

Dhaka Day by Day

Pondering over Dhaka Transport

by Dipak Kumar Karmaker



Our life is inseparably bound with transport. Everyday we have to cover some distance. Some of us go to the office, some to school, college, university and many other places because of necessity. As a result, the absence of a sound traffic system causes enormous sufferings to the people, which may make adverse repercussions on the structure of a whole society. Yet the immediate reality before us, is the tedious and not a little harmful, traffic jam which can even try the patience of Job. On the other hand, grim casualties which occur only too frequently, are enough to disprove the rationale of civilisation.

But as a drowning man clutches at a straw, we cannot sit idle. So, we have made a survey of Dhaka city with a view to identifying the problems in point.

It is noticed that during 9:30 to 10:30 am, which is one of the peak hours, about 2,400 private cars pass through the Airport road at Farm Gate. In this time i.e. one hour, the number of baby taxi, Mishuk and tempo, is about 3,600, whereas that of public buses, including trucks, is around 480. In the same period of time, about 1440 baby taxis pass through the road between Bangladesh Bank and Tikatul. Mishuk and tempo are very rarely seen here. The number of private cars here within the above mentioned period, is about 1800. The number of buses is 450 while that of rickshaws is about 7000.

The above statistics reveal a curious fact: the paucity of buses, while the myriad of rickshaws seems to have great contribution to traffic jam. Rickshaws are being spawned illegitimately. But common people usually cannot afford to travel by rickshaw. The number of people blessed with private cars is very small as compared to the total population of the country. Consequently, the majority of people hang on buses. But the few buses available for transport cannot meet the needs of all people. This inevitably results in overloading of the buses.

Overloading, on the one hand, undermines the normal capacity of the buses, it; on the other, jeopardises the whole transport system.

People hanging at the doors are likely to fall anytime, while the people inside the bus are sandwiched and boiled. It is far more difficult to get down from the bus than to get in.

We have noticed that though there is the overbridge at Farm Gate, still many people cross roads without bothering about overbridges. People very often do not care to cross roads at the zebra crossing. These are infringements of traffic rules. They deepen the problem of traffic jam and cause accidents.

One tendency in the bus drivers and conductors is to delay at the bus stops. At some stops, the buses become a little less crowded. But the driver waits at the stops so long as it is not jam-packed. A great number of buses remain standing at a stop at the same time. This creates a jam at that particular place. Sometimes people become impatient at the behaviour of the drivers and they request the latter or throw angry words but nothing can attenuate the obstinate aim of the drivers.

The drivers move only when the buses are perfectly packed. It is familiar to the bus passengers that our bus drivers love to compete with the other buses. But this love of theirs begets tragedy to others who fall victim to accidents. The constant blow of horns, on the other hand, makes people sick. Excessive use of horns is a menace to the lives of the patients in the hospital.

However, the number of buses should be increased in order to remove the regular traffic disorder. Influx of rickshaws must also be checked. On top of it, the people ought to obey the traffic rules strictly. At present, the one of the greatest problems in our country is the road accident. News of road accidents in the newspapers has become a regular feature of the day. Death by road accident is inconceivable. It annihilates all our faith in the rational order of things. People are unaware of this, only a few highly differentiated individuals care to ponder over the question of traffic and its deadly effects.

JU first, second year Honours exams begin Nov 10

By JU Correspondent

Announcement of fresh dates for the course final examinations of first and second year honours classes yesterday (Sunday) lessened the tension that prevailed at the Jahangirnagar University for the last couple of days.

The Academic Council at a meeting Sunday decided to resume the postponed examinations of the first and second year honours classes on November 10, on condition that the authorities would ensure security of all students.

Earlier, on October 13 the Academic Council postponed the exams for an indefinite period in view with the petitions by guardians of some examinees.

The petitioners cited security reasons that barred their wards from sitting for exams.

These students were ousted from the campus by the Sarbodhlo Chhatra Oikya (SCO) for their alleged involvement in initiating politics of the Jamaat-Shibir forces on the campus following an untoward situation on September 9.

Students of the Jahangirnagar University have banned political activities of the fundamentalist forces on the campus since the killing of a student leader by Islamic Chhatra Shibir on August 1989.

