

# Dhaka Day by Day

## City's Missing Children

by Neil Ray

Use of mikes, loud speakers etc. in a city highly politically charged as Dhaka is very common. The denizens of Dhaka city have grown to cope with the intruding bass sounds—although not so distinct and therefore hard to follow the words—that are volleyed into the quiet corner of every residence at any time of day or night. Recently you come across a different kind of miking marked by untrained use and still less polished language. This is about missing children mostly under 12-year-old.

At times the nagging sounds give you no clue to the purpose of this type of passionate campaign in which hardly a word can be followed. Unless you concentrate all your attention to your two ears, you cannot catch the words. When you do so, you gradually come to grasp the tragic meaning that a boy or a girl named x, y, z aged between four to 12 has been missing since yesterday.

or the day before yesterday, so on and so forth. If any kind-hearted person happens to find the child anywhere here, he/she is requested to return the unfortunate boy or girl to an address mentioned.

The appeal is poignant no doubt but at the same time the not-so-discreet among us tend to react in a very uncharitable manner: what do the family members do and how do they take care of their wards that the little ones go missing? After all, these are not cases where teenagers flee simply because of the thrill of adventurism. Ninety-nine—if not more—out of a hundred missing children whose whereabouts are inquired through miking, come from the lower

class of this urban society. When you know that these hapless children are left to themselves, fend for themselves and have none to look after for most of the day, the angry reaction is bound to get softened. It is a cruel world for these small lives. Their parents just eke out a living at a sub-human level and the little ones are fated to a disproportionately raw deal starting at their birth and ending in a peripheral existence.

Is miking any help to get back the missing children? In most cases it is not. Only in rare cases it helps in tracing out those missing. Then the obvious question that arises is, where do the children end up? In recent times more and more such appeals through miking are heard. This is an issue that hardly concerns the law enforcers and still less the politicians. But look they are raising hell in Belgium over the missing of two girls and killing of another two in a small town. Ours is a highly populous country but that should not be any reason for treating human life so cheap. The impression at present is that we could not care less.

Reports on children smuggled out by traffickers often paint a shocking picture. We turn a blind eye to them. Can it be that there is a connection between the missing children and the trafficking that shows no sign of coming to an end in the near future? The condition of the poor in urban society is already grim. If their children vanish in the urban jungle, they have little means to trace them out. But the administration should at least make sure that their children cannot be lifted for trafficking.



The world of their innocence gets shattered when one of them is lifted away never to return.



Members of the visiting Chinese People's Liberation Army delegation, led by its Deputy Chief of General Staff, Lt Gen Kui Fulin (2nd R), called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Noor Uddin Khan (R) at his office yesterday. —Star photo

## Steps to improve condition of sea ports soon: JPM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that all-out measures would be taken to improve the service condition of the country's sea ports for facilitating export, import as well as attracting foreign investment, reports BSS.

Talking to a ten-member delegation of Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association, who called on her at her office yesterday, the Prime Minister assured them that the consultative committee of Chittagong Port would be reconstituted to solve various problems with a view to increasing its cargo problems with a view to increasing its cargo handling capacity.

Sheikh Hasina stressed the importance of improving service facilities of the port and its modernisation for giving a greater push to the national economy.

The Prime Minister also gave a patient hearing to the various problems being faced by the port users. She assured the delegation that her government would consider those serious and take pragmatic measures for their solution.

She also lauded the role played by the association in the last democratic movement, especially during the non-cooperation movement.

Earlier, the association chairman, Faruque Kamal, apprised the Prime Minister of various issues relating to the problems and prospects of Chittagong Port. Among others, he demanded transforming 'dock labour management board' into 'dock labour welfare board' for smooth functioning of the port activities.

The association members also presented a crest of their organisation to the Prime Minister.

## PLA Dy Chief of Staff calls on Navy, Air chiefs

The visiting Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Lieutenant General Kui Fulin called on Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam at the Naval Headquarters, an ISFR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

He stayed with the chief of Naval Staff for some time and discussed matters of common interest.

Then he went to the Air Headquarters and called on Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed. He stayed with the chief of the Air Staff for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang and other senior officials were present during the visit.

General Fulin and members of his entourage later went to the Savar Cantonment. They witnessed the ongoing training activity of the local army division.

## Satellite township project launched

Mohona Upashahar Prakalpa was formally launched yesterday with the opening of its project office in the city, says a press release.

The project is the first initiative by the private sector for satellite township development in the country.



Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, brought out a procession protesting recent incidents at Dhaka University, on the campus yesterday. —Star photo

## Experts' meet to resolve city's traffic jam soon

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam BU Wednesday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government would soon arrange a meeting with the experts concerned for resolving the traffic problem in different city areas and highways, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice moved by Awami League member Kamal Ahmed Majumder (Dhaka), the home minister expressed the hope that the government would be able to take up a clear cut programme to solve the traffic problem in different parts of the country if not by this month, inshallah by next month on the basis of the recommendations of experts.

