

Dhaka Day by Day

Thrills and Travails of Rickshaw Rides

by Fayza Haq

Some people may regard our Dhaka rickshaws as little more than transportable self-ejecting machines, while others may consider it a boon when the hip-pocket nerve cannot afford sleek cars, and riding buses leaves us exposed to hazards of overgrown urchins of the Fagin school. The experience of riding this vehicle can be both remarkably memorable or unbearably unpleasant.

Think of returning from work from Motijheel or Purana Paltan and just recall how many times you have come across courting couples cuddling, with the rickshaw hood put up, and sometimes even suggestive diaphanous curtains hanging from the hood. There are times too when you get whiffs of "Air du Temps" or "Aramis" and you wonder how the run of the mill bourgeois people can afford the scent to last them the entire day. You also wonder if the passenger is a lady of questionable reputation and the male is a young rake that poets and painters deal with in their work.



Gossiping while going by a rickshaw.

Not only are there romancing couples but college and university youths, piled high, four stalwart young men, or three giggling young women dressed to the teeth, all in a single rickshaw talking, playing with yo-yos, sometimes even humming Hindi hit songs — generally trying their level best to attract the attention of passers-by, and bursting with the joie de vivre of youth. Similarly crammed like sardines are women and children going home after shopping sprees, the rickshaw looking like some melange of humans, shopping bags, toys that stick out, blithely plying through streets both broad and narrow.

There are also the ogling and occasional commenting of passing rickshaws, when you are trying your level best to appear modest, dropping your dupatta or anchal about you. Even when you have midriff bulges and bags under the eyes the Dhakaites will crane their necks to size up a female figure, no matter how busy they may be with the routine of daily living. If it happens to be a rag day of a sort near the colleges, your clothes will be splattered with indelible colour, and you are supposed to take this all with a pinch of salt.

If you consider prices of travel in overseas countries, specially in the West, rickshaw rides in the city are a bargain. But there are obvious perils too. While the drivers compete with each other like the charioteers from "Ben Hur", your shopping parcels slip, andiffin career with a meal for an ailing uncle is about to fly off and be reduced to smithereens, while the sudden breaks and bumps at the back not only crush the *rajmangrhas* you are carrying for your friend suffering from jaundice, but toss you down resulting in scrapes and scratches if not ugly cuts or injured bones.

There have also been cases of serious accidents when absent-minded ladies have actually

had a toss on the tarmac, when their chiffon or silk *sari anchal* has been unknowingly caught in the wheel.

While these rough and ready rickshaws compete with overloaded buses, honking cars and speeding baby taxis and tempoes, there are the old rickety ones that remind you of "the slow boat to China" so that it appears longer to get from Dhanmandi to Tikatully than to fly to Kathmandu for a holiday. Certainly these slower rickshaws are easier on the endless pot-holes, road breaks and broken areas of the city roads but they can sometimes even give you a backache for days. There is then the chain slipping, and it appears specially so when you are desperate to reach some place in a given time.

The haggling over the fare is another matter one cannot fully comprehend. While men can dictate their price, rickshaws appear to be more expensive for women. If it is a foreigner, the fare shoots higher, naturally. There is also the begging for Tk 50, or a *lungi* if not a *saree*, that is often included even in a short rickshaw ride from Dhanmandi to New Market.

Cases of mugging occur, affecting passengers of rickshaws, specially in cases of women, even in broad daylight.

It is not always the middle class that rides the rickshaws. Cooks and bearers use it to bring home the daily or weekly groceries at times, not that gentlemen and ladies do not go to fish, vegetable and meat markets these days. As a consequence your spray of "Opium" or "Channel 5" will be subtly mixed with *ruhi* or *hilsa* odour by the time you reach your destination. Your heels of shoes, brought by your friends from Calcutta or sent from London,

will similarly be smeared with chicken droppings, grease pools, chewed sugar cane and vermillion resulted from *paan* spittings.

Most often when you ask the rickshaw puller to stop smoking his cheap brand of cigarettes, he might, good naturedly throw it away, but at times they continue to puff as they paddle along and you feel you could be almost gassed out. This is although you might be a smoker yourself, or used to passive smoking socially or while at work.

When the rains come down you get the mud-splattered sheet that barely covers you and you land up at your destination partially drenched and sneezing. Galoshes and raincoats not being readily available to your taste and the discomfort of carrying a folded raincoat or umbrella makes you grateful that the rickshaw has at least its greasy, grimy sheet to shelter you somewhat.

Riding rickshaws maybe the latest fad in the western metropolises but in Dhaka the prospect of a three-wheeled ride is not always something to look forward to.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia speaking at a function marking the inauguration of the supply of natural gas to Kishoreganj yesterday.

Green jute pulp a step towards self-reliance: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said utilisation of green jute to manufacture paper pulp is a significant step towards attaining self-reliance in our economy, reports UNB.

