

Dhaka Day by Day

Living in Mugophobia

by Raffat Binte Rashid

It was a quiet desolate lane. A middle-aged woman was returning home from work. Suddenly the sound of a motorcycle near made her stop day-dreaming. She looked around and saw a few young men well dressed and smart, obviously all from well-to-do family. They accosted her in the most friendly manner.

"Hello there! How are you doing? Do you have a second?"

"Do I know them?" was her first reaction. Since she could not recall the smiling faces of the strangers, she started cursing her memory. In an instant she was surrounded by all of them.

"Give us your bangles?" They demanded. Now she was an out spoken lady, feared no one on earth.

"Why the hell should I give you my ornaments? Get lost!" she retorted. And within seconds they showed her their favourite collection of guns, daggers, knives, as if this array of weapons are the most easily available things on earth.

They are so fast in their action and so friendly that before she realized, they snatched her gold chain, wedding band, not to mention the watch and of course her bangles. She tried to scream and draw attention of the passers-by but to no avail. Their display of arms was enough to scare them off.

The woman cursed her stars and those muggers, turned her rickshaw and went home. She didn't even bother to go to a nearby police station to write up a GD (General Diary).

Mugging innocent people, wrongly called hijacking, now in this country has definitely become a regular 'Dhaka Day by Day' feature. No matter where you are, the main street or alley, meeting these muggers is inevitable and they have their own way of picking you by chance. They preferably choose the most casual manner of approach. Most of the times these things are done at a lightning speed and by expert hands. By the time you come back to your senses and realize what has happened, they will be on their way thanking and waving good-bye.

Well, this is only one of their surprise

swoops on you. Don't be astonished if while you're going by a rickshaw, someone simply snatches your purse and ride away smiling, as if it's only a child's prank. But if you are clever enough to outwit them by imitation ornaments, then be ware, they would come back the next day, same way (to your office or your child's school) and get you, they'd accuse you of cheating.

If you dare attempt to stop them, the consequences might be tragic, sometimes the courage may cost your precious life for just a few thousands of bucks. If a young lady is daring enough to scream or call a passer-by, they might slap her hard on the face or scratch her with knives. Anyway in such moments don't bother to call the people around you, for they prefer to play a dumb's or blind's role in such scenes. But of course, their sympathy for you and their courage overflow after you are both emotionally and financially robbed.

And if you try to go to the near-by traffic police, another story begins. Obviously he was busy clearing the traffic jams and didn't notice the robbers. You'll have to replay the scene for him over and over again and exactly point the way they left and how they looked. Then he might, at best, suggest you to go to the nearby police station and write up a GD. By the time the muggers are away to some safe hiding place (which actually is the nearby slum) or off to some other mission.

If you are lucky the police might accidentally help you or your lost property will only be recorded in the police diary. Reportedly, only 50 to 60 such mugging cases a month, are put in the police diary while others remain unreported.

Most of the time persons mugged prefer to avoid the police part, which is a cumbersome, fruitless bother. Every day in Dhaka city in almost every alley such incidents are occurring and nothing is being done to help solve the problem.

The police department is undoubtedly busy doing their jobs but somehow, we the citizens tend to feel insecure.



BUET convocation tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Five hundred six students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be given certificates at the convocation ceremony to be held tomorrow (Saturday).

Prime Minister and the Chancellor of BUET Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the function while its Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Shahjahan and Prof Muhammad Yunus will address.

At the convocation ceremony to be held at the BUET auditorium, 466 students will be given Bachelor's degree, one PhD and 40 on Post Graduation. Of the students belonging to the 1988-89 batch, 20 students will be given gold medal.

The BUET authorities have decided to hold regular convocation ceremonies every year while it has also decided to distribute certificates among all BUET students who graduated since 1962.

Since the founding of BUET in 1962, a total of 10,203 students passed from it among whom there are 5 PhDs, and 661 Post Graduates.

The first convocation ceremony of BUET was held on March 20, 1973, the second on November 12, 1976 and the third on February 29, 1992.

Seminar on education begins in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, May 6: A three-day workshop on 'Role of Teachers in Improvement of Standard of Education' began at the Teachers training college auditorium at Bakolia here today, reports BSS.

Held under the joint auspices of Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association and the Education International, the workshop was inaugurated by senior journalist Nazir Ahmad. Local BNP leader Begum Farida Rahman, Deputy Director of Secondary Education and Science Development, Chittagong Azizul Alam, Primary School Teachers' Association leaders, Amiri and Abu Sakkh Nuri and Education International representative Abu Salek also addressed the inaugural session. Unit President Zafar Ahmad presided.

