

Dhaka Day by Day

Poetic Justice

by Shamsad Mortuza

Dhaka is gradually becoming a city of floating people. These people come and go; live a life, almost unnoticed and certainly unwanted. They share their own tears and laughter that hardly give a sleepless night to the more fortunate of Dhakaites.

Life becomes harder for these people as tension mounts all over the city. Many of them become worried about their nearest and dearest ones whom they have left at home, in their villages. They avail of the first opportunity that comes their way to leave the city.

"We saw one *rugir gari* (ambulance) heading for Sherpur. We requested the driver to give us a ride up to Jamalpur."

Jehela, who has lost her name to her occupational title *bua*, told about her planned trip home in an ambulance.

Normally, the buses charge 40 taka each. But the ambulance driver asked for 100 taka each. "We agreed," the middle-aged woman and a mother of three recalled how she spent all her savings to pay the driver.

There were 20 passengers in total who wanted to avail the trip and the driver took the money in advance.

It all happened on the pavement of Anarkali shopping centre (behind Mauchhak market). These men and women thanked their stars for getting that ambulance which, they hoped, would whisk away through the pickets and reach them to their homes.

"Get your bundles sharp, the car will leave exactly ten minutes from now," the driver ordered. And all the passengers, who live near by, rushed for their things.

When they turned back, the ambulance had gone, with whatever little money these poor people had.

"Maybe, the driver thought that if 20 of us got in that bus, the patient will die suffocating," Jehela naively tried to explain the odd behaviour of the driver.

We were all shocked. You know, how hard we work for money," she said.

Before earning the recent title of *chhuta bua* (part-time maid), Jehela used to break bricks at a construction site. For breaking 100 bricks she got only 35 taka. And that would take almost a whole day.

"My husband can break 200 a day and my eldest son of nine can break 60-70 bricks a day."

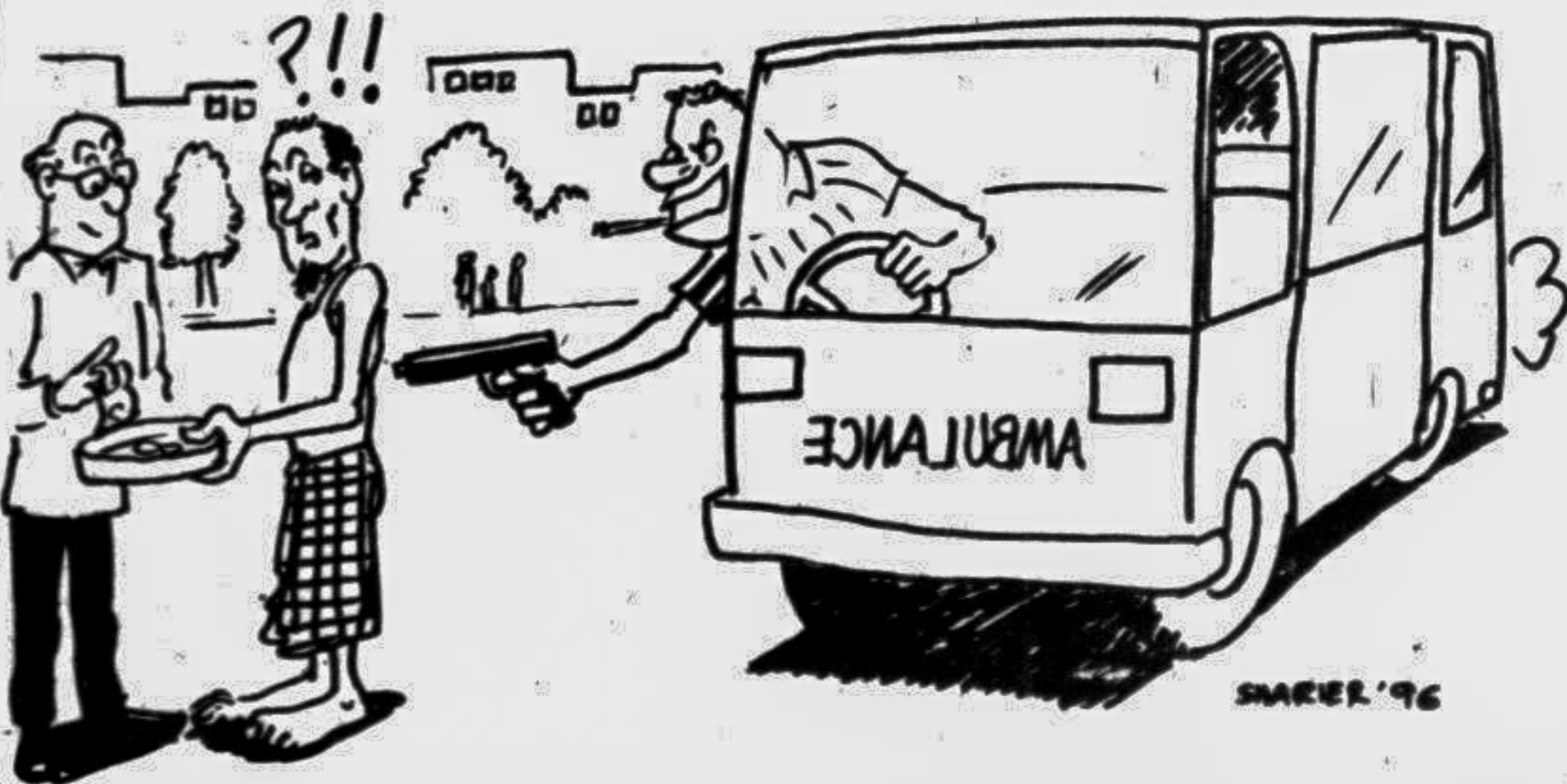
Working as a house-maid is much easier. But she tried to spend as much time as possible in finishing the household chores for which she is appointed in a house.

