



Project Rayenda Volunteer Information

HODR CONTACTS

Website: www.hodr.org

Volunteer/Arrival Information:

Tom Taylor at info@hodr.org

In Bangladesh:

Marc Young (mobile) 01731678965

Stefanie Chang (mobile) 01731678966

PRE-DEPARTURE

Packing List:

Must Bring:

- Bedding *
- Insect repellent
- Masks
- Gloves
- Trail/work shoes
- Passport + copies
- Shots (consult your doctor)
- Water bottle

* We are providing bunk beds with mosquito net and mattress pad for up to 20 volunteers

Highly Recommended:

- Headlamp
- Personal items/toiletries
- Cash/credit cards
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- 3 shirts (recommend 1 with collar)
- 2 pairs work pants
- 1 long pant (or zip off)
- 1 jacket (mid weight)
- laptop (so you can get an [internet connection](#))

Remember, PACK LIGHT! The electric power here is rated at 220V, so your appliances must be 110-220 capable. The electrical outlets accept the two round pin style plugs.

DHAKA ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Planning your onward travel from Dhaka may take a few days. As such, you may want to carefully consider your accommodation options. Most of all, be patient, relax, and breathe! Enjoy your time in this unique city.

For budget accommodation that is close to travel agencies, bus ticket offices, and other transit services, head to **Motijheel**. This neighborhood also has restaurants and cell phone shops. For peace, quiet, and cleanliness, stay in the embassy enclave of **Gulshan**. The Bangladesh Lonely Planet book has several other hotel options. US\$1 ≈ Tk. 68

BUDGET - MOTIJHEEL

Hotel Al-Belal

Tucked in an alleyway on the south side of Inner Circular Rd. (Fakirapool), just SE of the intersection with D.I.T. Rd.

Tk. 150/Tk. 250 (single/double) will get you a basic room with attached squat-toilet bathroom. No hot water, but the staff is friendly. The common balconies are a fun hang-out, but can be noisy. Say you're a friend of Toshiro, and they'll instantly love you.

MIDRANGE/UPPER-MIDRANGE – MOTIJHEEL

Hotel Victory

Right next door to Hotel Midway International. Has all of the amenities you'd expect from a typical western business hotel. The business center is handy, since there is a dearth of internet cafes in the area. US\$40/\$60 (single/double, but make sure to ask if the discount still applies.)

MIDRANGE – MOTIJHEEL

Hotel Midway International

A 4-minute walk NW of the Circular/D.I.T. intersection, all rooms have cable TV and hot water. The staff is a bit cold, but overall a more comfortable place to acclimate if you're coming direct from the western world. Tk. 1220/Tk. 610 for a single with/without AC, Tk. 1230/Tk. 980 for a double with/without AC.

TOP END – GULSHAN

Hotel Lake Castle

www.hotellakecastle.com

Comfortable hotel that's next to more of a pretty pond than a lake. The staff is friendly and professional, and they have everything you might need – cable TV, hot water, AC, business center, wireless internet, health club, and a restaurant. US\$65/\$77 (single/double)

MOVING ON FROM DHAKA

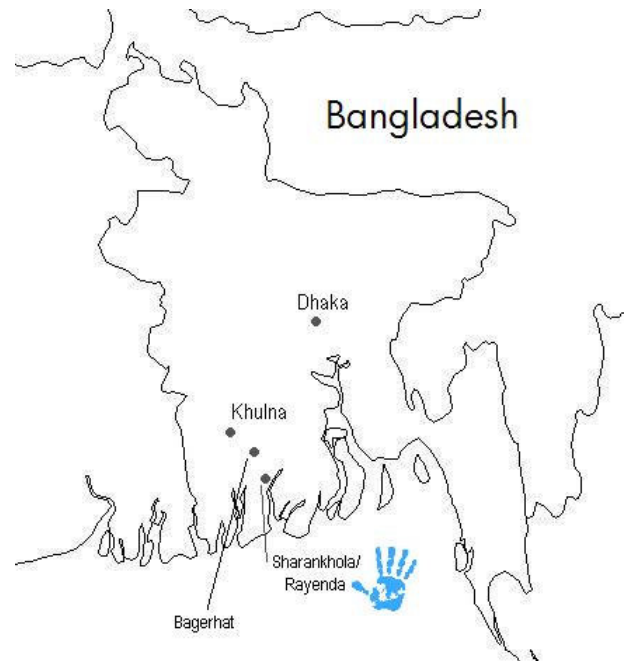
There is spotty English spoken at transportation centers – bus or ferry. Sorting tickets is not an easy process; have patience!

Project Rayenda is located in Rayenda union, part of Sharankhola upazila, in the district of Bagerhat.

