

Dhaka Day by Day

Call up the Packers!

Aasha Mehreen Amin

When you come across a sign that says "Packers and Removals" — its blandness probably just makes you shrug indifferently and spur you on your way. After all, what is so interesting about packing up people's household goods and transferring them to wherever they are moving to? But then think of it this way. Suppose that you are soon going away to country X. Along with all your other possessions you want to take your beloved Siamese cat too. What can you do? For you the answer is fairly simple. Just call up a professional packing company and it will do everything for you. For the packing company, however, things are far from simple. Apart from packing your personal belongings it has to think about customs clearance, risks of theft and breakage, mode of transport and a multitude of activities — all to make sure that everything reaches your new home safely and in one piece — including your beloved feline pet!

The packaging and removals business originally started during pre-liberation times when many expatriates especially Americans who had been working in Bangladesh started to leave. Many companies benefited from this exodus especially big names like Homebound Packers — the pioneers in this trade. In fact, until the late 70's, Homebound was almost a monopoly getting business from most of the multinational companies and embassies. But as with any business, competitors soon caught up to grab their share of the market.

At present the major companies in this biz are Homebound, ENEM and Progressive. An obvious reason for this is that the market itself has grown. More and more, expatriates are coming to this country as consultants, project directors, diplomats etc. With them come their personal belongings as well as project and office equipment. Professional packers are therefore needed for both bringing in goods when people come to the country and transferring them when they leave. This two-way process is only possible with a network of affiliated companies all over the world. The more connections the local company has overseas the greater the range of service it can offer. ENEM, for example, has more than 700 agents all over the world.

The users of this service are mainly expatriates but Bangladeshis who have lived abroad and have decided to come back are becoming a large part of the clientele. Professional packers are also needed by multinational NGOs and banks for local moves within the city and on a national level.

But isn't all this very expensive? The service fees charged are of course very high but increased competition has ensured a rather standard rate. This lowers the opportunity for one giant company charging arbitrary fees. Other than that, the process of removal itself is so longwinded and complex that most people think it is an expense worth incurring. It begins with the company sending someone to survey the goods to get certain details such as volume, shape, type, number of delicate items etc. Packing is then done by trained workers using special materials to protect the goods from damage. This is possibly the easy part. The difficult part is clearing the goods which involves a tremendous amount of paperwork. After this has been done the household effects are transported from one address to another either by sea or air. Most of the time, the service of shifting include unpacking the items, arranging them in the right place and removing the debris.

The key factor in this business is building trust and dependability. The marketing therefore has to be on a very personal level. Personal contacts are therefore very important. In addition are the quality of service, follow-ups, maintaining deadlines and of course having a dependable overseas network to survive and flourish.

The risks the company has to bear are of course very high. Apart from breakage or theft which can be insured, there are items which have sentimental value and so are irreplaceable and cannot be compensated for. In such cases packing has to be done extra carefully. In effect, what these professional companies do is take on other people's headache and make it their own. As the Executive Director of one of these companies says, "This business is very personal and sensitive and gives me many sleepless nights."



Trained hands engaged in delicate packing work.

Educated women urged to campaign for breast-feeding

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Saturday said breast feeding is imperative for the proper growth of mothers and children, reports UNB.

"Breast milk is our national resource. We will have to formulate an effective policy to protect, preserve and expand this resource", he said while addressing the concluding session of the first national conference on breast feeding in Dhaka in the afternoon.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf chaired the session at Osmani Memorial Hall.

It was also addressed by Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Health and Family Welfare Secretary M Mokammel Huq, UNICEF Representative Cole P Dodge, WHO representative Dr ANA

Abeyesundere, UNFPA representative S K Alok and President of the Campaign for the Protection and Promotion of Breast Feeding Prof M Q K Talukder.

"Breast feeding saves life" was the theme of the conference jointly organised by the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) and Bangladesh Institute of Research for Promotion of Essential and Reproductive Health and Technologies (BIRPERHT).

The three-day conference adopted the "Dhaka Declaration" which said the practice of correct breast feeding was declining in the country due to advertising pressure of breast milk substitutes.

President Biswas said a healthy nation is a development index and emphasised

that the mother has to be made conscious of the benefit of breast feeding.

Breast feeding forges bondage between mother and the child and helps reduce malnutrition problem and other diseases, he observed.

