# Passengers' Woes at Dhaka Airport

By ASM Nurunnabi

Generally passengers in our tlers. To save himself from furcountry get a raw deal, be it at ther harassment and also his a railway station, launchghat or luggage, he finds himself compelled to come to terms with at a bus terminal, at the hands of the persons associated with one of the cab drivers. The latbaggage handling and operation ter then demands arbitrary fare of transports. When a passenof him. Say, where a trip to ger happens to carry a heavy Mirpur would cost Tk 150/- to load of baggage, the extent of Tk 175/- the cab driver would harassment from those persons ask for 500/- and the baffled passenger finds himself with no increases all the more. In the case of an air passenger, parother alternative but to agree to the exorbitant fare. The unforticularly an incoming one passing through the Dhaka airtunate thing is that there is no authority at the airport to reguport, similar harassment awaits late the taxi-drivers and their The Zia International Airport

has become a overcrowded It seemed once that the situation in this regard was someplace with hundreds of passengers passing through it every what better sometime ago. day. In conformity with its Previously a booth was located condition as such, it is expected on the airport premises from that it will maintain a suitable which tickets were issued to instandard of discipline, orderlitending passengers with the serial number of the waiting taxi ness and security. But such expectation is belied by the actual and the amount of fare to be paid for each destination. From situation prevailing there. This gives rise to the questhe point of view of security also, this system was welcomed tion why the concerned authorities are not alive to the by passengers. It, however, has problems and take appropriate been lately found that the taxi remedial measures. Complaints booth is not on the airport premises. It is said to have been made through the media and

otherwise bring no relief.

The test of patience of an in-

microbuses by one of the hus

senger to locate such taxi booth coming passenger begins the moment he comes out of the ar-In this context, by way exrival lounge. Drivers of taxis, microbuses and baby taxis ample, the practice followed at Singapore or Kuala Lumpur ten to fifteen of them - swoop airport may be cited. At those on him and begin tugging his airports, taxis queue up at the luggage. The passenger naturally gets bewildered. exit gate and the passengers board the taxis in an orderly In this state of bewilderment manner. There is no hubbub. he sometimes finds part of his no haggling over fares, for fares luggage snatched from his and

are regulated by metres. hauled into one of the taxis or It is strange why we have

shifted outside. So it has now

become difficult for an air pas-

failed to introduce even some semblance of such discipline in our airport. The indiscipline and confusion at the exit gate are further aggravated by a swarm of beggars who surround the incoming passengers like leeches. The nuisance created by these beggars leaves a poor impression particularly on foreign travellers.

It is believed that a well organized gang operates here without hindrance. Some members of the security staff of the airport are alleged to be involved with them. Observers who feel concerned at these developments wonder why no effective step is taken to break this ring and assure air travellers a measure of safety and security.

There are also allegations of harassment of air passengers who fail to satisfy interested personnel at the time of custom checking. Such allegations are made from time to time. It is felt that the higher authorities should remain vigilant in this

The part of our manpower employed abroad is an important source of our foreign exchange earnings. To give them a fair deal when they come home and also to establish an unsullied image of the airport for all passengers, it behoves the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to break the ring of shady elements, thereby bringing an end to the harassment and inconvenience suffered daily by air travellers at the Dhaka airport.



the Shomeshwart, were flowing above the danger level while nine others have registered fur

Waters of the river Brahmaputra, the Surma, the Kushiyara, the Meghna and the Gumti Thursday rose by an av erage 10 centimetres above the danger levels.

The Brahmaputra at Chilmari was recorded 11 cm above the danger mark, while at Bahadurabad, the river swelled by 21 cm.

The Dharala at Kurigram showed a 39 cm fall but still flowing 44 cm over the red

The Surma at Sunamgani fell by eight centimetres while it rose by four centimetres at

Sylhet. The river Manu, recorded at the Manu Railway Bridge showed a 43 cm fall Thursday

but the river was still flowing 128cm over the red mark The Muhuri and the Sangu in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

have shown a downward trend Thursday, the FFC report said. The bulletin forecast that with the water dropping down

from the north, areas from Bahadurabad to Sirajganj was likely to suffer fresh inundation. It means that the flood wa

ters would now affect the mid dle part of the country, one of the WDB official predicted.

