

Dhaka Day by Day

All That Meets the Eye

by Neil Ray

Myriad scenes confront you immediately after stepping out of homes. Some of them are routine and just plain, others may be pleasant or special; and still others can be shocking, saddening and deeply thought-provoking. The lighter side of life as revealed in public places of Dhaka city is a rare commodity but its flashes come as a comic relief in the mad rush. But there are indeed touching scenes that get indelibly etched on your minds. The fact that some of the happenings in our city now seem usual is largely due to the hardening of our souls. We no longer admit that an emaciated body, belonging to the highest order of the species called the homo sapiens, when looks for something eatable in the dustbin is virtually a slap on the face of our civilization.

The hardening of our minds may have helped us to live a life we call normal. Chances were that we might have gone insane had we been too much concerned with the various incongruities we now face all around. Still some events bring us face to face with reality itself where we feel so helpless. A rickshawpuller — just bones and skin — paddling for a pittance in this city's dangerous streets at once produce in us a mixed feeling. The feeling of pride is because even at such an advanced age he refuses to beg or submit to fate. And then the sadness and anger because of the social order where the incapable body has to fend for itself and enjoys no social security or benefit to have a normal retired life.

Contrast this old incapable man's slow progress through the maze called Dhaka traffic

with the roller-coaster speeding life of a dashing youth wheezing past him in a latest model car. Life in Dhaka is manifest in every conceivable or inconceivable manner and form. The contrast is therefore bound to exceed beyond your wildest imagination. Man can do and undo everything here only to ensure his survival. However everything illegal, cruel and deceptive are not the rule of the day. There are still the intrinsic virtues of human heart that reign over everything else. It is because of this our society can sustain itself.

At a level you can reach — even beyond humanity — the animal world where you have to be an animal to understand the animal first and then man. It is not for nothing that someone has said that the best way to understand man is to be an animal. Haven't you seen a bull strapped on a van in a most uncomfortable position imaginable? The van is being driven because the tired animal has lost all its strength to walk. Bent sideways the big bull is gasping for breath. Now compare this with a body of a man covered with a blue polythene sheet laid sideways in a running scooter. You get a glimpse a policeman sitting beside the driver. Suddenly a host of questions come cramming your mind: Is he murdered? Being taken to morgue for an autopsy? Why is he in a polythene sheet? The man is fairly tall, his legs are exposed on one side. How could he be so unfortunate that the minimum respect for the death has not been shown? You wonder. Even death can at times be not a leveller.



'Release Ershad within 48-hr'

The Jatiya Sechchasebak Party yesterday said it would wage a movement if Jatiya Party chairman and former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad was not released within 48 hours, reports BSS.

The city committee of Sechchasebak Party, a front organisation of the Jatiya Party, held a protest meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club after failing to accord reception to Ershad who was freed for some hours on parole to take oath as an MP, a press release said.

The Sechchasebak Party leaders demanded unconditional release of Ershad. They said since Jatiya Party has extended support to Awami League in the formation of government, its leader should be released.

SAARC tech body on edn, culture, begins meeting

The 3rd SAARC technical committee on Education, Sports and Culture began a meeting in Dhaka Saturday to identify prospects of regional cooperation among the SAARC countries in the fields of education, sports and culture, reports UNB.

Opening the 3-day meeting, Education Secretary and Chairman of the Committee A H M Abdul Hye said the committee is not merely a forum for exchange of views and experiences. More importantly it is the mechanism to identify areas of cooperation either through collective efforts or coordinated national efforts.

