

Dhaka Day by Day

A Display of Delightful Dresses

—Sabah Chowdhury

The Ball Room at Dhaka Sheraton was full of ladies mostly foreigners but the pre-dominance of traditional Indonesian dresses could easily be noticed among the audience. There were ladies in other kinds of dresses too. But they were mostly western.

The ladies gathered here, had come to enjoy a programme called 'Presentation of Traditional Dress of Indonesia', organised by the United Nations Women's Association (UNWA) and presented by 'Dharma Wanita' (The Civil Servants' Wives' Association of Indonesia).

The programme though short, was colourful and delightful. Mrs. Hestia Soemakno, the wife of the Indonesian ambassador who is also the chairperson of the organisation spoke and participated. Herself a beautician by profession as well as a well-known lecturer in her country and a very active social worker, she spoke on the different aspects of style, colour and the dress of various islands of her country.

A number of models displayed items projecting the trend of slow change of style in Indonesian dress, from ancient to modern.

The traditional Indonesian dress which comprises of the Kapaya, the Sarong and the Stole looked wonderful on beautiful, petite models. Though not professional models, did a wonderful job. The materials chosen was silk and hand woven stuff. But varied on designs,

some had hand printed 'Batik' others had embroidery done on them.

The various models, depicted the culture of a different islands of Indonesia. One displayed a shy traditional Javanese bride, another was dressed up like an original 'Lambak' woman from one of the islands popularly called the 'Island of Spices'. The dominant feature here was wearing of too much jewellery, perhaps influenced by the island of Madagascar.

One of the models displayed a novel way of wearing the traditional 'Sarong' by tucking it up sideways like a dhoti instead of pleating it as it was done in the old days.

Traditional Indonesian dress looks somewhat like shalwar-kameez sets, a popular dress of our sub-continent. After it can be worn of one bright colour with a gorgeous stole. Or it can also be a combination of contrasting colours like that of a shalwar-kameez outfit.

The programme also included an item on traditional Indonesian hair style. The younger generation of Indonesia today prefers to have short hair in place of the traditional bun at the back of the head.

The audience largely included spouses of U. N. personnel as well as wives of the members of different embassies in Dhaka.



Madame Soemakno Iswadi, wife of Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh dressing up the wife of Thai Ambassador with an Indonesian costume during the Indonesian traditional Costume Show at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday.

Here and There

Seminar on Asian drama today

By Staff Correspondent

A seminar on 'Asian drama profile: cooperation through communication' will be inaugurated on Thursday at the Shilpakala Academy.

Five international and 50 country representatives will take part in the seminar arranged by International Theatre Institute of Bangladesh Centre, says an IIT Press release.

The seminar will be inaugurated by Cultural Adviser Ijazuddin Ahmed.

Hasan, Colonel Malek and Nazim Rahman due to which the genuine traders were dropped to accommodate 'illegal traders' in the city markets.

Presided over by the President of Dhaka Mahanagar Sangjuktta Khudra Babosayi Market Federation, Mr. Kutubuddin Ahmed, the meeting in a resolution demanded cancellation of all the allotment letters in the newly constructed city markets.

According to a press release, the meeting was addressed among others by Abu Taher Khan, Mattur Rahman Talukder, M. A. Rahim and Helaluddin Ahmed.



Stands first

Ferdous Arifina Osman stood First Class First in the B.S.S.(Hons) final examinations (held in September 1990) in Public Administration under the Dhaka University.

She also obtained the third position in the SSC examination under the Dhaka Education Board in 1983 and stood first in the HSC examination of 1985 under the same board.

Miss Ferdous is the daughter of Prof Osman Ghani, founder-secretary of Bangladesh Literacy Society.

Islami Biplobi Parishad

Bangladesh Islami Biplobi Parishad (Islamic Revolutionary Council) has demanded arrest of Moulana Mannan and trial of the former President Ershad and his associates.

In a statement on Tuesday the President of the Parishad Al Haj Moulana Sheikh Mohammad Obaidullah Bin Sayeed Jalalabadi demanded of the government to send Ershad to the Dhaka Central Jail immediately.

