

Dhaka Day by Day

Rickshaw — Our National Transport!

by Parveen Anam



Somchow, the Bengali has always been confused, as to what his national dress is. A lot of controversy has been generated and debate aroused, on the form of dress, which can be rightly called 'national'.

True to his characteristic, the Bengali loves the debate and the controversy. When, but when has he been known to have reached a consensus on any issue, we the more ordinary sort tend to mutter to ourselves? Yet perhaps, there is consensus on one issue, and that is the form of transport, which can be rightfully called the national mode of transport.

How many of us, deem it worth our while, to turn around and say 'thank you' (believe it or not, it actually costs nothing) to that poor man, or probably the poor little boy, who has been pulling that rickshaw, endlessly, drenched in sweat, with hardly a solid meal in days? But are we not quick to upbraid him, if he commits the slightest mistake? He is human too, remember, though it is so easy to forget, when he moves so inhumanly, on the roads, when the tar itself is melting in the heat.

Yet, the average Dhakate, is totally at a loss,

if the rickshaw walla, suddenly decides, to go on a strike. Dhaka without rickshaws? Perish the thought. How would the Dhakate, ever get things done? We curse them, we swear at them, but how can we live without them? We need to go just around the corner, to buy the odd grocery, why bother taking the car out, especially if its the driver's day off? Hop on that rickshaw. The car has a sudden flat and the stappney is missing. Hail the nearest rickshaw. But, we have somehow, never managed to convince ourselves somewhere along the line, that that poor man, certainly deserves the dignity, owed a hard working man. Is the dignity of labour, such a difficult concept, for us in Dhaka? The trusty rickshaw is there, plying away silently, contributing nothing to the pollution, which we the educated masses meet in far off exotic places to discuss.

The rickshaw walla has never heard of Brazil, and the ozone layer, etc is as Greek to him as an air-conditioned car. He is there, any time of the day or night, unwept, unsung, carrying the millions to their destinations, without ever expecting anything in return, except that odd five taka note, which also we mostly grudge him, anyway. Why can't we sit around at a seminar or workshop, or whatever we like to call these things, and pass that resolution, resolving to declare the brightly coloured, gaudy rickshaw, a national form of transport? After all, we do have a national flower, a national song, a national bird, so why not a national transport?

Let us give the rickshaw man a bit of dignity, at some point in time. I do not think many would disagree, that the little rickshaw walla is probably one of the few men in this city, or this country of ours, who earns an honest living by the sweat of his brow. Literally.

BTV Thursday schedule table with times and program names like 'Opening announcement', 'Al-Quran', 'Programme summary'.



STAR TV Thursday schedule table with times and program names like 'World News', 'World Business Report', 'World News from London'.



A joint meeting of Dhaka City committees of Awami League, PDF and Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote was held yesterday at Taher auditorium to make June 21 hartal a success.

'Fair polls a must to consolidate democracy'

The Chief Election Commissioner, Justice Abdur Rauf Chowdhury Wednesday laid stress on preparing a correct voters list to make elections fair and meaningful, reports BSS.

King Fahd greets Biswas

King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud and the Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud who is also the Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia in separate messages greeted President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, says a PID handout.

Manu, Khowai register sharp rise

Major rivers of the country excepting the Manu and the Khowai in Meghna basin are flowing below the red mark, according to Flood Forecasting Centre of BWDP in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

Notice: The name of 'The Pakistan Inland Water Ways' (Passenger Carrier's) Association has been changed. From now on it will be called as 'Bangladesh Inland Water Ways' (Passenger Carrier's) Association.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES: The containerised cargo ex. M. V. 'BRANDENBURG' V-EM216 from Hamburg, Aarhus, Bremen, Antwerp, La Spezia, ex.M. V. 'JAHANSTADT' V-733 from Damam have been relayed to M. V. 'FONG SHIN' V-9217, Import Rotation No. 447/92, is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 17.6.92 from Singapore.

কবি 100 মোটর সাইকেল ও বাজাজ ডেভাক-এর বিনামূল্যে সার্ভিস ক্লিনিক. Advertisement for a free service clinic for Kawi 100 and Bajaj Devak motorcycles.



ARBAN posters on show. — Star photo

ARBAN poster exhibition

Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN) has organised a three-day poster exhibition on 'Posters for consciousness' at the National Art Gallery of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy from Wednesday.

Weather

Day temperature may fall

Table with columns for Cities/Towns, Temperature in Degree Celsius (Max, Min), and Humidity in Percentage (9 am, 6 pm). Lists cities like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Patuakhali, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Rangpur, Jessore.

