, Sept 30: The Rajshahi University authorities yesterday announced the results of first year honours admission test of Law and Science faculties, reports UNB.

Officials said admission test results of other faculties will be announced in a week.

## Call for lowering birth rate

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop yesterday underscored the need for awareness among the people to bring down the birth rate for development of the country.

The workshop on the role of journalists about reproductive health and rights was held at the conference room of Gano Sahajya Sangstha in the city.

Twenty journalists from different national and regional dailies participated in the workshop, organised by the Human Rights Journalists Forum of Bangladesh.

Khandaker Rebeka Sarniat of Women Health Coalition and other experts conducted the workshop.

She emphasised a network between the journalists and development workers so that they could work together in this regard.

## Khaleda greets Nigerian leader

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated General Santabacha, Head of State of Nigeria on the occasion of his country's National Day today, reports BSS.

## Obituary

M A Bari, deputy director of the Department of Films and Publication, died of a heart attack at Al Razez Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 54, reports BSS. He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son.



The city unit of Bangladesh Awami League held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club to condemn the murder of Ahmed Ali Dhali, a party worker gunned down by terrorists on Thursday in city's Tejgaon area. — Star photo

**জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
১৯৯৪-৯৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণীর ভর্তি পরীক্ষার প্রাথমিক ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

গত ২৯-৯-৯৫ তারিখে প্রকাশিত ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন বিভাগের ভর্তি পরীক্ষার ছাত্রীদের সংশ্লিষ্ট ফলাফলের ভিত্তিতে ৭-১০-৯৫ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্বাচিত সকল ছাত্রীর মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণে ঐ তারিখের পরিবর্তে ৫-১০-৯৫ তারিখ সকাল ১০ (দশ) টা থেকে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

মুহাম্মাদ আবদুল গফুর  
ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার (একাত্তরিক)

## Talk on Engels tomorrow

Bangladesh Workers Party will organise a discussion on Frederic Engels, founder of scientific socialism and a great philosopher, on his 100th death anniversary, reports BSS.

The discussion to be held in Bangladesh Sports Council auditorium in the city on Monday will be participated by left political leaders and comrade Stefan Engel, a German leftist leader now in Bangladesh.

## ILO official in city

Dr Iftikhar Ahmed, a senior official of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) headquarters, Geneva, arrived in the city yesterday on a 10-day technical monitoring and policy advisory mission in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Dr Ahmed during his stay will discuss policy matters and project implementation strategies with senior officials of the government and the ILO area office in Dhaka.

**Mongla Port Authority**  
P. O. Mongla Port, Bagerhat.

### Tender Notice

- Tender Notice No. : 108/94-95.
- Name of the Work : Supply of (a) Furniture & (b) Laboratory chemicals & Equipments for port school, (Mongla)
- Value of the tender : Tk. 60.00 (Sixty) only (Non-refundable)
- Earnest money : @ Tk 2% of the total quoted value must be submitted with the tender schedule.
- Category of the tenderers : Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide shopkeeper, suppliers & manufacturers.
- Name of the Offices where tender documents will be available and received : Office of the Chief Finance & Accounts Officer, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat and Sr. Finance Officer (P), Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat.
- Last date of tender sale : Up to 28-10-95 during normal office hours.
- Last date of tender dropping : 29-10-95 up to 12-00 hours.
- Date and time of opening the tender documents : 31-10-95 up to 12-00 hours.
- Name of the office where the tender documents will be opened : Office of the Chief Finance & Accounts Officer, Mongla, Bagerhat in presence of the tenderers (if any).
- Time for completion of the work : Within 25 days from the date of issue of Work Order.
- Necessary terms and conditions : Terms and conditions may be seen in the tender schedule.

Mongla Port Authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all the tenders either partly or wholly without showing any reason thereof.

স্বক/বো/অস/১১৯০  
DFP-23408-26/9

## Weather

### Light rain forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country.

Meantime, Sylhet experienced the highest rainfall of 61 mm rain during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Khulna had 49 mm rain. Faridpur 31. Jessore 24. Rajshahi 18. Mymensingh 16. Dinajpur 15 and Rangpur 13 mm shower during the period.

The country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Madaripur and Rangamati while the lowest 22.4 degrees at Dinajpur. The sun sets to day at 5:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50 am.

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

| City/Town   | Temperature in degrees Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|             | max                            | min  | morning                | evening |
| Dhaka       | 33.0                           | 25.2 | 86                     | 78      |
| Chittagong  | 34.0                           | 25.9 | 70                     | 76      |
| Rajshahi    | 31.6                           | 25.0 | 92                     | 82      |
| Khulna      | 33.1                           | 22.6 | 85                     | 82      |
| Barisal     | 31.5                           | 24.5 | 79                     | 90      |
| Sylhet      | 33.0                           | 23.9 | 97                     | 83      |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.2                           | 25.0 | 71                     | 82      |

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1.10.95

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May you go on with your good work. S-479

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**NOTICE FOR LOTTERY OF SHARE APPLICATION**

This is for general information of all concerned that the Lottery of M. Hossain Garments Washing and Dyeing Ltd. will be held on Sunday 1st October, 1995 at the Company's own office premises Jiban Bima Tower (9th Floor) 10, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 at 3.00 P.M. to ascertain the successful share applicants.

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