Role and responsibilities of teachers in improving education, ILO and UNESCO's recommendation on the status of teachers, UN convention on the elimination and discrimination against women leadership and decision making etc are some of the subjects to be deliberated at the three-day workshop.

Police arrested a youngman and recovered two guns with 26 bullets from a shrimp farm at Chhitbunia in Dakope thana on Wednesday when a group of youths went on rampage there, reports UNB.

Youngman held, guns recovered in Khulna

KHULNA, May 6: Police arrested a youngman and recovered two guns with 26 bullets from a shrimp farm at Chhitbunia in Dakope thana on Wednesday when a group of youths went on rampage there, reports UNB.

Police said a dozen of armed youths led by Shah Ismatul Islam tried to occupy a lease of shrimps at Chhitbunia at 11.45 am.

The owner of the farm along with workers tried to resist them when the group fired several shots. None was, however, hurt.

Police rushed to the spot and arrested Ahsanul Kabir Tushar (20) and recovered the arms and ammunition. A case was filed with Dakope thana.

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Rajshahi, Bogra and Pubna, and at one or two places elsewhere over Chittagong division.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius.

The maximum temperature of the country recorded yesterday (Thursday) of 35.4 degree Celsius was reported from Ishurdi and the minimum of 19.0 degree was from Sylhet.

The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday across the country were: Sylhet 54 mm, Comilla 22 mm, Srimangal 21 mm, Dhaka 20 mm and Mymensingh 6 mm.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6.30 pm and rise tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.20 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
Dhaka	32.7	84
Chittagong	32.0	84
Rajshahi	33.4	88
Khulna	33.5	75
Barisal	32.0	82
Cox's Bazar	32.7	72
Sylhet	21.5	98
Dinajpur	28.3	82



Prince Karim Aga Khan left Dhaka for Paris yesterday. Hasan Ali Ajani, President of the Ismaili Council, Information Minister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Textiles M A Mannan saw him off at the ZIA.

High priority given to health sector, Kamal tells WHO assembly

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf outlined the policies and programmes of the government to ensure health for all in Bangladesh by the year 2000, reports UNB.

"High priority was given to health sector by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda, the Health Minister said while addressing the Plenary Session of the 46th World Health Assembly in Geneva on Wednesday.

The Health Minister highlighted the government's plan to modernise the hospital organisation and management in Bangladesh while giving details of the policy for development of manpower and technical skill in health sector.

He said the need for proper direction and coordination of all external resources were being addressed perfectly by the government to ensure better medicare facilities.

The minister pointed out that the successful and innovative efforts in the intensified primary health care approach made in 11 thanas has now been extended to 54 thanas.

Referring to the re-emergence of malaria and kalazar, the Health Minister said that measures were taken to eradicate the diseases in determined manner.

The challenges relating to rural health and sanitation are being met with effective policy response and successful programme implementation," he said.

Referring the successful completion of the SAARC Summit in Dhaka, the minister said many steps were taken to develop the socio-economic condition of the vast people of this region, of which poverty alleviation is one of the main objectives.

The minister also mentioned the Dal-Bhat programme of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, which was highly appreciated and accepted by all the seven-member countries of SAARC.

Dr Hiroshi Nakajima has been elected Director General of the World Health Organisation for next 5-year term in the elections held on Wednesday.

Chinese help sought to establish export oriented industries

The visiting Bangladesh delegation led by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder had a fruitful meeting with the head of Chinese Communist Party's Foreign Relations Department Li Suzheng and top central committee members of the party in Beijing yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The other members of the delegation include Vice President of the BNP Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddiky and senior leaders of the party.

During the meeting, Abdus Salam Talukder recalled the age old bond of friendship between the two peoples and expressed the hope that it would continue to grow from strength to strength with co-operation in the new fields.

The BNP Secretary General commended the leadership of Chinese Communist Party in achieving high rate of economic growth and ensuring political stability in China.

Bangladesh could be benefited from the Chinese experience with regard to achieving higher growth rate, he observed.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister sought Chinese assistance in establishing export oriented industries in Bangladesh.