"When I get back home (a polythene and bamboo structure), my husband always complains about the delay. He wants me to break bricks in the spare time," she added.

Of course, all these hard works do not earn her the relief from domestic chores like cooking food for the four-member family and taking care of the children.

Jehela is just another human being in the city struggling for survival. Their hard-earned income is often shared by frauds like the ambulance driver. These shrewd men exploit the gullibility of the floating people. They feed on the simplicity of these poor people knowing very well that nobody would come to their assistance.

The other day, a small piece of news came to notice. "Ambulance gutted for carrying passengers." The instant reaction to this ought to be, knowing what has happened to Jehela, 'poetic justice'.



Dhaka credits ties with Spain : Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said there is no discrimination between foreign and local investors, and repatriation of invested capital, profit and dividends is freely allowed in the country, reports UNB.

The President told the Ambassador-designate of Spain to Bangladesh Alvaro Castilla Y Bermudez when he presented the credentials to President Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"Spanish investors would take the advantage of this liberal investment policy," he said.

Welcoming the new Ambassador, the President said Bangladesh greatly values the ties with Spain as, he observed, both the countries enjoy friendly bilateral relations and have similar views on major international issues of common concern.

President Biswas expressed confidence that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Spain would be improved further in the years to come.

He also assured the Ambassador of government's full cooperation in carrying out his assignment during his tenure in Bangladesh.

Alvaro Castilla referred to the very successful economic reforms being implemented in

Bangladesh and said the economic and commercial fields are most promising for the development of the relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador also said we support economic and social development efforts of Bangladesh not only bilaterally but also through the projects of the European Union of which Spain is the fifth contributor.

DU Language Instt admission schedule

The Modern Language Institute of Dhaka University has begun distribution of application forms for admission to a one-year long junior courses on different languages, reports UNB.

The forms for admission to Bengali, Modern Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Persian and Russian languages will be available at the institute till May 12, said a press release yesterday.

The last date for submission of the forms to the office of the Institute is May 14.

