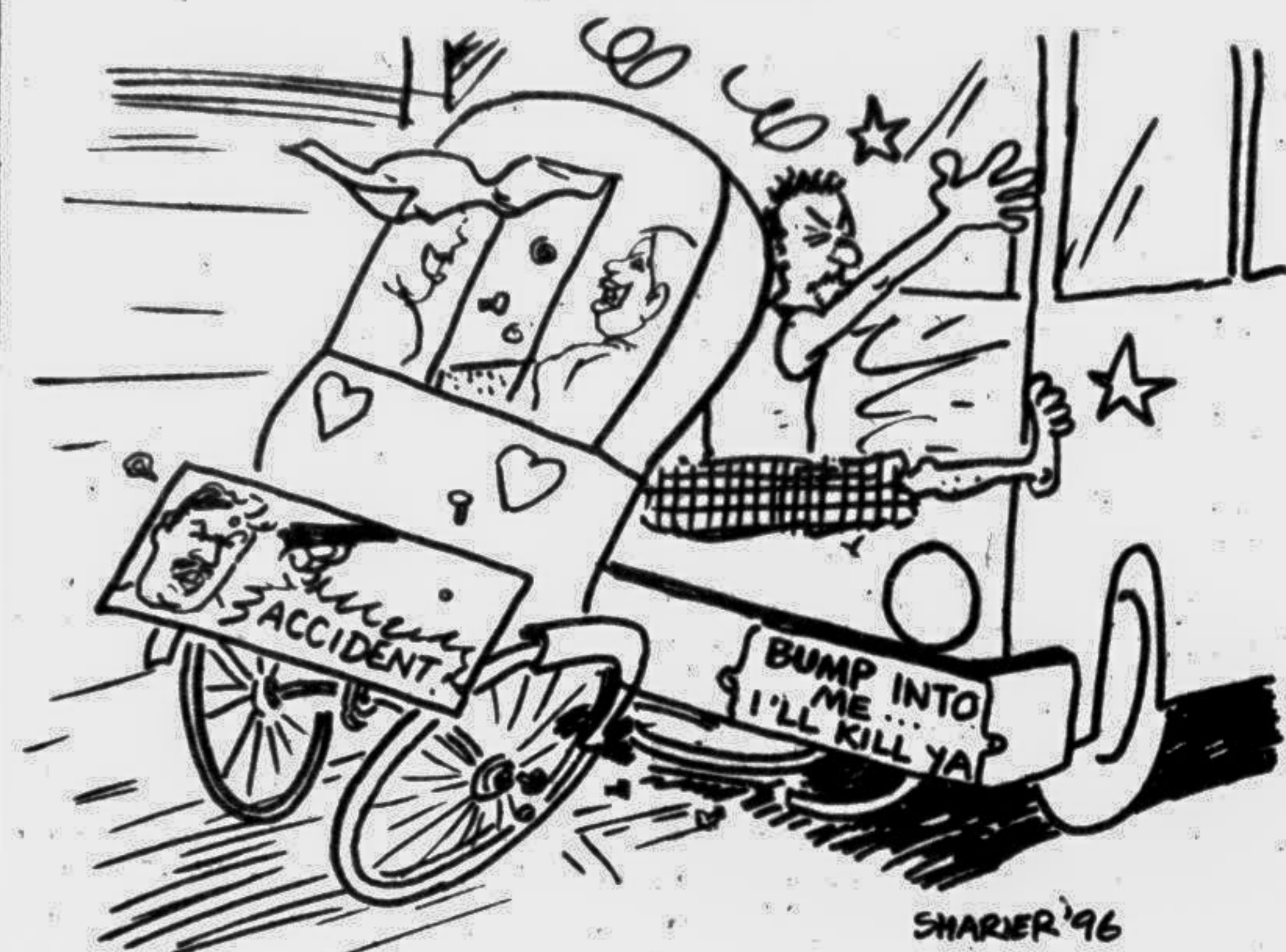


Dhaka Day by Day Traffic Trivia

by Farah Ghuznavi



With the numbers and assorted varieties of vehicles (some of which have to be seen to be believed) on the Dhaka streets having skyrocketed in recent years, traffic jams have become an inevitable part of the daily lives of Dhaka-dwellers. Whatever vehicle you happen to use yourself, there is absolutely no way to avoid the regular traffic snarl-ups that occur all over town. Under the circumstances, most of us have to resign ourselves to the cacophony around us, and concentrate on trying to think about something else — anything else! After all, we don't have the options of some of the inhabitants of Bangkok, who consider the time spent in traffic jams every day to be part of "family time", and have TVs and fridges installed in their vehicles to help pass the time!

