

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Planning for Dhaka's Future

by Sayed Talat Kamal

Dhaka has finally graduated into the realm of big cosmopolitan cities. Over-polluted air, over-populated city, over-congested streets and under-conscious citizens.

It is a nightmare to get from point A to point B in this town. Traffic has taken a remarkable turn towards the worse. And it appears that no one seems to be bothered beyond the living room discussions on how bad things are getting.

The situation is not going to improve by itself, it is high time that the city planning authority and the metropolitan police started taking the traffic problem a bit more seriously. These days the new or reconditioned car sales centres are as popular and as much frequented as Chinese restaurants.

As more cars hit the streets, and rickshaws and auto-rickshaws geometrically increase in numbers with the city's population, everything seems to be out of control.

The million dollar question is, has the city planning authority chalked out any immediate plans for traffic relief. The transit system for a city of over seven million people is unacceptably inefficient, yet there doesn't appear to be any light at the end of the tunnel.

What should have been considered a long time ago are overpasses for cars and an underground transit system for the people. If the city can have underground pedestrian walkways, then the threat of floods can't be as real as it once was. Or has the officials behind the project not considered that eventually? One must admit that the way things have progressed (for want of a better word) so far, it would appear that very few of these officials have actually ever looked at the big picture.

If the streets are to be kept from being completely choked at all hours of the day instead of the current traffic chokehold of only a few hours, the big picture must be attended to at once. The other solution to this growing problem is

seeing to the obedience of all traffic rules and strong on-the-spot fines. The drivers of all vehicles on the streets, motorised or not, have to be held accountable and must be made aware of what the traffic rules actually are. It would help tremendously if the metropolitan police were also made aware of the traffic laws and to the fact that it is they who should be controlling traffic movement, not the man in the big fancy car and the loud voice.

At it is with power, power is very easily misused. The big picture also includes plans so that power is not abused by the wielder. People who use this city's streets have to deliberately try and focus their efforts on its decent and lawful use.

The easiest, and most considered, solution to all the traffic problems according to anyone who doesn't face the problem himself, is getting rid of the rickshaw. This is like saying that the easiest way to get rid of cancer is for no one to get cancer anymore. The rickshaw is here to stay and will stay until an alternative is found. In the meanwhile why not tolerate the only means of public transport that is not creating another real problem, namely the pollution in the air?

A real solution to the traffic problem is an improved transit system, whose effectiveness may one day eventually make the pedal rickshaw obsolete. Dhaka is in desperate need of an underground subway system, this is an idea whose feasibility should be studied without delay. A good underground transit system takes years to become operational and a commitment that could outlive most political regimes before completion. The question that pops up is if it is too late already and will the problem get worse before it gets any better?

Traffic problem is only one of the detriments of a growing, dynamic city. The bad follows the good. It is a question of recognising the bad and acting on it with enough time at hand to bring it under control.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanging views with members of the print and electronic media at her official residence in the city yesterday. — PID photo

### What's on today . . .

**2nd Nat'l Debate Festival:** The inaugural ceremony of the three-day long 2nd National Debate Festival will be held. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasim, Post & Telecommunication Minister. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 9 am.

**BCAS seminar:** Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) has organised a seminar on a "agro-forestry for the rehabilitation of the degraded forest land in Bangladesh". Venue: BCAS Library, House: 620, Road: 10A, (New), Dhanmondi Thine: 3:30 pm.

**Benuka cultural function:** A cultural function has been arranged in observance of the 16th founding anniversary of Benuka Institute of Fine Arts. Chief guest: Obaidul Kader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

**Seminar:** A day-long seminar on "Development Strategies and Impact of NGOs in Rural Bangladesh" will be held. Chief guest: Syed Abul Hossain, State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30 am.

**DCCI-MIDAS project:** The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) & Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS), have jointly arranged the inaugural ceremony of the German-aided project "Programme for the Promotion of Private Sector Development". Chief guest: Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industry. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10 am.

**Theatre:** Dhaka Theatre will stage "Ekattorer Pala" as part of the ongoing Theatre week presented by the High Commission of India. Venue: Indian Cultural centre, 754 Satmasjid Road.

**DUJ meet:** A meeting of the members of the 'direct unit' of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 12 noon.

**Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers Club, Baily Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

**'Chotoder Kagaj' anniversary:** The anniversary celebration of the 'Chotoder Kagaj' a children's magazine, will be held. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the function as chief guest. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

## Only 317 govt secondary schools in country

A total of 317 government and 13,530 non-government secondary schools exist in the country, Education Minister ASHK Sadek told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Treasury Bench member Dharendra Nath Saha he said the revenue expenditure for the government schools was more than Tk 70 crore, while it was more than Taka 409 crore for the non-government schools.

Answering another question from Awami League member from Comilla, Abdul Hakim MP, the minister said until June 30 last, a total of 2,634 posts of teachers in the government primary schools were lying vacant.

