

DU to have 'high-class' cricket venue on its playground

Bangladesh Cricket Board to fund and supervise project

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The authorities of Dhaka University (DU) are planning to develop a high-class cricket venue on its central playground.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) that usually hosts cricket matches on different university playgrounds will fund and supervise the facelift project at DU.

Earlier in November, BCB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect with DU.

The five-year agreement gives BCB the responsibility to overhaul the central playground of DU and turn it into a quality cricket ground. Though the scheme is still at its early stage, DU officials believe that it would take a few months to spruce up the ground.

The vast span of caringly maintained green along with decent facilities of the DU central playground make it one of the most prominent grounds in the city. The playground encompasses for sections -- a swimming pool in the northwestern area, a football ground on the southern side, a gymnasium on the outer ring past the football ground and a cricket ground in the northeastern section.

To modernise the cricket ground located in the north-eastern section, the BCB will set up a modern cricket pitch along with stands for spectators, dressing rooms, a media centre for press officials and toilets in the eastern side of the venue. Modern practice turfs will also be included.

"The BCB regularly hosts seasonal games, especially under-19 and under-16 games on this ground. Therefore, they want this ground to be a more apt cricket turf," said Abdur Rashid, a DU official working at the swimming pool stadium.

"Both players [participating in BCB-hosted games] and DU students will be benefited from this agreement," he said.

Shahriar Rashid, a student of Political Science Department at DU, said, "It would be great because we would be able to play on real cricket pitches and get the feeling of playing in real cricketing conditions."

General students were however concerned and doubtful over the students' access to the ground after the overhauling project is complete.

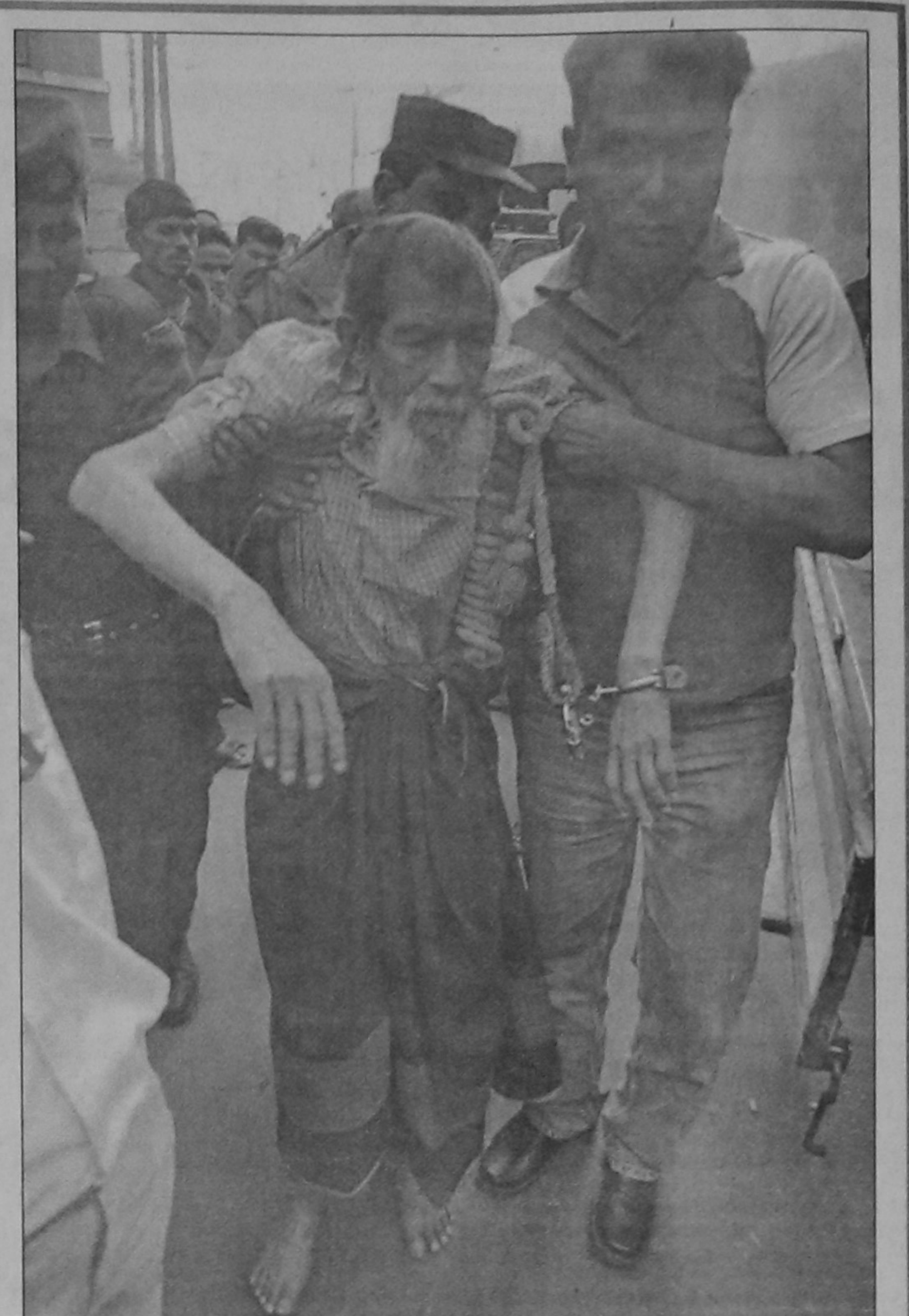
"It all sounds good, but the question remains -- whether we would be able to use the ground as freely as we do now," said Saumitra Saha, a student of International Relations Department at DU.