On the other hand, since we presumably don't want to end up like to infamous inhabitants of Los Angeles either (some of whom have been known to shoot other drivers in the midst of traffic jams — perhaps as a means of expressing their frustrations), some harmless form of entertainment should be found to help us pass the time. One useful option is to cultivate an interest in "rickshaw art".

Seriously, it is quite interesting to see the wide range of pictures which are painted onto the backs of baby-taxis and rickshaws. You see everything from fluffy white kittens to coy parrots and cavorting dolphins. Familiar scenes for Dhakaites include the Parliament building and the martyrs' monument, but then you also see quite peculiar scenes such as an alpine village nestled at the foot of snowcapped mountains (no doubt painted by an artist longing for some coolness in the midst of the Bangladeshi summer) or a grim-looking Rambo figure totting a remarkably large gun (anyone want to comment on the evidence of cultural imperialism here?).

Along with the traditional depictions of the Taj Mahal and lush green villages, you can see the rather more avant-garde Sydney Opera House, and any number of futuristic metropolises, with curving highways, high-tech cars and towering skyscrapers. But my own favourites are the occasional animal figures (lions, tigers, jackals) seen riding on rickshaws, driving speedboats and shooting at sea-dragons. There is clearly no limit to the artistic imagination!

If that pastime palls, then you can turn to the interesting messages that are written on the back of some of the trucks that ply the city. A sense of humour is very evident in many of these writings. Take the following: "Biri khaba kha, morey jabi ja" (roughly translated as, "You want to smoke, then go ahead and kill yourself")! A number of these statements are concerned with the possibility of excessive closeness between vehicles leading to accidents — ranging from the coy, "Chhi, Chhi, tumi ato kachey" (Shame on you for coming so close to me) to the more aggressive, "Akbar jaggal deken na" (Why don't you bump me just once and see what I do to you) and "Ei shon, lagley khobor achhey" (Hey, you, if you bump into me then we'll really have something to talk about).

Nor are the baby-taxis being left behind in this game. One zoomed past me, bearing the legend, "Ei rasta kobey phurabey" (when will this road finally come to an end) A number of them have also adopted the slogan of "Amakey mero na, ami choto" (don't hit me, I'm little. Though perhaps in their case, it has less to do with a sense of humour and more with a sense of self-preservation! Whatever their motives, they certainly provide the bored motorist with some amusement during Dhaka's rush-hour gridlocks.



The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting opposition's programme. — Star photo



A Jatiya Party procession in city's Purana Paltan area yesterday. — Star photo

Urs

By Staff Correspondent

The holy Urs Mubarak of Khawajababa Shah Suhi Hazrat Maulana Enayetpuri will begin at Bishwa Zaker Manzil, Faridpur on March 2, says a press release.

During the 4-day congregation special prayers will be offered seeking divine blessings for overall salvation of the Muslim Ummah, added the release.

BFUJ, DUJ rally held

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday held a protest rally at Jatiya Press Club calling for immediate halt of police action on working journalists, reports BSS.

The rally, presided over by BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, was addressed by Habibur Rahman Milon. BFUJ

secretary general Shahjahan Mia, DUJ president Abul Kalam Azad, DUJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Kartik Chatterjee, Altaf Mahmud and Shaqur Rahman.

The meeting demanded release of the editor of the Daily Ittefaq Anwar Hossain Manju and editor of Al-Amin Makbul Hossain.

Financial Times report Feb 15 polls offers Khaleda opportunity to end crisis

The prestigious British daily The Financial Times, in a recent report on Bangladesh, said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's parliamentary majority offers her an opportunity to break the political deadlock, reports BSS.

