

Dhaka Day by Day

Women on Wheels

by Fayza Haq

Women today must go out to work and to study. They even do the marketing away from home and feel the need to go visiting or marketing away from home and feel the need to go visiting or window shopping on their free mornings. For travel to and from the offices, education institutions or the market places, it is necessary that there should be efficient cheap and easily available transport. But this is not so.

When it is bothersome for men to go to work it is twice as difficult for women to go from one place to another. They are often overcharged by the rickshaws and the scarce autorickshaws, and do not have enough room for themselves in the buses. If they dare to take a lift, they immediately land themselves in serious trouble or find themselves in an embarrassing situation.

Travelling in Dhaka is thus rather an ordeal if one does not have the money to hire a rickshaw or a cab or even possess a third-hand car of one's own. Speaking to a few women one is convinced that the prospect of travelling can be tiresome and upsetting.

"I was buying a small cake for my sister's birthday at the 'Shratorn' pastry shop, and was looking around in the vicinity for a gift of a shampoo, when it got a little past sunset I helped myself to a rickshaw and within few minutes," says Shaheen a young woman about town, "I was closely followed in a rickshaw by a couple of men. The rickshawman said to me, 'Do you know these men? They are asking you to stop at Elephant Road.' I then realised much to my horror that I was being taken for a woman of pleasure. The men in the other rickshaw snarled at me," Shaheen reported, "You must have taken money from some rich man in the hotel. What is wrong with our money?" Shaheen, in turn was thoroughly distraught by the experience.

"Once I was late for my classes," said a school teacher Mahjabeen. "As there was a heavy rush for traffic I could not get a rickshaw or a baby-taxi. A medium sized car, with what looked like an average office gear, stopped, and asked if I wanted a lift to the city. I had taken lifts when I was abroad so I did not hesitate to climb in with my parcel of students' exercise books," she continued. "However, after five minutes of cheerful conversation the driver varied his route away from the direction of the school. 'Why don't you skip your morning classes', he had the audacity to suggest I'm not in a mood

to be in time for office myself."

"The entire drive took the shape of a cheap melodrama," my friend confided. "I resorted to screaming and waving wildly to passers by, till the motorist was compelled to stop. I don't make the mistake of accepting lifts any more since then," Mahjabeen concluded, going red in the face.

Mehrunessa, a young office goer narrated her unpleasant experience about travelling. "I was going to Comilla for my office work. I was travelling with two other office workers. What was so overwhelming was the ferries that had to be used. It was filled with beggars of all shapes and sizes. They clung to your car like locusts pestering you for more coins."



Women scrambling for places in a bus near the Press Club bus stop

"Worse than anything else they passed vicious remarks about me between themselves. Is she the keep of these men? ran the blatant unvelled remark. There were all types of people on the ferry from Coca-Cola vendors. They all appeared to stare at me with curiosity and passed numerous unwholesome remarks," she related.

It is not only the long distance travel between one district and another that throw women into a flap. Going from Dhanmandi to Banani can be an ordeal even if this is by a baby-taxi and takes a shorter time than the rickshaw. Shama, a university student, had to borrow some books for a project she was doing. She was tired and overworked, having gone around the city collecting books from friends.

Shama was headed for her aunt's place in Banani where she thought she could work in peace. When she reached her destination the baby-taxi man demanded forty takas instead of the usual twenty-five. The baby-taxi driver carried on like a peanut which thoroughly upset Shama, so much so that she left one of her books in the taxi in her flabbergasted state of mind. "I would rather pay more than lose my temper and spoil my day" was the comment of most women.

There are cases when women have fallen off rickshaws due to the carelessness of the pullers who sometimes have no licence nor any breaks. Being "hijacked" of gold bangles and chains are yet another part of the perils of travelling and this can happen even when there are a couple of women travelling together. The city is no safe place for women to go about these days.

Schools in cyclone-hit areas closed

All the educational institutions of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts and those affected in greater Noakhali, Barisal, Patuakhali and Khulna districts have been closed till May 9, an official handout said Thursday night. reports BSS.

The closure was announced in view of the destruction caused by the severe cyclonic storm and tidal surge which hit the areas on Monday night.

