

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Ins and Outs of a Business Thought

by Shamsad Mortuza



One does not need a Nostradamus to know that three-wheelers have invaded the streets of Dhaka. But the question is how many of them? And, probably, Birbal, despite his busy schedule on the Zee TV programmes, is the only one with the answer.

"There are 9,99,999 auto-rickshaws and another 9,999,999 paddle-rickshaws presently running on the streets of Dhaka," Birbal informed in a fax message, adding, "don't dare to double-check the figure with the City Corporation because, it is obvious, there are rickshaws without license plates and again with more than one license plate." Birbal also pointed out that there are visiting rickshaws, absentee rickshaws; lying rickshaws, dying rickshaws and so on.

Well, the wit of Birbal could please the Mughal — Akbar — but not the ordinary Dhakaites. Like it or not, they still have to ride rickshaws, drive rickshaws, and some of them even invest in rickshaws, both manual and auto.

"The owner of this scooter had a garments factory, the business failed; he landed up with a cash of 5 or 6 lakhs. And he thought, he could not go for big business any more. So he bought five auto-rickshaws."

Asked why there are so many auto-rickshaws nowadays, Babul Mia, the driver, flooded me with the volley of reply. Accompanied by the metallic sound of the Bajaj machine, he went on saying, the interest rate of the banks has declined. The government does not want people to save money. So people with little cash are now procuring auto-rickshaws. And the body-making business has also mushroomed. The price of the chassis and engine is Tk 87,500 and another 10 to 15 thousand is needed for the body. And there you have it, your money-making machine which will earn about Tk 180 to 200 daily. That means, in 18 months you will have your capital back and then with a little renovation you can sell the auto-rickshaw for about 50 to 60 thousand.

Babul Mia gave me the secret of the business without mincing micro or macro economy. Even if our foreign minister failed to attract the investors abroad, this man behind the wheels has certainly managed to uphold a potential sector, at least before me.

"But," Babul Mia put a pause to my thoughts. "People like you cannot run this business. One needs to be a driver to drive the drivers." The tanned man in his mid-thirties must have read my thoughts through his rear view-mirror.

"The drivers will keep on complaining about this and that. They will make your life a hell if you don't understand the machine. After all, the owners have to pay for the repairs." Babul Mia has slowed the vehicle to further inform, there are huge competitions. Every day, new autos are joining the fleet making the business more competitive and more challenging. The latter point is due to the toll collectors, both authorised and unauthorised.

"You don't know the authorised toll collectors?" Babul Mia gave me a come-on look to remind me of the heroes of Dinajpur carnage and their disciples in Dhaka.

"Well, what about them?"

