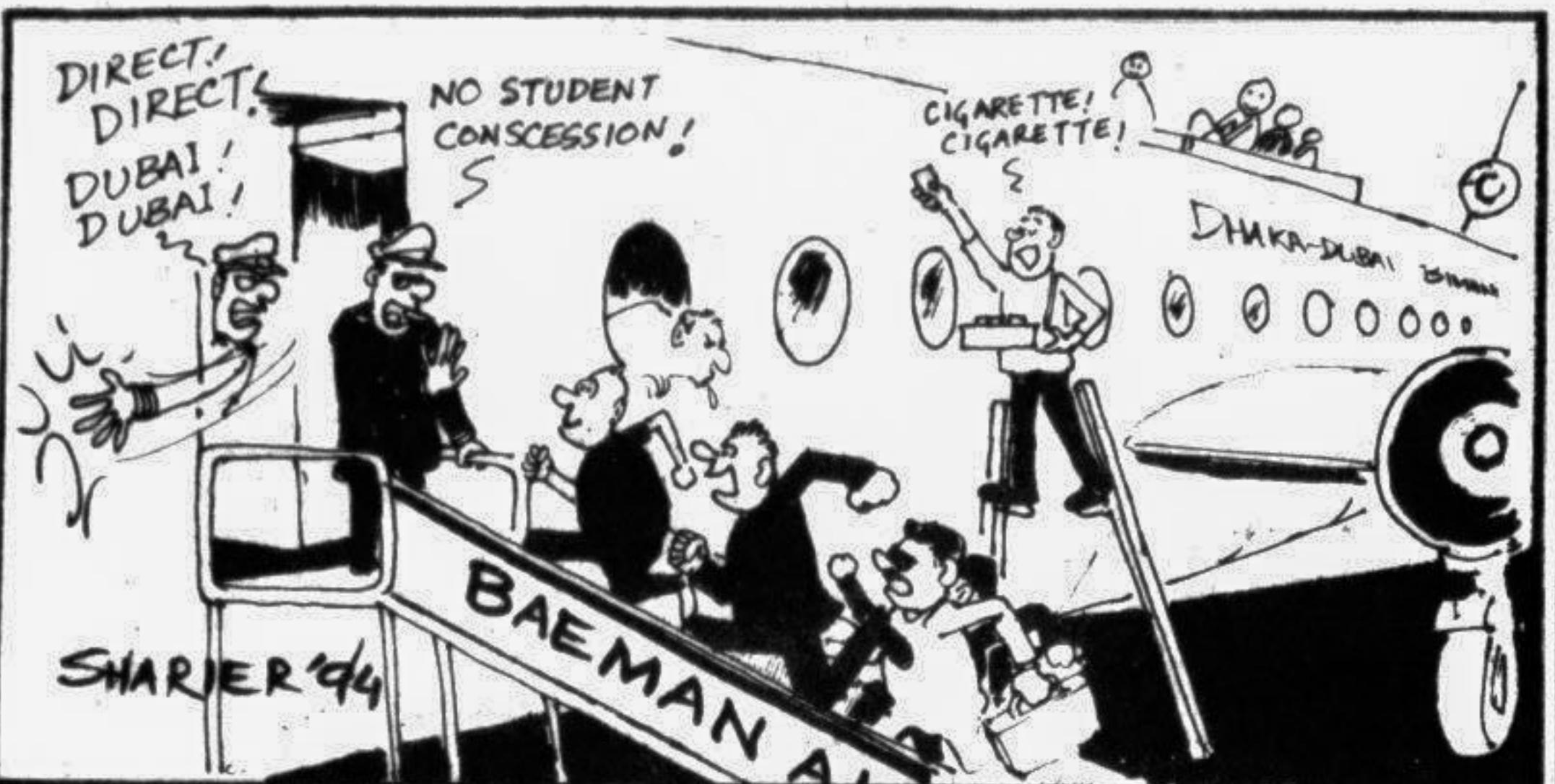


Dhaka Day by Day

Airplane Rides

by Parveen Anam



The Dhakaite is by and large a patient species. He will keep him to himself and put up with a lot of nonsense. But he will bide his time. And will speak out at the time of voting.

However, it is not politics we want to discuss here. Again, the Dhakaite has had about just enough of politics with the elections behind them and would like to get on with his work. But not without a quiet chuckle of sardonic humour at the incidents of the recent past, which made the entire city, indeed, the entire nation look like a bunch of fools. If the 'supreme beings' like to make themselves look foolish, that is their business, but the Dhakaite is a peculiarly proud breed, and hates being taken for a ride.

And yet recently, he seems to have been taken for quite a number of rides, both on the ground and in the air. Actually, if the entire situation had not been so embarrassing, it would have been hilarious.

The buses and trucks are the angels of death and we seem to have no doubt about it. Unless we are very hard pressed, we like to avoid them. Of course the mighty never get to ride in them and in most cases even do not get to see them. Remember how traffic is held up for hours on end when they glide past? No chance to see anything, I guess, except their own image in the rear view mirror.

But, we still like to think that the country's airports are safe and air travel still reasonably safe. Not so any more though. Not when a bunch of garment workers can come and

attack the premier airport of the land and certainly not when a happy little fellow from Jeddah or wherever (it's not important where he is from, what's important is where he was going...) can hop on board an international airline and make himself comfortable.

It quite reminds one of a scene at the Gabtali Bus Stand, where the passenger enquires which is the bus to Tongi and boards it for the journey. Apparently, you can just about walk onto the runway, enquire which is the plane for Dubai or where it is you want to travel and board it. I think in the not too distant future, we can visualize the flight attendant leaning out the door of the aircraft, clapping his hands, and yelling, "London, London, seats going empty" and people happily rushing hither and thither trying to get on board. Quite a picturesquely sight, really.

