

Dhaka Day by Day

Multi-facets of Rickshaw Journey

By A S M Nurunnabi



Nobody knows for sure the exact total number of rickshaws plying in this city. The reason for the enigma is that with a single licence more than one rickshaw bearing the same number ply on the streets. Dhaka is perhaps the only major city in this region where the main burden of road transport for the commonman is valiantly borne by the gargantuan fleet of cycle rickshaws. If you take a view from a helicopter of the busy thoroughfares of the city at peak hours, you may be appalled at the ant-like progress of rickshaws through the milling crowds.

A rickshaw is generally a conveyance of persons of modest means. Where public transports fail to meet the demands, rickshaws come in to fill the gaps. Considering the large number of rickshaws operating, the gaps are indeed very wide. There are, however, critics who look upon rickshaw-pulling as a grim symbol of poverty.

Leaving aside the economics of rickshaw-pulling, let us look at some of the lighter aspects of rickshaw journey. If you have a short distance to cover, then a rickshaw may prove to be useful. Moreover it is comparatively cheaper. The story, however, will be different if you have a long way to go. In that case you are likely to get impatient and also backache.

Have you ever noticed that rickshaws are a repository of a sort of folk art. Their backside serve as convenient spaces for a variety of artistic expressions ranging from portraits of popular film stars to natural scenery. As a multitude of rickshaws with their wealth of exotic art snake through the streets, they form a kind of mobile art exhibition.

A rickshaw can be of different models. The rickshaws of this city have generally hard seats with a forward tilt. This makes journey on rough roads very uncomfortable. Even on

smooth road surfaces, it is wise to hold on to the hood fittings, for a sudden jerk may throw you off your seat. The rickshaws in the northern regions and particularly in the Comilla district are more comfortable.

If ever time hangs heavy on your hands and you do not know how to pass the time, just board a rickshaw and tell the rickshaw-puller to move forward in any direction he likes. The rickshaw-puller may doubt your sanity. Assure him that you are in full command of your senses and that you just want to kill some idle time. For such random journeys, choose the routes which have thin traffic and wealth of greenery. If you move slowly through the Ramna area or the lush verdure of Sher-e-Banglanagar, you may have a rewarding experience, and will hardly feel how time passed. But never embark on such journeys at night when at lonely spots you may offer yourself as convenient targets for mugging.

Another word of caution. Many of the rickshaw-pullers are new entrants in this line; they may be just fresh from their village with experience of driving a plough. You may easily spot them from their clumsy style of driving. Try to avoid them, if you do not want to take any avoidable risk.

Although lately there are indications of a steadily increasing number of rickshaws, it seems exorable that sooner or later, as the city grows bigger, their existence will be at stake. In most capitals of this region, this mode of transport has either been abolished already or in the process of dying out. Already restrictions have been placed on their movements on certain roads, and it is likely that the area of restriction will be widened in the future to allow for smooth flow of a growing volume of other vehicular traffic.

Govt will protect rights of minorities: Oli

CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: Communication Minister Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram today said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia will always stand by the side of the minority and ensure equal rights and opportunity for them, reports BSS.

He said the Prime Minister had already given specific directives to repair the places of worship immediately and distribute house building materials to the affected people.

The Minister was addressing the affected members of the minority community while visiting Koybolyadham, and Tulshidham temples in Chittagong metropolitan area. He went round different parts

of the temple premises to see the extent of damage. City Corporation Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Sayed Wahidul Alam MP and the Deputy Commissioner accompanied the minister.

Oli Ahmed distributed cloths and other relief materials to the affected people and directed the Mayor and other officials to take immediate steps to repair the places of worship and the affected houses.

He said it was the act of a particular political party which does not want BNP to run the government and dislikes multi party democratic system. He asked all nationalists and democratic minded people to foil their evil designs and take necessary steps to ensure equal rights and opportunities for the members of minority.

The minister said it was not only our social, moral and constitutional obligation but also religious binding on us to ensure safety and security of all the members living in the country.

He directed the local police authority to find out the miscreants and culprits responsible for disturbing communal harmony and bring them before the law of the land.

Seminar on women in literature

A three-day international seminar on "Women in literature and popular media" organized by the Department of English, Dhaka University was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Emajuddin Ahmed yesterday, at the British Council auditorium, reports BSS.

The Vice-Chancellor in his speech stressed the need for women's education and freedom in the third world countries where the dominance of men was noticed.

Happy Birthday
Precious Dearest
BABA

Stamp exhibition begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 19: A three-day exhibition of stamps, coins and antiques began at the hall room of Nasirabad High School here on Friday, reports UNB.