Our address is:

Hands On Disaster Response
c/o Mr. Abul Hossain
C&B Road
Rayenda Bazar
Sharankhola, Bagerhat
(near WAPDA)

Rayenda is a small village; most people will not know where it is located. To date, we have found a direct boat route, but no direct bus route. **Khulna** and **Bagerhat** are the closest big cities/transit points to Rayenda. Again, be patient, and use the Bengali reference sheet included here.



BOAT

Figuring out boat tickets can be a headache but once you're on board, you can enjoy the leisurely, comfortable ride with great views of the countryside. It's a good idea to pack snacks, but you can purchase a wide variety of food at the boat dock. Most boats also have at least a cha (tea) stand and snacks on board; for an additional fee, hot meals may be available.

First, some vocab:

Launch = passenger ferry with cabins and deck classes

Seat = bed

Coolie = porter to carry your bags (Tk. 20-100/man depending upon weight of bag)

Single seat cabin has 1 bed. Double seat cabin has 2 beds – TIP: If you're traveling solo and take a double (more spacious) cabin, you will be assigned a roommate. Purchase both tickets and have the cabin to yourself.

First class – basic room with 1 or 2 single beds, AC (it's cool this time of year; you won't need it), and fan. Shared squat toilet.

Second class – same as the first class room except no AC. Shared squat toilet.

To purchase tickets, make your way to **Sadarghat**. It is a very busy area, so allow yourself a lot of travel time. Better to be 1 hour early than miss your boat; it's 24 hours until the next one. At the entrance to the dock, pay Tk. 4 at the small ticket windows to enter the actual dock area.

Regardless of which boat you choose (launch or Rocket), follow these instructions to get from the Rayenda dock to our house: Exit the dock and turn right (if you need help getting oriented, ask for "C&B Road, close to WAPDA"). You will find yourself in the middle of the Rayenda Bazar, or market. Continue walking straight for about 10 minutes, along the bank of the canal. Once you reach a large, incomplete cement bridge, turn left. Walk straight about 20 meters, and then look for a 3-story (ground floor plus two raised floors) cement building on your left side. Our house is the only 3-story building in the area. We also have a large "Hands On" banner hung from the balcony. Once you arrive at the house, continue up to the second floor (ground plus two). If you have any problems finding us, ask people for help using the address provided here.

LAUNCH

There are a few private launches that run directly from Dhaka to Rayenda (with stops along the way). Purchase your ticket the day of departure; you cannot book in advance. We're told that cabins are always available. The journey is about 24 hours. These boats have reasonably comfortable cabins, with shared squat toilet (slightly gnarly).

To purchase tickets, arrive at the dock no later than 3:00PM. The boats leave at about 4:30PM. Enter through the main east gate and look for the gangway straight ahead with a black sign and white "8" character (actually Gate 4, in the Bengali script). Proceed down the gangway and hang left to start asking for the launch to Rayenda.

We know of 5 launches which terminate in Rayenda. At the dock, you may have to repeatedly ask for these launches by name, as well as Rayenda, Raanda, Rianda, Raayandaa, Sharankhola, etc.

Name of Launch in English	Name of Launch in Bengali	Pronunciation
Kheapaar	খেয়াপার	kay-uh-par
Aashaa	আশা	ah-sha
Modern Sun	মডার্ন সান	modern sun
Pubadli	পুবাডলী	pooh-ball-ee
M.V. Bagerhat I	এম.ভি. বাগেরহাট	M.V. bog-ger-hot

Single seat cabin (second class only) – Tk. 400-500

Double seat cabin (second class only) – Tk. 800-1000

The cabins are on the second floor (up 2 flights of stairs). Ours had a ceiling so low that Marc couldn't stand upright. The cabins are fairly small, with a dim bulb, fan, and electrical outlet. (Power is on only at night.)

The Rocket

A big historic paddlewheel steamer boat that regularly plies the route between Dhaka and Khulna. Although it's luxurious by Bangladeshi standards, it is not a tourist boat. An advantage is that you can buy tickets (first-class cabins) in advance. A disadvantage is that you may need to book a few days in advance, as the cabins do fill up. Also, the Rocket goes close, but not all the way to Rayenda. You will need to transfer to a trawler for the last leg of the journey. The Rocket leaves Dhaka daily (except Friday) at 6:00PM. It arrives in **Maussua** (transfer point) at approximately 2:30PM the following day. If you miss Massua, you can get off at **Morrelganj** (upazila just north of Sharankhola) and take a bus to Rayenda.

First Class Cabin

1 seat – Tk. 750

2 seat – Tk. 1500

Buy first class Rocket tickets in **Motijheel**, at the **BIWTC office**. The office is located a block east of Dilkusha Circle I. There is a blue sign with bold white "BIWTC" lettering visible from the sidewalk. If you have difficulty locating the office, you may want to ask for the large Biman airlines office in the area. BIWTC is located directly across the street from this office.

