

Dhaka Day by Day

It's a Dump

by Rahat Fahmida



Dumping garbage at any place seems to be our common habit.

'Cleanliness is next to Godliness': this is strongly believed from times immemorial. But sadly enough, most areas of this city seem anything but that.

It is often noticed, the peak hour for commuters (either to office, school or college), that is around 9 am, happens to be the most favourable time for the garbage truck of the City Corporation to go around doing their assigned job. They are quite relaxed and do the job meticulously, as if no one else existed around them. When the other trucks are horrendously speedy, these ones obviously have all the time on earth — going at not more than 20 km per hour. In this way nobody can ignore them in the rush hour, if not for anything than their 'intoxicating scent'.

All said and done these trucks of the city corporation collect the garbage only from the bins at the main road corners. Only in a few selected areas do they go into the inner roads.

Before, garbage bins usually piled up and almost all street corners were used as a bin in areas where it was difficult for City Corporation's trucks to go in. Recently committees from some of these residential areas organised for a cleaner environment. They hired the City Corporation's sweeper or cleaner on a part time contract.

Falgun Sen is one such cooperating cleaner of Shyamoli, that is north-west of Dhaka. Talking to 'The Daily Star' he said he has been working for the Corporation for the last 16 years. The local committee of Shyamoli organised to employ Sen, in order to keep the area as clean as possible. He started his job just about eight months back.

This cleaner definitely works with a difference. He does not just collect the garbage from the bin, but goes to every house individually and collects theirs. And all the house owners contribute for paying Sen at end of the month. When asked about the number of houses in one area, Sen says it would be around 65, that is just one section of Shyamoli

including street number one and two. Another sweeper works for the Western Side of the area, too.

Falgun Sen came to Dhaka from Gafurgao, of Mymensingh, only to earn his living. So, this part-time work has added one thousand taka more to his City Corporation's Salary, which is one thousand three hundred taka. With his wife, two sons and one daughter, Sen is working hard to earn his living. Empirical evidence suggests that the poor villagers usually follow a linear type of migration (i.e. permanent migration) rather than temporary or circular form of movement. It has also been observed that the permanent migrations of the poor mostly involve the displacement of the whole family rather than separation of individuals from the village family. In the present frame of economic, socio-political and environmental conditions, the rural destitute families in Bangladesh might have rather high rate of rural-urban migration in future, unless of course the scenario is changed by radical measures of rural development.

The aggregate data from several studies indicate that the majority of the poor have migrated to towns due to various economic reasons such as poverty, unemployment and landlessness. Among the other important causes of migration, natural calamity especially erosion of land by river is prominent. Various personal or family reasons are also reported to have some significance in relocation of poor families from villages. And the family of this cleaner is no exception.

Sen tried to send his eldest son Ashraf, 16, to a junior school, but could not afford it and later sent him to a Maktab. But he definitely aims to send his younger son, Alim, 11, to a school soon. He says with a sad face, 'I do want to educate my children. But only if I could earn a little more, things would be easier for me. Never mind, inshallah, I will educate them. I do not want them to be cleaners like me. I want them to work at offices as clerks.'

PM donates Tk 3 cr for women's self employment

The government is to disburse Taka 2.74 crore as loan among the destitute women to help self employment, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has donated the amount from her personal fund in view of making women folk a working community.

This was disclosed at the eighth meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Women's Affairs Ministry at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman in the chair.

The meeting reviewed the prospects and progress of the two pilot projects of the Women's Affairs Department. The projects are, day care centre for working women and women support centre.

The meeting was told that at present three day-care centres for working mothers are being run at Rampura, Mohammadpur and Kallayanpur in Dhaka at a cost of Taka about two crore.

Three more such centres are expected to be opened in Dhaka in October next.

Each day-care centre has a capacity of providing 70 children of age group of 6 months to 6 years for eight hours a day. These children are provided with food, medical facilities and pre-primary education.

The meeting was also informed that women support centre has a capacity of providing shelter to 100 battered and helpless women with one child each of them. This pilot project is run in Dhaka at a cost of over Taka one crore. Technical as well as vocational training are being imparted in these centres for their social and economic rehabilitation.

Thirteen development projects for women have been conducted by the Women's Affairs Department at a cost of more than Taka ten crore.

The State Minister asked the concerned officials to activate the projects to achieve desired goals.

Members of Parliament Osman Gani Khan Shaheda Sarkar, Begum Noorjahan Yasmin, Begum Halima Khatun, Syeda Nargis Ali and Begum Hafeza Asma Khatun were present in the meeting.



Kranti, a cultural organisation accorded reception to noted Tagore Song artiste Kalim Sharafi at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. Poet Sofia Kamal is seen presenting the certificate of honour to him. —Star photo

Jobs under world bodies

Some international organizations have invited applications for filling up certain vacancies at their disposal, says a PID source.

Name of the organizations alongwith the post titles and last date for receipt of the applications by the Ministry of Establishment are:

UNESCO: Programme Specialist in Education (P-3); Regional Adviser for Communication in the Caribbean (P-4); Liaison Officer (Science and Technology) (P-4); Chief, Clearing House (P-5); Specialist in the teaching of English (P-4); Programme Specialist in Ecological Sciences (P-4) — September 2;

International Atomic Energy Agency: Section Head (P-5); Nuclear Engineer (P-4); Nuclear Analytical Specialist (P-3); Head, Information Centre Unit (P-3); Section Head (P-5) — September 2; Programme Support Officer (UNDP) (P-2); Field Procurement Officer (P-4); Head, Entomology Unit (P-4); VIC Commissary Manager (P-4); Analyst/Programmer (P-1) — October 1; Data Management Officer (P-2) — October 4.

