

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Buses and Bus Rides

by P. Huq

Every individual, psychologists will enlighten you, has a secret nightmare, be it related to practical life, or be it hypothetical. And each individual hopes, that nightmare will never come true. But a bus ride, in the throbbing city of Dhaka, will convince the most practical, that his worst nightmare has come true. With a bonus. For how else can he explain the terror he feels in his very bones, as the driver of the bus, or more likely the 'helper' tears down the road, milling with rickshaws, cars, humans, cows, pushcarts, trucks, etc. etc. as if his very life depended on it? The life of the hapless passenger, surely depends on the 'driver' who

is the least concerned about the whole situation. Driving is such joy, is his positive outlook towards the natter and never mind if at the end of a ten minute bus ride, you alight absolutely convinced, your life span has lessened by at least 10 years. As you are sandwiched between 75 and a half odd people, no smiles please, the half refers to the 'half ticket' the conductor will



lustily yell at the 6 year old, about to be crushed into oblivion, you have the distinct impression, your nightmare has not only come true, you are about to depart the cruel world, without even a chance to say goodbye. Goodbyes are not possible, when your upper half is the envy of the pack of sardines, and your lower half is vehemently protesting at the countless toms standing on it, as if they owned them. Tickets are given, to the 80 odd passengers, and about a 110 are squeezed into the bus meant for a mere 35 passengers. Into's not the only alternative, apparently, for the ingenious conductor, for he has also managed to put a couple of dozen of the passengers on the roof of the rickety vehicle and another dozen or so, on the bumper at the back. Sheer magic, would be your reaction, if you were not at the receiving end of this magic. You have people sitting on you, under you, beside you and all over you, jostling, pushing, shoving and shout-

ing at the top of their lungs, giving directions to the driver, asking to be dropped off at unscheduled stops, or just advice in general, to anyone who will listen. And all the while you have to hang on to your belongings, your pickpockets and cheats and a moments carelessness will make you pay very dearly indeed.

The idea of the bus is to facilitate the general public in commuting or moving about the city; but this is a concept which has totally evaded the 'authorities' who will spend lacs of taka, on other more 'important' works but certainly not on mundane matters such as a few hundred extra buses for the beleaguered transport industry. And you are at the mercy of both the 'authorities' and the bus drivers.

For once the bus driver has you in his clutches, or worst still in his bus, he has a very definite idea where HE wants you to go. Whether you reach the destination in one piece or not, depends on the mood of the driver. And not only does YOUR destination depend on him,

apparently the destination of the innocent pedestrian and others using the facility of the public road, also depends on the whims of this man. The demon depends on the whims of this man, demon himself would be put to shame at the determination of this chap. The bus, blasting its horn and its way through and at the traffic in general and the pedestrians and rickshaws in particular, strikes terror in the hearts of the ordinary mortal. While all the time, the arm of the law stands nonchalantly, pretending to look the other way, as the bus or the minibus, happily careens all over the place, killing here, maiming there, all in the 'line of duty' of course. The definition of duty certainly takes of a totally original meaning with this little man, the notorious bus-driver. And if you want that bus ride, you had better resign yourself to fate, or better still to his caprices and keep your fingers tightly crossed. And your eyes shut, even tighter.

Japanese cultural team presents musical programme

A Jamdani sari-clad Mika Kimura, member of a visiting Japanese cultural delegation, singing 'nightingale' at an introduction ceremony in Dhaka Tuesday.

Lioness Club of Dhaka Banani organised the function at Hotel Sonargaon Tuesday evening to introduce the guests from the Kirara-no-Kai, a Tokyo-based voluntary organisation, devoted to help the people of Bangladesh, particularly the handicapped Bangladeshi children.

The four-member Kirara-no-Kai delegation arrived Thursday for a week-long trip to Dhaka. The one-and-a-half-year-old organisation has decided to open two schools for handicapped children in Dhaka city and at Savar.

HBFC borrowers assoc team meets Majibur

A delegation of the association of the borrowers of House Building Finance Corporation called on State Minister for Finance Majibur Rahman Tuesday in Dhaka.

