

Widening the Lanes and By-lanes of Dhaka

by Dr Engr Abdul Matin

A couple of years ago, a narrow lane in Zigatola, called Moneshwar Road, was widened without any assistance from RAJUK and without payment of a penny for acquisition of land! It was done through voluntary donation of land and/or funds by the local residents.

DHAKA is famous for its numerous mosques and narrow lanes. I cannot give any figures, but I believe it has more narrow lanes than mosques. And some lanes are so narrow that even a rickshaw can hardly pass through them.

Recently, we were delighted to see a news item in The Daily Star (July 12, 1997) on a plan by RAJUK to widen over 1000 lanes and by-lanes in Dhaka at a cost of Taka 500 crore. RAJUK will first take up a few lanes and by-lanes as models and the rest of the project will be completed according to these models.

ment of a penny for acquisition of land! It was done through voluntary donation of land and/or funds by the local residents. They carried out the project under the guidance of the local Ward Commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) who initiated the project and motivated the people to donate land without any compensation. Once the boundary walls were shifted voluntarily by the local residents to widen the road, the City Corporation rebuilt the road with the necessary drainage and service facilities.

valuable land without compensation. In fact, they are very wise people, much wiser than many of us who prefer to live in slums beside narrow lanes with all the inconvenience and brag for not parting with one inch of land for the benefit of anybody!

the residents much more quickly and easily. Obviously, the residents of Moneshwar Road gained much more than what they parted with. If they could do what they have done, why can't the others?

es, others can. They only need motivation and guidance. In my opinion, RAJUK, with its record of inefficiency, corruption and failure to implement the Dhaka City Master Plan, is not the most competent authority to carry out the task of widening of the lanes and by-lanes of the city. After all, these lanes and by-lanes are partly the creations of RAJUK. A project of this kind needs active participation of the concerned people and RAJUK being a purely bureaucratic organization, lacks experience in involving people's participation.

"The Queen of Hearts" is Dead: Culprits Must be Brought to Book

by AMM Shahabuddin

THE most-loved, admired and charismatic personality and one of the most elegant women of today's world, "The Queen of the People's Heart" as she aspired to be called, Diana, the Princess of Wales, is no more there to traverse this earth, hopping from continent to continent, from one country to another, on



Glories of death

up to the neck with another married woman. With the passage of time, just as the disintegration of their marriage widened, she became a total 'mistress' in the Palace. She couldn't make a compromise with the "fusty" atmosphere. But, on the other hand, she began to draw more attention of the crowds and more focus of the cameras, than on her husband or any other member of the royal family.

Meanwhile, some prominent journalists and important world leaders have directly blamed the mediemen who were recklessly chasing Diana's car. Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Japan are among them. The Sunday Times Editor, in a recent BBC interview, said that it was "a sort of assassination."

Devastating Shock But Diana, being herself a young, enthusiastic and dynamic character, virtually rebelled against the Palace and came out in the public, throwing in the winds all royal restrictions on her free movement. She chose a different path both in her private and public life. It was a positive posture on her part with new themes, perhaps with an ultimate aim at taking revenge on the royal family. Unfortunately she plunged too deep, when came into contact with Al-Fayed, with rumours of their possible marriage in near future.

humanitarian pursuits. Apart from her private and personal life-style, to millions she appeared like a "Lady with the Lamp". She built up a high-profile image of herself as she was deeply involved in the world-wide campaign against menacing AIDS problem, against anti-personnel landmines, in charities for children and against deadly diseases like cancer. Finally, she became the uncrowned "Queen of the Peo-

From the beginning of her life she had to pass through many shocking events and circumstances, right from the age of six, when she grew up in a broken home and after some thirty years the sun set in her life, again ironically, following a broken home of her own.

