

Dhaka Day by Day Sequinned Show

by S. Bari

In a small city like ours, exclusivity is a prized quality. A particular breed of upper- (very upper) class women, with money to spend and not much to spend it on, has a horror of mass-production. Their worst nightmare is to walk into a party and see someone wearing the same salwar-kameez as them.



If it's exclusive wear you're looking for, the fashion fair at the Sheraton hotel was the place to go. A sizable choice of salwar-kameez was on display. Every piece was one-of-a-kind. The sale was held by 'Anokhi', a two-woman designer team. Prices ranged from taka 900 to 3200. Judging by customer turnout, the clothes were quite popular.

Shehnaz Farooq and Humaira Khan first conceived of designing on a commercial basis a year-and-a-half ago. "People admired the clothes we wore," say the two friends, "which were all of our own design. They used to say, 'Why don't you make and sell clothes like this?'"

The clothes are mainly North Indian in style, with silk and zari predominating, and plenty of sequins thrown in for good measure. Intricate zardozi embroidery sprawls across a velvety black top with a contrasting cream taffeta skirt. See-through skirts over solid coloured salwars are a sure-fire sell-out these days.

Local themes are brought in through heavy Jamdani work in panels and nakshikantha stitch borders. The bulk of the clothes were designed for evening wear, so the glitter was conspicuous.

The embroidery and workmanship were of fairly reasonable quality, especially considering that all the handwork is done by local tailors and embroiderers at the designers' homes. Material as far as possible, is also of domestic production. Certain types of synthetics are foreign: as was an eye-catching piece in purple and white polka dots.

The 'Anokhi' team has no boutique: they rely on word of mouth for sales and clientele. This was their first public show; cards were distributed, so those who are disappointed by the lack of a shop can rest at ease. If you missed the sale, the house in Dhanmondi welcomes the discerning buyer with a heavy purse.

Dhaka team leaves for US to negotiate \$75 m WB credit

A three-member Bangladesh delegation, led by the Energy Secretary Azimuddin Ahmed, left Dhaka Saturday night for Washington to negotiate a 75 million US dollar credit with the World Bank, reports UNB.

The proposed IDA (International Development Association) credit would be used to instal a LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) plant at Elega in Tangail.

The negotiation is due to begin tomorrow (Monday) at the IDA headquarters and conclude on April 12.

Other members of the delegation are: Deputy Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) M. Kamaluddin and Petrobangla Director (Planning) Mosharraf Hossain.

Sugar price re-fixed at Tk 25 per kg

The Government has re-fixed the sugar price at Taka 25 per kilogram, a press release of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation said Saturday, reports BSS.

It said the Government recently earmarked 50,000 tons of sugar for sale at the rate of Taka 25,000 per ton.

PROGRAMME

Discussion on Health Day

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a discussion meeting Tomorrow on Monday at 5 pm in observance of the World Health Day, reports UNB.

Prof. M. A. Majid, President Bangladesh Medical Association and former Adviser to the President will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Dr. Rudra S. Giri, Acting Representative, World Health Organisation in Bangladesh will be the chief guest while Dr. Sayedur Rahman, former president, Bangladesh Medical Association will preside.

Milad mahfil

A milad mahfil will be held today after Asar prayer at B 11/F-11 New Colony, Asadgate in observance of the second death anniversary of eminent journalist Mohammad Hossain.

Hossain died of a heart attack on April 7, 1989.

Bangladesh-China Association

Bangladesh-China Friendship Association will hold a meeting and a condolence meeting on the death of Singer Shahana Begum who was also Cultural Secretary of the association Shahana was killed in an accident.

The meetings will be held Sunday at 4 pm at Rose Bank Club, House No. 7, Road No. 4 a press release said.

Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz will preside over the meeting. Among others State Minister for Law and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia will address the meeting.

Ctg Samity

An iftar party of Chittagong Samity in Dhaka will be held on April 8 at Eskaton Sohag Community Centre, reports BSS.

Communications and Railway Minister Oli Ahmed and State Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdullah Al No-man will be present.

Weather

Hailstorm, thundershower likely to occur

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast till 6 pm of Sunday says light rain or thundershower with hail at places accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at a few places in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country.

Rain or thundershower occurred at most places in Chittagong division on Saturday. Elsewhere the day was dry. Day temperature remained nearly unchanged. The highest temperature of 36 degree Celsius was recorded from Dinajpur.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activities may continue.

Table with 3 columns: City/Towns, Temperature in Celsius (max/min), Humidity (%). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Sylhet, Bogra, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Hong Kong, Colombo, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Beijing.

Special trains on Eid occasion

To facilitate the home-bound Eid passengers Bangladesh Railway will run special trains from April 11 to April 14, a Bangladesh Railway Press release said Saturday, reports BSS.

On April 11, 12, and 14 one special train each between Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Noakhali and Chittagong-Noakhali will run. The special train for Chittagong and Noakhali will leave Dhaka at 11:40 pm while special train for Noakhali will leave Chittagong at 11 pm. One special train for Dinajpur will also leave Dhaka at 9:30 pm on April 11.