BUET workshop

A workshop on 'Water Resources Management and Development' began Wednesday at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), says a press release.

Jointly organized by Flood Control and Water Sewerage Institute of BUET and Swedish Royal Institute of Technology, the workshop was inaugurated by the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University Professor Abu Mohammad Azizul Haq. Thirty officers from 12 organizations are participating in the workshop.

Woman killed in road mishap

An elderly woman was killed in a road accident at Jatrabari in Dhaka Tuesday morning, reports UNB.

The victim, identified as Zarina Begum (50), was seriously injured when she was knocked down by a speeding tempo (autorickshaw). She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where attending physicians declared her dead.

Car parts stolen

From Our Correspondent

Some parts of two cars belonging to Mohammad Zahirul Haq, Chief Photographer of the Bangladesh Times, were stolen from his residence at 22/3 Free School Street Tuesday night.

The theft, worth more than Taka one lakh, was committed hours after a group of youths had demanded subscription but were refused.

A case was lodged with Dhanmondi police.

Arms recovered

Police recovered an abandoned country-made sten-gun and two round ammunition on Wednesday at Farashganj but nobody was arrested.

FBCCI team calls on Shahabuddin

A 21-member delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) called on the Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at President's Secretariat here Wednesday, reports BSS.

Led by FBCCI President Alhaj Mohammad Akram Hossain the delegation submitted a memorandum containing a number of suggestions for development of the country's industrial and trade sectors.

The Acting President assured them that their suggestions would be looked into. Justice Shahabuddin expressed satisfaction for their (members of the chambers) whole hearted cooperation in keeping the price of essential commodities stable.

The Acting President said price hike brought immense sufferings to the fixed and low income groups as well as the poor people. He asked the FBCCI members to evaluate the causes of occasional price hike and submit the findings to the government.

SC lawyers

A delegation of lawyers of the Supreme Court led by Advocate Mr. Shamsul Huq Chowdhury called on the Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat in the city on Wednesday, reports BSS.

They congratulated the Acting President for his address to the nation delivered on Tuesday.

They also discussed matters relating to their profession and existing judicial system of the country.

The Acting President highly appreciated the role played by the lawyers during the democratic movement.

Voters Association

Bangladesh Voters National Association held a meeting at its central office in the city on Wednesday with Mr M A Bari, President of the Association in the chair, says a press release.

The speakers express their firm determination to help restore atmosphere for holding free and fair elections in the country.

They called upon the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to repeal all black laws for free and fair polls.

A convening committee has also been formed with a view to implementing the aims and objectives of the association.

Qulkhwani

The qulkhwan of Abul Kasem, Chartered Accountant and former President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will be held after Asr Prayers today (Thursday) at 3/1-E, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

Liberty Forum to act as watchdog

By Staff Correspondent

A non-political organisation 'Liberty Forum' was launched with former Justice Abdur Rahman Choudhury heading its 27-member convening committee on Wednesday.

'The organisation won't favour any political party. It will hold discussions suggesting the way and means to solve national problems. The organisation's activities will be based on the ideals of Bangladeshi nationalism and Islamic values', said the statement by Justice Choudhury present at the launching ceremony of the forum at the National Press Club.

Other members of the committee include scientist

Innas Ali, Justice Abdul Malek, Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Dr Abu Naser, literature Shahed Ali, historian Professor K.Ali, Dean of Law Faculty of the Dhaka University Dr Ershadul Bari, journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Reazuddin Ahmed, Amanullah Kabir and Muzammel Haq. Peaceful holding of the coming Parliamentary polls is a pre-condition to convert the success of recent anti-autocracy movement into the wellbeing of the common people, Justice Choudhury viewed. If the national politics remains unstable, the independence and sovereignty of the country may



Justice Abdur Rahman Choudhury addressing a Press conference at the National Press Club on Wednesday while announcing formation of Liberty forum. Wellknown scientist Dr. Innas Ali is also seen

Efforts to withdraw US restriction sought Dhaka may lose \$ 30m in garment trade

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on called for intensified government efforts to persuade the US authorities to withdraw the quota restriction on export of three categories of Bangladeshi garment products.

