

Dhaka Day by Day

Many Surprises of a Rickshaw Ride

by Muneera

A morning starts, for most of the citizens of Dhaka, with the hailing of a rickshaw. "El Rickshaw, Jabey?" (Hey Rickshaw, will you go?) calls out a prospective passenger. Koto (How much?) Whatever the rickshaw puller or rickshawwala, as we call them, demands, the would-be passenger makes a deduction and asks if that would do. The rickshawwala invariably says no and the trick is to walk ahead — mostly the puller comes up and quietly say "Uthen" or "please get up". Some rickshawwalas, however, give out a broad smile (exposing all their teeth) and say: "Aro ekta taka diyen!" (please give one taka more). Whether you agree or not, it is up to you. Some take a different line and says "If you don't give us, then who else will, aro ekta taka diyen!"

And so a rickshaw is hailed and one starts the ride. This leads to a new situation. One will generally find that the rickshaw puller is so slow, especially if the person is in a hurry! At times like this, the puller turns out to be a fresh import to the capital and quite uncertain about his job in the busy road. One feels like tearing one's hair out but the snail-like pace persists! Sometimes you may end up explaining all the traffic rules to your brand new puller! Some rickshawwalas are, however, faster than the 3-wheeler scooters and stop at nothing short of overtaking the huge trucks on the road. In such cases, one literally hangs on to the rickshaw for one's life! An expert and well-mannered rickshaw puller is not exactly extinct but quite a rare jewel to be found.

Some rickshawwalas start a conversation, most of them ask for help. Female passengers, especially those travelling alone are a good target for this. Some ask for money to be sent to their children to school or the like. Cases as this may (or may not) be genuine, but mostly people do give a few takes extra, at least. Once I got on a rickshaw from Dhanmondi, Rd No 7, and this guy started by saying: "Apa, can you please help me a bit?" His story was that he had educated his sister up to intermediate level and

today he was getting her married to a man working in a bank (?) and he had arranged for everything except that he had to buy one kg of beef and one chicken for lunch and so could I please help?

I was not not convinced, but did give him some money. Exactly a week later, I got up on a rickshaw from the same spot. To my surprise the rickshaw-puller babbled out the same story to me, correct to the last detail of buying one kg beef and one chicken! I was so shocked, it must have been a regular game with him! When I confronted him (as I reached my destination), he wouldn't absolutely believe me. But of course, he never did this. As I tried to tell him what a wrong he was doing, his argument was that: "If I did such a thing, wouldn't I be caught?" "Sure", I said: "As you are caught red handed now!" This silenced him and he quietly moved away.

Cases like this are an old tale now. However talking of our rickshaw ride, the story doesn't end here, when one reaches his destination, one is confronted by the rickshaw puller to pay more than was bargained for. The reason? "You did not tell me it was this far down the lane." This type of plea frequently leads to the passenger paying the demanded fare, for either he is in a hurry or else doesn't want a scene in front of his school or office. And so, a rickshaw-ride is full of surprises, one never knows what to expect.

Still, rickshaw pullers have been around for ages and invariably will be for a longer time still and we make do with what we get. One only wonders that at the end of the day, the rickshawwala has a very meagre sum out of which to pay his mahajan, his rent, and feed his family. He goes to rest in his abode, a dark and damp room, perhaps full of cockroaches and spiders, without any water, light or air. His mind is probably full of worries for the next day and perhaps more — a son's medicine or a daughter's dowry. Life isn't fair — can they hope for a better time?



Convening committee formed

By Staff Correspondent

Secretary of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Jalal Ahmed and chief public relations officer Jahangir Hossain have been elected convenor and member-secretary respectively of the DCC Offi-

cers' Association. A general meeting of the corporation officers on Thursday unanimously elected the convening committee, which was announced by the chief executive officer Syed

Maniruddin.

The new committee would formulate constitution of the association and arrange election of the full-fledged committee within 45 days, says a press release.



The Rotary Club of Dhaka and Bangladesh Scouts jointly organised a "tree plantation-nursing and cleanliness programme" at the Rotary Cancer Detection Centre in the city yesterday as part of the "Save Dhaka Clean Dhaka" campaign (above). Later a discussion meet was held at the centre in this connection. — Star photo

Post-flood review Diarrhoea claims 95 in Rajshahi division

By Staff Correspondent

Ninety-five persons died of diarrhoea and about 39,250 have been affected by the disease in the flood-hit Rajshahi Division last month.

According to the daily diarrhoeal disease monitoring report, compiled by the control room of the Health Directorate on Monday the worst affected districts were Rajshahi, Bogra, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

The highest death rate for the previous thirty days — sixteen on average were recorded at Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Rangpur.

The information was conveyed to members of the press Tuesday at a briefing organised by the Health Directorate at the conference room of the EPI Bhaban in the city.

