

Dhaka Day by Day

Peddling Miles Away

by Fayza Haq

Mary Francis Dunham, 62, uses a collapsible bicycle wherever she is — in Bangladesh, China, USA, Europe or wherever. She is here in Dhaka for a year doing a research on *Juari Gaan*... and she does not go anywhere without her two-wheeled contraption.

Mary has travelled on her bicycle in Calcutta, New Delhi, Colombo, Kunming (China), Paris, London, Washington DC, Boston and New York City, undaunted by the traffic anywhere. "It is my exclusive means of transportation. I rarely take anything else. There are 2000 like myself in New York City alone. Cities now in America, Canada and Europe realise that cars are polluting the atmosphere and are the real cause of congestion," Mary comments.

"Cars have long been considered the vehicle of the future, yet countries that now rely on cars pay a heavy price of road accidents, air pollution, urban congestion and oil bills. Despite improvements of road safety, a quarter of a million people worldwide die in automobile accidents each year, and millions more are injured. Developing countries — with fewer automobiles but more pedestrian traffic, and no provisions for separating the two — have fatality rates per vehicle mile up to 20 times higher than industrial countries and road accidents, have become a leading cause of death. Cars and other motor vehicles create more air pollution than any other human activity. Gasoline and diesel engines emit almost half the carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides that result from all fossil fuel combustion worldwide," she adds.

"The economic and social costs of congestion, already overwhelming, are bound to increase if travelling by car continues," she points out.

At the age of seven Mary was riding a bicycle in France and she has always liked the independence that riding a bicycle gives. There are no complications with car maintenance, space needed for cars, or the cost of petrol, she points out.

"In the 1970s people in the West, began to realise that fuel was getting short, that cities were becoming crowded and that too many cars were causing accidents and air pollution. Many groups began to lobby for better public transportation. Today such cities as New York, Los Angeles, Amsterdam and Turin have laws that reserve streets for pedestrians and cyclists. In New York they have even begun a rickshaw business," Mary informs us.

"The traffic problems in Dhaka are the same as in New York City. Congestion, fatal accidents and air pollution in the two cities are similar. In both the cities I must ride skilfully weaving

in and out of rickshaws, handcarts, pedestrians and other traffic. There is a wider range of vehicles in Dhaka e.g. pushcarts, tempoes, baby-taxis, rickshaws, and vans carrying heavy cargo. Each of these types of vehicles have a different style of motion. I must anticipate the motion of each kind. I have had no accidents in Dhaka or any where else but that is because I peddle slowly and patiently," she adds with a smile.

Caught in the overwhelming enthusiasm about bicycles Mary says, "One of my bicycle activities in New York is teaching children how to cycle safely. This also teaches them how to be good drivers, later, when they grow up. I write articles for magazines that are devoted to promoting bicycles as a means of transportation."

Mary is so used to heavy traffic that she is not frightened by city traffic. It is overwhelming for people who have not ridden a bicycle but Mary finds riding a bicycle in traffic is safer than riding a rickshaw in Dhaka and it is less likely to be harmful to someone else, she believes.

"Bicycling invigorates you. It keeps your mind alert. Today more and more people are using folding bicycles in cities because they can be taken into offices and homes," she asserts.

In New York, when Mary rides her folding bicycle some people ask her "When will it grow up?" or "Did your bicycle shrink in the rain?" Here in Dhaka the children seeing the bicycle being folded ask, "Has your bicycle broken?" When she was in China the people there longed to copy the folding bicycle.

Commenting about her experience of vehicles Mary says, "In central Calcutta currently there are very few bicycles and many cars, with traffic jams lasting up to half an hour. Calcuttians like cars because they are protected from beggars the deteriorating sidewalks and the heat and rain, because they are often air conditioned they are also a status symbol. Cities in Northern Europe are far ahead of those in America in providing conveniences for cyclists e.g. in Amsterdam even in the centre of the city there are bicycle paths and lanes. Many European cities allow bicycles to be put on trains and buses for long distance travel."

She takes her bicycle in a suitcase whenever she travels overseas, and she has been to every corner of Dhaka including the old city. "Sometimes I have to walk pushing my bike due to the crowds but this is better than sitting in a vehicle trapped in a jam," she adds.

