Dhaka Day by Day

Troublesome Visa

by Lamis Hossain



Nothing tests your patriotic fervour more than lining up at a foreign visa office with a Bangladeshi passport. Whether you're tall, short, rich or poor, as far as the dour visa official is concerned, you have "ILLEGAL IM-MIGRANT" branded all across your forehead.

Whereas a US passport is the key to the world, a Bangladeshi one gets doors slammed in front of your face. Entering a foreign country is hard enough, but some of us may not even make it into the embassy/high commission. At "Fort Knox" (easy guess) you get frisked and made to feel as if you're already trespassing on foreign land.

At the visa office, you may fall prey to a false sense of security. After all, you are an educated, decent person with tolerable English skills and no intention of immigrating. Surely they could not dare refuse you. But be warned. Don't feel sorry for the skinny bearded man and his wife covered in a black burkha with heavy gold bangles peeking through her sleeves. Their desperation to immigrate may ooze out of every pore, but who knows how this visa roulette works?

Filling up the forms is in itself a daunting task. You might think that the white populated Western world would be the hardest to get into, but it is not. Our immediate neighbours are no better. The Indian visa form is six sides long — you may as well be writing your memoirs.

There are serious inquiries to be made: Have you ever been deported/refused entry? Have you been arrested or involved with narcotics? Who in their right minds would actually confess, "Um, actually, I've been kicked out thrice from your esteemed nation while I was, under the heavy influence of/carrying/ selling/stealing certain illicit substances." This is not be appropriate place to detail your "experimentation" history.

What you say on the visa form and your passport can come back to haunt you. Does your passport state "student" because you

know you've only taken a year off from your studies and your Tk 21,000 a month job is only a temporary stint to pass your time and besides this way you needn't pay income tax? Tough luck. The official in question will not fail to detect the discrepancy between your passport status and the trip you're making to represent your company/NGO at a conference. But bluffing your way through may help as an acquaintance did recently. By lying about his status, his job, and the required permission from the government, he managed to smooth talk his way out of the country.

But whether you go abroad or not can depend on the mood of a single consular official. You may just be took brown, too rich, too arrogant, too poor, too educated or too ugly to be given a visa. People come back with horror stories of 'so and so' in visa booth number X. It's amazing to discover (and this has really happened) that your good-for-nothing friend who wants to be a cab driver/ bellboy/bar man in New York, has been given a visa on the first attempt. On the other hand, your brilliant SAT score cousin with admission and a full scholarship to a prestigious liberal arts college gets refused leave to entry not once, but twice. So much for the rhetoric about encouraging professionals to immigrate because unskilled workers displace the poor minority in developed nations.

Sometimes you have absolutely no idea why your visa was refused. Two young women waiting for an interview were denied permission to enter the US without even being seen.

Getting the visa, of course is a great relief. You have gone through all the trouble of getting into the embassy, lining up, filling up the visa form, facing the visa official and feeling as small as an amoeba, just to get a little stamp emblazoned on your passport.

Maybe, you should immigrate after all. It

would serve them right for giving you such a hard time.

reports BSS

ngladesh.

Kabir Sadi

Bangladesh Bank

ing countries

Create wealth to

Works Minister Rafigul Is-

remove poverty

lam Mia yesterday called for

putting in united efforts to

create wealth in order to erad-

icate poverty from society,

Speaking at a seminar on

Poverty Alleviation: Issues

and Challenges" at the Na-

tional Press Club he said Islam

had shown the clear path to-

wards alleviating poverty

through distribution of wealth

after meeting one's require-

There is no scope of accu-

Two papers on poverty al-

mulating wealth in Islam, he

told the seminar organised by

Social Science Institute, Ba-

leviation were presented at

the seminar by Dr. Abdul Hasan M Sadeq, Dean, Re-

search Centre of the Interna-

tional Islamic University of

Malaysia and journalist Lutful

Mannan, chairman of the in-

stitute the seminar was also

addressed by Shah Abdul

Hannan, Deputy Governor of

the present day world the na-

tions which had been con-

trolling the technology for

means of production were, in

fact, exploiting the develop-

stated time and again in the

poor people including the or-

phans. He said the teaching of

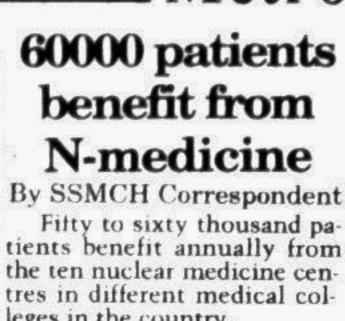
Islam is to establish a society

holy Quran the rights of the

He said almighty Allah has

Rafiqul Islam Mia said in

Presided over by Dr M A



leges in the country. This was disclosed by M A Quiyum, chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission at the opening function of the 7th national conference of Bangladesh So-

terday in the city. Dr. Haider Ali Khan, general secretary of the society said that USG is a new dimension in the method of diagnosis of various diseases.

ciety of Ultrasonography yes-

Dr. Khan said, "The society is now trying to integrate USG course in a university curriculum". He said the services offered by the local USG centres are as good as those anywhere in the subconti-

Presided over by Dr. Fauzia Moslem, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Dr. M A Karim, Dr. Kanu Bala, Dr. Feroz Ahmed and others.

