

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Serpentine Fingers

by Dipak Kumar Karmaker



Buses are usually the most favourable domain of the pick pockets

The man was crying loudly sitting beside the road. The sight was a little uncommon as well as pathetic. When inquired, it was known that the man, named Abdur Rahman, is a peon in some office at Motijheel. As he was going by bus with his monthly salary, his pocket was picked.

Picking pocket in the bus was a problem in all times, but nowadays it has become too frequent. As a result, bus-passengers are in a state of constant anxiety as they travel.

Mini-bus is the most favourable place for the pickpockets. For the passengers in the mini-bus cannot straighten up their body, but have to keep bowing. This difficult posture gives the pickpockets special advantage.

The pickpockets usually take shelter at the gate of the bus. They block the space near the gate so that there is a kind of jostling. While people hurriedly get into or get down from the bus, the pickpockets easily finish off the task of two-fingers. Along with money, people lose valuable papers, for though money is the aim of the pickpockets, they do not have the time to pick and choose. The result is picking the pocket literally. And it is too much to expect that they will be so kind as to send back the papers, keeping the money, to the owner.

The pickpockets seem to be expert at guessing the psychological state of the passengers by face-reading. Those who remain absorbed in some problem psychologically, fall victim easily. The common technique is to bump one victim and pick his pocket by the time he regains balance.

It is not that the pickpockets can throw dust into the eyes of everyone and all people are not careless either. But some people hesitate to catch the criminal when they can detect the incident. It is because the pickpocket is not usually alone in the bus, but has a gang.

Whenever he is caught red-handed, his accomplices come forward and assume the role of severe punishers. They start beating the pickpocket blatantly with violent rage and separate the latter from crowd. Thus the criminal almost gets off scot-free.

But what is dangerous is that the gang sometimes reverses the whole situation. The

victim is shown to be the pickpocket and the pebbles people who are ever-enthusiastic about anything, fall upon the scapegoat like dogs.

Experience of such situations horrifies the passengers so that they normally avoid approaching the pickpocket. The occurrence of picking pocket creates a misunderstanding among people themselves. Once I happened to touch the back-pocket of a passenger and he quickly stared at me with straight-line accuracy of a bullet, a cold shudder ran down my spine.

A regular bus passenger reported to have seen one pickpocket at close quarters. He was fuddled to see the way it was done. His serpentine fingers were surreptitiously creeping in to the pocket while the 'pocketman' seemed to have not the slightest awareness of it. He looked like a mesmerized man. On the other hand, the pickpocket appeared to be a juggler silently chanting abracadabra. Such a juggler knows very well that he, if caught, will have to face another kind of jugglery, the hands of the mob. But people pass by the incidents of picking pocket in silence — self-preservation is the first law of nature.

Similar is the condition with the bus conductors. It is quite probable that they can easily identify the pickpockets, but they also remain silent about it. Of course, it is also probable that the bus conductors one sometimes in league with the pickpockets.

As far as buses are concerned, the rush-hour is most opportune for the pickpockets. The ever-growing population of the country favours them enormously in this regard.

The police have no scope to catch the pickpockets directly, as the former cannot be posted inside the bus. So, it is the duty of the people to catch the criminal and hand him over to the police. The pickpocket is twice guilty inasmuch as he steals money, which is a crime and he very often falsely imposes his own guilt upon innocent passengers. Hence, he deserves no sympathy. Here, the application of the formula, 'To err is human, to forgive divine' is fatal.

### SAARC officials meet Speaker

The secretaries general of the parliament of the SAARC countries called on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razaque Ali at his office chamber of the Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday, reports BSS.

They exchanged views with the Speaker on the parliamentary affairs. They also emphasised the need for regular exchange of news and views among the SAARC parliament secretariats to increase friendship among SAARC parliaments and other fields of SAARC countries.

The secretaries general are C K Jain of India, Adam Halm of Maldives, J L Satyal of Nepal, Khan Ahmed Goraya of Pakistan and S N Seneviratne of Sri Lanka.