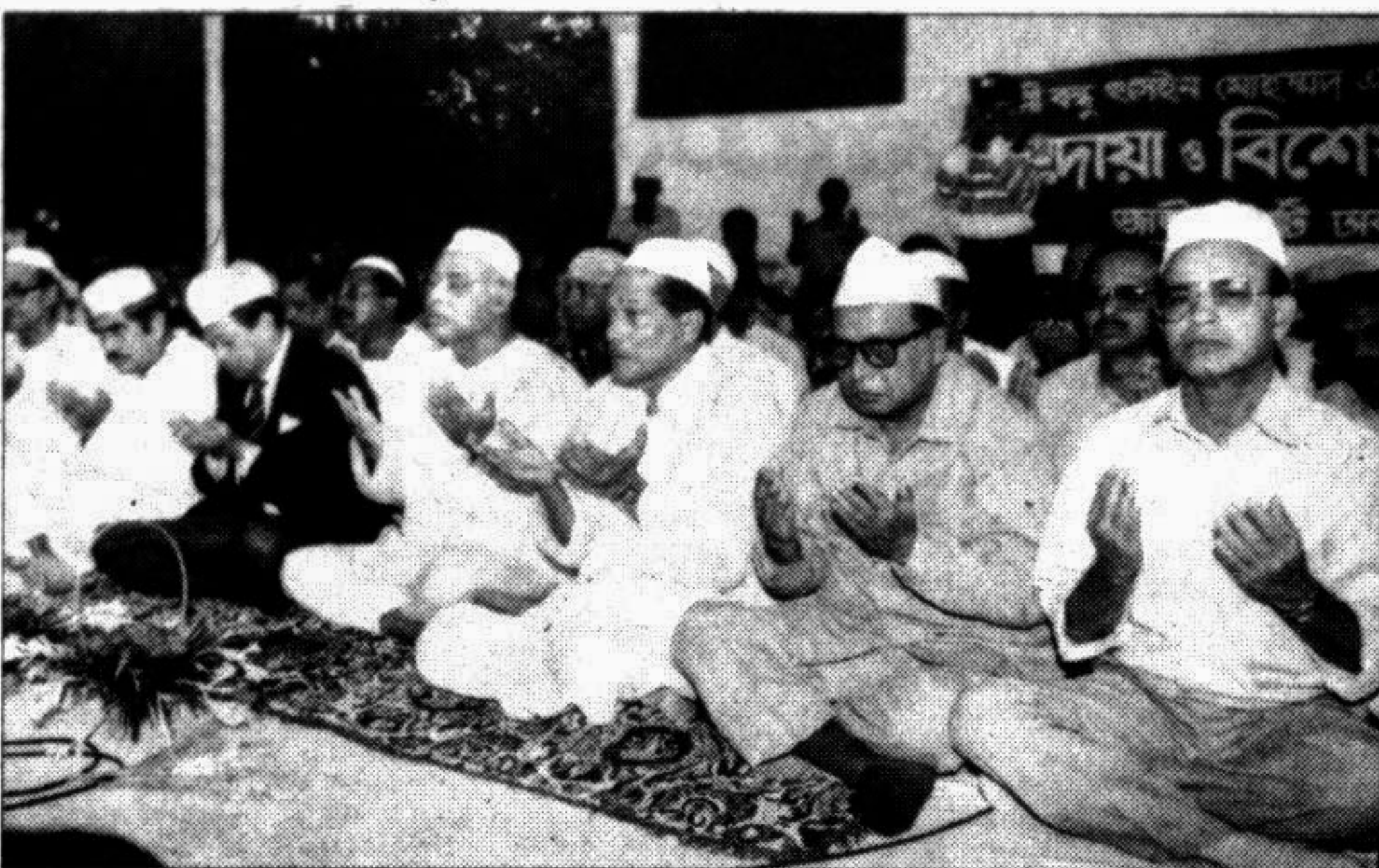
Nothing, every audience costs you two taka or a free-ride on the driver seat, which incidentally is illegal when a fourth passenger attempts to replicate the men in khakis.

And last, but not the least, there are the muggers with daggers and crackers.

No less than the wireless and cane bearers.

Good thoughts, like any good deeds, surge up only to ebb away. And that was the end of my thought of starting a small transport business which might have led me to an air-conditioned fleet of inter-city coaches, giving me the power — like the purse string — to ignore traffic laws and park wherever or whenever I like.

"Sir, where will you get down?" Babul Mia ended the day dream. I recalled the inscription on the rear of a bus: *Motor Line Shukh Na-re Pagole*. (There is no happiness in transport business, my dear crazy fellow).



Jatiya Party (JP) leaders offering *munajat* at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday for the early recovery of JP chief ex-President Ershad. — Star photo

### Discussion on Safiyyullah

By Staff Correspondent

A discussion and milad mahfil was held to commemorate the death of AFM Safiyyullah at the auditorium of the Central Law College in the city yesterday.

Safiyyullah, the eldest son of Dr Md Shahidullah, and the vice president of the Sayed AB Mahmud Hussain Smriti Sangsad, passed away recently.

President of the Smriti Sangsad and principal of the Central Law College Sayed Md Dastagir Hussain and other participants discussed life and works of the deceased.

Teachers and students of the college attended the programme organised by the Smriti Sangsad.

### Concern at move to deport Pak Bengali nationals

By Staff Correspondent

Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the Jamaat-Shibir axis has let loose a reign of terror in the educational institutions under government patronisation.

He said this while inaugurating the conference of party's Jessore unit.

The conference, held at the Jessore Public Library premises with Iqbal Kabir Jahid in the chair, was organised in connection with party's fifth congress to be held in the first week of December in the capital.

