

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Joy ride on a Double-Decker

by A S M Nurunnabi

Normally a ride on a public bus in the city is no treat. With its ramshackle, woe-be-gone look, it discourages a prospective passenger to the utmost. Yet when circumstances are compelling, one has to travel in one even when it assumes a bloated appearance with an overload of passengers.

A double-decker bus is a little different and it attracts attention easily. Any member of this elite band appears to be better maintained.

When it proceeds on its scheduled run from Gulistan through the maze of city traffic with its head raised majestically high, it never fails to draw one or two respectful glances from the passersby, young and old.

Shovan is an eight-year old boy in my neighbourhood. I once asked him if he had ever travelled in a double-decker. On his negative reply and his expression of profound interest in the matter, I offered to take him to Gulistan stand of the double deckers for a joy ride. When he came near a double-decker at the stand, the boy was all curiosity; at first he tried to gauge its height by craning his neck skyward. Duly impressed, he began to fire a series of questions at me. He seemed to be a little awed as we moved upstairs along a spiral staircase. As we took our seats in the front part upstairs, he wanted to make sure that the bus would not turn turtle even if its top floor was overloaded with passengers.

When the 'double' started its journey with a full load, it swayed a little. On my assurance that everything was all right, the boy looked forward nervously. As the bus approached a branch of a tree or overhead cable, he ducked his head in spite of my assurance that the bus would keep clear of them. Gradually he began to gain confidence and take interest in the passing traffic.

Double-decker buses have been in use in Dhaka city for over three decades. From past

experience it appears that its body, engine and overall construction are more durable than the ordinary buses. Even those double-deckers which had been plying in pre-liberation days were found to be in perfect running condition during the early years in the post-liberation period. One reason why we do not have more of them is perhaps that they are more costly and in our anarchic traffic conditions, they are not easy to manoeuvre.

I often wondered if the drivers of double-deckers look upon themselves as a class superior to ordinary bus drivers, since they operate a much heavier vehicle requiring better skill and competence. But one thing can be said in their favour: they are known to have caused few road accidents. This testifies to their driving skill and cautious management of their vehicle.

Because of its unwieldy appearance perhaps, a double-decker is not considered a suitable vehicle for congested road conditions in modern cities. In some modern cities, however, such as Calcutta and London, double-deckers are still found to operate.

To obviate traffic congestion, the modern trend is to go in for mass transit systems. Many megacities like Calcutta, Tokyo and Hong Kong, because of space limitation, have pushed upward from street level or downward below ground to set up light railway systems. All this is because their road networks — and booming populations — have made commuting for both motorists and pedestrians almost impossible.

Similar situation is fast developing in Dhaka city. In view of this, it is just a question of time when solutions will have to be found in similar mass transit facilities. In this context, the future of double-deckers in our cities seems to be bleak. It will not be long perhaps when a double-decker will be found as an exhibit in a museum.



## PM releases commemorative stamps on pry education

Bangladesh Postal Department yesterday issued two postage stamps of Tk 2 denomination and a first day cover valued Tk 5 on compulsory primary education as part of a countrywide campaign, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia released the stamps at a simple ceremony at her office yesterday morning.

A special cancellor was used and a leaflet on the significance of the educational campaign was also issued on the occasion.

The Postal Department brought out the set of postage stamps to help a social movement throughout the country for achieving the objective of Compulsory Primary Education Programme.

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, also in charge of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication, and concerned senior officials were present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia releasing commemorative stamps on compulsory primary education at a simple ceremony at her office yesterday. — PID photo

## Rally demands creation of Sylhet div

By Staff Correspondent

Sylhet Bishag Bastabayan (Council of Bishags for Implementation of Sylhet Division) held a rally Wednesday in front of the National Press Club demanding announcement of separate division with the four districts of former greater Sylhet.

The rally presided over by its Convenor Abdul Quayum Chowdhury was addressed among others by MA Rashid Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid, Mojahidur Rahman Ansary, AGM Shamsul Huq, Nupur Kumar Roy, Munim Chowdhury, Ashfaq Hossain, Syed Ashfaqur Rahman, Quamrul Hasan Strajee and Abdul Mannan.

Speakers at the rally also demanded conversion of Osman Airport into an international airport.

## Patriotic forces urged to bury dissensions

Khandker Delwar Hossain, MP, Chief Whip, BNP parliamentary party, Tuesday said that the present government was determined to establish a society free from corruption and terrorism, reports BSS.

The BNP government, he said, was working to solve the unemployment problem in the country phase-by-phase.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting arranged to distribute relief materials and cheques of grants among the distressed people of Daulatpur thana in Manikganj district affected by river erosion and natural disasters.

The Chief Whip called upon the patriotic people and peace loving people across the country to forge unity sinking petty differences for reaching national consensus and resisting

the hindrances to development efforts.

He called upon the thana level officers to explain to the people and involve them with the development programmes undertaken by the government so that they could better use the facilities provided to them by the government.

He also asked for timely inspection of the schemes so that they could be completed on scheduled.