The government hoped that the students and teachers of these institutions would extend their all-out cooperation to the local administrations' rescue and rehabilitation work in the affected areas.

Dhaka-Ctg Biman flight resumes

Bangladesh Biman on Friday resumed its passenger flight on Dhaka-Chittagong route, reports UNB.

Airport sources said the flight BG 613 which left for the port city at 2-30 pm returned to the capital Friday evening.

Air-link between Dhaka and Chittagong was snapped following devastating cyclone and tidal surge that wrought havoc on life and property in the coastal districts of the country on Tuesday.

BUET teachers form disaster assistance team

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers' Association (BUET-TA) Thursday formed a "disaster assistance team" to provide technical and engineering services voluntarily to any government, and non-government agencies in the execution of relief work in the cyclone battered areas, reports BSS.

The 11 member committee headed by Prof. Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed as Member Secretary was formed in an emergency general meeting of BUET-TA with Prof. Jasimuz Zaman, President of BUET-TA in the chair.

The committee will extend its support to the government in devising and implementing various short-term and long-term measures for reconstruction and prevention of disaster.

All organisations intending to obtain technological and engineering services in their relief effort are requested to contact the following persons: Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury 503744 (Office), 502939 (Res), Dr. Aunur Nishat 502349 (Office), 503157 (Res).

The meeting also decided to contribute two days' salary of the teachers for relief of the cyclone victims.



Gayebana Janaza was held Friday at Baitul Mukarram Mosque for salvation of the departed souls of the cyclone victims. —Star photo

Response to appeal for aid spontaneous : Foreign Office

International response to country's appeal for assistance in the wake of the havoc caused by the catastrophic cyclone is "very good and spontaneous," a Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka Friday, reports BSS.

He said different countries and organisations were making anxious queries with our government on the extent of damages and how best they could stand by the distressed people of Bangladesh at this hour of calamity.

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDR0) responding to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's

appeal for international assistance, is sending a team here soon to assess the magnitude of destruction and necessary relief requirement.

The King of Bhutan is sending a special envoy, Senior Cabinet Minister Mr. Tobgyal to Dhaka to express the Kingdom's sympathy with the people of Bangladesh. The King also decided to donate two million Bhutanese nutrun (about Taka 4 million) for relief works.

India is sending at least three helicopters for relief works. The choppers are expected shortly.

The Indian government also

sanctioned Rs. one crore for relief works. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has donated Rs. 15,000.

Saudi Airforce C-130 cargo plane carrying relief goods arrived here Thursday while more planes with relief goods will reach here shortly.

Japan has announced US dollar two million as emergency aid and also offered emergency equipment, medicines worth dollar half a million.

Republic of Korea is considering providing US dollar 50,000 in cash.

More pledges are being received, the spokesman said.

NGOs start 3-phased relief work

By Staff Correspondent

The non-government organisations (NGOs) have decided to conduct relief and rehabilitation operations unitedly in coordination with the government efforts.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the NGOs and donor agencies on Thursday with Khushi Kabir, Vice President of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) in the chair. Representatives of 45 NGOs including donor agencies attended the meeting.

The meeting decided to conduct relief operations in three phases: emergency relief and rehabilitation, mid-term relief and rehabilitation and long-term rehabilitation.

BRAC, Caritas, Nijera Kari, CCDB, ODA and Women Health Coalition have already started emergency relief operations.

A central control room has been set up at the ADAB office at Lalmitia to keep overall and round-the-clock contact. NGOs have been requested to send reports of their activities to the control room.

Youths, children collecting clothes for cyclone victims

Enthusiastic youths and children from various city areas campaigned to collect old clothes for distribution in the cyclone battered regions of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar, reports BSS.

A great response was received from the inhabitants of Mohammadpur, where youths and children appealed to the people to help the distressed people. The volunteers, ignoring their political differences, moved together from door to door and collected a large quantity of old clothes.

Babu, a school boy and leader of the 'Progoti Sangha', said they are getting unprecedented response from the people, many of whom have given even new clothes. He said they will visit the cyclone affected areas as soon as possible to distribute the clothes.