The delegation at the meeting requested the minister to amend various erratic policies of the corporation and to take measures against irregularities.

The minister gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation of due consideration of their demands.

Chairman of the borrowers association M A Mohaimin, General Secretary Md Fazlul Huq and Financial Affairs Secretary of the association Ali Asghar were present at the meeting.

Wednesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Gecia
- 5.30 Tarunya
- 6.00 Sports programme : Zillet World Sports Special
- 6.30 Moder Garab Moder Asha Pallab
- 7.05 News in Bangla
- 8.00 Writer Taley Taley
- 9.00 Film: MacGyver
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Shatabdir Prantey Darley
- 11.30 Khabar /The News
- 11.40 Thursday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

STAR TV

WEDNESDAY

- 06.00 am Awake on the Wild Side
- 09.00 MTV Power Pack
- 10.00 Most Wanted
- 11.00 Unplugged: Paul Simon
- 12.00 pm Awake on the Wild Side
- 03.00 VJ Danny McGill
- 06.00 VJ Sophiya
- 08.00 The Day in Rock
- 08.10 VJ Sophiya
- 08.30 MTV Rockumentary
- 09.00 MTV Power Pack
- 10.00 MTV's Most Wanted
- 11.00 Unplugged: Paul Simon
- 12.00 am VJ Danoy McGill
- 03.00 VJ Sophiya
- 06.00 The Day in Rock
- 06.10 V Sophiya
- 05.30 MTV Rockumentary

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

STAR Plus

- 06.00am Attitudes
- 07.00 Everyday Worout
- 07.30 Kingdom Adventure
- 08.00 Animated Classics
- 09.00 Worrel Gunnidge
- 09.30 Dr Fad Show
- 10.00 Children's Room
- 10.30 Jupiter Moon
- 11.00 Attitudes
- 12.00pm Parent Survival Guide
- 12.30 Mother's Day
- 01.00 Santa Barbara
- 02.00 Donahue
- 03.00 Eye on Asia First Moon
- 03.30 Video visits
- 04.00 Madeline Cooks
- 4.30 Mac and Mutley
- 05.00 Adventures on Kythera
- 05.30 Out of Control
- 06.00 Jupiter Moon
- 06.30 Beyond Tomorrow
- 07.00 Earth Summit: The Plant Hunters
- 08.00 St Elsewhere
- 08.50 Hollywood Stars
- 09.00 Sinners: The Tigers & The Pussyot
- 11.00 The Bold & the Beautiful
- 11.30 Fame, Fortune and Romance
- 12.00am Hill Street Blues
- 01.00 Science Fiction: Mind Killer
- 02.30 Just for the Record
- 03.00 Rude Health
- 03.30 The Bold and the Beautiful
- 04.00 Sally Jessy Rapheat: Sally's unsung hero awards
- 05.00 Santa Barbara: long-running soap opera

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)



A member of Japanese cultural delegation rendering song. — Star photo

'Play positive role for country's development'

Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury Tuesday called upon politicians, professionals and social workers to play their positive role for the development of the society as well as the country, reports BSS.

"Good work by anybody is certainly a matter for self-satisfaction but it goes a long way in contributing to the national endeavours for development," he said.

Prof Chowdhury was addressing as the chief guest at a reception and award giving ceremony organised by Vikrampur Sangskritik Goshthi in cooperation with Swarabithi Theatre.

President of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Shahjahan Miah and Goshthi's Adviser Aminul Islam addressed the function as special guests. Swarabithi's president Muhammad Ali Sultan was in the chair. Seventeen distinguished persons of Vikrampur were given reception and awards for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields. They include former Presidential Adviser and the Chairman of the Public Service Commission Dr Yuzuddin Ahmad for teaching, Dr Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University for literature, Shafuluddin Ahmad for journalism, Abdul Jabbar Khan for film, Md Abdul Illyc for painting, Alauddin Ali for music, Tele Samad for acting, Lailla Hasan for dance, Kazi Ajmeri Zaman Reshma for social reform and Ahaj Mohammad Kalmullah for social work.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said due honour should be given to the deserving persons for their selfless contribution to the society and called upon the distinguished persons of

Workshop on 'Strategic Planning' begins

A two-day workshop on "Strategic Planning" in agriculture began at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) here Tuesday, reports UNI.