The Ambassador of Bhutan Karma Dorjee who is representing his country was also present.

### JS team leaves for Nepal tomorrow

A 10-member high-powered Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation, led by the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Shaikh Razaque Ali, will leave Dhaka for Kathmandu tomorrow on a 6-day goodwill visit to Nepal at the invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal Daman Nath Dhungana, reports BSS.

The other members of the Bangladesh delegation are: Whip Prof. Md Shahjahan Mia, Md Abdul Gani, M A Matin, Mamaching, Md Latifur Rahman, Md Abdul Hafiz, Sheikh Harunur Rashid, and Secretary, Parliament Secretariat Abul Hashem.

During the visit, Shaikh Razaque Ali and the members of the delegation are expected to call on the Nepalese King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the regular cabinet meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

## 2500 more cyclone shelters planned in coastal areas

The government will build more 2500 multi-purpose shelters in 47 coastal thanas to save the people from the onslaught of the possible cyclones and tidal surges. Construction work on these shelters will begin in 1994 and will be completed within next six years in phases, reports BSS.

Each shelter will accommodate about 1700 people and will cover two-third vulnerable people of the coastal areas during the cyclone and tidal surge.

This was disclosed at a wrap-up meeting with the visiting US military disaster preparedness planning survey team, organized by disaster coordination and planning unit of the Relief Ministry here yesterday with State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan in the chair. Lt Colonel John Week led the 10-member US team.

Among others, representatives of USAID, military attache of US Embassy in Bangladesh, project director of disaster coordination and monitoring unit, director general of the

directorates of relief and rehabilitation, representatives from army head quarters, UNDP and cyclone preparedness programme attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the plans and programmes to be taken for tackling any possible disaster properly. It was informed at the meeting that the US disaster preparedness planning survey team had visited the disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh recently and talked to the people and concerned authorities.

Week, the team leader of

the US team, said that they would submit their recommendations on the basis of their visit as soon as possible concerning disaster management in Bangladesh.

Speaking at the meeting the State Minister said that though much progress had already been achieved in understanding the behaviour of cyclones, there remained a need for improving warning messages, organizing a more effective public response and promoting better mitigation measures.

### CONDOLENCE

We are deeply grieved at the sad and untimely demise of Mrs Amirun Nessa Chowdhury on 19 Aug '92.

We pray for the salvation of the departed soul. May Allah grant her eternal peace in Heaven.

S M Ali

Editor, and the Staff of The Daily Star

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### What's on today . . . .

#### Bangladesh Short Film Forum

Bangladesh Short Film Forum will hold a reunion today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the German Cultural Centre to observe its 6th founding anniversary.

#### Rotary Club of Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at the Sheraton Hotel at 5:30 pm. Manzur-ul Karim will speak on 'Transport network in Bangladesh' as the guest speaker at the meeting.

#### Training course on ECGS

The inaugural session of the training course on 'Export Credit Guarantee Scheme (ECGS)', jointly organised by the Export Development Project of USAID and the Export Credit Guarantee Department of the Shadharan Bima Corporation, will be held today (Tuesday) at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) in Mirpur at 9am. Shah Abdul Hannan, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank will be the chief guest on the occasion.

#### Shahitya Parishad discussion

Bangla Shahitya Parishad will hold a discussion meeting on the works of Tamiuddin Lodi today (Tuesday) at the parishad auditorium at 7pm.

Poet Al Mahmud will preside over the meeting while Poet Al Mujahidi will be the chief guest and Sulaiman Ahsan and Ahmed Akhter will be the discussants.

#### Press conference on Rohingya issue

Bangladesh Democratic Forum will hold a press conference on the Rohingya refugee issue, today (Tuesday) at the forum office at 76/A Shegunbagicha at 12:30 pm.

#### Prize giving ceremony of Shangshaptak

The prize giving ceremony and cultural function of Shangshaptak, a children's cultural group, will be held today (Tuesday) at the Shishu Academy auditorium at 5pm. LORD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder will be the chief guest on the occasion.

