



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

A different full moon day tomorrow

SILVERINE SHRIKANTHAN

Budhang Saranang Gatchchaami Dhammang Saranang Gatchchaami

Sangang Saranang Gatchchaami
You could hear the chimes of temple bells all day, especially at dawn of the full moon day, transporting you to a serene land of meditation.

The chimes echo the chants of the mercy of Buddhism -- mercy of Buddha, Dhamma (preaching) and Sanga (priesthood) in which Buddhists thrive on.

Tomorrow marks the dawn of the day, which reminds all Buddhists of the birth, enlightenment and death of Lord Buddha.

Buddhists the world over will observe Buddha Purnima or Vesak. The president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue of the Vatican City writes in a message: "We Christians and Buddhists, cannot close our eyes in the face of these tragic situations. As religious believers, we must turn our gaze to the needs of children. Mobilise our forces and resources to alleviate the sufferings of children and in a special way reach out to those in poorer countries. Our scriptures mention children in a number of places, encouraging us to develop a childlike spirit. I believe that something similar can be found in the texts of Buddhism."

The Buddhist community in Bangladesh will celebrate the occasion observing religious rites and social and cultural events.

"We usually cleanse ourselves and go to temple in the morning, carrying with us our puja (offering)," said Susanta Barua. "Our puja includes flowers, fruits, plain cooked rice, candles, incense sticks,

which are arranged on plates and offered to Lord Buddha. We pray that we too would someday attain nirvana," he added.

"We recall how Prince Siddhartha renounced his family at the age of 29, travelled and meditated in search of the truth," Ajanta said. "We teach our children the precepts of Buddhism in phases, the five precepts -- *panchasil*, eight precepts -- *atashil* and 10 precepts -- *dasashil*," she added.

"I love to go to temple. It is such a nice place," said four-year-old Moumita. "When I go back to temple in the evening, I listen to the monks preaching Buddha's life."

The temples are full of life in the morning as well as in the evening. Colourful lanterns and *mandaps* (pandals) adorn the temple premises.

Monks in their preaching take the opportunity to enlighten all on the heart of the teachings of the Buddha in the Four Noble Truths, namely, Dukkha or Suffering, the Origin and the cause of suffering, the End or Cessation of suffering, and the Path, which leads to the cessation of all sufferings.

Sri Lanka, a predominant Buddhist country, like Nepal, Myanmar and Indonesia, celebrates Buddha *purnima* or *Vesak* in the same fashion. Buddhists adorned in white, carrying yellow, white or red temple flowers are offered at the foot of the Buddha, bringing serenity and calmness.

The evening is a time of glamour. Streets are lit with colourful lanterns. Large pandals depicting stories of Gautama's search for *Nirvana*, with each segment outlined in coloured lights glistering in various designs, are found almost everywhere.

The festivities in this part continue till the next full moon day.

Lalbagh residents face severe water crisis

CITY CORRESPONDENT

About six lakh residents of Lalbagh in Old Dhaka have long been facing a severe water crisis, but the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has shut its ears to the problem despite several complaints from locals.

"Whenever we ask Wasa officials, they say there is no land for installation of a new pump, although the local ward commissioner allocated his own plot for pump installation," said Mohammad Swapan, a local resident.

"We have been complaining to Wasa for ages, but there was no response," Swapan said.

Locals identified Shahidnagar, RND Road, Jagannath Shaha Road, Bouddhopara, Doiloti Bazar, Amligola, GN Shaha Road and Shashan Road as the hardest-hit areas in Lalbagh.

"The water crisis in the city turns serious in summer, as demand goes up 10 percent. Old Dhaka residents are facing the water shortage because of rundown pumps and worn-out pipelines," a Wasa official said.

Kohinoor Begum, another resident of Lalbagh, said: "Water shortage is commonplace. We wait in a long queue for water every day."

"We can somehow manage drinking water, but it is hard to get water to wash clothes and take shower," she added.

Water supply from a lone and rundown pump, installed at Shashan Ghat Road, cannot meet the demand of all.

The pump, installed during the rule of HM Ershad, lifts water only two hours a day and the output of the pump has decreased a lot over the years, another Wasa official said.