About 60 senior agri-experts from home and abroad are attending the seminar, inaugurated by Executive Vice Chairman of BARC Dr M Sujayet Ullah Chowdhury. The experts will focus their two-day deliberation on varied agricultural issues, including achievement of agri-research, review of the strategic plan of BARC and resources and constraints of agricultural research in Bangladesh.

Dr Nurul Huda Award introduced in DU Economics Department

Economics Department of Dhaka University will introduce "Dr Nurul Huda Award" for the students who will stand first in BSS (Hons) in the department every year, reports UNB.

Widow of Dr U K S Mirza Nurul Huda handed over a check of Tk 1.10 lakh to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Wakil Ahmed at a function in the department Tuesday marking introduction of the award. The award will comprise Tk 6,000 and a certificate. The amount will be increased by 40 per cent after every five years.

Bank for fishermen demanded

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Khudra Matsahajibi Zelay Samity at a press conference Tuesday demanded establishment of a bank for the fishermen to help provide them financial assistance to meet their various needs.

It also demanded exemption of the water-tax and long term loan from the government for purchasing modern fishing equipments. The press conference held at its central office at Tophkhana Road Tuesday afternoon was addressed by its General Secretary Anwar Hossain while it was attended among others by Abdur Razzak Talukdar, President, Israel Pandit and Mollah Abul Kalam Azad, Vice-presidents, Lutfar Rahman Bachchu, Joint Secretary and Khulna Divisional Secretary Mamin Ali Sardar.

The General Secretary said that the fishermen in the country were facing acute hardships though the country earned huge foreign currency by exporting fish. The limited government assistance for the needy fishermen were not reaching them because of some corrupt officials.

He also mentioned that the fishermen had now become hostages to the pirates and the kcsae.

The press conference, demanded stern measures against the pirates to salvage the innocent fishermen.

The other demands of the zelay samity include, inclusion of the representatives of the organisation in the central co-ordination committee of the project for rehabilitating the fishermen.

Attack on Sanaullah Noori's residence slated

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Tuesday condemned and protested the recent attack on the residence of Chairman, Bangladesh Council on Editors and Editor, Dainik Janata, Sanaullah Noori by a group of unruly youths, reports BSS.

The DUJ President and the General Secretary M Shahjahan Mia and Altaf Mahmud in a statement said Noori was a professional journalist and the journalist community was aggrieved at the incident of attack and pching of stones at his residence.

They said the incident of attack on the residence of a journalist or Editor was undesirable in any democratic state.

The DUJ leaders demanded to identify the attackers immediately and take punitive action against them.

In another statement the DUJ leaders also condemned bomb attack on the Dainik Bhorer Kagaj at night.

They said attack on a newspaper amounted to strike on healthy growth of journalism and freedom of the press.

Notre Dame Get-together June 5

A Get-together of the Alumni of Notre Dame will be held on June 5th at 5:30 pm at the college premises, says a press release.

Entry coupons single Tk 50/- and couple Tk 100/- are obtainable from the college counter.

All ex-Notre Damians are requested to join.

Hajj team arrives Jeddah

A six member hajj delegation headed by State Minister for Religious Affairs, Prof M A Mannan arrived Jeddah Monday, according to message received here, reports BSS.

The State Minister was received at Jeddah Airport by the Advisor of the Minister for Pilgrims and Endowments Mir Abdullah Boqus. Bangladesh Ambassador in Riyadh Abdul Momen Chowdhury and the consul General at Jeddah Syed Khawja Sharjil Hassan were present at the airport.

The other member of the Hajj delegation are Shamsuddin Ahmed MP, Ukil Abdus Sattar MP, Dr M A Majid, President B M A, Hajera Nazul, Principal Badrunnessa Government College and Maulana Mir Habibur Rahman. During his stay at Saudi Arabia, Mannan is expected to call on Prince Majed Bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Makkah, Prince Majid Bin Abdul Aziz, Governor of Madinah, Minister for Pilgrims and Endowments and OIC Secretary General and the President of IDB.