Menon said the next general elections would not be free and fair unless illegal arms were recovered from the possession of Jamaat-Shibir.

"We are deeply concerned at the deportation of Bengali speaking Pakistanis to Bangladesh," Shawkat Osman and Shahriar Kabir acting president and acting convener of the Committee said in a joint statement.

"This is an anti-Bangladesh move by the Pakistan government, they said. On the other hand, Pakistan's Home Minister in a recent statement clearly said that they would not take back any stranded Pakistani from Bangladesh," the Nirmul leaders said.

### Govt backing Shibir: Menon

By Staff Correspondent

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A joint rally of journalists, press workers and general employees was held in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, in support of their demands. — Star photo

### Awarded

S G Jillani, a social worker, has been awarded the United Nations International Award in the city recently, says a press release.

International Organisation for World Peace, Disarmament, Development and Human Rights, an affiliated-body of the UN organised the award ceremony. Minister for Housing and Works, Rafiqul Islam Mia was present.

### Notice of the Pre-Qualification of Contractors/Firms

- Name of project: Marichar Danra Sub-Project under System Rehabilitation Project.
- Name of work: Construction of 7-vent (1.52M x 1.83M) Drainage Regulator with 2-Fish pass over Marichar Danra at the crossing of Barogharia-Goalbari Road in PS Nawabganj, Dist. Nawabganj during the year 1995-96.
- Estimated cost: Tk 400.00 Lac Approx.
- Price of the pre-qualification document: Tk. 5,000/- per set (Each set of 3 (Three) copies documents).
- Place and date for purchasing pre-qualification:
  - Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka/Shahab Bazar Branch, Rajshahi.
  - Agrani Bank, Naogaon/Nawabganj Branch.
  - Pubali Bank Ltd., Natore up to 29-11-95.
- Eligibility Contractors/Firms: 'A' Class Contractors/Firms (Single/Joint Venture) of Bangladesh Water Dev Board enlisted in 1994-95 who have an average annual turnover for the last five years of not less than Tk. 75.00 Lac and who have successfully completed such hydraulic structure in single contract costing at least Tk. 100.00 Lac in last five years.
- Place & date for receiving application of pre-qualification: The application of Pre-qualification will be received up to 30-11-95 during office hours in the following offices.
  - Superintending Engineer, Rajshahi WD Circle, BWDB, Sopura, Rajshahi.
  - Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O & M Circle, 156-157, Motijheel C/A, (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000.
- Name of the Advertiser: Shafiqur Rahman, Superintending Engineer, Rajshahi WD Circle, BWDB, Sopura, Rajshahi.

PANI-166/95-96  
DFP-28529-18/11  
G-1752  
Superintending Engineer  
Rajshahi WD Circle  
BWDB, Rajshahi.

### Newsmen observe 2-hr token strike

Journalists allow the country yesterday observed a two-hour work stoppage from 12 noon as part of their 'demand day' to realise seven-point demand including immediate constitution of the full-fledged committee of the Fifth Wage Board and announcement of 50 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA).

During the work stoppage, called by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), meetings were held at different newspaper and news agency offices.

Journalist leaders at the meetings urged the government to fulfil their demands immediately for the betterment of the newspaper industry.

The seven-point demand includes formation of the full-fledged committee of the Fifth Wage Board.

### Career opportunity



### Medical Information Officer

SERVIER Laboratories is the largest private pharmaceutical company in France and the third fastest growing company in the world pharmaceutical market. SERVIER is a highly innovative research based multinational company and its quality products are marketed in over 120 countries of the world. We are now looking to fill the position of Medical Information Officers. The selected candidates will have to regularly visit doctors in hospitals and clinics to promote SERVIER's pharmaceutical products. Candidates should have a university degree in pharmacy or pre-medical subjects and be fluent in English.

The successful candidate must be highly self-motivated, enthusiastic, well groomed and ambitious and willing to be posted anywhere in Bangladesh.

If you are a young man around 25 years, with above mentioned qualification and capabilities, a motivating remuneration and fringe benefits will be offered. You are invited to send your application with photo, bio-data and hand written application before 6-12-1995 to our sole Representative and distributors for Bangladesh.

