

Dhaka Day by Day

An All-purpose Travelling Machine

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Close your eyes and imagine a vehicle. Where do you want to go? In this hi-tech modern world, anything that has an engine can literally take you almost anywhere you want to go — but maybe, not to all places, all the time and is not supposed to be at your beck and call. Because with eyes shut, you never visualised a helicopter.

Now, helicopters are nothing new and do not need to be formally introduced, but what is unknown to the general people is "why do we need helicopters?" And "who needs them?"

Communication system in Bangladesh was never something which people could rely on or about which be assured that they would be provided with the best possible services.

With intricate waterways and lack of good highways and bridges in this country, travelling has ever remained tedious and time-consuming, and to a large extent hazardous too. Winding rivers on which country boats and motorised launches travel provide no consolation for people who are pressed for time.

"Choppers beat any other form of transport in such crucial operations such as: relief, medical emergencies, aerial surveys, pipeline and other inspections, project planning and development works, off-shore drilling and fishing operations, search and rescue operations, bank cash transfer and transportation. And all these for those engaged in business, industry and other private enterprises," explains Major (Retd) Q M Nazibullah Consultant Sales and Marketing of Skyways. With choppers patrolling the air the traffic system can be helped too. From air, your view is naturally further spread and you are able to help the traffic constables by finding ways out easily, Rashid explains.

"Moreover, with zoom lens camera you are able to track down thieves and hijackers even to his grave," he says.

For a five-seater turbine helicopter the per hour services charges would be Tk. 20,000, but if you hire for minutes, the pay is accordingly charged, explains Rashid.

This leaves the airways, which in their own way have limitations too. A fixed-wing aircraft of the smallest size would not be able to safely land in 'Ramui', a remote area in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, whereas a helicopter does it with relative ease. For people who value time and have work places scattered all over Bangladesh, there's no way out other than chartering air taxis or helicopters.

Air taxis are also nothing new in today's world and they should definitely be part of today's Bangladesh.

Trying to introduce this latest transport facility in Bangladesh, Iqbal Rashid, Managing Director of Skyways Techno Services Ltd, is promoting helicopters.

"Helicopter service is safer than most people realize. If one considers the fatalities on our roads and river ways, helicopters certainly emerge as a much safer means of travel — a definite blessing for those officials, businessmen and foreigners who are continually frustrated by the existing communication network in Bangladesh."

"For a nation trying to realize its dreams of economic well-being, discovering new resources and providing attractive investment ground for foreign entrepreneurs, this is indispensable," Rashid believes.

Helicopters provide almost every service, medical evacuation, search and rescue work, passenger transportation, surveys, logistics, not to forget the load hauler services.

The ministries of Health and Family Planning, Energy and Natural Resources, Planning, Forest Conservation, Ministry of Defence and Relief and Rehabilitation, need this modern service, more than any one else, Rashid explains.

According to Rashid, American helicopters are expensive initially, but in the long run their running cost is cheaper than the Russian choppers, which are strong, cheap but not commercially viable.

"This is because of the auto-rotation process installed in American choppers," explains Rashid. "In any emergency you can switch off the engine and sip tea, the blades would rotate as windmills which make the craft light. It would not crash, instead land, even on a dime. This technology the Russians could not master."

Skyways Techno Services (STS) is basically a company founded by retired professionals both from the Defence and Civil Government Departments. These personnels were trained both at home and abroad, some having also served overseas.

This company was founded with a view to developing business with the Defence and allied forces. Mainly it concentrates on marketing and sales products on behalf of manufacturers with global reputations. For example, it represents Bell Helicopter Asia Ltd, part of Bell Helicopter Textron, Texas, USA for Bell Helicopters and Spares, Motorola Communications International Inc. for communication equipments and various other equally reputed organizations.

Besides helping trade, their idea of air taxis, helicopters is really important. There are people in the country who can afford air taxis. "For a visit to your factory in Chandpur, the total eight hours travel up and down and half an hour inspection can never be preferable to 30 minutes up and down and four-hour inspection," says Rashid emphasising the importance of his idea and trade as well.

WHY HELICOPTERS () ?

- 1. **SAVE** Time and fuel
- 2. **ARE FASTER AND SAFER THAN** cars
- 3. **CAN GO EVERYWHERE LAND ANYWHERE** CAN'T
- 4. **TRAVEL THE SHORTEST ROUTE BETWEEN 2 POINTS** DON'T

NEEDS NOW!



Visitors looking at art works at the opening day of an art exhibition 'Shilpi' by 30 female artists of the country at the city's newest art gallery Arial at Dhanmondi yesterday. — Star photo

Group show of 30 female artists opens at Arial

By Staff Correspondent

Thirty female artists of the country began a month-long painting exhibition at Arial, a new art gallery in the city's Dhanmondi Residential Area yesterday.

Wife of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Begum Jahannara Abedin inaugurated the gallery and the exhibition at House 15, Road 7, Dhanmondi.

