

# Dhaka Day by Day

## In the Image of Fellow Beings

by Neil Ray

Dhaka's middle class is a queer lot. With their status fast disintegrating, middle class people of the city have been developing notions, attitudes, sensitivities and behaviour quite different from their class, say, of 20 years ago. These people are not sure about themselves and are more prone to imitate all things imported without knowing to question the suitability of those. They are found to be overawed by the glitz and glamour of both people and gadgets. So the acquired habits are mostly a poor imitation of the original which with their minus and plus points are natural in their own settings.

How distorted the middle class view has become can be easily discernible. In a city of 70 million people the unhindered prosperity of rickshaws owes largely to the middle class mentality. If the bus rides in the city are so cumbersome and even impossible, why did not people have a natural choice for bicycles? How many people travel on bicycle in this city or country? Not that people are lazy or a cycle ride is very risky — riskier than a rickshaw ride — but the reason behind the bicycle-shyness is what other people would think of. In fact, the middle class people in Dhaka is made in the image of the other fellows of his species, not certainly of God.

How do you explain the mentality when someone will refuse to walk even just 200 metres when there is no urgency? The same problem of mind is at work — what others will think of if he/she is seen walking. Carrying the bazaar bags does puncture one's prestige. One would rather starve and invite gastric ulcer rather than carrying a tiffin box or a hot pot to one's office. The preference is either for the junk foods or for a hired hand who will have to go extra miles for rendering this service. Even in time of purchasing the essentials — perishables in particular — one feels low and small if one has to ask for fractions of a kilogram. Have you noticed that even the shop-keepers look at you disdainfully if you ask for grams rather than kilos. In sweetmeat shops they even do not have packet smaller than half a kilo. So here is a diseased mind that develops all kinds of distorted views.

When someone is so concerned with petty things and is in a mood to see through a sort of tunnel vision, neither the personality nor an appreciation of tradition, culture and esthetics develop. It is because of this the man who finds cycle riding degrading does not mind spitting anywhere and everywhere, spoiling the wall of office or residence, throwing about wastes all around, showing temper and even engaging in fist fighting in public places. Flaunting wealth is the order of the day both for men and women. With all kinds of inhibitions, conservatism and smallness of the mind, our middle class is heading for a disaster.

## Japanese economic team arrives today

A seven-member Japanese economic mission, led by Ushiko Uwatoko, Chairman of the Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation and Chairman of Toyo Engineering Corporation, arrives here today reports BSS.

The mission will discuss the economic and political issues with the Bangladesh officials and business leaders during their four-day visit to Bangladesh, official sources said here yesterday.

The mission is expected to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, and other officials, the sources said.

They will have formal meetings with the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The sources said that another high-level official trade delegation is expected to visit Bangladesh in November next.

A total of 69 Japanese investment projects have been registered with the Board of Investment and Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA).

A BOI official said that the visit of the Japanese trade mission to Bangladesh was a follow-up of a BOI's three-month investment promotion programme in Japan from January 23 to April 22 this year.

Under the programme, 27 project proposals of Bangladesh sponsors on textile, garments and apparels, electrical and electronics data processing, agro-fishery, iron

and engineering, ceramic products and other light industry were introduced to the Japanese investors through individual meetings.

The officials said the Japanese investors had showed interest to invest in different sectors including garments, quality jute goods, petroleum by-products, plastic injection mould, textile, artificial flower, fashion jewellery, lighting fixture for residential and industrial purposes and electronics.

The BOI has already set up a special desk to promote Japanese investment in Bangladesh as well as to provide necessary service to the existing Japanese investors and other agencies.

Other members of the mission are: Yutaka Shibata, Director of Nichimen Corp, Kazumichi Yangihara, General Manager (International Cooperation Office) of Mitsubishi Corporation, Isao Tanimoto, Deputy Managing Director of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Akihiko Mishima, General Manager (Bangkok office) of Toyo Engineering Corporation, Yoshihiro Ishihara, General Manager (Asia and Oceania Sec) of Marubeni Corp and Kiyoshi Yamada, Manager in chief of Japan and Tokyo Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

## DMC orientation class Aug 1

The orientation class for the first year MBBS students of the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) will be held on August 1 at the college Lecture Gallery 1 at 10 am.

All students have been requested to attend the programme along with their guardians, says a press release.

## DU Officers' Assoc election held

AKM Ruhul Amin Akand and Thandar Abdul Hye were elected president and general secretary, respectively of the Dhaka University Officers' Association for the year 1996, reports UNB.

