

Dhaka Day by Day

It's a Shear Pleasure!

by Sabah Chowdhury

Not everyone enjoys getting a haircut. The whole idea of sitting for a long time completely under the control of one man, who wraps a price of cloth around you and takes the future of your head in his hand, may not be the best idea of fun for many. But there are many who can't wait to see their hair grow back and as soon as it starts to curl and swirl at the edges a bit, they rush to the barber and demand a haircut, in return for cash payment.

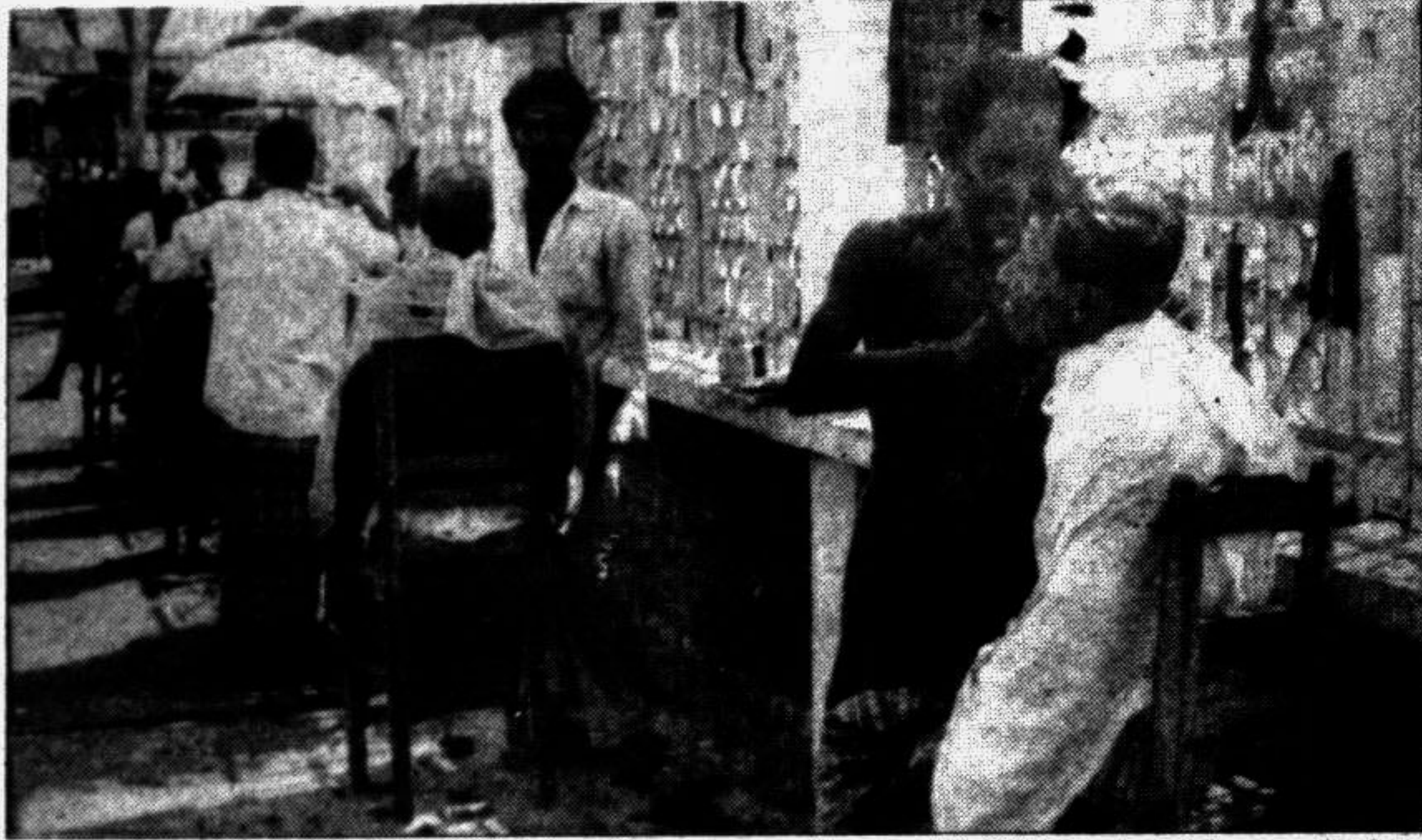
It would seem as if the barber was doing a favour by cutting short the long grown hair. Well, it is all in the way of civilization. The symbol of progress is probably a haircut, they argue. Savages have not been seen to visit barbers. The arguments are all too true.