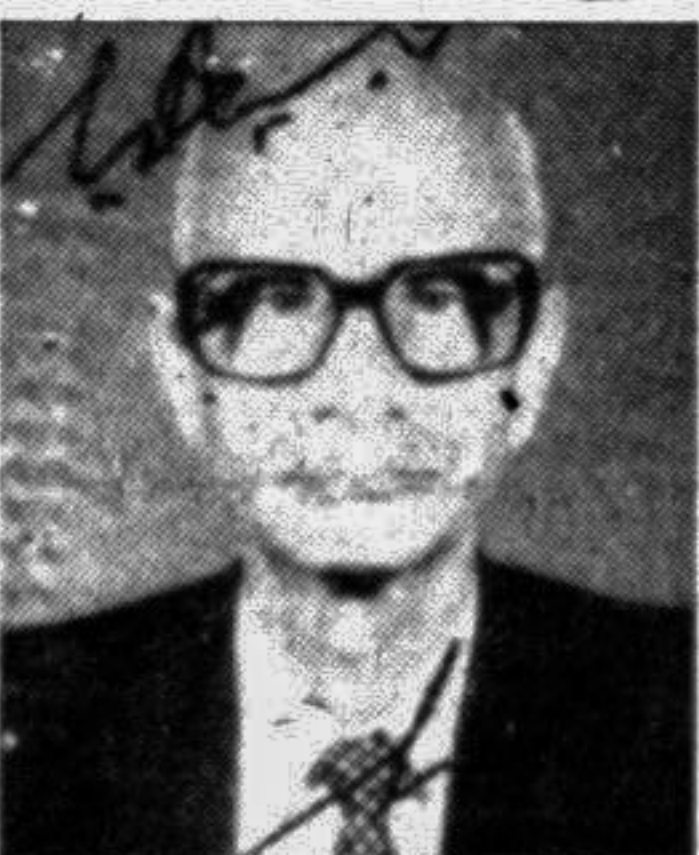
Only foreign nationals are applicable for the Bengali programme, the press release added.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
(পেট্রোবাণ্ডার একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)
"তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ"
১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম স্টেডিয়ামের পাশে
ঢাকা-১২১৫

সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট নিয়োগের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- পিটি ১০২১/০৩ (৮) এয়ার তারিখ: ১৬-০৪-৯৬ইং।
ঢাকা বিমান বন্দরসহ এয়ারস্ট্রেইট ইউনিটের মাধ্যমে আমদানিকৃত মালমাল বাণাসের জন্য সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট নিয়োগকর্তা বৈধ প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে নির্ধারিত ক্রমে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।
প্রত্যেক কর্মসিবেসে সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়ে কোম্পানীর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগ হইতে টেন্ডার ফর্ম প্রতি সেট টাঃ ৪০০.০০ (চারশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অক্রেডিটাবল) ২০-০৪-৯৬ইং তারিখ হইতে ১৩-০৫-৯৬ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
যে কোন অক্রেডিটাবল ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাক্ট আকারে ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকার জামানতসহ দরপত্র অত্র কোম্পানীর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের ৫ম তলায় রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাগে ১৪-০৫-৯৬ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১টায় মধ্যে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। ঐ দিনই বেলা ১১.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।
কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কোম্পানী সজ্ঞক করে।

তিতাস/জসস/যোগ-১০৫/৯৫-৯৬
ডি-৩৭৫
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (ক্রয়)



Nurur Rahman dead

Nurur Rahman, a former minister in the cabinet of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardi, died this morning at his Dhanmandi residence here. He was 78, reports BSS.

Rahman, who was born in 1918 in Sylhet, died of old-age complications.

Rahman was involved in politics since his student life and took active part in anti-line system movement in Assam, the referendum in Sylhet, Language Movement of 1952, anti-Ayub movement and in the country's Liberation War.

He was also the president of the Sylhet district Awami League in the early stage of the party. Rahman was also the editor/publisher of the "monthly Nishan" and "Naya Chhanta" which played an important role in the political, cultural and literary movement in Sylhet.

Death condoled

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his profound sorrow at the sad demise of Nurur Rahman, a former minister of late HS Suhrawardy's cabinet.

In a condolence message, President Biswas said Rahman was a dedicated social worker and a prominent political leader who always fought for the welfare of the people.

Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday expressed his profound grief at the death of Nurur Rahman.

In a condolence message, the Chief Adviser said in the death of Rahman the country has lost a veteran politician who had always upheld the cause of the people in his long political career.

Art competition

A juvenile painting competition on "My Dream and Independence" will be held at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises on Friday at 3 pm, reports UNB.

Education, Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Adviser Prof M Shamsul Haq will inaugurate the competition organised by Masterda Suryasen Parishad.

82 arrested in city

Police rounded up 82 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Ten of the arrested were wanted criminals. Legal actions were taken against all of them.



Rotary Club of Dhaka North West organised a polio vaccination programme on the occasion of the National Immunisation Day in the city yesterday.

What's on today....

Discussion on law: Ain O Salish Kendra has arranged a discussion meeting on legal affairs. Mahammad Asaduzzaman will talk on his recent legal experiences in the Philippines. Venue: Centre for Policy Dialogue, 6/A Eskaton Garden. Time: 3:30 pm.

Science lecture: Professor Shamsur Ali, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, will deliver a lecture on Mathematics. Venue: National Science and Technology Museum, Agargaon. Time: 4 pm.

