

DOWN TO EARTH

Pedestrians' Travails on City Roads

By A. S. M. Nurunnabi

The public transport users of the city have their own trials and tribulations. With the rising city population and no early indication of any prospect of improvement in overall transport situation, the outlook may seem depressing. Even those citizens who try to avoid the use of public transport and seek to depend on their two legs to cover any distance are not in a happy position. They encounter a lot of adverse situations which make their passage to their destination far from easy.

Ideally a pedestrian is supposed to have untrammelled freedom of movement. In the city, such freedom is hard to conceive except where there are open spaces which are also gradually shrinking. But when one comes into the thick of a crowd which seems to be all pervasive nowadays in the city, his movements run into troubles.

The adverse circumstances that beset the path of a pedestrian are many. On a very few roads, there are footpaths. Therefore walking on other roads is not free from hazard. Even where there are footpaths, they do not always ensure easy passage. They are mostly cluttered with beggars, hawkers and a variety of shopkeepers. On the stretch of the pavement extending from the Dhaka College gate to the Police Box at the head of Road No. 1, Dhanmondi, you will find furniture shops, florist shops, auto-rickshaw stand, fruit vendors, garment sellers, etc. You will also find extensive encroachments on pavements on all four sides of the GPO building near Baitul Mukarram. The same situation prevails along the BB Avenue and the Ramna Bhaban.

The police sometime make raids to clear the tress-passers but they reappear with uncanny resilience. As a result the pedestrians suffer. These congested areas offer splendid opportunities to pickpockets to ply on their trade.

In some advanced countries like Japan, there are spacious promenades and malls at some points within the city for the use of pedestrians, only, where no vehicular traffic of any kind is allowed. As the traffic situation has been developing in our city, such kind of privileged places for pedestrians is beyond our dreams.

A pedestrian's steps are also beset with hazards even when he tries to cross a road from one side to the other. The so-called zebra crossings for the purpose offer no guarantee for the safety of pedestrians. In fact many accidents are known to have taken place at these points. Many vehicles, either through ignorance or carelessness, are seen to encroach with impunity on these supposedly safe zones for pedestrians.

It is also observed that when a green signal at a road junction is about to change into red, some of the late coming vehicles in their attempt to beat the red signal, hasten their movement at break-neck speed, thereby adding to the risk of accidents to pedestrians. For the safety and convenience of the pedestrians, it behoves the police to be firm with those who encroach upon zebra crossings or do not correctly follow traffic signals.

At certain places in the city, viz, near New Market, Court building, Farm Gate and Zia International Airport, there are overbridges or "fly overs"

for the use of pedestrians. It has been observed that not many pedestrians are inclined to make use of these overbridges; they would face hazards in busy traffic by making a dash across the road rather than take the extra trouble of climbing the overbridge for moving across. These overbridges are also haunts of hawkers and beggars which somewhat discourage their use by pedestrians. The police should be more alert in keeping these overbridges clear so that pedestrians may conveniently use them.

Observers feel that the number of existing overbridges is not adequate in view of the fast growing pedestrian traffic at certain key points.

There are road dividers on some important roads in the city for smooth flow of traffic on two lanes. The existing ones are so narrow in width that if a pedestrian, in his bid to move across, stands on it, he will have a shaky footing and the passing vehicles may brush against him. As there is an element of hazard in this, observers feel that if the road dividers may be made a little wider, the pedestrians may have a stable footing without any danger from passing vehicles.

In the overall picture, the main obstructions to the pedestrians are posed by encroachers on footpaths. Since these elements constitute a vast number with their livelihood dependent on various trades and occupations, it is no easy job to find a solution to the problem. While a steady policy of rehabilitation may be partially an answer, vigilance and preventive actions by the police are required to keep the pavements free as far as possible.



Jahanara Imam inaugurated an exhibition of books on Liberation War at the La Galerie at Banani in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Exhibition of Liberation War books opens

By Staff Correspondent

A mother of a martyr in the country's War of Independence Friday called upon the people to launch an all-out movement against the anti-independence forces.