Since everyone needs food, shelter, clothes and a haircut, the number of people engaged in this trade are numerous and belong to various social scales and ladders. Because the city of Dhaka itself has a population ranging from the extremely gentrified and wealthy to the very poor, the barbers or shear artists if you prefer, run the same spectra. If you want a specially

cutting away under the shade of a large tree. Enquiry revealed that these bulky chairs are left under the watchful eyes of the sky. No thief has been known to lug a barber's chair home yet. But Amanat, a man of forty or it could even be fifty, informed that not everyone does that. While roaming thieves may not nick chairs, the neighbours or householders close by could not be trusted all that much. Therefore, he hires a rickshaw and takes it home. "You cannot possibly take it in a bus, could you?" says he with a smile.

At the two centres, one at Gulistan near Fulbaria, and the other one at Asad Gate, one saw a row of such people hunched over heads of others and snipping away. One does not come here for class, but functionality and at Taka six you are not provided either.

These are the contemporary versions of the "Italian saloons" of the past ("Ita", meaning brick), and these barbers would make people sit on a brick, put a bowl on the head snip on the edges and after taking it off, give a generous crew cut. Those days are gone and new



Haircut on the footpath.

—Photo: Jalaluddin Haider

expensive treatment you may visit any of the five star hotels, where you may suddenly be reminded that the hair that adorns your head could be very valuable. If one went by the prices asked for a job done.

The hair cutting saloons are the most common sights catering to the middle class, but the largest number of those in the hair cutting trade operate without a waiting room with stale magazines, but in exchange offer a spectacular view of the road passing by as you wait your turn. It is these footpath shearers who comprise the bulk of those who cut their way to a living.

As always they concentrate where there is a concentration of human beings. The favourite haunts are bazars, bus stands, government offices and so forth. Without any pomp or ceremony they occupy a part of the footpath and set up their shop which at the end of the day is rolled up and taken home. Some of these barbers bowed down to modern taste and provided wooden chairs, a step forward than those

style and method has taken over this trade. Apprenticeship for this trade may last months and there have been known cases where the trade has been handed down to families. But even today there is an element of clanishness in this profession. Perhaps it is the hangover of the original "sheel" (barber) caste culture. But not many Hindus are involved in it nowadays, nor is the social stigma anymore.

Of the many trades and professions that this city provides they are a kind by themselves. There is no easy banter that goes in the air-conditioned saloons or the bonhomie between the barber and the client who have their own regulars or favourites, and a mass of hair worth doing something. On the streets their is no relationship except a cut or a shave. The people (only males, mind you, as for the females are the Beauty Parlours), who come put their heads down in silence and once having had their work done, leave in silence for the next man to take his place. Shear pleasure for some, shear monotony for so many.

France to host 6 concerts of Bangladeshi music

France will host six concerts of Bangladeshi folk music in Paris in October this year, Mr Pierre Bois, a visiting French ethnomusicologist said here Wednesday, reports UNB.

Mr Bois, representing the Paris-based Maison des Cultures du Monde, said during his week-long visit here he would select and invite some Bangladeshi folk singers to perform in France.

immensely rich... but it needs to be discovered in Europe", said while talking to some local journalists at a function at the Alliance France.

