Dhaka Day by Day

'Joyrides' in the City

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



type let me inform you of a novel way to experience the thrill of a roller coaster. One does not have to go all the way to Disney World or Apcot Centre; joyrides can be found right here in the city of Dhaka. Just try any form of public transport and you will know what I mean. The degree of thrill or danger you'll get will depend on the type of public transport you'll take. Buses, especially double deckers carry the highest capacity to produce an adrenaline flow, followed by baby taxis, mishuks, tempoes and rickshaws.

The number of accidents on the streets in the city seems to be increasing every day. Increase in traffic, lack of traffic control, unscrupulous rash drivers and absence of safety measures in the vehicles concerned, are some of the factors contributing to this. The smog created by clouds of carbon monoxide emitted from old close-to-obselete vehicles, especially trucks and buses, has proved to be a great threat to public health. Moreover, the incessant, obnoxious noise created by these vehicles of public transport, not to mention the hammerings and drillings of construction sites, may cause serious physiological and psychological problems.

Let us take, first of all, safety measures of vehicles in the case of buses whether single or double deckers. There is no set limit imposed on the number of passengers or the overall weight they can carry. It is not an unfamiliar scene to see huge, rusty old buses charging through the streets, tilting to one side because of the excess number of people hanging on precariously like jackfruits on a tree. Any sudden movement or sudden stop by the bus or a single slip of the fingers to hold on can lead to instant death or amputation of a limb or two. Legal restrictions should be imposed on the maximum number of passengers for all types of buses. In the case of scooters (baby taxis), mishuks and rickshaws, often the seats themselves are not securely placed. Spending half an hour or more bouncing up and down the slanted seat of a rickshaw in the middle of busy

FOR those of you who are the adventurous junctions is neither fun nor safe. In addition, some of these vehicles do not even have proper brakes which is obviously the most important safety device for a moving thing Regular inspection of brakes, seats, etc should be made by the concerned officials. Seat belts could also be introduced.

As far as traffic control is concerned, its solution seems to be almost a Herculean task. Nevertheless, observing certain traffic rules such as maintaining speed limits, not overtaking on narrow roads, stopping at red lights, would definitely help. Licences of motor vehicle drivers should be checked regularly to ensure their validity.

Pollution, of course, has become one of the worst evils faced by victims of public transport. Try sitting at the back of a scooter, for example, inhaling the black fumes from the extremities of buses and trucks, while your face is treated with an instant smoke and dust face pack. Old, faulty vehicles that emit such harmful gases should be sold off as scrap metal and replaced by new ones.

Last of all let us come to my favourite issue - noise. As if being slowly brotled inside a bus or a scooter, while waiting in the middle of a traffic jam, is not enough, one also has to endure the cacophony of the streets. In the midst of an orchestra of blaring, obnoxious horns from buses, trucks and cars, and nonsensical announcements on the loudspeaker. there is the most irritating sound of all - the constant tinkling of rickshaws, cycles and heaven knows what. After experiencing this kind of hell, it is truly a miracle if one comes out of it with one's sanity, let alone with one's ear drums intact.

So to those of you who take a public transport whether you think it to be a 'joyride', or a trip to hell, please check the brakes and seats of the scooter, bus, rickshaw or whatever the case may be. Plugging the ears with cotton wool and wearing a gas mask would not be a bad idea either. If that does not work, all I can say is rely on your good luck and prayers!

1m cancer patients in country

Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Minister Badruddoza Chowdhury Monday underscored the need for creating public awareness about prevention and early detection of cancer, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the Ahsania Mission Cancer Centre at Dhanmondi the minister said the mass media and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should be utilised to spread the knowledge about prevention of cancer.