#### Rotary Club of Ramna

The regular Weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Sonargaon.

#### Rotary Club of Motijheel

A regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Motijheel will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Purbani International.

### Weather

#### Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary rain or shower may occur at a few places in Khulna and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur, Rajshahi and Pabna while weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday).

The Met office forecast day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The chief amount of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday (Monday) were: Majdee Court 74mm, Srimangal 20mm, Cox's Bazar 10mm, Sylhet 11mm and Patuakhali and Khulna 6mm each.

The maximum temperature of 34.7 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi yesterday and the minimum of 23.7 degree was reported from Rangamati.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.23 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.38 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	32.6	26.2	85	77
Chittagong	32.4	26.0	78	79
Rajshahi	34.7	26.5	79	75
Khulna	33.5	26.3	81	90
Dinajpur	31.5	26.6	90	78
Sylhet	33.0	25.2	72	100
Cox's Bazar	31.2	25.0	81	83
Barisal	32.0	26.0	88	93

### 3 DU students get Shamsuddin Hafiz Trust stipend

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Syndicate has granted scholarship to three students from Alhaj Shamsuddin Hafiz and Tayeba Bagum Trust fund for the session 1990-91.

The students obtained the scholarship for good conduct, punctuality in the class and

satisfactory progress in study. The recipients are: AKM Shamsuzzaman, 3rd year B Com (Hons), Management Department; AHM Jahangir, 3rd year B Sc (Hons), Mathematics Department and Najnin Akhter a 3rd year B Sc (Hons) student of the same department.

### Biswas greets Uruguay President

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay on the occasion of its Independence Day, reports BSS.

In a message President Biswas expressed best wishes for his good health, happiness and long life and the well-being and prosperity of people of Uruguay.

### Film journalists' assoc formed

By Staff Correspondent  
Film Journalists have formed an association named 'Bangladesh Film Journalist Association' (BFJA) recently.

According to a press release, Shariful Azam has been elected as its convener while Ahmad Kamrul Mizan and Mushfuqur Rahman have been made the joint secretaries with Zakir Hossain as Member-secretary of the convening committee.

The other members are: Mujtaba Saud, Mohammad Awlad Hossain, Rezaur Rahman Ezaz, Mridul Shaha and Shibin Sarker Moun.

Film journalists who want to join the association have been asked to be at the office of the Weekly Cinema at 4 pm on September 3.



### Tuesday

- 5-00 Opening announcement
- 5-05 Al-Quran
- 5-10 Programme summary
- 5-15 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-25 Cartoon film
- 6-00 Sikkha Dikkha
- 6-30 Programme on mother-child health
- 7-05 Nazrul songs
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-40 Drama serial: Jalashay Kata Door
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Mini series: All The Rivers Run
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-45 Closing

**Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology**  
Dhaka

## Wanted

No. D-400(2) dt: 23/8/92

Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualifications and fitness for appointment to the following posts:

- 1) **Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research.**
  - A) One permanent post of Research Professor in the scale of Tk 7800-9000/- \*8600-9500/- \*10000/- (\*Subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions.)
  - B) One temporary against Leave vacancy post of Research Lecturer in the scale of Tk 2850-5155/-.
- 2) **Deptt of Civil Engineering.**
  - A) Five permanent posts of Assistant Professor in the scale of Tk 4800-7250/-.
- 3) **Institute of Appropriate Technology.**
  - A) One permanent post of Research Assistant Professor (Engineering) in the scale of Tk 4800-7250/-.

Details of prescribed qualifications and terms and conditions for submission of application may be obtained from the office of the Registrar of this University personally or by sending duly stamped self addressed envelope.

The candidates obtained degree/degrees from the abroad countries must have furnished the equivalence certificate of their degree/degrees obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka and to be submitted along with the application.

15(fifteen) complete set of applications are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 10/- in favour of the Comptroller of this University. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application: 16th Sept. 1992/1 Ashwin, 1399.

D-476 Registrar

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