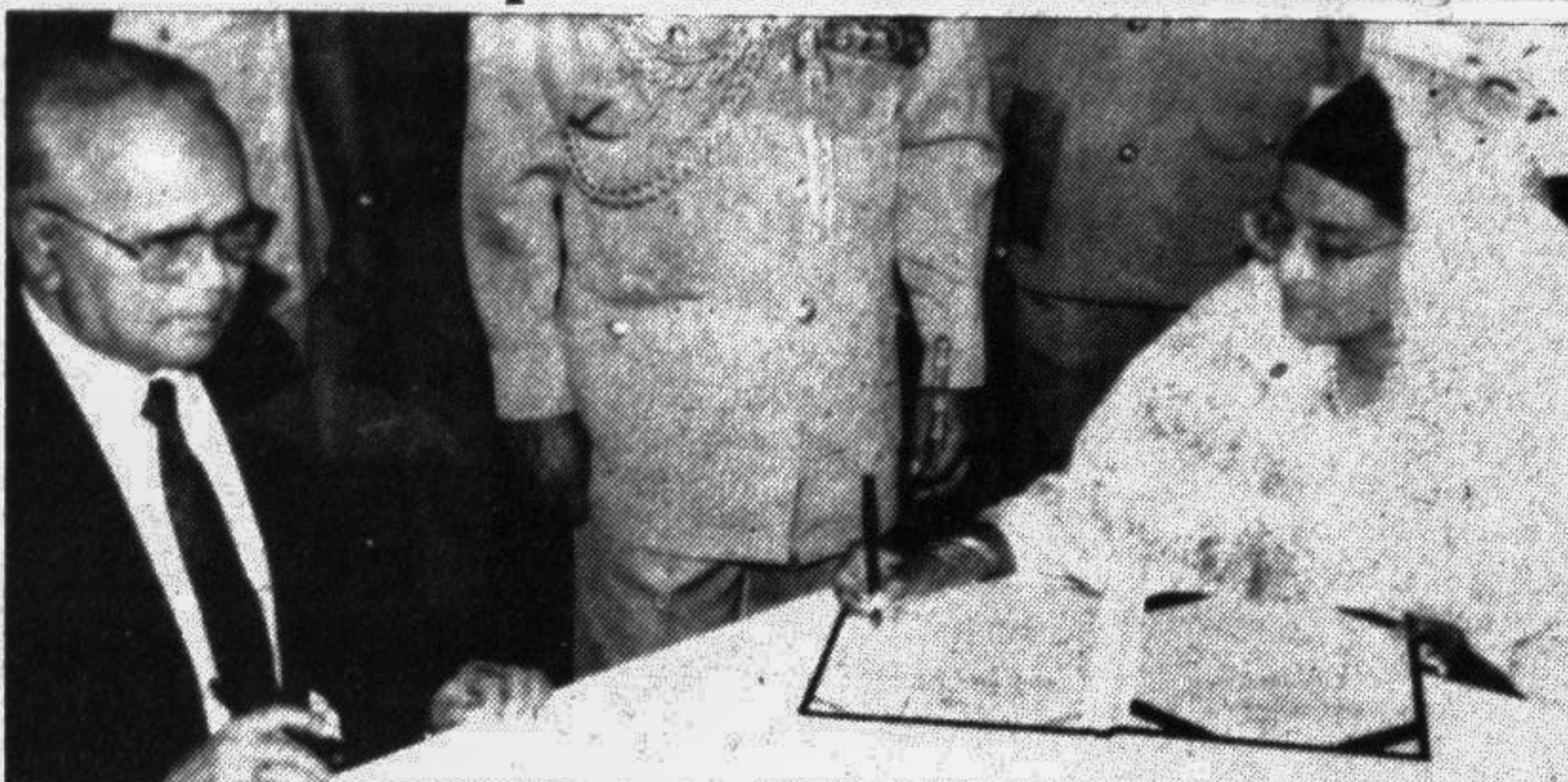
He mentioned that the member countries are yet to ensure education for all and that is why 1996 has been declared the SAARC Year of Literacy.

T&T relief for tornado victims

The cultural group of the Telephone and Telegraph Department yesterday donated a sum of Taka twenty thousand to the relief fund of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) for the tornado affected people of Tangail and Jamalpur, reports BSS.

