

For Documents Door to Door delivery
To 237 Destinations in INDIA
BLUE DART
EXPRESS LIMITED

BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L
9565114-7, 887771, (031)712127 CGP
(041) 25008 KLN

DOWN TO EARTH Tribulations of Citizens in Rainy Season

By A S M Nurunnabi

Spells of heavy rain make it obvious how vulnerable the nation's capital remains before the forces of nature. It has been observed that such spells of heavy rain create harrowing conditions for areas stretching from Motijheel to Shantinagar and Malibagh, from Kakrail to the roads around Hotel Sheraton. Rainwater keeps the roads submerged for a good length of time. There are other populous areas equally affected by the waterlogging. With a small downpour, the entire area surrounding Green Road goes under water. The entire western part of Rayerbazar remains under water throughout the entire rainy season. The poisonous wastes from the Hazaribagh tanneries get mixed with the stagnant volume of the rain water, posing a serious threat to the health of the people of the area.

In the lower areas of the fast expanding city, the people inhabiting those areas lead a life of sub-human standard. This can be observed at Sipahibagh, Bhuapara, Riazbagh and in large areas at Rampura. Thus, by and large, the city acquires a somewhat dreadful image during the rainy season. The flooded roads create horrendous traffic jams; there are always hazards of falling into open manholes. Adverse conditions develop in the buildings adjoining the waterlogged areas, particularly on foundations with damp walls and floors. The damage done to the roads is incalculable. Potholes and cracks develop at sundry places.

One of the main contributing factors to water logging in the city is the large-scale digging of roads avowedly for the purpose of development by public utility agencies. In this context, it's a welcome sign

that the Dhaka City Corporation has recently warned different services of stern action if they further dig up city roads in the rainy season. It is understood that a total of 318 kilometres of roads have been dug up in the city over the last few months and most of them remain unrepaired even after months of completion of work. It was alleged by a DCC official that often a public utility agency engaged in development work didn't take into consideration the rainy season while planning work, though extensive digging tends to make life unbearable on the city streets in the rainy season, causing congestion and accidents.

The one important point is that the drainage system that has so long operated in the city has been an imperfect one and that has been proved by the fact the storm sewers not working to satisfaction. The imperfection is there once it pours and the bitter truth about drainage in Dhaka is that it does not work.

The Dhaka WASA has reportedly taken up some projects which are yet to bear fruit to the full. Since 1989, the WASA took over the responsibility of improving the drainage system of the city. The WASA took up a comprehensive project named the Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Project at a cost of 159 crore which began in 1992 with the assistance of Asian Development Bank. It is scheduled to be completed by June, 1997. About 50 per cent of the work has been reportedly completed and another 10 per cent was due for completion last year.

Concerned sources indicate that solution to the waterlog-

ging in city centre comprising Kakrail, Bejoynagar, Fakirapur, Rajarbagh, and Gulistan areas lies in clearance of excess water through the 3100 metre-long Segunbagicha canal which has been taken the integrated project for development. Under the project, box culverts covering an area of 275 metres were constructed about two years back. From the adjoining streets and lanes, pipes have been laid for connection with the canal so that excess rain water may be discharged through the manholes into the canal for effective clearance. But a stalemate has arisen in respect of an area of 346 metres which has rendered the whole system inoperative. This stalemate has been pending for solution for the past two years and there is no knowing yet when that stalemate will be resolved. Moreover for the Bejoynagar portion of the canal, a court's injunction is said to be in force. In the alignment of the canal in Fakirapur and Kamalapur area, two mosques are in existence. Unless all these pending issues are settled, the Segunbagicha canal will not be put into operation and as a result the waterlogging in the city centre will continue.

According to a high official of the WASA, the Segunbagicha canal has become inoperative because of pending issues covering 5 per cent of the canal, although 95 per cent of the work on the canal has been completed. Negotiations are said to be in progress for amicable settlement of the pending issues and WASA authorities are optimistic that with the completion of the canal the problem of waterlogging in the centre of the city will be effectively dealt with.