Terminating the ousted students as terrorists student leaders said "illegal weapons were recovered from the ousted students and some of them are now in police custody."

The authorities will have to take responsibility for providing security to the terrorists, a student leader said.

Students under the banner of SCO staged a demonstration before the administrative building while the Academic Council were in discussion inside.

1st year classes begin Nov. 15

The first year honours classes of the Jahangirnagar University of the 1991-92 academic session will begin on November 15.

This was disclosed by the university official sources Saturday.

36.1 pc pass in CU B. Com (Pass) exams

CHITTAGONG, Oct 18: The University of Chittagong today announced the results of B. Com pass examinations of 1991, reports BSS.

One thousand seven hundred fifty out of the total of 4854 regular examinees came out successful. The percentage of pass is 36.1.

Of the successful candidates 194 secured second division while the rest 1561 got third division.

There were 188 external candidates of whom 40 passed the examination. Only three candidates secured second division and the rest passed in third division.

The B. Com pass complementary examination of 1990 was also announced and 152 out of the total of 185 came out successful.

No student passed from ten colleges out of the total of 89 under Chittagong University. The results of Hasanpur S N Government College and Bancharampur Degree College were withheld for some irregularities.

Government Mujib College secured 82.2 per cent pass followed by Chittagong Government College of Commerce with 78.2 per cent pass. Third position was secured by Baraiyhat College with 76.9 per cent pass.

3-day programme of Puja Committee

The Mahanagar Sarbajantin Puja Committee has chalked out a three-day programme beginning October 23 to celebrate Puja re-union, reports BSS.

Art exhibition at BUET

By BUET Correspondent

A five-day long solo art exhibition by a students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Rashidul Hussan Shiblee began yesterday at the central auditorium of the university.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 9 am to 5 pm everyday.

A total of 30 paintings of the young painter will be displayed at the exhibition.



Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor, BUET delivering his speech at a seminar on "Women Development: Technical Profession and Education" under the auspices of the University of Alberta (Canada)-BUET Institutional Linkage Project and CIDA-A Friday at BUET seminar room.

Keramat informs Sangsad 1.17 lakh applications for telephones pending

By Staff Correspondent

More than 1.17 lakh applications remained pending for fresh connections while the outstanding telephone bill stood at over Tk 65.47 crore till July 1992, Post and Telecommunication Minister Keramat Ali told parliament Sunday.

Replying to two separate questions of Rahmat Ali (Gazipur-1) and Latifur Rahman (Nawabganj-3), the minister said that in between January 1 and September 30, 1992 the T & T Board gave 10,838 new connections in 64 districts.

Subscribers in the Dhaka district got the highest sanction of 5,438 telephones against 63,285 applications, followed by Chittagong with 1,250 connections against 13,519 applications.

Subscribers in Khulna got 588 connections against 3,017 application while Rajshahi was given only 28 new connections where the demand was 2,500.

Regarding the recovery of outstanding telephone bills the minister said that the subscribers were first requested through radio, television and newspaper to pay the bills before taking legal steps.

Keramat Ali said in reply to another question from Mirza Azam (Jamalpur-3) that the earnings target from the Telephone and Telegraph sector was Tk 554.88 crore while it was Tk 2.15 crore from Telegraph service.

Answering to another question from Kazi Abdur Rashid (Gopalganj-1) the minister said that the estimated income from telephone bills was fixed at Taka 447.78 crore during the year 1991-92 but the target exceeded by Taka 23 crore.

The income was higher by Taka 85.32 crore than that of the previous year (1990-91).

The minister in reply to another question from Lutfunnesa Hossain (women seat-6) said that the government has plan to set up a digital telephone exchange during the current five-year plan.

Panthapath: Deviation from original plan to cost Tk 1 cr more

Alleged caprice by officials will cause deviation from the original plan of Panthapath in the capital and an additional cost of about one crore taka, reports UNB.

Sources alleged that the land acquisition officials of the Deputy Commissioner's office moved the planned 80-metre road slightly southward so that two multi-storied buildings are affected.

Local residents complained that the DC office and RAJUK are desperate to make the road according to their wishes as payment to some of the disputed land owners have already been made although the final demarcation is yet to be made.

The sources accused the officials of doing it purposefully through an underhand deal with those who will be benefited by the deviation of the plan.