In Bangladesh, very few women successfully feed their babies with breast milk. Biswas said urging the educated women to carry on the campaign for breast feeding.

The President formally signed the Dhaka Declaration adopted at the concluding session.

Earlier, a message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion was read out at the conference.

Organisers said about 200 members from home and abroad participated in the three-day conference split into five seminars.

Plea to fulfil demands of govt college teachers

Bangladesh Government College Teachers' Council (BGCTC) has called for formation of a "National United Forum" for realisation of the teachers' legitimate demands, reports UNB.

At a two-day meeting of its national and executive committees, which ended in Dhaka Friday, the BGCTC also demanded immediate fulfilment of its 14-point demand by December.

The Council demands, among other things, promotion of lecturers and inclusion of teachers of the new nationalised colleges in the cadre service.

BGCTC President Moazzem Hossain Khan presided over the session. It was addressed, among others, by Organising Secretary Ali Akbar Khan Dollar.

Air Chief off to Malaysia

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Alaf Hossain Choudhury left Dhaka Saturday for Malaysia on a week-long goodwill visit to Royal Malaysian Air Force, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

During the visit, Air Vice Marshal Choudhury will call on the Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Malaysian Air Force at the headquarters and discuss matters of bilateral interest. He will also visit different air bases, training institutions and establishments of the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

He will call on the Defence Minister and Chief of the Defence Forces of Malaysia.

Coarse rice price rising by 5 p.c : inflation now 10 p.c

A noted economist Saturday told a seminar that an extreme disparity in access to education, not unequal land ownership, is expanding the ambit of poverty, reports UNB.

The general perception that uneven land ownership is at the root of poverty is a half truth, its rather disparity in access to education which is widening the gap in income levels, said Dr Mahboob Hossain discussing on a paper on rural poverty.

Dr Binayak Sen, research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presented the paper at the seminar, arranged by the Bangladesh Economic Society at the National Press Club this afternoon.

Sen's paper gave an optimistic view of the poverty situation in the country, saying overall poverty has virtually declined over the last decade. He cited statistics showing poverty declined by six per cent between 1983-84 and 1988-89 fiscals.

He, however, said extreme poverty level was not improving. Binayak remarked macro-economic policies of the successive governments had never been much complementary to rural people's efforts to improve their lot.

Dr Mahboob Hossain, Director General of BIDS, said low price of foodgrains compared to other essentials was a major cause of the existing rural poverty.

The price of coarse rice is increasing at a rate of five per cent while the inflation rate is more than 10 per cent, he said. "It's a bad trend for rural economy".

Endorsing his junior colleague's research findings on an improving trend in poverty situation, Dr Mahboob said "although growth scenario was dismal throughout eighties, poverty alleviation programmes had achieved significant success."

About 3 million rural families are now under different income-generating credit programmes extended mostly by NGOs, he said.

Economist Khandker Ibrahim Khaled presented another paper on the poverty alleviation programmes undertaken over the years in Bangladesh.

Khaled was strongly of the view that Bangladesh need to depend on its own experience and expertise, not on foreign experts, to find ways out of prevailing poverty.

Criticising dependence on foreign aid by successive governments, he said about Tk 53,000 crore had so far been injected into the country's economy but that hardly could contribute to growth.

Prof Rathan Sharif and Prof Anisur Rahman also took part in the discussion. Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, joint Secretary of the Economic Society, conducted the seminar attended by noted elite.

BCL (N-S) activist stabbed in DU

An activist of Chhatra League (N-S) was stabbed by his party colleague Saturday on the Dhaka University campus, reports UNB.

M A Mannan, a resident of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Witnesses said Mannan was stabbed by one of his friends when they were smoking ganja at Hakim Chhatra near the Central Library of the University.

Ties with Egypt to grow

Egyptian Ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammad Kamal El-Miligy called on Food Minister M Shamsul Islam at his Secretariat office Saturday, reports BSS.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on expansion of bilateral cooperation and matters of mutual interest.

They hoped that the friendly relations between the two Muslim countries would be further consolidated in the coming years on the basis of mutual cooperation.

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

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APEX TANNERY LIMITED

65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF APEX TANNERY LIMITED will be held at HOTEL SONARGAON, Dhaka, on Sunday 1 December 1991 at 3:00 PM to transact the following:

- To confirm the proceedings of the FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 31 December 1990.
- To receive and adopt the Accounts for the year ended 30 June 1991 and the Reports of the Auditors and Directors thereon.
- To declare dividend.
- To elect Directors as per clause 129 of the Articles of Association.
- To transact any other business which ought to be transacted at an Ordinary Meeting with the permission of the chair.