A cheque for the amount was handed over by Matur Rahman, member, T and T board, on behalf of the group to the acting chairman of the BDRCS, M A Jinnah, at the national headquarters of the society.

President of the group, Abdur Razzak Khan, secretary, Md Shamsuddin and treasurer, Zulfikar Hossain were present during the handing over of the cheque. Member of the managing board of the BDRCS, Lutfur Rahman Chowdhury Helal and officers of the society were also present during the occasion.



Newly-appointed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signing the oath document at the Bangabhaban yesterday. President Abdur Rahman Biswas (L) administered oath to the Prime Minister and her new Cabinet earlier. — Star photo

Implement Quadrat-e-Khuda Commission report: BCL

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Bangladesh Awami League, in a meeting yesterday hoped that the new government, led by Sheikh Hasina, would implement the report of Quadrat-e-Khuda Education Commission.

At the meeting on anti terrorism, held on the DU campus, the BCL leaders said that no government after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, could present the nation with a constructive education policy.

The BCL leaders pledged to free the educational institutions of terrorism.

They said that Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was hatching conspiracy to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the university.

For this reason, JCD welcomed an accused in the Raju

murder case on DU campus, they alleged.

BCL leaders urged the students to look out for any conspiracy to foil the peaceful atmosphere of the campus.

The BCL rally was addressed by Enamul Hoq Shamim, Ishaque Rana, Bahadur Bepari, Abdul Wadud Khokon and Sazzad Hossain.

TTC classes now begin July 7

Classes of BED (honours), BED, MED in Teachers' Training College will begin from July 7 instead of July 1, reports UNB.

The college authority, in an announcement Sunday said, the date has been shifted for HSC examinations to be held in the college from July 1-6.

Get ready for movement: JCD

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, urged its activists to take preparations for movement in the coming days.

Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, a JCD leader, said that the activists of Chhatra League had started extortion and hijacking even before AL took over power.

JCD leaders urged the students to keep watchful eyes on such activities of Chhatra League.

JCD brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus and then held a rally in front of the DUCSU building.

The JCD rally was addressed by Muniruzzaman Munir, Nasiruddin Pintu, Hasibunnabi Shohel, ABM Mosharraf Hossain and Monir Hossain.

EU observers term JS polls as free, fair

The European Union (EU) observer group yesterday termed the June 12 election and June 19 re-polling as free and fair and asked all political parties in Bangladesh to respect the results of the election and to work to enhance democracy in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a statement issued here yesterday by the ambassador of Italy Raffaele Miniero in the capacity of the president of European Union on behalf of the group said 29 observers from EU countries in different groups observed polling on June 12 at different parts of the country and one group observed re-polling on June 19 at different centres in Comilla district and found the polling was conducted in an orderly manner.

The atmosphere was calm and relaxed and voting procedures and the code of conduct were adhered to all centres visited, the statement said.

It said there was a strong security presence both at the polling centres and in the surrounding areas that helped the orderly conduct of polling. No complaints were received in respect of intimidation or impersonation, the statement added.

Shop owner shot in city

By DMCH Correspondent

An unidentified gang shot a shop owner at Mohammadpur in the city Saturday.

The victim, Abdur Rob. 45, former commander of the Muktiyoddha Sangad of Mohammadpur thana unit, who received bullet injuries in his leg was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

He was attacked when he was in his store at 15/18 Sher Shah Suri Road, Mohammadpur at around 7 am.

Previous enmity was reportedly the cause of the attack.

What's on today....

Drama festival: As part of the ongoing week-long drama festival organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy 'Theop' by Chittaranjan Shil, a production of Barguna Gono Natya Forum will be staged. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Seminar on banking: Bangladesh Institute of Banking Management (BIBM) has organised a seminar on Islamic banking. Venue: BIBM seminar room.

