

Dhaka Day by Day

Vintage Cars in City

by ASM Nurunnabi

It is now difficult to say for certain when a motor car was first seen on the streets of our country. There is also no definite evidence which car was first introduced on the streets of Dhaka and who did this pioneering act. But it was widely believed that motor cars were first introduced in Dhaka by the Dhaka Nawab family.

It is generally felt that quite a few episodes of history are associated with the introduction of a car. A specific period of time, its social system, many historic events and above all the personal memories of owners and passengers of initially introduced cars are all entwined with its history. For these reasons, the researchers of antique things attach great importance to the historical events and the personalities who used such cars in course of the past events. Moreover, in the interest of evolution of automobiles, very old cars are preserved. Generally cars produced between 1917 and 1930 are designated as vintage cars. In fact, all old cars are so called, by and large.

Although their number is not so large, a collection of old cars has been steadily growing in Dhaka and also in Chittagong. There is an association of the owners of vintage cars and other enthusiasts by the name 'Old Car Club of Bangladesh.' The association reportedly held three rallies in the last few years; the last one in 1990.

From sources in the old car club, it is learnt that the oldest car in this country is a British-made Daimler of 1909 model. This model is rarely found these days, in the world. The collector of the Daimler model was the Maharaja of Tepa of Rangpur. This old car was reportedly purchased by Habibur Rahman Sanil, the chief patron of the Club. In 1981 at a government auction for Take three thousand.

It is learnt that the oldest cars in a running condition are one Austin of 1925 model and one Rolls-Royce of 1926 model. The original owner of the Austin car was the Rani of Natore and that of the Rolls-Royce was the Maharaja of Dina-
jpur. Besides these, among the other vintage cars of the country now available are Ford Patton, Chevrolet Sedan, Fiat Tipo, Dodge Brothers Sedan, Morris Tourer, Vauxhall, Sunbeam Talbot, Morris Saloon, Opel, Ford Jeep, MG Tourer, Cadillac, Marris Minor, Morris Oxford, Opel

Olympia, Mercedes Convertible, Ford Perfect, Volvo Sedan, Volkswagen, Opel Record, BMW Sedan and Mercedes 300.

Habibur Rahman Sanil is said to have about 40 old cars in his collection. This collection includes the car which belonged to justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury. It was a 1948 model. He also acquired 1950 model Olympia and two Dodge cars of 1930 and 1934 models in 1974. The Mercedes Benz 300 car which was used by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is also in his collection. A jeep and staff car used in the World War II were also said to be in his collection.

According to Mr Sanil, a lot of work is involved in restoring the body and engine of an old car, after purchase, to a running condition. In this work of restoration and rehabilitation of old cars, an old mechanic named Mohammad Hamid along with his team of workers and the ingenious technology acquired from Dholaikhal has proved invaluable. The experienced mechanic expressed confidence that with the indigenous automobile technology it is possible for him to fashion any motor part for any vehicle.

Besides Mr Sanil, chairman of the old car club, there are other members of the club who have some old cars in their collection. They are reportedly Mahmudul Faruk with 25, Aziz Mohammad with 10 and Saleh Hussain with 5 vintage cars. The chairman of the old car club expressed the opinion that the club has been successful in achieving two main objectives of the club: to create consciousness among the people about the importance of rehabilitation of old cars and to work for improvement of indigenous automobile technology. The ultimate aim of the club is said to be to set up a museum of old cars in Joydebpur area. An important part of the proposed museum will be set for the old vehicles used by the Pakistan Army and the Freedom Fighters in the Liberation War in 1971.

Among some of the uses the vintage cars can be put to, mention may be made of organisation of charity shows for the purpose of raising funds for any laudable public purpose or using such old cars for a commercial purpose in connection with marriage functions or any grand show for any important occasion.



A four-day solo exhibition of water colour paintings by Golam Mostafa Khoka began at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today

Seminar on media women: Inner Wheel Club of Greater Dhaka has arranged a seminar on 'Development Mass Media and Women.' Weekly Annyna Editor Tasmina Hossain (MP) will open the seminar. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam will present keynote paper. Venue: Rotary Centre, Sugandha Community Centre, Satmasjid Road, Dhamuondi. Time: 4 pm.

Musical soiree: Rini Haidar and Nusrat Jahan will present songs at a function organised by Narigrantha Probortona. Venue: Narigrantha Probortona, 2/8 Sir Syed Road, Mohammadpur.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Capital: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers Club, Bally Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

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

The Met office forecast no appreciable change in day temperature during the period.

In its outlook for subsequent two days, weathermen predicted little change.

The country's highest temperature, 35.0 degrees Celsius, was recorded at Mymensingh and the lowest, 23.8 degrees, at Bogra yesterday.

Meantime, Comilla experienced the highest 38 mm rain in the 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Cox's Bazar had 36 mm shower during the period.