Suu Kyi honours slain father at state function

YANGON, July 19: Under early morning drizzle, Myanmar's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi laid a wreath at the tomb of her father, independence hero Gen. Aung San, at a state-sponsored ceremony yesterday, reports AP.

Her attendance at the commemoration of Aung San's assassination 49 years ago marked a one-day truce with

the council of generals who rule Burma.

Later, at a religious ceremony at her home, 400 members of her National League for Democracy came to pay respects, wearing black badges with the words "Martyrs Never Die."

"When I go to the Martyrs Mausoleum, I think of my father as the leader of the nation, Sun Kyi told journalists.

"I do not go there to pay my respects as one individual, but as somebody who represents all those who believe in freedom and human rights in Myanmar.

Speculation had been rife around Yangon whether the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner would turn up for the official memorial service; the second since she was freed from six years of house arrest July 10, 1995. She attended last year's, just days after her release.

Tensions have mounted in recent months between Aung San's daughter and the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, which claims to be carrying out his legacy of protecting the country from foreign domination.

Earlier this week, Suu Kyi urged the European Union in a videotaped address to adopt economic sanctions against Myanmar.

7-ft high wall around subjail for Ershad

Star Report

The height of the boundary wall of the house-turned-subjail near the Sangsad Bhaban where H M Ershad is kept has been raised to seven feet, according to official sources yesterday.

The jailed former president and Jatiya Party chief was shifted to the House from the Dhaka Central Jail on July 14 after he was granted parole to attend the session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Officials at the Home Ministry told The Daily Star that the height of the boundary wall of that house has been raised for security reasons and the height might be increased further.



Raising of flags at the concluding-day functions of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the Dhaka University on the campus yesterday. — Star photo

30 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, July 19: Some 30 people were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a series of clashes between two groups in the town today, reports UNB.

Police said, the clash erupted between two rival groups of Shahedagar Beparipara and Bhangabari mahallas in the morning and continued till evening over removing of a signboard of a club.

Nine shops and two houses were ransacked and looted during the day-long clashes.

Police resorted to lathicharge on the feuding groups and picked up four youths from the spot.

Of the injured, eight have been admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital while two others shifted to Dhaka Pangu Hospital in critical condition.

A case was filed with Sadar thana.

Share trading

From Page 1

of 11 issues gained and those 10 suffered losses.

The market operators and share brokers at the DSE said that there was an unprecedented enthusiasm among the investors. The boom in the capital market was solely due to brick business by local investors, they said. Most of the foreign investors left the country during the recent political turmoil and due to some regulations on foreign portfolio investment, they mentioned.

The floor of the DSE was kept upon till 7 pm during most of the days of the last week as there was heavy pressure from clients for buying and selling shares and debentures.

"I never saw such enthusiasm and inflow of money in the country's capital market," commented M A Zinnah, a prominent share broker.

He said that political stability in the country, announcement of continuation of the previous governments, economic policies by the new government and confidence among the small investors were the main causes for the boom in the capital market.

He, however, said "too much money is chasing too few shares."

Intiaz Hossen, chairman of the DSE said that the average turnover at the DSE in both volume and value almost doubled in a month. He hoped that the market would continue booming even after placing of the budget for fiscal 1996-97 in the parliament this month.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

5 killed in Pabna road accident

PABNA, July 19: Five people, including three members of a same family, were killed and six others injured when a speeding truck rammed two rickshaws vans at Majidpur on the Pabna-Ishurdi road tonight, reports UNB.

Of the dead four were identified as Josna Khatun 30, her son Mokher 12 and daughter Khushi 10 and Abdul Jalil 40 of Kalikapur village in Ishurdi thana. The identity of another 40-year-old man could not be known immediately.