Telex, Telegraph services restored

Telex and Telegraph services between the capital and rest of the world have been restored from 3.30 pm on Friday through Talibabad satellite station, T&T Board sources said in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Eid Reunion held

International Women Congress, Bangladesh (IWCB) arranged an Eid Reunion at 6 Free School Street, Hatirpool in Dhaka recently, says a Press release.

Self-composed poems were read out and recitations of poems were participated by Badrunnessa Abdullah, Shaheen Mostafa, Swati Rahman, Sultana Rizia and Sayeeda Zaman.

The function was attended by distinguished guests and IWCB members. It was conducted and supervised by Sayeeda Zaman, Publicity Secretary and Nargis Chowdhury, Treasurer of IWCB respectively.

Tk 94 lakh sanctioned for cyclone victims

The National Relief Coordination Committee met Thursday at the secretariat with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair and sanctioned Taka 94,00,000 as gratuitous relief for distribution among the people of the seriously affected cyclone-hit areas of the country, reports BSS.

According to an official handout, the sanction was made to the divisional, district and upazila authorities for distribution.

Of the total money, Commissioner, Chittagong Division was given Taka 10 lakh, Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar Taka 22 lakh, Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Taka 13 lakh, Deputy Commissioner, Barguna Taka 5 lakh, Deputy Commissioner, Bhola Taka 8 lakh, Deputy Commissioner Patuakhali Taka 8 lakh and Deputy Commissioner Barisal Taka 5 lakh.

Besides, UNO, Hatiya was given Taka 6 lakh, UNO, Noakhali Taka 2 lakh, UNO, Comapnigong Taka one lakh, UNO, Senbag Taka 2 lakh, UNO, Ramgoti Taka 3 lakh, UNO, Lakshimpur Sadar Taka 2 lakh, UNO, Manpara Taka 3 lakh and the UNO, Char Fashion Taka 4 lakh.

The GOS for the said grants are being issued, meanwhile the allottees have been directed to withdraw the said money from government treasury under Tr-27 subject to receipt of the G.O. letters.

The said money would be

Plea to implement Zia's programme

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a conference of 'Zia Parishad' in the city Thursday laid emphasis on materialisation of the programmes launched by late President Ziaur Rahman in checking natural calamities.

The conference was organised by the Gulshan branch of the Parishad at its office. Majid-ul-Huq, Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Water and Flood Control was present. President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist Reazuddin Ahmed, Zia Parishad's President Kabir Murad, Vice-President Syed Mesbahuddin, Harunur Rashid Khan Munnu, MP, and other leaders of the organisation including Rawshan Ara Farid and Mohammad Saeed Hossain addressed the conference.

Gulshan Thana President of the Parishad Asaduzzaman Khan was in the chair.

Majid-ul-Huq called upon all to extend their cooperation to the cyclone-hit people along with the government initiatives. Reazuddin Ahmed said all the nationalist forces must be united at this crucial moment of the nation to face the disaster.

Kabir Murad called upon the people to participate in the nation-building activities following the ideals of late Ziaur Rahman.

PROGRAMME

Adhunik will hold a Press conference today (Saturday) at 11am at National Press Club conference room, a Press release said.

Sramik Party's meeting
The central Committee of Jatiya Sramik Party (JSP) will hold a discussion meeting on the occasion of May Day on Sunday at 4 pm at Culture and Welfare Bhavan, 162, Shantinagar in the city, a press release said.

Noor Uddin back home

Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan arrived in Dhaka Friday night after a goodwill visit to China, says ISPR press release.

During his stay in China, General Noor Uddin, called on the Chinese Premier Li Peng, the State Councillor and Minister for National Defence General, the Chief of General Staff of the PLA and other senior military commanders.

98 held in city

Police on Friday arrested 40 cinema ticket blackmarketers from different cinema halls of the city.

Police arrested 98 persons from different parts of the city on different charges.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police also recovered over 100 cans of adulterated brake oil and arrested three persons from different parts of the city on Friday.

Shahidullah (28), Akbar (25) and Mobarak (26) were arrested from Tejgaon Railgate and K. M. Das lane under Sutrapur thana.



Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Huq and other guests are seen at the Annual Conference of Gulshan Thana Zia Parishad at Mahakhali on Friday. —Star photo

Weather

No cyclone in Bay

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged. No possibility of cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal for the time being. Maximum amount of rainfall on Friday was recorded 59 mm in Comilla.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.29 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.22 am.