He particularly referred to Bayati, Baul, Santal and Orao ethnomusical traditions which have rich cultural values and stressed that those should be introduced to western audiences.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Place out
- "Cleopatra" star; initials
- Armed band
- Actually
- Places for combat
- Faroe Islands whirwind
- Was ill
- Tardy
- Health resort
- Care for
- Roman 51
- The "Cuckoo"
- Child's favorite spot
- Veronica —
- Secluded valley
- Bond
- David ID
- Wood-worker's tool

DOWN

- God of love
- Britain
- Aner ID
- Choice part
- Mary —
- Moore
- Oera
- Alternative word
- Trade for money
- Gastropod mollusk
- Dine
- "Law"
- Selenium symbol
- Wife of Garinat
- 20 Inquire
- 24 Trial
- 25 Guido's high note
- 27 One opposed
- 28 "The Drowning"
- 29 Run easily
- 30 Entrance
- 32 Old musical instrument
- 36 Roman bronze
- 37 Messengers; scrolls
- 42 Rapid
- 44 Paid notice
- 46 Place of worship
- 48 Byzantine deity
- 49 Evaluate
- 51 Roof edge
- 54 Solo
- 55 "Star"
- 56 Suits
- 57 Ancient
- 58 Tautonic deity
- 62 Actor
- 64 G.I., e.g.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ETA LY POLES
GENIUS RIOTED
ON TRAVELS NI
DO EROS SYIR
HERS STEW LOG
ERATO ENOS RE
LIMP TRAP
DE PILL ELOPE
IMP TEAS EDEN
ABIE ASPS SL
NE MISSILE TO
ADMIRE TILLER
SATES EM IDA

Kabir's painting show from today

La Galerie at 54 Kemal Ataturk Ave. will be holding a painting exhibition of the artist G. S. Kabir from April 26 to May 5. It will be inaugurated on April 25 at 5 p.m. by Mr. Serge DEGALLAIX, the Ambassador of France in Bangladesh.

La Galerie is open from 9 am to 8 pm, says a press release.

NBDA office executives

A general meeting of the people of North Bengal was held on April 11 at the temporary Office of Bangladesh North Bengal Development Association with Md. Tahmidul Islam in the chair.

The meeting unanimously formed a 35-member executive committee with Md. Tahmidul Islam as President, Engineer Mahmud Shawkat Ali as Secretary General and Md. Intekhab Rahman as Treasurer. Md. Tarik Murshed as Social Welfare Secretary and Kazi Zahedul Islam as Publicity Secretary for the next 4 years, says a press release.

JS House body meet Apr 27

The first meeting of the newly constituted "House Committee" of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad will be held at the Standing Committee Room No-1 of the Sangsad Bhavan at 10 am on April 27, a press release said, reports BSS.

The chairman of the committee, Mr Abdul Matin Chowdhury, MP, will preside over the meeting.

All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

The members of the committee are Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Mr Azizul Huq Molla, Mr Mashur Rahman, Begum Rabeya Chowdhury, Mr Anur Uddin Ahmad, Mr Joydul Abdin Faruque, Mr Tofayel Ahmed, Mr Nasim, Mr Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Al-Haj Md Tajul Islam Chowdhury and Mr Ansar Ali.

Khaleda visits Lokman Fakir's residence

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia Wednesday visited the Lalmeta residence of the noted cultural organiser Lokman Hossain Fakir to show last respect to the departed soul, reports UNB.

During her visit Wednesday morning the Prime Minister expressed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Lokman Hossain Fakir, a renowned lyricist and music director, died of massive heart attack Tuesday afternoon at the Institute of Cardio Vascular Disease. He was 56.

He was the Cultural Secretary of the ruling Bangladesh.

Shilpakala Academy Artists Assoc

BSS adds: A meeting of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Artists Association Wednesday condeoled the death of eminent vocalist, composer and music director Lokman Hossain Fakir.

The meeting was held at the Academy auditorium with association president Dipa Khandakar in the chair, a press release said.

Hasan Imam, Ali Azgar Khokon, Jayontha Mukherji, Delwar Haq and Sahduzzaman Shapon were among others who addressed the condolence meeting, touching on different aspects of the life of the deceased.

