

Dhaka Day by Day

A Surfeit of Sound Feast

by Neil Ray

Dhaka is a world-beater on two counts: it has the highest number of rickshaws and mosques. As a producer of sounds this city is likely to have a rating highest among the top five or 10 cities in the world. Quite a fantastic achievement no doubt. The city fathers have to issue warning against exploding bombs and crackers on the night of *shab-e-barat* only not to be heeded by anyone. Whether the incessant explosions distract the devotees is nobody's business. There is a competition all around, it seems, to test the strength of ear drum.

The endless competition for raising the city's sound level to ever newer pitch begins from every possible source. The neighbour's cassette player is incomplete without extra amplifiers of which his teenaged son and/or daughter takes the fullest advantage. If you are a tenant and by any chance happen to be residing in an incomplete house, your miseries know no bound. The land-lord who with a disarming smile claimed to be a broke at the time of negotiation about the rent suddenly decides within a month to complete the storey overhead.

You are sure to curse yourself for opting to live in such an incomplete house. If the house owner is an exceptional man, he might once express his sorrow for causing you so much sound bashing. But such a man is just one in a hundred and you can rest assured others will take a sadistic pleasure in showing off his landlordship with every opportunity. He is totally oblivious of the fact that he demanded quite a fabulous sum as advance money — and indeed received a reduced amount after some tough bargain — on the plea that he had no money and no question of going for further construction. This is no breach of contract. But try, if you dare, to explain how your child made a few scratches on the wall or the door banged with gushing wind coming from nowhere. It is precisely you who has been faulted for carelessness and damaging his property. Every penny matters to him and you will have to reimburse for any such damage.

Living in a flat has its attendant troubles. Someone with first-hand experience informs that on the immediate top floor of their flat the boys have fixed rings and nets to play basketball. The thumping of the great home league-playing players' feet can drive anyone insane living below perhaps the world's highest ever basketball court. These are few of the experiences at home. What about the sound level outside?

High-pitched tinkling, use of amplifiers on this or that occasion, high-decibel honking, shouting, et al, give you a torrid time every time you get out into the street. Nobody seems to be unnecessarily bothered with the extra dose of sound volume he or she is fed with. We all are becoming sound-proof as a result. Perhaps that is the reason why we shout at each other and the culture of speaking soft has become a thing of the past.



War of Liberation Silver jubilee celebrations begin

The silver jubilee celebrations of the war of Liberation began yesterday with a function at the Central Shahid Minar, reports BSS.

Yesterday's function is the beginning of the year long celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh being held under the auspices of 'Mass Committee in Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of War of Liberation and Independence'.

The committee which is composed of over two hundred persons drawn from all classes and professions, has decided to hold nationwide celebration of the silver jubilee of War of Liberation and Independence. Veteran intellectual Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury and prominent personality of cultural movement Kamal Lohani were made president and general secretary respectively of the committee formed under the auspices of Left Democratic Front.

Yesterday's function was presided over by Prof Chowdhury, in which Kamal Lohani read out the declaration of the committee. The declaration vowed to reestablish the history of the glorious role of the people in the War of Liberation.

Besides the function also took a number of resolution on the prevailing political situation which included annulment of the Feb 15 polls and fresh elections to the 6th parliament under a neutral caretaker government. It expressed concern at the deteriorating law and order and price hike of essentials and diesel and petrol and criticised the government for failing to supply fertilizer to farmers at fair price.

Lions club meeting

Formation meeting of a new Lions Club will be held under the auspices of the Lions Club of Dhaka Angels today at 4 pm at Purbani Hotel, says a press release.

Schoolboy's death in video shop Terrorists take another innocent life

By Morshed Ali Khan

Arif Hossain, 10, a prospective Class VI student of Dhanmondi Boys' School, had been playing cricket in front of his house at Lalmatta Block-C all day Sunday.

At about 7:30 pm Arif went to OK Video and Video Games shop at Block-D, few yards away from the LGRD (Local Government and Rural Development) office to look for his uncle.

At about 8 pm, a gang of about three youths, armed with automatic weapons and bombs, entered the small shop and opened fire indiscriminately.

Arif was fatally wounded while the owner of the shops, Azad, and two others, were also severely injured.

