

Dhaka Day by Day

At Home in the Sky

by S Bari



Those of us who fly on our national carrier have one or more of the following reasons at heart. One: it's the only airline we can afford. Two: no one else flies the convoluted route that we require for this particular trip. Three: we harbour deep within us a patriotic impulse when it comes to buying tickets, an impulse we regret the minute we reach the check-in counter prior to our memorable flight.

The man behind the counter looks impassively at his computer screen and assures us we have no booking. This is after reservations have been reconfirmed the required 32 times, and the office peons have collectively spent 15 hours in line at the airlines office.

Lists are checked, desks are thumped, attempts at sweet helpless smiles are made, and finally the powers that be take pity. With a magnanimous smile, the official allows the poor passengers to check-in; we find ourselves thanking him for the privilege we have paid for.

The airlines runs a special course for its employees on this sensitive system. "How to make the passengers feel you are doing them a favour." The trick is to smile at the passenger when he requests some essential item, such as his boarding card, and to continue to respond this way. After an appropriate amount of minutes have passed, the official must languidly produce the desired item and hand it to the passenger with the same mixture of condescension and paternalism as God handing Moses the Ten Commandments. The same technique can be applied to serving orange juice.

Bengalis being the intellectual leaders of the region, we expect our airline personnel to excel at this tactic. And indeed they do. So benignly do they smile as they show us to our aircraft after a nonchalant 6-hour delay, that we almost thank them for having allowed us to spend the extra time in Kuwait's charmless airport.

Once in the air, stewards and stewardesses show us their second lesson in airline com-

portment school: "Make the passenger feel at home." This is in accordance with the advertising motto of the carrier, which bills it as "your home in the sky." We never knew how literally they meant it.

With a cheerful disregard for protocol, the crew tell each other about their gall bladder operations and their troubles with their in-laws while they lean over us with trays of chicken biryani. It is heartwarming to know that the airhostess relocates three Italians in order to make space for a young child, but I hardly think the Italians appreciated being shifted to Smoking.

Not that there is much distinction between Smoking and Non-smoking. Co-passengers puff away as if at a tobacco growers' convention. The airhostess smiles indulgently, fully aware that anything she says will be shrugged off. When the speakers address us repeatedly as "Ladies and Gentleman," with a pronounced emphasis on the singular form of the latter, I look in vain for the sole gentleman on board, but cannot see for the thick haze of smoke. Just like home.

Despite the fact that we are all perfectly aware of regulations, and the pilot has reminded us five times that we are not to stand up till the plane comes to a complete standstill, our national airlines is unique in its post-landing scene.

No sooner have the wheels kissed the tarmac than the click of unfastening seatbelts fills the cabin. While the crew watch mesmerized as if this has never happened before, passengers leap from their seats and engage in whatever essential business they need to finish before the plane stops. Overhead lockers spill open, aisles fill up for the twenty-minute wait before the doors are even pushed up. I know of no other airlines that lets its passengers treat the plane with so much familiarity.

The next time the patriotic urge to fly national catches me by the wallet, I tell myself it's because Biman has the smoothest landings. Honest: Try it and see for yourself.

'Resist distortion of Liberation War history'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting on Tuesday called upon all to resist distortion of the history of the country as well as the Liberation War.

They alleged that the anti-liberation forces were active in distorting the facts with a view to making their existence in the country secured.

The meeting organised by the Rasel Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad on the occasion of the 17th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was addressed among others by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Advocate Nazma Akhtar, Talukder Mohammad Jahangir and Nasima Montu with Rakibur Rahman in the chair.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said Bangabandhu's aim was to separate religion from the politics as the dishonest politicians often use religion in serving their political interest. This practice was still going, he added.

Prof Chowdhury blamed the government for cooperating with the anti-liberation elements and said the government's stand on Golem Azam issue was not expected by the nation. The government had not yet withdrawn the cases against the 24 leaders of the Gano Adalat, he added.

Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu said the present government's activities did not differ with the autocratic government's activities.

Programme to observe Aug 15

Bangabandhu Parishad and "National Mourning Day Observance Committee" have taken up a three-day programme to observe the 17th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, reports UNB.

The committee will organise a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan on August 12 at 3 pm and a procession towards Bangabandhu Bhaban.

A discussion meeting followed by a cultural programme will be held under the auspices of Bangabandhu Parishad at Engineers Institute at 5 pm on August 13.