Prof Chowdhury, who is also a

renowned physician in the country, said many cancer patients could be cured if the disease could be detected early. He said there are many easy process available now to detect cancer which should be known to the members of the voluntary organisations working in health sector as well as

the public at large. According to statistics avail able, there are about one million cancer patients in the country. A WHO report says 200,000 people get cancer in Bangladesh annu-

47 Music

49 Danger

55 Ocean

60 Toll

52 Nuisance

54 Marshes

56 Children's

59 Goddess of

63 Three-toed

ally and 150,000 of them die virtually without any treatment. Most of the cancer cases in Bangladesh are detected very late when the doctors have nothing to he president of the cancer

centre M Salimullah presided over the inaugural

Political solution to CU crisis sought

By Staff Correspondent

Combined Cultural Alliance in a statement on Monday hoped that the government would seek political solution to the Chittagong University erisis instead of accepting the inquiry committee report. The alliance said the removal of the Vice-Chancellor as the report suggests would not quell the campus situation. It said, the report lost its neutrality as part of it was published in different dailies before its presentation. It also demanded strict measures against the terrorism of "Jamaat-Shibir circle" in the university.

Newspaper holiday July 23

All newspapers offices will remain closed on July 23 on account of the holy Ashura (10th Moharam), as per decision of the national moonsighting committee. A press release of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad said Monday, reports BSS.

GCC envoys meet Mustafiz

Envoys of four member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) jointly called on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman at his office on Monday, reports UNB.

The envoys are Ambassador Abdul Lattf Al Maimanee of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Muhammad Ibrahim Al Najran of Kuwait, Ambassador Jawad Ibrahim Al Ridha of the United Arab Emirates and Charge d' Affaires of the State of Qutar Khaten Al Kahater.

What's on today

Rally for K Siddiqi's release

A public meeting demanding release of freedom fighter and Awami League leader Kader Siddiqi will be held in front of the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city today (Tuesday) at 4 pm.

Bangabir Kader Siddiqi Birottom Sangram Parishad has organised the meeting which will be addressed by the central leaders of Awami League and its front organisations.

Welcome the Rainy Season

A cultural function welcoming the rainy season will be held today (Tuesday) at 7 pm at the auditorium of National Museum in the city. Renowed singers and recitists will present songs and poems on the season composed by the popular

Rabiraga, a cultural forum, organised the programme under the patronisation of the General Electric Company of Bangladesh. Willing persons have been requested to take seats by 6.45 pm.

BPATC training programme

The 16th foundation training course of the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) will be inaugurated today (Tuesday) at 11 am. Former Chairman of Public Service Commission S M Al Hosainee will attend the programme as chief guest while the BPATC Rector Kazi Muhammad Manzur-e-Mowla will preside over.

A total of 261 first class new government officers will participate in the two-month long training course.

Rotary Club installation

The annual installation meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 7 pm at the Dhaka Sheraton hotel in the city.

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the function as chief guest and State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr Mosharraf Hossain will be the special guest on the occasion.

Discussion on TV serial 'Oshin'

An open discussion on the popular television serial 'Oshin' produced by NHK will take place today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the Community Development Library (Road No. 25, Dhanmondi) in the city.

Radio Japan Listeners' Club in Dhaka has arranged the programme. The regular viewers have been requested to at-

Preclinical seminar

A seminar on 'Endocrine functions of the pancreas' will be held today (Tuesday) at 10 am at the Gallery-1 of Sir Salimullah Medical College. Prof Kasimuddin will preside over the programme.

Rotary Club meeting

The first club assembly will be held at Hotel Sheraton today (Tuesday) at 5.15 pm. The assembly will discuss the issues relating to the rotary governor's visit to the club, projection club activities and recognition of the dreamers and do-

All the committee chairman, in consultation with the directors have been requested to finalise the action programme. - NA

Plea to review SSC objective questions

Over 50 guardians of Agrani Balika Vidyalaya Monday appealed to the Ministry of Education and Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Boards to review the introduction of objective type of questions for each subject for the students who will be appearing in the S S C examinations in 1992 and 1993, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they said the introduction of objective questions for a period of two years on an experimental basis has been telling heavily on the young students. Since 50 marks have been ear marked for each subject, it is taxing their brain as they are unable to comprehend them.

Despite best efforts of the teachers even the meritorious students have failed to fare well in tests based on objective questions, they added.

Tk 60.06 cr spent for setting up of RRI

Flood Control, Water Deve-

lopment and Irrigation Minister Major General (Rtd) Majid-ul-Haq told the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that work on the establishment of River Research Institute at Faridpur began in 1976-77 financial year and that Taka 60.06 crore was spent till June, 1991 for it, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL-Gopalganj), the Irrigation Minister said a total of Taka 69.13 erore would be spent for the implementation of the project.

