

Dhaka Day by Day

Getting A New Passport? Try This!

By Chuckles



I went to the Passport office to get my passport renewed. Why I went for the renewal of the passport is another story; which, on this occasion, had nothing to do with travelling abroad.

I had to produce my pp for identification at a foreign bankers in Dhaka. The pp had expired a few months earlier, due to oversight (or was it under-sight?) as I did not leave the country during the last two years, and had tucked away the valuable document safely away under lock and key; only to find, at the bank, that it had expired; therefore this document was not accepted as a "valid" document for the purpose of identification. I mildly pointed out that the pp might have expired a few months ago, but I had not 'expired', and that the non-revalidated pp was sufficient to identify me, as my identity had not changed with the expiry of the passport (remember Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?). I pointed to the photo and the signature, and pleaded comparison with the live face facing them, and offered a fresh signature in the presence of the bank officer. "Sorry," they said. So I produced my valid driving licence, with photograph and signature, duly attested by the government. A Govt ID card was also not acceptable. A credit card was ignored. No, they must see the valid passport. The officer was co-operative, and made an expensive ISD telephone call in my presence to their regional office located some where in Asia. No, the big brother informed them. I was 'invalid', without an invalid passport!

I respectfully pointed out that the government of Bangladesh did not make it compulsory that 80 million of her eligible citizens must be in possession of passports, but every citizen had the right to claim a passport. I drew attention to a more potent menace. What if my valid passport were a fake? I submitted that several senior government officers would readily identify me physically, or through a certificate from a Gazetted Class 1 Officer.

Nothing worked, hence my trip to the passport office. Even my first step was wrong. There are two types of application forms, one for a new passport and the other for renewal. No, I had to get a new passport. The application was duly resubmitted as directed (application for new passport for the purpose of renewal of the expired pp), and I came out happy with a receipt promising delivery of the new pp a week later.

Next week, at the delivery counter, my new passport was not ready. So I went inside to see the officer concerned, and decided on a new stratagem: to use the equivalent of my retired rank, status, and designation, that is, the designation of a senior post in the ministry. It worked like magic, and each sentence from the other and began or ended with a 'Sir'. The courteous officer (earlier also he had displayed infinite patience under tremendous pressure in the presence of hordes of swarming applications or their agents) got up from the chair and personally retrieved my file, and sent me to one of his assistants duly escorted by a policeman on duty. That was VIP treatment, and

it was a pleasant surprise. During the next hour my physical exertion going up and down the three floors exceeded a week's morning walk; each time accompanied by an assistant to an officer for signature or consultation. I had slyly asked the sr asst whether the 'hold-up' (a menacing term these days) was due to an 'objection' or 'clarification'. Since I had attached several old passports pasted together, no one had the time to examine properly the continuity dates. It took me less than a minute to 'clarify' the background to the satisfaction of the 'authority'.

At last I was escorted to the section where the new passports are written, with the instruction that the pp was to be issued the same day on top priority basis. I was kindly offered a seat, to wait.... I waited and waited, and watched with interest the passing show. There were about a dozen tables, with an official at each table working furiously. In this section there were three barricades, the main entrance being guarded by a policeman in uniform. In contradiction, at each table there were at least half a dozen visitors/applicants hovering over the harassed assistant, and this crowd was changing every minute. I wondered if all were VIP cases.

After waiting for 45 minutes I sought permission of the officer to go out for a cup of tea (and a shave). When I returned after an hour, I was rather surprised to find that my new passport was ready. After more conducted tours of the tables and the floors for signatures, approvals, entries, and what not, I came out with my new passport tightly clutched in my hand (and the old passports in my bag, as my friends had advised me to take these back).

Thank you, Passport Office, for a highly impressive demonstration of super efficiency (passport in a day!). I must confess my admiration and pay tribute to the officers and staff of this grossly overworked office, with a dozen faces glaring down their necks, and hundreds milling around in the corridors. A visit to the Passport office belies the allegation that the efficiency in the govt offices is low.

With thousands going abroad to work, the demand for passports is high. A number of additional rooms is under construction on the second floor, which would reduce congestion to a considerable extent. But a small private residential building is not designed to cater to servicing several hundred visitors a day. As for traffic system design and control inside the office, it is a mad house (with our disdain for formalities, and love for getting familiar within the first five minutes).

There should be a large number of counters in a big hall, and the movement of all visitors must be confined to the counter area. None should be allowed inside the office working area. The staff cannot concentrate on their job if pestered by visitors every minute. For interview with the officers, in other countries, several cubicles are available. Sometimes some of the counters are manned by officers.

Our resources are limited, but our hopes and ambitions are beyond reality. We are willing to pay the price for achieving our goals.

Who says there is corruption in our country? I did not have to spend a single extra Takal!

City dwellers experience Pahela Sraiban

City dwellers yesterday experienced the Pahela Sraiban amidst heavy downpour and a cool weather marked by patchy clouds, reports UNB.

Bidding farewell to the month of Ashar which witnessed less than normal rain this year, they welcomed the heavy shower as though it submerged several roads and low lying areas in the capital.

