

Dhaka Day by Day

Bustling Bazaar Right in Front of Office

by A S M Nurunnabi

The occupation of roadside pavements for various purposes is an ubiquitous phenomenon in Dhaka City. This keeps at bay the helpless pedestrians who are forced to forsake the comparative safety of movement on such pavements and thrown into the hazards of vehicular traffic on the open roads. Though drives are sometimes taken by concerned authorities to deal with the obstructions, their efforts have proved futile and inconsistent.

A singular feature of the city life is the sprouting of kutchas in areas where office complexes of government, semi-government and other important agencies predominate. These bazaars appear to conduct a roaring business mostly during the period of operation of these offices. It is not perhaps correct to designate them as

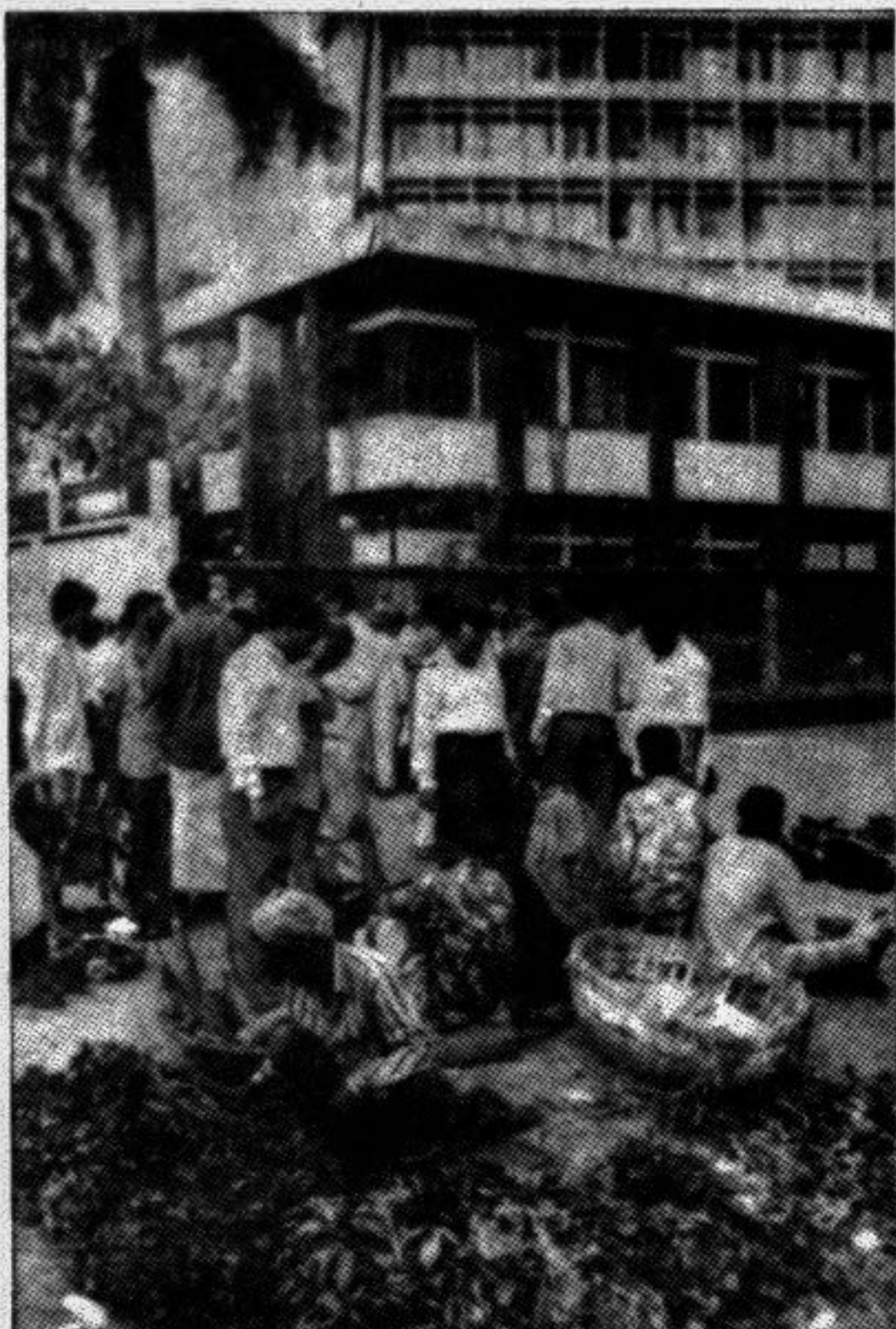
vehicular and pedestrian traffic. But for unknown reasons they are allowed to continue and even expand. Perhaps there are invisible quarters which reap benefit from their continued existence.