He said steps were being taken to fill those posts.

The Minister also informed the Jatiya Sangsad that there were 2136 junior high schools with 5,74,343 students, 9,352 secondary high schools with 39,60,550 students, 464 intermediate colleges with 1,65,023 students and 611 degree colleges with 9,62,393 students in the country in 1994.

Giving this information in reply to a question from Md. Masur Rahman (BNP Jhenidah), the minister also said that these figures were 2562 junior high schools, with 2,86,242 students, 6469 secondary high schools with 19,78,989 students, 273 intermediate colleges with 55,815

students, and 338 degree colleges with 2,44,232 students in 1975.

Barring four poura corporation areas, a total of 25,11,040 girl students have been studying free of tuition fees at the secondary schools across the country, the education minister said.

The government has been providing an amount of Tk 4100.92 lakh as subsidy against the tuition fees for those students annually, he said in reply to a question from opposition BNP member from Noakhali Mohammad Shahjahan.

## T&T Board to install 200 new int'l circuits

Bangladesh T and T Board will install 200 new circuits at the end of this year to strengthen its international dialing system, reports UNB.

Some 330 new international telephone circuits were installed during the last 10 months, raising the total to 1,308, said a T&T Board press release yesterday.

The number of circuits for international dialing was increased to 305 for United States, 112 for Singapore, 100 for India, 68 for United Arab Emirates, 46 for South Korea, 45 for Saudi Arabia, and 30 each for Italy and Germany.

Meanwhile, T&T Board has reduced its call charge for international dialing by 25 per cent on Fridays and public holidays from the beginning of this year.

## CCC mayor calls for rounding up terrorists

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury has urged the city people to round up the toll collectors and terrorists and hand them over to the police irrespective of their identity, reports BSS.

In a statement here tonight the mayor said thirty lakh city-dwellers have become hostages to a handful of terrorists.



Trigger-happy they load and unload goods (here rods) right in the middle of the road. Just imagine the level of their consciousness.

## Weather

### Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions with temporary gusty wind in next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days, weathermen forecast an increase in rainfall activity and little change in the following five days.

The country's highest temperature, 32.8 degree Celsius, was recorded at Rangamati and Bogra and the lowest, 24 degrees, at Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6:20 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40 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	32.2	27.2	74	75
Chittagong	32.5	25.1	78	78
Rajshahi	32.7	26.0	78	72
Khulna	30.5	26.2	83	73
Barisal	31.6	25.2	96	88
Sylhet	30.0	24.0	88	85
Cox's Bazar	31.4	25.0	84	86

## Budget discussion continues

### Guidelines for overall dev: AL Nationalisation favoured: BNP

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday continued discussion on the proposed national budget for the 1996-97 fiscal, reports agencies.

The Treasury Bench members praised the budget saying, within a very short time, the finance minister had presented a budget with guidelines for the socio-economic development of the country.

On the other hand, the opposition members were critical of the budget saying it could not add any new dimension to the country's economic development. They, however, observed that the finance minister had to follow the principles of the previous BNP government while formulating the budget.

The Awami League members observed that the budget is a realistic one which would help revitalise the agriculture sector and the overall economy, removing the existing bottlenecks in different sectors.

Crossing swords, the Opposition presented that the budget speech was full of allegations against BNP and the budget itself failed to give any sense of direction towards stopping financial hemorrhage caused by nationalisation.

It is unfortunate that the Finance Minister has supported nationalisation in his budget speech, said BNP deputy Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, taking part in discussion on the budget.

Awami League lawmaker KM Jahangir Hossain called the budget a "farmer-oriented one" and said the Finance Minister tried his best to take realistic measures through the budget to make the economy robust.

"It is clear that the budget is people oriented as there was no price hike after the presentation of the budget. Such price hike after budget has been a tradition for last 21 years in the country," he said.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya of the ruling party also termed the budget "most acceptable, timely and realistic in 21 years, as it did not detonate any price boom even in a period of floodings."

The Finance Minister rightly put emphasis on the education sector, allocating additional resource of Tk 430 crore, he said, adding that the Tk 100 crore subsidy fund will help the farming community.

But BNP lawmaker Gobani Mohammad Siraj said the benefit of the Tk 100 crore subsidy fund might not go to the farmers as he feared the subsidy would be siphoned off by the middleman traders.

He was highly critical of spending time digging out the past of the parties in Parliament. "Let's come and talk the future, sinking the past."

Referring to the countries of Southeast Asian region, Siraj said they had devoted them-

selves to economic development. We should also discuss in the House how we could attain economic emancipation," Syed Mehed Ahmed Rumi of BNP suggested that the farmers should be given subsidy on pesticide purchase. He also demanded subsidy and grants to the farmers for purchasing bullocks as a support for cultivation.

