

Dhaka Day by Day

Shantinagar or Shantijheel?

by Shamsad Mortuza

There are two indicators for rain: one, frogs start croaking; two, Shantinagar gets under knee-deep water. And if it rains for all night, the next morning Shantinagar well deserves a rechristening. It can be called Shantijheel or even Shantihar where one will find scores of cars and autorickshaws fishing in troubled waters. For experts, however, such situation can be explained as the fatal drink of the carburetors.

One of the busiest city nerve-centres thus becomes a holy confluence where divine blessings from heaven mingle with human wastage. Rich in filth of all hues and all odours, the holy liquid of Shantinagar is second to none. It is brewed with ingredients like peeled jackfruits from Shantibagh, fast-food leftovers floating all the way from Bally road, DV-1 forms coming from Kakrail typing stand, and what-not from Rajarbag.

When a whisking Pajero or a number-6-bus-turned-speedboat sprinkle this holy water on humble pedestrians in rolled trousers, they have no other alternatives but to rush to Hekmati Dawakhana, the only place in the city where allergies and rash can be treated with 100% guarantee.

No doubt, waterlogging has been a nagging problem for the city dwellers, particularly that of Shantinagar. The skyreaching hive-like

apartments have kept on mounting pressure on the city sewerage and drainage system. Quite understandably, our city forefathers failed to visualise Manhattan at Shantinagar. The present pipes can hardly cope with the daily civic filth and wastage. Even a modest rain thereby causes waterlogging at Shantinagar.

Attempts to streamline the situation were taken only to see them end up in futility. With the severity and frequency of the crisis during the monsoon one could only come with an alternative measure. The MP-elect is said to have promised that he would spend his fortune (provided the government fails) to improve the situation within six months. This alternative proposal is also for his kind consideration.

Shantinagar can be turned into a permanent pool using the roads as a reservoir. Boats or more fashionable gondolas just as in Bangkok or even in Venice can be arranged for travelling. The local residents can go shopping to the Shantinagar bazaar in boats or the floating bazaar can come to their place. Think of it. It will not only chasten the traffic jam but also become an environment friendly tourist wonder! For the tourists Shantijheel can be a flood memorial. After all, (thanks to our leaders and media) flood is our national identity, our magic pass-word that opens the floodgate of aid.



Arrested person dies at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

A youngman arrested by Tejgaon police last week succumbed to his assault injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

The deceased, Ferdous Wahid alias Shahin, 25, son of Abdul Malek Sarker of Tejkunipara, was arrested from Shahinbagh area at about 2 pm in June 25. He was reportedly beaten up by police and was admitted to the DMCH where he died at around 10:15 am yesterday, said medical sources quoting Shahin's brother who visited him at the hospital.

However, police at the Tejgaon thana, identifying Shahin as a terrorist, said that the local people caught and severely assaulted Shahin on that day and later handed him over to them. He was immediately admitted to the DMCH.

Police also added that Shahin, who was charged in 14 different cases including two murder cases, following the assault felt ill following the beating as he was a drug addict.

A locally-made pistol was Govt names envoy to Singapore

The government has decided to appoint Ashfaqur Rahman, at present director-general of the ministry of Foreign Affairs as Bangladesh High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore, said an official announcement yesterday.

Born in Dhaka on February 2, 1948, Ashfaqur Rahman obtained his Masters degree in economics after graduating with honours in the same subject in 1968. He joined the erstwhile civil service of Pakistan in 1970.

He switched to the foreign service of Bangladesh in 1981. Ashfaqur Rahman is married and has two daughters.

recovered after Shahin's confession while a case was lodged against him with Tejgaon thana under the Arms Act, police said.

Meanwhile, his brother alleged that Shahin, after being arrested, was taken to a slum close to his residence at L-56/B, Tejkunipara, Tejgaon Railway colony, where police and a local gang assaulted him severely.

Shahin fell sick after being assaulted mercilessly and police then admitted him to the DMCH, his brother said.

Besides, some local people yesterday afternoon rushed to the Jatiya Press Club following the death of Shahin and while discussing the incident with some journalists held the police responsible for his death, according to a journalist of a national daily.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Ramna thana in this connection. The dead body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy, hospital sources said.