The local residents have demanded correct measurement of the road according to CS map and completion of the original plan approved by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Surveyors from the DC office yesterday conducted a measurement of the road alignment defying a Land Ministry order to have a joint survey by the representatives of the DC office, RAJUK and affected land owners.

Prayer by the affected people of the area for the joint survey has been pending for the last 10 months causing unnecessary delay in completion of the road.

Serious land disputes and alleged wrong measurement brought uncertainty in completion of the extension work on Panthapath.

The 3,300-foot-long and 80-foot-wide track connecting Green Road with Mirpur Road was scheduled to be completed by January this year, RAJUK sources said.

Sources also said the link road originally planned to be constructed over khas land and a nearby canal could not be done due to unknown reasons.

The plan of the road has thrice been changed since the work was under taken in 1989.

Obituary

Zakera Ali, wife of ex-Police Super Ali Ahmed Khan, died of liver cirrhosis at BIRDEM Hospital yesterday morning. She was 61, reports BSS.

OP-1 winners end hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

The OP-1 winners who were on hunger strike since October 12 broke their fast Sunday following the request from a human rights group.

More than 200 OP-1 US immigration lottery winners went on hunger strike demanding issuance of visas for them.

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday except a chance of light rain or shower at one or two places over Chittagong and Noakhali region.

Meteorological office forecast that day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Fair weather likely.

Extended outlook for another five days: No appreciable change. The sun sets today (Monday) at 5.29 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5.58 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	31.5	24.2
Chittagong	31.5	24.5
Rajshahi	31.4	22.7
Khulna	32.3	25.0
Barisal	31.5	24.4
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.4
Sylhet	30.7	23.2
Mymensingh	32.0	23.3
Dinajpur	30.6	20.7

10 Taka Prize Bonds draw results

The 106th draw of 10 Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held on Thursday at the Zila Parishad Meeting Hall, Sylhet. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet presided, says a press release.

The Draw was held under the system of single common draw and applied to all 71 series in 10 Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds currently in circulation.

The following 100 common numbers were drawn:

First Prize of Taka 50,000 for No. 442084.

Second Prize of Taka 10,000 for No 254189 and four prizes of Taka 1,000 each for nos - 165384, 270713, 333797, 415929, and four prizes of Taka 500 each for nos - 047778, 192376, 354397 and 399464.

Ninety prizes of Taka 100 each as follows:

000265	110946	188340
274904	395751	020870
121761	191785	279423
398810	022103	133996
194168	283999	404889
022330	138118	196301
287328	410439	024140
144381	208567	300145
416834	025641	149416
211354	302284	424312
026028	150158	212767
318398	424382	026922
153992	222005	322037
445787	028847	145844
231364	331591	449630
054240	161794	231811
334490	452180	061626
165544	242960	335598
455147	064605	170561
245415	353554	457582
070118	173615	249866
354080	460064	076705
174591	250413	362438
464999	077435	177178
254717	362863	469027
078209	179375	265472
370785	480618	082534
179990	266336	390000
483414	103011	185322
273798	390883	484002

Namaz-e-Janaza

Namaz-e-janaza of Fatema Akhter Banu, wife of Abdur Rashid Talukder, former chairman of BJMC and Chief Editor, District Gazetteer, Bangladesh and sister-in-law of LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder will be held after Magreb prayer today at Gulshan Mosque, reports BSS.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard after the janaza.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. "SUCCESS HOPE" V-13052 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, Hongkong, M. V. "NANTA BHUM" V-109 from Bangkok, M. V. "KAGA" V-25438 from Hamburg, M. V. "KAMAKURA" V-24238 from Southampton & M. V. "OCEANUS OSAKA" V-24389 from Keelung have been relayed to M. V. "FONG SHIN" V-9231 Import Rot. No. 786/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 18-10-92 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.

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Responsibilities: To assist the management in conducting appraisal of loan proposals of organisations undertaking credit programmes for generating employment for the rural poor, in monitoring and evaluating proper implementation of such credit programmes and for implementing other policies of the organisation as a leader, promoter and stimulator of innovative ideas and methods for poverty alleviation.