The sun sets today at 5:56 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47 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	34.5	26.1	82	86
Chittagong	30.6	25.3	-	83
Rajshahi	34.2	25.5	69	81
Khulna	34.0	25.8	84	74
Barisal	33.4	25.5	90	95
Sylhet	31.5	25.0	95	86
Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.0	93	95

SAARC seminar on checking drug abuse begins today

A two-day seminar on 'Role of Media to Check Drug Abuse,' jointly organised by SAARC Secretariat and Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) begins at a city hotel today, reports UNB.

Former Cabinet Secretary M Majibul Haque will inaugurate the seminar and DG, DNC Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury will preside.

Participants from SAARC countries — India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — will participate in the deliberations.

4 alleged muggers beaten up in city

By Staff Correspondent
Four alleged muggers were beaten up by a group of people near the Azimpur graveyard under Lalbagh thana in the city Thursday.

Police rescued the muggers and admitted them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The conditions of two were stated to be critical, police said adding all four were receiving treatment under police custody.

The angry people assaulted the muggers as they reportedly tried to snatch money and valuables near the main gate of the graveyard at around 9:30 pm, police said.

People-oriented education policy sought

By Staff Correspondent
Speakers at a seminar yesterday emphasised the immediate need for a scientific and people-oriented education policy.

The seminar, jointly organised by Shikkha Barta, Shikkha O Sanskriti Charcha Kendra and Ganotantrik Shikkhak Forum, Bangladesh Agricultural University, was held at the auditorium of the Agricultural University in Mymensingh.

The subject matter of the seminar was 'Education Philosophy, Objective and Society.' Eight papers were presented in the seminar by Dr Ali Asgar Hasna Begum, Ali Anwar, Shahidul Islam, Mamtaz Latif, Niranjana Adhikari and Jain Sarkar.

Hasan Azizul Haque, Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin, Dr Zillur Rahman Siddique, Prof Sawkat Hossain, Dr F R Mahmood Hasan took part in the discussion.

Earlier in the opening session, chief guest Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid while inaugurating the seminar said that a nation could never achieve its target without having a people-oriented education policy. Before formulating an education policy, we have to decide on what philosophy our education policy would be based on, Prof Sarwar Murshid said.

JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR COMPANY SECRETARY

GIVENCHY GROUP OF INDUSTRIES, a fast expanding 100% export-oriented business house comprising of spinning, knitting, dyeing & finishing and stitching plants, is looking for a COMPANY SECRETARY.

The incumbent should be a qualified Company Secretary having 10-12 years of experience in a transitional environment handling secretarial matters and board meetings, besides drafting legal documents; well conversant in company laws, issuance of shares to public, etc. Preferred age group: 35-50 years.

Attractive remuneration will be offered to the deserving candidate. Interested candidates are requested to apply in confidence with complete CV, relevant papers and two recent passport size photographs to the undersigned on or before 30-9-96.

Manager (Administration)
GIVENCHY GROUP OF INDUSTRIES
Modern Mansion (2nd Floor)
53, Motijheel C/A. Dhaka-1000.

