

Letter from Cox's Bazaar

The Lighter Side of Relief

by S Bari

Cox's Bazaar is a busy place these days. Cars with yellow licence plates and aid agency emblems hurry up and down the main (and virtually only) road, groups of travel-dazed earnest NGO workers deplane at the tiny airport, busy relief officials wrinkle their brows during interminable meetings about who's going to do what, pursued by unrelenting reporters with an uncanny knack for popping out of the woodwork.

From a sleepy resort, Cox's Bazaar has been promoted to the doubtful status of international relief target. People who once had to look up Bangladesh on the map are now tossing around names like Dumdumia and Dhuapalong. Travel agents in far away places like Rome and Canberra are figuring out the quickest flight routes to Cox's Bazaar.

lunch at four pm and was still awaiting dinner at ten that night. The French, for lack of a good brew, serve their guests Nescafe instant and powder milk from huge tins, under the comfortable thatched roof of a large cottage that was once a wedding centre and now houses the medical team, who are busy feeding and inoculating refugees (and haven't performed any marriages—yet).

Luckily for the foreign arrivals, Cox's Bazaar is not a town where it's easy to get lost. On departure from Dhaka, international staff can be seen leafing worriedly through Lonely Planet travel guides till they reach the page on Cox's Bazaar. The map of the town immediately reassures them: "It looks like it's about 300 metres from one end to the other." On arrival, though, hotel prices can be flabbergasting. A



The educated unemployed of the sea-side town are churning out copies of their CVs for the mushrooming need of the Myanmar refugee operation, which looks as if it will soon be a major employer in the area. The boom is better for the hotels than the biggest tourist season, as whole blocks of rooms at the Saibal and Upal are rented out to international agencies. The lead agency in the operation has even rented three tiny honeymoon cottages as makeshift office quarters, complete with beds. Assessment missions and evaluation teams come and go with bewildering speed and fat cheques for the hoteliers. Labourers from neighbouring villages are out in the camps hammering away on roofs and digging wells, to fill pockets depleted during a season when there is little other work to be had. As Bengalis say, *Karo push maash, karo shaboranash*.

Meanwhile, the relief workers themselves are trying to cope with malaria-ridden mosquitos and Bengali eating habits. "What exactly are meal times here? Inquired a confused American visitor who had been served

night at the Saibal costs more than the daily subsistence allowance provided by most international organizations. "They told me Bangladesh was cheap," exclaims one surprised guest, while Cox's Bazaar grins at the cash receipts. Locals are smarter: you won't catch any Bengali relief workers paying astronomical rent.

The day begins with the bone-rattling ride to the camps. Here sub-towns have sprung up: on one side of the road refugees line up for rations, on the other villagers sell vegetables, string, tin cans, even ragged posters of MacGyver. A thriving market surrounds the larger camps as locals complain loudly about the rising prices even as they buy the daal the refugees sometimes sell from their rations at below-market rates. The bazaar isn't just for food: the village barber has also arrived on the scene, in case a refugee feels the need for a shave. As an international worker pointed out to his colleague, "Look, you can even get a haircut here!" Who says Cox's Bazaar has no tourist facilities?

City Juba League protests Montu's expulsion

The city unit of Awami Juba League at a rally in Dhaka yesterday urged Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to withdraw expulsion order on party's youth wing leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu, reports BSS.

Held at Bangabandhu Avenue the rally was presided over by Abul Hashem Bhuiyan and it was addressed by the Juba League leaders including Advocate Saidur Rahman Khan, Yusuf Ali Chowdhury Selim, Abdul Karim, Belayet Hossain Mukul and Kamaluddin Ahmed Majumder.

The speakers urged the Awami League to withdraw expulsion order on Montu within seven days, otherwise, they said they would launch a movement.

They alleged that "a group of conspirators within the Awami League are behind the issuance of expulsion order" on Montu.

The speakers warned "the conspirators" and said the Juba League workers would foil any conspiracy against Montu whom they described as a party stalwart.

The Juba League leaders said that they would save the Awami League from the hands of the "conspirators."

The Juba League also announced that it would hold a rally on March 14 in front of the National Press Club demanding withdrawal of expulsion order on Montu.

F Kabir's death condoled

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahanara Begum yesterday condoled the premature death of noted film producer F. Kabir Chowdhury, reports BSS.

In a message she said in his death the country had lost a talented son of the cultural arena.

Prof Jahanara conveyed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

What's on today

BCCI Depositors Assoc

A meeting of the BCCI Depositors Association will be held today (Thursday) at 11 am in front of the BCCI Bank premises to assess the prevailing situation.

BARC

The 23rd Council Meeting of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) will be held today (Thursday) at 2 pm at the BARC conference room.

Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Resources and Chairman of the Council Major General (Retd) M Majid-ul-Huq will preside over the meeting.

Workshop on 'rural poverty'

A national workshop on "rural poverty" begins here today (Thursday).

Organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at its premises at Agargaon Economists of BIDS will present findings of the two-year long survey covering 62 villages for analysing the trends of poverty in Bangladesh at the workshop.

Eminent economists, planners, politicians, policy makers and high officials will take part in the five academic sessions.

Lions Club of Dhaka Progati

The 19th regular meeting and iftar party of the Lions Club of Dhaka Progati will be held today (Thursday) at Sonargaon Hotel at 4 pm.

Club president Lion Gautam Saha will preside over the meeting.

. . . . and tomorrow

Chhatra League

Fine Arts Institute unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League has organised a painting competition for the juvenile on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman tomorrow (Friday).

The competition will begin at the Fine Arts Institute in three age groups.

DU History Department

A meeting of the former student of the History Department of Dhaka University will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 4.30 pm at the Seminar Room of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

The purpose of the meeting is to form Executive Committee of the proposed Alumni Association.

Weather

Dry spell to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 pm Wednesday. Met office forecasts.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius during that time, it adds.

The highest temperature, 34.6 degree Celsius, was recorded at Chuadanga on Wednesday while the lowest temperature, 12.5 degree Celsius, was reported from Dinalpur.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:07 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:10 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded from some cities and towns of the country on Wednesday were:

	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.2	22.0	83	35
Chittagong	28.9	21.3	80	81
Rajshahi	33.5	13.8	52	37
Khulna	32.5	22.5	87	58
Chuadanga	34.6	17.5	87	32
Dinalpur	30.5	12.5	48	27
Cox's Bazar	29.6	21.0	73	77
Sylhet	30.6	19.0	79	37
Jessore	33.3	21.0	-	-



CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik speaking at a party discussion on the occasion of the International Women's Day at Purana Paltan in city Wednesday. —Star photo

Prepare for future leadership, PM tells children

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked children to learn their lessons properly to prepare for future leadership of the country, reports UNB.

She was addressing a gathering of orphan children at SOS (Save Our Soul) children's village at Shyamoli in the city in the afternoon.

There are many other orphans all over the country. Begum Zia said and urged the affluent to come forward in their help.

She attended a musical programme by the children and went round different dormitories at the Shishu Palli.

A symbol of the SOS children's village was presented to

the Prime Minister.

SOS, an Austria-based organisation for care of parentless and rootless children all over the world, runs four villages in Bangladesh providing assistance to 563 children.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Women's Affairs Sarwar-i-Rahman and Project Director of the village Sheikh Niamat Ali were present.

Marriage law to be enforced strictly: Hafiz

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Wednesday said the law specifying 18 years as minimum age of marriage for girls should be strictly enforced to contain population growth in the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a discussion jointly organised by local representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, on legislative action to ensure the promotion of delayed marriage here.

The Minister underlined the need for effective social mobilisation, organising village clubs, libraries and cultural teams for carrying the message of family planning to the people to make family planning programme a success.

Hafiz said the rural development infrastructure could be built by increasing the rate of literacy.

He also mentioned that the present government had taken up pragmatic programme to educate the children of underprivileged families

ECNEC okays five more projects

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) Wednesday approved five projects involving a total outlay of Taka 1095 crore including a foreign exchange component of Taka 776.25 crore, reports BSS.

The approval was given at an ECNEC meeting presided over by its chairman Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Secretariat Cabinet Room here.

Cabinet members of the ECNEC, concerned ministers, cabinet secretaries, members of the Planning Commission and Governor of Bangladesh Bank were present, among others.

The approved projects are: Balancing, modernising, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE) project of Faridpur Sugar Mills under the Ministry of Industries.

Bara Pukuria Coal Development Project and re-approval of seven transmission line projects under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Bhaban construction project for existing 15 fire brigades under the Home Ministry, and rehabilitation of cyclone and flood damaged road project with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB) project under the Ministry of Communications.

UNB to distribute SPA services

United News of Bangladesh (UNB) has entered into an agreement to distribute Saudi Press Agency (SPA) services in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

MISSING

Bangladesh breed female dog, well groomed, missing since February 21, 1992 from Rd. No. 15a, Dhanmandi, colour light brown-white, name Alu. High reward for informations leading to recovery of the dog. Contact Tel. 501879 during office hours. German Cultural Centre.

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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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. "Alligator Pride" V-31393 from Los Angeles, ex. M. V. "Ocean Sirius" V-39B from Karachi, ex. M. V. "Pacific Arrow" V-21021 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, Hongkong have been relayed to M. V. "KOTA BUANA" V-KBN-206, Import Rotation No. 158/92, is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 13.3.92 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from "FCL" Containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

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বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়