City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin inaugurated the exhibition sponsored by greater Chittagong Lions Club and Daily Azadi.

The exhibition, first of its kind in the port city, will remain open from 8 am to 4 pm.

'Administrative activities of Varsities should be geared up'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed the need for creating a favourable atmosphere for acquiring knowledge in the educational arena, reports BSS.

He said, those who are engaged in the pursuits of learning should contribute with dedication to enhance the prestige of the nation.

President Biswas was exchanging views with a 24-member delegation of the

Bangladesh Inter-University Officers' Association, who called on him at Bangabhaban.

The President said that the administrative activities of the Universities should be geared up to extend the students more facilities to meet their needs.

He said that the social grievances should be solved through sincere endeavours of all.



Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtyssek (1st from left) Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bangladesh inaugurated a month-long art exhibition at the Saju Art Gallery in the city yesterday. Artist S M Sultan (middle) presided over the inaugural ceremony. — Star photo

JS body on textiles meet held

The parliamentary standing committee meeting on textiles was held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday with State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in detail the production, profit, losses and present stock position of the products of textile mills under BTMC.

The meeting stressed need for proper maintenance of the textile machineries to reduce production cost and wastage as well as to improve the quality of products.

Bury petty differences, work for uplift: Hannan

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah yesterday called upon all irrespective of party affiliation and opinion to sink petty differences and work together for development to fulfil the dreams of the shaheeds who had laid down their lives for the country's independence, reports BSS.

He said the spirit and objectives of the Liberation War would be upheld if the entire nation was united in the present democratic atmosphere on the question of development.

The Jute Minister was addressing a rally organised by the Ramna Thana unit of Juba Dal at the T and T square here.

State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Forest, Environment, Fisheries and Livestock Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and Juba Dal central and city leaders also addressed the rally. The rally, organised in connection with the observance of the 22nd Victory Day was presided over by the Ramna Thana unit convener of Juba Dal Nazrul Islam.

The Jute Minister said the spirit of Liberation War derived from the Sepoy mutiny in 1857 which became a reality through independence of the country in 1971.

BCS (Economic) Cadre stages strike Dec 23

Members of the BCS (Economic) Cadre will abstain from work on December 23 to press their demand for resolving various anomalies in the service, reports UNB.

The 450 men-cadre, established in 1980, has long been pressing a 14-point charter of demand, including finalisation of seniority list, filling up 100 vacant posts and removal of disparity in its service status with the Administration Cadre.

The BCS (Economic) Cadre Association office bearers complained that despite repeated assurance from concerned authorities, their problems remained unresolved for years.

Even, the directive of the Prime Minister, issued more than two months back, regarding solution to the cadre problems has been flouted, they alleged.

Absence of a seniority list even after 12 years of establishment of the Economic Cadre has generated frustration in its members. Many officials have been in the same post for even more than a decade.