It would be a healthy sign indeed if more people could take to bicycling like Mary, with her ready smile and easy flowing conversation.



A bicycle woman with a conviction.



Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Dr A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury speaking at a freshers' reception of the Law Department, DU, organised by the Law Readers at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

Workshop on disaster management begins

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid yesterday said that the government had been making all-out efforts for minimising loss of life and damage of property during disasters, reports UNB.

He said this while opening a six-day workshop in Cox's Bazar on 'Disaster Management and Coordination' jointly organised by the Ministry and UNDP.

The State Minister said that the government laid emphasis on infrastructure development as well as creating mass awareness of disasters among people of the disaster-prone areas.

Rashid said that disasters and calamities disrupt sustainable development and underscored the need for effective and well co-ordinated disaster management system to ensure appropriate preparedness, response and recovery in the event of calamities. He mentioned that the

Government had established a new Disaster Management Bureau.

The UNDP Representative Emil Watanabe in her speech called upon the participants to find out a suitable solution for better preparedness and better planning in this connection.

Presided over by additional secretary in-charge of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief M Hafizuddin Khan, the inaugural function was addressed by director general of Disaster Management Bureau Akramul Islam.

ALCWC meet Aug 26

Awami League central working committee (ALCWC) will meet at the party office in the city on August 26, said an announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting at 5 pm.

Qul Khani



The Qul Khani of Late Md. Hossain (Rtd., Director, Bureau of Statistics) will be held today, 21st August '94 after Asr prayer at his residence, House No. 49, Road No. 16 (New), Dhanmondi R/A.

Md. Hossain died on the 18th August '94. He left behind his wife Mrs. Shamsunnahar Hossain (Rtd. Principal, College of Home Economics), only child Rumea Akhter Hossain (Country Manager, Rangs) and daughter-in-law Romana Rumea (Director, Rangs) and host of relatives and friends.

Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the Qul Khani.

Coordinated programmes needed for pisciculture

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali stressed the need for integration of the programmes of Fisheries, Land, Industries, Finance and Energy ministries to develop pisciculture as a successful industry, reports UNB.

Speaking as chief guest on the occasion of releasing fish fries in the lake adjacent to the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, he said that integration of these ministries could multiply fish production.

By producing fish, the country can earn a huge amount of foreign exchange after meeting its domestic demand, the Speaker observed.

Emphasizing on shrimp production in the southern region of the country, he said that there was immense possibility of shrimp export by increasing its production.

Later, the Speaker released fish fries in the lake adjacent to the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Reopening of BUET demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League yesterday held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club demanding immediate reopening of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and announcement of examination dates.

BUET unit of the Chhatra League also brought out a procession from the university campus which paraded different city streets.

Life announces prize winners

Life, an anti-drug organisation, announced names of winners of 'Fourth Dr Shahriar-Hafiz Jisu Smriti Puroskar' yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners are: Amanullah Khan F C A (Education), Nurul Islam (Social Welfare), Prof Sultana Jahan (Medicine), Chashi Nazrul Islam (Film), Runa Laila (Music), Harun-ur-Rashid Munnu, MP (Industry), and Rezauddin Stalio (Poetry). The prizes would be distributed at the end of September.

Biswas inaugurates Siratunnabi (SM) fortnight

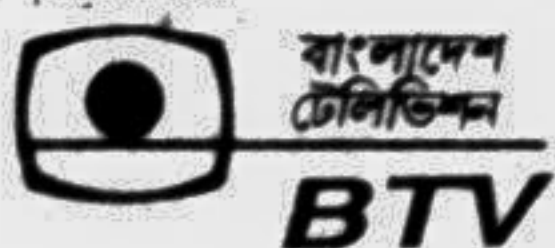
President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday urged the people to follow the ideals of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) to achieve the desired peace and progress and successfully face the problems of personal and social life, reports BSS.

He made this call while inaugurating the fortnight-long Siratunnabi (SM) programmes arranged by the Islamic Foundation at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the city.

Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, State Minister for Science and Technology M A Mannan, MPs, diplomats and religious leaders attended the function.

Acting Additional Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry, Abdul Hamid Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion while Director General of Islamic Foundation Daud-uz-Zaman was in the chair.