The meeting also expressed profound sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Sangeet Parishad

Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad in an emergency meeting Tuesday condeoled the death of eminent lyricist, composer, singer and a patron of the Sangeet Parishad Lokman Hossain Fakir, reports BSS.

The meeting expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul, according to a press release.

Gambling in village fairs being stopped

The Leader of the House and Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, on Wednesday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the members of the law enforcing agencies were always alert to stop gambling and the consumption of liquor at village fairs, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Haji Rashed Mosharrar (AL-Jamalpur) Begum Zia who is also in charge of the

Ministry of Home Affairs, said the village fairs were held subject to the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Replying to a supplementary Begum Zia said the past autocratic government had introduced all misdeeds to the society vitiating the lives of the people.

She assured the House that her government would take all measures for the welfare of the people.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain/thundershower with temporary gusty and squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till Friday morning, Meteorological Department says.

On Wednesday rain/thundershower occurred at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna division.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.25 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.28 am.

Temperature and Humidity recorded in some cities and towns of the country on Wednesday was:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	33.6	22
Chittagong	33.4	25.5
Khulna	35.4	24.3
Rajshahi	35	20.5
Cox's Bazar	33.4	25.8
Rangamati	35.1	22.5
Srimangal	32.5	18.3
Bogra	33	18.5
Jessore	36.5	22.8
Barisal	34.4	26

167 women rescued from traffickers

The Leader of the House and Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, on Wednesday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had recovered 167 women out of 170 while they were being sent abroad illegally from January 1989 to December 1990, reports BSS.

She was replying to a question from Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim (AL-Gopalganj).

Replying to a supplementary, Begum Zia said the government had constituted special squads in curbing women trafficking. Besides the government was also investigating into the incidents of women trafficking, she added.

Begum Zia requested the members to provide the government with information on women trafficking if they have any.

Replying to another supplementary from Mr. Abdus Sobhan (Jamaat-Pabna), the Prime Minister said the persons responsible for women trafficking were being tried as per the law of the land.

Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Managing Director of Associated Architects and Engineers Hassan Mustafa Huq Mani died of heart attack on Monday.

He was 44.

Son of late Engg. Rafiqul Huq, Mani graduated himself from the University of Illinois, USA.

His kulkhwani will be held on Friday at his Dhanmondi residence.



Namaz-e-Janaza of noted vocalist and music director Lokman Hossain Fakir was held at Baitul Mukarram on Wednesday. The body is being taken out of the mosque for burial. —PID photo

BAUCSU team meet Shahabuddin Special BCS exams for agri graduates demanded

A nine-member delegation of the Central Students Union of the Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, met the acting resident, Mr Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at president's Secretariat in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The delegation, led by A K M Abdur Rafique, Vice President of the union, discussed with the Acting President various problems facing the students including accommodation, transport and session jam.

The students delegation informed Acting President that the University at present had only four buses. They also

made special request for expansion of the present women hall as it cannot accommodate 450 girl students of the University. They also informed the Acting President that the construction work on the University Central Mosque, which was started long ago, has not been completed as yet. The student leaders requested the Acting President to give special attention in this regard. They also urged him to arrange for providing an ambulance.

About employment facilities for agriculture graduates, the student leaders requested for filling up the existing vacant

posts without delay by appointment on adhoc basis as was done in the case of medical graduates. They also demanded that there should be a special BCS examination only for the agriculture graduates.

Justice Shahabuddin said that all the universities of the country have been facing almost similar transport and accommodation problems. He, however, said he would look into the problems.

The delegation included, among others, Mohammad Awlad Hossain, General Secretary and Ms Hasmat Ara Chowdhury, a central leader.