The gang, after the massacre, made their headway running towards the main road near Aarong.

Hit by three bullets in his head, chest and hand, Arif later died in the hospital while the three others are fighting for their lives at the hospital.

On hearing the gunshots, Arif's mother ran to the video shop from their house only to find her bleeding son lying on the floor.

"When the gang opened fire, the kids, playing the video games inside tried to come out and Arif received a volley of shots," said Khokon, a neighbour adding that others were shot as they tried to run.

"Two persons were lying on the road bleeding and two including the innocent child were lying at the entrance of the shop," said Mirat Ali, an armed guard at the LGRD office just opposite the video shop.

After hearing the gunshots and blasts we rushed to the spot and rang Mohammadpur police who arrived about half an hour later, and took Arif and two others to the hospital while Azad had been taken to the hospital earlier," he said.

The locals said that the spot had long been tense as many young people used to hang around at the LGRD office for allocation of tenders.

"Young people from other

areas regularly come here for securing tender works and in the past, clashed with local mastans who usually hang around at the video shop," said Khokon, a resident of the area.

Another young resident said that on February 6 a gang threw several cocktails at the shop. Many residents complained that the LGRD office in the residential area was itself an illegal set-up.

Some residents complained about the increasing number of video game shops in the city.

"Children are lured into these shops, which keep open until late in the night. There are children who take to stealing to play in these shops," said Moqbul Alam Chowdhury, a retired civil servant and a resident of the area.

"Whatever it is, the terrorists have taken another innocent life. It's time we do something about it," he added.

Meanwhile, Arif was buried yesterday while a case has been filed with Mohammadpur thana.

Postponed

Viva Voce for the posts of MLSS and Cleaner under Embassy Audit Department scheduled for March 15 here has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Fresh date and time of the examinations will be announced later on, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

Housewife robbed

Muggers snatched ornaments worth about T 9,500 from a housewife at Chame-libagh area in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said three youths with firearms halted the rickshaw of Lufunnahar Chowdhury in front of Chame-libagh mosque and snatched her ornaments.



Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman presenting a bouquet to party leader Tofael Ahmed at a meeting in city yesterday. Tofael was released on March 5. —Star photo

Passion of a paddler

By Staff Correspondent

Rickshawpuller Abdul Malek never thought he would be carrying passengers to a destination for a negotiation which might change the course of the country's politics.

"If I knew Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina would be my passenger, I would have worn my best dress," Malek said later.

The top leaders of the Awami League (AL), who normally use cars, used rickshaws yesterday.

Both Jatiya Party and Workers Party delegations followed in the footsteps of their AL counterparts while the Jamaat preferred to go to Bangabhaban on foot.

Sheikh Hasina led her party delegation to Bangabhaban in seven rickshaws — all the way from the party's Dhanmondi office to Bangabhaban. The rickshaws were accompanied by a procession of AL supporters.

Rickshaws are usually not allowed to be parked in front of Bangabhaban. Yesterday was an exception. Bangabhaban officials rather welcomed the rickshaws carrying the political VIPs of the Opposition camps.

The young rickshawpuller, Malek, was the centre of attraction of journalists when Hasina and seven other AL leaders entered the gate of Bangabhaban for talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas at 1:25 pm.

Two motorcars and one microbus of Bangabhaban were, however, ready to bring in the delegation from the Bangabhaban gate. But the AL leaders walked in while their rickshaws waited till 2:45 pm for their return.

"I was resting at Dhanmondi road no 5 at around noon after two trips which earned me 30 Taka when somebody called me and took me to the house of the leader," Malek told the journalists.

When asked whether his fare was pre-fixed, he smiled and said, "No. Not even if I am not paid, I am happy to take her (Hasina's) blessings."

A resident of 42/2 Harjaribag, Malek claims that his family had been a supporter of AL since his grandfather's generation.

The opposition delegations used rickshaws because it was the only vehicle exempted from the non-cooperation.

Lawyers boycott court, hold rally

Lawyers of Dhaka Bar yesterday boycotted the court in support of their association with the opposition's non-cooperation movement against the government, says an Awami Aijnibi Parishad press release.