Flood situation in Sylhet, Sunamgani, Moulvibazar Habigani and Comilla districts in the next 24 hours might remain unchanged, the bulletin

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports, different sources yesterday confirmed three more deaths in different flood affected areas of Chittagong district.

One person died in Fatikehhari, sources informed, one in Boalkhali and one in Rauzan. Another person died in Patia

Meanwhile, the flood situation in the greater Chittagong area remained unchanged yesflow from the Kaptai Dam

Road links between Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati and Khagrachhart remained suspended as the highways in many places were submerged under three to five feet of water.

The road link between Chittagong-Rangamati and

Chittagong-Kaptai are mainly cut off due to heavy landslides. According to the district administration, 17,000 people

#### Flood situation at a glance

District	Situation
Panchagarh	Improved Slightly
Nilphamari	Unchanged
Kurigram	Worsened
Rangpur	Unchanged
Gaibandha	Worsened
Strajganj	Worsened
Netrakona	Worsened
Sunamganj	Unchanged
Sylhet	Worsened
Habigani	Unchanged
Comília	Worsened
Fent	Worsened
Chittagong	Unchanged
Khagrachhai	
Rangamati	Unchanged

Unchanged Bandarban Worsened Cox's Bazar Notes: 25 districts of northern and eastern parts of the country affected. All rivers of the Meghna basin and the

Brahmaputra are on the rise.

in seriously flood-hit nine

continued in the hill tract region. District administration said, extensive landslides oc curred in the region. Death toll caused by landslides remained at 42 in the last couple of days,

thanas out of 14 in Chittagong district were affected. But unofficial sources said the number of affected people was around

during the day yesterday. Meanwhile, heavy downpour but as rescue operations could

The Chittagong district experienced some 20 mm of rainfall

> areas, the officials said. BSS adds: Deputy

Editor: S. M. Ali **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam** and Sadar thanas.

UNB adds: The flood situa-



Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman receiving the European Commission Vice President Manuel Marin at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo

nancial assistance in irrigation.

#### Saifur tells newsmen at ZIA

## Dhaka to get \$215m from S. Arabia, Kuwait, IDB

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman vesterday said Bangladesh will receive 215 million US dollars assistance from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Islamic Development Bank, reports BSS.

Rahman was briefing newsmen at the Zia International Airport here yesterday morning on his arrival from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Out of the 215 million dollars the Kuwait government's share will be around 90 million dollars while the Saudi financial assistance will be around 100 million dollars and rest 25 million dollars will be provided by the IDB.

Terming his trip as a very fruitful one, the Finance Minister said Saudi Arabia had agreed to build the Bangladesh-Saudi Friendship Bridge over the River Dhalweshari and provide assistance for balancing, modernisation and expansion of the Eastern Refinery in Chittagong.

Rahman said the Ameer of Kuwait told him that Kuwait

### Dr Kamal

From Page 1 Col 8 cess and demanded that bureaucratic obstacles be re-

He hailed parliament for reviving the "dead" Parliamentary Probe Committee on corruption and said the legislature has the power do anything that would bring welfare to the people.

But, he alleged that some corrupt people were made members of the committee and suggested that they be removed for the success of the commit-

#### City transport

From Page 1 (ol5 International Corporation of Canada and Development Design Consultants Limited of Bangladesh are working on the matter under the Planning Commission.

A mid-term report of the study, which contained the short-term action plan, has al ready been submitted to the government, the sources said.

According to the sources, the study deals with almost all the aspects of the sector, including the transport industry, its financial viability, administration, legal aspects and services. The action plans for individual aspects were narrated in 33 separate papers of the mid-term report, the sources said.

The final report of the study is likely to be submitted to the government in February next

year, the sources pointed out. An official of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BIXTA) told The Daily Star that the transport system in Dhaka has not been in pace with the modern methods of urban transportation since no comprehensive measures were

taken earlier to improve it. He, however, hoped that implementation of the recommendations of the ongoing study would help bring discipline and order in the sector as well as ensure improved ser vices for the people

### Pak cabinet

From Page 1 Col 8

Sharif and his archenemy Ghulam Ishaq Khan quit their posts as prime minister and president respectively on Sunday in an army-brokered deal to end a feud between them that had paralysed government for six months. Sharif dissolved parliament. Interim governments have

been set up in the capital and the four provinces to oversee the national elections on October 6 and provincial elections on October 9.