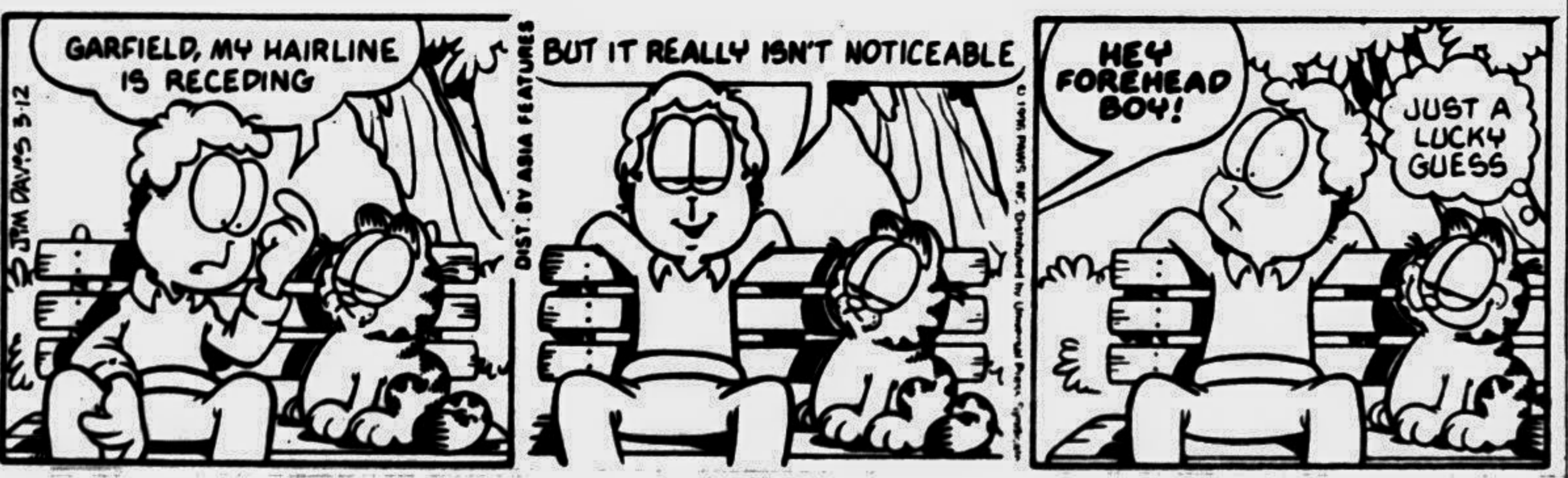
ple's Hearts" all over the world. From the beginning of her life she had to pass through many shocking events and circumstances, right from the age of six, when she grew up in a broken home and after some thirty years the sun set in her life, again ironically, following a broken home of her own.

report which noted that "criticism was growing against the continued silence of the palace" on the tragic incident. Similarly, Conservative Party leaders like Margaret Thatcher and John Major have kept mum so far on this tragedy. It's this Conservative government that has not granted citizenship to late Al-Fayed's father who had invested billions of dollars in England, owning the largest department store, Harrods, publishing the oldest cartoon magazine, (the Punch), and running a professional football team. The reason is best known to them!

Dead Persons Tell No Tales It is said that dead persons tell no tales. But they sometimes leave many things behind them to speak on their behalf. The same applies aptly to Diana. Since her marriage with Charles and her entry into the Buckingham Palace lots of changes were visible around. It is a fact that in the early years of her marriage, she simply outshone her husband, the heir to the throne, on each and every royal function. That must have hurt the ego of Charles who had already betrayed his feelings towards her as he was

billions of dollars in England, owning the largest department store, Harrods, publishing the oldest cartoon magazine, (the Punch), and running a professional football team. The reason is best known to them! The French lawyer of Al-Fayed had announced that he would soon file a law suit, adding, "We want to know the entire truth." He was convinced that there is a case for "manslaughter" or "involuntary homicide" which must be proved. Millions of grief-stricken people in Britain and around the world will be waiting cross-fingered to know the whole truth, the outcome of the probe by French police and judiciary. All are, however, unanimous on one point that the culprits shouldn't go scotfree. They must be punished, at least to serve as a warning to others not to venture to tread the same path out of greed for money. Nor they should venture to put another slap on the face of this noble profession of journalism.