And again, to add variety, perhaps we can also allow the 'paan-biri-walla' on board to cater to the passengers' needs, on the long flight. These are of course lessons taken from the bus conductors who are seen screaming at every bus stop, "Farmgate, Farmgate" with passengers piling on board. We need not lose sleep over it. We need not lose sleep over it. Given time, the authorities will hopefully come up with more and more original ideas. The only problem is, the Dhakaite may have ideas which are distinctly different from those of the 'authorities'. Perhaps a different sense of humour? Who knows?

View of a Meena Bazar organised by the Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) at the Gulshan Shishu Park for the benefit of underprivileged and disabled children yesterday.

— Star photo

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Metropolitan Students asked to build bright future

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday called upon all irrespective of their party affiliations to unitedly work for strengthening the democratic process through educating the people and developing the country's economic infrastructure, reports UNB.

He said this while addressing the 50th founding anniversary and ex-students reunion of Joypara Pilot High School at Dohar.

Convenor of the reunion celebration committee GS Chowdhury and member-secretary Mohammad Salahuddin Mollah also spoke on the occasion.

Huda said the people of different sections need to be closely associated with development programmes initiated by the government for spreading education to ensure socio-economic progress of the the country.

"We could ensure a prestigious position for the nation before the world community if we turn our whole population into a human force through education," he said and urged the students to prepare themselves to build a bright future

for the nation.

The minister said with the general election in February 1991, a democratic process had been initiated in the country. People of all sections irrespective of their party affiliations have worked for giving the process an institutional shape through ensuring proper democratic practice, he said.

Later, Huda distributed gold medals among the old teachers of the school in recognition of their contribution.

During his visit, the minister also met with the chairmen of the local union parishes at Dohar thana complex and reviewed the progress of different development projects of the area.

Huda asked the chairman to ensure people's participation in local development projects as their directly elected representatives. "Without the active participation of the people successful implementation of development programme is impossible", he said and called for strengthening the implementation process of development programmes particularly, the village based programmes formulated for poverty alleviation.

IFAD President due today

Sawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) arrives in the city today to attend a meeting of five heads of UN agencies, reports UNB.

The four-day meeting of the executive heads of the UNDP, WFP, UNFPA, IFAD and UNICEF, all part of the UN Joint Consultative Group on Policies (JCGP) begins in Dhaka today to deal with sustainable development programmes and allied issues.

This is for the first time that the UN bodies are meeting outside New York or Rome to deliberate on current programmes and future policies of the the UN agencies.

'Help maintain discipline'

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday called upon the people to help maintain peace and discipline to achieve progress and prosperity of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a cross section of people at Karikandi under Daudkandi thana of Comilla district, the energy minister said, if peace and discipline could not be maintained the pace of development and process of democracy would be disrupted.

The energy minister said, "We do not believe in vote rigging or bluffing people but we always patronise the politics of development and people's welfare."

Sandhani's 17th founding day today

Sandhani, a voluntary organisation of the students of medical and dental colleges, will observe its 17th founding anniversary today, reports UNB.

A seminar on "Future Plan of Sandhani for Solving the Country's Blood Problem" will be held on the occasion at Jatiya Press Club at 4 pm.

Rafiqul Islam, a former presidential adviser, will attend the seminar as chief guest while A M Jahangir Kabir, a regional chairman of Lions Club will be special guest. Sandhani's Dhaka Medical College unit President M Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury will preside.

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মিতসুবিশি রঙিন টিভি এখন বাংলাদেশ

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- মেসার্স বান ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স
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১২২, বাবুল মোকাবের,
ঢাকা, ফোন: ১২২২২৪১
- ইচ এলিয়া ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স কোং
৪৯, মি সুন মার্কেট
বাবুল মোকাবের,
ঢাকা, ফোন: ১২৫১১১
- বাবুল ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স
৩২, পেটিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন: ১২৮৮২০০
- জি. এস. পি. টিভি
১৫, পেটিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন: ২০৫৫০৭
- আরবলি ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স
১০, পেটিয়ার মার্কেট,
ঢাকা, ফোন: ২০৫৫০৮
- পিল বেডিং হাউস
১/১, ডিইটি মার্কেট
নামানগঞ্জ, ফোন: ১২০০০১
- অভিনাম
৪১৪, বিল্ডি বিল্ড, ঢাক্কা
ফোন: ১২১১৯৮, ১২১১৯৯
- এস এইচ ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স
১১, বাইকেল প্রান্ত পাস
নামান কাম্প, ঢাক্কা
ফোন: ১২০৫১৪৪, ১২৬৪০৮
- সুরজন
৪০০, বিল্ডি বিল্ড, ঢাক্কা
ফোন: ১২১১৯৮
- ভারত ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স
৪১০, বিল্ডি বিল্ড, ঢাক্কা
ফোন: ১২২৭০৭
- করিম এলেক্ট্রনিক্স
৪২৬/বি, বিল্ডি বিল্ড, ঢাক্কা
ফোন: ১২১১৬১২, ১২১৭০৮

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পিলিএ এভেনিউ, ঢাক্কা, ফোন: ১২১১২২৪৮, শেখ রহমান কারোবাইল, ঢাকা ফোন: ১১০১১২৬/৭, ১১০১১০১

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours commencing to 6 pm today.

The Met Office forecasts slight fall in night temperature by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 26.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf while the lowest of 9.2 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets today at 5:47 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and relative humidity of the divisional towns recorded yesterday are:

Cities	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	24.5	12.3	95	72
Chittagong	24.8	14.4	92	62
Rajshahi	24.2	9.2	89	77
Khulna	24.5	12.2	100	74
Barisal	24.4	16.0	100	73