More SAARC FMs greet Samad

The Foreign Minister of the Maldives and Bhutan in separate messages have felicitated Abdus Samad Azad on his assumption of the office of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel in his message expressed his confidence that the close and cordial relations existing between Bangladesh and the Maldives would be further strengthened in the days ahead.

In another message, Bhutanese Foreign Minister, Dawa Tsering, congratulated Abdus Samad Azad and said 'I am confident that with yourself at the helm of foreign relations the traditional friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Bhutan will be still further strengthened.'

No provision in constitution for nat'l consensus govt: Bhuiyan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said that there is no provision in the Constitution for the formation of a government of national consensus, reports BSS.

Bhuiyan was addressing a number of meetings at Bharat-kandi Mill Gate, Ita Khola, Kazir Char, Lakhhipur, Para Tala, Naya Bazar, Shibpur and Tri Mohoni in his constituency, according to a party press release.

He said, Awami League wants to establish BKSAL in the name of the government of national consensus. He said, BNP is always uncompromising in the question of independence, sovereignty, multiparty democracy and Bangladeshi nationalism.

Bhuiya said, there can be a consensus between the government and the opposition on certain national issues. He said one cannot join the Awami League government in the name of government of national consensus.

MA Malik joins Commonwealth Secretariat

MA Malik, former Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore, has been appointed as a director in the Commonwealth Secretariat, reports BSS.

Born in 1940, Malik obtained a first class Masters degree in economics and a Masters degree in development economics from Williams College, USA.

Malik is a career civil servant. He joined the erstwhile civil service of Pakistan in 1963 and since then has held a number of important and senior positions in the government and the corporate sector. Prior to his diplomatic assignment as high commissioner to Singapore, he was serving as defence secretary. He also held the position of secretary to the government in several other ministries.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh, David N Merrill, called on Finance Minister SAMS Kibria at his office yesterday. —PID photo

What's on today

DU guardians forum: A meeting at the Dhaka University guardians forum will be held. Venue: Dhaka University Club building. Time: 5:30 pm.

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

. and tomorrow

BWJF meet: A meeting of the Bangladesh Women Journalist Forum will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

BIDS seminar: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies has organised a special seminar on 1987-94: Dynamics of Rural Poverty in Bangladesh. Prof. M Yunus will inaugurate the seminar. Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud and M Saifur Rahman will join a distinguished panel to deliberate on the policy implications of the findings. Venue: BIDS, Agargaon. Time: 9:30 am.

Mahila Parishad urges govt to rescue Kalpana

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday urged the Prime Minister, home minister and state minister for women and social welfare affairs to take effective steps to recover kidnapped Kalpana Chakma, the organising secretary of Hill Women's Federation, and ensure her safety, reports BSS.

In a statement, Sufia Kamal and Ayesha Khanam, president and general secretary respectively of the Parishad said Kalpana Chakma was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants at gun-point from a village in Bagaichari thana under Rangamati district on June 11 last.

The leaders said it was the responsibility of the members of law enforcing agencies to recover Kalpana Chakma.

'Implement ban on movement of inland cargo ships over Bay'

Coaster Owners Association of Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to strictly implement the ban on movement of inland cargo ships over the Bay towards Chittagong port and its outer anchorage to avert further accidents, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon, Association chairman Nazrul Islam Khan Badal demanded all-out impartial inquiry into illegal transportation of goods by inland cargo vessels like MV 'Sea Master-1'.

The cement-laden MV 'Sea Master-1' sank in the Karnaphuli channel following a collision with another vessel on June 28.

The coaster owners' association chairman said that MV 'Sea Master-1' is an inland cargo vessel, not a coaster as reported in the press. As per law, such cargo vessels are not allowed to go to the port over the sea, he added.

He wondered how inland cargo vessels like MV 'Sea Master-1' which met with the

Nasim visits BTB service centre

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) has set up a 'one-point service centre' at Ramna Telephone Bhaban to ensure better service to the city's telephone subscribers, reports UNB.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim visited the centre yesterday.

During the visit, the Minister was apprised that the one point service centre had been introduced to provide better facilities to the telephone subscribers of the city.

With the introduction of the centre it has become easier to take prompt steps to solve the problems regarding telephone bills, faulty management of telephone and issuance of duplicate telephone bills, the Minister was informed.