The day broke with an overcast sky and soon came the rain disrupting the early morning movement on the roads.

In the afternoon, the rain came again with greater intensity sending the sun behind the clouds and almost halting the normal life in the metropolis.

Met office recorded the highest rainfall of 66 mm in the city and forecast of further heavy shower.

Lankan Defence Secretary calls on Rahman

Sri Lankan Defence Secretary, General S C Ranatunga made a courtesy call on Defence Secretary Anisur Rahman at his office recently, reports BSS.

He stayed with Rahman for some time.

The Sri Lankan Defence Secretary visited Bangladesh as leader of the civil aviation delegation of his country, according to an ISPR press release.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alfred K David was also present on the occasion.

Sultan Hossain made BPC Chairman

Justice Sultan Hossain Khan assumed the office of the Chairman, Bangladesh Press Council on July 16, says a press release.



Born in 1925 in the district of Jhalakati, he obtained his graduation with honours and MA in Economics from the Dhaka University. He took his LLB from the same University in 1951. He joined the Bar in 1955. He was appointed the Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh in early 1990 and held the position till December, 1990.

PDB system loss comes down

System loss of PDB has come down to 27 per cent while it is 35 per cent in the DESA zone, the Energy Minister told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a written question during question hour, Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said country's estimated demand for electricity is 1700 megawatt a day while the generation is 1600 megawatt.

No veterinary doctors in 300 thanas

Bangladesh Dairy Owners Association yesterday demanded reformation in the livestock policy incorporating necessary steps to look into the multifarious problems of this vital sector, reports UNB.

Leaders of the association regretted at a press conference here this afternoon that the livestock remained a neglected sector although 13 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings came from it.

They said 10 per cent of the total livestock valued at Tk 1400 crore died every year but there is no veterinary doctors in 300 thanas.

The association demanded that the government should appoint 6 veterinarians in each thana and semi mobile medical teams to combat livestock diseases and ensure supply of veterinary medicines.

It also demanded setting up of a livestock development bank in each thana to provide loans to the dairy farm owners.

President of the association Marshal Shah Alam read out a written statement at the press conference held at Jatiya Press Club.

Vice-Presidents of the association Hajee Mohammad Ahsan, Sheikh Mohammad Qutuyum, Lovely Rahman and treasurer Kazi Iqbal Farook were present.

The country at present produces 12 lakh tons of milk against the demand of 90 lakh tons.



Zahiruddin Khan (extreme left), Minister for Planning is addressing a discussion meeting on Budget 1992-93 organised by Remains Business and Professional Forum on July 15, 1992 at Hotel Sonargaon. Syed Alamgir Zafar, Coordinator of the meeting, Dr Mashur Rahman, Chairman, MBR, and Dr Atiur Rahman of BIDS are also seen in the picture.

N dists to get gas after completion of Jamuna Bridge

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that natural gas would be supplied to all the northern districts of the country in phases after completion of the Jamuna bridge, reports BSS.

Rotary Club observes tree plantation programme

Rotary Club of Dhaka North has launched a massive tree plantation programme in different parts of the country under its Environment Improvement Scheme, says a press release.

As part of the programme President of the Club Aftab ul Islam and Secretary S Abdul Hakim planted a large number of saplings at village Bymail under Gazipur district in co-operation with the members of the Rotary Village Corps - RVC of the area.

Director, Community Services Mchboob Chowdhury and past president A K M Rafiqul Islam also planted a number of saplings.



Replying to a private members' resolution moved by Advocate Khairul Anam, a treasury bench member, the Minister said despite government's sincerity gas could not be supplied to all the districts of the country mainly due to economic and technical reasons.

He said that on completion of Jamuna Bridge, which includes the provision for gasoline, would enable the government to supply natural gas in the vast area of the northern districts.

The Minister who agreed to the opposition members' assurance.

The Minister said Lakkhipur would be supplied with gas by the year 1993-94.

The second death anniversary of Husyen Toffazal Imam, former General Manager of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) will be observed in Dhaka today, reports UNB.

A milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayer at his Indira Road residence.

Special prayers will also be offered at his mazar.

Tk 283.28 cr gas bills unpaid

Unpaid gas bills amounted to Tk 283.28 crore in the last fiscal year, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain informed parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a written question, he said of the total outstanding bill, Tk 218.72 was lying with government and autonomous organisations while the rest Tk 64.56 crore was due from private consumers.

The minister said the authorities had taken all measures to realise the gas bills.

'Govt sympathetic towards transport workers' demand'

The Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Mirza Abbas MP, said in Dhaka yesterday that the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was determined to solve the accumulated problems in phases, reports BSS.

He was addressing a big transport workers rally at the Gabaal Bus Terminal here in the morning. The meeting was also addressed by the representatives of owners association and leaders of the workers.

The Mayor said the government was always sympathetic towards their demands.

Mirza Abbas said all the problems in the transport sector would be solved gradually in the public interest.