The Parishad's programme on August 15 will include garlanding the portrait of Sheikh Mujib at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 4 pm, said a press release.

Police nabs 700

The police forces during their 24 hours drive throughout the country ending last afternoon arrested more than 700 persons on various charges, according to a police press release here, reports BSS.

They were arrested on charges of extortion of toll, maslani and terrorism.

Narcotics recovered in city, 16 held

A special squad of the Drugs Control Directorate has recovered heroin, phencyclidin and ganja following drive at different places in the capital on August 9 and 10 and arrested 16 persons in this connection, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the special squad's drive at the Tejgungpara and railway slum resulted in the recovery of 18 grams of heroin and arrest of seven persons. One kg 200 grams of ganja were seized from Mirpur Mazar Sharif area and three persons were arrested.

Deputy Labour Director buried

Deputy Labour Director M A Khalek was buried yesterday at Dhulapara graveyard at Jatrabari in the city, reports BSS.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers at Jatrabari Abbasuddin Sarak Masjid which was attended, among others, by State Minister for Shipping Harun Al-Rashid and senior government officials and his colleagues.



Additional secretary, ERD, Dr A M M Shawkat Ali and Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Toshiko Saiki signing an exchange of notes Tuesday under which Dhaka will receive a grant assistance of Tk 220 crore from Tokyo. Story on Page 7 — PID photo

Mannan suggests entrepreneurs to form cooperative groups

State Minister for Textiles M A Mannan yesterday called upon the textile entrepreneurs to set up dyeing, printing and finishing units to support the country's readymade garment industries, reports BSS.

He made this call while addressing the on-going week-long orientation course for the textile entrepreneurs arranged by the Textile Department at the Textile Industry Development Centre (TIDC) at Nayat Hat, Savar.

The state minister said through setting up separate

dyeing, printing and finishing units, it would be possible to feed the demands of the garment industries for exporting finished fabrics abroad. The initiatives would also create new opportunities for employment, he said.

He suggested the entrepreneurs to form cooperative groups so that government can provide them with different facilities.

Mentioning the rich heritage of the country in the textile sector, Mannan regretted

that due to proper planning textile industries here were facing severe crisis.

Speaking on the occasion, the leading entrepreneurs identified lack of technological equipment and skill as the reason for poor condition of the sector.

They urged the government to take initiatives to develop the country's weaving industries so that the total sector becomes self-sufficient and plays more significant role in the national economy.



A demonstration of the employees of Public Works Department demanding confirmation of their services at the office-premises yesterday. — Star photo

FP services assessment Voluntary sterilisation performance downwards

Voluntary sterilisation and IUD performance has fallen off since the mid '80s and the rate of the fall-off appears to be accelerating, according to a joint assessment made by some family planning services, reports UNB.

The assessment on clinical contraception services in the Bangladesh family planning programme was jointly conducted by the Directorate of Family Planning, Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception (AVSC) and University Research Corporation (Bangladesh).

Their report said that from an all-time high of over 550,000 in the 1983-84 fiscal, voluntary sterilisation performance plummeted to 165,000 in 1990-91, the lowest since 1978-79.

IUD performance has also declined after reaching its high mark in 1984-85, it added.

But the performance figures for injectables and pills have shown steady increases probably because of the improvement in community-based delivery by government and NGO field workers.

The team's interviews, field observations, readings and data analysis concluded that the fall-off in sterilisation and IUD performance were due to sev-

eral interacting factors. These include change in the service delivery, lack of trained providers, withdrawal of incentive fees for field workers, management bottlenecks and stress on pill, condoms and injectables.

Installation of an extensive community based service delivery system on pills and condoms and injectables in family welfare centres and satellite clinics, were mostly welcome in the rural areas.

"Much more needs to be done to involve health wing personnel in IEM, client referral, and service delivery for clinical contraception," the assessment report suggested adding family planning personnel should be involved in primary health care services.

Canadian HC meets Talukder

The Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Emile Gauvreau called on LORD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

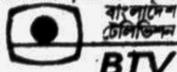
The Minister and the High Commissioner discussed matters of mutual interests.

Trawler seized, 4 nabbed in Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 11: Bangladesh Navy ship 'Patuakhali' during routine patrol seized a fishing trawler and nabbed four persons with one pipe gun and five empty cartridges from the Bishkhali river mouth this morning, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

The fishing trawler, FB Ma Fatema was found moving suspiciously at Mohipur fishing point and tried to flee away on seeing the naval patrol. After long chase the pirates surrendered at the Bishkhali river mouth.