The daily said Begum Zia had consistently argued that she was constitutionally bound to hold elections or face a dangerous political vacuum. She had also argued that she could not meet opposition demands for a 'neutral caretaker government' without changing the Constitution. She could not do this since she then lacked a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

The report said the election should grant Begum Zia the requisite majority to enable her immediately offer talks with the opposition to find an acceptable 'caretaker' formula. If necessary, she says she will consider constitutional changes. This will create an environment so that all political parties can participate in future elections.

The Financial Times report said so far finding an agreed formula has eluded the best efforts of Commonwealth and donor country diplomats for nearly two years floundering

on the opposition's refusal to accept anything short of Begum Zia's resignation.

The daily said, to break the impasse, many politicians and analysts argue, Begum Zia will require to balance her overwhelming legislative strength with political generosity.

The paper observed that Khaleda Zia's potential gains from concessions would be to harness the latent support of Bangladeshis, weary of the political impasse and of the fear and disruption to their livelihood caused by the continual strikes.

Under sub-heading, 'recent poll has altered balance of opportunities for both leaders', the paper said for Sheikh Hasina, the option appears more limited as she has already in effect, rejected Zia's overture to resume talks and has called for more strikes.

The report said many outside the Opposition and some privately within Awami League think her determination for more strikes later this month was fraught with dangers for both her and Bangladesh. 'Sheikh Hasina characterises her dogged opposition to the government as spearheading a popular movement but there is

little evidence this is so,' the report said.

It was mentioned in the report that Sheikh Hasina had expected to spark off a popular movement as there was in the combined opposition to general Ershad. 'But it just hasn't happened,' the report quoted a diplomat.

Quoting a former Awami League leader, the report said, 'She has completely misread the mood of the people.'

The report said that many wondered if she could continue to foment violent agitation against the government and sustain the wholehearted support of the Awami League, the biggest opposition party.

It further observed that more strikes and street violence, and an unwillingness to compromise suggested by Sheikh Hasina's increasingly confrontational political vocabulary would also risk a more severe clampdown. Absence of negotiations is threatened with a resulting cycle of agitation and repression.



Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse pickets at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Professionals for talks to end political crisis

Sixty-seven professionals, including teachers, journalists, writers, agriculturists, poets, physicians, litterateurs, and cultural workers yesterday called for resolving political problem through discussion, reports BSS.

In a statement, they said that despite non-participation of all political parties in the February 15 elections, the polls had created opportunities for solving the political problem in a constitutional way.

They said that these opportunities had to be exploited by way of holding elections participated by all political parties and that is how the present political problem could be resolved.

They said that the opportunities for economic progress that had unfurled before the nation should not be allowed to be lost in the whirlpool of political differences by the patriotic people of the country.

They said that there was no alternative to discussion and understanding for continuing democratic process. We feel that a meaningful dialogue among all political and social forces could lead us to an acceptable political resolution for proceeding ahead on the path of democracy.

The signatories to the statement included Dr. Mahbubullah, Reaz Uddin Ahmed, Amanullah Kabir, Syed Jafar Zahurul Hoq, Ariful Hoq, Ashrafuddin Ahmed Ujjal, poet Sajjad Karim, Abu Saleh, poet Mahmud Shafiq, Prof. Aminul Islam, Dr. Ashraf Siddique, Ahmed Sharif, Chashi Nazrul Islam, Prof. Khondoker Mustahidur Rahman, Prof. Esmatul Hoq Khan, Prof. Hayet Hossain, Prof. Ahmed Fazle Hasan Chowdhury, Dr. Siddiq Ahmed

Chowdhury, Prof. Abdul Aziz Khan, Krishibid Javed Iqbal, Dr. ANM Munir Ahmed, Prof. Mohammad Mahbubullah, Prof. Salimullah Khan, Prof. Mofizuddin Ahmed, Dr. Tarek Shamsur Rahman, Ahmed Musa, poet Mosharraf Karim, Prof. M A Halim, Prof. Mujibul Hoq, Prof. Selim Sakur, Prof. Hyder Ali, Prof. N I Khan, Prof. Mohammad Idris, Prof. Shamsur Rahman, Prof. Kazi Mashur Rahman, Prof. Sultana Jahan, Ahmed Jamil, Rashidunnabi, Prof. M A Matin and Emran Saleh Prince.