"In the backdrop of the miserable condition of our jute both nationally and internationally, innovation of the use of green jute for manufacturing paper pulp is the most significant development in our national economy," the Finance Minister said.

He was addressing as chief guest at the handing over ceremony of paper pulp manufacturing machinery and equipment to the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) in the city yesterday.

The equipment — jute chipper, infeed conveyor and gear box made by the Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC), will be used in the Karnafuly paper mills to manufacture paper pulp from green jute.

Saifur said, this development will positively play a vital role for the revival of the status of jute in our country and urged the authority to make the pulp manufacturing process from green jute a viable and long lasting one.

He said, jute can be harvested twice or even thrice a year in our country. So there should not be any dearth of green jute for the manufacture of pulp.

Moreover, the green jute will also play an important role to save the environment by protecting woods and bamboos which have been used as raw materials in the paper mills.

He expressed happiness over local manufacturing of heavy machineries and industrial equipment like digester, jute chipper, infeed conveyor, reduction gear box by the BITAC and dry dock.

"Manufacturing of such heavy equipment is also a big leap forward for our economy," he said.

Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan speaking on the occasion said, "The innovative capacity and the potentials of our skilled people are enormous."

He said, in the modern world, the demand of paper and pulp is increasing by 10 per cent each year, and the manufacture of paper pulp from green jute would help change our economic scenario.

Industries Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye also spoke.

Teenager gets 5 yrs' RI

A tribunal judge in the city yesterday sentenced a teenager to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for attempting to extort tolls, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, Shahidullah, 19, of Mirpur demanded toll of Tk 500 from complainant Hafizullah and threatened to gouge his eyes out. A case was registered with the Mirpur police.

BFTA leaders meet Sircar

The leaders of Bangladesh Federation for Teacher's Association (BFTA) yesterday held a meeting with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, reports UNB.

The meeting, held at the conference room of the Ministry of Education was led by the BFTA chairman Sheikh Amanullah and Secretary-General Principal Kazi Farooq Ahmed.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

An International Service company having its own largest distribution network in the world wishes to employ the following positions immediately for its Bangladesh operations:

1. Operations / Services Manager - One
2. Human Resources / Training Manager - One

For position No. 1 at least three years experience is required in any responsible management position in international / multinational company preferably in the operations discipline. Experience in related to airline industry will be an added qualification. For position No 2 at least three years Human Resources / Training related experience is required in management position.

Both candidates are expected to be in their mid thirties with a University Degree and must be familiar with working on Wordstar and Lotus 123 packages.

If you think you qualify for any of the above positions please call 600194, 600195 between 2pm to 5pm on Thursday 25th Aug or 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 27th Aug for appointment for an interview.

COCONUT AND MUSTARD OIL EXTRACTION PLANT FOR SALE

A COCONUT AND MUSTARD OIL EXTRACTION PLANT HAVING 20 TONS PER DAY EXTRACTION CAPACITY WITH ALL BUILT IN INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES INCLUDING RETAIL LEVEL SMALL TIN CONTAINER PACKING MACHINERY, SITUATED IN KATCHPUR, DEMRA, DHAKA ON 75 DECIMAL LAND AREA IS OFFERED FOR SALE ON IMMEDIATE BASIS. FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT K. Z. R. ON PH-239426 BETWEEN 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON WEEK DAYS.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা
চকবাজার শিশু হাসপাতাল
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগীয় চকবাজার শিশু হাসপাতালসহ জন্ম "ঔষধ" সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশ ফর্ম নং ২১১১ কে প্রকৃত প্রত্যাশিতকর, আমদানিকরক, পরিবেশক ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিমিত্ত হইতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইবে। উক্ত দরপত্র আকারী ১৯-৮-১৪০১ব/০৩-৯-১৯৯৪ই তারিখ কো ১১-৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত প্রধান স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তা, স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ, নগর ভবন, পরিচালক, চকবাজার শিশু হাসপাতাল এবং সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাদের দ্বারা সীমাবদ্ধকৃত সজ্ঞিকিত বাজে পূর্ত হইবে। এক প্রিন্টই কো ১০-৩০ মিনিটের সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধি কেহ থাকেন। সমানে পরিচালকের দরবে কোলা হইবে। নিম্নে বর্ণিত হারে জামানত যে কোন ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার বা ব্যাংক ড্রাকট-এর মাধ্যমে মেসার, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন এর অনুমোদিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। টেন্ডার নোটিশ ফর্ম ও বিডিউল নিম্নে বর্ণিত হারে নগর ঢাকা জন্ম দিয়া (বিশেষের মাধ্যমে) সিটি করপোরেশনের কাশিয়ার/সকল আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাদের দ্বারা এবং প্রধান স্বাস্থ্য কর্মকর্তার দর হইতে করা যাইবে। সিডিউল করের রশিদ ও ট্রেড শাইসেল-এর কটেকপি দরপত্রের সহিত অবশ্যই দাখিল করিতে হইবে। মাল্যমালের নাম অঙ্কে ও কন্ডা অবশ্যই সচিত্র হইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সিটি করপোরেশন কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	মাল্যমালের বিবরণ	পিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরকযোগ্য)	জামানত	সরবরাহের সময়সীমা
১।	ঔষধ	২০০ (দুইশত) টাকা	২%	আদেশ প্রাপ্তির ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে

পরিচালক
চকবাজার শিশু হাসপাতাল
৪/১৩ নীলী সুন্দর বাজার সেনা,
চকবাজার, ঢাকা।

ডিসিনি/পিআরডি/৭৪/৯৪-৩০
D-862

2 juvenile books presented to Biswas

Two juvenile books were presented to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Tashfin Mahmud Ovi, a student of the Government Laboratory School, translated the books into Bengali from English.

President Biswas appreciated Ovi's venture and wished him all success.

114 arrested

Police rounded up 114 people, including 53 tokal (street urchin), from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Govt to sell timber

The government has decided to sell a limited quantity of timber to members of the public on first come first serve basis at two per cent above the auction price, reports UNB.

The timber has been procured from cyclone-ravaged forest areas in Cox's Bazar forest areas, said an official hand-out.

Persons willing to construct house may submit their applications by September 10 to the Chief Conservator of Forest, Forest Building, Mohakhali, Dhaka along with necessary papers.

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন

BTV

Thursday

4:30	Opening
4:45	Runjhum
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	National Television School Debate
6:30	Esho Para Shikhi: Mass Education
7:00	Jiboner Alo: Islam in daily life
7:25	Nazrul Songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama of the week: Annya Katha
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mini Series: Marcopolo
11:30	Khabar/The News

IUBAT seminar

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) has organised a seminar on "Small Business Development: Relevance of Lessons from UK and Gujarat-India for Bangladesh" on August 30 at 5:00 pm at the IUBAT Seminar Hall, House-135, Road-9A, Dhanmondi, says a press release.

Prof Nurun Nabi, Visitor to IUBAT from London Guildhall University, England, will conduct the seminar.

ALPP meet Aug 29

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at 5 pm on August 29 at the conference room of the Leader of the Opposition, reports BSS.

Leader of the Opposition Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will preside.

Opposition chief whip Mohammad Nasim has requested all its members to attend the meeting on time.



The Jatiya Mahila Party brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting Tuesday's police action against JP activists.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period across the country.

In its extended outlook for the week, Met office says rainfall activity is likely to deteriorate at the end period.

Country's highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and Sylhet while the lowest 23.0 degrees at Hatiya.

Sun sets today (Thursday) at 6:24 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:38 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max.	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.0	26.7	89	76
Chittagong	31.0	25.0	88	92
Rajshahi	32.0	26.0	89	92
Khulna	29.2	26.5	89	93
Barisal	28.5	25.0	95	97
Sylhet	32.0	24.8	92	82
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	92	97

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Feni PWD Division, Feni

Notice Inviting Tenders
No.1 of 1994-95

1. Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the approved Class-A & Class-I & II Bldg. and Class-I, Sanitary Contractor of PWD who have completed such kind of work under any Govt. Deptt. along with a certificate from the concerned Officer not below the rank of EE PWD (the certificate should be furnished at the time of purchase of tender & along with the tender) for the undermentioned works & will be received by the undersigned as well as the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Noakhali/Comilla/B. Baria/Chandpur/Lakshimpur up to 12-00 Noon on 5-9-94 and will be opened on the same date at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Eligibility	Time Allowed
1.	Sinking of 75 mm dia deep tubewell & Constrn. of Pump House, providing water distribution line & sanitary arrangement of Pump House attached to THC at Chhagalnaiya in the Dist. of Feni during 1994-95.	Tk 6,15,211/25	Tk 12,315/-	Class-A & Class-I & II, Bldg. & Class-I, Sanitary contractor of PWD	2 (two) months

2. Tender form will be sold up to 4-9-1994.

3. Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, tender notice, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the Office of all the Executive Engineers under Comilla PWD Circle on payment of usual charges of Tk 400/= (Tk four hundred) (Non-refundable) per set of schedule (Notice inviting tenders, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc.) and a sum of Tk 25/= (Taka twenty five) (Non-refundable) per copy of tender Form No. 2911.

4. The intending tenderers shall have to produce their registration book of enlistment letter bearing the photo and full signature of the contractor duly attested by an Executive Engineer of this Deptt. along with challan for depositing the current fees at the time of purchasing of the tender form as in absence of which no tender form will be sold. No complain in this respects will be entertained.

5. The contractor/firm shall have to submit VAT registration Certificate along with the tender failing which their tender will be summarily rejected.

Md Asgar Ali
Executive Engineer
Feni PWD Division, Feni
Phone No. 4038

DFP-2522-20/8
C-1324

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