

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Transport Jitters

by Rahat Fahmida

Tension starts! You tend to panic the moment you take the turning from your house on to the main road. Rickshaws, baby taxis or scooters (whatever one chooses to call them), the wayward minibuses and the private cars, all seem to be crumpling on to each other. You may be riding a rickshaw, or a jerky scooter, or even your own Toyota Corolla the tension is the same. On the other hand there are a number of people who are waiting to avail anyone of the public transport to reach their office.



All jumbled up: Who goes first? —Star Photo

The choice of public transport services still seems to be quite limited in our city. We hear about the double-decker buses for ladies, but it seems to be long way off. Though the 'rent-a-car' privilege is growing, but rarely anyone can afford it for office transportation or even for private use. It is mostly utilised by foreigners or groups, where a few are contributing to the total cost. Initially started by the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, the business has now been taken up by private concerns, including those right opposite to the local hotels. The cost for most are the same; for example, for a non-air-conditioned car it would cost Tk 13 per kilometre and Tk 75 per hour.

Although roads have been used for transport purposes for a considerable period of time, some for many hundreds of years, their use did not become fully commercialised until early in the present century. The introduction of the mechanically propelled vehicle revolutionised road transport for the carriage of both passengers and goods and in the more developed countries mechanisation is now to compete that it is very rare to see a vehicle being hauled by animal power.

People are now continually complaining about the jittery roads in the city. Road transport operators neither build nor maintain their way. Roads are financed and maintained mostly by the city corporation. However, the cost of the provision and upkeep of roads is more than shared by the users in the form of vehicle taxation coupled with fuel tax and (on private vehicles) purchase tax, even though there is also a contribution from property owners through the

payment of rates. The real advantage of road over other forms is the physical possibility of it being able to provide a door-to-door facility. From its value as a means of trunk movement, the road is, by and large, essential for feeder purposes for rail, water and air. Because of the speed and vehicle size limitations naturally imposed on road transport as a result of the way being shared by all users, a feature to which reference has already been made, the road is most suitable for

short and medium distance traffic. This cannot directly compete in speed with rail or air but it is the road on which it is practicable for the individual to own and drive his own personal conveyance — the private car. Similar considerations apply to privately-owned commercial vehicles for the conveyance of goods and for this reason long distance traffic by road throughout is now commonplace. Furthermore, the construction of fast motorways, both at home and abroad, is reducing, the speed differential and there by further popularising road transport for long distance travel.

Public passenger services by road are provided by buses and coaches. The distinction between the two is arbitrary. Buses are generally regarded as catering for relatively short distance traffic and working on routes on which a large number of intermediate stops are observed, while coaches cater more for longer distance passengers on a limited stop basis or for private tours.

A private car, is not really within the means of a large number of people but a company transport is a convenient alternative to public road services. The great advantage of such transports is convenience and the numbers of vehicles in this class grow year by year. Roads become more congested as private motoring gains popularity even though the strain of driving becomes greater. This ever increasing competitive force is indeed a challenge to public transport, but that should not hold back from this sector to put in its effort to improve for the benefit of the mass population.

What's on today . . .

- Shilpakala Academy Workers' Union**
The tenth founding anniversary of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Sramik Union and the installation of its newly elected executive committee will be held today (Monday) at the academy auditorium at 6:30 pm.
- State Minister for Culture Professor Jahanara Begum will be the chief guest and Acting Additional Secretary of the Ministry Islam Uddin and the Director General of the Academy Kamal Lohani will be present on the occasion as special guests.**
- Rainbow film show**
Rainbow Film Society has arranged a three-day film show beginning today (Monday) at 5:55pm at the German Cultural Centre. The show will continue through October 23.
- Rotary Dhaka Central**
The 377th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at 1:30 pm at Sheraton Hotel.
- Rapport programme**
A discussion and film presentation programme on 'in search of excellence' will be held today (Monday) at 4:30 pm. Sponsored by Rapport Bangladesh Limited; the programme will be held at the USIS Cultural Centre.
- Press conference**
A press conference has been arranged by the monthly magazine, Computer Jagat, at the National Press Club today (Monday) at 10 am.

EEC help for post-flood rehabilitation sought

The visiting EEC delegation led by the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation J P Pronk called on State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan at his office Sunday, reports BSS.

The State Minister apprised the delegation of the damages caused by the recent flood and the relief activities launched by the government. He also informed the delegate members the huge damage to life and

Bangladesh Jute Mills resume operation today

The shut-down Bangladesh Jute Mills at Ghorashal will resume operation today (Monday) following fruitful discussion with workers and the authorities, reports UNB.

The mills was closed down on September 28 due to labour unrest, deteriorating law and order and strike call by the workers, said a press release.

Foreign cigarettes seized from guard room of rly security force

By Staff Correspondent
Railway police on Sunday seized 229 cartons of foreign cigarettes from the guard room of the Railway Security Force at Kamalapur Station and brought charges against four security personnel.