They brought out a procession in the morning which began at the Bar Library and ended at CMM court premises with a rally presided over by Adv Sahara Khatun.

The speakers demanded resignation of Prime Minister Begun Khaleda Zia terming her government as illegal.

They demanded annulment of February 15 polls and demanded fresh elections under a neutral and caretaker governments.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Adv Kamrul Islam, Abdullah Abu, Altafuddin, Mir Habibur Rahman, Sudhir Kumar Hazra and others. The rally was conducted by SM Jahid Hossain.

AL city unit holds rally BNP must accept 5-pt demand: Hanif

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leaders yesterday reiterated their demand for resignation of the Prime Minister and vowed to continue the non-cooperation movement.

"There is no reason to think that we will stop our movement at this point," Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and AL city unit chief Mohammad Hanif told a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening.

"We know their (BNP leaders) character. They have accepted caretaker government concept and took steps for talks on one hand and are continuing to harass and arrest Opposition workers on the other," he said.

Hanif added that the ruling BNP must accept the five-point demand placed by AL chief Sheikh Hasina to the President.

The rally welcomed AL leaders Tofael Ahmed and Matiya Chowdhury, who were also present there, and Mohammad Nasim and Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation ADM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who been released from jail recently.

"There are still many leaders and ward commissioners in jail. We demand their immediate and unconditional re-

lease," Hanif said.

AL leaders Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Kamruzzaman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razak, Tofael Ahmed and others also spoke the rally.

They said that the farical February 15 election had proved the justification of the demands of the Opposition and therefore the whole nation had wakened up for an "inevitable change" necessary for the politics of the country.

The leaders pointed out that there was no room for any concession regarding their five-point demands because enough blood had been spilt.

After two years of movement, Sheikh Hasina has requested the President to initiate dialogues to bring an end to people's sufferings.

"We know the non-cooperation movement is inconvenient to the public, but through the removal of this autocrat, the public would get a greater reward," said Abdur Razak.

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Obituary — Engr Mohammad Ilyas

Engr Mohammad Ilyas of House # 11, Road # 1, Cantonment Bazar, Dhaka Cantonment, died in New York on 08 March '96. (Innah Lillah Razeun). He was 64. He left behind wife, two daughters & a son. His deadbody will be arriving by Birman on 14 March '96. Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at "Allahu Mosque" of Dhaka Cantonment & he will be buried at Banani graveyard on 14 March '96. All relations, friends & well wishers are requested to attend the Namaz-e-Janaza of the deceased.

Contact Phone : 605283 S-112

Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd
 (A Company of Petrobangla)
 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
 Tele : PABX 812135-42, 812167-68
 Ref. No : EMES/Tele/4342/5/Soil-test Dated : 10-03-96

Tender Notice

- Name of the work: Sub-soil investigation for the purpose of installing telecommunication towers at different locations of the Company namely i) Harpur ii) Savar and iii) Belabo.
- Work completion time: 10 (ten) days including holidays.
- Cost of tender document: Tk 500.00 (Taka five hundred only), non-refundable.
- Bid security money: 2.5% (two and a half per cent) of the quoted price payable in favour of Titas Gas T & D Co Ltd, from any scheduled commercial bank operating in Bangladesh.
- Sale date and time of the tender document: Application to be made to the DGM (Accounts), Titas Gas T & D Co Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, in letterhead pad to purchase the tender document from the cash counter with effect from 16-3-96 to 19-3-96 on all working days from 0900 hrs to 1300 hrs.
- Place and time of tender receiving: 'Tender Box', located at the ground floor of the Company's head office building, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, up to 11-30 hours on 20-3-96.
- Place and time of tender opening: Conference room, 4th floor of the Company's head office building, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, at 12-30 hours on 20-3-96.
- Eligibility of the bidder: Bidders must have previous experience of the same type of works in any govt/autonomous organisation.
- Other informations are included in the tender document.