Li Suzheng expressed the Chinese government and her party's appreciation for the achievement of Bangladesh in the fields of agriculture, family planning and rural development under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Hannan asks students to concentrate on their studies

Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah yesterday exhorted the workers of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal to consolidate their might in their academic career as well as in the society for the well-being of the nation, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the biennial conference of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Sonargaon thana unit in Narayanganj.

Presided over by student leader Nazrul Islam, the conference was addressed by local MP, Professor Rezaul Karim and Mobarak Hossain, president, Narayanganj district unit of the Chhatra Dal.

The conference was attended by about four thousand students from eleven unions of the thana.

Jin Jian leaves for home

The Chinese Vice Minister for Justice, Jin Jian, left here for home yesterday, after leading a 6-member legal delegation to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

State Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Hoque saw him off at the Zia International Airport.

During his 4-day visit here, Jin Jian called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzaka Ali, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Minister for Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz. The Chinese delegation also visited Dhaka Judge Court and National Museum.

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Night coach hijacked, passengers robbed

Chittagong-bound night coach was hijacked Wednesday from the Chandpur-Comilla road by a gang which stabbed the passengers and looted their belongings, reports UNB.

Ten of the injured passengers were admitted to Chandpur and Hajiganj hospitals with stab injuries.

Victims said some dacoits in the guise of passengers boarded the bus and took control from the driver at dagger-point near Shaharasti, 20 km from the town at midnight.

They indiscriminately stabbed the passengers and forced them get down from the bus at different points.

DUJ Dinkal unit meet held

A meeting of Dainik Dinkal unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) was held yesterday at the newsroom of the newspaper with unit chief Abu Sayeed Jubert in the chair, reports BSS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. HAMBURG SENATOR V-WF520 from Beirut, ex. M.V. DSR EUROPE V-EF321 from Kuwait have been relayed to M.V. NGS RANGER V-4993 Imp. Rot. No. 362/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 7-5-93 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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Professor M Glen Johnson, Director of the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad delivering speech on the evolution of US foreign policy at the National Press Club yesterday.

Domestic issues to influence Clinton's foreign policy

The foreign policy of the United States took a dramatic turn concentrating on domestic issues after Bill Clinton entered the office of presidency, an American analyst said in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Clinton's policy is based on domestic issues while Bush's was meant for global security, said Professor M Glen Johnson, director of the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad, India while delivering a lecture on 'American's Foreign Policies' at the Jatiya Press Club.

Focusing on different aspects of the foreign policy being pursued by the Democrat administration, Johnson said America's prosperity was its main cornerstone as Clinton won the election with the promise to give top priority to domestic problems.

Johnson, who has authored several books on America's foreign policies, listed democratisation, protection of human rights, combating terrorism and drug abuse, and modernisation of the country's military capability as other features of President Clinton's foreign policy objectives.

He, however, said the US will reduce its military budget. "It's no longer a duty for the US alone to protect the interest and independence of the Third World countries after the cold war is over," he remarked.

Referring to the US policy towards the South Asian nations, Johnson said the US attached less importance to the countries of the region compared to other regions.

The US maintains similar relations with India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, he said, adding that Washington has a balanced policy with India and Pakistan, the two arch-rivals which have fought three wars since 1947.

He told a questioner that the US neither accepts the Indian interpretation on the Kashmir issue nor supports the Pakistan stand, saying that India is violating human rights in Kashmir and Pakistan is harbouring terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir.

Johnson blamed Pakistan, Iran and Libya for unleashing "state terrorism" but ruled out the possibility of "trade wars" in old forms.

He asserted that the US would always try to protect its interests under any circumstances.

Referring to "Islamic Fundamentalism", Johnson said the US itself was not concerned about it but Washington worries as other countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia are concerned.

On the volatile situation in the Balkan peninsula, Johnson said it will take time to mobilise multinational forces to put an end to it.

BTB
Friday
Morning session

8.00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary

8.10 News in Bangla
8.15 Alore Dishari
8.40 Natun Kuri
10.00 News in English
10.05 Moner Mukure
11.15 Shikha Deekha
11.30 Film show: Dany Wilson's Family Collection

Evening session

3.00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary

3.15 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3.40 Movie of the Week: Full length Bangla film
— Reshmi Churni

5.15 News in Bangla
5.25 Sports programme: Tennis

6.40: Open University
7.25 Malancha
7.35: Speech of Red Crescent Chairman.

8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Comedy show: Perfect Strangers
9.00 Magazine: Manabandhakar
10.00 News in English

10.30 Drama series: L A Law
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45 Closing

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