

Dhaka Day by Day

Close to a World Record

By Sabah Chowdhury

With seven exhausted passports, seventy thousand photographs to his credit, burning twenty-three thousand litres of petrol, fifteen hundred litres of mobil and changing fifty-one tyres, Emilio, is finally on his way to fulfil his ambition to make it to the Guinness Book of Records for travelling around the world on a motor-bike.

Along with him is his wife Monica, a painter also an Argentinian, like him and who shares his dream. His beloved motor-bike, 'The Black Princess', of Japanese make, which weighs 400 kilograms and takes up to 22 litres of petrol is his constant companion, in his struggle through rivers, jungles, mountains and deserts.

His long journey is full of incredible incidents, which often sounds like a fantasy.

Starting from Buenos Aires in January 1985, with only 300 US dollars in his pocket, he has travelled across South and North America, Europe, Africa, and is presently in Asia on way to Australia, the last point of his journey.

Talking informally in the lounge of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, he gave his impression of Bangladesh—the country and its people. He had entered Bangladesh through Shilliguri. His first stop over was Rangpur. Crossing the district town of Bogra he eventually landed in Dhaka.

About Bangladesh Emilio said, before coming here, he was greatly discouraged, as this was considered to be possibly one of the poorest countries of the world with nothing much to offer to a tourist or a traveller. But as he was in for what he called 'a wonderful surprise'.

In his opinion, Bangladesh is one of the most friendly and helpful people he has come across in

his long journey. This was true of both rural and urban populace. During his brief visit, whenever he had to stop in a village for rest or sleep, he had been overwhelmed with the warmth and hospitality shown to him in the little things they did for him.

The people of Bangladesh in general are quite aware of cleanliness and hygiene he observed. While visiting shops in Elephant Road, he noticed that there were plenty of stores selling a variety of products, both local as well as imported. The price range of goods also varied. This gave a chance both for an ordinary tourist as well as one who is well heeled to buy according to his means.

He was quite surprised to notice that small shops selling snacks also maintained cleanliness as they offered their food either wrapped in tissue paper, or picked them with a fork, not touching it with their fingers. Among other things which Emilio liked was the cars of latest models on the streets of Dhaka.

By and large, the people of Bangladesh, both those living in big city like Dhaka or

in their small homesteads in villages, seemed peaceful and nice.

Answering to a question, as to what major differences did he notice in the civilizations of the Orient and the Occident, he said that, the people of Asia were closer to God. To them the land is as if a part of their being; they also loved animals. Whereas, the Western civilization is more materialistic.

He concluded by saying "Shangri-la is inside one's own self."

Emilio's impression would almost make us feel proud of ourselves as a nation. We may not be economically rich, but we are certainly not poor as far as hospitality to a visitor is concerned.



Emilio and wife: 'A wonderful surprise.' —Photo: Enamul Haque

US embassy warns against visa fraud

By Staff Correspondent

The American Embassy in Bangladesh warns that intending visa applicants submitting false statements or fraudulent documents to support a visa application may become permanently ineligible for US visa.

A USIS press release says the Embassy is advising visa applicants to avoid persons who offer to obtain passports or visas for them or sell documents for obtaining visas. Any person found to be using a counterfeit or altered visa or passport will also be permanently ineligible to receive any US visa, including immigration and OP-1, Embassy said.

The Embassy said the accomplices to visa fraud are also ineligible for visas. Any visa applicant making material misrepresentations before the Embassy for a US visa may be declared permanently ineligible by the US consular offices. Material misrepresentation means submission of false information such as name, date or place of birth, presence of close relations in the US or the purpose of travelling to US.

The US Embassy said the use of fraudulent documents for obtaining visas has become increasingly common. The embassy claims this slows down the processing of genuine applications as consular personnel have to carefully scrutinise each applicant.

'71 war sector commanders not AL employees'

By Staff Correspondent

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd.) Kazi Nuruzzaman, former Sector Commander, 7th Sector on Monday protested the comment of Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina commented at the extended meeting of the city committee that the sector commanders during the War of Independence were the paid employees of Awami League.

In a press release he said it is a lie and insulting to the former commanders.

He reminded that the commanders led the war for the sake of the independence of the country, not for any reward or remuneration.

