

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 Dhanmondi.

"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 Dhanmondi. 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.

On the other hand the car or bus drivers, believing earnestly that the roads are their by birth right or inheritance, bump into anything that comes their way.

A rickshaw trying hard to go forward to reach destination might, every now and then, take a 45° even 90° turn. And during these harmless or injury free mini collisions, the car drivers act the boss.

Without any hesitation or prior thinking he would stop the car in the middle of the road, to check or look for any possible dents in his car. As a rule he forgets that hundreds of other cars and rickshaws are waiting to pass through.

If the car is scratch-free, then God has saved you, but if there is a slight mark then God bless you!

He will start a wrestling match there and then. All these will happen in front of the man supposed to be in charge of that road — the traffic police.

To one's utter amazement, he just looks on scratching his ears or tummy, without any wish to break loose the mess. It's always beyond his control and limits.

He is actually not always like this, at times he does something too. Like puncturing the rickshaw tires that are standing without or with passengers or baton charging the innocent pullers.

He might, if need be, that is, stop a scooter which violated traffic rules, but of course with few bucks exchanging pockets, he would let that go and look for other preys, by this time twenty others would violate the rule without drawing his attention.

Actually, if you happen to be a regular rickshaw or scooter passenger, you will know all these and now with traffic-free streets, you will realize that not all journeys are boring.



An exhibition of drawings by children was held at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city yesterday to mark the 74th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. — Star photo

Steps taken to meet rising diesel demand

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has commissioned three floating barges with a capacity of 1.1 million litres to meet the increasing demand of diesel in the country's northern region during the ongoing irrigation season, reports UNB.

BPC chairman M Fazlul Huq visited the stand by floating barges at Nagarbari in Pabna yesterday. The barges were commissioned last January.

Besides commissioning some floating depots and barges in different places of the country, the government has taken adequate measures to keep supply of petroleum products steady and normal during the dry season.

The programme includes installation of a rail-head depot

at Santahar to be commissioned today.

The BPC chairman in a meeting with the regional managers and field level marketing officers reviewed the overall demand and supply position of petroleum fuel in the region.

The meeting noted with satisfaction that the demand and supply situation of petroleum in the region and all over the country is completely normal.

The country has sufficient stock of petroleum fuel to cope with any emergency and abnormal situation, the meeting told.

The chairman advised the officials to constantly monitor and supervise demand and supply position of fuel to sustain normal supply.

World Day for 'Water to be observed Mar 22

Bangladesh will observe the World Day for Water on March 22 by holding a seminar on management of international river basins and environmental challenge, reports UNB.

March 22 is to be observed as World Day for Water globally every year in pursuance of the decision of the 47th Session of UN General Assembly to promote public awareness through publication and diffusion of documentaries and by organising seminars, conferences and expositions on conservation and development of water resources.

Bangladesh, a member of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), has chosen 'Management of International River Basins and Environmental Challenges' as the theme of the seminar to mark the day.

The theme of the seminar has a special relevance to the national context of Bangladesh which is suffering an acute shortage of water due to remorseless withdrawal of the Ganges flow upstream by India.

A competent source confided to UNB that the Ganges, registered a precipitous fall from 38,000 cusec last month to 17,500 cusec on March 16 this year. On the day last year, the flow slid down to 11,000 cusec.

The sources said the most critical period during the year is from mid-March to mid-April.

The seminar will be inaugurated by State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan. The Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources, M Asafuddin, will be the chief guest on the occasion, while the Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh will be the guest of honour.

The inaugural session will be followed by two working sessions during which papers will be presented by four distinguished authors namely Dr Q K Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, Abul Ahsan, former Foreign Secretary and first Secretary General of SAARC, Prof Sajjadur Rashid of the Department of Geography, Dhaka University, and Mr Amjad Hossain Khan, former Chairman of Bangladesh Water Development Board.

They also alleged that most of the quacks have no basic training and they are prescribing and selling sub-standard medicines to their patients at high prices. Most of the time they even prescribe wrong medicines.

As a result, many patients suffer from prolong disease and various complications. They said the matter was brought to the notice of concerned authorities time and again but no effect.



Professor Dr M Shahjahan, President of The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and Vice-Chancellor, BUET addressing a seminar on "World Water Day" as the chief guest held at the IEB seminar room Wednesday (From left) Dr AMM Shafiqul, Chairman, Civil Engineering, IEB, Ibrahim Miah, Honorary General Secretary, IEB, S P Unvala, Keynote speaker and A R Khan, Secretary, Civil Engineering Division, IEB.

IGP visits injured constables

Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan yesterday visited the injured police constable Hafizur Rahman and constable Nirmal Chandra Biswas at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

Constable Hafiz was injured by the terrorists while on duty at Pallabi area of Mirpur in the city on the Eid-day.

Constable Nirmal was injured in a separate incident by the miscreants at the Zero Point of Gulistan before the Eid.

DMP Commissioner A N Hussain was with the IGP. Shahjahan directed the police department to extend all-out assistance for the treatment of the injured police.

Village quacks on rise

The number of village quacks is on rise in both urban and rural areas of the Moulvibazar district, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that many students, after passing the secondary and higher secondary certificate examinations, are taking up the profession of quackery.

They also alleged that most of the quacks have no basic training and they are prescribing and selling sub-standard medicines to their patients at high prices. Most of the time they even prescribe wrong medicines.

As a result, many patients suffer from prolong disease and various complications. They said the matter was brought to the notice of concerned authorities time and again but no effect.

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 Krishni Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) Chairman and former minister Emran 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

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah yesterday called upon the people in general and the political leaders and workers in particular to extend their all-out support to the government in implementing massive development programmes as well as institutionalising hard earned democracy, reports BSS.