Sharif and his chief rival former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, have insisted on a neutral interim government to try to prevent the rigging that allegedly marred the last elections in 1990. Those polls brought Shartf to power three months after Bhutto was sacked.

# would provide all possible fi-

energy and rural electrification He said Dhaka is keenly projects in Bangladesh and would also help build a conference complex here in Dhaka to mark the excellent friendly re-

lationship between the two brotherly Islamic countries. The Finance Minister during his stay in Jeddah had signed 20 million dollar project loan agreements with the IDB for feeder road in Sylhet and Mymensingh and rural electrififigured in the discussion. cation projects in Faridpur and He hoped that UNHCR chief

Rahman said during his stay in Saudi Arabia he had verv positive talks with his counterpart and sought 100 million dollars financial assistance of which 30 million dollars for procurement of railway locomotive engines and carriages, 30 million dollars for completion of Teesta Barrage, 20 million dollars for construction of bridge and 20 million dollars for rural electrification in the country.

#### Opposition fronts to back BJP-led no-confidence

NEW DELHI, July 23: India's centrist-leftist opposition alltance said today it would back a no-confidence motion moved by a rival Hindu party to vote out the government of Prime Minister P V Narsaimha Rao. reports AFP.

The National Front and Left Front said after a meeting that they had overcome their reservations on siding with the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) when parliament takes up the motion

#### here next week. Strike paralyses Calcutta

CALCUTTA, July 23: Calcutta was virtually paralysed today by an opposition strike in protest against the police shoot ing of 13 demonstrators, and the East Indian city was braced for possible violence, reports Reuter.

The normally teeming streets of India's most populous city of 11 million were virtually deserted and there was hardly any public transport.

## EC assistance

From page 1 col 7

Minister highlighted the development efforts of the government as well as mixed economy, open market policy and incentives to the investors.

Mostafiz also referred to the Bangladesh-EC joint efforts in implementing the Flood Action

waiting to welcome a 20-member team of European parliament team due in October.

The Foreign Minister apprised the EC delegation of Bangladesh's efforts in tackling the Rohingya refugee problem and Chakma issue. Bangladesh's stand on protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Harzegovina also

Ms Sadako Ogata's planned visit to Myanmar in near future would pave the way for UN presence there to supervise repatriation of the Rohingya refugees

Besides, the Bangladesh side at the talks focussed on possible cooperation between SAARC and EC in different fields, particularly poverty alleviation, en vironment and family planning. A joint SAARC-EC consultative committee will streamline this cooperation.

Dhaka hoped that the Maastricht treaty on European union adopted in December 1991 would be implemented. Earlier, Manuel Marin said

Bangladesh is working hard to accelerate development.

Talking to newsmen at the airport on his arrival yesterday afternoon on a three day visit, Marin also appreciated the ongoing democratisation process in the country.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman received him at the airport. Bangladesh Ambassa dor in Brussels Hassan Ahmed and EC mission chief in Dhaka J Bailly were also present.

He disclosed that he would sign a specific protocol with Bangladesh on determining avenues of future cooperation.

#### Criminal case against top Yeltsin aide

MOSCOW, July 23: Russia's hard-line parliament voted Friday to open a criminal case against one of President Boris Yeltsin's top aides, the first such action in a corruption probe of administration officials, reports AP.



John Major making a point in the House of Commons moments before yesterday's no-confidence vote. - Star TV photo

#### Major wins confidence the European Community

From page 1 col 7 rebel legislator Teresa Corman. Most of the 332 Conservatives in the 651-member Commons, she added, 'will not put themselves in for a general election because under this Prime Minister we will lose."

Major, whose opinion poll standing is the lowest of any prime minister since the 1930s. called for the parliamentary showdown Thursday after losing the second of two key votes on the treaty.

The call for a vote of confi dence capped a night of high drama and emotional debate over a Labour Party motion to force Major to sign up to the same charter of workers' rights

adopted by other members of

Twenty-three Conservatives voted with Labour as a tactic intended to kill the whole Major, who says charter

provisions such as paid paternity leave and a maximum 49hour work week are too costly for industry, defeated the Labour motion as Speaker of the House Betty Boothroyd broke a 317-317 tie in the government's favour.

