

Believing the unbelievable!

My dearest Novera Apu,

For the last three days I have been thinking a few things -- that is where are you, what are you doing, what are you thinking right now and if you can see what is going on in the lives of the people who were around you.

Do you know how much you inspired us by simply being present? Do you know how much we adored your bright face defused with smile?

I read your article on Wednesday about the historical house of Tajuddin Ahmed and was looking forward to seeing you again. And on Thursday evening I heard you were no more!

Two months have been passed since I last saw you. I was waiting to see your smiling face again but I did not know that was the last time I was seeing it.

I find it so hard to believe that we will never go to the rooftop with you for our little evening adda munching on noodles and daalpuris.

You received gold medal from Nobel prize winner Amartya Sen for standing first class first in Honours with the highest marks in all the departments of Dhaka University. You received Habibullah Bahar gold medal for your contribution in journalism. You had many other awards in your little lifetime. You were such a gifted person. Why did not you think for a moment about the achievements of your life?

I remember the day you invited me

to your place on your marriage anniversary. At that time I was a neophyte in Star City. I could hardly believe my luck. You could have easily ignored me as a newcomer. But you did not.

It was the most enjoyable evenings of my life. I recall how we all got down cutting salad, arranging dishes on the table and see whether everything was in place. The unabashed we had, I am sure at the party will remain as one of my most memorable events of all present there.

I treasure the little gift you made for me on my birthday. Your birthday was just the next day of my birthday. I wondered at that time how did you make such a nice and beautiful thing. Now when I see that gift I ponder where you are right now.

You loved your history and culture like a true patriot. You were intent on saving the last vestiges of our glorious past. What will happen to your unfinished crusade against the defacement of the ancient archaeological sites?

I miss your lively presence. I miss your bright smiles. I miss your childlike personality. Do you know much everyone loves you? Have you ever thought for a moment what your mother and husband who loved unconditionally would do without you?

"How can I be angry with such a nice girl like Novera?" said Harun Bhaiya in his usual soft and calm voice. Did you hear that?



The writer (left) seen with Novera (right) and Wahida Mitu, another Star City reporter.

"My daughter was very emotional. Please never be so emotional like my Dipu," your mother requested us. She was hardly in a state to speak. Have you seen how she was wailing for you? Dear Novera apu, I do not know

what made you abandon the meaning of life and embrace the futility of death. I do not know how we will counter the abyss that you left behind to replace yourself. I do not know why you made us believe the unbelievable.

Durdana

Durdana Ghias is a reporter of Star City

Bus operators violate route

FROM PAGE 21

Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is not performing its duty inefficiently.

"Transport owners have lost confidence in the BRTA as it is not maintaining rules and regulations properly," he alleged.

Admitting political influence in route management, he said: "The allegation is not baseless. Of course there are bad examples of political influence."

He however denied the urgency of conducting more studies before fixing new ceilings for the routes. "The authorities already have a good number of recommendations on traffic management

but they don't follow them."

A Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) official said they conducted a study this year to assess the impact of Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) and found that the bus industry had not been made efficient, and as a result travel time has increased by 17.6 percent since 2000.

Citing the report findings, he said, "If the loose ends to bus transport problems are addressed properly, the economic output of the project would mean savings of Tk 460 million a year."

Poorly paid

FROM PAGE 21

their living area so that they could hide the trade from their family members and neighbours. Many of them use veil to hide themselves.

CARE officials said the figures found in the 1997 survey have undoubtedly changed over the last nine years as the situation in other occupations has also changed.

Labour leaders of different

occupations, however, blamed the owners and the government for exploiting the working class that compels many of them to do sex trade.

Amirul Haque Amin, general secretary of the National Garments Workers Federation, told Star City that the existing minimum wage for a worker is only Tk 930, which has been unchanged since 1994.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT AZIMPUR GRAVEYARD

Even the young understand its gravity

CITY CORRESPONDENT

On July 28, 12-year old Lokman, from Banasree, Rampura came to the Azimpur graveyard along with his parents. Surprised at the idea of a road running over almost 4,000 graves, he asked: "Is it logical to build a road through the graveyard?"

But the dilemma over the controversial road construction through the graveyard is yet to find a solution.

Local Member of Parliament (MP) Nasiruddin Pintu and his people have not given up the idea of constructing it ignoring public sentiment and the High Court stay order on the construction.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) the constructing authority of the road has also declared the project abandoned.

"As the high court has issued an injunction against constructing road, we should not proceed," said Anisul

Islam, another visitor, from Pilkhana.

"Why should the road through the graveyard? They should find an alternative route for the road," he said.