The seized trawler is being escorted to harbour for handing over to the pirates to police.



Wednesday

5-00	Opening announcement Al-Quran, Programme summary
5-10	News in Bangla
5-20	Recitation from the Geeta
5-25	Sports programme
6-30	Sanchar
7-05	Pallab
8-00	News in Bangla
8-25	Sangbad Parikrama
9-00	McGyver
10-00	News in English
10-25	Parliament round up
10-35	Mukhomukhi
11-30	Khabar/The news
11-40	Thursday's programme summary
11-45	Closing

What's on today

Nirmul Committee rally

Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee will hold a workers' rally today (Wednesday) at its central office at 33, Tophkhana Road at 4 pm. The committee requests all to attend the rally.

Seminar on Education for the Rural Poor

A seminar on "Education for the Rural Poor: Providing and Continuing" will be held today (Wednesday) at 9:00 am at the 'Scout Bhaban' under the auspices of Gono Shakkharata Ovtjan, and Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FVDB).

The keynote papers of the seminar will be presented by Manzoor Ahmed, Special Adviser for Programme Development UNICEF and Dr James Jennings, Educational Consultant.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of the book titled 'Kalantare Bangla Gadda' written by Dr Golam Murshid will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:00 pm at the National Museum auditorium. The function to be presided over by Dr Ahmed Sharif will be addressed among others by Prof Anisuzzaman, Manzoore Maola, Dr Sanjida Khatun and Hasan Azizul Huq.

Jana Parishad meeting

The monthly meeting of the central executive committee of Bangladesh Jana Parishad will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm at 115 New Circular Road.

JSD (Rab) press conference

The Secretary General of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), A S M Abdur Rab will hold a press conference today (Wednesday) at 11 am at the National Press Club.

He will talk on the contemporary political, social and economic situation of the country.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at Hotel Sonargaon at 5:30 pm.

Fakhruddin Ahmed, former adviser to the president of the interim government, will speak on "Democratic elections in South Asian region and Zambia".

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka, North West will be held today (Wednesday) at 5:30 pm at Sonargaon Hotel.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light or moderate rain or shower is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, the met office forecasts, while rainfall activities may increase within two days.

The maximum temperature of 34.7 degree Celsius was reported from Rangpur yesterday (Tuesday) and the minimum of 24.8 degree was reported from Rangamati and Faridpur.

The sun sets today at 6.34 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.33 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.2	26.4	84	76
Chittagong	31.4	25.8	88	78
Rajshahi	33.7	25.6	75	70
Khulna	32.2	26.2	85	78
Dinajpur	34.3	25.0	72	65
Sylhet	32.4	25.6	79	82
Rangamati	31.5	24.8	83	85
Jessore	33.0	25.6		

ইসুজু এম, টি - ১১১ এল

সম্মুখে ইঞ্জিন বিশিষ্ট বাস চেসিস

■ জনপ্রিয় 6 BDI ইঞ্জিন বাকায় কুর
 যন্ত্রাঙ্গের সহজ নকশা
 ■ অধিকতর অংশের বাকায় কাল্পনিক অত্যন্ত কম ব্যয়
 ■ কম মূল্যে বেশের জন্য পা রাখার
 কলম্ব ও অকার্যকর কাঠামো
 ■ স্থানীয় ব্যক্তি কুলনামূলক হয়ে কাম

৪২ সিলিন্ডার গার্ডি নকশা কোড পরিষ্কার
কম অত্যন্ত উপযোগী

উত্তরা মোটর্স লিঃ নতুন ডাবে জনপ্রিয়
ইসুজু এন কে আর
মিনিবাস/মিনিট্রাক সরাসরি বাজারজাত শুরু করেছে

■ স্থানীয় ব্যক্তি ও রপকাপেক্ষ ব্যয় অত্যন্ত কম
 ■ কুরা যন্ত্রাঙ্গের সহজ নকশা

উত্তরা মোটর্স লিমিটেড

ঢাকা কোড: ১০০৪০, ১০০২৪
 ১০০৩০, ১০০৩৬
 কুলনা কোড: ১০০০২
 মক্খর কোড: ১০০০২

চট্টগ্রাম কোড: ১০০৪০২,
 ১০০৪০৩, ১০০৪০৪
 রংপুর কোড: ১০০০২
 সিলেট কোড: ১০০০২

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