"There are tapers burning here and there... spread the fire all over the country," Jahanara Imam said on the occasion of the inauguration of the exhibition of books on Liberation War at Banani in Dhaka.

Imam, also convener of the Central Coordinating Council for Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971, was inaugurating an exhibition of books on Liberation War at Banani in the capital.

A newly floated organisation, Ekattorer Jatree (vanguards of 1971), organised the book exhibition at the La Galerie.

Launching a scathing attack on the Jamaat-e-Islami, Jahanara Imam accused the leaders of the party of tarnishing the sovereignty of the country.

She also castigated the Jamaat leaders for electing Golam Azam chief of their party violating the Constitution.

"Jamaat-Shibir forces have unleashed terrorism in the country using foreign money and weapon," she said.

"Remember this time either they will live or we," she said, "we will never allow any force to snatch away our independence."

Three silk screen prints on the Liberation War by eminent painters Kazi Abdul Basat, Hashem Khan and Rafiqun Nabi have also been put on display at the book exhibition. These prints would be sold to raise funds for the Ekattorer Jatree, organisers said.

Jatree would financially help promote the ideals of the Liberation War.

Some 30 university teachers, painters and other intellectuals had formed the Jatree last month.

TK 37000 snatched from rickshaw passenger

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched away Taka 37,000 from a rickshaw passenger near Boida Garden at Sutrapur in the city Friday morning.

The victim, Abul Hasem, came to the city at around 7:30 am from Sylhet. While he was on his way to an old area of the city from Sayedabad bus terminal by a rickshaw, four muggers stopped him near the garden and snatched away the cash on dagger-point, Hasem reported to Sutrapur Police.

All the students of the three cadet colleges got first division and over 90 per cent of them got star marks.

A total of 42 students appeared in the General Science group and five in the Social Science group from the Rajshahi Cadet College. All of them secured star marks.

Of the total 50 students in the General Science group who appeared from Pabna Cadet College, 48 got star marks and the rest two secured simple first division.

All the 44 students of the General Science group of Rangpur Cadet College secured star marks.

In the Social Science group, five students of the college out of six got star marks while the other passed in the first division.

Two killed
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minor girl was injured when a bomb exploded at Amin Bazar of Gabtali at about 7 am when they were collecting waste papers.

The victims — Shabana, Adam Ali, 40, and Katif, 22 — were rushed to the DMCI

1.7 more killed in Kashmir Pakistan to consider new UN proposals

ABU DHABI, Aug 14:

Pakistan, in a bid to break a deadlock over the Kashmir problem, said it was ready to consider fresh proposals by the United Nations to end a 45-year-old dispute with India over the territory, reports AFP.

"Strong consideration will be given to any new UN ideas to solve the Kashmir problem," Pakistani Minister for Kashmir and Northern Areas, Sardar Ahmed Khan told local reporters Thursday during a visit to the United Arab Emirates. His comments were obtained from the Pakistani embassy Friday.

Khan, who gave a letter on the dispute from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, hinted Pakistan could reverse its position and accept independence for Kashmir.

He said Sharif expected to discuss the issue with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao when they meet at the Non-Aligned summit in Jakarta next month.

AP adds: Gun battles involving soldiers, guerrillas and civilians killed 17 people in Jammu-Kashmir on Friday, a Pakistani holiday the Indian military was trying to prevent Muslims from celebrating.

A total of 5000 syntonin injections and 4,500 voltarin tablets worth about Taka 10,58,250 were among the seized medicines, sources added.

Bosnia: UN Council

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the CSCE to take charge of collecting heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina, sources said.

AP adds: In Brussels, the European Community on Friday held another round of peace talks to try to end the violence that has wracked the former Yugoslavia.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said France was prepared to immediately send a contingent of 1,100 men, including helicopters and light armoured vehicles, to help protect aid shipments to Bosnia.

Lord Carrington, mediator for the 12-nation European Community, opened the day-long peace conference by meeting separately with the presidents of four republics of the former Yugoslavia.