"What an illogical decision!" said 65-year old Yeazuddin Ahmed. "Almost 95 percent of our people are Muslims, so the decision will hurt religious sentiments," he added.

Nazma Alam from Mohammadpur expressed her views to this correspondent.

"My grandfather's tomb is in a spot where the controversial by-pass road will run. If the tomb is buried under the road, the shock would be too much for the family members to bear," she said.

Locals and relatives of the dead whose graves are under threat of demolition if the proposed road is constructed are holding meetings and processions protesting the activities of Pintu's people.

Whenever locals take any

action to protest the construction, Pintu's supporters reverse the action.

But a few people like Hamidur Reza, from New Paltan, who visits the Azimpur graveyard often have different views.

"A direct short-cut road has been a necessity for years for residents to commute easily from Azimpur to Newmarket," Hamidur said.

"In this context, if a majority of locals agree, then the road can be constructed," he added.

With the court injunction, locals and relatives of those buried there planted several hundreds trees at the same spot, along the demolished parts of the road, but again Pintu's supporters uprooted them.

Following a report published in a national daily regarding the controversial by-pass road construction to link Azimpur and Newmarket demolishing around 4,000 graves of one of the oldest graveyards in the

city, DCC mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka verbally instructed his officials to stop construction in mid June this year.

A week later the mayor officially declared the project abandoned and closed the Measurement Book (MB) of the project.

At a television programme, last week MP Nasir Uddin Pintu confidently declared that he would not stop his efforts to construct the road, "until and otherwise the communication problem of public is not solved".

Following the controversy over the issue Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) joined hands with the protestors and demanded the construction of the link road through the Headquarters of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

"We won't let anyone play with public emotion. If there is public demand for a by-pass road that would connect Azimpur with Newmarket area there would

surely be an alternative. We don't understand why some people are interested in a specific place," said Mohiuddin Hoque Khan, Bapa's general secretary.

The local ward commissioner also urged not to play with public emotion saying that he did not protest the construction of link road.

"Why should it be constructed demolishing graves? It is simply inhuman. The MP has filed case against me as I have opposed this controversial road construction," the ward commissioner said.

The MP's activists are always active around the where the proposed road was supposed to be built. They often harass the people who come to offer Fateha at the graves of their beloved departed souls.

"We are trying to save the graves of our dear ones and we are abused. The government should deploy law enforcers at this spot until the situation turns normal," said Kamrul Islam.



Jatka, (small Hilsha), is being sold in abundance in city markets despite law against catching these fish.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
- Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
 - BARDEM 8616641-50
 - Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
 - CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
 - Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
 - Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
 - Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
 - Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
 - Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
 - Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
 - Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
 - National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
 - Orthopedic Hospital 9112150
 - Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
 - Samorita Hospital 9131901
 - Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
 - Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119
- Clinics**
- Akad Clinic 8015855, 8022581
 - Arogyaya Niketan 9333730
 - BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
 - Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
 - Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
 - Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
 - Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
 - Judi Maternity 9113322
 - Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
 - Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
 - Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

- The Eye Clinic** 9333238
- Blood Bank**
- Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 - Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 - Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
 - Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
- Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
- Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 - Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
- Elephant Road-Friday
- Bishal Center-Friday
- Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
- Polwell Market-Friday
- BCS Computer City-Friday
- Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
- Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
- Stadium Market-Friday
- Bangabazar Market-Friday
- National Museum-Thursaday
- Ahsan Manzil-Thursaday.
- New Market-Tuesday
- Gausia Market-Tuesday
- Mouchak Market-Sunday
- Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
- Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
- Eastern Plaza-Sunday
- Farmview Super Market-Sunday
- Muktijuddha Jadugar-Sunday
- Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
- Shishu Jadugar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Passenger's Complain**
- 01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
 - Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
 - Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191, Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953
 - JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
 - Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
 - Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
 - Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
 - Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,
 - 8624741
 - Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
 - Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
 - RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
 - Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
 - Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
 - Telex Cab Co. Ltd. 7202201
 - Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
 - Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
 - United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-
- Subarna Express**
- Mahanagar Prabhathi
 - Mahanagar Godhuli
 - Turna
 - Parabat Express
 - Joyantika Express
 - Upaban Express
 - Tista Express
 - Ekata Express
 - Upakul Express
 - Agnibeena Express
- Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 am
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

TRAIN TIMING

- LIBRARY & INFO**
- 348474
 - Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
 - Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
 - Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
 - Cab line Ltd. 8321162
 - Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
 - Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
 - Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
 - Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111
- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
- Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
 - Shishu Academy- 9564128
 - Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
 - Bangla Academy- 8619550
 - Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
 - Nazrul Institute- 9114602
 - Ford Foundation- 8116133
 - Alliance Francaise- 8611557
 - Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9
 - British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
 - Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
 - Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
 - Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
 - The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
 - Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
 - Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 am
Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:15
Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm