

Dhaka Day by Day

Just Another Variety of Extortion

by Shamsad Mortuza

The car was gently sliding backwards out of the slightly lifted parking place near a shopping arcade at Asad Gate. Suddenly there was a car. The driver immediately stopped. The lone passenger of the car, the owner looked out through the window to see what was wrong.

A young man of mid-20 approached with a grimace of anger and anguish in his face. Without paying much attention to the back-seater, he started showering his wrath on the man behind the wheel. And before the awe-struck duo inside the car could make any sense of the situation, the stranger got in and ordered the driver to take him to a nearby clinic.

His authority in the voice cleared off the confusion. Evidently, this man was hit by the car and needed immediate medical attention. The aged man at the back, concerned about the welfare of the victim, complied with and the driver took the adjacent by-lane according to the direction of the accident victim.

The car zigzagged through Lalmatia for quite a long time. And the owner started worrying: where is the clinic that you know?

"Do you have a pen and a piece of paper?" The haughty young man asked back, adding, "You see I am a medical student. I think your driver has broken my knee. I will have to have it plastered, take some pills and injections after having it X-rayed and thoroughly checked-up of course!"

When the calculation was over, the young man informed that it would take nearly Tk 2,000 for the whole process.

How about going to my family doctor," the

old man pulled the last straw sensing the trouble. "Don't try to be smart, this is my locality. And see those boys — they belong to our local club. If they learn what you have done to me, mark my word, you won't get this easy. You will have to donate for the club in addition to the treatment of my leg."

The message was loud and clear. The good riddance of the pseudo-medical student cost the old man Tk 1600. That was all he had in his wallet.

This is one experience that the gentleman tried to forget. A couple of years later, the same man was getting out of his place. This time his wife was along. As the car attempted a turn, a shriek followed. Another angry young man accosted. Without much introduction the young man tried to get in. But the last encounter taught the car owner to lock their vehicle from within. So, the conversation took place at two levels with the young man standing outside and the couple sitting inside the car. The couple was amazed to relearn an exactly identical grievance. "Look son, you don't seem to be injured. And since you are a medical student, you must know our son Dr X. Let us take you to him or we can go to the local clinic. We have been living in this area for the last 20 years. Tell me which one is your house."

The whole calculation of the 'medical student' went wrong. The old man offered a 20-taka note, enough to meet the cost of some painkillers. The young man at last found something to withdraw himself. "Keep that money to yourself. Don't you ever offer that amount," he walked away.



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Unnayan Parishad opinion poll

19pc to vote for AL, 17pc for BNP and 50 pc keep choice secret

By Staff Correspondent

Respondents in an opinion poll conducted 67 Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) said that 19 per cent of them would vote for the Awami League, 17 per cent for the BNP, 10 per cent for the Jatiya Party and 3 per cent for the Jamaat-e-Islami in the coming elections. However, 50 per cent of those questioned preferred to keep their choice a secret.

An earlier survey conducted by the same organisation in December 1995 showed that 32.8 per cent respondents felt that the BNP would get majority seats while 32.5 said AL would secure majority seats in the elections. Some 11.0 per cent were for the Jatiya Party and 2 per cent for the Jamaat-e-Islami at that time.

The public opinion survey conducted by BUP under the leadership of Qazi Kholiqzaman

Ahmad was undertaken in the middle of April 1996 to gauge the people's reaction. The survey was conducted among a total of 2,216 respondents of which 28 per cent belonged to urban areas while 72 per cent resided in rural areas. Males account for 54 per cent while 46 per cent were female respondents.

Among the respondents 26 per cent said, they 'strongly believed' that while 51 per cent said, they 'believed' elections under a caretaker government would be held under a free and fair manner. However, 13 per cent of the respondents were unsure.

In reply to a question as to what could be the main obstacle to holding free and fair polls, 78 per cent mentioned 'terrorism' while 70 per cent said easy availability of unau-

thorised arms would be a great obstacle. Fifty eight per cent thought that 'black money' posed a threat to the elections while 59 per cent said that the overriding selfishness of political parties would be the obstacle to free, fair and impartial elections.

The survey also found out that the promises given by political parties of giving autonomy to Radio and Television will not be implemented and 'whoever goes to power will use the electronic media for their propaganda purposes.'

Eighty per cent of the respondents said, there should be autonomy for Radio and Television while 10 per cent said this media should be under government control. The remaining 10 per cent refrained from making any comment.

USIS library begins charging membership fee

USIS Library in city has begun charging membership processing fee effective from May 1, says a press release.

The fee has been fixed at Tk 250 per year for all members including students, effective from the date of registration.

Library patrons who wish to use the library but not check out books or videos need to pay a daily usage fee at Tk 10, instead of paying the annual membership fee, the release added.