Khandker Delwar said that the people were now the focal point of all development activities initiated by the government to reduce economic hardship of the millions of poverty stricken.

The BNP government, he said, would always stand by the hapless as they did in the past.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on air services between Bangladesh and Iran was signed at Biman Bhaban yesterday. The leader of the visiting Iranian delegation, and Deputy Minister of Road and Transport Bani Najarian and Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of Bangladesh Habibur Rahman signed the MOU on behalf of their respective governments. Story on page 12.

## 'Streamlining of tree plantation a must to save nat'l entity'

Minister for Environment, Forest and Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman said that tree plantation would be developed into a human habit through the programme of mass awareness for plantation that had been created through different organisational processes during the last two years, reports BSS.

He was presiding over a meeting representing different concerned ministries, autonomous bodies and voluntary organisations to evolve strategies for further strengthening national plantation programme in the current season.

State Minister Goyeswar Chandra Roy, Bani Ashraf MP, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock AZM Nasruddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Anwarul Islam, National Commissioner of Girls' Guide, Zeba Kabir Chowdhury and representatives of Divisional Commissioner, Ansar/VDP Directorate, BRDB, Rajuk, armed forces, IGP, Dhaka City Corporation, National Press Club, Lions Club, Rotary Club, ADAB, Gramen Bank, BRAC and others were present at the meeting.

He said that the tree plantation programme must have to be strengthened and streamlined to save our national entity in view of the importance of trees in preservation of environment and fulfillment of social need.

## Report of raising duty on TV spares denied

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday said that custom duty on television spare parts have not been increased in any way, reports BSS.

In a clarification to a news item published in the dailies yesterday, the NBR said that there was a custom duty of 75 per cent on import of television on Completely Built-Up (CBU) and completely knock-down condition.

In order to encourage assembly of television within the country, the custom duty on spare items and spare parts had been fixed at 30 per cent

and that of electronic spare parts at 45 per cent.

The NBR said that recently a section of dishonest importers tried to deprive the government of huge revenue by importing CKD TV sets under the cover of spare parts. Necessary administrative measures were taken to stop such evasion of duty.

### To Let

Two-storied residential one unit house Plot No: 166, Lane 3, New DOHS Mohakhali, 4 bedrooms with attached bath. Spacious living area and dining space. Family lounge study, ample storage space and lawn. Contact Brig. Zahed Latif  
Phone: Office: 864078, Res: 885814

### House Rent

Architect built 1 unit house in Baridhara near Lake/American School, large stylish living areas expensive fittings/garden. First renting contact Tel: 314834 5-179

## Tender Notice Rajshahi University

Memo No. 698/1 (K)/93-CC Dated: 25.5.1993

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide firms for supply of the following items. Tenders are to be deposited in the designated box kept in the office of the Treasurer, RU, by 11:00 am of 10.6.1993. Earnest money amounting to 2% of the quoted price requires to be submitted along with the tender in the form of Bank Draft drawn in favour of the "Registrar, Rajshahi University" failing which the tender will not be considered. The selected supplier will be required to deliver the items to the Computer Centre, RU at their own expense within 15 days of the issue of the Work Order, failing which the Work Order will stand cancelled and the earnest money forfeited. The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders.

Sl. No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Computer [Intel 80386DX-33, Intel 80387DX Math Coprocessor, 8 MB RMA, 1.2 MB FDD, 1.44 MB FDD, 120 MB HDD, VGA 1024K card, 14" VGA 1024x768 colour monitor, 1 parallel port, 2 serial ports, 101-key keyboard, serial mouse]	3 [Three]
2.	Intel 80287-12 Math Coprocessor	3 [Three]
3.	Intel 8087 Math Coprocessor [Processor- NEC V20]	1 [One]
4.	Monitor, monochrome, VGA	1 [One]
5.	Monitor, monochrome, Hercules/MDA	2 [Two]
6.	40 MB HDD for XT, with controller	1 [One]
7.	EPSON LX-800 dot matrix printer	1 [One]
8.	Printing head for EPSON FX-1050 printer	1 [One]
9.	EPSON ribbon cartridge for EPSON LX-800 printer	10 [Ten]
10.	8.5"x11" continuous forms, box of 2000	4 [Four]
11.	101-key AT keyboard	1 [One]
12.	Bengali Word Processor for PC	1 [One]

Dr. Ahsanul Habib  
Administrator  
Computer Centre  
Rajshahi University

D-370

## No positive criticism of uplift programmes in JS yet: Hafiz

RAJSHAHI, May 26: Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Goolam Hafiz has said that the BNP government is implementing the 19-point programme of late President Ziaur Rahman to ensure five basic needs of the people, reports BSS.

He was addressing a public meeting at Godagary thana complex premises of the district on Monday, according to an official source today.