Second Class Cabin

1 seat – Tk. 460

2 seat – Tk. 920

Buy second class Rocket tickets in **Sadarghat**, near the Badamtoli bridge at the **BIWTC office** located on the 1st floor (up one flight of steps from ground level). Ask for the BIWTC office as you approach the bridge. It is completely out of the way, and unlikely you'll find it without help. Once up the stairs, look for a black sign with white "AGM" letters. This is the office of Zillur Rahman (mobile: 01711787370), asst. gen. manager who speaks a little English and can sell you a second class Rocket ticket.

BUS

Traveling from Dhaka to Rayenda by bus is a relatively cheap option. You can take a bus directly from Dhaka to Rayenda (about Tk. 200, 8-12 hours) at the **Sayedabad** terminal area. Meghna Enterprise runs a daily bus at 7:30AM and 7:30PM. For a reservation, call Mintu at 01718504764. You should arrive at the station at least 30 minutes before departure. There may be other bus companies with daily direct buses to Rayenda as well. Pack snacks and water; stops may be unpredictable and brief.

Directions to our house:

The bus drop-off in Rayenda is at a 4-way intersection. If you look southward, you will see a large, incomplete cement bridge. Our house is on the other side of this bridge. A small boat ferries people across the canal for Tk. 1 per person. After you cross, continue straight for about 20 meters. Look for a 3-story (ground floor plus two raised floors) cement building on your left side. Our house is the only 3-story building in the area. We also have a large "Hands On" banner hung from the balcony. Once you arrive at the house, continue up to the second floor (ground plus two). If you have any problems finding us, ask people for help using the address provided here.

Alternately, you can hire a **van** (a modified bicycle with a wooden platform large enough for sitting) to take you around to our house via road. The cost is about Tk. 10. Ask the driver to take you to “C&B Road, close to WAPDA,” or use the address provided here. Once you reach a 4-way intersection with a small market, turn left. Continue straight for about 100 meters. Look for a 3-story (ground floor plus two raised floors) cement building on your right side. Our house is the only 3-story building in the area. We also have a large “Hands On” banner hung from the balcony. Once you arrive at the house, continue up to the second floor (ground plus two). If you have any problems finding us, ask people for help using the address provided here.

Bengali Reference Sheet

We’ve compiled a list of place names and useful phrases to help you get to our base in Rayenda. Because there is no standard Romanized alphabet for Bengali characters, the spellings and pronunciations are our best approximations.

English	Bengali	Pronunciation
Sadarghat (launch dock/tickets)	সাদরঘাট	shah-der-got
Dilkusha Circle (close to Motijheel BIWTC office)	দিলকুশা চত্বর	dil-koo-shuh
Bagerhat (alternate bus transit city)	বাগেরহাট	bog-ger-hot
Sharankhola (Sharonkhola, Sarankhola) (the upazila Rayenda is located in)	শারনখোলা	shar-en-ko-luh
Morrelganj (Morelganj, Morolganj) (upazila just north of Sharankhola)	মোরেলগঞ্জ	more-ul-gonj
Rayenda (Rianda, Raayandaa) (union/village where we’re based)	রায়েন্দা	rye-en-duh
Please take me to (location)	আমাকে কি () নিরায় মারেন ?	ah-mah-keh-kee oke-hah-neh () nya jeh-the pah-ren
Where do I buy a ticket for the launch to (Rayenda)?	(রায়েন্দা)মারার টিকেট কোথায় কিনতে পারব?	rye-en-duh jah-bar tik-et koh-tai kin-teh par-bo?
Where do I buy a ticket for the bus to (location)?	()মারার টিকেট কোথায় পাওয়া যাবে ?	() jah-bar tik-et koh-tai pah-wah jah-bey?
How much for a first-class/second- class cabin?	ফার্স্ট-ক্লাস/সেকেন্ড-ক্লাস কেবিনের ভাড়া কত টাকা দিতে হবে ?	first-class/second-class cabiner joh-no koh-toh tah-kah dee-tay hah-bey?

English

Bengali

Pronunciation

What time does it leave?

এটা কখন ছাড়বে ?

eh-tah kah-kon sar-bey?

Is it a direct route?

এটা কি ডাইরেক্ট রাস্তা?

eh-tah kee direct ross-tah?

What time should I arrive?

আমাকে কখন আসতে হবে ?

ah-mah-kay kah-kon ash-teh
hah-bey?

How much is it to (location)?
(when hiring a rickshaw, CNG,
taxi, etc.)

() ভাড়া কত ?

() vah-rah koh-toh?

Is there a restroom?

এখানে কি রেষ্টরুম আছে ?

eh-hahn-nay kee koh-noh
restroom ah-say?

Does anyone speak English?

কেউ কি ইংলিশ
বলতে পারেন?

kee-oh-kee English
bol-teh pah-ren?