Some 84 art works are being displayed at the gallery.

The inaugural function was addressed by noted educationist Dr Ashraf Siddiqi and founder of the gallery Mustafa Shamim Wahid.

Begum Abedin speaking on the role of Zainul Abedin in the country's art movement said that the Shilpacharya had always encouraged the female artists ever since he began teaching in then school of arts and craft.

The artists participating in the exhibition are: Jyostna Habib, Laila Mansur Nazlee, Masuma Khan, Najma Dey Lily, Kamrun Nahar, Saeeda Kamal, Dipa Haq, Farida Zaman, Naïma Haque, Shamim Shikder, Nurun Nahar (Papa), Sadhana Kabir, Nasreen Begum, Tandra Das, Ivy Zaman, Mahmuda Begum, Masuda Kazi, Rauzatul Zannat Chappra, Rahat Nilofer, Rokeya Sultana, Dipti Dey, Dilruba Begum Jolly, Afroza Begum, Fareha Zeba, Murshida Arzu Alpama, Atia Islam Anne, Nilofar Chaman, Mahbuba Karim Mini, Kanak Champa Chakma and Riffat Eunus.

The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm everyday till March 6.

Centenary celebration of Vivekananda's addresses opens

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman yesterday lauded the religious liberalism of Swami Vivekananda and said his message of brotherhood and goodwill helped forge greater understanding among different religious and other groups, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the six-day long centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda's addresses to the Chicago Parliament of Religions, he said Swami Vivekananda taught that religions went with tolerance and liberalism and he criss-crossed the world with this message.

Held at the Ramkrishna Mission and Math at the Ramkrishna Mission Road here, the inaugural day's session was presided over by Justice Debes Bhattacharya and addressed, among others, by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain, Indian High Commissioner K Raghunath, Nepalese Ambassador L Srestah and Ambassador of the Vatican E Barnasini.

Black History Month's programme

February is the Black History Month in the United States. To celebrate this annual occasion, the American Cultural Center in Dhaka has organised a multi-media programme which includes three poster shows, numerous videos and a book display. The programmes will continue throughout the month, says a USIS press release.

The month is an observance of the past achievements and current status of African-Americans. It coincides with the birthdays of the great black leader Frederick Douglass (February 14) and of Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator (February 12).

The idea for an observance honouring the accomplishments of African-Americans led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926.

Management experts, academic team meets

President Abdur Rahman Biswas laid emphasis on development of management abilities to face up the new challenges of the current and next centuries in socio-economic fields, reports UNB.

Lot of transformations and changes are taking place in the socio-economic fields in South Asian region. We must develop our expertise and efficiency to face this new situation, he told a 60-member delegation of management experts and academics which called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

They attended the 3rd Academic Conference of the Association of Management Development Institutions of South Asia (AMDISA), just held here.

JS body decision Textile Certificate Course to be upgraded

The Textile Certificate Course in six textile institutes under Textile Directorate, will be upgraded to textile diploma soon, reports UNB.

The diploma will be a course of 3 years replacing the existing two years Certificate Course.

This was decided at the 27th Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting of the Ministry of Textiles held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday with State Minister for Textile Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan in the chair.

The number of seats of the institute will be increased up to 50 from existing 40 seats.

The number of present 27 mobile weaving schools will be increased to 64, one at each district and the present 20 seats at each school will be increased to 100.

The meeting also stressed on upgradation of Textile Directorate as a full-fledged textile department.

Emphasising on the necessity of the existence of Textile Directorate and its reorganizational set-up the State Minister said the existence of textile directorate was very vital for the overall development of the textile sectors.

He called upon the concerned officials to gear-up the activities of the department.

ট্রাক্টর ক্রেতাদের জন্য সুখবর

ইন্ডিয়াগেটের তৈরি বিশ্ব বিখ্যাত ফোর্ড ট্রাক্টর (47 HP) এখন মজুদ থেকে আর্কষণীয় মূল্যে বিক্রয় হইতেছে।

প্রতিটি ট্রাক্টরের সাথে পাচ্ছেন অভিজ্ঞ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার দ্বারা বিক্রয়স্তর সেবার নিশ্চয়তা ও পার্টসের গ্যারান্টি।

টুক সীমিত, আগে আসলে আগে পাবেন ভিত্তিতে আর্জই যোগাযোগ করুন

নাজমুল হক-গেটেকো
২৬, শ্যামলী মিরপুর রোড, ঢাকা
ফোন: ৮১২১৬৪ ৮১২১৭৫

Bangladeshi cultural troupe performs in Tehran

Visiting Bangladeshi cultural troupe performed four cultural shows at Tehran, Iran. The troupe rendered traditional songs of Bangladesh at these functions, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

A large number of Iranians and expatriate Bangladeshis enjoyed the functions and appreciated the performances.

A ten-member cultural troupe is visiting Iran to participate in the ninth 'Fajr' musical festival now being held in Tehran.

