

Dhaka Day by Day

Travellers Woes

By Parveen Anam



Woe befall the man, (or woman) in this city of ours, if he ever gets it into his head to travel and see the wonders of the world. I refuse to include the citizens from outside Dhaka, because they would probably never make it anyway. Or by the time they do, the sheer exertion of the entire effort will have made them change their minds. But the Dhaka man is the determined sort; come the certain time of the year, mostly when the children are off school, and the jetsetting crowd is off to the civilized West, to while away the weary summer days. How he gets there is a miracle, which never fails to surprise the more sober elements.

The first step in trying to go to the country of your choice is of course the inevitable visa. The little visa man behind the little desk, in his little air-conditioned office, is absolutely convinced that you will contaminate his country at best, and so it is his holy task to prevent you from going to his holy land. From the word 'go' he is determined to prevent you from doing so. And at no other time in his entire life does he feel more important, than when he is refusing you the visa to his exalted land. Its not that we mind being refused the visa as much as we mind the ill-treatment meted out by those pompous, arrogant little visa people, of most countries at most Embassies. Perhaps a little lesson in manners and good behaviour would not be amiss, for those immigration section personnel serving at their hardship posting. The natives after all cannot be all bad and there are a few natives still left over who DO NOT want to stay back in the 'holy land'. Might actually come as a bit of a shock to those immigration people, to be told that though.

Of course, the treatment meted out by our own immigration authorities, is quite another story. If you have managed to get yourself that visa, the ticket, and are on your way to the wild

blue yonder, you are in for the shock of your life.

The wonderful immigration form, handed out to you by the equally wonderful authorities at the immigration counters, will amongst other things insist on having you answer the most peculiar questions. Perhaps no other country in todays modern day and age, has the audacity to ask you on an official, govt form, the questions these people ask.

You will be asked in the most arrogant manner, the 'the purpose of your visit'. Not to the country you intend to visit, but to Bangladesh! Believe it or not. The fact that you are a citizen of this country and reside here makes no difference to those people. You must state why you intend to come to Bangladesh. After you have answered that one, you are asked in the same presumptuous manner, whether you have ever been refused visa — to enter Bangladesh. But you manage to stutter, you are going elsewhere what has Bangladesh got to do with it. Surely, these questions are meant for aliens only? Not the Bangladesh citizen? How can you need a visa to visit your own land? The look on the immigration man's face, shuts you up fast and you answer a whole lot of meaningless, stupid questions.

What is so fascinating is the fact that all these forms are printed at the tax payers expense and he cannot ask questions! Legitimate ones. The immigration people are the only ones, entitled apparently to ask them. And stupid ones. Perhaps someday, sometime, someone will sit up, someone who matters and ask why on earth a Bangladeshi traveller is being harassed to this extent. In his own country, without yet setting foot on that aircraft which will whisk him off to wonderland.

But, dare we hope? In the meantime we wish the traveller the best of luck— and loads of patience.

Increased urbanisation to worsen internal flooding

Internal flooding in Dhaka city following every heavy shower will exacerbate in the coming years due to increased urbanisation, unplanned development of physical infrastructures and low drainage capacity, reports BSS.

This was stated in a paper on rainfall in Dhaka city and aspects of its drainage system, presented at the international conference on tropical urban climate now being held here. S Dara Shamsuddin of Jahangirnagar University authored the paper.

The paper said due to flood protection embankment, Dhaka city may be protected from external flooding caused by bank overspill of the surrounding rivers but the internal flooding due to rainfall runoff will engulf more and more areas every year if urgent and serious attention is not given now.

Shamsuddin made a comparative study of Dhaka city rainfall runoff and drainage system beginning from the pre-Mughal period and made a forecast when urbanisation will

be completed in the next century. Insufficient numbers and capacity of the existing drainage pipes, obstruction of drainage pipes due to dumped garbage and sediment deposits, inefficient operation of Narinda Pump Station, narrowing of the natural drainage khals and obstructions created by buildings and physical infrastructures were found to be the causes of internal flood due to drainage congestion of the rainwater.

During the pre-Mughal and Mughal period, the drainage system entirely depended on the natural topography consisting of undulations, valleys, channels and khals. Some of the most important channels and khals still existing are the Dholai Khal, the Begunbari Khal, the Segunbagicha-Purana Paltan Khal and the Gerant Khal.

Most of the khals are interconnected. The Dholai Khal drains into the Buriganga and the rest into the Balu river. The first modern sewerage system of Dhaka city was in-

stalled in 1923, which was gradually extended, and was designed for sanitary sewage only. At present the system has been integrated with the stormwater drainage pipes, khals, only one pump station at Narinda and structures like culverts and bridges.

Two technical sessions were held yesterday. The morning session was chaired by Dr M Shahjahan and MF Quyyum while the afternoon session was chaired by Prof S J Oguntoyinbo.

In his keynote paper on 'The Impact of Natural Disasters on Urban Infrastructures' Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury of Bangladesh Engineering University said due to unengineered growth of megacities even disasters of moderate intensity could bring the whole urban life system to a halt.

Referring to the growing tendency to ignore vulnerability of city infrastructures during their planning, to different types of natural hazards, he said impact of natural disasters should be considered explicitly

Khaleda condoles loss of lives in ROK train accident

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has sent a condolence message to Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea Hwang in Sung for the loss of many valuable lives in the tragic train accident in Pusan, reports BSS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. CHOYANG MOSCOW: V-WF314 from Busan, Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. K. JESPERSEN V-145193 Import Plot. No. 221/93 has arrived Chittagong on 27-3-93 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.

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The containerised cargo ex. M.V. THURINGEN V-WMB12 from Hongkong & containers from Singapore have been relayed to M.V. KOTA BUANA V. KBN06N. Imp. Plot. No. 227/93 has arrived Chittagong on 28-3-93 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.