According to the GRP, a contingent of Dhaka Railway Thana police and a CID inspector raided the guard room located near the Pay Office at the Kamalapur Railway Station at around 11 am and found 229 cartons of Benson and Hedges Cigarettes. The estimated value of the seized cigarettes is about Taka 1,14,500.

A case was registered with Dhaka Railway Thana and charges against four railway security personnel were framed. However none was arrested till filing of this report.

Syeduzzaman back home

By Staff Correspondent
Former Finance Minister of Bangladesh, M Syeduzzaman, returned to Dhaka on Saturday.

During his trip he worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York, with the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington and also attended the World Bank/International Monetary Fund meeting in Bangkok.

Monday

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|-------|--|
| 5.00 | Opening Announcement, Al Quran programme summary |
| 5.15 | Reading from the Geeta |
| 5.20 | News in Bangla |
| 5.30 | Cartoon Film: The Earling |
| 6.00 | Sports programme |
| 6.30 | Educational programme |
| 7.05 | TV debate |
| 8.00 | News in Bangla |
| 8.30 | Janamat |
| 9.00 | Geetanjali |
| 10.00 | News in English |
| 10.30 | Film: Hot Pursuit |
| 11.30 | Khabar/The news |
| 11.45 | Close down. |

World Bank to consider aid for horticulture uplift projects

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister Major General (Retd) M. Majid-Ul-Haq had a meeting with the senior officials of the World Bank Central Secretariat in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

Director, Country Department (Asia Region), Joehen Kraske, Chief Operation Division (Asia Region) Yukon Huang, Deputy Chief and Head of Agriculture, World Bank Mission in Bangladesh, Frank Thornley, Alternate Executive Director MA Syed, Agriculture Secretary KM Rabbani, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Secretary MA Malik and senior officials of the ministry were present.

The Agriculture Minister apprised the meeting of vari-

ous projects undertaken by the government for agricultural development in the country. Terming agriculture as the backbone of the country's economy, he said, "we need sympathetic consideration from all quarters for smooth and even development of agriculture". Some policy changes by the government in agriculture sector including privatisation of fertilizer distribution had shown positive result in boosting up agriculture production, he said.

General Haq explained the extent of damage caused by the unprecedented cyclone in coastal districts in last April and also the adverse effect of recent flood in the north-western region of the country. The government has relen-

tly trying to mitigate sufferings of the people, he added.

The Director (Asia Region), World Bank expressed his satisfaction over the progress and development in the field of agriculture. The development partners had been encouraged at the smooth implementation of the projects particularly in the agriculture and irrigation sectors. He said the World Bank would consider to assist in horticulture development projects in Bangladesh.

The minister expressed his gratitude to the World Bank officials for help and assistance in materialising the development projects in Bangladesh and hoped that World Bank would continue its programme for its socio-economic development.

'Present education system breeds unemployment'

State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan on Sunday laid emphasis on better linkage of education with production system for making it fruitful for the people, reports BSS.

The present education system has been creating unemployment problem because it has no relation to production system, he said.

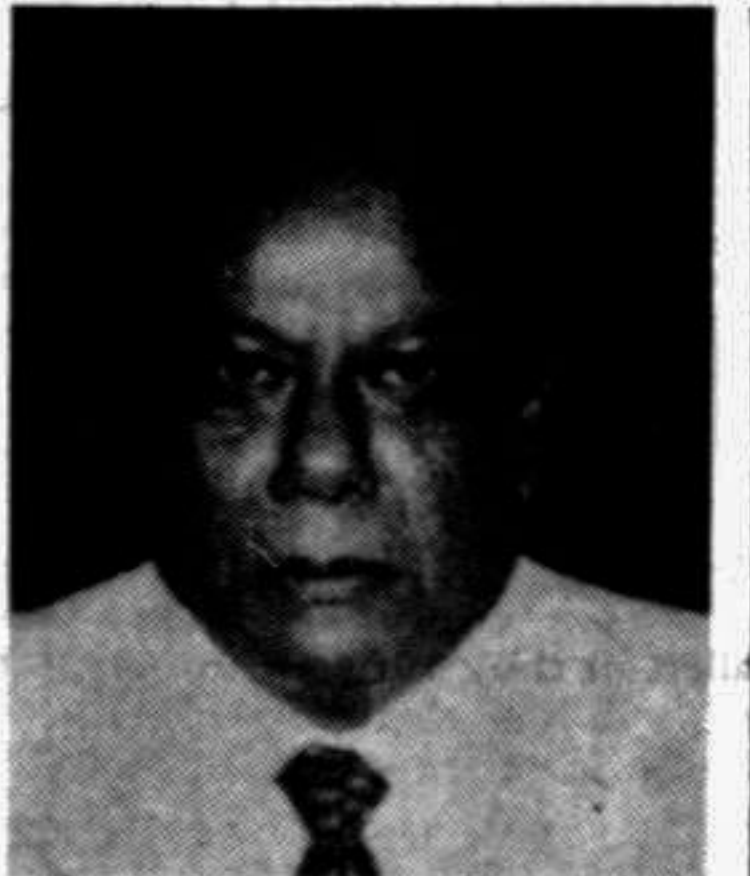
The State Minister was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function of a workshop on methodology of developing modules for agriculture diploma courses in distance education organised here.