One special train will operate on April 12 and 14 between Chittagong and Dhaka leaving Chittagong at 11 pm.

Apart from these, Railway will also run one pair of additional intercity train between Dhaka and Noakhali from April 12 to 14. This special intercity train will leave Dhaka at 7:40 am arriving Noakhali at 1:30 pm, and leave Noakhali at 3:30pm arriving Dhaka at 9:55.

All intercity trains excepting Barendra and Kapatakha will also ply on weekly off-days from April 11 to 15 and April 19 to 22. No intercity train will run on Dtd-day.

No unrest in Dhaka jail, say prisoners

The Prisoners' Action Council Saturday categorically said there was no unrest or indiscipline in the Dhaka Central Jail now and ruled out any plan to wage fresh movement in the near future, reports UNB.

It, however, accused the authorities of their continued "instigating and irresponsible behaviour" towards the prisoners ever since the unrest ended January 14.

A statement of the council, read out at a press conference at the National Press Club Saturday afternoon, alleged that since the jail authorities were not getting any chance of "corruption" because of vigilance of the prisoners, they were now creating artificial tension in the jail.

Mahbul Islam, a leader of the Dhaka jail revolt who was later released, read out the statement on behalf of the members of the Action Council. The press conference was arranged mainly to protest some recent press reports which said tense situation was still prevailing in Dhaka central jail.

The statement alleged that some demands of the prisoners, agreed by the government, was yet to be implemented due to administrative lapses.

Although general amnesty was granted to prisoners aged over 60 and under 16, they were yet to be released, said the statement.

The Action Council vowed that the prisoners would follow the "jail code" but simultaneously demanded of the jail authorities to honour its 18-point charter of demands.

Prisoners revolt in December in Dhaka central jail claimed three lives. Revolt flared up subsequently in several other jails across the country.

Mansur Ali Smriti Sangsad formed

A 101-member central committee of national leader Shaheed Mansur Ali Smriti Sangsad has been formed with Mazharul Islam as its convener, reports BSS.

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and late Mansur Ali's wife Begum Arina Mansur have been made the Patrons of the committee.

The Smriti Sangsad was formed at a meeting held in Dhaka Friday with Dr S A Malek, General Secretary of Bangabandhu Parishad, in the chair, a press release said Saturday.

Besides, a five-member executive committee has also been formed for the Smriti Sangsad. They are: Dr S A Malek, Advocate Nurul Alam, Mostafa Sarwar, Dr Mohammad Selim and Dr Omaruddin.

The Central Convening Committee members include Abdus Samad Azad, MP, Dr Kamal Hossain, Begum Zohra Tajuddin, Abdul Mannan, Begum Sajeda Choudhury, MP, Akhtaruzzaman Choudhury, MP, Alhaj Sayed Abul Hossain, Shaifur Rahman, Shaifull Azim Mukul, Prof Abu Sayeed and Dr Abu Bakr Siddique.

Attack on Jamaat workers slated

By Staff Correspondent

Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami and Moulana Muhammad Abdus Subhan, Leader and Deputy Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party condemned the attack of Awami League workers on the Jamaat workers in Pabna on Friday.

The Jamaat leaders demanded proper investigation and punishment to the persons responsible for the incident in which 21 Jamaat workers were injured.



Abdus Salam Talukder, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, addressing as chief guest the opening session of five-day higher course for municipal administration for the executive officers at the auditorium of AILG in Agargaon in the city on Saturday.

Municipalities asked to ensure better services to tax-payers

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, Abdus Salam Talukder, Saturday called upon the country's municipal administrations to generate income through timely realisation of taxes from the existing sectors and ensuring better service to the tax payers to earn their full trust and confidence, reports BSS.

He said the municipal administration was one of the most effective organs of the local government institution and unless it became self-dependent by own income, the objectives of such bodies would be hampered.

The Minister was inaugurating a five-day higher municipal administration course for the chief executive officers at the auditorium of National Institute of Local Government at Agargaon this morning.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Kabir Hossain, Secretary of the Ministry, Mushfiqur Rahman and Director General of the Institute Dr Khanada Mohan Das also addressed the function.

Salam Talukder said Bangladesh was one of the three poorest countries of the world because corruption had engulfed both politicians and administration in all spheres. "Now everybody must work with honesty and sincerity to overcome all these negative effects in our society", Salam Talukder said reiterating that his party's government would fulfill its pledges with limited resources.

He said the people would reject us if we failed to bring welfare for them. He asked the officials and employees of the local government administrations to conceive the real ideals and objectives of this body and work with renewed zeal for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people.

The Minister asked the municipal officials to identify the problems before the implementation of any programme within the municipal areas and recommend for their solutions. He also asked the National Institute of Local Government to collect these recommendations from the

chief executive officers of the respective municipalities and send these to the ministry concerned.

The ministry would examine these recommendations and work accordingly, he said. Considering the utmost importance of the local government bodies, the Minister assured of all-out help for the institute to develop its training and research sections. He also assured of personal and political help by engaging the workers for its development.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, Kabir Hossain asked the trainees to utilise their merits and capability in serving the city dwellers. "You are the servants of the tax payers," the State Minister told them adding the government was pledge bound to offer the city dwellers a beautiful municipal life by providing all civic facilities.