Bangladesh will lose 30 million US dollars in trade this year if this restriction is not withdrawn, the association said.

Talking to BSS, Chairman of BGMEA MR Mosharraf Hossain, said this unilateral quota restriction would seriously affect the economy of Bangladesh which has already been wrecked by the Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi invasions of Kuwait has driven home about one lakh Bangladeshi expatriate from Iraq, Kuwait and other Middle East countries causing an yearly loss of 100 million US dollars in remittance. The total loss due to the Gulf crisis stands at about one billion US dollars which includes the remittance, repatriation, export

and rehabilitation costs. Mr Mosharraf Hossain said, it should be strongly pleaded to the foreign trade policy maker of the United States, the second largest donor of Bangladesh, the hard pressed economy of the newly emerged democracy needs more help through bilateral trade than the US aid to stand on its own feet.

Except for the restricted items, at present Bangladesh is exporting 25 categories of garments items to USA besides other non-quota items.

Referring to the concession recently given to Turkey, he said the US government has doubled the garments export quota of that country considering its economic hardship. Bangladesh is also one of the hardest hit countries due to the Gulf crisis, he pointed out.

In reply to a question, he said, following the US call notice, the Bangladesh government has already called for a consultation in Dhaka

with the US government on the issue. A meeting may held soon either in Dhaka or Washington, he said. Engineer Abu Taher, an advisory committee member of BGMEA and chief of its quota administration committee said, under the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) between the two governments, the restriction on export of three Bangladesh items -- soap towel, terry towel and fibre coats was unjustified. He said, according to Articles 3 of MFA, restriction could be imposed on such an item if export of that item to the USA disrupts the local production of that item.

Quoting rising production figures of terry towels in the USA for the last three years, he said it was 44,947,000 dozens in 1985 which rose to 47,179,000 in 1988 and in 1989 it jumped to 62,471,000 dozens. So our export of towels, does in no way, disrupts the local production of that item.

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Short film festival begins Jan 22

The second international Short Film Festival, Dhaka '90 will begin in the city on January 22, according to a press release.

Organised by Bangladesh Short Film Forum, about 200 films of 25 countries will be screened in the festival.

Besides, a 2-day international seminar will also be held.

The noted film stars, producers and directors from USA, Germany, Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India are expected to participate in the festival.

Mr. Mrinal Sen, a noted Indian film director will attend the festival as the chief guest.

The festival will continue through January 30.

Cancellation of JP nominations protested

Leaders of different front organisations of Jatiya Party Tuesday in Dhaka protested against the cancellation of nomination papers of a number of Jatiya Party candidates, including party chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad, and urged upon the acting President to accept these nominations as valid, reports BSS.

Jatiya Juba Sanghati Vice-President Manzor Rahman Biswas and Joint Secretary Haider, in a joint statement, condemned the cancellation of the nomination papers and said the Returning Officer at Rangpur was compelled by force to cancel the nomination papers of former President Ershad.

They also alleged that at Feni the old father of Colonel (Retd) Zafar Imam was beaten in front of the Returning Officer. At Chittagong, the proposer and the supporters of former Mayor Mahmudul Islam was hijacked at arms point and the proposer of former State Minister Nurunnabi Chand at Rajshahi was compelled to give false witness.

They said that these acts were not in favour of a free and impartial election and urged upon the acting President to accept their nominations.

In another statement, Jatiya Samik Party President Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar and General Secretary M. A. Gafur and Jatiya Krishak Party Vice-President Azad Sultan expressed apprehension about an impartial and free election where they said, force was being applied from the very beginning.

Jatiya Seccha Sebak Party, President Munshi Abdul Latif and General Secretary Shah Mustain Billah, in a joint statement, protested the cancellation of the nominations and called for facing JP politically.

Tk 65 cr plan for low-cost housing in Dhaka, Ctg

The Government has taken up two projects in Dhaka and Chittagong at a cost of about Taka 65 crore to solve the residential problems of the low and middle income groups, reports BSS.

This was informed at a meeting in Dhaka on Wednesday, presided over by Adviser on Energy, Mineral Resources and Works, Dr. Wahiduddin Ahmed, an official Press release said.