Obituary

CHITTAGONG, July 16: Zibonna Khatun, mother of Syed Serajul Haq, an industrialist, died of old age complications in a city hospital here yesterday, her family sources said today, reports BSS. She was 82.

Happy Birthday To
Ifaat Moni
From:
Baba, Ma

Happy Birthday
Javed
Papa, Amma & Dadi

In Memorium
Late A M A Quader (Moni)
We remember you on your second death anniversary.
Mahmud, Saleh, Kabir, Lenin, Salma Khanam, Shama, Shati, Sheta, Shabnam, Tia

Re-notification for Office Hire

6,000-7,000 square feet office space is urgently required on priority basis at Motijheel, Dilkusha, Purana Paltan, Naya Paltan, Segun Bagicha, Shantinagar, Kakrail, Elephant Road, Kawran Bazar, Malibag, Maghbar, Dhanmondi and adjacent areas of Dhaka city for Directorate of Patent, Design & Trade Mark (Patent Office), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Industries. Interested persons are requested to send their proposals stating description of the house and rate of rental to the undersigned immediately. House owners of other areas in Dhaka city, besides the above areas, many also send proposals. There must be provision for keeping a microbus.

Md. Ismail Patwari
Administrative Officer
Directorate of Patent, Design & Trade Mark (Patent Office)
42/43, Purana Paltan (3rd floor)
Dhaka - 1000
Phone: 235541/236703

DFP (G) -13640-9/7
G-882

Steps soon to enliven sick textile mills

State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan told Jatiya Sangsad Thursday that steps were being taken to revitalise the sick textile mills to provide quality clothes to the export-oriented garment industries, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Sharif Uddin Ahmed (AL-Habiganj), Mannan said the number of sick textile mills was now 356.

The State Minister, replying to a question from M Abdus Shahid (AL-Moulavibazar), informed the House that the BTMC-controlled textile mills had incurred a financial loss of Taka 337.40 lakh in 1991-92 (till February 1992) due to power disruption and Taka 170.30 lakh due to workers strike.

4,000 entrepreneurs get registration

More than 4,000 entrepreneurs, including 33 foreigners, were given registration in the last financial year for establishing industries in the country, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan during question hour in parliament yesterday. In reply to a written question, he said 18,387 small and 95,533 cottage industries had so far been established in the country with BSCIC assistance.



Friday Morning session

- 8-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 8-10 News in Bangla
- 8-15 Amra Natun
- 8-40 Cartoon Film
- 9-10 Campus
- 9-30 Film Show
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-05 Moner Mukurey
- 11-15 Documentary
- 12-30 Programme summary of the evening session Closing

Evening session

- 3-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 3-10 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 3-15 Alor Diashary
- 3-40 Bengali Film
- 5-10 News in Bangla Remaining part of Bengali film
- 6-30 Malanchaw
- 7-15 Programme in memory of Sayed Ismail Hossain Shirajee
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Musical programme
- 9-00 Dristikon
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Drama series: L. A. Law
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-40 Saturday's programme summary
- 11-45 Closing

Weather

Temperature likely to fall

By Staff Correspondent

Moderate rain or showers likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Khulna division during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday).

Day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degrees Celsius over the country, the Met office forecast, and no marked change in weather is observed in the next two days.

Heavy rainfall warning: moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Patuakhali, Barisal, Khulna, Faridpur and Dhaka.

Yesterday (Thursday) the country experienced rainfall at many places. Dhaka recorded the highest of 66 mm rainfall in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm while Rangpur 41 mm, Chandpur 50 mm, Madaripur 31 mm, Majdicourt 25 mm, Barisal 18 mm, Rajshahi 9 mm, Rangpur 3 mm and Bogra had 2 mm of rainfall.

The maximum of 33.0 degree Celsius was reported from Rangamati yesterday and the minimum of 23.8 degree was reported from Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6.49 pm and the sun rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.21 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	27.1	25.8	98	89
Chittagong	31.6	24.8	78	80
Rajshahi	31.0	24.4	93	85
Khulna	30.5	25.4	87	88
Sylhet	28.7	23.8	92	85
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.4	74	85
Jessore	31.5	26.3	-	-
Dinajpur	28.5	24.0	90	83

Metalex Corporation Ltd. (BSEC)

99, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur

Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Metalex Corporation Ltd., from the bonafide manufacturers for the supply of the following items:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Cost of Tender Schedule	Terms	Closing dt and time	Opening dt and time	Source
1.	MCL/CD(P)/28(4)/92-93.	MS Armature Shaft, Regulator Cover & Base Plate, Alu. Condenser Cabinet, Elect. Regulator, Rotary Switch, Canopy, Name Plate, Rubber items etc.	Tk.200/- (Two hundred) only. (Non-refundable)	Free delivery at factory site Tongi	27-7-92 at 11-00 am	27-7-92 at 11-30 am	Local

Documents are available during office hours except on opening date on cash payment from: i) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhaban, 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. ii) Cash Section, Metalex Corporation Ltd., 99 Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur.

N. B. No Tender documents will be sold on the opening day of tender.

No. BSEC/PRD/007
DFP (BA) 6189-8/7

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