Maximum temperature of 39.0 degree Celsius was recorded on Friday at Rajshahi and the minimum of 18.4 degree was recorded at Sylhet. Outlook for subsequent two days : Little change.

Extended outlook for another five days : Dry weather likely.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns and cities on Friday were :

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	9 a.m
Dhaka	33.8	27.7
Rajshahi	39.0	28.2
Khulna	34.5	28.5
Dinajpur	36.6	24.5
Barisal	32.2	27.5
Comilla	29.0	27.0
Rangpur	34.5	X
	6 p.m	
Dhaka	33.8	86
Rajshahi	39.0	74
Khulna	34.5	75
Dinajpur	36.6	77
Barisal	32.2	86
Comilla	29.0	91
Rangpur	34.5	88

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Ugly, old woman
- 4 Excite, stimulate
- 8 Weaken
- 11 — Like it Hot!
- 12 Listen to
- 13 Guido's high note
- 14 Greek letter
- 15 Couple
- 17 Created a disturbance
- 19 Employ
- 21 "Nightmare" Street
- 23 Butter square
- 24 Precious stones
- 26 Dine
- 28 Form of lotto
- 31 Rubber tree
- 33 Wheel track
- 35 Brawl; fuss
- 36 Father
- 38 Longed for

Answer to Previous Puzzle

FEW LANES ELA
ARE ENURE TIP
TA ANTS GATE
KUDOS LI
LO SET MEANER
IMP RATIONAL E
MAUL TON TIME
PHRENETIC LED
SALTED SUP RS
UT STRAP
SHIP APED ROW
EEL SNARL IRE
AWL MANSE GET

DOWN

- 1 "Animal —"
- 2 Before noon
- 3 Obtain
- 4 Unimpaired; undamaged
- 5 Helium symbol
- 6 Hearing organ
- 7 Journey
- 8 Hunting dog
- 9 Tavern stock
- 10 Cushion
- 11 Self-satisfied;
- 12 complacent
- 18 Pronoun
- 19 Tree
- 20 Large bird
- 22 Wedded
- 25 Crafty
- 27 Large cask
- 29 At present
- 30 Possess
- 32 Lamprey
- 34 Beverage
- 36 Fondle
- 37 Time gone by
- 39 Roman bronze
- 40 Arid
- 43 North American capital
- 46 Insane
- 48 Vest age
- 50 Liquid
- 52 Ceremonies
- 53 Stockwell of "Quantum Leap"
- 55 Advantage
- 57 Mother
- 59 Haggard heroine
- 60 Small child
- 61 Command to dog
- 63 — of Pigs
- 67 Sun god
- 69 Myself

Saturday

- 5.00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- 5.15 Recitation from Triptak
- 5.20 News in Bengali
- 5.30 Sports World
- 5.55 Cartoon film: Gilgance Planet
- 6.30 Naba Taranga Banshari
- 7.05 News in Bengali
- 8.00 The Bill Cosby Show
- 8.30 Sangeet Probaha
- 9.00 News in English
- 10.05 Parliament Round-up
- 10.40 Return to Eden
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Closing down

IN MEMORIAM
Third death anniversary of Syed Tanveer Murshed, son of Late Syed Manzoor Murshed and the Late Begum Hasina Murshed. Relatives and friends are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Yasmeen, Maher and Madiha Murshed.

BJMC TENDER NOTICE
Man-made fibre pollutes environment: Use natural fibre — Jute

Sealed quotations invited by Peoples Jute Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna for (1) New Gestetner Duplicating Machine. Tender opening date 26.5.91 time 3-00 p.m. Tender schedule with full details of requirements, specifications and terms and conditions can be obtained (excepting opening date) from the Controller of Accounts, BJMC, Adamjee Court, Dhaka, General Manager, BJMC, Sattar Chamber, 99, Agrabad C/A., Chittagong, Dy. General Manager, BJMC, KZ, Hafizuddin Road, Town Khalishpur, Khulna and Dy. General Manager (A&F), PJM Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna on payment of Tk. 100/- per set (non-refundable).

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