The presidents of Serbia and Montenegro, which comprise the new Yugoslavia, boycotted the talks. They instead sent Premier Milan Panic, who was not invited to attend the afternoon plenary session.

Carrington made no comment as he entered the downtown Egmont Palace conference center, but other officials privately expressed doubts the meeting would make much headway in the resolving the 5-month-old conflict.

Panic welcomed the UN resolution. "We need more threats against war," he said. He said he planned to tell Carrington "to change his way of doing business" to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia's naval chief said Friday he was concerned that the UN Security Council's authorization of the use of force to deliver aid to Bosnia may lead to broader military action.

Rear Adm. Nikola Erecogovic told The Associated Press that he saw no reason for the Security Council resolution.

"Nobody was preventing deliveries of humanitarian aid," he said in an interview in Kumbor, naval headquarters of the smaller, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. "This move may have wider military implications than just the security of relief aid."

Still, Sarajevo, which has been heavily besieged by Serbs for months, was quiet overnight following the UN vote.

Erecogovic's navy already faces a combined western force in the Adriatic which monitors compliance with UN-imposed economic sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The West largely blames Serbia, the dominant republic in the new Yugoslav federation, for fomenting warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Midnight File

NATO rejects contingency plan for relief in Bosnia

BRUSSELS, Aug 14: The United States and its NATO allies on Friday rejected contingency plans to deploy some 100,000 soldiers to deliver food and medicine to war-torn Bosnia and asked military aides for other options. "We have not yet decided on any action," NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner told a news conference. "We are studying a range of options, options which involve different numbers." He declined to elaborate, but officials have said they would oppose operations that would require a massive deployment of soldiers, reports AP.

UN arms inspectors return to Baghdad

MANAMA, Aug 14: UN weapons inspectors returned Friday to Baghdad after three days of inspections outside the Iraqi capital, UN officers said. The officers, reached in Baghdad by satellite telephone, would only confirm the team had returned to its hotel. Group leader Nikita Smidovich, the first Russian to lead a UN weapons squad into Iraq, has not disclosed the sites he chose to search for traces of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The 22-member multinational team has been in Iraq for a week and appears to have avoided confrontation with Saddam Hussein's government, reports AP.

Street fighting in Georgia: 20 killed Stop insurgency, Delhi asks Yangon

TBILISI (Georgia), Aug 14: Street fighting killed 10 people Friday in the capital of a rebellious region in western Georgia, and a key railroad bridge was blown up in a stronghold of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, officials said, reports AP.

The new violence was the most serious political crisis to face Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze since he returned to the top post in his native land in March.

In the Black Sea city of Sukhumi, Georgian National Guard helicopters opened fire near the regional parliament building, killing 10 people, according to Beslam Barganjia of the parliament's press center.

NEW DELHI, Aug 14: India today asked Myanmar to stop "unacceptable activity" (insurgency) along the border and drug trafficking which contained elements of conflict and confrontation, reports PTI.

An inter-ministerial Myanmar delegation visiting India after a gap of four years to re-establish contacts with India was told "in strong terms India's concerns for the prevention of various kinds of negative activities in the border region," an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

Hasina Arms factory

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politics of killing and conspiracy once for all.

The Awami League chief was critical of the ruling party's "indifference to and silence" on the question of repealing the Indemnity Ordinance. She said people under no circumstances will accept the government's "dilly dally tactics" on this crucial question in the interest of democracy and justice.

"Let's take a fresh vow to building the movement for the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, restore the values and objectives of the Liberation War and resist the anti-liberation and communal forces," Hasina said.

Meanwhile, Cox's Bazar police recovered 45 illegal fire arms from seven thanas of the district during last two weeks.

Sheikh Mujib

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front organisations and several other socio-cultural bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes, marking August 15 as National Mourning Day.

The AL programmes include observance of a half-day hartal across the country, hoisting of the national flag and the party flag at half mast and the black mourning flag atop the Bangabandhu Bhaban and the party central office.

Besides, garlanding the portrait of the late leader at the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 5-30 am, placing of wreaths and offering of fatcha and munajat at Banani graveyard at 1 pm are also included in the day's programme.

