

# Dhaka Day by Day Present Tense

by S Bari

I suddenly realized, leafing through my calendar, that there is a friend's birthday coming up in two weeks. Not the kind of friend whose tastes you know so well you have something 'perfect' in mind, but the more numerous species of friend, that most infuriating creature who "has everything, what can I possibly buy her?" Panic signals went off in my head. To make matters worse, this is the friend who gave me the most wonderful gift on my last birthday, so original no one in Dhaka had even seen one before (of course, I have yet to figure out what it is).

Without beating around the bush any more, let me face the bare facts: the art of giving has become a nightmare in Dhaka. Before proceeding, please note that this article treats semi-formal and formal presents, not the ones you buy your mother or girlfriend (which are doubly difficult and merit a separate article altogether). The easiest gift is the one where only how much you spent is an issue, not what you got; the hardest is where you have to both lay out a fair sum and produce a present that is thoughtful, original, and spontaneous. And a gift is only spontaneous if you've spent half your waking hours for the last month tracking down every lead and searching every corner of every gift shop within a fifty-mile radius.

The limiting factors in Dhaka are: everybody shops at the same places; and people love comparing prices. However much we deny it, there is something mysterious and alluring about giving a present whose origins no one can identify. Few things are more deflating than the recipient taking one look at the gift wrap and exclaiming, "Oh, from Aarong!" Naturally, it is more gratifying to hear, "Where

did you get it, it's lovely." And to reply, "In an antique shop near the silver market in the old city." How much more effective and romantic.

Shopping possibilities and choice of product are sadly limited in Dhaka. Handicraft shops are chockablock with cotton clothes and woven baskets, all strangely alike. Gulshan boutiques burst with identical smuggled salwar-kameez or porcelain lamps. Even exclusive places have their limitations: your friend has already seen the delightful cushion covers you gave him, at Ideas, because you both shop there.

Yet there is scope for originality in the cheap made-to-order facilities we have. Specially printed bed-covers, painted pots, monogrammed boxes are all to be had for considerably less than other parts of the world. The hitch here might be that we also earn considerably less than people in other parts! And unfortunately, regardless of geographical location, the price of a present is often more important than anything else.

"Lovely kurta," a buyer will say, "but I should get him something more expensive." The tastefully embroidered specimen is rejected in favour of green and pink piece that looks as if it were someone's carpet in its previous incarnation.

Why do we opt for the carpet-like horror? To avoid being branded cheap. One of my most embarrassing moments was when a cousin, to whom price was evidently of prime importance, took my present, opened it, and informed me, "I've seen these at New Market, they're 350 taka."

There are two ways to react to the next birthday on your calendar. One: order a monogrammed coffee set. Two: leave town.



## Farrukh created independent trend in poetry'

Speakers at a discussion meeting in Dhaka Monday paid tributes to the late poet Farrukh Ahmed and said he was a real life-oriented and optimistic poet, reports BSS.

They said Farrukh Ahmed was the creator of an era in poetry as the worthy successor of poet Nazrul Islam who enriched Bengali literature by using Arabic, Urdu and Persian words.

The discussion was organised by Tamuddun Majlis in observance of the 73rd birth anniversary of Farrukh Ahmed.

Presided over by the President of the Majlis Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf, it was held at the Nazrul Academy Auditorium.

Among others, the discussion was participated by writer Prof Moniruzzaman, playwright Dr Askar Ibne Shalikh, Executive Editor of the Daily Inqilab Moulana Ruhul Amin Khan, writer Abdul Mannan Syed, poet Shahed Ali and General Secretary of Tamuddun Majlis Prof Abdul Gafur.

Poet Shahabuddin Ahmed recited Farrukh's poem

"Sindabad". The discussion was rounded off with a musical soiree.

In a message read out at the meeting, Law and Justice Minister Mirza Ghulam Hafiz said Farrukh Ahmed was one of those poets in our literature who had created independent trend in poetry after Rabindranath and Nazrul Islam.

The Law Minister said Farrukh's successful experiments in style and construction, artistic use of the elements of national tradition and uncompromising struggle against the oppressors and exploiters in society had given unparalleled dignity to his poetry.

He said imbued with romantic spirit and hard reality, Farrukh Ahmed dreamt of a new world free from exploitation and deprivation. An uncompromising poet like Farrukh Ahmed is the crying need of the day, Mirza Hafiz said.

Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf said the ideal of the poet was Islam and he tried to re-establish the human values in society on which Islam had given importance.

Poet Shahed Ali said Farrukh Ahmed gave a call through his poems to establish mankind rising above all meanness.

### ILO help for job opportunities sought

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia returned home Monday morning after attending the 78th session of the International Labour Ministers' conference held in Geneva, reports BSS.

In his speech at the session on Friday, Rafiqul Islam Mia sought cooperation of friendly member countries and International community including ILO for developing human resources and generation of more employment opportunities in Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh needed international help for revitalising the process of economic development which had been badly affected by Gulf war and recent devastating cyclone and tidal bore.

## BUET students march to JS today

By BUET Correspondent

Different student organisations of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) have decided to march to the Jatiya Sangsad today (Tuesday) at 12 noon to submit a memorandum to the parliament.

The memorandum will contain various demands of the BUET students including the 10-point demand of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU).

The demands of the students include cancellation of the BUET 'Black Book' and introduction of 1973 University Ordinance.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, BUET unit, in a statement Monday said although the Government increased the age-limit for entrance into the government services to 30, it did not withdraw its embargo on the services. The statement, issued by Syed Jakir Hossain and Arup Ratan Chowdhury, President and General Secretary of the unit termed the Government act as a farce.

## Removal of BUET teacher demanded

By BUET Correspondent

The Students' Union of the Architecture Faculty of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) demanded the removal of Dr Nizam Ahmed, an Associate Professor of the Faculty from his post.

In a statement issued by the students' union of the faculty, it urged the authority concerned to take immediate steps against Dr Nizam for his alleged arbitrariness including gross abuse of power.

Seven different charges have been brought against the accused Dr Nizam including threatening the students regarding academic results and to make them sufferers for losing the project sheet due to his own negligence.

## PROGRAMME

**Solo exhibition begins today**  
The Solo Exhibition of A Matin Talukder, Rajshahi will begin today (Tuesday) at German Cultural Centre Goethe-Institute, 23, Dhanmondi RA, Rd. No 2, Dhaka.

Barrister Mainul Hossain, Chairman, Editorial Board, The Daily Ittefaq, will open the exhibition at 5 pm while Mr Kamal Lohani, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will attend the function as the special guest.

The exhibition remains open to public from June 11 to June 22, 1991 daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

## TV Tuesday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- 5-15 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Film: Young Doctor Kildars
- 5-55 Education programme Gano Shikhar Ashor: Programme on food and nutrition
- 6-30 Nazrul Songs
- 7-05 Nazul in Bengali
- 8-30 Probaha: Current Affairs
- 8-45 Ayomoy: Drama serial
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Drama Series: On the Fringe
- 11-30 Khabar/ The News
- 11-45 Close down

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

Rain or thundershower with a few moderately heavy falls accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Chittagong Division and at many places over Dhaka and Khulna Divisions.

The day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country.

Heavy rainfall warning: Heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi Divisions during the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershower occurred at many places over Chittagong and Dhaka Divisions on Monday.

The chief amount of rainfall were in Bhola 85 mm, Cox's Bazar 74 mm and Matzde Court 69 mm. The day temperature remained nearly unchanged. The highest temperature of 34.1 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi.

Outlook for subsequent 2 days: Little change.

Extended outlook for another 5 days: No marked change.

Temperature and humidity of some cities on Monday were:

City/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.5	25.5	76	75
Chittagong	29	25	86	69
Rajshahi	34.1	27	85	81
Khulna	31.6	23.6	86	90
Rangpur	32.3	X	X	77
Sylhet	29.6	24	100	77
Cox's Bazar	31.7	24.7	X	69
Jessore	29	24	85	75



Jatiya Party held a rally in city on Monday demanding release of former President H.M. Ershad — Star photo

## Weather signalling system fails to gauge storm intensity

Present weather signalling system operative in the country does not indicate exact intensity of the storm and tidal surge.

This was stated by an eminent space research scientist Dr A M Chowdhury in an interview with United News of Bangladesh (UNB) on Monday.

"The cyclone warning system prevalent in the country based on signal numbers upto 10 is rather cumbersome and is not in practice in any part of the world", he said.