The State Minister will also meet the owner of the houses hired for Bangladesh Hajis and will have talk with them to ensure the interest and welfare of the Hajis during Hajj operation in Makkah and Madinah. Prof M A Mannan attended the Holy Quaba washing ceremony which started before sun-rise Tuesday.

'Session jam to be removed within two years'

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar Tuesday called upon the students to work for mitigating the sufferings of the common people of the country, reports BSS.

The Education Minister was addressing a gathering of teachers, students and guardians of Mohammadpur central college here Tuesday afternoon.

Presided over by Principal of the college Prof M Shariful Islam, the gathering was addressed by President of the Principals Council, Principal Mokarram Hossain, Chairman of Rajshahi Board Gazi Abdus Salam and local BNP leader Ahsanul Haq Shetu.

The Education Minister said the government would remove session jam within two years for restoring academic atmosphere on the campus. Barrister Sircar said BNP government was contemplating to establish private university in the country for improving the standard of higher education. The violence on the campus will be curbed in the greater interest of the country, he added.

Tk 60cr programme taken to reduce load-shedding

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain Tuesday said that the government had taken a Taka 60 crore emergency programme to reduce the load-shedding by overhauling and maintaining the non-functioning power plants, reports BSS.

The government has allocated the amount from its own funds to implement the programme, he said. The Minister was speaking at the fifth meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry at the Sangsad Bhaban here.

The meeting discussed the overall situation of the energy sector and reviewed the progress of the steps recently taken by the government for the improvement of power sector.

Tariqul leaves for Delhi

Tariqul Islam Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, left Dhaka Tuesday for New Delhi to attend a seminar entitled "South Asian Seminar on Women's Challenges for 1990", reports BSS.

The Indian government in cooperation with the UNICEF has organised the seminar to formulate strategies to address the development needs of women in the countries of South Asia in the decade of 1990.

Islam is leading a four-member delegation in the seminar.

Give priority to poverty alleviation in budget: CPB

Dr Mosharraf Hossain informed that the government had already introduced the incentive package and punitive measures in Power Development Board and Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority to reduce the unbearable system loss and realise arrear bills. The government would implement the programmes strictly.

The meeting was attended by Monzurul Hasan Munshi MP, Imran Ahmed MP, Abdul Awal Miah, Abdul Mukit Khan MP, Sarafuddin Khusrul MP, Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Mohammad Ali, Chairman of Power Development Board M Faisur Razzak, Chairman of Petroleum Corporation M Fazlul Haq and Chairman of DESA Sayed Kamrul Alam.

He was speaking at a workers meeting of the party at Motijheel. He also demanded the trial of Golam Azam and urged the government to check the prices of essentials and terrorism.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent Met office in a weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Wednesday) forecasts rain or thunder shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra and Rangpur.

Weather is likely to remain dry elsewhere over the country. Day temperature will also remain nearly unchanged all over the country, Met office forecasts.

Maximum temperature in the country 39.9 degree Celsius, was recorded in Chuadanga while the country's minimum, 20.6 degree Celsius was reported from Bogra Tuesday.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:43 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:11 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/ towns recorded Tuesday were:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature | | Humidity | |
|--------------|-------------|------|----------|------|
| | Max | Min | 9 am | 6 pm |
| Dhaka | 35.5 | 27.0 | 78 | 68 |
| Chittagong | 33.0 | 27.3 | 79 | 74 |
| Rajshahi | 39.4 | 25.0 | 79 | 57 |
| Khulna | 37.2 | 27.8 | | |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.5 | 27.5 | 75 | 75 |
| Rangpur | 33.6 | 25.0 | 89 | 72 |
| Barisal | 34.5 | 27.8 | 82 | 79 |
| Faridpur | 36.0 | 26.0 | 81 | 68 |

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Dr Nurul Huda Award introduced in DU Economics Department

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