Garfield® by Jim Davis

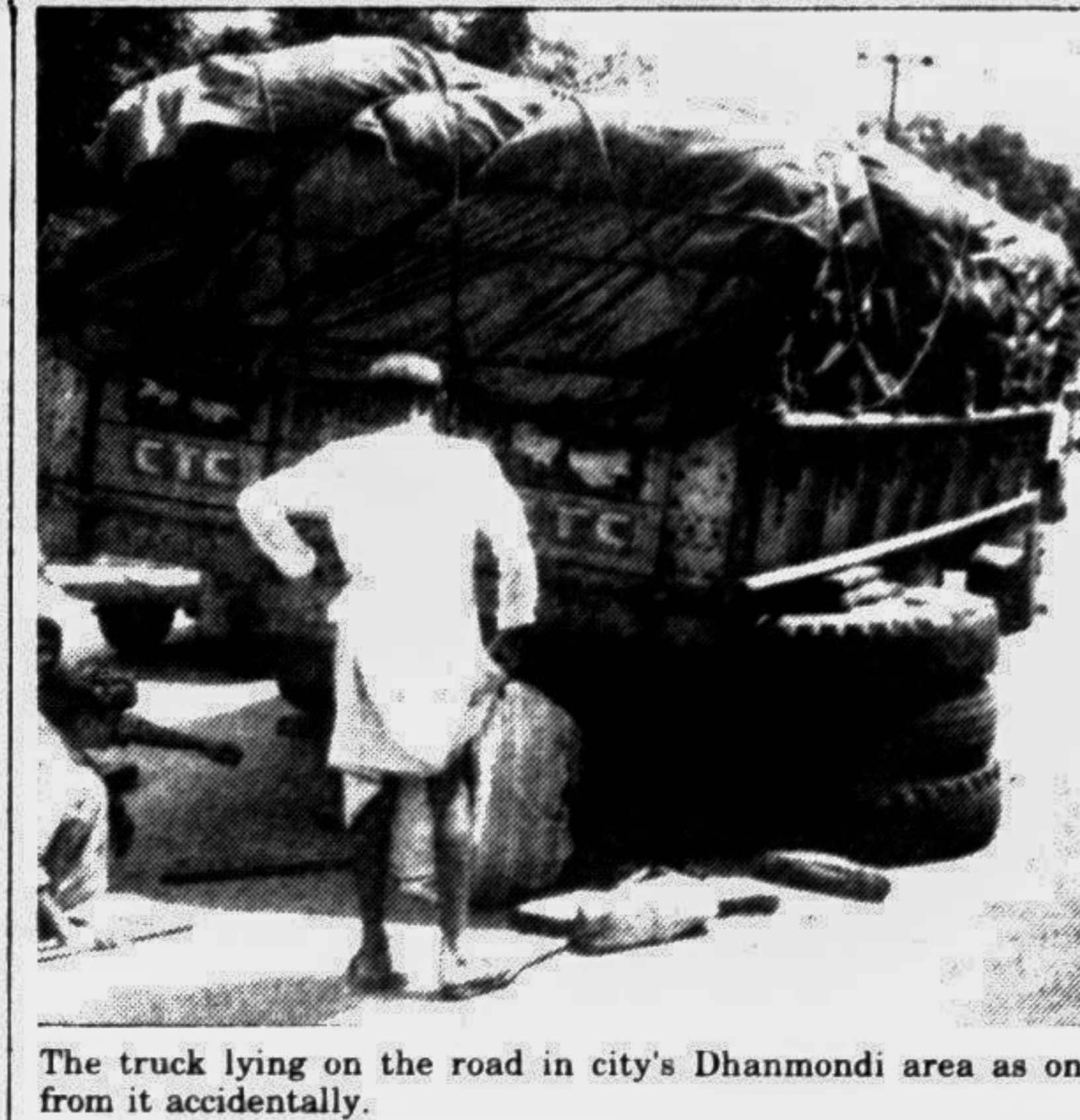


James Bond DRAWN BY JOHN MCLUSKY



Metropolitan

BCIDO contradicts news item By Staff Correspondent M A Muttalib, Convenor of the Bangladesh Customs Intelligence Directorate Officers' Association (BCIDO) Tuesday said that the customs intelligence officers, under order of transfer from Dhaka and its adjoining areas after serving seven or more years in their posts, are moving out under normal circumstances.



The truck lying on the road in city's Dhanmondi area as one of its wheels was removed from it accidentally. — Star photo

Permission to shift DCC's public health lab issued By Staff Correspondent Dhaka City Corporation authorities on Monday formally issued permission to shift its public health laboratory to the environment building.

Illiteracy prime cause of poverty, says Sadeque Education Minister A S H K Sadeque yesterday said that illiteracy is the prime cause of poverty and socio-political instability in the country, reports BSS.

VHSS condoles Mother Teresa's death A condolence meeting was held at Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) office on Tuesday in memory of Late Mother Teresa. The meeting chaired by VHSS Executive Director-Incharge Ms. Rowshan Rahman and was attended and addressed by VHSS workers who paid rich tributes to Mother Teresa, says a press release.

Indian journalist Bhupen Dutta dead A leading Indian journalist and editor of the widely circulated 'Dainik Sangbad' of Agartala, Tripura, Shree-Bhupen Dutta Bhownik. 58, died on Tuesday, according to a message received here last night, reports BSS.

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE Verbatim Text of Cross Examination of Twelfth Prosecution Witness

Excerpts from cross-examination of ALD Serajul Huq by Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, defence counsel for arrested accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman: Q: Cantonment was a protected and controlled area. A: Yes. Q: There were check posts and guards posted in different areas of the cantonment. A: Yes. Q: All the time? A: Yes. Q: Outsiders need permission for entering and coming out of the area. A: Yes. Q: Only there was no control on movement of military personnel or on their entering or coming out of the Cantonment. A: Their movement was also controlled. Q: There was no ammunition in your rifle when you were in fall-in for parade at 9 pm on August 14. A: Yes, there was no ammunition at that time. Q: The 11th prosecution witness (LD Bashir Ahmed) was with you in the headquarters squadron. A: Yes. Q: None of soldiers who took part in the parade at 9 pm had ammunition in their rifle. A: True. Q: Arms and ammunition were kept in one armoury of the headquarters squadron. A: Yes. Q: There was a programme of exercise in that night parade. A: Yes. Q: The trucks of armoured and artillery were of same kind. A: Yes. Q: How many soldiers were accommodated in a military

UNDP official calls on Alamgir The Resident Representative of UNDP in Dhaka, David E Lockwood, called on State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir at the latter's office yesterday, reports UNB.

'Russia to buy more jute from Bangladesh' Russia will buy more jute from Bangladesh, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bangladesh E P Ivanov said this while he called on State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Faezul Huq at his office at the Bangladesh secretariat yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Addressing the meeting Ms. Rowshan said that the best tribute to Mother Teresa would be to follow her teaching by serving the suffering millions. Her dedication to humanity will be always remembered, she added. She also said that the NGOs have many things to learn from Mothers Teresa's teachings.