Cultural secy of India due today

Sitakant Mahapatra, Cultural Secretary to the government of India will arrive in the city today on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During the visit of Mahapatra bilateral discussions between Bangladesh and India will be held to increase cultural cooperation between the two countries.

He will call on, among others, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan-Ara Begum.

High Commission of India Dhaka Commonwealth Scholarships/Fellowships offered by Government of India

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India will offer two Commonwealth Scholarships/Fellowships in 1994-95 to Bangladeshi students for mainly post-graduate studies (except in Medicine) in Indian colleges and universities.

Interested applicants are requested to send their application to the First Secretary (Information), High Commission of India, House No. 120, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka.

Application forms for these scholarships can be obtained from the Information Wing, High Commission of India, Dhaka.

Last date for receipt of completed application is 27th February 1994.

For further information, please contact Information Wing, High Commission of India, either personally or on phone (865096 or 507743)

Weather Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with a fair sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh in the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Monday).

The Met Office forecasts, night temperature may fall by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

The highest temperature of the country of 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the lowest of 9.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5.49 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.36 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.4	12.5	64	61
Chittagong	27.0	14.5	66	57
Rajshahi	26.5	13.0	86	74
Khulna	27.6	11.2	85	67
Barisal	27.4	12.2	87	66
Cox's Bazar	28.8	15.5	65	60
Dinajpur	26.5	13.0	89	59
Sylhet	27.6	13.8	77	66

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BTV Monday

4.30	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran Programme summary
4.45	Educational programme: Can You Do It?
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	Sports programme: Football
6.30	Chhandrabrittya
7.00	Open University
7.25	News songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Sukher Thikana
9.00	Bolan Dekhi
10.00	News in English
10.30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
11.30	Musical programme: Disco Rally
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

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Sylhet	27.6	13.8	77	66

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Change of Address

The offices of NSU Administration and Foundation for Promotion of Education & Research (FPER) has been shifted from House No. 76, Road No. 21, Block-B, Banani, Dhaka to the Main Campus at Star Tower, 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Dhaka 1213. Contact numbers are as follows:

PABX: 885369, 606047. President's Office (direct): 881495. Fax: 883030

All communications to the North South University should be directed to the present address.

MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD., JAPAN

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

THE CONTAINERISED CARGO EX. M.V. KITANO V-23303 FROM BUSAN, EX. M.V. HENRY HUDSON BIRDGE V-0071B FROM KOBE, EX. M.V. ALLI MIRACLE V-31021 FROM KOBE, YOKOHAMA, NAGOYA, HONGKONG, EX. M.V. KAI V-04401 FROM ROTTERDAM AND TRANSHIPMENT CARGO FROM VANCOUVER EX. M.V. ALLI INDEPENDANT V-0045B HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO M.V. FONG YUN V-9405 IMPORT ROTATION. NO. 78/94, IS DUE TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG ON OR ABOUT 6-2-1994 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.

AGENTS : BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LIMITED

CHITTAGONG	DHAKA	KHULNA
103, AGRABAD C/A, PHONES: 500686, 503317, 500687/88 FAX: 504452	103, MOTIHEEL C/A, PHONES: 232997, 866519, 232137, 248316 FAX: 88-02-863723	62, SHAMSUR RAHMAN ROAD, PHONES: 22181, 20461, 25045-6 FAX: 88-041-22333

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA

DHAKA

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SCHOLARSHIPS TO BANGLADESH STUDENTS

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India, will offer 110 scholarships in 1994-95 to meritorious Bangladeshi students desirous of studying in Indian colleges and universities. Scholarships are available for regular under-graduate and post-graduate courses as well for M. Phil, Ph.D, M. D., M. S., M. Tech. and Post Doctoral Research Courses.

Of the 110 scholarships for 1994-95, ten scholarships are reserved for study of Sanskrit, Pali or Prakrit, ten scholarships are reserved for the field of Sports and twenty-six scholarships for studies in the field of Culture. The remaining sixty-four scholarships are for all other courses of study.

Bangladeshi students interested in applying for the scholarships are requested to route their applications as indicated below:

(a) Sports scholarships	Through the Ministry of Sports, Government of Bangladesh.
(b) Scholarships for Music, Dance, Drama, Films, Fine Arts, etc.	Through the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.
(c) For all other scholarships (excluding (A) & (B) above but including for Sanskrit, Pali & Prakrit)	Through the Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh.

APPLICANTS ARE INFORMED THAT A COPY OF THEIR APPLICATION MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY BE SENT TO THE FIRST SECRETARY (EDUCATION), HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, H. NO. 120, ROAD NO. 2, DHANMONDI RESIDENTIAL AREA, DHAKA.

Application forms for these scholarships can be obtained either through the Bangladesh Ministries mentioned above or from the Education Wing, High Commission of India.

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS 27TH FEBRUARY, 1994.

For further information, please contact the Education Wing, High Commission of India, either personally or on phone (Tel No 500597)

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