Guardians of students of Wells Little Flower School organised a procession in city on Wednesday protesting an alleged attempt to grab land of the school. Celebrated Poetess Sufia Kamal is seen leading the procession. —Star photo

Lokman Hossain Fakir buried

Eminent music director and lyricist Lokman Hossain Fakir, was laid to eternal rest at the Banani graveyard in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Earlier, Namez-e-Janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram mosque after Zohr prayer. It was attended by Foreign Minister S. M. Mustafizur Rahman, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Industries Minister M. Shamsul Islam Khan, State Minister for Information Nurul Huda, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khandker Mosharrar Hossain, former Foreign Minister A. R. S. Doha, leaders and workers of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its front organs.

APSU call to restore law, order in Khulna city

APSU call to restore law, order in Khulna city

APSU call to restore law, order in Khulna city

APSU call to restore law, order in Khulna city

PROGRAMME

Rotary meeting

The 11th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Thursday) at 7.00 pm, at "Hotel Chi Ling", Sector-4, Uttara, says a press release.

Today's chief guest Rtn. Anwarul Alam, Chairman, RAJUK will speak on "RAJUK activity on town development".

The meeting will be followed by Eid Re-union dinner.

BCPFA meeting

The first meeting of the newly elected National Council of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will be held on Saturday at 5:00 pm at the office of the Association at 18, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000.

Lions meet

The two-day long 4th Annual District Convention of Lions Clubs International, District-315A is to be inaugurated today (Thursday) at 9 am at Sonargaon Hotel by the Honourable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia.

About 800 Lion & Lioness of Dist-315A are expecting to attend the convention.

Baishakhi bands

Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) has arranged a day-long Baishakhi bands festival on April 26 at the hall of Dhaka University, A BAMBA press release said, reports BSS.

All prominent bands of the country will participate in the festival.

Balloons and Icecream—Turkish style

There were children of all shapes and sizes at the Turkish Embassy on Tuesday. It was their Children's Day and it was also the day on which the Turkish leader Kemal Ataturk had opened the first parliament of modern Turkey.

Licking ice-cream, and playing with multi-coloured balloons, most of the children had turned up in their national costume of silks, satins, and brocades. Some even had masks and pencils on moustaches. There were Negro children with numerous plaits, and blonde Europeans barely able to run about. Some of the young Turkish beauties were brave in their national version of the "shalwar kameez."

There was a large room set aside for sale of curio items

for the adults who had accompanied the children. Most of these grown ups were from other embassies. Even the Europeans found some of the prices quite high although all the items on display were interesting to note.

There was a Turkish mirror which alone was for Tk 6,000. There were Turkish silver ashtrays and coasters with traditional Turkish motifs. There were candle-stands of onyx marble and beautifully hand embroidered nighties. They could also be worn as maternity dresses, one onlooker commented.

Albums with velvet tops cost between Tk 750 and Tk 500. There were recent women's magazines like "Cosmopolitan" "Eile" and "Woman's World" and they were going as cheap as Tk10 each sometimes.

There was "Turshu" or pickles for Tk 100. The packets of home made sweets were for Tk 50 each. Tomato ketchup was for Tk 100 a bottle while Dolma (stuffed with rice) and Gorek (filled with cheese and flour) were for Tk 50 a packet. Kofta was on sale too as well as kebabs.

It must have been a welcome outing for children of different nationalities to meet together, play and exchange jokes and confidences. There are not many places where children can be entertained in the city. The elders too found a place to go to exchange civilities and chat while chaperoning their children. Special invitations were issued and checked at the entrance, otherwise, perhaps the embassy might have been swarmed with children.

Suited the need of the theme garments for children till the age of eight were being sold and the prices ranged from Tk 75 to Tk 300. T-shirts for boys and men were available too at this gaily coloured charity bazaar.

The ladies selling the products had a ready smile and keenness to serve. The Turkish ambassador's wife appeared to be the busiest person at the event, while her husband supervised and looked into details despite the heat.

Although it had been such a hot afternoon, my memories were those of the smiling, laughing, playing children, and their equally contented mothers, who were there to supervise them and see that they did not create too much of mischief — *Fayaz Haq*