Trader robbed of Tk 90,000

NARAYANGANJ, June 17: A yarn trader was stabbed and robbed of Tk 90,000 at Nalpathar in Rupganj upazila of the district today, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said Kabir Hossain, 32, was rushed to the General Hospital here in critical condition.

Kabir was going to Bolta from his village home at Kanchan at 9 am when a gang of about 20 miscreants attacked and knifed him before snatching the money.

The hijackers also snatched the wristwatch of the young businessman. A case has been lodged with Rupganj police.

'People's Court' verdict: BSD collects 5000 signatures

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Wednesday collected more than five thousand signatures in support of the execution of the verdict of the People's Court' Golam Azam.

BSD ran its signature campaign yesterday in Motijheel area. Expressing resentment over police interference while BSD's signature campaign Tuesday in Mohakhali, the leaders warned the government of paying the price dearly if it takes side of the Jamaat block.

The campaign was addressed by Fayed Ahmed of Combined Cultural Front, Golam Kuddus, Nasiruddin Yusuf of Group Theatre Federation, Ismail Hossain Howlader of Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, BSD leader Golam Mahmud, Abdur Razzak, Mostafa Farook and others. BSD launched the campaign on May 31.

Obituary

Jalaluddin Chowdhury, Deputy Manager, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) died of prolonged illness Wednesday. He was 44, says a press release. His Quikhwant will be held at 170, Bara Maghbazar on Friday after Asr prayers and at BPC Head Office on Saturday after Zohr prayers.

Thursday

Thursday TV schedule table with times and program names like 'Headbanger's Ball', 'Music Videos', 'The Day in Rock'.

STAR plus Thursday

STAR plus Thursday TV schedule table with times and program names like 'Hill Street Blues', 'Movie: The Treasure of Jamaica Reef', 'Just for the Record'.

What's on today . . .

Workshop on productivity International Labour Organisation (ILO), National Coordination Council on Labour Training and Samajtantrik Sramik Front will hold a two day-long workshop on 'Productivity' today (Thursday) at 10 am at 23/2 Topkhana Road.

Video workshop A video production workshop organised by AMIC and Prothashabda and sponsored by Goethe Institute will be held today (Thursday) at the Goethe Institute at 4 pm.

At Mahila Samity Theatre will stage its drama 'Rakkhushi' today (Thursday) at Mohila Samity auditorium at 7 pm.

At Guide House Theatre Topkhana will stage the play 'Deshar Manush' today (Thursday) at 7 pm at Guide House Auditorium.

. . . and tomorrow

At Engineers Institute The two day long grand national conference of engineers, agriculturalists, physicians and Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Committee will begin tomorrow (Friday) at 3 pm at the Institute of Engineers.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present as chief guest at the inauguration ceremony.

Jubo Union meeting An emergency joint meeting of the presidium and the 4th national conference preparation council of Bangladesh Jubo Union will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 7 pm at the central office of the union.

Indian HC calls on Mirza Hafiz

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K Raghunath called on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at his secretariat office Wednesday, reports BSS.

The High Commissioner stayed with the Law Minister for some time. They discussed matters of mutual interest, a PID handout said.

The Minister said that the existing friendly relation between the two countries would be further consolidated in the years to come.

"Evolve means in prevention of disaster"

State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfur Rahman Khan Wednesday said that proper and appropriate preparedness and coordinated measures to tackle disaster could help reduce the loss of life and property, reports BSS.

Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)

গ্যাস অপচয় রোধ করুন এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে বিদ্য পরিশোধ করুন

Tender Notice

Cost of Tender Schedule (Non-refundable) Earnest Money 5% of the quoted value.

Name of the offices where tender documents will be available

- 01. Accounts Department, BGSL, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla.
02. Accounts Section, BGSL, 14, Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong.
03. Transmission West, CGS, BGSL, Demra, Dhaka.

Selling dates of tender documents : 20.6.92 to 29.6.92

Name of the offices to receive and open tenders

- 01. Materials Department, BGSL, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla.
02. Regional Distribution Office, 100, Momin Road, BGSL, Chittagong.
03. BGSL, Liaison Office Wing, CGS, Demra, Dhaka.

Date & time to receive tenders : 30.6.92 till 11.00 A. M.
Date & time to opening tenders : 30.6.92 at 11.15 A. M.

BG-1:76 DFP (BA) 5553-16/6 G-758