He said that area wise committees would be formed with the members of parliament to ensure smooth traffic system in the important city areas and highways including that of the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Replying to a question, the home minister said that the

government would deploy adequate number of traffic police on the Dhaka-Aricha highway and city bus terminals including Gabtali and Sayedabad.

Earlier moving his notice Kamal Ahmed Majumder narrated the sufferings of the travelling people on the Dhaka-Aricha highway due to abnormal traffic jam and wanted immediate measures for the redressal of the problem.

## BUET exams from Sept 1

The examinations of level-1, term-1 and level-2 and term-1 of the current 1994-95 session and level-2, term-2, level-3, term-1 and level-4 and term-1 of the session 1992-94 of all departments of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology will start from September 15 according to revised academic programme, a university press release said, reports BSS.



## Sultan's painting show begins today

A week long exhibition of paintings by the great master SM Sultan begins today at the Gallery Tone in the city, says a press release.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan at 5.30 pm. It will remain open daily from 10 am to 8 pm till August 29.

## Subscribers urged to pay phone bill by Aug 29

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board has asked its subscribers to pay bill of Dhaka multi-exchange digital telephone by August 29, reports UNB.

The telephone bill is payable at fixed branches of Agrani, Krishi, Janata, National Credit and Commerce, BASIC Bank Bangladesh Limited and City Bank Limited, says a PID hand-out.

Users have also been urged to collect the duplicate bills from concerned telephone revenue office, if they do not get their telephone bills by Sunday (August 25).

## Music festival inaugurated

A week long music festival began in the city yesterday under the aegis of the Indian High Commission, reports BSS.

Eminent cultural personality Kalim Sharaf inaugurated the festival yesterday evening at the Indian cultural centre auditorium.

## Weather

### Moderate rainfall likely

Light to moderate rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may rise 1-2 degree Celsius during the period across the country.

Meantime, Khulna experienced the highest 79 mm rain during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Faridpur had 57 mm rain, Dhaka 53, Jessore 51, Barisal 27, Comilla 15, Cox's Bazar and Sylhet 10 each, Chittagong 7, and Rangpur and Dinajpur 6 mm each during the period.

Country's highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the lowest 23.0 degree at Jessore and Satkhira.

The sun sets today at 06:25 pm and rises tomorrow at 05:38 am.

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	morning	evening
Dhaka	30.2	24.3	83	82
Chittagong	30.5	23.3	80	77
Rajshahi	31.0	25.0	84	96
Khulna	28.0	25.3	100	90
Barisal	27.0	24.2	100	86
Sylhet	31.5	24.3	86	78
Cox's Bazar	28.5	23.2	92	77

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Tender documents can be purchased on payment of the cost as mentioned during office hours from our offices at Guptakhal, Chittagong and Minhaj Court, 4 Shantinagar, Dhaka 1217, on all working days except the tender opening day.

Offers in accordance with the tender documents alongwith the requisite bid security will be received upto 1100 hours BST of 16th September 1996 at Guptakhal office, Chittagong and will be opened on the same day at 1105 hrs in presence of the bidders or their authorised representative if any. Bids without requisite bid security as stipulated in the tender documents will not be considered.

No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person by virtue of having obtained the tender documents nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all offers either in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof and to vary the quantities at our sole discretion. S-457

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Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited requires office space on longterm lease basis covering approximately 4000 Sft. for its proposed branches at Gulshan, Dhanmondi Residential Area (between Road # 2 to 27), Bangshal/Mouluvi Bazar, Dhaka. The premises should be located beside main road on the ground floors.

Interested building owners may please submit their offers to "Senior Vice President, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, 1, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka" by 15th September, 1996, stating, among others, exact location, covered area, Type/year of construction of the building, monthly rent, contact phone numbers etc.

### WORLD BANK SCHOLARSHIP

#### Robert S. McNamara Fellowships Program 1997

The World Bank Resident Mission - Bangladesh is pleased to invite applications for the McNamara Fellowships Program for academic year 1997. The fellowship which covers the research cost only offers 10 scholarships to support innovative and imaginative post-graduate study in the field of economic development. The amount of the Award is US\$7,500. Research topic should be one of the following: (i) Role of NGOs in Development, or (ii) Land Reform. To apply for the program, candidates MUST fulfill the criteria listed below:

1. National of a World Bank member country which is currently eligible to borrow;
2. Normally, age should not exceed 35 years. For exceptionally qualified applicants—some flexibility may be allowed (at the discretion of the Bank). Candidates born before 1 January, 1958 will not be considered for the program;
3. Have completed and been awarded atleast a Master's degree or equivalent at the time of application; and
4. Carry out the research under the tutorship of an academic supervisor in a host institution.

Applications must be submitted in the prescribed forms which can be obtained from the Bank's Administration and HR unit at the following address. Completed forms should be returned by 1 December, 1996 for onward submission to Washington DC. Closing date at Washington DC is 31 December, 1996. Late receipts will not be processed.

**THE WORLD BANK**  
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