Transcom Distribution Co. Ltd.  
52 Motijheel C/A  
Dhaka-1000

D-1144

### Govt of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD Division, Lalmonirhat

### PWD Tender Notice

No 11/1995-96 Eng

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted and approved building contractors/firms of PWD as per his/their financial limit of work for the undermentioned work. The tender will be received by the undersigned as well as by all the office of the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Rangpur up to 12-00 Noon on 4-12-95 Eng and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the contractors who may like to remain present.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Contractor eligibility for submission of tender
1.	Providing & fixing environmental fencing grill work above 4'-0" height segregation wall around the open yard at Dist Jail Lalmonirhat, under PWD Division, Lalmonirhat during the year 1995-96 Eng.	Tk 8,50,251/-	Tk 17,005/-	2 (two) months	From enlisted and approved building contractors/firms of PWD as per his/their financial limit.
2.	Tender documents consisting Bangladesh Form No 2911 can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned as well as from all the office of the Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Rangpur up to 3-12-95 Eng during office hours only.				

Md Ismail Hossain  
Executive Engineer  
PWD Division  
Lalmonirhat.

DFP-28394-16/11  
G-1744

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Noakhali WD Division, BWDB  
Sonapur, Noakhali, Phone : 5143

### Notice Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No: 3/1995-96.
- Name of work:
  - Tenders have been invited for 25 (Twenty-five) groups of work in connection with Char Development & Settlement Project (BWDB Component) under Dutch-aided in Thana Sadar, Dist. Noakhali.
  - and for 24 (Twenty-four) groups of work in connection with System Rehabilitation Project of Noakhali WD Division in Polder No. 73/2 during 1995-96 in Thana Hatya, Dist. Noakhali.
- Estimated cost:
  - CDSP Works: Varies from minimum Tk 1,62,742/- to maximum Tk 12,06,629/- only.
  - SRP Works: Varies from minimum Tk 3,63,858/- to maximum Tk 58,91,775/- only.
- Earnest money:
  - Not less than Tk 2% of the estimated cost for each group of work.
  - Token earnest money is not less than Tk 1% (one per cent) of the estimated cost for each group of work only for BWDB fixed deposit holders.
- Cost of tender documents (not refundable): Per set Tk 750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty) only and Tk 400/- (Taka Four hundred) only for each group of works as per list will be shown in work schedule with tender documents.
- Banks/Offices where from tender documents may be purchased:
  - The Manager, Sonali Bank, Old Town Branch, Sonapur, Noakhali.
  - The Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Building Branch, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka.
  - The Manager, Sonali Bank, Mohipal Branch, Mohipal, Feni.
  - The Manager, Agrani Bank, Dalai Bazar Branch, Lakshmpur.
- Last date of selling of tender documents: 5-12-95 during Bank transaction hours/office hours.
- Date and time as well as the office fixed for receiving and opening of tenders:
  - (a) Receiving 4-12-95, 5-12-95, 6-12-95 in the office of the
    - The Executive Engineer, Noakhali WD Division, BWDB, Sonapur, Noakhali.
    - The Executive Engineer, Lakshmpur O & M Division, BWDB, Dalai Bazar, Lakshmpur.
    - The Executive Engineer, Feni O & M Division, BWDB, Feni.
    - The Executive Engineer, Dhaka O & M Division-II, BWDB, Dhaka (Tenders of C & D Class Contractors, only).
    - The Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O & M Circle, BWDB, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka (Tender of A & B Class Contractors only) during office hours, 6-12-95 up to 12-00 Noon.
  - (b) Opening: By the respective Heads of the aforesaid offices in SL 8(a) at 12-30 pm on 6-12-95.
- Class of contractors eligible to compete tenders: 'A', 'B', 'C' & 'D' Class renewed contractor of BWDB for 1995-96 in accordance with the selling of competency fixed for BWDB.
- Address of Advertiser: Executive Engineer, Noakhali WD Division, BWDB, Sonapur, Noakhali. Telephone No. 5143.

All other information may be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

PANI-158/95-96  
DFP-28535-18/11  
G-1751  
Executive Engineer  
Noakhali WD Division, BWDB  
Sonapur, Noakhali.