A 21-member executive body of the association was elected in the election held yesterday at the administrative building of the university, said a press release.

## Kuwaiti aid for flood victims

The Kuwaiti government has donated a consignment of essential goods, including rice, garments and medicine, for the country's people affected by natural calamities, reports UNB.

Charge d'Affairs of Kuwait Embassy Tareq Al Al-Oraifan handed over the consignment to Director General of Multilateral Economic Affairs Wing said a press release yesterday.



## JASAS confce postponed

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Shamajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) has postponed its scheduled extended meeting and conference on account of the country's flood situation, reports UNB.

The conference preparatory committee decided to postpone the August 2 extended meeting and August 29 conference after a discussion with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuyian, said a press release yesterday.

## 131 arrested in city

Police rounded up 131 people on various charges from different parts of the city in 24 hours till 8 am yesterday, reports UNB.

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The Managing Director, Zia Fertilizer Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation against Tender Enquiry No. (1) ZFCL/OS-1829-HYDRAZINE (2) ZFCL/OS-1735 PH Meter (3) ZFCL/OS-1856-Portable Gas Detector (4) ZFCL/OS-1857 - Various Types of Bearings (5) ZFCL/OS-1858-Gas Cylinder with pressure Regulator and Gas Sample bladder and (6) ZFCL/OS-1779-Angle Regulating Valve on C&F (C) Dhaka/Chittagong basis under any suitable source of finance. Cost of Tender documents for Sl.No.1-5 Tk. 400/- per set and for Sl. No. 6 Tk. 750/- per set (non-refundable) available from the Office of (1) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) Senior General Manager, BCIC Branch office, 6, Agrabad C/A., Chittagong and (3) General Manager (Accounts & Finance), ZFCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403, Bangladesh. Tenders should be submitted with Earnest Money 1% (one per cent) of the total quoted value to the office of the General Manager (Commercial), Zia Fertilizer Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3403, Bangladesh up to 2.30 PM on 08.09.96 and will be opened immediately thereafter. No tender document will be sold on the opening date. ZFCL reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any one or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BCIC-769-24/7/96  
DFP-16542-25/7  
G-894

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Sealed tenders are hereby invited in two envelope system from the bonafide experienced 'A' class enlisted electrical contractors of Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous bodies having valid 'ABC' electrical licence from the Electricity Licencing Board of Govt of People's Republic of Bangladesh for supply, installation and commissioning of A 1250 Amps 415 volts 50 Hz A/C T/P air circuit breaker in the electric sub-station at Biman Bhaban, Motijheel, Dhaka.

Tender documents will be available in the office of the Asstt Manager Accounts (Cash & Banking), Biman Bhaban, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on cash payment of Tk 500/- (Five hundred) only (non-refundable) during working hours up to 12.8.96.

Tenderers shall have to deposit earnest money @ 2.5% (Two and half per cent) of the total quoted amount in favour of Bangladesh Biman Corporation in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from scheduled banks along with financial offer of the tender.

Tenders will be received in the office of the Dy General Manager (B&W) up to 1330 hrs on 13.8.96 and only the technical offer will be opened by the tender committee on the same day at 1400 hrs in presence of tenderers, if any.

Biman Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-16550-25/7  
G-895

Dy General Manager (B&W).

## Legal Notice

In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh High Court Division, Dhaka (Original Civil Jurisdiction)

Company Matter No. 32 of 1996

### In the Matter of:

An application under section 151 of the Companies Act, 1994.

-And-

### In the matter of:

Apex Weaving and Finishing Mills Ltd., being represented by its Managing Director, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

..... Petitioner

Notice is hereby given that an application under section 151 of the Companies Act, 1994 has been filed by the petitioner Apex Weaving and Finishing Mills Ltd. before the hon'abl High Court Division for extending time for filing of return of allotment of shares to the Register of Joint Stock Companies, Dhaka and upon hearing his Lordship Mr. Justice Kazi A.T. Monowar Uddin has been pleased to admit the said application on 16-07-1996 and fixed for hearing on 20-08-1996.

Any person interested to oppose the said application may appear before the Court on or before the date of hearing.

Copy of this application may be obtained from the under signed on payment of prescribed fees.

Nitai Roy Chowdhury  
Advocate  
Bangladesh Supreme Court  
Address: 103 Kakrail,  
Dhaka-1000  
Phone: 9333010