Further details of the Post and Procedure of application will be available with the Ministry of Establishment, concerned Ministry/Division/Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, District Manpower and Employment Offices.

Owner-labourer better ties emphasised

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Sunday called for further improvement of the owner-labourer relationship with a view to increasing production in the mills and factories, reports BSS.

He said the present government has taken a number of initiatives, including reformation of the labour court and activation of the tripartite committee, for ensuring congenial working atmosphere in the industrial sector.

The Labour Minister was exchanging views with the members of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) on the labour policy and problems and remedies of the existing labour problem at the FBCCI conference room in Dhaka.

Presided over by the President of the FBCCI Mahbubur Rahman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Alhaj Akram Hossain, Syed Mohsin Ali, Abdur Rab Chowdhury and MA Ghafur.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the economy of the country was ruined during the nine-year autocratic rule. Rapid industrialisation was needed now for revitalising the country's economy, he observed.

He said without industrialisation, the economic emancipation of the masses and solution of the unemployment problem would not be possible.

Bhuiyan also said that democracy could not be given

an institutional shape if the economic emancipation was not attained.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the government has offered incentives to the entrepreneurs, including foreign investors, for setting up industries in the country.

Referring to the denationalisation policy of the government, he said the state-run enterprises would be divested gradually through a 'fixed policy' so that those could be run profitably.

Stressing the need for bringing discipline in the country's economy, Bhuiyan said the industrialists must be honest, sincere and dedicated for development of an honest labourer class.

The Labour Minister said the government was extending all-out cooperation for removing the labour unrest.

What's on today

Confce of entrepreneurs of sick industries

A grand conference of the entrepreneurs of sick industries will be held today (Monday) at 10 am at the auditorium of the National Press Club.

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will attend the conference as chief guest.

DCCI-Italian team meet

A discussion meeting between the members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the visiting Italian leather industry team members will be held today (Monday) at the DCCI conference room at 11 am.

Bangladesh 2000 meet

A meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh 2000 will be held today (Monday) at K-95 Baridhara, Progoti Sarani at 7 pm.

Sajidunnesa Shahitya Award

The Sajidunnesa Khatun Chowdhurani Shahitya Puroshkar 1399 award ceremony will be held today (Monday) at the Mohna Community Centre at Road No. 27 Dhanmondi at 4 pm.

Writer Helena Khan has been selected to receive this year's award. Professor Dewan Md. Azraf, poet Delwar Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr. Khandaker Riazul Huq, Professor Muhammad Alamgir and others will take part in the discussion.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North

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

Seminar on Rio confce

The Notre Dame Nature Study Club will organise a seminar titled 'the '92 global forum at Rio-de-Janeiro and its prospects' today (Monday) at the college auditorium at 4 pm.

Fr. R W Timm will be the chief guest on the occasion. The seminar will be followed by a photographic exhibition beginning at 6 pm.

Ganotantri Party discussion

A discussion on the occasion of the founding anniversary of Ganotantri Party will be held today (Monday) at the party's central office starting at 5 pm.

Zahir Raihan Film Society

Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised a week-long Russian film session in collaboration with the Cultural Department of the Russian Embassy from August 30 to September 7 at the Russian Cultural Centre.

Today's (Monday) film 'The Siberiad-I' will be screened at 6 pm.

Unmesh Film Society

Unmesh Film Society will show the film 'Samapti' at Goethe Institut at 5.30 pm today (Monday) in the last session of its month-long film screening programme.

. . . . and tomorrow

Seminar on Osmani

On the occasion of the 74th birth anniversary of Bangobir M A G Osmani, Bangobir Osmani Smriti Parishad will hold a seminar on the 'role of Osmani in protecting democracy and rule of law' tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Shishu Academy auditorium at 3:30 pm.

JS body on civil aviation meet held

The sixth meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism was held at the committee room of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan in chair, reports BSS.

Members of the committee Shah Hadiuzzaman, Ataur Rahman Khan, Sk Fazul Karim Selim, Begum Rahima Khan-dakar, Alam Khan and Saiful Azam were present in the meeting.

The meeting adopted a condolence resolution on Nazrul Islam, MP who was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

It also reviewed the progress made in implementing various decisions taken by the committee in last five meetings on promotional and developmental activities of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh Biman, Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority, Sheraton and Sonargaon hotels.



- 5.00 Opening announcement
- 5.10 Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.25 Shikhyangon
- 6.00 Cartoon: Tom the Nasty Cat
- 6.30 Sports programme
- 7.05 TV debate
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Apnar Shashta
- 9.00 Septadina
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film show: Hill Street Blues
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tuesday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light rain or shower is likely over the region of Chittagong, Noakhali, Patuakhali, Barisal and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday. Meteorological office forecasts.

Weather is likely to remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country during the period.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period.

Outlook for subsequent two days: rainfall activities are likely to increase.

Extended outlook for another five days: Little change.

The sun sets today (Monday) in Dhaka at 6.17 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5.40 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	34.0	27.8
Chittagong	34.5	26.6
Rajshahi	34.8	26.7
Khulna	34.2	26.5
Barisal	34.0	27.0
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.4
Sylhet	32.9	24.0
Dinajpur	34.5	27.3

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