

Dhaka Day by Day

When the City Suddenly Becomes Beautiful

by Raffat Binte Rashid

The metropolis wears a deserted look. A headline that runs in every newspaper of the city now — to our great relief of course.

Actually finding the city streets with fewer vehicles and people — and not to forget — the traffic jams causing no further problems, is just like a dream come true.

As is the case, the Bengalees have a reputation of being late for everything and on any post-Eid invitation, any plea of traffic jam is sure to sound outlandish. Reaching an intended destination 'on time', is however a feat the Bengalees can really be proud of.

"Believe me, I cannot visualize Dhaka without the cars and jams, the rickshaws and the constant beeping of the horns," says a man who spent the first twenty years of his life around Dhannondi.

"Dhaka is a beautiful posh city you can see that now, specially when its citizens have left for the village," he continues.

"I am really enjoying the noise-free, traffic-free Dhaka, it is really a rare gift of Eid to us," he wonders joyfully.

"This four-day Eid special made me look at Dhaka differently this city is not all that bad as we think it to be at times."

"It's amazing I reached my office in 15 minutes," says a man living in Motijheel area and whose office is in Dhannondi. It usually takes him 30 to 45 minutes. "I gave my rickshaw-puller two extra taka as I was in a hurry only to realize later that there was no cars jam-packed at Shahbagh or Elephant Road".

It is not always, the problem of being late; since by now the people are quite used to it and they start with 15 minutes more in hand.

The rickshaw-pullers are always trying to find space between the cars and buses, squeezing in and overtaking others, cursing every man behind any wheel or sort.

Get-together of RCC ward commissioners held

RAJSHAHI, Mar 17: A get-together of the newly-elected ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) was held here today at the corporation's conference hall with mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu in the chair, reports BSS.

State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain attended the function as the chief guest while Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) Chairman and former minister Enam Ali was special guest.

Ward commissioners, city corporation officials and journalists were present on the occasion.

Kabir Hossain in his speech urged the elected ward commissioners to discharge their duties and responsibilities sincerely with the objective of fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of the corporation. He said Rajshahi City Corporation will be above politics and it will be the duty of all to work unitedly for all-round development of the city.

He said the present government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has attached top priority to education, health and development of communications in the country.

Referring to the pure drinking water problem of the city, he said consultants will be appointed within three months for a water plant to improve the supply situation.

Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu termed the "thirty ward commissioners of the city as members of one family of the corporations," and said that "we will be able to solve all the problems unitedly and work for all-round development of Rajshahi city."

He said "No new holding tax will be imposed on city dwellers during the next five years."

No one behind the bars for political reasons'

Establishment of rule of law and the establishment of an independent parliament secretariat on a plea which had no relevance to national importance.

Presided over by the chairman of Saliakandi Union Parishad, Siddique Mia, the meeting was addressed, among others, by local BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal leaders.

Addressing a public meeting at Saliakandi union of Muradnagar, Comilla, Barrister Rafiq, who is also the joint secretary general of the BNP, said that the present government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had been engaged itself in development activities throughout the country in a bid to combat hunger, poverty, illiteracy and ignorance from the society.

Listing the achievements of the BNP government during the last three years, Barrister Rafiq said, the present government had presented the nation with a rule of law. There is not a single person behind the bars due to political reasons, he added.

He said brisk development activities like construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, culverts, building of new schools, colleges and other rural infrastructures were the common scene all over the country today.

Referring to the Opposition boycott in the last session of the Jatiya Sangsads, Barrister Rafiq urged them to reconsider their boycott decision from parliament proceedings for the greater national interest and for the sake of consolidating the democracy and democratic institutions.

He said that the opposition had started their boycott programme at a time when the government had introduced before the House two very important bills like independence of judiciary and estab-

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