Organised by Godagary thana BNP, the meeting was also addressed by State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Haq, Azizur Rahman MP, Luthfunnesa Hossain MP and BNP leaders

Aminul Islam Panjab, Ekhlac Hossain, Kamrul Monir, Ershad Ali and Goolam Sarwar. The Law Minister said, people had expressed their verdict thrice to BNP reposing their trust for its (BNP) pro-people politics. When the present government was trying hard to ameliorate the lot of the people, some opposition parties were out to disrupt the development process resorting to harial on baseless issues, he added.

Hafiz strongly criticised the main opposition party saying they had failed to carry out their responsibility as shadow government in the present parliamentary democratic system. He further said no constructive criticism of development programme of the government had come yet in the parliament.

Pointing to local problems, the Minister announced that an office building of Sub-Registry would be constructed at Godagary in the next fiscal year. He said massive reforms in land management system would be done to lessen the harassment of the farmers.

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## Mya Thin urged to help expedite Rohingya repatriation

The visiting Minister for Home Affairs of the Union of Myanmar Lt General Mya Thin called on State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan at the latter's office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to shelter, food and repatriation of the Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh.

The State Minister called upon the visiting Home Minister to take steps to repatriate the refugees to their homeland as soon as possible.

Thin said that his government had taken necessary measures to complete the repatriation work expeditiously.

## Plea to lift arms ban on Bosnian Muslims

CHITTAGONG, May 26: AKM Rafiqullah Chowdhury, Secretary General of Council for World Muslim Affairs, today called for withdrawal of arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims to enable them to defend themselves, reports BSS.



**Thursday**

5.00	Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
5.05	News in Bangla
5.25	School debate
6.30	Esho Para Shikhi
7.00	Jiboner Alo
7.25	Nazrul songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama of the week: Briefcase
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film show: China Beach
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

## Weather

### Moderate shower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday) says, light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Bogra, Rajshahi and Jessore.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi yesterday (Wednesday) and the lowest 23.3 degree was recorded in Satkhira.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.40 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.11 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
Dhaka	Max 34.2 Min 27.8	9 am 6 pm 77 77
Chittagong	33.2 27.0	69 74
Rajshahi	37.0 23.4	68 60
Khulna	34.0 24.5	77 77
Barisal	34.5 27.2	81 84
Cox's Bazar	33.2 26.2	78 78
Srimangal	33.2 25.2	83 72
Dinajpur	34.5 24.8	71 60

## Job Opportunity

Experienced Graduate Lady Private Secretary needed for the Managing Director of a limited company. The candidate should be fluent in speaking and writing English and experienced in operating computer (Word Perfect and Lotus), telex, fax and typing and handling of filing and other secretarial jobs. Apply in confidence along with CV, passport-size recent photo with expected salary by 15-06-93 to PO Box 5027, Dhaka-1205.

## বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আসন্ন "ঈদ-উল-আযহা" উপলক্ষে যাত্রী সাধারণের সুবিধার্থে ঢাকা-ঝুলনা মহাসড়কের ১ম ও ২য় ধলেশ্বরী ফেরী ঘাটে এবং জিজিরা-কেরানীগঞ্জ-দোহার সড়কের তুলসীবাগি এবং মরিচা ফেরী ঘাট, কতুল্লা-মুলীগঞ্জ-লৌহজং সড়কের মুক্তারপুর ফেরী ঘাটে ফেরী চলাচলের বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। শুধুমাত্র ঈদের নামায়ের জন্য ঈদের দিন ১ (দুই) ঘণ্টা ফেরী চলাচল বন্ধ থাকিবে। যানবাহন ফেরীতে উঠানামার সময়ে যাত্রীদিগকে যানবাহন হইতে নামিয়া যাওয়ার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

ইহা চাও জনসাধারণকে ফেরীতে কর্মরত কর্মচারীদের সহিত সংযোগিতা এবং সুস্থলভাবে ফেরীতে উঠানামা করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

মোঃ আকবাল হোসেন  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (সড়ক)  
মুলীগঞ্জ সড়ক বিভাগ  
পোস্তগোলা, ঢাকা।

DFPG: 8573-23/5  
G-705

## Open Architectural Competition

An open Architectural Competition is being invited on behalf of the Dhaka Club Limited with the co-operation and advice of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB). Any architect member of IAB, individually, in a group or in the name of an Architectural Consulting firm are eligible to participate in the competition.

- Subject:** Reorganization of the existing Master Plan and architectural design for the Administrative Building along with the Model.
- Submission:** 12 Noon, Saturday, 24 July, 1993, Dhaka Club Office, Ramna, Dhaka.
- Prizes:** a) First, Tk. 25,000/-, b) Second, Tk. 15,000/- and c) Third, Tk. 10,000/-
- Last date for registration:** The interested architects are requested to collect the required documents and drawings by submitting an application with the concerned letter-head pad on payment of non-refundable Tk. 500/- in cash, by Thursday, 10 June, 1993 from the office of the Dhaka Club Limited during the office hours. The Dhaka Club Limited authority reserves the right to take any decision about the results or on any matter whatsoever regarding this architectural competition.



ঢাকা ক্লাব লিমিটেড  
Dhaka Club Limited