Police said the accident occurred at about 9 pm when the lorry-bound truck hit the rickshaw vans from behind leaving three people dead on the spot. Two of the victims later died at Pabna Sadar Hospital.

The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Five of the injured — Anwara, Ismail, Argina, Nabab Ali and Rabi — were admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses said the victims, all the van passengers, were returning to their homes at Kalikapur in Ishurdi after attending a marriage ceremony at Nazirpur in Sadar thana.

Workshop

From Page 1

order" will be presided over by Barrister Ishiaq Ahmed, Gazi Shamsur Rahman will give the key-note speech.

Discussions include advocate Sigma Huda, A Khalequr and ZA Shamsul Haque.

"Role of local government in the maintenance of law and order" is the topic of the third working session to be held with the support of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif in the chair. The key-note speech at this session will be delivered by Secretary, Local Government Division Syed Alamgir Faruk Chowdhury. Discussants are: MCCI chief Samson H Chowdhury, Editor of Bangla Bazar Patrika Matur Rahman Chowdhury and Ferdousi Sultana of Women's Forum.

The fourth working session on "Role of the Society in the maintenance of law and order" will be presided over by Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury and the key-note speech will be given by AMA Muhiit, former finance minister. Discussants are: Dr. Kazi Faruk of ADAB, journalist Abed Khan and Prof Sultana S Zaman.

Raushan, other family members meet Ershad

Begum Raushan Ershad and other family members of deposed President HM Ershad visited him yesterday at the make-shift jail in the Sangsad Bhaban complex where the Jatiya Party chairman is kept since he was released on parole, reports UNB.

The meeting of the former President with his family members was arranged following contracts by some top JP leaders with the government. JP acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury reportedly took the initiative for the meeting.

Begum Raushan Ershad along with her children met with Ershad in the afternoon. Earlier, Ershad's younger brother GM Quader MP and his family members also visited him with permission from the Home Minister.

However, none of the JP leaders were allowed to meet Ershad.

A Jatiya Party source said the government had agreed to allow Ershad's family and relations to meet the jailed former President as per jail code.

GM Quader quoting Ershad said he was feeling sick on Thursday. Ershad, released on parole to attend the parliamentary sessions, did not turn up in the House on Thursday and reportedly refused to take his meals.

Meanwhile, party sources said that Ershad, who is the leader of the JP Parliamentary Party, would attend parliament from Sunday.

7 hurt, 6 vehicles damaged in ferry collision

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, July 19: At least seven passengers were injured and six vehicles damaged in a head-on collision between two ferries in Aricha-Daulatdia route Thursday night.

The Aricha-bound ferry "Kakoly" with 10 trucks and 5 cars on board collided with Daulatdia-bound dumb ferry "Rankhet" with 19 trucks and 4 cars at the Daulatdia turning point. The front parts of both the ferries were badly damaged. BIWTC sources said. The affected ferries were brought to Aricha ghat for repairing.

Landslides kill 18 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, July 19: Landslides killed 18 people in Nepal on Thursday, raising the number of deaths from a week of torrential rains and flooding in the Himalayan Kingdom to 46, officials said today, reports Reuters.

EPZ in Rajshahi demanded

RAJSHAHI, July 19: Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) today expressed the hope that the government will be able to bring back economic discipline through development in all sectors for greater national interest, reports BSS.

Exchanging pre-budget views particularly on the development of northern region of the country with local journalists at Chamber Bhavan here, RCCI President Mohammad Ali Sarkar put forward a series of suggestions to the government for overall development of the region.

The chamber president demanded for setting up of a separate development sangstha for northern region as it would help accelerate the industrial development in the region. He also demanded of the concerned authority to set up an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in the area.

Mohammad Ali Sarkar also demanded for setting up of a LP Gas plant in the region for greater interest of the people of the area and also made the Rajshahi airport as an international airport.

He suggested for taking adequate measures so that power shortage could be overcome in the region for the interest of industrial development.