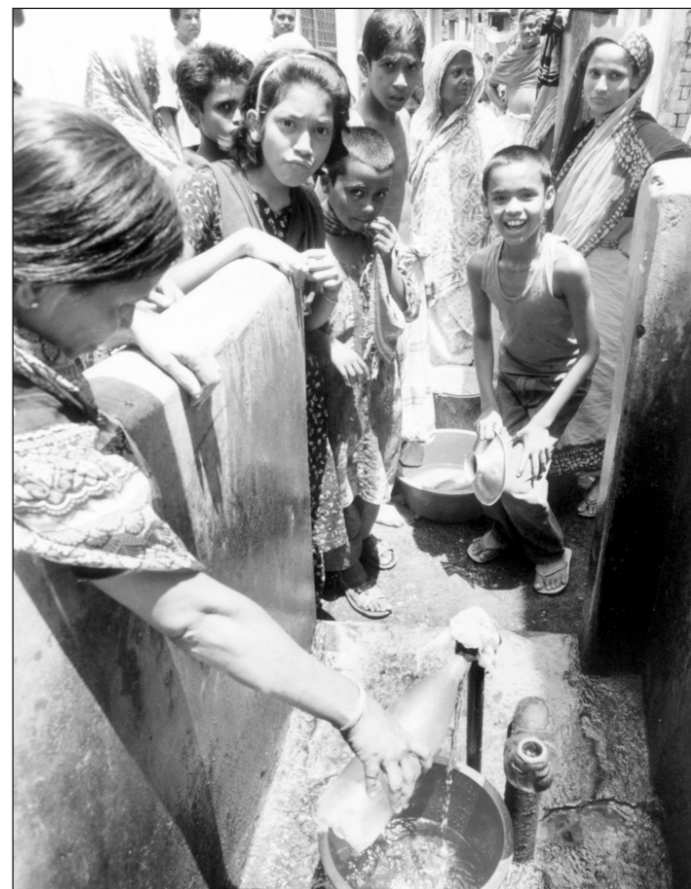
"We collect water in pitchers during the two-hour supply, but that is not enough for a day," Nahar Latif, a housewife, told Star City.

Nazrul Islam, a pump worker, said it has now become difficult to supply adequate water to all residents. "We have a generator to run the pump during power outage, but our supply is not adequate as the output of the pump went down almost 50 percent."

A regional Wasa staff at Chadnighat denied the allegation saying: "There is water shortage in Lalbagh but this is not serious. The water supply increased, so did the number of residents. It is hard to cope with the ever-rising demand."

Wasa sources said a new deep tubewell can solve the problem. The authorities decided to set up a pump at Shaid Nagar two years ago but could not do so, as there was no land for installation. "It's not our duty to acquire land for pump installation," the Wasa official said.

Mosharaf Hossain Khokon, local ward commissioner, said, "I have given Wasa two khatas of my own land and sent all papers to officials, but they are yet to respond."



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

New private operator for two bus terminals soon

ABDUL KADER

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) plans to hand over the responsibility of two of its inter-district bus terminals -- Sayedabad and Mohakhali -- to a new private operator soon. The corporation is also

going to take legal action against Rora Enterprise, the firm that had been running the two terminals, for its failure to pay the DCC its dues under the contract, a DCC official said.

The formalities have been almost completed for allotting the two terminals to Panama Enterprise, which had come

second behind the highest bidder Rora for taking over the operational responsibilities in the first tender.

DCC officials claim that Rora owes the Corporation Tk 92,83,000 from Sayedabad terminal including Tk 21,42,200 in VAT. Rora also allegedly did not pay Tk

30,15,000, including about Tk. 6,95,000 in VAT, from Mohakhali terminal for six months (October 2003-March 2004).

The DCC handed over the maintenance responsibility of Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli bus terminals to the two private operators Rora Enterprise and Diba Enterprise, on a three-year contract starting from September 24, 2003 with a view to provide better safety, security and cleanliness to passengers.

The service charge for each bus was fixed at Tk. 30 a day. The operators were supposed to pay the DCC Tk 11,90,000 for Sayedabad, Tk 3,86,000 for Mohakhali and Tk 11,39,000 for Gabtoli every month from October 2003.

The DCC issued a contract termination letter to Rora effective March 16 for violation of the agreement. Rora reportedly sent a reply saying that the DCC can not terminate the contract unilaterally.