BSc Ag admission tests now May 17

The admission tests for the first year BSc Ag course, session 1995-96, of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute, Dhaka, Patuakhali Agricultural College, Patuakhali and Haji Mohammad Danesh Agricultural College, Dinajpur will now be held on May 17 at 10:00 am, says a press release.

Admit cards, already posted to the candidates' mailing addresses, will be valid for the new schedule.

The admission tests have been shifted as per instructions by the Central Admission Committee of the three agricultural colleges for the greater interest of the student community, added the release.

ATN to shift satellite

The transmission of Asia Television Network Ltd (ATN) will be shifted from the Ghorizont II satellite to PanAmSat (PAS-4) satellite with effect from May 15, says a press release.

Test signal is likely to start tomorrow. The PAS-4 satellite location is 68.5 degree East.

In addition to that ATN channel will start a one hour Bangla Program called 'Bangla Vision' from June 6, every Thursday from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Bangladesh time, added the release.

Write-ups invited

Contributions including short stories, poems, articles, travelogues and anecdotes have been invited for a bilingual (Bangla and English) monthly magazine, the Prabaha, reports BSS.

Published and edited by Munshi Ashraf Alam, Bangladeshi immigrant in Tokyo, Japan, the magazine prefers contributions by immigrants concerning issues of their interests.

All contributions may be sent to Prabaha's Dhaka liaison office in the following address: The Prabaha, c/o IBC, House 4, Road 27 (old), Dhanmendi R/A, Dhaka 1209, Bangladesh; fax: (880-2)-810691 and (880-2)-813014.

Powermongers want to buy seats: Menon

Workers Party leader Rashid Khan Menon cautioned the people about the 'commercial' trend in country's politics and gambit of political turncoats ahead of elections, reports BSS.

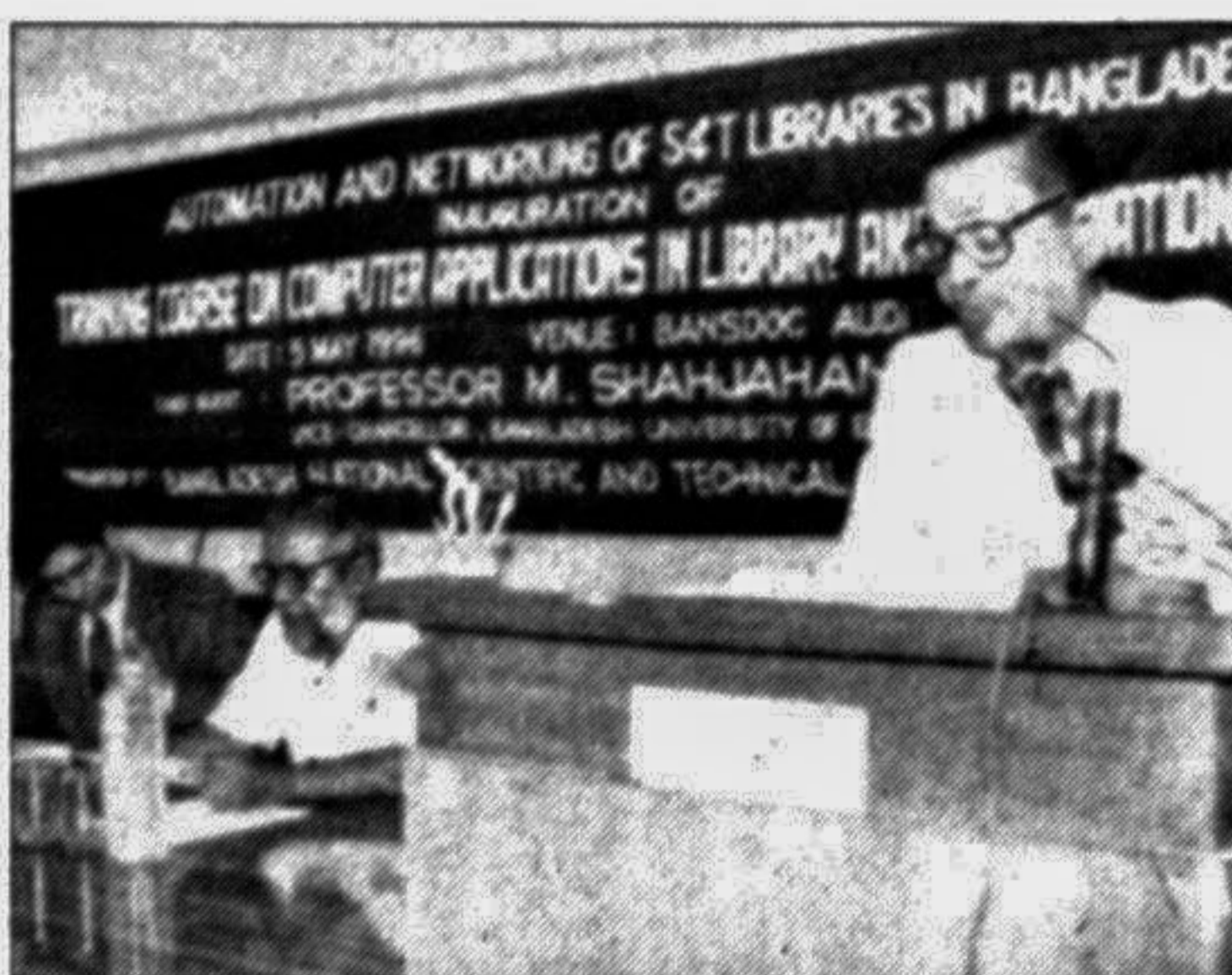
These powermongers want to buy seats in parliament with their ill-gotten power and money," he said referring to the joining of business magnates, retired military-civil bureaucrats and 'dishonest' politicians in big parties.