In his deliberation, Shah Hadiuzzaman of Awami League was at one with his Treasury-bench colleagues giving a pat to the Finance Minister for presenting a "no-new-tax" budget.

Ruling party member Abdul Mannan (Tangail) observed that the budget contained enough direction for production boost in industry and agriculture, employment generation and rapid economic development.

Alhaj Mohammad Ali of BNP said the rise of supplementary duty on low-cost bidi and cigarettes would knock the industry into crisis. He drew the finance minister's attention to the issue.

His concern was shared by Jatiya Party MP Karimuddin Bharsa. He said the increased supplementary duty on bidi and cigarettes would threaten the jobs of thousands of workers. He demanded the withdrawal of the increased duty.



Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena visiting a polling centre at Lalbagh in the city where by-election for ward commissioner was held yesterday. — Star photo

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Transfin Trading Ltd, the sole distributor of Sanyo Products in Bangladesh invites applications for the following posts:

**SERVICE ENGINEER:**  
Graduate Engineer (Electrical/Electronics). Candidates having two years experience in servicing consumer electronic items, refrigerators, air conditioners and home appliances would be given preference.

**SERVICE TECHNICIANS:**  
H.S.C./S.S.C. having completed trade courses in the repair / maintenance of refrigerators, air conditioners, audio and video with minimum two years practical experience.

**SALES REPRESENTATIVES:**  
Minimum graduate preferably in Commerce with at least two years experience in sale of consumer items. The position requires frequent travel to different markets throughout the country to achieve sales target in a competitive market environment.

**ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT:**  
Commerce Graduate with minimum two years experience in Accounting job. Must have working knowledge in computer operation.

**STORE KEEPER:**  
Commerce Graduate with minimum two years experience in Store Management.

Only the eligible and deserving candidates may apply. Attractive salary package with career progression awaits the really deserving candidates.

Applications with C.V. and one recent passport size photograph and photostat copies of academic/experience certificates are to reach the **Personnel Manager, Transfin Trading Ltd., 100 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, by 15th September 1996.**

## CHITTAGONG INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CIDER)

Chittagong Institute for Development of Education and Research (CIDER) inviting applications for the following posts for its English Medium School at Chittagong.

**GROUP-A**

- Teacher Grade-I : Age Maximum 45 years  
Minimum 10 years Teaching Experience  
Pay Scale 5500-300-8500/-
- Teacher Grade -II : Age Maximum 40 years  
Minimum 8 years Teaching Experience  
Pay Scale 4000-250-6000/-
- Teacher Grade -III : Age Maximum 35 years  
Minimum 5 years Teaching Experience  
Pay Scale 3000-200-4400/-
- Teacher Grade -IV : Age Maximum 30 years  
Pay Scale 2000-150-3200/-

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND FACILITIES FOR THE POSTS MENTIONED ABOVE**

- Minimum Bachelor Degree in any discipline
- Minimum two First Division/Class and one 2nd Division/Class.
- The above may be relaxed in cases of exceptional candidates.
- Allowances 200% of the basic pay.

**GROUP-B**

- Assistant Officer (Accounts) : Minimum Bachelor Degree  
Age Maximum 35 years  
Pay Scale 2400-175-5025/-
- Office Assistant : Minimum H.S.C. in any discipline  
Age Maximum 30 years  
Pay Scale 2000-150-3500/-

Computer knowledge on Lotus/Excel/MS Word will be considered as additional qualification.

**For all posts of Group-B 150% allowances will be permissible.**

Interested candidates are requested to apply to G.P.O. Box-729, Chittagong alongwith Curriculum Vitae, Copies of the Certificates/Testimonials and two passport size photographs on or before **15th September, 1996.**

## Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Dr Quadrat-e-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi Dhaka-1205

### Research Development Division

## Advertisement

The following processes are ready for commercial exploitation:

- A process for the production of Bakers Yeast from Molasses.
- A process for the production of Ammonium Carbonate from Ammonia and Carbon Dioxide.
- Reclamation of used Lubricating Oil.
- Production of Gum, Printing Ink, Cement, Insulating Varnish, Sealing Wax and Wax free Lac.
- Production of Ferrous Sulphate from Waste Iron Turnings.
- Production of Water softening Zeolite from Indigenous Raw-materials.
- Production of Zelandin and Glue from Slaughter House Wastes.
- Production of Dextrin from Starch by Indigenous Raw-materials.
- Production of Pulp from Jute cutting by Soda Enthraquom process.
- Production of Essential Drugs and Chemicals from Indigenous Plants.

Detail information may be obtained from the Director, PP & PDC, BCSIR Campus, Dhaka. Prescribed application form will be available with the Sr Industrial Liaison Officer, BCSIR, Secretariat, Dr Quadrat-e-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205. The last date of submission of application is 25.9.96

DPP-19034-25/8  
G-1008

**Syed Azim-ul-Mulk**  
Sr Industrial Liaison Officer