Another important venue of such kutchas bazaar has lately come up on the pavements on the north side of the Bangladesh Secretariat near the Ramna Corporate Branch of the Sonali Bank. The existence of the steadily growing bazaars together with the long rows of taxi cabs waiting for hire at this spot lend an image of bustling activities to this location. The most prominent of such kutchas bazaars can be seen along the length of the road running from the Shapla Chatter to the vicinity of the Bangladesh Bank premises at Motijheel.

By evening and with the closure of the offices, the trading activities noticeably slow down, with some of the make-shift shops still remaining open for business with the help kerosene lamps. By this time, the vendors who come from outside leave for their homes, making it sure that none else could take possession of their allotted spaces during day-time. The daily round of life of the sellers of these places goes on in this fashion with occasional interruptions caused by raids conducted by civic authorities.

However the people who carry on business at these places seem to be very resilient. Since the means of their livelihood are involved, they take full advantage of any laxity of watchfulness on the part of the agencies concerned to stage a comeback and resume their usual business. It is more like a cat and mouse game. Some, however, allege underhand deals of some quarters with the sellers for allowing them to continue their business at these places.

Whatever be the compelling factors in the continued existence of these kutchas bazaars, the people with small means, by and large, find little ground for grievance on account of their existence, since these open air selling points offer many commodities at prices which they can afford with their limited means. This is perhaps a strong point in the popularity of these kutchas bazaars.



Kutchas bazaar on office pavement.

—Star photo

ular markets. As a result, besides the advantage of easy shopping, this offers definite economic benefits to the employees in the lower income bracket of the offices in these areas.

During mid-day office breaks or when the offices close down in the afternoon, the crowd of shoppers at these places reach the optimum level. Because of the reported price benefits obtainable at such places, people from other areas of the city also throng here to make purchases.

The front areas of the offices of the Accountant-General and the double-phased multi-storied office complexes at Segunbagicha function as one of the important venues of such kutchas bazaars. They are obviously sources of hindrance to movement of both



A number of students demonstrated in front of the Dhaka Education Board office yesterday, protesting, what they said, 'errors' in this year's HSC examination results. —Star photo

PWD men observe work abstinence

By Staff Correspondent

Some 20,000 workers of the Public Works Department (PWD) across the country observed a three-hour strike yesterday to press home their eight-point demand.

They will again observe a day-long work abstinence on November 5 and if their demands are not met, they will declare their final programme through a press conference on November 12.

The Public Works Action Council began the work abstinence programme on Sunday demanding cancellation of, what it terms, "mini PWD."

The other demands include regularisation of jobs and accommodation for officials and employees.

In the secretariat, lifts of all buildings remained shut off as the PWD workers abstained from their duties.

They brought out several processions in the city in the morning and held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The rally was addressed by Azizur Rahman, Sultan Ahmed, Khorshed Ahmed, Kazi Mair Kabir Khandker, and Abdul Hannan of the action council.

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DU central library air-conditioned

By DU Correspondent

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed formally inaugurated the air-conditioning and computer system of the Dhaka University central library yesterday.