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 on 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 Sangsad, 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-

lishment 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.



Friday

Morning session

- 8.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Alor Dishert
- 8.40 Sports programme: Khelar Jagat
- 9.05 Cartoon show: The Amazing Spiderman
- 10.00 News in Bangla
- 10.15 Moner Mukurey: Ayomoy (19th episode)
- 11.15 Film show: Tarkan
- 11.40 Programme on health: Shashthya Katha
- 11.55 Film show: Border Town
- 12.00 Closing of morning session

Afternoon session

- 3.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 3.15 Cartoon show: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3.40 Movie of the week: The River
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Sports programme
- 7.00 Open University
- 7.25 Modern songs programme: Malancha
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9.00 Magazine: Upahar
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama serial: L A Law
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme
- 11.45 Closing of afternoon session

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur over the regions of Rangpur, Bogra, Tangail, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Friday), the Met Office forecasts.

Meanwhile, weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, it adds.

The day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period of time across the country.

The highest temperature of the country yesterday (Thursday) of 36.7 degrees Celsius was recorded at Khulna and the lowest of 18.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 6:09 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:04 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded at some important cities and towns of the country yesterday were as follows:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	in degrees Celsius	in percentage	9am	6pm
Dhaka	Max 34.5	Min 24.5	18	57
Chittagong	31.3	20.4	61	73
Rajshahi	35.8	22.8	63	37
Khulna	36.7	23.2	89	80
Barisal	33.6	23.8	86	78
Cox's Bazar	31.0	20.0	73	77
Sylhet	27.8	19.2	92	70
Dinajpur	32.8	18.0	90	46

Chars in Meghna affect ferry services

The emergence of two new chars and huge siltations in the Meghna river bed near Ashuganj thana adversely affected the plying of ferry services and river vessels between Ashuganj and Bhairab Bazar ghat on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, low tides in the Meghna river and frequent floodings normally bring the siltations in the river bed and gradually lead to emergence of chars hindering the riverine routes of the northern region such as Ausagram, Sunamganj, Dhurai and Sylhet.

The two big chars have emerged in the mid stream of the river bed near Ashuganj Power Development Board Plant and two other new chars have emerged near the Bhairab Railway Bridge due to huge alluvial soil accumulating from the upper region of Sylhet district.

Experts feared that if immediate steps are not taken to dredge the silt from the river bed, navigation in the area will come to a dead stop in near future.

AGM of Marine Fisheries Assoc

Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al-Noman yesterday said, "The coastal areas of Bangladesh is immensely rich in marine fish resources. We have to follow scientific method to explore the resources with a view to preserving the present stock," reports BSS.

The minister was addressing, as the chief guest, the annual general meeting (AGM) of the Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association at a local hotel.

Noman said, the Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Association, jointly formed by the Trawler Owners and Fish Exporters, could play an important role in finding out new fields of fish resources in deep sea. "A substantial quantity of caught fish is used to drop in the deep-sea due to the shortage of space in the trawlers and it pollutes the environment," the minister added.

In this connection, he called upon the Marine Fisheries Association to cooperate in the preservation of fish-wastes by setting up floating warehouse in deep sea and later taking them to the sea shore for using as poultry feed.

Central Women's University, Dhaka (Central Women's College, Tikatuly, Dhaka-1203, Phone: 234527)

Women graduates of recognised Degree Colleges may apply for admission into this University in plain paper to the Director of Admissions stating the particulars of the subjects studied in Degree course and the subject to be taken up for Master Degree with full address and phone No. (if any). The following certificates shall have to be enclosed with the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission.

- One copy of Passport size photograph of the applicant,
- Photocopies of Secondary and Higher Secondary Certificates,
- Photocopy of Mark sheet of Degree Examination.

All applications will be received everyday (except weekdays & national holidays) from March 19 to April 14, 1994 between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

Dates of Interviews will be notified in the University Notice Board. Applications for Honours Courses will be received after the Higher Secondary results are published.

Prof Mehrunisa Ahmed

Registrar

Central Women's University, Dhaka

Notice Inviting Tenders

No. 18 (2) 93-94

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the approved eligible E/M Contractors of PWD according to their financial limit for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned and by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Jessore/Magura/Kushtia/Faridpur/Narail/Rajbari/Meherpur/Chuadanga PWD Division in their respective offices up to 12:00 Noon of 24.3.94 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the contractors who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work
1.	Repair & replacement of damaged EI in the Hospital Bldg., THA & FPO residence and RMOs Qrts of Kaliganj THC in the Dist of Jhenidah.	Tk. 1,98,071/-	Tk. 3962/-	45 (Forty-five) days
2.	Repair & replacement of the damaged EI in the MOs Qrts. (3-unit), class III (8-unit), class-IV (3-unit) employees Qrts., Nurses dormitory, Guard shed & Garage & Security light in the compound of Kaliganj THC in the Dist of Jhenidah.	Tk. 1,94,997/25/-	Tk. 3900/-	45 (Forty-five) days

Item of work, tender notice, description of terms and conditions etc. can be seen and purchased from the office of the undersigned and all the Executive Engineers under Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore on all working days during office hours up to 23.3.94 on payment of usual charges (non-refundable).

Md Nur Solaiman

Executive Engineer

PWD Division, Jhenidah.

Phone No. 560.



Ariful Haq, actor and playwright, addressing a press conference on a play *Ajebo Bosnia* written by him at the VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. Mahbub Anam (2nd L), Editor of The Bangladesh Times, was also present. — Star photo