By order of the Board
10 November 1991 MD. RAHMATULLAH
Dhaka Managing Director

NOTE:

- The share transfer books of the company will be closed from 16 November to 1 December 1991 both days inclusive.
- A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint another member as his/her Proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf. Nominee should be a member of the company.
- Stamped Proxy forms must be deposited at company's Registered Office by 27 November 1991. Otherwise Proxy will not be valid.

What's on today . . .

Solo painting exhibition

The second solo exhibition of painting by Bulbon Osman opens today (Sunday) at German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi, at 5 pm.

Kamal Lohani, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will inaugurate the exhibition.

The exhibition will remain open for all from November 10 to 24.

Garments workers

Combined Garments Workers Front has arranged a press conference at the National Press Club at 5 pm today (Sunday).

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries has arranged a discussion meeting today (Sunday) with Major (Retd) Abdur Mannan, State Minister for Textile at its office at 4 pm.

Directors and members of Bangladesh Chambers of Industries will discuss on the matters pertaining to the problems of the textile industries.

Bangladesh Bekar Shamaj

An emergency meeting of Bangladesh Bekar Shamaj will be held today (Sunday) at its central office at 11 am.

Members of the Central Committee of the organisation have been requested to attend the meeting.

. . . . and tomorrow

Rotary Club of Ramna

A seminar on anti-drug campaign, ecological balance and the leaders for the year 2000 AD will be held at the USIS auditorium, Jiban Bima Bhaban, at 5 pm tomorrow (Monday).

PDG Iftekarul Alam, Dr Mainul Islam, Dr Manzur Murshed and journalist Faz Ahmed will speak on the occasion.

The members of the Green Leaf Campaign and two members from each Rotaract Club in Dhaka city, Narayanganj and Savar have been invited to the seminar.

Rotarian Azharul Islam, Chairman, Rotaract and Youth Activity Committee of Rotary Club of Ramna is the coordinator of the programme.

Shaheed Betyara Day

The Communist Party has chalked out 2-day programme to observe 20th Shaheed Betyara Day from tomorrow (Monday). The programme includes placing of floral wreaths at the monument at Betyar in Comilla, at 2 pm tomorrow (Monday) and holding of a meeting in memory of those martyrs who had sacrificed their lives at Betyar during liberation movement.

Get together

A get together of the Freedom Fighters will be held at the central office of the party at 4 pm on Tuesday.

SAARC scientists

A two-day meeting on "Animal Genetic Resources Conservation" of the scientists of SAARC member countries begins in the capital tomorrow (Monday).

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Environment and Forest Abdullah Al-Noman will inaugurate the meeting at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium at 9 am.

Organised by Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), the meeting is expected to be attended by experts from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the host country.

Army continues relief activities

Army personnel from the Bogra and Rangpur areas continued their relief activity at the flood affected northern districts, an ISPR press release said in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

They assisted the local administration in distributing more than 2,595 metric tons of relief goods including rice and wheat at different places of Rajshahi, Bogra, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Natore, Pabna, Sirajganj, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha and Nilphamari districts during the last three days.

Special measures to ensure peace in DU discussed

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor, M Maniruzzaman Mia met Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his secretariat office Saturday, reports BSS.

They reviewed the latest situation of law and order on the campus and various steps to restore and maintain it. They also discussed special measures to ensure peace and normalcy on the campus during examination which would commence from November 2.

Reiterating the government's firm determination, the Home Minister assured the Vice Chancellor all necessary effective measures would be taken to maintain congenial atmosphere on the campus especially during the examination.

The Home Minister sought all out cooperation of teachers and student communities of Dhaka University in this respect.

Killing of six non-tribals in CHT condemned

CHITTAGONG, Nov 9 : A rally of the Parbatya Chattagram Bangali Chhatra Gano Parishad condemned the brutal killing of six non-tribals by the members of the armed insurgents recently in the Hill Tracts, reports BSS.

The Parishad held the rally in protest against the killing at Rangamati Shilpakala Academy Battala premises on November 6, with the Parishad Secretary General Maniruzzaman Monir in the chair. Labour leader Abdul Mannan, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Abdul Hakim, Zahidul Islam Khan and Mohammad Sahidullah among others addressed it.