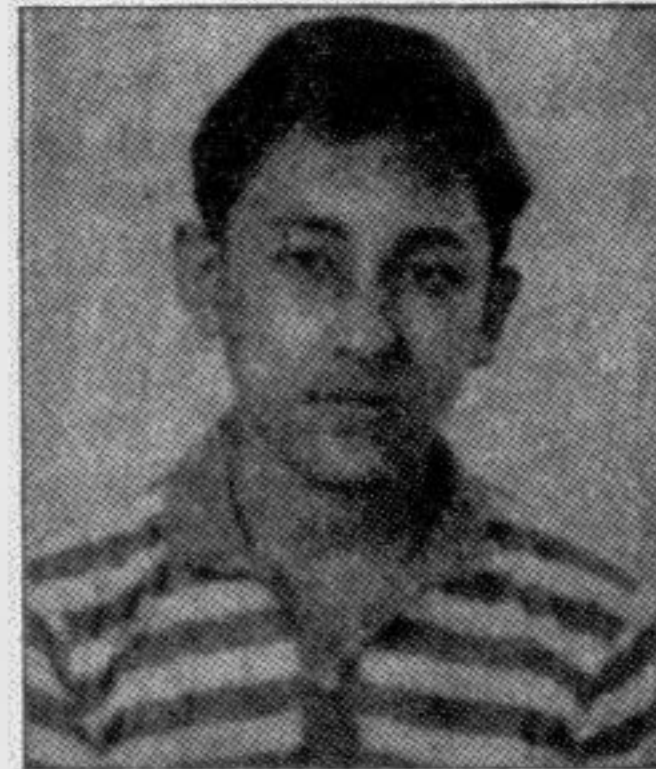
The computer and air-conditioning systems have been jointly financed by the Japan and the Bangladesh government.

The VC also inaugurated the extension building of the central library.

The inaugural function was chaired by acting librarian Prof Mofaqkharul Islam. Prof Vice Chancellor Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed and Treasurer Prof M Shamsul Haq also spoke.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed in his speech said, the whole library will be computerised within a year.

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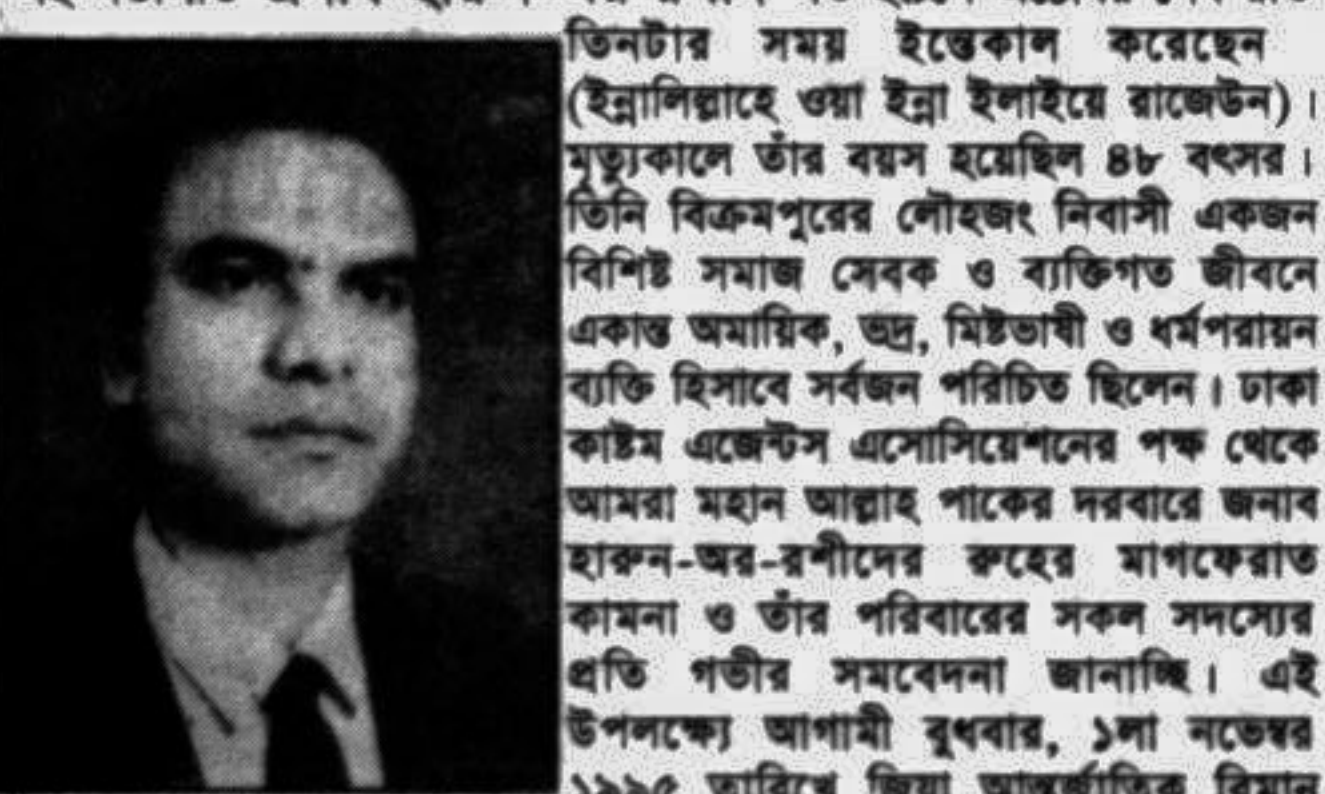