BMDC cancels new curriculum

By DMCH Correspondent

Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Monday cancelled its new curriculum in the wake of growing protests by the students of country's medical colleges.

BMDC chairman Prof Abu Ahmed verbally declared the cancellation at a meeting of the leaders of all the units of eight medical and three dental colleges at the BMDC Bhaban at Bijoy Nagar in the city. But Prof Ahmed did not circular any notification in this regard till Monday night.

Earlier, the students of the colleges agitated in front of the BMDC Bhaban since morning demanding immediate cancellation of the curriculum which they alleged would create various academic problems including lingering the existing session jam at the institutions.

The BMDC authorities' attempts to make the new curriculum acceptable to the students failed after hours discussion between the authori-

ties and the students. At one stage of hot debate the BMDC authorities dramatically concluded the meeting with a verbal announcement of cancellation of the controversial curriculum.

PROGRAMME Today

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm for 5.25 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

JCD meet

An emergency meeting of the central committee of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal will be held today at 10 am at the Dhanmondi office of the organisation, reports BSS.

Organisational, political and other important issues will be discussed in the meeting.

Salimullah Medical College reopens March 23

Sir Salimullah Medical College will be reopened from March 23 as per the decision of the academic and disciplinary committee, taken at a meeting Monday, a College press release said, reports BSS.

All the students of the College have been asked to join their classes from the day of reopening.

Plea to reopen Pabna hospital surgery dept

The Deputy Leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party Moulana Muhammad Abdus Sobhan on Monday demanded of the Government to cancel the closure orders of the Surgery Department of Pabna General Hospital and increase its number of beds and other facilities, reports BSS.

Moulana Sobhan, the MP from Pabna Sadar, said the closure of Surgery Department in the only general hospital in the district inhabited by 25 lakh people has pushed thousands of patients into great difficulty. He said it was not possible on the part of a poor patient to have medicare going outside Pabna district.

He said at a time when the hospital in the district needs enhancement of facilities, the orders from the Health Division closing the Surgery Department was inhuman. He firmly said the anti-people orders issued during the autocratic Ershad regime should not at all be implemented.

Homeo students to gherao DCs' offices tomorrow

Bangladesh Homeo Medical Students Otkyo Parishad will 'gherao' District Commissioners' offices tomorrow to press home their 19-point demand which includes setting up of a regular full-fledged Homeopathy Board, reports UNB.

Other major demands include filling up vacant posts of the Principal of Mirpur Government Degree Homeopathy Medical College and 'Director of the Homeopathy Cell under the Health Ministry. They will also bring out protest processions and 'gherao' DC offices May 16 to demand Syndicate approval to Dhaka University's Homeopathy Medical Centre. grims with options for rented house will not be refunded the money on any excuse, even for death. The advance payments for house rent are not refunded in accordance with the agreement with the land lords in Makkah.



Busy Iftar market at Chawkbazar in city on Monday. Prices of different food items have gone up, causing untold sufferings to the devotees of middle and lower income bracket. —Star photo

Accommodation for ballotee pilgrims

The Government has decided to rent out house to the ballotee pilgrims in Makkah this year on the basis of their options, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The pilgrims, who will not opt for rented house in their application forms, may have it at their own arrangement.

In Saudi Arabia, house rent, are paid in advance to the land lords

Journalist assaulted

By Staff Correspondent

A group of youngmen on Sunday noon raided the office of Daily Dinkal and assaulted a Senior Sub-editor Jasim Uddin Ahmed.

The attackers fled when other colleagues came to rescue Jasim. Before fleeing, the attackers warned that they would settle the matter later.

A case was filed with the Motiheel Thana.

Profiteers fleece salt growers

Salt growers are in a quandary for a sharp decline in its primary market price as "profiteers' tricks" have allegedly stalled government procurement drive even at the peak of the season.

Scared salt producers in Kutubdia and Chokoria, the country's major salt producing pockets in Cox's Bazar, told visiting UNB correspondent that crude salt price at grower's level had now come down to only Tk 60 a maund from Tk 100 in December. They estimated their production cost at Tk 50 per maund.

The Food Ministry has targeted procurement of some 60,000 maunds of locally

produced salt in the current season, but it was yet to start purchase from the producers.