Hossain also called upon the officials and employees of the municipal administrations to refrain from corruption and asked them to be vigilant against this evil practice.

Appointment of non-engineers in engineering bodies deplored

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Civil Service (Telecom) Association has expressed resentment at the appointments of non-engineers as the chairman of different engineering organisations including the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

The association in an urgent meeting on Saturday demanded immediate appointment of engineers to those posts.

The association demanded appointment of working official of B.C.S. (Telecom) cadre to the post of Chairman, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board. It also opposed appointment of anybody on contract basis or from outside B.C.S. cadre.

The association demanded repeal of Matin Committee Report.

Prevention of rheumatic fever discussed

A seminar on rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases was held at Narsingdi about 45 kilometres from Dhaka recently, reports BSS.

The seminar sponsored and organised by local doctors was presided over by Prof. R. K. Khondakar Dr. K. Yoshitake, team leader of Japanese experts of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases control project discussed various aspects including prevention of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

Professor Sirajul Haque, Project Director RF and RHD Control Project, Dr. Manindra Chowdhury Civil Surgeon of Narsingdi and Dr. Sirajul Islam, among others spoke on the occasion. A short video film on different activities of RF and RHD control project was shown.

A host of local community leaders and 20 government and non-government doctors participated in the seminar.



The retrrenched employees of Bangladesh Biman staged a sit-in in front of Biman Bhaban at Motijheel Commercial Area in Dhaka on Saturday demanding immediate implementation of the Review Committee.

2 killed in Ctg road mishap

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: Two persons including a minor boy were killed in separate road accidents Saturday, police said, reports BSS.

The boy Sayedur Rahman (10), was run over by a speeding car at Mozaffarbad under Chandanah Upazila in the afternoon and died on the spot.

People expect unity on form of govt: Suranjit

Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta Saturday said he abstained from voting in the election to the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker "not to be a party to the process of disunity".

"I didn't want to be a party to the process of disunity which might frustrate the people who were expecting unanimity in resolving the question of the form of government as well as a sovereign Parliament for peaceful transfer of power", he told UNB.

Suranjit Sengupta, one member of Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) and 25 members of the Jatiya Party abstained from voting in the House Friday in the division vote for and against BNP nominees for Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

A total of 187 members, 161 of ruling BNP, 20 of Jamaat-e-Islami, one each of

NDP, JSD (S) and Workers Party, and three independents -- voted for the Ayes while 97 members -- 87 of Awami League, 5 of CPB, 4 from BKSAL and one of NAP(M) -- for the Noes.

The Ganotantri Party leader said his vote was not a deciding factor, nor the issue itself was a political one. "It is meaningless to take part in a useless exercise when unity is a must -- when the result was known."

According to parliamentary convention, he said, the Speaker is generally elected from majority party through a courtesy consultation with the opposition.

Abstention is a recognised practice in politics both nationally and internationally, he said expressing resentment for "indecent exposure" and criticism of members for his decision.

Rural rationing to be made effective

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda said Saturday that necessary amendment of the law would be made for implementing the Palli (Rural) rationing system properly, reports BSS.

He said, the past government had turned this system into a toll to their party workers. But we want to make the system for improving the lot of the target-people by removing all past legacies.

The State Minister was speaking at a gathering of the district level officers of Food Ministry of Dhaka Division, Food Secretary Ataul Huq and

DG of Food, Mahe Alam also spoke on the occasion.

Mr. Huda stressed the need for creating awareness among the target-people of Palli (Rural) Rationing system through mass media to stop irregularities by vested groups.

The State Minister said it was possible to combat corruption and food deficit if we properly maintain the procedures of food administration. All concerned officials have to be cautious about their duties and strengthen the supervisory activities to check corruption and mismanagement, he added.

Official asked to expedite mutation of lands

State Minister for Land Barister Jamiruddin Sircar urged the officials to determine clear titles of land holdings and expedite mutation of lands for reducing the number of cases, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a six-day long "Land administration and land reforms" training course at Land Reforms Board Saturday.

About 50 officers of different cadres, including Additional Police Super, Sub Judges and Additional Deputy Commissioners (Rev), are participating in the training course.

Strear said, through knowledge acquired from training the participants could render greater services to the commonmen and protect them from various harassment.

The State Minister emphasised the need for coordinated efforts of all concerned to establish efficient land administration and management system for the benefit of the people.

Land Secretary Syed Ahmed, Chairman Land Reforms Board, Manzurul Karim and Director, training programme, M M A Matin also spoke.

Chehlum

The Chehlum of Jalaluddin Ahmed of Mirsarat, Chittagong will be held on Wednesday (April 10) at his 31/E Azampur Govt Colony residence in the city after Asr prayer.

Friends and relatives have been requested to attend. Jalaluddin died of Brain haemorrhage at P.O Hospital on March 3. He left behind wife, six daughters and one son.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and a list of words: Gastropod, mollusk, snails, Scroops, cloaks, Sleeveless, etc.