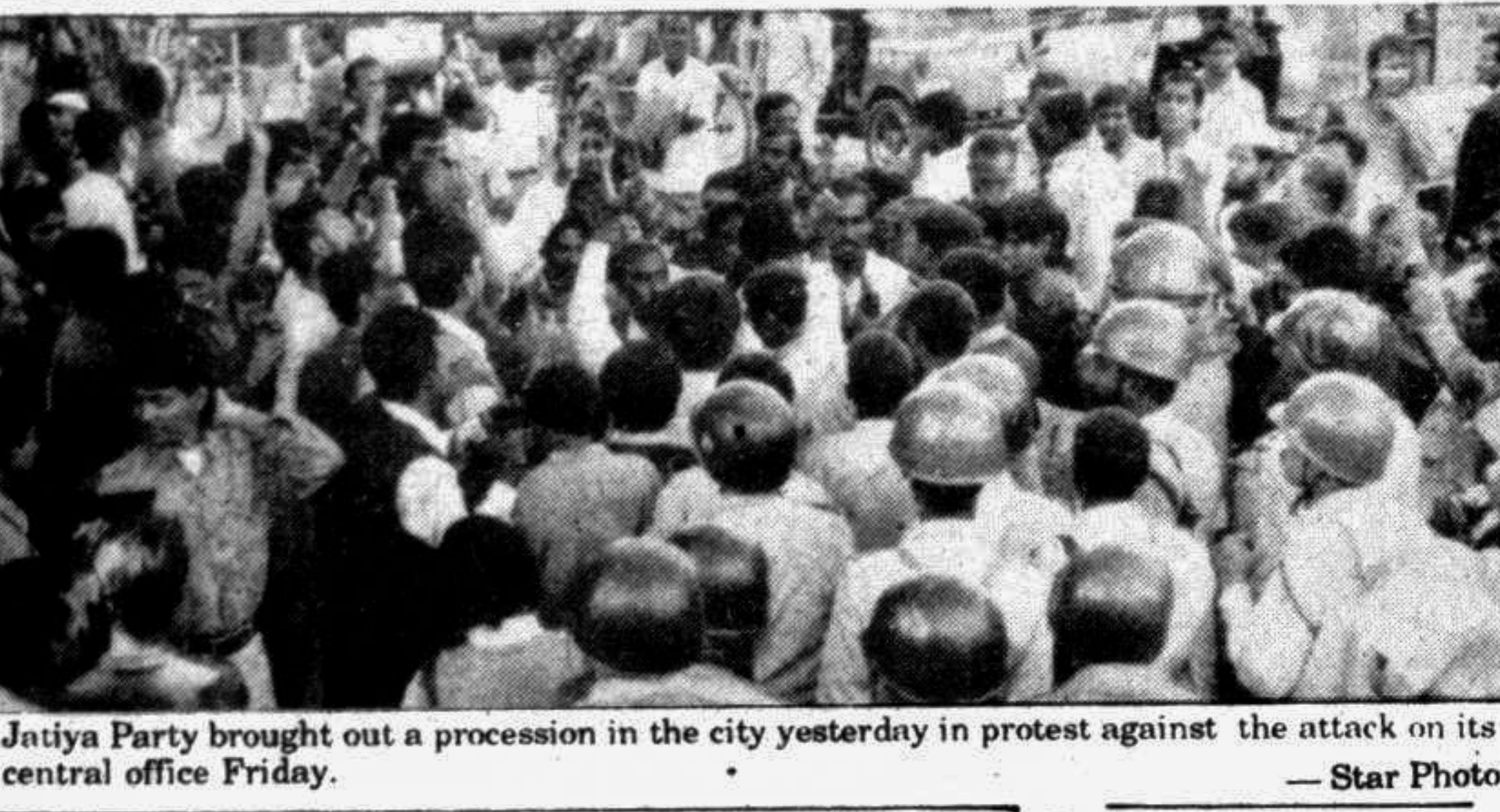
Lower status of the cadre in the 'rules of business' and 'warrant of precedence' has been another issue of discontent among them.

The Association earlier postponed a strike programme on February 5 following the assurance from the planning Minister. But, cadre members alleged, nothing has been done in the last 10 months.

Members of the Economic Cadre work in the Planning Ministry, Economic Relations Division (ERD) and in Planning and Development Wings of different ministries.

What's on today...

- Memorial meeting**
A memorial meeting will be held today (Sunday) at 4:00 pm at the CPB central office to commemorate its late leader Khoka Roy.
- Bangladesh-Australia Students' Association**
The formal inauguration of the Bangladesh-Australia Students' Association will be held today (Sunday) at 4:00 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.
- High Commissioner of Australia in Dhaka will attend the function as chief guest while Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khandaker will be present as the special guests.
- Seminar**
A seminar on "The Spirit of Liberation War and Today's Bangladesh" will be held at Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University today (Sunday) at 6 pm.
- The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will attend the function as chief guest while Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Wakil Ahmed will be the special guest.
- Screening of '14th July'**
A film titled '14th July' will be screened today (Sunday) at 5:30 pm at the auditorium of the Alliance Francaise in the city under the auspices of Zahir Raihan Film Society.



Jatiya Party brought out a procession in the city yesterday in protest against the attack on its central office Friday. — Star Photo.

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd
Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka against Tender Enquiry No PD-III/KCC/313/21 from the genuine Wooden Box Manufacturers for supply of 7,000 pcs. Empty Wooden Box for Tibet Ball Soap. Tender documents will be available against payment of Tk 25.00 (Non-refundable) per set from the office of (1) Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka. (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A Dhaka (3) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. The quotation will be received up to 11:00 am on 03-01-93 and opened immediately thereafter. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. D-696

One killed, two hurt in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

At least one person was killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in the city during last two days.

An unknown young girl was killed when a running train knocked her down at Mohakhali Rail Crossing at about 5 pm in the city Friday.

Railway police recovered and sent her body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy Friday evening.

In another road accident two students of Chinnomul School were injured when a speeding auto-rickshaw knocked them on the road at Rampura at about 2 pm in the city Saturday. They were going to their school.

The victims were identified as Ramzan, 8, and Jahangir, 9. Both of them were admitted to the DMCH.