They further said the introduction of this system has compelled many guardians to engage private tutors to coach their wards. Even then their results were far from satisfactory. Even the teachers of the best schools of the country seemed to be in difficulty in preparing the students for the objective questions, they said.

The guardians expressed their apprehension that even many of the brilliant students would fail to fare well in the next year's S S C examinations if the system of objective type questions was retained. They called for doing away with this If this is not possible, only

20 marks should be earmarked for objective questions for each subject, they said.

Khaleda opens Gorai Bridge today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate the newly-constructed Gorai Bridge today, reports

The 622 metre long and nine metre wide bridge located at 42 kilometre off Dhaka on the Faridpur-Magura road will be opened to traffic after the inauguration, an official handout said. The bridge had been built

under the British Overseas Development Assistance Fund, will make communication easier and quicker between the southern districts and the capital city, the handout

Society free from drug abuse stressed State Minister for Social abuse, reports BSS.

Welfare and Women's Affairs He was addressing a dis-Tarioul Islam Monday said cussion meeting on imporyouths should be provided with proper social and political di- United Nations' decade against rection and guidance to establish a society free from drug ing in Dhaka Monday.

tance of the observance of

drug abuse and illicit traffick-

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittagong divisions and one or two places over Dhaka division during the next 24 hours, reports

Met office said day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country Satkhira experienced 6mm, Khulna 4mm, Madaripur

3mm. Comilla and Teknaf 2mm while Maizdi and Feni 1mm shower during the last 12 hours till 6 pm on Monday. Maximum temperature was recorded today in Dhaka maximum 33.5 and minimum 28 degree Celsius.

Mymensingh experienced the highest temperature 35.4 degree Celstus while Fent the lowest 24.1 degrees. Percentage of the humidity was 83 per cent in the morning and 67 in the evening .

Sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.49 pm and rises day after tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.21 am.

BNP, Opposition urged to sink differences

Dr Aleem Al Razee Memorial Council on Monday welcomed the unanimous decision made by the Selection Committee to move the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills simultaneously, reports UNB.

In a press release, the Chief Patron of the Council Amanullah Khan called for early passage of the bills to facilitate smooth transition to Parliamentary form of govern-

"Whatever the difference, there should be adjustments for reaching a consensus, a most vital task for the nation at this crucial juncture, he added.

He urged the ruling party and the opposition in parliament to sink their party difference and work on the basis of the joint declaration signed by the three alliances on November 19,1990 for speedy resolution of the issues confronting the nation.

Jamaat's plea to publish probe body report

Jamaat-e-Islami demanded immediate publication of probe body report on the attack and killing attempt of the party's Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami at Dhaka University recently.

In a press release on Monday it said that even after the submission of the report. no action has so far been taken. The attackers are moving freely, it added.

The party demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in the incident.



Leaders of the National Federation of Blind addressing a Press conference at the National Press Club on Monday. - Star photo

Corruption alleged in **Federation for Blind**

By Staff Correspondent

The National Federation for the Blind sought the authority's interference in resolving the crisis of the federation.

In a press conference on Monday at the National Press Club some leaders of the federation said the crisis is deepening there over the election of the executive body.

Describing the situation Mayenuddin Chowdhury, one of the leaders said that the President of the organisation S K Hashemi whose tenure was completed in June 1989 was creating trouble for clinging to

Having been disqualified for contesting June 26, '89 polls under the laws of the government, Hashemi became desperate for the inclusion of his name in the voter's list. Earlier, a First Class

The blinds' leader said that Hashemi week the help of his son attacked some of their supporters and injured them.

Magistrate ordered to post-

were some Government em-

pone the elections as there

ployees enrolled in the voter's

Later, the High Court

ordered to hold the election in

accordance with the laws and

by laws of the Sangstha with

the members eligible to partic-

ipate in the said election. But

the election has not yet been

He also alleged corruption and embezzlement of organisation's fund by Hashemi. Among others Shahjahan.

Faima Khatun, Ashraful Alam, Mir Ashraf Hossain, Kamal Hossain and Rabeya Begum were present at the press conference.