৮৩-৮৫ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

প্রকৌশল বিভাগ

—ঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ—

নিম্নোক্ত কাজের জন্য সরকারী/আধাসরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত ১ম/২য় শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার যাহারা একটি একক টেন্ডার এ অনুলন ৫ (পাঁচ) লক্ষ টাকার নির্মাণ কাজ সাফল্যের সহিত সম্পাদন করিয়াছেন, তাহাদের নিকট হইতে সীল মোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়	আর্নেটম্যানি	টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য (অফেরত যোগ্য)
বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, বাম্বরবন শাখার বিতল বাসস্থান সম্বলিত অফিস ভবনের।			
ক) মেরামত ও নবায়ন কাজ: পূর্ত ও সেনিটারী কাজ	৬০,০০০.০০		
খ) নতুন কাজ: বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল, গুটারহেড ওয়াটার ট্যাংক ও অন্যান্য।	১,২৪,৩৪৭.৭৯		
	মোট ১,৮৪,৩৪৭.৭৯ টাকা	৫,০০০/-	২০০/-

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংকের অনুকূলে যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত আর্নেটম্যানি টেন্ডারের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। আর্নেটম্যানি ব্যতীত টেন্ডার সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

২৮-০৩-৯২ হই পর্বন্ত সকল কর্মদিবসে প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, বিকেবি, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৮৩ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা এবং বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক, জোনাল কার্যালয়, ১৫০, জুবিলী রোড, চট্টগ্রাম হইতে টেন্ডার সিভিলিয়ান ক্রয় করা যাইবে। টেন্ডার সিভিলিয়ান ক্রয় করার পূর্বে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজ পত্রের মূল কপি অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন পূর্বক অনুমতি গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে।

(১) ৫ (পাঁচ) লক্ষ টাকার কার্যাদেশের মূল কপি এবং (২) উক্ত কাজ সম্পাদনের সার্টিফিকেট।

(৩) তালিকাভুক্তির দলিল পত্র।

২৯-০৩-৯২ তারিখ বেলা ১১-০০ ঘটিকা পর্বন্ত গুডমার প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, বিকেবি, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৮৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা কর্তৃক সকল টেন্ডার পূহীত হইবে এবং ৩ দিনই বেলা ১১-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় টেন্ডার দাতাদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন টেন্ডার খোলা হইবে।

কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে বিকেবি সর্বনিম্ন টেন্ডার গ্রহণ না করার অথবা যে কোন বা সকল টেন্ডার প্রত্যাহান করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

(কে. এম. আহিনুল হক) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী।

Biswas wants stronger ties with Muslim ummah

Suraiika assures more aid for Bangladesh children

The Jeddah-based International Islamic Relief Organisation would provide more assistance to the orphan children of Bangladesh and to the Myanmar Muslim refugees, reports BSS.

This was stated by the Director of the International Islamic Relief Organisation, Sheikh Abdul Baqui Mohamed Ash Suraiika, when he called on President. Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban on Wednesday.

Suraiika apprised President Biswas that his organisation had donated Taka one crore in aid of the Myanmar Muslim refugees and assured him of giving medicines worth Taka one lakh per month along with six doctors, for providing medicare to the distressed people.

He also informed that his organisation is running 98 orphanages throughout the country where about two thousand one hundred orphans have given shelter.

He also stressed the need

Additional five thousand children who became orphan after the tidal surge that hit last year in the coastal belt had also been sheltered in those orphanages, he said.

The director informed the President that six health centres would look after the medicare of the orphans and each of the orphan would receive Taka nine hundred per month for their livelihood.

The organisation has also plan to increase more aids and help for the poor and the distressed children of Bangladesh, he said.

President Biswas appreciated the laudable efforts of the Islamic Relief Organisation and hoped that through this endeavour the distressed people would be benefitted.

President Biswas said, Islam has given more emphasis to serve the distressed humanity including orphans and advised all to follow the teaching of Islam.

He also stressed the need

for greater unity of the Muslim ummah and hoped the cooperation among themselves would strengthen to meet the problems faced by them.

Later Suraiika handed over two hundred tons of dates to the President as gift for the people of Bangladesh in this holy month of Ramzan from his organisation. He also presented a complete set of Quran and the history of Islamic world to the President.

President Biswas thanked the Islamic Relief Organisation for the gift and hoped this co-operation would continue in future for the people of Bangladesh.

National Professor, Dr Nurul Islam and Secretary to the President Ataul Hoq were present.

Thursday

Special Session

- 3-15 am Special session on World Cup Cricket
- 3-30 am India vs News Zealand
- 11.15am England vs South Africa
- 5-50 Mahey Ramzan
- 6.30 Jiboner Alo: Religious programme
- 7-05 Debate
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Drama of the week
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Drama series: Twin Peaks
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-40 Friday's programme summary and Closing

Clarification

State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan on Wednesday provided a clarification on an article headlined "40,000 Rohingyas mix with locals" published in the March 9 issue of The Daily Star.

The State Minister said in the statement that he actually said "40,000 refugees stayed outside the refugee camps".

"The question of mixing of the refugees with the local people did not arise," the statement added.



DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Miah inaugurated a seminar at the conference room of the National Academy for Educational Management in the city recently. Bangladesh Forum for Educational Development organised the seminar.