Quoting latest figures, A K Shamsuddin Siddiqui, DG Health termed the disease control situation in the flood-hit 14 northern districts as "satisfactory."

Only 3 persons, out of a total of 1567 gripped by the water-borne disease, have died Monday and supply of emergency medicines to the affected areas was adequate, he added.

"Our main concern now is to sensitise people to drinking purified water so as to prevent further outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases in the region," Siddiqui said.

Health volunteers deployed in the area now engaged in campaigns to motivate people to drink pure water and in distribution of water purifying tablets.

"We have 12 lakh purifying tablets in stock and another 50 lakh have just been procured," Siddiqui said.

The DG Health also said that a management information service (MIS) system for the directorate would be set up by December '96, at the auspices of the World Health

Organisation, to facilitate the assessment of epidemics in disaster-hit zones.

The press briefing was also addressed by Dr A M Zakir Hossain, director, Primary Healthcare and Dr Shamsul Hoque, Project Director, EPI.

BCU to stage hunger-strike today

The Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), a left-leaning student organisation, will stage a token hunger-strike at the Jatiya Press Club today, says a press release.

The BCU will observe the strike to press the demand for resolving the country's prevalent political crisis.

The 5-hour strike will begin at 10 am.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country with partly cloudy sky over Chittagong and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country.

Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Kutubdia yesterday and the lowest 19.5 degrees at Satkhira.

Sun sets today at 5:23 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	33.1	21.1	63	59
Chittagong	34.0	24.8	80	78
Rajshahi	31.0	20.3	77	80
Khulna	32.0	19.7	73	78
Barisal	32.4	20.6	74	89
Sylhet	33.4	22.4	69	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.2	80	80

Dhaka Sheraton
HOTEL
III Sheraton

Dhaka Sheraton Presents

Bibi's Bangladesh

2nd November, Thursday
at The Winter Garden

Enjoy this Season's
Most Awaited

FASHION SHOW
by Bibi Russell

Door Opens : 6:30 pm
Fashion Show : 7:00 pm
DJ & Dance Floor
From 8:30 pm till 11 pm

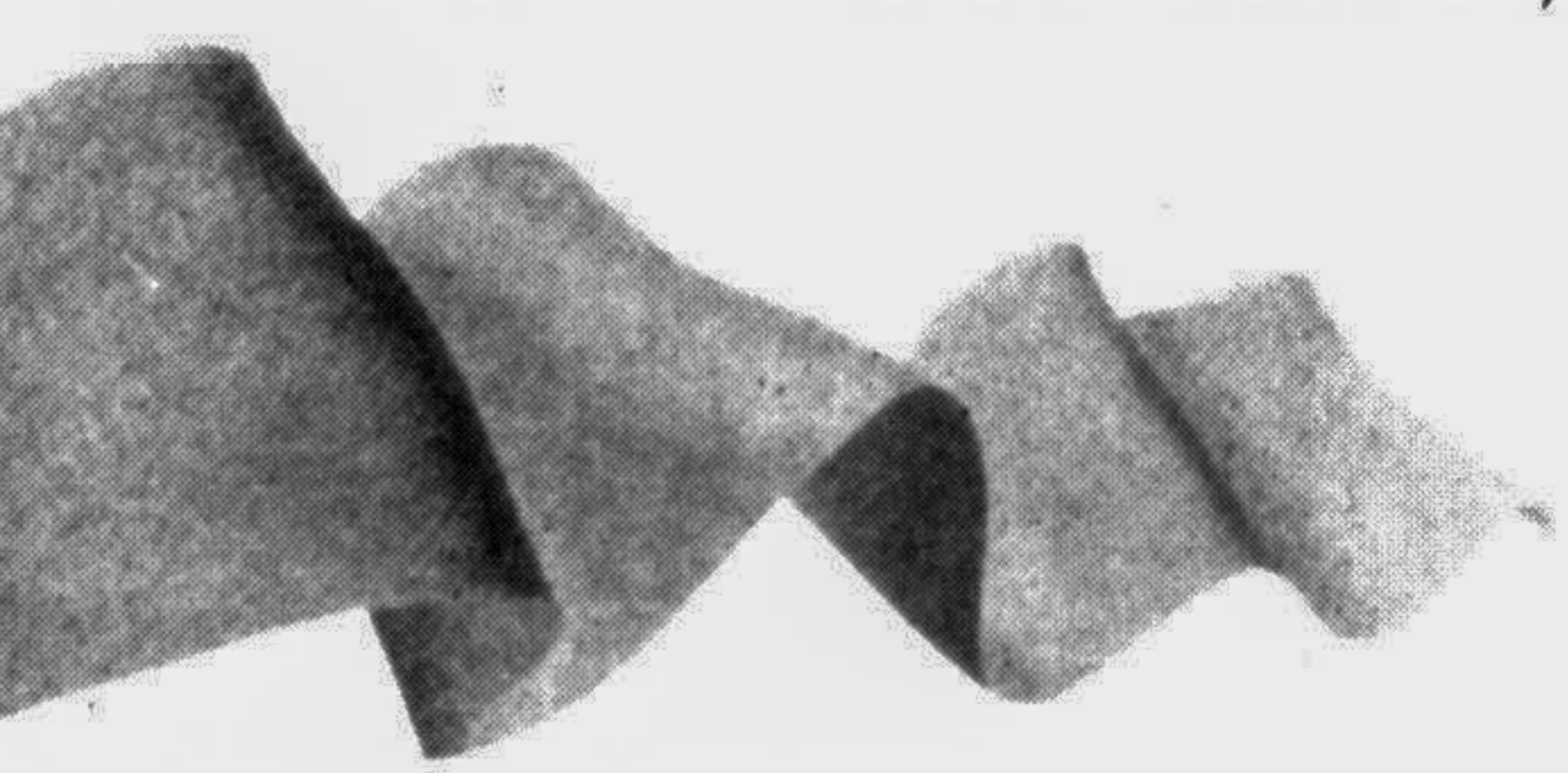
Light & Sound by Feedback
Ticket Tk: 750/- PP