Qualifications: Must have brilliant academic background: Master's Degree with Honours at degree level, having at least one First Class either at degree and/or Master's level, preferably in Economics/Business Administration/Finance or B.Sc. in Engineering (with First Class). Must have 1st Division in both S.S.C. and H.S.C. level. Working experience of computers will be an added advantage.

Remuneration: Attractive remuneration package with suitable fringe benefits will be offered alongwith an excellent working environment.

This is a challenging job involving interaction with disadvantaged people in the rural areas, government officials, development partners and NGO representatives, and requiring extensive field visits in rural areas.

Only those looking forward to work in an organisation run by highly motivated management professionals, and genuinely interested in the above need apply.

Application in plain paper (which will be treated with strict confidentiality) with complete curriculum-vitae, one photograph, and a self-addressed envelop duly stamped should be addressed in care of the Advertiser G.P.O. Box No. 3433, Dhaka on or before November 7, 1992.

3 regional TV centres to be set up

Information Minister Nazmul Huda told parliament yesterday (Sunday) that three regional television centres will be set up during the Fourth Five-Year Plan period, reports UNB.

Responding to a call attention of Treasury bench member Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lahu, the Minister assured that one TV centre will be set up in Bogra during the current fiscal year (1992-93).

He said the project for setting up Bogra TV station is underway.

The government also plans to instal another TV station in Rajshahi, the Information Minister said adding that a BTV team is now in Rajshahi for selecting the site of the proposed TV centre.

BNP member Helaluzzaman asked the Minister to tell about the estimated cost of Bogra TV station and the approximate date for completion of the project to remove confusion among the people of Bogra.



Stands second

By Staff Correspondent

Mahmudul Karim of Jendah Cadet College secured the second position in the combined merit list of the HSC examinations under Jessore Board this year.

Mahmudul obtained 931 marks and got distinction in five subjects. (English, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Chemistry)

I desire to study on Electronics and Nuclear Physics in any foreign university, Mahmudul told The Daily Star adding that inadequate facilities and unrest in the educational institution in the country had discouraged him to study at home.

His father Dr. Karim, the Principal Scientific Officer of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission is at present staying in the Philippines for official tasks.

Reacting to his success, Mahmud said "I regret the failure to have the top position but I am happy with the result."

Govt firm to ensure congenial atmosphere for children: Huda

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday said that the present government was determined to ensure a congenial atmosphere for children so that they could build themselves as worthy citizens of the country, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a children's rally, organised by Bangladesh Sabuj Sena in front of the Jatiya Press Club in connection with its 4-day programme on the International Children's Day.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Cultural Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman attended the rally as the chief guest. Sabuj Sena General Secretary Nurul Islam Jinnah and Convener of the Conference Preparatory Committee Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu also spoke on the occasion.

In his brief speech the Information Minister called upon students to equip themselves with proper knowledge so that they could shoulder their responsibility in future.

The Minister recalled that late President Ziaur Rahman was the first head of the government who had deeply thought about the welfare of children and taken a number of measures including formation of Nutan Kurt and Shishu Academy to help flourish the talents of children.

The Information Minister said that the government of Begum Khaleda Zia was taking up necessary programmes to translate into reality the dream of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to ensure basic rights of children in social life.

Begum Sarwari Rahman said that the present government had already taken a number of important measures for the welfare of children. "We can't think of a prosperous nation unless we can ensure proper atmosphere for children," she added.

The Information Minister later inaugurated a colourful procession, which paraded the main city streets before concluding at the Central Shaheed Minar.

A large number of children from different educational institutions and children organisations took part in the procession.

Killers of Jamaat, AL workers to be arrested

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday said in the Jatiya Sangsad that the culprits who had killed a Jamaat worker in Dhaka and an Awami League worker at Sirajganj would be arrested, reports BSS.

He said the police were looking for those who were involved with the two recent killings.

The Minister was replying to questions on points of order raised by the Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim and Jamaat parliamentary group leader Mattur Rahman Nizami on the deaths of their respective party workers.

The Jamaat leader said Matin was attacked by identified assailants at Malibagh on October 13 while miking for the October 14 Jamaat rally.

Matin was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and died on October 16, Nizami said.

The Jamaat leader alleged that the killers were not arrested despite the filing of specific cases against them with Sabujbag police station.