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Weather

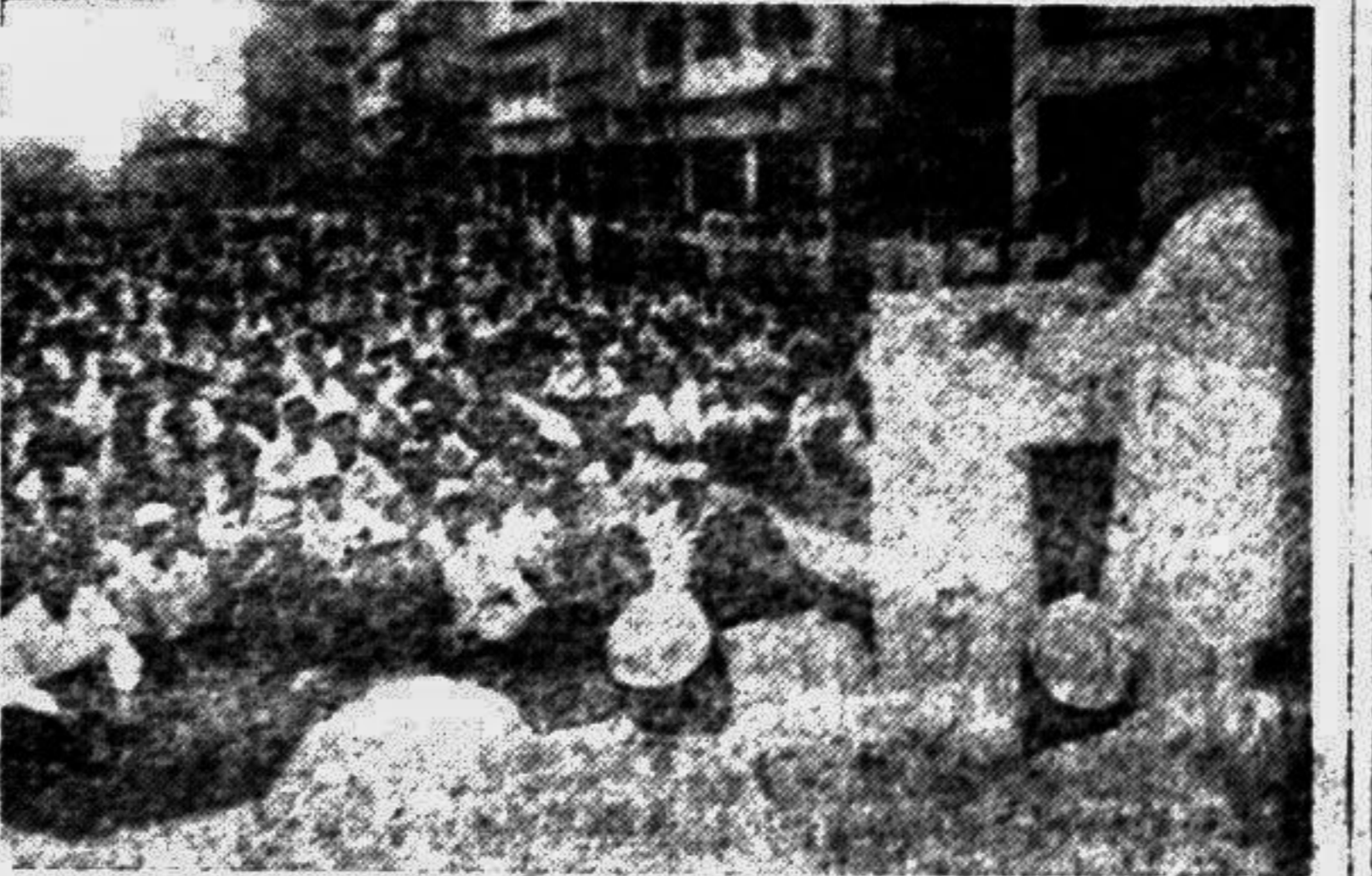
Light rain in Sylhet likely

Temporary light rain or thundershowet accompanied by gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country while day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, Met Office said.

Country's highest temperature 35 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and the lowest 18 degrees at Rajshahi and Dinajpur.

The sun sets in Dhaka today at 6:07 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11 am.



Jamaat leader Motiur Rahman Nizami addressing a meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the city yesterday. —Star photo

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	Mor	Even
Dhaka	34.5	22.5	79	48
Chittagong	30.0	22.2	82	85
Rajshahi	34.0	18.0	63	46