The WP leader was addressing a pre-election public meeting yesterday at Doarika (ferrygah in Babuganj) thana in Barisal district with Habibul Akhter in the chair.

Menon demanded immediate construction of bridges at Shikerpur and Doarika for normal communications in the southern region of the country as well as with the capital.

He blamed the political parties who had been in power during the last 25 years for neglecting the rural areas though they had always been vocal about development efforts during their respective tenure.

The WP general secretary said in the coming election left Democratic Front would fight for the rights of the poor-middle class toiling masses and urged the people to vote for LDP candidates.



Prof. M. Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor, BUET addressing as chief guest at the training course on 'Computer Applications in Library and Information Activities' organised by Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC) in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Thundershower forecast

Temporary rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty or squally wind may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and Mymensingh region in the next 12 hours till 6 pm, reports UNB.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country during the period. Met Office said adding that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

In its outlook for subsequent two days Met Office predicted increase in rainfall activities while predicted little change in the extended outlook for another five days.

Country's highest temperature 36 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest 23 degrees at Dinajpur. The sun sets today at 6:30 pm and rises on Tuesday at 5:24 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	max	min
Dhaka	35.0	26.5
Chittagong	34.6	27.0
Rajshahi	35.1	27.8
Khulna	35.2	26.0
Barisal	34.5	26.0
Sylhet	34.3	25.5
Cox's Bazar	33.3	26.0
	morning	evening
	70	76
	69	76
	77	95
	79	67
	74	72
	73	60
	66	77

Nirmul Committee rally today

Ektattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee has taken up elaborate programmes marking the 67th birth anniversary of "Shaheed Janani" Jahanara Imam and the first founding anniversary of its city unit this afternoon in the city, says a press release.

The anniversary programme will begin with a rally, which is scheduled to start from the Engineers' Institution at 3:30 pm.

A discussion meeting, to be presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, will be held at the auditorium of the institution at 4:30 pm. A cultural function will follow.

Japanese theatre expert visits city

Hayashi Hideki, Director of the Japanese Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI) and a member of the ITI executive committee (worldwide) arrives in the city on a three day visit, says a press release.

Hayashi who is also a reputed theatre director and leads his theatre company — Terra Arts Factory is exploring the possibilities of co-operation projects between Japan and Bangladesh ITI centres. He had a meeting with the executive committee members of the Bangladesh ITI yesterday and discussed the possible areas.

Hayashi conducted a workshop on Saturday and Sunday for the students of Theatre School. He witnessed two performances and visited Bangla Academy, Theatre Arts Department of Dhaka University and Muktiyuddha Jadughar. He is expected to return home today, added the release.

What's on today

Kanthashilan: Kanthashilan, a city based cultural troupe has organised a solo musical and recital evening by Wahidul Huq marking the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised screening of French films by Luc Besson: *Le Grand Bleu* (the big blue) will be screened today. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

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

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

DSR-SENATOR LINES, GERMANY NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. DSR AMERICA V-WM620 from Pusan & Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. MENG KIAT VOY-9607 Import Rot. No. 394 / 96 which arrived Chittagong on 2-05-1996 from Singapore.

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CHANGE OF COMPANY'S NAME

It is hereby notified for general information that the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Khulna Division, Khulna vide their issue no. 52, dated April 22, 1996 has approved the change of name from Mithun Corporation Limited to **Mithun Knitting and Dyeing (CEPZ) Limited**. All enquires and communications should henceforth be addressed to the changed name. This change in name will not affect any rights or obligations by or against the Company nor will it affect any contract between the Company and other party or parties. The Share Certificates bearing the previous name will also remain valid.

For Mithun knitting and dyeing (CEPZ)-Limited
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