Centre for Asian Theatre: "Krishnabibar," an adaptation by Ahmed Reza of Henrik Ibsen's "Ghosts," will be staged today. Kamaluddin Nilu has directed the play while Kurt Harmensen is in charge of stage and lighting direction. Venue: British Council Auditorium.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Antareen' by Miral Sar on the concluding day of its three-day special film session. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

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

Home Economics College VOA Fan Club: The club has organised a free plantation programme. College Principal Darfa Noor Begum will be present as chief guest. Venue: College campus. Time: 12 noon.

More city news on Page-9

Owners deny closure of garment units

By Staff Correspondent

The Alpine Garments and Juki Garments in a press release yesterday said that their factories were operating and were not shut down as claimed by a certain quarter.

The press release said that two employees were suspended earlier for misconduct and inquiry against one had already been completed while it was progressing against the other.

According to the release the two employees along with some outsiders had instigated some other employees to go on strike on Saturday without any prior notice to the management. They had also prevented other employees from entering the factory premises.

The release further mentioned that several female employees who joined work on Saturday were beaten up by those people. The female employees have lodged complaint with the Gulshan Police Station, it added.

It also mentioned that there was no arrear salary to be paid and the employees enjoyed weekly holidays in the factories.

CU MA admission test schedule

CHITTAGONG, June 23: Written test for admission into MA (preliminary) course in History for the academic session 1994-95 of the University of Chittagong will be held on July 9 next, a university press release said here today, reports BSS.

Written test for admission into MA preliminary course in Arabic and Islamic Studies under the University of Chittagong for the session 1993-94 and 1994-95, will be held on July 13, a separate press release of the university said.

Appointment

Tuhur Ahmad has been made Chief Engineer (current charge) of Roads and Highways Department, an official release said, reports BSS.

Earlier, Tuhur Ahmad was appointed Additional Chief Engineer (Planning and Development) in the same department.

Hasina's tribute to Fazlul Haq

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the residence of A K M Fazlul Haq Miah, a member of the advisory council of Bangladesh Awami League, who died of a heart attack yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Fazlul Haq, 58, also a former divisional commissioner of Khulna, died at 3 pm at his Uttara Model Town residence.

Terming Fazlul Haq, a true patriotic leader imbued with ideals of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Hasina said that the deceased left invaluable contribution to the nation through his sincere, just and efficient services. "The nation has lost a great soul at the death of Haq," Hasina added.

Sheikh Hasina stayed with the members of the bereaved family for some time and consoled them.

Dr Wazed Miah and newly appointed minister for Foreign Affairs Abdus Samad Azad and other partymen were also present on the occasion.

Zillur condoles death

Awami League general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman in a condolence message yesterday expressed his profound grief and sorrow at the death of A K M Fazlul Haq Miah, a member of the AL advisory council.