From the centre, the Minister directly talked to some of the telephone subscribers and enquired whether their phones were working or not after redressing their complaint, said a PID handout.

Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority

পানির বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন
Invitation of Tenders for Procurement of Water Meters and Spares

Under Contract R-2-CW-3H for Chittagong WASA

International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority from genuine manufacturers or authorized agents for supplying and delivery of 4900 different sizes Water Meter and spares as set out in the contract documents. The fund will be provided from cash foreign exchange as well as in Bangladesh currency under CWASA 2nd Interim Water Supply Project. Point of delivery and acceptance of materials will be at Chittagong WASA stores. Bid documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of written application to the undersigned on cash payment of Tk 5,000/- (five thousand) only (non-refundable).

Details of the tender					
Contract No	Nature of tender	Description of items	Bid bond	Date of selling of tender documents	Date & place of submission of the tender
R-2-CW-3H	International	4900 Nos of different sizes Water Meter	3% (three per cent) of the total bid price in the form of Bank Guarantee/Pay Order/ hours of Chairman, CWASA, Chittagong.	From 01-8-96 to 25-8-96 PM in the office of the Chairman, CWASA, Chittagong.	On 29-8-96 up to 1-00 PM on the same day.

Detail information regarding this tender may be had from the office of the undersigned CWASA, Chittagong during office hours.

SPR-120-23/6
DFP-14435-27/6
G-811
Executive Engineer
Procurement Division
CWASA, Chittagong.

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology Dhaka WANTED

No. D-2170 (2) Dt: 30-06-96
Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualifications and fitness to fill up the following posts of this University.

1. DAERS Office : Central Instrument Workshop:
a) Two permanent posts of Instrument Engineer in the scale of Tk 4100-6500/-
Prescribed qualification:

- a) Must have a degree in Electronic/Electrical Engg. or M.Sc in Applied Physics & Electronics or M.Sc. in Physics.
- b) Must have one year specialised training on maintenance of scientific instrument.
- c) 2 (two) years experience on maintaining electronic and Electrical equipment in Universities/Research Institutions.

Or
a) Diploma in Electronic/Electrical Engg. from any recognised institute.
b) Must have one year specialised training on maintenance of scientific instruments.
c) 8 (Eight) years experience on maintenance of electronic equipment out of which he must have five years experience on maintenance of laboratory equipment in Universities/Research Institutions.

2. Water Resources Engg. Deptt
a) One permanent post of Assistant Experimental Engineer in the scale of Tk 2850-5155/=

Prescribed qualification:
Must have a B.Sc. Engg. degree in Electrical/Mechanical/Civil/Chemical.
Candidates having foreign Degree/Degrees will have to submit equivalence certificate to be obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology with their applications.

15 (Fifteen) complete sets of application with attested copies of all certificates, testimonials, transcripts and marksheets are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a Crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 25/- (Twenty-five) in favour of the Comptroller of this University.
Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.
Last date for submission of application: 16 July, 1996/1st Sraban, 1403.

D-682 Registrar

Weather Heavy rain forecast

Most parts of the country as well as the capital experienced rain throughout the day disrupting normal civic life, reports UNB.

Lowlying areas of the metropolis including Shantinagar, Rampura and Kakrail were submerged due to daylong incessant rain affecting normal public life.

Met office forecast for the next 12 hours till 6 pm today predicted moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind at most places across the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions.

Meantime, Sylhet experienced the highest 95 mm rain during the last 36 hours till 6 pm yesterday. Kutubdia had 82 mm rain, Cox's Bazar 79, Srimangal 73, Chittagong 53, Mymensingh 50, Rangamau 44, Dhaka 23, Dinajpur 21, Comilla and Rajshahi 16 each, Tangail 12, Faridpur 9 and Khulna 7 mm shower during the period.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period throughout the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Bhola yesterday and the lowest 23.2 degrees at Kutubdia.

The Sun sets today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15 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	30.0	25.7	90	92
Chittagong	30.4	25.7	95	90
Rajshahi	32.0	25.5	92	77
Khulna	33.2	24.5	87	70
Barisal	33.0	24.7	86	78
Sylhet	27.4	24.9	100	100
Cox's Bazar	30.4	26.0	90	—



State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan met with the officials of the Ministry and different organisations under its administrative control at the ministry's conference room yesterday. —PID photo