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From: **Kar han, Shahr, Aswad, Topu, Apu, Dipu, Juthi, Yasmine & Suhel**

শোক সংবাদ

আমরা গভীর দুঃখের সঙ্গে জানাচ্ছি যে, সি এড এক ব্যবসায়ের একজন নেতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তি এবং ঢাকা কাটম এজেন্টস এসোসিয়েশনের প্রাক্তন সহ-সভাপতি জনাব হারুন-অর-রশীদ গত ২৯শে অক্টোবর শেষ রাত



দিনটার সময় ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্নািল্লাহে ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহে রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৪৮ বছর। তিনি বিক্রমপুরের পৌরসভা নির্বাহী একজন বিশিষ্ট সমাজ সেবক ও ব্যক্তিগত জীবনে একান্ত অমায়িক, জর, মিষ্টিভাষী ও ধর্মপরায়ণ ব্যক্তি হিসাবে সর্বজন পরিচিত ছিলেন। ঢাকা কাটম এজেন্টস এসোসিয়েশনের পক্ষ থেকে আমরা মহান আত্মাহুত পাকের দরবারে জনাব হারুন-অর-রশীদের রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনা ও তাঁর পরিবারের সকল সদস্যের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি। এই উপলক্ষে আগামী বুধবার, ১শা নভেম্বর ১৯৯৫ তারিখে জিয়া আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান

বন্দর এলাকায় এসোসিয়েশন ভবনে বাদ আসর এক পোক সভা ও মিলাদ মাহফিলের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। এতে এসোসিয়েশনের সকল সদস্যদেরকে উপস্থিত থেকে সোয়র অংশগ্রহণ করতে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

ঢাকা কাটম এজেন্টস এসোসিয়েশন

কুর্নিটোলা, ঢাকা।

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and in the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal and Patuakhali in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said, weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere in Bangladesh and day temperature may fall by one or two degrees Celsius.

The country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and Kutubdia while the lowest 19 degrees at Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5:20 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	23.3	64	66
Chittagong	34.5	25.4	85	75
Rajshahi	28.5	21.7	80	80
Khulna	33.0	21.0	71	-
Barisal	32.7	23.0	77	85
Sylhet	31.5	21.2	67	73

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