BTV

Sunday

5:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Bible
5:30	Sports programme
6:30	Open University
7:05	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Probha
9:00	Drama series: Oahn
10:00	News in English
10:30	Sur Lahori
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Monday's programme summary
11:45	Closing

Jobs under int'l bodies

Some international organisations have invited applications for filling up certain vacancies at their disposal, says an official handout.

Name of the organisations alongwith the post titles and last date of receiving applications are: United Nations Environment Programme: Chief, Translation and Reproduction Section (P-5) — December 31, 1992. International Atomic Energy Agency: Unit Head, Subject Control Unit (P-4); Marine Bio/Geochemist (P-2); Video Systems Engineer (P-3) March 1, 1993.

Further details will be available with the Ministry of Establishment, other Ministries/Divisions, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, District Labour and Manpower offices.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with partly cloudy sky at places likely to prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, no appreciable change in night temperature is expected during this period.

A mild cold wave is likely to continue for the next 36 hours over the country, the Met office adds.

The minimum temperature of 07.4 degree Celsius was reported from Ishwardi yesterday (Saturday) and the maximum of 27.0 degree Celsius was reported from Satkhira.

The sun sets today Sunday at 5.16 pm and rises tomorrow Monday at 6.37 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	25.0	10.4	71	71
Chittagong	25.6	13.3	82	57
Rajshahi	25.3	8.0	74	72
Khulna	25.4	8.8	93	75
Cox's Bazar	26.8	15.2	73	68
Sylhet	26.0	12.0	69	64
Dinajpur	25.0	10.6	83	72
Ishwardi	25.5	7.4	84	74

Get-Together

The English Department Alumni Society holds its ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER on December 25, Friday, in the Institute of Fine Arts (Shahbag) premises at 3.30 pm.

All ex-students of the Department are cordially invited to attend.

Convener
 English Department Alumni Society
 Dhaka University

Government of Bangladesh
 Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
 Comilla Road Division, Comilla

Notice Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No : 27/E.E. RHD, Road Divn, Comilla of 1992-93.
- Name of Work : Repairing potholes, depression, undulation by premixed carpeting method and seal coat at 1st KM of Miah Bazar-Kashinagar Road, under Road Division, Comilla during the year 1992-93. (Ch. to. Nicar).
- Estimated cost : Tk. 2,86,524/-
- Earnest money : Tk. 5,731/-
- Name of office where tender bids will be received : Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Comilla and office of the undersigned.
- Name of office of availability of tender bids : Office of the undersigned /E.E. RHD, Road Divn, B.Baria/ Noakhali and SDE's Office under this Divn.
- Time allowed : 20 (twenty) days.
- Last date of selling of tender bids : 28-12-92/14-9-99 BS during office hours.
- Last date of receipt of tender : 12.30 pm of 29-12-92/15-9-99 BS.
- Date and time of opening of tender bids : 12.45 pm of 29-12-92/15-9-99 BS.
- Eligibility of contr. : "A" to "E" General Category.

Anwar Ahmed
 Executive Engineer, RHD
 Comilla Road Divn., Comilla.

DFF (G) 21607-13/12
 G-1541

BTMC's Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Chief Engineer, BTMC from the reputed and bonafide Air-conditioning firms for dismantling, carrying of 311 tons (three hundred eleven tons) capacity "Carrier" Air-conditioning Harmetic Centrifugal Chiller unit from Rangamati Textile Mills, Ghagra, Rangamati and installation, testing and commissioning at Pylon Industries Ltd, Fouzderhat, Chittagong.

The earnest money is 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the quoted offer which must be enclosed with the tender in favour of BTMC, in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.

The intending bidders who are expertised for installation of Air-conditioning plants with Chiller and have successfully completed a project having capacity of 300 ton and above under Govt/Semi-Govt Organisation/Corporation may purchase the tender documents on getting clearance from the Chief Engineer, BTMC, on production of experience certificates.

The tender documents may be obtained from the Accounts Section, BTMC, Bastra Bhaban (1st floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka/Accounts Section, BTMC, Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong/Accounts Section, Pylon Industries Ltd, Fouzderhat, Chittagong on cash payment @ Tk.400/- (Taka four hundred) only per set (Non-refundable) on or before 23.12.92 up to 12:00 Noon during office hours.

The tender will be received up to 11:30 AM on 24.12.92 and will be opened at 12:00 Noon on the same day in presence of the bidders (if any) in the office of the Chief Engineer, BTMC, Bastra Bhaban (3rd floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

BTMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

TMC-82
 DFF (G) 21704-14/12
 G-1544