According to official sources, the Ministry is still procuring foreign salt from importers.

In view of production shortfall because of inclement weather last year, nine crushing units were given import permits to buy from abroad and supply 25,000 tons of salt to the Food Ministry by December 31, 1990 at the rate of Tk 2.80 per kilogram.

But by last February, they gave only 9,600 tons to the government and sold the rest imported salt in open market at higher prices to derive extra profit utilising the market crisis.

The crushers are now making up the agreed quantity by buying local salt at cheap rate and supplying it to the Ministry, halting the Ministry's procurement programme.

The crushers' manipulation has given them monopoly control over the salt procurement price, resulting in the slump, the growers said.

Both the growers and the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) fore-

cast a record salt production in the current season, that began in December, because of continued favourable climate.

According to BSCIC, up to March 15, salt output stood at 2.52 lakh metric tons against the season's target of 6.50 lakh tons. Growers, in view of the current trend, expect if the existing climate continues up to mid May, there will be a bumper salt production.

But growers fear larger yield may result in alarming decline in salt price at grower's level, if the government procurement doesn't start immediately.

They said loan in the sector was almost nil this season, which forced them to the doors of money lenders for loans at high rates of interest.

BSCIC officials said if fair price could not be ensured immediately, producers would be in a deep crisis, which may make them disinterested in going for production next season.

Industries Secretary Shafiq Alam met with crushers and growers in Cox's Bazar on

Mar 16 for taking stock of the situation. The growers put forward to him the demand for immediate start of official procurement.

They also demanded of the government to procure at least 100,000 tons this season in view of a possible surplus production.

The growers also demanded ban on indiscriminate salt import, when the local supply is enough.

Market sources said salt business was being controlled by speculators' interests. When the growers are being deprived of fair price, salt is selling at Tk 8 per kg.

Jamaat support for BNP hailed

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Literacy Society on Monday congratulated Jamaat-e-Islami for supporting Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in forming new Council of Ministers and government, says a press release.

The society said by supporting BNP, Jamaat has helped avoid a constitutional stalemate.

Moudud asked to apply for bail in lower court

The hearing on an appeal against order refusing ad-interim bail of former Vice-President Moudud Ahmed, was held on Monday before a Division Bench of the High Court Division, reports BSS.

The court told Mr. Rafiqul Haque, the counsel of the former Vice-President, that he can appeal before a higher forum after moving the prayer before the Third Additional Session Judge and exhausting the Subordinate forum.

The Division Bench comprised Justice Abdul Bari Sarkar and Justice Habibur Rahman Khan.

Anisul Islam Mahmood

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the detention order of former Foreign Minister Anisul Islam

Mahmood was held before the Division Bench of the High Court Division.

The hearing resumes today on Monday before the court comprising Mr. Justice Fazle Hussein Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Mr. Justice Moimur Reza Choudhury.

The writ petition was opposed on behalf of the Government on constitutional and legal grounds, contending, inter alia, that the writ petition cannot be filed without surrendering to jail custody and that unless the detentee is in custody no writ of habeas corpus can be issued.

Mr. Rokonuddin Mahmood appeared for Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmood, who is absconding. Additional Attorney General Mr. Abdul Wadud Dhuyyan appeared for the state.



Hotel and restaurant workers organised a rally on Monday in front of National Press Club, urging owners to keep the establishments open in the day-time during fasting month of Ramadan. —Star photo

Hotel employees observe strike

All hotels in the capital were closed Monday as employees observed strike demanding that the eating houses be kept open at day-time in the month of Ramadan, reports UNB.

Dhaka Metropolitan Hotel Employees Union called for the shutdown, demanding that the government either lift its order closing hotels at daytime or pay their full salary and Eid bonus.

TV Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening and Recitation from Holy Quran.
- 5.20 News in Bengali
- 5.30 Carton: Abbot and Costyellow
- 5.55 Mahe Ramadan
- 6.25 Debate
- 7.05 Nazrul songs
- 7.50 Today's Programme
- 8.00 News in Bengali
- 8.45 Drama serial: Amader Galpa (our story).
- 9.50 Tomorrow's Programme
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film show: Daughter of the country.
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.45 Closing.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast on Monday that unpleasant humid heat would continue for two more days which are expected to be subdued by seasonal rain.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with cloudy sky. Day temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius.