Milad mahfils at the Dhanmondi house and in different mosques will also be held at 5-30 pm on the day.

At Tungipara, a day-long Qurankhant at the mazar of the Bangabandhu, placing of wreaths there, a milad mahfil and a discussion have been planned.

AL leaders Abdul Kader Siddiqui, K M Jahangir MP, Siddiq Hossain and Mukul Bose left Dhaka last night to attend the Tungipara programmes, an AL press release said.

The Bangabandhu Parishad on the concluding day of its 3-day programmes on this occasion will garland the portrait of Sheikh Mujib at the Dhanmondi house at four in the afternoon.

The Bangabandhu Shilpee Gosthi will hold a destitute-feeding programme at its central office at 44, Nowabpur Road in the city at 4 pm. Bangabandhu Parishad General Secretary Dr S A Malek will inaugurate the programme.

Besides, the organisation will also release a souvenir titled 'Pitripurush' and garland Bangabandhu's portrait.

The Jol Bangla Sangskritik Oikyaotic programmes on the day include: discussion meeting, cultural function, destitute-feeding, milad mahfil and garlanding Bangabandhu's portrait. The Jatiya People's Party will hold a milad mahfil at its city office.

The Bangabandhu Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad, Jatiya Janata Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Mohiuddin) and the Awami League's front organisations including Jubo League, Chhatra League, Mahila Awami League, Krishak League have announced similar programmes. Editorial on page 4

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Aug 14: Loading the unloading operation has been suspended in Mongla Port as the Mongla Port Stevedors Association stopped working from this morning for an indefinite period following a hitch between the labourers and the association.

Syed Zahid Hussain, the secretary of the association said that the labourers of the Dock Labour Management Board illegally demanded to board extra labourers in a container vessel, MV Benbella, and stopped working in that ship from Aug 8 to last night.

As per law there is provision not to book labour for weighing in a ship where it is not necessary and no LMD officer is deputed for this purpose. But the labourers pressed for extra labourers in that ship and stopped working.

The association stopped booking labourers from this morning in protest.

There are twenty ships in the port now. When contacted a high port official said they were trying to solve the problem.



RB SSC results

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marks with seven letters.

Among the female examinees, Latifa Shamima Sharmim, Roll-Din-F-656 of Dinajpur Govt Girls' High School stood first securing 894 marks while Shamima Mithun, Roll-Pab-F-865 of Pabna Govt Girls' High School stood second securing 892 marks.

Ananna Vattachariya, Roll-Rang-F-495 and Arifa Hossain, Roll-Rang-F-496 of Rangpur Govt Girls' High School were jointly placed third each securing 885 marks.

In the Social Science group Shah Mohammad Maruf Hossain Chowdhury Roll-Raj (cadet)-46 of Rajshahi Cadet College topped the list securing 839 marks with five letters. Md Rezaul Haq, Roll-Gal-768 of Gaibandha Govt Boys' High School stood second securing 836 marks with five letters, while Shah Md Shakib Hasan, Roll-Raj (cadet) 43 of Rajshahi Cadet College was placed third securing 835 marks with six letters.

Among the female examinees in the Social Science group, Prova Sharmim, Roll-Pab-F-1927 of Pabna Govt Girls' High School and Dil Afroz Binte Alam, Roll-Siraj-F-1889 of Sirajganj Ghorachara High School jointly topped the list securing 824 marks each.

Salma Sultana, Roll-Naogaon-F-956 of Naogaon Govt Girls' High School and Farhana Akhtar, Roll-Rang-F-1743 of Rangpur Govt Girls' High School were jointly placed



Shamima Mithun

A total of 1,20,958 candidates including 79,685 boys and 41,273 girls appeared at the examinations out of them 74,171 candidate including 52,234 males and 21,937 females came out successful.

The percentages of pass of male and female candidates are 65.55 and 53.15 respectively.

Israeli envoy to India

JERUSALEM, Aug 14: Ephraim Doweik, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, has been named the country's first ambassador to India, the Foreign Ministry said Friday, reports AP.

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