A 17-member executive committee was formed with Dr M A Karim, Dr Kanu Gopal Bala and Dr Almas Begum as president, general secretary and treasurer respec-

Speaker opens tree plantation campaign

KHULNA, June 23: Spea-ker Shaikh Razzak Ali inaugurated a fortnight-long tree plantation drive here today, reports UNB.

The drive was undertaken jointly by Khulna City Corporation (KCC), district administration and Forest Department. Addressing a function on

the occasion, the Speaker called for the preservation of trees as well as plantation. He also called upon law

enforcing agencies to remain vigilant and be more active to stop illegal felling of trees in the country. The Speaker, later dis-

tributed saplings among some school children at the function held at Zia Hall premises in the city.
KCC Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Deputy Co-

also spoke on the occasion. Later, at another function, the Speaker handed over an ambulance to Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University. The ambulance was donated by the Ministry of Health.

mmissioner Kazi Riazul Huq

DU student dies at DMCH

By DU Correspondent

Muniruzzaman, a third year student of Mathematics department of Dhaka University (DU) died yesterday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The deceased was a resident of Fazlul Haq Hall of the university.

Sources said he became critically ill on Thursday night and was removed to the DMCH at 2 am yesterday.

Doctors on duty visited him at 9 am and he died an hour later.

Students complained that Muniruzzaman died due to the negligence of the hospital authorities and the doctors on

They demanded proper investigation and punishment of those responsible.

DUDS launches cleanliness drive

Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) began a year-long cleanliness and tree plantation programme on the campus yesterday, reports UNB.

Associate Professor of the Institute of Business Administration and DUDS advisor lqbal Ahmed inaugurated the programme yesterday morning at the transport depot

A large number of DUDS member participated in the programme.

DUDS president Shoyeb Ahmed told UNB that they have selected five locations, including Science Faculty and Commerce Faculty areas on the campus, for cleaning and converting them into gardens.

The members of the society will clean the areas one day in every month. They will also appoint five



organised by Shurbani at the Russian Cultural Centre in the city yesterday. - Star photo

Theatre festival begins

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day drama festival, organised by the theatre company, Nattyadhara, to mark its second founding anniversary, began in the city yesterday.

Poet Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the festival by lighting 'pradeeps' (clay lamps) to the accompaniment of traditional drums, at the Mahila Samity audi-

On the occasion, Nattyadhara also honoured the actor Aly Zaker and the playwright Selim Al Din by according them a reception, attended by noted theatre personalities, including Assaduzzaman Noor, Tarik Anam Khan, Khaled Khan, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Biplob Bala and the chief guest, Shamsur Rahman.

Convenor of the festival committee, Tarikul Alam Chowdhury presided over the function, which was conducted by Alock Basu. The first day of celebra-

tions rounded off with a performance of the play 'Hamlet Uho Hamlet' - a Nattyadhara production based on Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.

The festival continues this morning with a rally and a street play in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Theatre will stage the play 'Hat Hodai' at the Mahila Samity auditorium this evening at seven as part of the testival, while Nagorik Natya Sompradoy will stage their play 'Mukhosh' tomorrow at the same time.

What's on today . . .

Theatre Centre: As part of the centre's 13th founding anniversary programme, the drama 'Kannyadan' will be staged. The drama will be presented by Nandan. Venue: 4, Green Square, Time: 7 pm.

Talk on planning: A day-long open dialogue on the draft of Participatory Perspective Planning for Bangladesh: 1995-2010" will be held. Venue: NEC conference room of Planning Commission. Time: 10 am. State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan will preside.

German film show: The documentary "Directed by... Reinhard Hauff" by Peter Buchka and the feature film 'Line 1" by Reinhard Hauff will be shown on the concluding day of Reinhard Hauff Retrospective. Venue: German cultural centre, Road #9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 and 6 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi: The regular meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Capital: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Bailey Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Nattyadhara anniversary: As part of its 2nd founding anniversary programme, the theatre group has organised a rally and street theatre. The rally will start at 11 (0) am from the Mahila Samity, Bailey Road and end at the National Press Club. The drama 'Haat Hadai' will be staged in the evening.

Bangladesh Assoc for the Aged: Jointly organised by the association and the Institute of Geriatric Medicine, a national-level workshop on the welfare of the aged will begin. Venue: Probin Bhaban, Agargaon

8 Weather

Heavy rainfall likely

Under the influence of active monsoon over the country, moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions during the next 12 hours, reports UNB.

Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore, Khulna, Barisal and Patuakhali during the period. Day temperature may fall by 1.3 degree Celsius over the

Meantime, Teknaf experienced the highest 65 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm today. Kutubdia and Madaripur each had 23 mm rain, Maijdicourt 21, Patuakhali 20, Chittagong and Mymensingh 19 each, Ishurdi 17, Bhola 16. Sylhet 14, Barisal 12, Chuadanga 11, Faridpur 10 and

In its outlook for subsequent two days Met Office predicted that weather may improve. Giving extended outlook for another five days weathermen says that rainfall activity is likely to increase.