The meeting was informed that about 4900 plots ranging from two and a half kathas to five kathas would be made at Mirpur area of the capital at a cost of Taka 35 crore 30 lakh with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank.

Another project has been taken for the low income group at a cost of Taka 24 crore 67 lakh at Katibayadham in Chittagong.

The project with the assistance of the World Bank would have 4144 plots. The work of the project would be completed in June.

Weather

Wintry chill biting: Rajshahi coldest

By Staff Correspondent

Rajshahi experienced the lowest temperature of the season --5.2 degree celsius -- on Wednesday as the cold wave continued to persist.

The Meteorological Department forecasts dry weather with partly cloudy sky at places over Bangladesh till Friday morning. The night temperature which fell by one to four degree celsius on

Wednesday will fall further by one to two degree celsius by this (Thursday) morning. The moderate cold wave will continue.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change. Outlook for another five days: no appreciable change. The westerly low lay over Nepal and adjoining areas on Wednesday. Ridge of the continental high extended up to Bangladesh across West Bengal.

The seasonal low lay over South Bay extending through to the Andaman Sea. On Wednesday the night temperature was one to five degree celsius below the normal for the time at most places except Faridpur, Srirangal and Majdi Where it was nearly normal; and Chittagong, Dhaka and Cox's Bazar where it was above normal by one to four degree celsius, Met office says.

Temperature and humidity recorded in major cities and towns on Wednesday are :

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity
Dhaka	25.2	88
Chittagong	26.7	79
Comilla	26.1	77
Rajshahi	24.1	81
Cox's Bazar	24	85
Sylhet	25.5	85
Barisal	24	87
Thakurgaon	22.8	87
Bandarban	22.8	85

Minimum temperature recorded in cities of the region on Wednesday:

City	16 degree Celsius
Karachi	00
New Delhi	00
Bangkok	22
Hong Kong	14
Beijing	-05

He did not respond to some other questions regarding the interim government saying, 'I have many things to say but I won't do it right now for national interests.'

Death Claims settled in 1990

exceeded Tk. 1 crore 8 lac

In last one year, Death Claims settled in different classes were

Insurance class	Number of claims	Amount paid (Tk.)	Average per claim (Tk.)
Group Life	181	1,01,41,766	56,000
Individual Life	5	5,94,100	1,18,800
Grameen Bima	6	64,900	10,800

Life insurance is not for the rich alone.

Delta Life Insurance Company Ltd. 11, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka. Tel: 240616, 244320. PABX: 245033-5, 246111-2

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Peruse
 - 5 Pedal digit
 - 8 Spar
 - 12 Pit
 - 13 Simian
 - 14 Toward and within
 - 15 "Life to Live"
 - 16 Ledger
 - 18 Attempt
 - 19 Latin conjunction
 - 20 Preposition
 - 21 Cooled lava
 - 23 Exits
 - 24 Send forth
 - 26 Confusion
 - 28 Scoff
 - 29 Distant
 - 30 Health resort
 - 32 Large casks
 - 33 Flying mammal
 - 34 Regretted

Answer to Previous Puzzle

TAU LOBS STOP
 ERR IDOL TAPE
 LAB RETICULAR
 LLAMA HEED
 NE HER ELSE
 THE EIR SNIFE
 HE IKE BET ILL
 ERASE MOW INS
 MOIL LAW MN
 ARAR ESSED
 TORNADOES ULE
 OWED LOAN RIA
 ENDS ENTE EAR

- DOWN**
- 1 Footwear
 - 2 Persevere, persist
 - 3 Beverage
 - 4 Compass point
 - 5 California-Nevada lake
 - 6 Unlock
 - 7 Lamprey
 - 8 Note of scale
 - 9 Emmet
 - 10 Denuded
 - 11 " in the Attic"
 - 16 Urge on
 - 17 Comely
 - 20 Employs
 - 22 Cutting tool
 - 25 Judgment
 - 26 Small ring
 - 27 Ordinary
 - 28 Pigeon
 - 29 Cooling device
 - 31 Paid notices
 - 33 Baker's product
 - 3