DU authorities assured that the students would have full access to the facility as they did before.

"BCB will use the ground only during their matches. The ground will be available for general use at any other time," said Prof Dr AFM Yusuf Haider, pro vice chancellor of DU.

"Our ultimate goal is to renovate the ground to a level where it can host international matches. On top of it all, we want the ground to be a place where any youngster would feel at home and enjoy a good sports-spirit," he said.

Mahmudur Rahman, chief executive officer of BCB, could not be reached despite several attempts. However, sources at BCB told this correspondent that they are still reviewing the plans and fund for the project is yet to be allocated.



An ailing prisoner was being taken to the Dhaka Central Jail from the court. Though he was unable to walk, there was no arrangement of a wheelchair. Many prisons in the country are in shambles and overcrowded where authorities often ignore the prisoners' rights.



The central playground of DU, one of the most prominent grounds in the city, will be turned into a high-class cricket ground.

Anti-smoking law still in name only

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widely publicised it was rather short-lived -- thanks to the poor show by authorities concerned.

Majority of the city dwellers still seem to be confused about the law as it failed to clearly define the places off-limits to smoking and advertisement of tobacco products. Hoardings by cigarette companies still deck the roofs of shops throughout the city.

"I know that smoking in public and vehicles is prohibited. But I'm not sure about the places falling under the prohibition,"

said Sharif Mahmud, a student of Dhaka University.

The law prohibits smoking at academic institutions, government, semi-government and autonomous offices, libraries, lifts, hospitals, clinics, court buildings, airports, sea and river port buildings, railway stations, bus terminals, buses, ferries, cinema halls, indoor exhibition centres, theatres and children's parks.

Violators may get three months' imprisonment or a fine of Tk1,000.

"Smoking in open spaces,

though undesirable, is somewhat tolerable. But smoking in an enclosed area, for example in a bus, is not acceptable. It makes the heavy air in buses get heavier, turning the air almost unbearable," said Prashant Saha, Farmgate.

However, the smokers try to justify their view on the issue. "At the end of the day, death is something everyone has to face. The harms of smoking or passive smoking are serious, but not as cut-and-dried as you might assume," Jalauddin Ahmed, a passenger en route to Farmgate

with a lit up cigarette in his hand told this correspondent.

"Should I, having no car of my own, suggest that everyone should stop using their cars? Of course not. Passive smoking is not the only pollutant of air and not the only cause of lung related diseases either," he said.

Criticising smoking in public transportation, Tahmina Islam, an undergraduate student, said, "After going through all the trouble to get to on a public transport, it's a real pain to stand the smoke inside. I was once told, 'stop complaining about smokers --

car fumes are much worse'. But I don't agree with this as I don't sit for hours with my head right next to a car exhaust."

Mizanur Rahman from Mohammadpur suggested, "A massive campaign should be launched to create awareness in this regard. Transport officials and workers should discourage smoking inside the bus rather than lighting up cigarettes themselves."

"The authorities should wake up from their siesta and take steps to properly implement the law," he headed.

Trade fair starts in festive mood

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pavilions, 41 mini pavilions, 297 stalls and 10 restaurants offering goods ranging from clothing, toiletries, electronics, showpieces, furniture, leather goods, toys, plumbing and sanitary items, jewellery, dried food, cellular phone sets and banking services. The number of participants last year was around 385.

Exporters, around 65 percent of the total participants, were given priority this year in stall allocation.

The participation of foreign countries at DITF is on a downward trail. Only seven foreign countries -- India, Pakistan, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Turkey and the USA -- with 15 pavilions are participating at the fair this year.

However, several of the pavilions were seen operating as Iranian pavilions. The number of foreign participants at DITF last year was eight. The highest number of 22 foreign countries participated at the trade fair in 2002.

Some shoppers complained that several foreign pavilions have sublet their allocated space to local sellers.

Asma Akhter, a homemaker from Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, said, "These sublet sections are offering mostly trinkets and some other items available with street vendors and stores at New Market and Gawsia."

"If I enter an Iranian or a Pakistani store, I expect their specialty. If I wanted trinkets like these, I could have gone to New Market or Gawsia myself," said a frustrated Asma.

Some other visitors complained about too much dust, bumpy walkways and mismanagement in the parking area.