The function was also addressed by Director-General of Agriculture Extension Department Mr Shahidul Islam.

The State Minister said in spite of vital importance of agriculture sector in the country's economy there has been little progress in the production system of agriculture sector. He said, the farmers should be given agriculture education for increasing productivity.

He also called upon the agricultural educationists to put in their best efforts to find out means for reaching agriculture education to the farmers.

Organised by Bangladesh Technical Education Board, a total of 22 teachers of Agriculture Training Institutes and 4 officials of Agriculture Extension Department are taking part in the three-day workshop.



Fakhruddin leaves for Harare today

By Staff Correspondent
Fakhruddin Ahmed, a former Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh leaves today for Harare en route to Lusaka, Zambia to join the 13-member Commonwealth Observer Group to monitor the Zambian presidential and parliamentary elections due on October 31.

Ahmed, who served as the Adviser for Foreign Affairs in the interim government of Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin, is expected to be in Zambia for about two weeks.

In Harare, members of the Group will be briefed on their mission by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Ebere Aneyaku.

Justice Telford Georges of Dominica head the Group which includes eminent personalities from Australia, Canada, India, Jamaica and Malaysia.

Beggar killed in road mishap

An old beggar, injured in a road accident, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Sunday, reports UNB.

DMCH sources said a tempo knocked Moslem Howladar (60) Saturday morning at Green Road.

Govt Science College student stabbed

A student of Government Science College at Tejgaon was stabbed by miscreants at the Nayatola Chairman Lane Sunday afternoon, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Kamrul Islam, an HSC examinee and resident of Paglamazar area at Maghbaraz, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He obstructed narcotics vending by the miscreants and incurred their vengeance.

BDRCS relief programme in flood-hit areas

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has taken up a fresh food distribution programme in the flood affected areas of the country, reports BSS.

The programme will cover all the sixteen northern districts plus Faridpur, Jamalpur, Sylhet, Habiganj and Sunamganj. The programme will involve one thousand one hundred and seven tonnes of wheat, flour, rice, dal and sugar, a BDRCS source said.

The society has already started sending these goods to the local units of the society for onward distribution among the people.

Only recently, the society had completed emergency relief operation for the flood affected people around the country. Rice, wheat, sugar and other foodstuffs, clothing and medicament were distributed among the people.

The relief goods this time as well would be distributed in cooperation with the local volunteers and Red Crescent workers.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent
Met office forecast Sunday that dry weather would prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm today (Sunday).

Day temperature during the period may remain nearly unchanged, Met office also forecast.

Temperature and humidity recorded on Sunday at the major cities and towns were:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in Celsius degree | | Humidity in percentage | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| | Max | Min | 9 am | 6 pm |
| Dhaka | 31.6 | 22.5 | 60 | 63 |
| Chittagong | 31.2 | 21.8 | 69 | 69 |
| Rajshahi | 32.4 | 18.0 | 68 | 83 |
| Khulna | 32.3 | 22.5 | 80 | 74 |
| Sylhet | 30.4 | 21.5 | 88 | 72 |
| Comilla | 30.7 | 22.5 | 70 | 87 |
| Barsal | 31.8 | 22.0 | 84 | 86 |
| Khepupara | 31.5 | 24.0 | 74 | 86 |
| Chuadanga | 34.5 | 22.0 | 77 | 71 |
| Mymensingh | | 17.8 | | |

Sun set at Dhaka on Monday at 5-28 pm and sun rise Tuesday at 6-00 am.

Turkish envoy calls on Speaker
The Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahmet Ermis Oglu called on the Speaker of the Parliament Sheikh Razzak Ali today, reports BSS.

LOST
My HSC Science Certificate Roll Mym No. Ma 15477 First Division of year 1982 S-61 Farhana Hossain

VACANCY

An international development agency invites applications for the position of Accounts Assistant. The candidate must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Accounting or Management, must be fluent in written and spoken English, should possess word processing skills (Word Perfect and Lotus 1-2-3), and must possess at least 4 years, prior professional working experience.

Please submit resume addressed to Administrative Officer, GPO Box 666, Dhaka along with a recent passport size photo so as to reach him by November 4, 1991.

D-115

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M.V. ANKE V9103/9104 IMP. ROT NO. 716/91 WILL TAKE BERTH AT CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 21ST OCTOBER, 1991 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND/OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

THE VESSEL WILL LOAD CONTAINERS UNDER EXP. ROT NO. 687/91 FOR SINGAPORE AND ALSO FOR ONWARD TRANSHIPMENT TO EAST/WEST COAST OF U.S., CANADA, U.K., CONTINENT, MEDITERRANEAN/JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

GENERAL AGENTS:
Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.
(A HRC COMPANY)

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