Agri education being hampered in Madaripur

Agriculture education is being hampered in the schools of Madaripur district due to inadequate number of teachers and educational appliances, reports UNB.

District Education Office sources said, only a few schools of urban areas have agriculture teachers while most schools situated in the rural areas have none of them.

The government made agriculture education compulsory in high and junior high schools since 1994.

The district has some 72 high and 11 junior high schools with about 32,000 students most of whom are being deprived of agriculture education.

When contacted, some headmasters said well-trained and agriculture diploma-holder teachers are hardly available. In some schools, science teachers are taking agriculture classes.

Delegation meets Biswas

A delegation of the members of the managing committee of Uttar Khan Masjidul Ferdous, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Chairman of the committee Lutfur Rahman Khan led the delegation.

The members of the delegation apprised the president about the problems of the mosque.

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the contractors for the earthwork, boundary wall & site development work etc in the Company letterhead pad for Japan-Bangladesh Friendship School Project, Vill. Rangadaudpur, Sylhet. Tender will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon of 4.3.1996 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 pm in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present.

Work details, specification and terms and conditions will be obtained from the office of the undersigned. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Director

SARA

House No 1, Road No-82
(Opposite to Italian Embassy)

Gulshan-2

Dhaka

S-88

EASTERN CABLES LIMITED PATENGA, CHITTAGONG

Registered Office : BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

NOTICE OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

It is notified for information of the valued Shareholders of EASTERN CABLES LIMITED that the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on wednesday the 27th March, 1996 at 3.00 P.M. at the Factory premises of the Company at North Patenga, Chittagong to transact the following business :

1. To consider the Annual Report of the Board of Directors and the Audited Accounts of the Company as on 30th June 1995 together with the Audited Balance sheet, Profit & Loss Accounts and Audited Report there on.
2. To Declare dividend as recommended by the Board of Directors.
3. To nominate/elect Directors in place of those retiring by rotation.
4. To appoint Auditors of the Company for the year 1995-96 and to fix their remuneration.
5. To transact any other ordinary business with the permission of the Chair.

Dated : 12th February, 1996.

By order of the Board,

M.A. Bareque Khan

Notes :

Secretary

1. The Share Transfer Register of the Company will remain closed from 7th March, 1996 to 27th March, 1996 (both days inclusive). During this period no Share Transfer will be effected.
2. A member unable to attend the Meeting may appoint a proxy. Such proxy must be a member of the Company. Company/Corporation may attend and vote in the Meeting through their authorised representatives. The proxy form duly affixed with Tk. 4.00 (Four) Revenue Stamp should reach the Registered Office of the Company at least 72 (Seventy Two) hours before Commencement of the Meeting i.e. before 3.00 P.M. of 24th March, 1996.
3. Change of address, if any, of the Shareholders should be Communicated to the Registered Office of the Company.
4. Candidates interested to contest for the post of Director from Group B (1) Shareholders are requested to submit their nomination papers in the prescribed form before 7 (seven) days from the Commencement of the General Meeting i.e. before 3.00 P.M. of 20th March, 1996 at the Registered Office of the Company.

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Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind are likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today evening, reports UNB.

Met office said night temperature may remain unchanged over the country during the period.

Yesterday highest temperature 32.6 degree Celsius was at Sathkira and the lowest 15.2 degree at Khulna.

The sun sets in Dhaka today at 6 pm and rises on Tuesday at 6:25 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were as follows:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Mor	Even
Dhaka	32.0	18.8	70	63
Chittagong	28.2	21.2	79	86
Rajshahi	31.2	17.0	78	—
Khulna	32.2	15.2	88	76
Barisal	31.4	19.6	79	74
Sylhet	28.2	18.4	96	67
Cox's Bazar	28.6	20.0	77	82