Musical concert: The Paingers Musical Group will present a concert welcoming Bengali New Year. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Time: 6 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Chhatra Maitri confce: The inaugural ceremony of the two-day 8th national council of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri will be held. Dr Serajul Islam Chowdhury will inaugurate the council. Venue: Aparajeo Bangla, DU. Time: 11 am. A discussion meeting will also be held at TSC auditorium at 4 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society in cooperation with the cultural section of the High Commission of India has organised a two-day Indian film session. Aaghat by Govind Nihalani will be screened on the inaugural day. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

Seminar for disabled: A national leadership training seminar on "Strengthening the Self-help Movement of Persons with Disability" will begin. Bangladesh Pratibandhi Kalyan Samity, Postal Savings Fund of Japan and Asian Development with disabled persons of Japan have jointly organised the seminar. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 10 am.

Peace a must for fair polls : CPB

The leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday demanded complete restoration of peace and stability in society before holding the next general elections, reports BSS.

They were addressing a public meeting at Purana Paltan Square in front of the party office.

CPB general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim told the meeting that free and fair elections could never be held in the country unless the electioneering was free from the influence of black money and muscle power.

He demanded legal provisions so that bank loan defaulters and war criminals might not take part in the elections.

The CPB general secretary also demanded imposing a ceiling of Taka one lakh for election expenditures. Otherwise the elections would not be free and fair as desired by the nation, he said.

Selim said although following a mass struggle, the demand for formation of the non-party caretaker government has been realised, yet the nation is to go a long way for its socio-economic emancipation. He said although BNP was forced to resign the politics of

capitalism is still prominent and the country is still in the grip of World Bank and IMF.

Selim said his party is ready to take part in the elections and it would not allow anything to go unchallenged. We will take part in the election without own identity and not with anybody's symbol because we are fighting for socialism, he declared.

CPB president Shahidullah Chowdhury chaired the meeting which was also addressed by party leaders Jasimuddin Mandal, Manzurul Ahsan Khan, Morshed Ali, Dibalok Singha, Abdul Malek, and Nazmul Ahsan Mizan.

Rotary confce May 17-18

The annual conference of Bangladesh chapter of Rotary International will be held at the Mirpur indoor stadium in the city on May 17-18, reports UNB.

The conference of the chapter -- Rotary International District 3280 -- was earlier scheduled for April, but postponed due to unavoidable situation.

The pre-registration will continue until May 4, according to a press release.

Weather

Dry weather forecast

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country during the period.

Country's highest temperature 38.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 21.6 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in Dhaka today at 6:21 pm and rises on Thursday at 5:38 am.

The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

	in Celsius		in %	
	Max	Min	Mor	Eve
Dhaka	38.0	26.6	57	39
Chittagong	32.6	26.5	88	81
Rajshahi	38.8	23.3	58	35
Khulna	37.6	24.0	84	60
Barisal	36.3	24.4	83	65
Sylhet	31.8	25.0	80	76
Cox's Bazar	33.2	25.5	82	78



Jatiya Party presidium member Begum Raushan Ershad speaking at the launching ceremony of a cassette of poems by Ershad at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Khaleda opens NID in city

BNP chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated her party's National Immunisation Day (NID) programme underscoring the need for creating a polio-free Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The BNP chairperson administered oral polio vaccines to more than 200 children under five years at her party's Naya Paltan central office. She called upon the parents, especially the mothers, to provide polio vaccines to their children for protecting them from deadly diseases in the future and making Bangladesh free from polio.

Referring to the country-wide massive immunisation of nearly two crore children under five years of age today, the former prime minister thanked the mothers who brought their children to BNP central office to give oral polio vaccines to their babies.

National Minor Irrigation Development Project

GIS EXPERT

NMIDP is a EC funded project under the Ministry of Agriculture. The project has a GIS unit in which there is an immediate vacancy for a GIS Manager. This is a challenging post requiring an experienced person willing to take on a high level of responsibility.

Minimum qualifications are an appropriate degree, preferably a second degree and at least 10 years professional experience of which at least 6 years are directly with GIS, data base management and/or remote sensing. Proven experience with ARC/INFO/ARCVIEW is essential.

This post is confirmed until December 1997 and is expected to continue for at least 2 years thereafter.

Your application, which will be treated in confidence, should be addressed to:

CTA/Team Leader
House No. 6/9, Block-F
Lalmatia, Satmasjid Road
Dhaka-1207

and should include curriculum vitae, recent photo, contact telephone numbers and expected remuneration. Preference will be given to applications received before 23 April 1996.

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