But on the main motion supporting the treaty without the charter. Major lost by a vote of 316 to 324.

Labourites, catcalling a Major across the Commons or Friday, hammered home his

# The Midnight Eile

#### Tribunal set up to hear environmental cases

THE HAGUE (Netherlands), July 23: The World Court has set up a tribunal to hear environmental cases, the first chamber to focus on a single issue in the court's 48-year history. The 15judge judicial arm of the United Nations set up the special chamber because environmental cases are increasing, a court registry official said Friday, reports AP

#### \$75mEC grant for Yugoslav refugees

BRUSSELS, July 23: The European Community granted 75 million dollars in humanitarian aid today to refugees and other victims of the war in the former Yugoslavia, an EC Commission spokesman said. The donation, most of which will go to people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, brings the EC's total aid to the ex-Yugoslavia to the equivalent of 585 million dollars since the conflict began in September 1991, the spokesman said, reports

#### Delhi arrests Pak embassy staff for 'spying'

NEW DELHI, July 23: Indian authorities arrested a Pakistan Embassy employee on Friday and accused him of spying, but Pakistan denied the charge and said police tortured the man, reports AP.

Both countries said they would file formal complaints, but neither one appeared ready to scrap a code of conduct they signed in August, promising to protect each others embassy workers.

India and Pakistan, South Asia's archenemies, often accuse each other of attacking their embassy employees and their homes, falsely charging them with spying, and sending them home.

Friday marked the second time in seven months that the Pakistani Embassy has accused Indian authorities of beating one of its workers and held a news conference to show the injured man.

#### Ship movement

From Page 1 Col 3 continued few more days. He informed that the officials of Kaptai project were asked today to reduce the rate of water discharge considering the port situation but they expressed inability to do it because of danger level at the lake.

Meanwhile, the two private owned barges which sank into the Karnafuli river Thursday night due to current from the tides at Banglabazar ghat, are yet to be rescued. The two barges anchored there with cement loads were driven away by the spate of river water flowing from the Kaptai Dam, officials

### JP: Struggle

From Page 1 Col 4 workers over the present leadership but nobody dared to challenge it.

"I became vocal at the request of some dedicated party workers who want to reconstruct and rebuild the party." Huda who joined hands with Ershad in 1983 told The Daily

He said most of the former JP ministers were facing corruption charges and were therefore afraid of being actively involved in party activities. Mizan Chowdhury never led any political party, he is only reap ing pecuniary benefits by keeping Ershad in jail, Huda

"Ershad is now a financial necessity to them," the JP dissident said adding that "Mizan Chowdhury co-opted his favourite, Syeed Tarique in the presidium to run the party in his own manner. "As a founder I can never

tolerate this situation," he

Replying to a question re garding his alleged connections with the present government he said that 'none from the ruling party contacted him.

"Another journalist the other day asked me if I were given a cheque of Tk 10 crore to split the JP, he continued. "I told that reporter to come

and cash the cheque as there was a little anomaly in the signature," he quipped. The former Speaker who

served BNP government between 1977 to 1986 as minister. said a section of the party members insisted on forming a forum of parties who believed in Bangladeshi nationalism but their suggestion was ignored by the present JP heavy weights. He mentioned JSD (Rab) and

a faction of the Muslim League as parts of the said forum. He was very critical about the Awami League during the interview and alleged that Mizan Chowdhury had already turned the party into the B-team of the Shamsul Huda Chowdhury

said that party Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito came to his residence and promised that he would go ahead with the proposed forum. Moudud Ahmed and a number of other leaders phoned him to discuss the latest development in this regard, he added. "We are watching the movements of the JP leadership with guarded optimism," he remarked.