Book launching

The publication ceremony of a book "Supremacy of Destiny" by Mashiar Rahman was held on Sunday last at a city hotel, reports BSS.

Minister of State for Finance Mojibur Rahman was the chief guest at the function which was also addressed by L K Siddiqui MP, Dr A T M Shamsul Huda, secretary, banking division, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Prof Salahuddin Ahmed

It was presided by Justice K M Sobhan.

Speakers said the book 'Supremacy of Destiny' dwelt about the life of some illustrious personalities of the subcontinent.

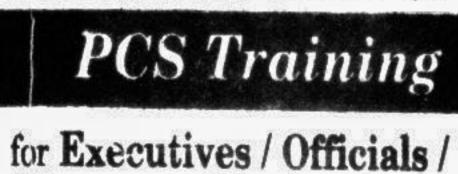
3 killed in city

By DMCH Correspondent Three persons were killed

in separate incidents in the city yesterday. One Hazrat Ali, 28, a truck driver, was killed when another truck ran over him at Dhania under Demra thana at about 11am. Ali was repairing

his truck parked on the road. An another incident Asgar Ali, 50, of Shanir Akra, who was injured when a heavy sack fell on him at the national stadium market succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, one Babul, 8, of R K Mission Road was electrocuted at his residence.



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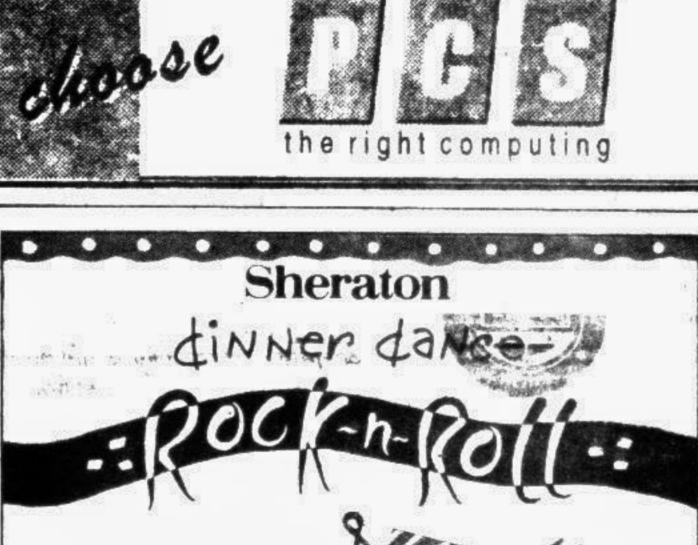
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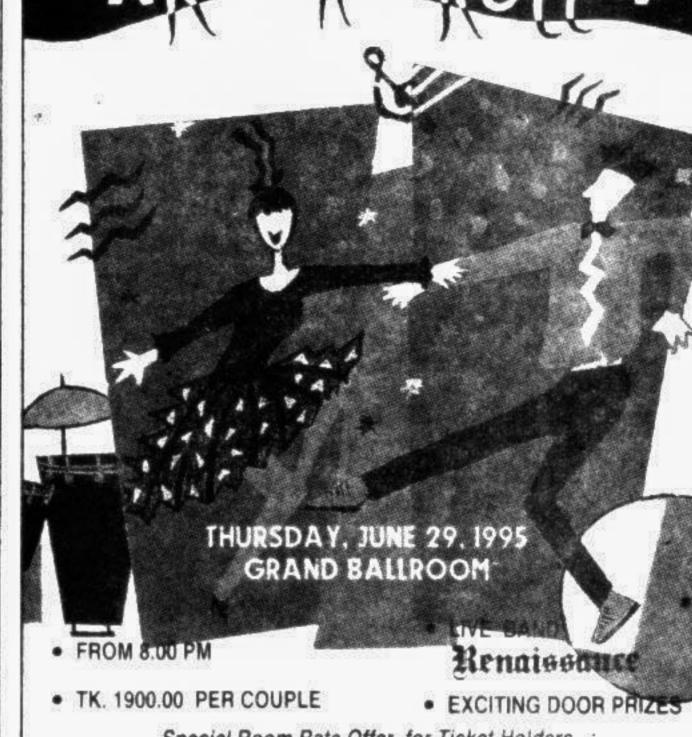
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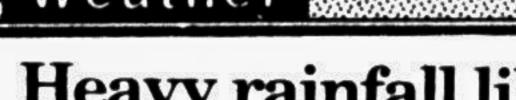
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Met Office says heavy fall is likely at places over

country.

Dhaka 6 mm shower during the period.

based on justice where everygardeners to look after the one should be ensured of mingardens, he added imum basic needs Only NESPRAY offers more...

ADCOMM/NES/3/95

Playwright Sayeed Ahmed speaking at the Theatre Centre

Honour Award ceremony in the city Thursday