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 came 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 matter 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 wil

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. Good byes 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 toes 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-

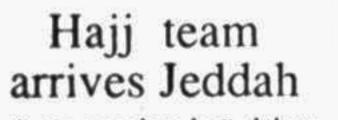
ing at the top of their lungs, giving directions to the driver, asking to be dropped off at unscheduled stops, or just advice in general, to anyone who will listen. And all the while you have to hang on to your belongings, your pickpockets and cheats and a moments carelessness will make you pay very 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 mundanc matters such as a few hundred extra buses for the beleaguered trans-

port 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 rick shaws 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, maining 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,



A six member hajf 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 Nazrul, 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 Bangladeshi Hajis and will have talk with them to ensure the interest and welfare of the Hajis during Haji 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 after-

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

even tighter.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain Tuesday said that the government had taken a Taka 60 crore emergency programme to reduce the loadshedding 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

Tariqui Islam Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Af fairs, 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 fourmember delegation in the seminar

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 unbcarable system loss and realise arrear bills. The government would implement the programmes

The meeting was attended by Monzurul Hasan Munshi MP, Imran Ahmed MP, Abdul Awal Miah, Abdul Mukit Khan MP, Sarafuddin Khusru 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.

Give priority to poverty alleviation in budget: CPB

By Staff Correspondent General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Nurul Islam Nahid Tuesday urged the government to prepare the budget giving priority to poverty alleviation and creating employment opportunities.

He was speaking at a workers meeting of the party at Motifheel.

He also demanded the trial of Golam Azam and urged the government to check the prices of essentials and terror-

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

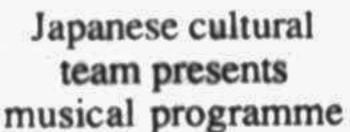
Met office in a weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Wednesday) forecasts rain or thunder shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra and Rangpur.

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 to-

morrow (Thursday) at 5:11 am. The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/ towns recorded Tuesday were:

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



A Jamdani sari-clad Mika Kimula, 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, particuarly the handicapped Bangladeshi children.

The four-member Kirarano-Kai delegation arrived Thursday for a week-long trip to Dhaka. The one-and-a-halfyear-old organisation has decided to open two schools for handicapped children in Dhaka city and at Savar.

HBFC borrowers assoc team meets Majibur

By Staff Correspondent 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 aniend various erratic policies of the corporation and to take measures against irregularities.

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

Chairman of the borrowers association M A Mohaimen. General Secretary Md Fazlul llug and Financial Affairs Secretary of the association Ali Asghar were present at the



Wednesday

Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary

News in Bangla Recitation from the

Geeta Tarunya Sports programme

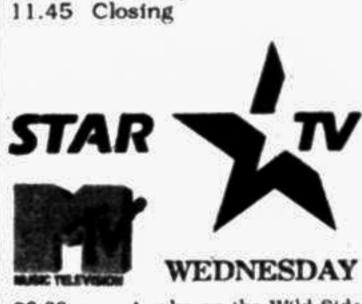
Zillet World Sports

Moder Garab Moder Pallab News in Bangla

Nritter Taley Taley 8.30 Film: MacGyver 9.00 News in English Shatabdir Prantey

Darley 11.30 Khabar /The News 11.40 Thursday's programme

summary



Awake on the Wild Side MTV Power Pack 09.00 Most Wanted Unplugged : Paul Simon 11.00

Awake on the Wide 03.00 VJ Danny McGill VJ Sophiya 06.00 The Day in Rock 08.00 08.10 VJ Sophiya 08.30 Rockumentary

MTV Power Pack 10.00 MTV's Most Wanted 12.00 am 06.00

06.00am

07.00

07.30

08,00

09.00

09.30

10.00

11.00

01.00

02.00

03.00

03.30

04.00

05.30

06.00

06.30

08.00

08.50

Unplugged: Paul Simon VJ Danov McGill VJ Sophiya The Day in Rock V Sophiya MTV Rockumentary (Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