#### Ayubur, Rezaur president, secy of Dhaka Officers' Club By Staff Correspondent

Ayubur Rahman, and Rezaur Rahman yesterday were declared elected unofficially as President and General Secretary respectively of the Dhaka Officers' Club for the term 1993-95. The polls to one the city's elitist club was held Thursday last on the occasion of its 25th Annual General Meeting. Elections to all the 16

Committee were held. Avubur Rahman who is the Cabinet Secretary has become president by virtue of his official position, said a press release.

posts of the Executive

Six hundred and twenty four registered members cast their votes out of a total of 710 vot-

Rezaur Rahman was elected General Secretary of the club. Rahman who is a Joint Secretary of the Economic Relations Division polled 323 votes. His rival M A Jalil of Telegraph and Telephone Department received 298 votes

Others who have been declared unofficially elected are: Vice Presidents S M Akram (402 votes) and ABM Siddigi (333); Joint Secretary- Khaleda Edib Chowdhury (383); Treasurer Abdul Qayuum Thakur (324). Ten other committee members elected are: A N M Yusuf, Khandaker Rashidul Huq. Muhammad Akram Hussain, Tofael Ahmed, Ataul Karim, Kabiruddin Ahmed Majumdar, Md Lutfur Rahman Talukdar, Saifur Alam, Faruk Ahmed and M A Razzak

### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4 ment against, what she said, dilly-dally tactic in setting up the terms of reference of the proposed probe body to investigate into charges of corruption in the Agriculture Ministry and

of the minister concerned.

The opposition leader, after being welcomed and garlanded by the party leaders at the airport, alleged that the government was unconcerned about the plight of lakhs of flood-hit people and is doing nothing to rescue and rehabilitate the victims. Claiming that her party workers were doing their best to save and help the affected people, Hasina asked AL workers to continue rescue and relief operation in the flood-stricken ar-

As regards the release of Jamaat chief Golam Azam, liasina accused the BNP government of betraying with the martyrs of the Liberation War and the nation by freeing the war criminal. The mastermind of the genocide of '71 must be tried on the soil of Bangladesh,

she declared. She also refterated that the government was using the Anti-Terrorism Act to repress the workers of AL and its front organisations and demanded repeal of the law, terming it as a

parbarious one. The AL leader, who was back home after 22 days, cautioned the government saying corruption, terrorism, nepotism and partisanship would not be tolerated and called for a united agitation against this 'autocratic

government. Hasina left Dhaka on July to attend the convention of the French Socialist Party, from where she went to the United Kingdom.

Al. central leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Mohiuddin Ahmed. Sajeda Chowdhury, Zillur Rahman, Tofael Ahmed, Amir received her Hossain Amu. at the airport.

#### Dollar

From page 1 col 7 based on their previous day's

report of dollar rates in New York and Tokyo markets. But with the new system, this advantage has been wiped out. Meanwhile, banking sources observe the floating of dollar

rates followed by the convertibility of Taka will open up a new era of economic activities as risks in the economy will increase. They view that none will now take chance to stockhold foreign currency because they will be exposed to risks of the changing rates.

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motificel C/A, Dhaka-1600 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36

Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM DAILY STAR DHAKA

the administration feared the death toll would rise.

Our correspondent from Sylhet says, the overall flood situation worsened in the Sylhet region yesterday with inunda tion of new areas in different thanas. At least 4 lakh people became marooned in the region. New areas are being submerged as flood waters started rushing

through the new breaches developed in different flood control embankments. The Hobigani and Moulyibazar town protection embank-

ments, were still under threat. The onrush of flood waters from the hilly areas across the border has also increased. The Balagani and Fen-

chugani thana headquarters went under 3 feet water. About 5000 people took shelter in 15 flood shelters in Moulvibazar district. In Habigani district, only two flood shelters had been opened in Madhabpur thana, while no

flood shelter has yet been set up anywhere in Sylhet district. Our Gaibandha correspondent says that the flood situation of the district has taken a serious turn Thursday partly inundating the Gaibandha mu-

nicipal area. Out correspondent in Netrokona reported that almost all the 10 thanas of the district have fallen in the grip of the

flood. According to the local district officials, six people have lost their lives till Thursday. District officials of Kurigram

said that at least 16 lakh people have been affected by floods. Laimonirhat District Control Room said that erosion in the

river Teesta was severe. Comilia district control room officials said that more than 70 thousand people have been affected by the flood waters in the district. Burichang and Chandina were the worst-hit

Commissioner of Fent told that deteriorating flood situations in the district had rendered over ten thousand people marooned in nine unions of Parshuram

tion in the Siraigani district took a serious turn as the water level in river Jamuna crossed its danger mark at 12 noon yes-