The president said Islam has given us a unique philosophy of universal brotherhood and unity and by following the teachings of Prophet (SM) we can find out the solutions of all the problems.



Sunday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- 4:45 Desh-O-Biggyan
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
- 5:40 Sports programme
- 6:30 Health programme: Apnar Doktor
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Taka Ana Kart: Programme on business and economics
- 9:00 Drama series: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Sur Lahori: Classical music
- 11:30 Khabar/ The News
- 11:45 Closing

Cultural troupe off to Canada

A Bangladesh cultural troupe left the city Friday night for Victoria, Canada, to perform cultural function at the closing ceremony of the on-going Commonwealth games, reports BSS.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum is leading a 20-member cultural troupe.

The Commonwealth games authority earlier invited a Bangladesh cultural troupe to participate at the closing ceremony of the games.

Besides, the taking part in the Commonwealth games closing ceremony, the cultural troupe will also render two stage programmes in Canada.

Mostafiz greets Lankan FM

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman yesterday felicitated Lakshman Kadirgamar MP, on his appointment as Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, reports UNB.

In a message Mostafizur Rahman said, "Under your able leadership existing friendly relations between our two SAARC countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead."

He expressed the hope to work together in furtherance of the bilateral relations and cooperative endeavours among all countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, said an official handout.

Part time Tourist Guide

Do you want to earn some money by becoming a part time tourist guide at home & abroad? For further details send a postal order for Tk. 25.00 to us. TRAVEL & TOUR ORGANIZE PAVILION 13 (New-28) Dilu Road, New Eskaton, Dhaka-1217 Tel: 409428, 838640, Fax: 880-2-834445

BOL Bangladesh Oxygen Limited Interim Dividend

The Directors of Bangladesh Oxygen Limited, at a meeting held on 20 August 1994, have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 30 September 1994 at the rate of Tk 6.00 per share to those shareholders whose name shall appear in the Register of Members of the Company at the close of business on 10 September 1994.

The share transfer books of the Company shall remain closed for this purpose from 11 September 1994 to 25 September 1994, both days inclusive.

A separate notice on collection and despatch of dividend warrants will be issued in due course.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Job Description	Qualification*
01.	Monitoring Officer	Monitoring physical progress of under implementation projects, evaluating performance of ongoing projects, co-ordination between company Boards and SABINCO, submission of management information report, scrutiny of accounts of the financed projects.	S.S.C. - 70% Marks H.S.C. - 70% Graduation - 55% .. plus Master of Commerce - 55% .. plus -or- MBA -3.00 CGPA plus Experience in the relevant field for one year is preferred but not essential.
02.	Investment Officer	Analysis of individual stocks, analysis of market trend, maintenance of investment portfolio.	-do-
03.	Executive Assistant (Accounts)	Preparation of Annual Budget, maintenance of accounting records, financial transactions, investment records and preparation of statements of accounts.	S. S. C. - 60% Marks H. S. C. - 60% Marks Graduation-50% Marks plus Master of Commerce-50% Marks plus -or- MBA - 2.75 CGPA plus Experience in the relevant field for one year is preferred but not essential.

Salary package in case of Sl. No. 1 & 2 will be Tk 8,400 tax paid and in case of Sl. No. 3 will be Tk 7,000 tax paid.

Applications with detailed CV mentioning contact telephone number, two references along with certificates of qualifications, marksheets, experience certificates and two recent passport size photographs should be sent to Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Limited, Steel House, 5th Floor, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka by 31 August, 1994 inscribing post name on the envelope.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may fall by 1.2 degree Celsius over the coastal regions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere across the country.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.4 degrees at Rangamati.

Sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:27 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:36 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Mix	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.4	26.8	73	70
Chittagong	32.8	25.4	78	82
Rajshahi	33.4	26.6	88	77
Khulna	32.8	27.0	78	-

SINGER Fan — expression of poise and elegance

Supreme fan, Classic fan, Standard fan, Table fan, Pedestal fan

Not only makes you cool, adds glamour to your home

Supreme and Classic fans are available in various colours.

Please contact nearest Singer Showroom cum sales centre or Singer exclusive sales agents.