The chamber president said

Probe report

From Page 1

ing five convicted for 11 to 30 years, escaped from Dhaka Central Jail breaking a cell and scaling the prison's boundary wall early Monday.

The jail official told UNB on condition of anonymity that the probe committee could not start the inquiry until Thursday as another committee, formed by the Home Ministry, was interrogating jail officials, wardens and prisoners.

The Additional IG (Prisons) was reportedly interrogating some jail officials at his office last night. The committee headed by him is likely to finalise its report by Sunday, the official said.

Giasuddin Pathan, a joint secretary of the Home Ministry, who heads the probe committee formed by the ministry, told UNB by phone that "we have talked to a number of jail officials and prisoners, and the interrogation will continue."

Meanwhile, plainclothes and uniformed police continued their massive hunt yesterday to nab the fugitives.

DU jubilee

From Page 1

As part of the day's programme, former students, guests and leaders of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) visited the residential halls in the afternoon.

A cultural function was also held in the afternoon at the mall area. Main buildings of the university, including student dormitories, were illuminated in the evening.

Improved diet was served among the residents of the university's 14 dormitories.

Dhaka University began its journey on July 1, 1921 with 12 departments under three faculties and 877 students, including only two female, and several hundred teachers, officials and employees.

It has now 10 faculties, 42 departments, seven institutes, 14 residential halls and a dormitory for foreign students.

India sticks to stance on CTBT

NEW DELHI, July 19: India will not adopt a defensive posture and convey its firm stand on the comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT) at the ASEAN conference in Jakarta beginning next week, reports PTI.

Responding to questions, the Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External Affairs Ministry, AN Ram said, "We don't feel there is any need to be defensive (on this issue)," and added, "We are not going to change our view."

BNP undecided

From Page 1

through discussion. A top BNP leader told UNB last night that they would take decision on joining the Parliament session after party chairperson Begum Zia returned to the capital.

"BNP will certainly return to the House, but the issue of opposition members' privileges must be settled," he said.

When contacted, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said they would take decision on their return to the House on Sunday.

Talking to UNB, some BNP lawmakers alleged that Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury had curtailed the privileges of opposition members and clearly violated Articles 64 of the Rules of Procedure on the private members day.

They said the Speaker's statement in the House after the walkout was totally untrue and unfortunate. They wondered as to how the guardian of the parliament could make such an untrue statement.

The Speaker did not pay heed to the opposition members who repeatedly tried to draw his attention to move an adjournment motion on a matter of public importance, they contended.

Flood
From Page 1
were inundated affecting nearly 2 lakh people. Crops on about 25,000 acres of land, many kutcha roads, houses, educational institutions and other establishments were damaged in the flood-hit thanas.

The swelling Jamuna engulfed many villages of Kazipur and Shahjapur thanas in last few days rendering hundreds of people homeless.

In Lalmonirhat district, flood situation worsened further due to rise of water level in the Teesta and Dharla inundating fresh areas in Sadar thana, including Kulaghat, Moghalhat and Barabari.

The communication between Burimari landport and other parts of the country was snapped as a Bailey bridge at Namuri, 20 kilometres off the town, was washed away by the onrush of flood water at about 8 pm yesterday.

Hand Mixer
With stand and bowl
Let's make things better
PHILIPS
Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics NV.
For lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 915306-9, 919625-9, 889993
Ctg: 501082, 505754, Khulna: 20304, Bogra: 6215

The Midnight File

Lightning kills 15 children in Bihar

NEW DELHI, July 19: At least 15 children died when a thunderbolt hit a school today in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, the United News of India (UNI) reported. Another 15 were injured in the lightning strike in the afternoon at the school building in Bihar's Hazaribagh district, UNI said, adding they were taken to hospitals, reports AFP.

Opposition not allowed to speak in JS: Khaleda

BOGRA, July 19: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia today alleged that Opposition members in Parliament were not being allowed to speak on national issues and matters of public importance, reports UNB.