KHAN'S SUPER VISION National Colour TV

সারা বিশ্বের মতো বাংলাদেশে একই পছন্দ

খান এবার দিচ্ছে National -এর

নতুন মডেল টি সি-২০৭২

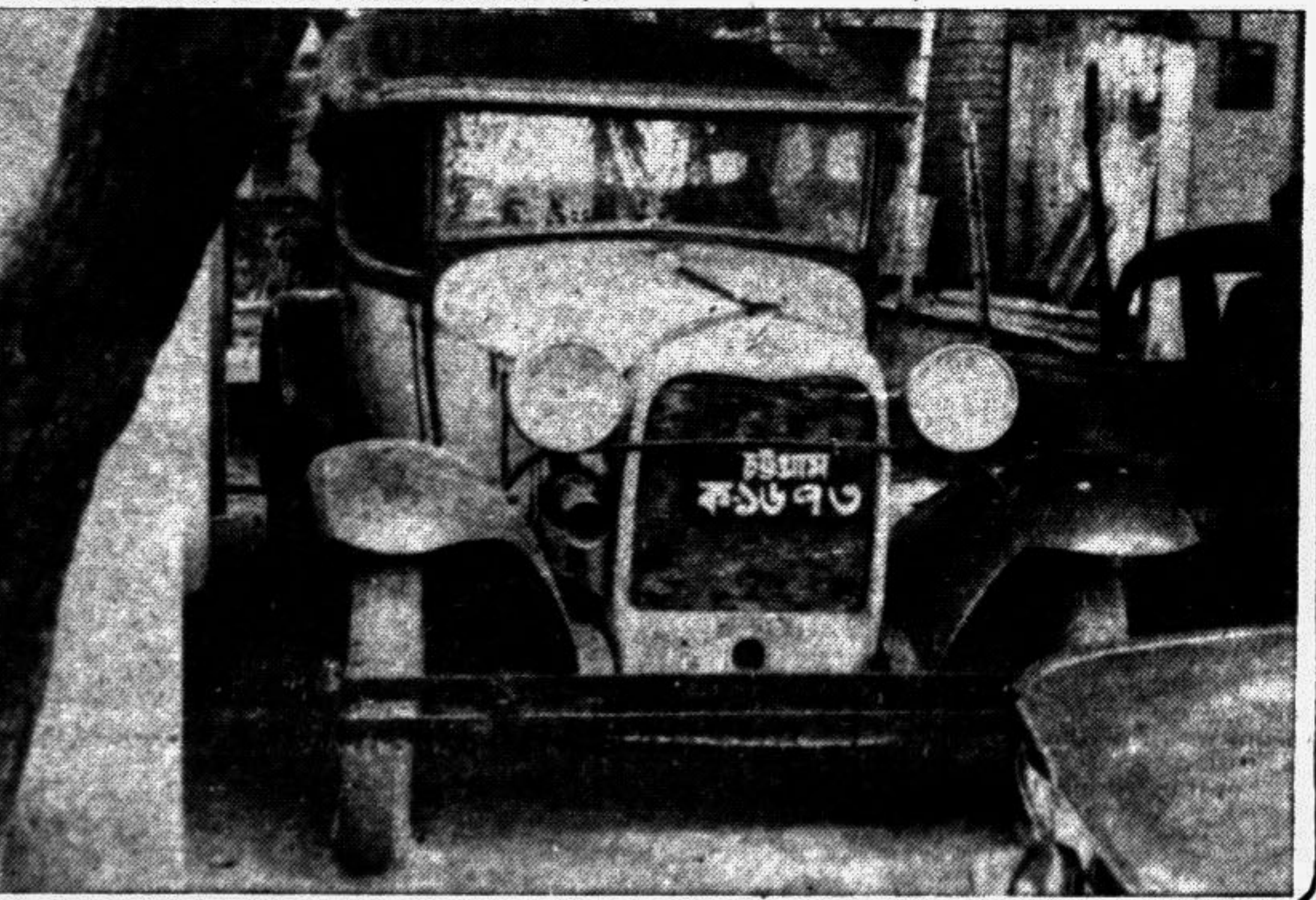
২০" রঙ্গীন টেলিভিশন

টুইন পিপিএল মাল্টি সিস্টেম



বাংলাদেশ স্টুডিও মোট ১৪ টি অনুমোদিত সার্ভিস সেন্টার : ঢাকা, ফেনী, ঝিনাইদহ, কক্সবাজার, কুমিল্লা, কুষ্টিয়া, ময়মনসিংহ, নওগাঁ, পাবনা, দিনাজপুর, কুষ্টিয়া ও দিনাজপুর

১১ মিলিকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ১ম তলা, ঢাকা ১০০০, ফোন: ৯৫৩৩৭৭৫
সোফিস, সেলস সেন্টার ও সার্ভিস সেন্টার : ৫১ নিউ সুপার মার্কেট, রাসতুল মোকাররম, ঢাকা ১০০০, ফোন : ৯৫৫৭৯৩২



195 arrested in city

Police rounded up 195 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, said a DMP press release, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, 28 were wanted criminals, 47 arrested on charge of murder, dacoity, snatching, extortion of toll and terrorist activities and one was a listed terrorist.

Quader leaves for New Delhi

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader left last evening for New Delhi on a four-day visit, reports BSS.

The state minister will inaugurate as chief guest the 16th diploma course on youth and development in the Asia Centre of Commonwealth Youth Programme in Chandigarh, India on September 23.

DUTA concerned

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday expressed deep concern at the telephone threat to a teacher of the university. DUTA president Dr A T M Zahurul Haq and general secretary Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique in a statement alleged that unknown people were threatening Dr Abdul Hakim Sarker, associate professor of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, over telephone, reports UNB.

গত দু'বছর বিটিসি ঢাকায় চারা বিতরণের যে কর্মসূচী নিয়েছিল, এ বছর ছিল তার চেয়ে ব্যাপক। তা সত্ত্বেও নির্ধারিত দিনের আগেই সব চারা ফুরিয়ে গেছে।

ঢাকা-বাসীর এ উৎসাহে আমরা অনুপ্রাণিত।
সার্থক আমাদের প্রচেষ্টা।

আর আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত তাঁদের জন্য যারা সময়ে এসেও চারা পাননি। তাঁদের জন্য আপাতী
বছর আরো বড় আয়োজনের আশ্বাস দিচ্ছি।

জীবনের জন্য বুক অপরিহার্য সত্য। বুকমর সুন্দর দেশ গড়তে প্রয়োজন মিলিত প্রয়াস।

বিটিসি এ ব্যাপারে সবসময় এগিয়ে। আজ আপনারা এগিয়ে এসেছেন.....সবুজ সুন্দর দিন
আর দূরে নয়।

বিটিসি'র চারা এখন আপনার হাতে
তাকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখার দায়িত্ব আপনারই

বাংলাদেশ টোব্যাকো কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
সেনের বনায়নে নিবেদিত