Since March 16, DCC staff has been collecting Tk 30 in service toll from the two terminals for each bus, said

sources. In their letter Rora termed the DCC action 'unjust' as the other private operator Diba, in charge of Gabtoli terminal is also not paying the DCC according to the contract.

When asked why similar measures are not being taken against that operator, an official of the DCC could not give any satisfactory reason.

The DCC was yet to receive Tk 88,84,000 including Tk 20,50,000 in VAT, from Gabtoli operator for the last six months.

"We are incurring huge losses as the two big enterprises who own more than 500 buses are not paying DCC fixed toll to us. Of course we will pay the amount that we are supposed to pay to the DCC," said Babul Ahmed, one of Diba's owners.

"We will discontinue operation if the DCC cannot make them pay us the toll. We have written to the mayor seeking his intervention," he said.

Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka was not available for his views as he is out of the country on an official visit.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

The Sayedabad bus terminal.

useful telephonenumber numbers

OURIER SERVICES

International
Air Borne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724
Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970
Aramex International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075
Airspeed Express- 9563494
Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543
Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606
Bamgladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Bangladesh Courier Service- 9563999
Bengal Express- 9560642, 9552666
Bangladesh Int'l Courier- 953636
Continental Service Ltd.- 9552948, 9558425
DHL Worldwide Express- 9881703-7, 9886305-9, 9882057
Enem Express- 9330699
Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114
Modhuban Courier Service-

9550884
Overseas Courier Service- 9352431, 8321169
Pacific Courier- 9568446
Reliance Express Service- 9558515, 7110249
Sky International service- 9660442
Skynet world Wide Express- 9558062, 9560258, 7114787, 7113184
TNT Express- 9566662, 9558239, 8618155
Union Courier Service- 9341722
United Parcel Service Air alliance Ltd.- 8826429, 8810223
National
Asian courier Service Ltd.- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

TIPS
Do you know according to Dhaka City Corporation, you must deposit your waste at the collection site

Dolphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9566975
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558515, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751
World Runner Express Ltd. 9112068, Fax - 880-2-9112068

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9558407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412

OUTING

Museum and Zoo
National Museum- 8619396-9
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday 3 pm- 8 pm, Thursday closed
Muktijuddha Jadugar- 9559091
Open: 10:30 am 6:30 pm, Sunday Closed
Bangabandhu Smiti Jadugar- 8110046
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Wednesday closed
Ahsan Manzil
Open: 10 am 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm - 7 pm, Thursday Closed
Shishu Jadugar- 9666466
Open: 10 am- 6 pm, Sunday Closed

CITY BUS ROUTE

Bus No.	Route	Starts from
1	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 10, 11, 12	Golap Shah Mazar
2	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Banglamotor-Farmgate-Mirpur 1, 2	Phoolbaria bus station
3	Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mahakhali-Airport-Azampur	Phoolbaria bus station
4	Shyampur-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Airport-Tongi	Shyampur
5	Sayedabad-Kamalapur-Motijheel-Airport-Joydebpur-Gazipur	Sayedabad
6A	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6B	Kamalapur-Motijheel-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 1, 2	Kamalapur
6C	Motijheel Shapla chattr- Malibagh- Farmgate- Gulshan 2	Motijheel Shaplachattr
7	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Maghbazar-Nabisco-Gulshan 2	Sadarghat
8	Chittagong-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asad Gate-Kalyanpur-Gabtoli	Chittagong Road
9	Demra Rani mahal-Motijheel-Kalbagan-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 10, 11, 12	Demra Ranimahal
10	Sadarghat-Gulistan-Kakrail-Malibagh-Rampura-Biswa Road-Tongi Bridge	Sadarghat
11	Sayedabad-Motijheel-Fakirapool-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Tongi Bridge	Sayedabad
11/A	Sayedabad-Khilgoan-Malibagh-Rampura-Airport-Tongi Bridge	Syedabad
12	Shanir Akhra-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Asadgate-Mohammadpur	Shanir Akhra
13	Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Jhigatola-Shangkar-Mohammedpur	Motijheel
14	Signboard -Motijheel-Shahbagh-New Market-Shyamoli-Mirpur 1, 12	Signboard (Chittagong Road)
15	Chittagong Road-Motijheel-Shahbagh-Farmgate-Mirpur 12	Chittagong Road
24	Gulistan-Maghbazar-Mohakhali-Airport-Uttara-Bipile	Gulistan