"BNP wanted to discuss jail-break, deteriorating law and order and flood situation. But the ruling party is not allowing us to discuss these issues," she said while addressing roadside gatherings on her way to the district.

The BNP chairperson said the ruling party had "no history of facing the Opposition." It had introduced BKSAL failing to face only seven Opposition MPs in 1973, she added.

Begum Zia, who arrived here tonight on a three-day visit to flood-hit northern districts, said her party workers would remain with the people as before.

On her way to the district, she addressed wayside gatherings at different places, including Manikganj, Shibalaya, Aricha, Nagarbari, Kashinathpur and Shahjapur.

A large number of people greeted her as she reacted to Satnaha crossing in the town at midnight.

Begum Zia will visit the flood-hit areas of Bogra and Pabna districts tomorrow.

Jubo league leader

From Page 1
near the village Eidgah at about 9 am, when he was going to his village home from the town, police said.

Police suspected the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party activists of the killing.

His body was sent to the Sadar Hospital.

Awami League-backed Jubo League and Chhatra League brought out a procession and put barricades at different important points in the town protesting the incident.

The district Jubo League organised a protest rally at the mall area here with its president Ferdowsara Sunna in the chair.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by district Jubo League general secretary Shafiqul Islam Shafiq and district Chhatra League president Abdur Rashid.

After the rally, a protest procession paraded different streets of the town. At one stage, the angry processionists started damaging vehicles in Rupsha Cinema Hall area at noon.

\$180m plan

From Page 1
prove about 136 growth centre markets and about 14 union parishad centre markets by raising and covering platforms, walkways, drainage, potable water supply and sanitation.

It emphasises participation of local people in project implementation and suggested that the users put a certain percentage of the total project cost.

"The messages make out he has been wounded," a defence official said. "We don't know how serious these injuries are. But we are convinced he was involved in the attack."

Prabhakaran, 41, is the founder and leader of the LTTE, which has been waging a protracted separatist campaign in Sri Lanka's north and east in which more than 50,000 people have died.

Centennial Olympiad

From Page 1
costumes and vague story lines and messages.

Big-name signers — Gladys Knight, Celine Dion, Jessye Norman — are also on the night's programme, along with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and a 300-strong Centennial Choir.

Windy Boy, of the Rocky Boys Indian Reservation in Montana, and the Foxwood Dance Troupe will also perform during opening ceremonies.

The weather should be warm and humid tonight. Weather forecasters predicted a temperature of 82°F (28 Celsius) at 9 pm (0100 GMT Saturday), a half-hour after the scheduled start of the ceremony.

But every team has been worrying for weeks about the temperature. Organisers admit there is also a 40 per cent chance of a violent storm.

Organisers of the Olympics are reluctant to give details of their security plans — or the cost — but they have put together an unprecedented network of national and international agencies to keep the Games safe, following explosion of the TWA jumbo jet in mid-air off New York on Wednesday.

About 30,000 police officers, military personnel and private security guards have been deployed to protect athletes and prevent everything from street crime to terrorist attacks. Besides those in uniform, an unknown number work undercover.

Security costs will reportedly exceed \$300 million, including \$127 million spent by the federal government alone. Reported security spending for ACOG and the state of Georgia were \$50 million and \$26 million respectively.

At the Olympic Village, which will house about 16,000 team members, guards are augmented by an array of high-tech security devices.

A 10-foot (3 metres), stress-sensitive fence rings the village on the Georgia Tech campus. Anything touching it draws attention from remote-control surveillance cameras as well as officers.

Saturday's showcase events will be in the swimming pool, culminating in four late night medal ceremonies for the women's 100 metres freestyle and 400 metres individual medley and the men's 100 metres breaststroke and 200 metres freestyle.

The first medals of the Games will be awarded in the afternoon for the women's 10 metre air rifle event.