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We're Grateful

We remain ever grateful to the relatives, friends & well-wishers, military and civil officers & personnel, freedom fighters and others who from all walks of life have expressed their heartfelt condolences personally, over telephone & by letter on the immature & sudden demise of Brigadier (Retd) A N M Nuruzzaman, former ambassador of Bangladesh to Sweden.

In the instance of our virtual inability to write everyone individually, we humbly express our sincere gratitude through this newspaper advertisement.

Widow, sons, daughter
brothers & sisters of the
deceased

Govt college teachers withdraw strike programmes

The government college teachers have withdrawn their programmes of strike for indefinite period and boycotting the degree examination.

In a press release of the Bangladesh Sarkari College Adhahapak Samity Monday, the teachers said that they have withdrawn the programmes as the Education Minister, State Minister and Secretary assured them of implementing the demands of the teachers were fighting for.

The samity, however, said that they would continue to press the government to implement its 12 point demands which include due promotion for the teachers, and filling up the vacant posts.

To create pressure the teachers will wear black badges from April 5 to 11, observe token two hour strike every day throughout April 12 to 17, observe a one day token strike on 18, would observe three-hour token strike every day from May 2 to 25 and go for indefinite strike, boycotting the higher secondary examination from June 7.

Bangladeshi book fair in Calcutta begins today

A fortnight-long Bangladeshi book fair and painting exhibition begins in Calcutta today, reports BSS.

Apart from the fair, seminars on Bengali literature, research work and problems of marketing of books will also be held on the occasion, an official handout said here yesterday.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan-Ara Begum left for Calcutta yesterday morning to inaugurate the book fair at the exhibition hall of Calcutta Information Centre.

Information and Cultural Minister for West Bengal is expected to be present as the special guest at the inaugural function.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta has organised the programme to mark the 22nd National and Independence Day of Bangladesh. More than one thousand books will be on display at the exhibition for sale. Eminent litterateurs from Bangladesh and India, will take part in the literary discussions and seminar. A painting exhibition will also be held.

Police attack on Nirmul rally condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties, teachers, lawyers and intellectuals Monday condemned the police attack on the Sunday's rally organised by Ekattarer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannay Committee.

Leaders of Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF), Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Dilip Barua and Alhaj Abdus Samad in a statement warned the government that if a similar incident occurs on March 31 which will be observed as Protest Day, country's democratic and constitutional process will be jeopardised.

PDF also urged all to come forward in the movement against the killers of 71.

In another statement, Bangladesh National Awami Party President Prof Mozaffar Ahmed and General Secretary, Pankaj Bhattacharya said the attack on the rally and assault on Nirmul committee members including Jahanara Imam has led the democratic and constitutional process of the country towards a dark alley.

One hundred and twenty-two layers in a statement Monday condemned the police attack on Jatiya Samannay Committee rally Sunday.

They alleged that the government has violated the constitutional rights of the people

by letting loose the police force on the rally. The signatories to the statement include Dr Kamal Hossain, Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, Barrister Amirul Islam, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Shawkat Ali Khan and Barrister Shaifque Ahmed.

The lawyers in their statement further said that the government would not be able to snatch away the democratic rights of the people through coercive measures.

The acting senior vice chairman of Jatiya Party, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in a statement said the attack on the rally of Nirmul committee reveals the government's undemocratic characteristics.

He also condemned the assault on Jahanara Imam and other members of the Nirmul committee.

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies and Bangladesh Short Film Forum in separate statements condemned the Sunday's police attack on the Nirmul committee rally.

President of Swadesh Chinta Sangha, Dr Ahmed Sharif in a statement said the government has shown its autocratic face by attacking the rally of Nirmul committee.

He also asked all to resist this "autocratic government".



Leaders of the Freedom Fighters Command Council ending the fast of unemployed freedom fighters yesterday in the city. — Star photo

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রপতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd, Chhatak, Sunamganj invites Sealed Tenders from A-3 and A-2 category of contractors enlisted with BCIC for the reconstruction of foundation for the Trestle No. 75 & 110 at an estimated cost of Tk. 6,43,660.52 will be received up to 11-00 am on 11.4.93 and opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents available at Tk. 400/- per set from BCIC, Dhaka and Chhatak Cement Co. Ltd. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date.

BCIC 239-21/3
DFP(BA)2523-21/3 G-413

CLU workshop begins

A five-day programme planning workshop of Commonwealth NGO Liaison Units (CLU) of Asian region began at a hotel yesterday morning under the aegis of UK-based Commonwealth Foundation, reports BSS.

Inoke F Faletau, Director of Commonwealth Foundation, inaugurated the workshop with a call for finding suitable action plan to help the distressed people of the region.

BTV

Tuesday

5.00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary

5.10 News in Bangla

5.25 Eao Para Shikhi

5.45 Programme for mothers

6.30 Open University

7.05 Nazrul songs

8.00 News in Bangla

8.40 Drama serial: Surjer Apekshya

10.00 News in English

10.30 Film: ENG

11.30 Khabar/The News

11.45 Closing

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather will remain mainly dry over the country and day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday) according to Met office.

The maximum temperature of the country recorded yesterday (Monday) of 32.0 degree Celsius was reported from both Rajshahi and Teknaf and the minimum of 12.2 degree was reported from Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 6.14 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.52 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.1	16.6	47	32
Chittagong	30.5	18.8	54	45
Rajshahi	32.0	15.2	33	29
Khulna	30.4	17.8	68	56
Cox's Bazar	30.8	21.0	52	56
Srimangal	30.6	13.0	75	38
Dinajpur	30.3	12.6	52	27
Burisal	30.3	17.5	67	52

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