Commission to reform laws likely

40,098 cases pending for disposal in HC Division

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz informed the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday that 40,098 cases were under trial in the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court till April 30, this year, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mr. Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (JP-Moulvibazar), the Minister said 28 Judges including

Nasiruddoza BCU President

Nasiruddoza and Sardar Ruhin Hosain Prince were elected on Monday President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union for the year 1991, reports BSS. Other office-bearers are:

Vice Presidents - Abraham Lincoln, Sunil Das, Latiful Bari Hamim, Aruf Ratan Chowdhury, Aminul Farid, A K M Beduyeen, Md Atiq and Shahidul Islam Liton, Assistant General Secretaries — Aslam Khan. Pathik Saha and Tahmina Yasmeen Nila, Treasurer - Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan, Organising Secretary — Kazi Sazzat Jahir Chandan, Education and Research Secretary - Aminur Rahman. Student Affairs Secretary -Sardar Raqib, Cultural Secretary - Kiriti Ranzan. Sports Secretary - Farooq Chowdhury, Social Welfare Secretary - Bhaswkar Chand and Office Secretary - Monwar Mustafa Zoly. Besides a 26member central executive committee of BCU was also

elected Tuesday

5.00 Opening announcement Recitation from the News in Bangla

5.30 Film show 5.55 Debate Nazrul songs 7.05

Special programme on Value Added Tax (VAT) News in Bangla 8.30 Probah 8.45 Sodh 10.00 News in English

10.25 JS reporting 10.40 Drama series - On the Fringe 11.30 Khabar/The News

11.40 Wednesday's programme, verses from Al-Quran, Nation Flag and National Anthem 11.45 Close down.

the three new Judges appointed on July 13 last were working in the High

Court Division during the In reply to a supplementary, the Minister said the Government had a plan to appoint many more Judges in future. He said the problem of accommodation and lack of other facilities were

of Judges. He said his Ministry was trying to get back the old High Court building, now being used by the Defence Ministry. He said if the buildings was available, the problem of accommodation would greatly be solved.

impeding the appointment

He said the pending cases were expected to be quickly disposed of if more Judges could be appointed.

In reply to another supplementary, the Law Minister said the present Government inherited the pending cases from the previous Government. When the Customs team

found the cartons to be too heavy they made a thorough check and recovered the contraband goods, the press release added.

UNB adds: The government. if necessary, will set up a law commission for reforms and updating the existing

laws of the land. This was stated in the Jatiya

Sangsad Monday by Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, admitting the existence of outmoded and contradictory laws in the country. Replying to volley of questions.

the Minister admitted that

there had been contradictory laws in the country and said the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Parliamentary Affairs would examine the existing laws and report to the government. The Law and Justice Minister

informed the House more than 40,000 cases in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court were awaiting disposal.

New judges will be appointed soon for the quick dispel of the pending cases, he said.

Replying to a question from Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, the Minister told the House three new judges had already been appointed raising to 28 the total number of judges in the High Court Division.

Hafiz, in this connection, informed parliament a large number of judges can't be appointed due to accommodation problem.

ঢাকাস্থ সাতক্ষীরা জন সমিতির নির্বাচন ও বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা

সাতকীরা জন সমিতির নির্বাচন ও বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার জন্য নিম্নের কর্মসূচী ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে ঃ

१ २७-१-७) ई१ ভোটার তালিকা প্রস্তুতের জন্য সদস্যপদ নবায়ণ/নত্ন সদস্যত্তির শেষ তারিখ খসড়া ভোটার তালিকায় আপত্তির শেষ তারিখ ঃ 28-9-33 20

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সদস্যপদ নবায়ণ/নতুন সদস্যভুক্তির জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন : প্রধান নির্বাচন কমিশনার আলহাজু ডাঃ আ কা মোঃ আবদুর রশীদ, মেডিকেল অফিসার, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মেডিকেল সেন্টার, ঢাকা -

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ক্যার, গ্রীণ রোড, ঢাকা–১২০৫, ফোন ঃ ৫০০৩৮৩, ৮৬৩৫৬৭, 979904

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১২০৭, ফোল ঃ ৩১৫৯৩০, ২৫৪৯৯৯। (শেখ সাজেদুর রহমান)

সাধারণ সম্পাদক



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