Tickets Available at
Dhaka Sheraton Lobby
Ph : 863391/861191
Video Connection
Ph : 602525, 607777



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STARTING OCTOBER 29, 1995



BANGKOK-DHAKA
DHAKA-BANGKOK

TG321
TG322

DEP : 1045
DEP : 1325

ARR : 1215
ARR : 1640



Thai Airways International Public Company Limited

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Passenger Reservation & Ticketing : 834711-19 Fax : 832984

Cargo (Zia International Airport) : 894462, 891308

Zia International Airport Office : 894343, 894351

Chittagong, Finlay House, Agrabad : 713435-36

Fax : Attn. Thai 880-31-710207

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Facilities Department Rangpur Zone

Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. EE/F,D/R,Z/95-96 (7)

Dated 14-10-95 Eng.

(29-6-1402 BS)

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from A-1 class enlisted contractors of Facilities Department having Electrical Licence Board approved ABC licence for the undermentioned work under "Revenue Head" during 1995-96.

Sl. No.	Group No.	Name of Educational Institution with description of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	Overhead line & repair work of Rangpur Govt Carmichael College campus	Tk. 10,71,422/-	Tk. 21,430/-	3 (three) months

- A) Last date of purchasing tender document : 5-11-95 (upto office hours).
- B) Last date & time of receiving tender document : 6-11-95 upto 12:00 noon.
- C) Date & time of opening tender : 6-11-95 at 12:30 minutes.
- D) Offices where tender documents will be available : Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Rangpur/Rajshahi/Bogra/Dinajpur/Panchagarh/Naogaon/Pabna zone office and Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Kurigram/Lalmonirhat/Gaibandha district office.
- E) Offices where tender documents will be received by the officer : By the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Rangpur/Rajshahi/Bogra/Dinajpur/Panchagarh/Naogaon/Pabna zone office and Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Kurigram/Lalmonirhat/Gaibandha district office.
- F) Earnest money : Bank Draft/Pay-Order for the amount mentioned in column 5 above from any nationalised/scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Rangpur zone should be deposited with each tender.
- G) Price of tender document : Tk 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable).

All other information and terms & conditions regarding the tender are given in the tender document.

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Terms & Conditions:

- Contractor/firm intending to participate in the tender should have experience of similar work described in this notice.
- Prior to purchasing tender document the tenderers must produce the undermentioned original papers:
 - Respective contractor's Registration book renewed for 1995-96 financial year.
 - VAT Registration certificate.
 - ABC Licence issued by Electrical Licence Board.
 - Past experience certificate & work order of similar work mentioned in the above notice.
- Attested photocopy of the papers mentioned in 2 (B), 2 (C) & 2 (D) above must be submitted with the tender. Otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.
- At the time of scrutiny of tender, if the attached papers are found to be forged, then the tender will be treated as cancelled.
- In case the quoted value is more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost, the tender will be treated as cancelled outright.

Md Zulfiqar Ali Hyder
Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Rangpur Zone

Mainul wins Okamoto Prize



Photographer Mainul Alam has won the 'Okamoto Prize' at an international photo contest held in Tokyo recently, says a press release.

Mainul's photograph 'They Are on the Save Road Together' was chosen from nearly 6000 entries.

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for Unesco (APCCU) organised the contest. Meanwhile, Mainul also won two prizes at a Unesco competition held in Nepal recently, added the press release.