They said that the outlawed Shantibahini had been perpetrating inhuman killing despite the government announcement of a general amnesty for them.

They urged the people of the hill tracts to maintain peace and harmony in the region in the face of all provocations by armed insurgents.

Khaleda visits ailing MP

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday visited the Combined Military Hospital to see ailing MP Hamidullah Khan, reports UNB.

Khan was admitted to CMH following cardiac attack.

The Prime Minister enquired the attending doctors about the condition of Khan, and also talked to his family members beside his bed.

Bangladesh gets free stall at Delhi fair

By Staff Correspondent

India has given Bangladesh a stall free in the 1991 trade fair (ITF) scheduled to be held in New Delhi from November 14.

The stall measures 175 square metres. The Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau will head a team of participants in the fair, expected to be visited by an estimated 2.5 million visitors including 50,000 foreign visitors, according to official sources in Dhaka.

This year's theme at the trade fair is promotion of agriculture machinery.

The India International Trade Fair has emerged, over the years, as the single largest international forum in India for trade projection, image building and establishing long term relationship with the businessmen, entrepreneur, opinion makers, leaders and the general public.

This is the fair which is inaugurated annually by either the President of India or the Prime Minister and is visited by most Cabinet Ministers, State Chief Ministers, Governors, Members of the

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office on Saturday forecast that dry weather would prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Saturday.

No appreciable change in night temperature during the period. Met office also said.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Saturday were :

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.0	20.4	65	56
Chittagong	29.0	18.5	89	70
Rajshahi	30.0	16.4	77	85
Khulna	30.2	18.8	80	77
Barisal	30.0	19.2	82	83
Sylhet	28.5	17.0	79	—
Mymensingh	30.0	19.2	77	71
Dinajpur	29.0	17.5	83	78
Cox's Bazar	29.5	19.0	61	70

The Sun sets at today (Sunday) at 5.15 pm and it rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.11 am.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Controller of Import & Export
Dhaka

Public Notice No 11(91-93)/Import (Import Trade Control)

Dated : 4th November 1991 (19th Kartik 1398)

The following licensing basis, subject to compliance of rules and terms of current Import Policy Order 1991-93, is hereby announced for information of all concerned.

Sl No	Name of commodity	Those eligible to import	Basis of licensing
1.	Light industrial products	Recognising and approved industrial units having import right for such goods.	At the rate 25% of import right.
2.	Dyes & chemicals	Regd Commercial importers of such goods.	At the rate Tk 1.00(one) lakh.
3.	Machineries and spare parts	-Do-	At the rate Tk 1.00(one) lakh.
4.	Scientific and surgical equipment	-Do-	At the rate Tk 1.00(one) lakh.
5.	Refractory materials	Recognised industrial units having import right for such goods according to pass book.	At the rate 50% of import right.
6.	Power tiller and diesel engine	Regd Commercial importers of machinery mill works parts and accessories thereof.	At the rate Tk 1.00(one) lakh.

It is notified in this connection that as in case of other Barter/STA's intending importers may also open Letters of Credit under Chinese Barter No 13 for any amount or quantity in excess of their respective due shares on first-come-first served basis subject to provision of finance. Sonali Bank is the designated bank for Chinese Barter No 13 under this source time limits for opening Letter of Credit and shipment have been fixed up to 31-3-92 and 30-6-92 respectively. Besides abiding by the rules and terms of Current Import Policy Order, 1991-93 regarding import under this Barter, the F E Circular No 36 dated 31-8-91 of Bangladesh Bank in this connection should be properly followed.

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the time limits for opening Letters of Credit and shipment under the following Barter/STA's have been extended up to the dates mentioned against the respective sources :-

Sl No	Name of source	Time limit for opening letter of credit	Time limit for shipment
1.	TCB AKSA STA-4 (first year)	31-3-92	31-6-92
2.	TCB Sukab TPA-3	31-12-91	31-3-92
3.	Bangladesh-Hungary Special Account No. 10.	30-6-92	30-9-92
4.	Bangladesh-Hungary Special Account No. 11.	31-12-92	31-3-93

A K Khan
Assistant Controller
For Chief Controller of Import & Export
Dhaka.

DFPG) 12886-5/11
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