Everyday Worout Kingdom Adventure **Animated Clasics** Worrel Gunnidge Dr Fad Show Children's Room Jupiter Moon Attitudes Parent Survival Guide 12.00pt Mother's Day Santa Barbara Donahua Eye on Asia First Moon Video visits Madelaine Cooks Mac and Mutley Adventures on Kythera Out of Control Jupiter Moon **Beyond Tomorrow** Earth Summit: The Plant Hunters St Elsewhere Hollywood Stars Sinners: The Tigers & The Pussyot The Bold & the Beautiful Fame, Fortune and

09.00 11.00 11.30 Romance Hill Street Blues 12.00am Science Fiction: Mind 01.00 Just for the Record 02.30 Rude Health 03.00 The Bold and the 03.30 Beautiful Sally Jeesy Raphest: Sally's unsung hero

Santa Barbara: long-05.00 running soap opera (Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)



Play positive role for country's development'

Vikrampur to play their role

more positively so that the fu-

ture generations could be ben-

cfited out of that. Speaking

about the development work in

Munshigani district, the

deputy leader recalled that it

was during the days of Shahid

President Ziaur Rahman that

development in electricity,

communication and other

sectors took place in the dis-

dent Shahjahan Miah listed in-

numerable problems being

faced by the people of Vikram-

pur, particularly those of the

east and middle Vikrampur,

due to the absence of neces-

constructing a bridge on the

river Dhaleshwari near Mukh-

tarpur to connect the larger

middle and eastern part of

Vikrampur with the capital

The DUJ president said

many people from Vikrampur

were holding high positions

both in the government and

outside and hoped that they

would come forward to play

their part in developing the

communication system of

Earlier, the recipients of

The function ended with

awards in their brief reactions

said they would try to devote

themselves more in their re-

staging a drama performed by

the members of the Swarabithi

Vikrampur.

spective fields.

Theatre.

He stressed the need for

sary communication facilities.

In his speech, DUJ presi-

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

Good work by anybody is certainly a matter for selfsatisfaction 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 Sujan 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 Yazuddin Ahmad for teach ing. Dr Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University for literature. Shaffuddin Ahmad for journalism, Abdul Jabbar Khan for film, Md Abdul Hye for painting, Alauddin Ali for music. Tele Samad for acting. Laila Hasan for dance, Kazi Aimeri Zaman Reshma for social reform and Alhaj Mohammad Kalimullah for social

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

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 Mirza 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 Matshajibi 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 Topkhana 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 offi-

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

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

The other demands of the zclay samity include, inclusion of the representatives of the organisation in the central coordination 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

The DUJ President and the General Secretary M Shahjahan Mia and Altal Mahmud in a statement said Noori was a professional journalist and the journalist community was aggrieved at the incident of attack and pelting 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 news-

paper 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.



Printing

Delivery

Dhaka University

Quotation for Printing Wall Calendar

Sealed quotations are invited from bonafide Off-set Printing Press/Firms for printing wall calendars for the academic year 1992-93 of the University of Dhaka. Particulars are as follows:

1. Number of pieces to : 30,000 (Thirty thousand)

be printed Size Colours

50CM X 75CM (20"X30")

Off-set paper (local or Paper to be used lapanese)

In best off-set process On or before 30th June,

Interested parties are requested to submit their rates for printing to the office of undersigned on or before June 24, 1992. The required quantity of paper for printing and design to be used in the calendar will be supplied by the University. The authorities reserve the right to cancel any quotation without assigning any reason.

Design of the calendar may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

D-303

Public Relations Officer University of Dhaka.



With its strong back-up of human resources, indepth know-how and wealth of experience, Reliance is fully geared to meet all your general insurance requirements in a fast changing world



EXPERIENCE * STRENGTH * SECURITY

RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED

BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH Phone PABX - 240105-6, 235080 Telex: 671186 RIL BJ