Sunday's complex low persisted over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Adjoining Bangladesh. Seasonal low lies over south Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days: rain/thundershower likely extended outlook for next five days: little change.

Highest maximum temperature was recorded on Monday at 37.4 degree Celsius in Jessore and the lowest was 18.4 degree at Fenil.

Sunset on Tuesday in Dhaka at 6.09 am and sunrise Wednesday at 6.03.

The temperature and humidity recorded on Monday at the major cities and towns were:

Cities/towns	temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	36.0	24.4	63	40
Chittagong	35.2	22.5	80	56
Rajshahi	37.0	19.8	67	40
Khulna	36.5	21.5	77	55
Dinajpur	35.4	18.4	70	40
Rangpur	34.5	19.0	76	49
Saikhira	36.1	21.8	84	54
Sylhet	34.9	20.3	70	53
Jessore	37.4	20.8	71	-
Fenil	35.9	22.4	67	63

The highest temperature recorded on Monday in some regional cities were:

Beijing	16 degree Celsius	Colombo	32 degree Celsius
New Delhi	33	Bombay	31
Singapore	36	Karachi	31

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Monetary penalties
- 6 Giver of gift
- 11 Surgical stitch
- 12 Prepared for print
- 14 Mountain: abbr.
- 15 Story
- 17 Fiber plant
- 18 Be ill
- 20 "Lucky" number
- 22 "Wash"
- 23 Waste metal
- 25 Ceremonies
- 27 At home
- 28 Inheritors
- 30 Vest throngs
- 32 Cheers
- 34 Foam
- 35 Pieces

Answer to Previous Puzzle

TOSS	BOA	SLOT
OPAL	URN	TEAR
NENE	RAG	RATE
SNEERS	ELAPSE	
	POT	LAP
MISSES	SYSTEM	
ORE	ERA	
METIER	TENANT	
SEE	ETA	
STALLS	REPAIR	
HERA	ICE	KITE
ALLEN	DOT	IDEA
GLAD	EW	NEAR

DOWN

- 1 Useless; vain
- 2 That thing
- 3 Sister
- 4 God of love
- 5 Cut
- 6 Strikes out
- 7 Hypothetical force
- 8 Pinch
- 9 Auricular
- 10 Keep
- 11 Shatter
- 12 Mends with cotton
- 16 Bad
- 19 Dens
- 21 Hot wine drink
- 24 Clutch
- 26 Takes one's part
- 29 Sandbank: ledge of rocks
- 31 Japanese seaport
- 33 Emitted vapor
- 35 Soccer scores
- 36 More hideous
- 37 Girl's name
- 39 Smaller
- 40 Bog down
- 43 Soupy
- 46 River in Siberia
- 48 Great (dog)
- 51 Weaken
- 53 Uncooked
- 56 Agave plant
- 58 Myself

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				13
14		15		16					
18		19	20		21		22		
23		24		25		26		27	
28		29	30		31				
35	36		37		38		39	40	
41		42		43		44			
45	46	47		48		49			
50		51		52		53		54	
55		56		57		58			
59				60					

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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No. Sale-1/30/90-91/858 Date: 14-03-1991

TENDER NOTICE

Scaled Tenders are invited by the Press Information Department from the TOYOTA LITEACE or MITSUBISHI L-300 Microbus Importers/Suppliers for the supply of a 9-10 seaters Microbus in pursuance of the Government vehicle standardisation Circular No. SA MA/PARI/1AA-3/88-194 dated 22nd May 1989.

Tenders must accompany 3% Security Money (Refundable) of the quoted amount in Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the Press Information Department, Government of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Tender will be received upto 2.00 hours on 30th March 1991 and will be opened at 3.00 hours 'the same day in presence of the Tenderers, if any.

Tender Schedule including details of the Microbus, terms and conditions etc. may be obtained from the Accounts Section of this Department on cash payment of Tk. 500/- (Non-refundable) on all working days between 0900 hours and 15.00 hours. Incomplete tenders will not be accepted.

Press Information Department reserves the right to accept any tender fully or in part or reject it totally.

(Md. Makbul Ahmed)
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