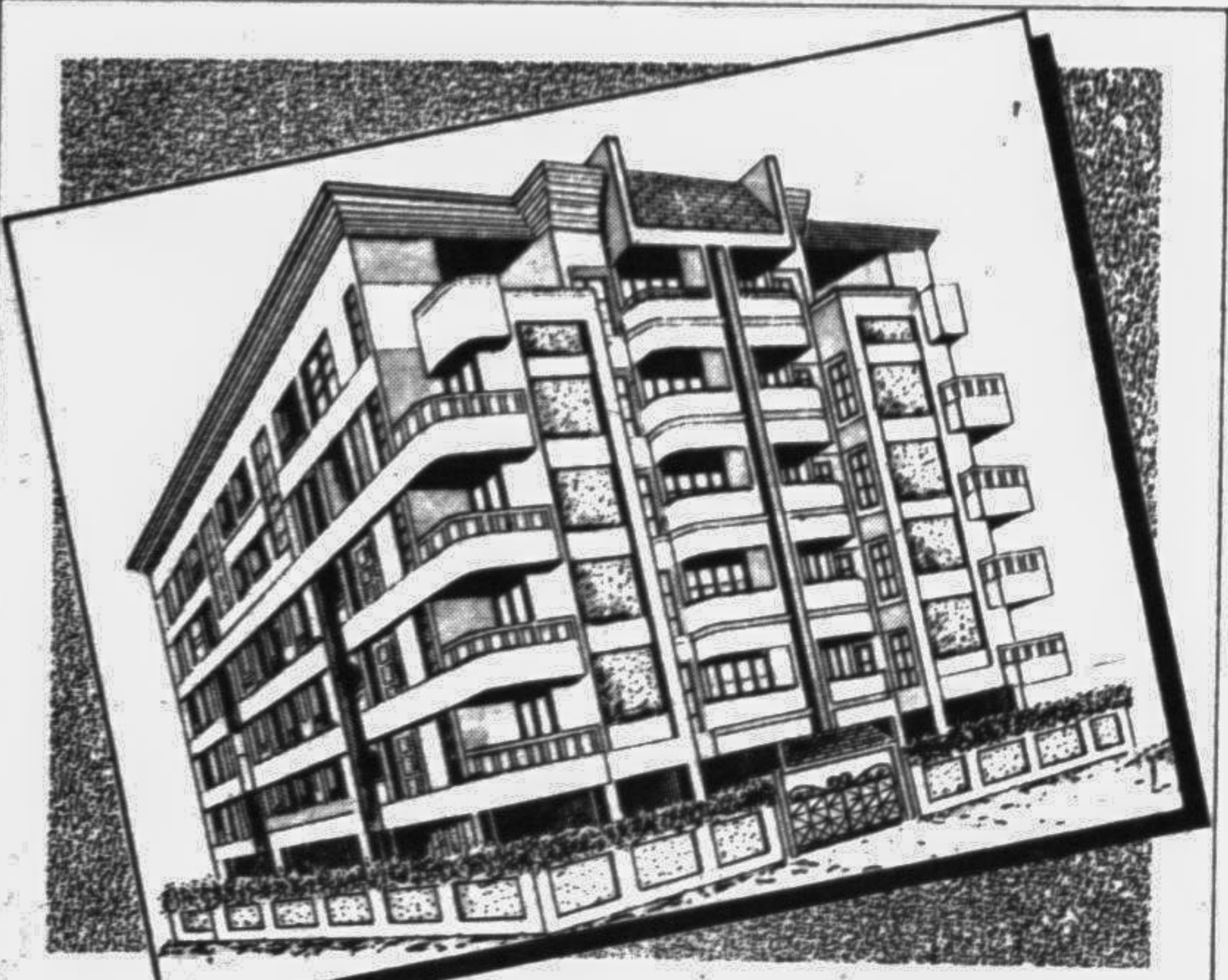
Rahman also expressed his sympathy to the family members of the bereaved and prayed for the salvation of the deceased.

In a separate condolence message Zillur Rahman also expressed his grief at the death of Chitalmari thana AL general secretary Babu Revuti Ranjan Roy.

Obituary

Hasina Banu, mother of Ahmed Humayun, Editor of Dainik Bangla, died of heart ailment at 6 pm yesterday at the Sidderswari residence of her daughter, family sources said. She was 78, reports BSS.

Banu left behind a son and a daughter. Her daughter S K Hasin was a former professor of P G Hospital and son-in-law Ahmed Rafiq is a renowned Rabindra researcher.



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS

Nomination in prescribed forms are invited from the eligible shareholders expressing his/her willingness to contest the election of Directors from the public shareholders in the next Annual General Meeting to be held as per the following schedule:

Date of election	: 26 August 1996
Time of election	: 5:00 p.m.
Place of election	: Ball Room of Sonargoon
Number of Directors to be elected	: 5 (five)

Nomination forms and criteria for qualification of Directors are available at the Registered Office of the Company.

The nomination form duly completed and signed alongwith relevant supporting papers confirming the fact that he/she is not otherwise disqualified to become a director of a general insurance company should reach the Registered Office of the company by 24 July 1996.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FAKHRUDDIN AHMED, M.Com., ACMA, FCA, COMPANY SECRETARY

24 June 1996