According to the authorities, security has been beefed up this year with plain-clothes police officers and RAB personnel patrolling the fair premises, male and female police personnel on standby at all entrances and 40 closed-circuit cameras installed at different strategic points.

Earlier it was announced that mugging and eve-teasing -- a common problem at the fair -- would be strictly controlled. On Friday, police officers on duty told this correspondent that they did not yet come across any untoward incident inside or

outside the fairground.

Many women visiting the fair appreciated the arrangement of separate ticket counters for women. For the visitors' convenience, the organisers also introduced resting facilities this year. The number of toilets has also been increased, totalling to 22.

Fire trucks and fire brigade personnel were also seen on alert at the fair premises. However, one essential item that the fair authorities completely overlooked was trashcans and the fairground was found littered with all sorts of trash.

The Export Promotion Bureau in cooperation of Ministry of Commerce has been organising the DITF since 1995 to familiarise Bangladeshi products to both local and international buyers.

The fair also provides an opportunity for foreign manufacturers to introduce their technologies and products to Bangladesh market.

The fair is open from 10 in the morning till nine in the evening. On Fridays, the fair will stay open till 10:00pm. A ticket for adult costs Tk 10 while it is Tk 5 for a child.

health, busservices, airlines & train timing

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

Square Hospitals Ltd
Emergency: 8144466, 8144477,
8144488, 01713377773,
01714477774, 01713377775. Fax:
880-2-9118921
Telephone: 8141522, 8142431,
8144400, 8142333, 8159457,
8129334, 01713141447.

Ahsania Mission Cancer & General Hospital
9008919, 8051618

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka
9891680-4, 01713046684/85
Emergency no. 9896623, 0171409000

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital
9118202, 8115843

Central Hospital
9660015-19.

China Bangla Hospital (JV) Ltd
8913674

Dhaka Medical College Hospital
8626812-16

Gana Shasthyo Kendra
8617208, 8617383, 8620178.

Greenland Hospital
8912663

Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic
8822738, 8812992

Holy Family Hospital
8311721-25

Islami Bank Hospital
9333739

Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital
8828855, 8827575

Labaid Cardiac Hospital
8610793-8

Marie Stopes Clinic
8821874

Medinova Medical Services Ltd
8620353.

Monowara Hospital
8318135, 8319802

Pangu Hospital
9112150, 9113041

PG Hospital (BSMMU)
9614545-9, 9612550-4

Rashmono General Hospital
8317606, 9557354, 8317819

Ratan's Dental Clinic
9111090

Salimullah Medical College Hospital
7319002-6

Samorita Hospital Ltd
9131901

Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital
9122560-78

Shishu Hospital
8116061-2, 9119119

United Hospital
8836444, 0194001234

Probin Hospital
Phone: 9129814, 9141404

BUS SERVICES

Drooli
8014563

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7101504

Green Line Paribahan
9339623, 9342580, 8353005

Hanif Enterprise
9120116

Keya Paribahan
7101894, 7101250, 9121280

Modern Enterprise
9123743

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7101945, 7101951, 9123092

Shohag Paribahan (Pvt) Ltd
9334152, 8316766, 8126293

Shoukhin Paribahan
8014397, 9001796

Silk Line
7102461

Shyamoli Paribahan
9333803

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9559930, 9559111, Fax: 9563787

Air India
8617783, 8611929, Fax: 9670591

Biman Bangladesh Airlines
917400-19, 9560151, 9559610
Airport Office: 8917400, Fax: 8913005

British Airways
8815111, Fax: 8815346.

Cathay Pacific
9557117, Fax: 9562667

Druk Air
9862243, 9892862,

Emirates
9892801, 9885574-75

GMG Airlines
8825845-9, Airport Office:
8960404, 8915699, Fax: 8826115

Gulf Air
9130123-5, Airport Office: 8914573

Indian Airlines Ltd
9555915, 9557813,

Kuwait Airways
9115182, 9118829

Malaysia Airlines
9888211-20
Airport Office: 8916953, Fax: 9890478

PIA
9349293-5, Fax: 9345300

Singapore Airlines
8811504-7, 9883259
Airport Office: 8911928, Fax: 8811503

Thai Airways
8314711-18, 8914343

Virgin Atlantic Airways
8816324-5, Fax: 9896481

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

Mahanagar Prabhati
Leaves Dhaka at 1:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 10:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 1:05 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm

Parabat Express
Leaves Dhaka at 1:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 10:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 1:05 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm

Joyantika Express
Leaves Dhaka at 1:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 10:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 1:05 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm

Ekata Express
Leaves Dhaka at 1:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 10:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 1:05 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm

Aqibeen Express
Leaves Dhaka at 1:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 10:55 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 1:05 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11:15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280,
9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The
American Center- 8813440-4,
9886395-7
British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7
Community Development Library-
8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-
9126525-6
Indian Information Centre &
Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh
(PIB) 9330081-4