Dr Chowdhury said, "Satellite study of tropical cyclones has revealed their complex character. Present classification of cyclones and severe cyclones does not depict its intensity."

He suggested adoption of classification of tropical cyclones based on satellite and aircraft reconnaissance. In order to make the cyclone warning system easily understandable to common

man, he suggested formulation of a simple system which could be easily communicated.

Precise location of the cyclone, its intensity, storm surge, its future course of

movement and the possible area affected should be indicated, Dr Chowdhury said.

He said that wind speed as well as the extent of tidal surge should also be specifically forecast.



Former Minister Ziauddin Bablu was arrested on Monday when he appeared before a Special Tribunal at the Dhaka District Judge's Court. —Star photo

## Child adoption law may be re-introduced

Re-introduction of the Child Adoption Law of 1972 is under the active consideration of the Government, reports BSS.

This was stated by State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Mr Tariqul Islam, while talking to MS Sandra Simpson, President, "Families for Children", a Canada-based non-government organisation, at his Secretariat chamber on Monday.

During the meeting with the State Minister Ms Simpson discussed about adoption of the children rendered orphan in the recent cyclonic storm and tidal surge at the international level. She also evinced interest in the adoption of the disabled children of Bangladesh.

Before the repeal of the Adoption Law in 1982 "Families for Children" sent 221

children of this country to North America, Finland, Belgium and other European countries. This non-government organisation has been caring for the orphans of this country since 1975.

It is running a child-care centre at Sripur with 600 children on its roll. It has recently opened a day-care centre for orphans in the capital.

## Presidential polls before October demanded

Chairman of Progressive Nationalist Party (PNP) Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu Monday urged the present government to hold the Presidential election before October 22 under the present constitution, reports BSS.

"Presidential election is a must within the stipulated period, otherwise the country will sink into a serious constitutional crisis," the PNP Chairman said adding that presidential system of government could establish a corruption free society and bring welfare for the people.

Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu was addressing a press conference in Dhaka Monday. PNP General Secretary Golam Mowla Chowdhury, Vice-Chairman Habibur Rahman Babu and standing committee member Mrs Khairun Nahar were present.

## JSD to hold rally today

Jatiya Samik Party will hold a rally today (Tuesday) at 4 pm in front of its regional office at Tejgaon.

The Secretary General of Jatiya Party, Shah Moazzem Hossain will attend the rally as chief guest.

## ESCAP Adviser visits BCI

Lee Gilbert, Regional Adviser on technology transfer and development and T. Miyake, expert on Systems Analysis of ESCAP, visited Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) and discussed with the President, directors and members from June 8 to 10, reports BSS.

The purpose of visit of this Advisory Mission is to evaluate the needs of the chamber and provide appropriate advice to expand the horizon of its activities inclusive of undertaking a study of industrial health a tool for industrial development and a precondition for economic development of Bangladesh, a chamber press release said.

Mr. A.M. Subid Ali, President of BCI and other office bearers took part in discussion.

Mr. C.L. Narasimhan, Country Director, UNIDO along with John R. Walker, Managing Director, Glaxo Bangladesh Limited also took active part in the discussion. Narasimhan dwelt at length the Indonesian experience to combat the evils of corruption while Walker underscored the need for improved industrial relation as key factor to take the industrialisation programme a success.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- 1 Spend time in idleness
- 5 Small talk
- 9 Haze
- 12 Jason's ship
- 13 Danish island
- 14 Compass pt.
- 15 Looked intently
- 17 Note of scale
- 18 Greek letter
- 19 Developed
- 21 Toll
- 23 Porried evil
- 24 J.K., M.
- 26 Warm
- 29 Noise
- 31 Record
- 34 Negative prefix
- 35 Stitch
- 37 Small amount
- 39 Asar ID
- 40 Recent
- 42 Short swim

**DOWN**

- 1 Child's favorite spot
- 2 Native metal
- 3 Mature
- 4 Neglects
- 5 Military
- 6 — man (strong person)
- 7 Lumb
- 8 Labor
- 9 Weak
- 10 Aware of
- 11 Wield tooth
- 16 Expunged
- 20 Merry
- 22 Three-toed sloth
- 23 Slender
- 24 At this place
- 25 Sun god
- 26 Penpoint
- 30 Small bite
- 32 Root
- 33 Flying mammals
- 36 Intellect
- 38 Bank employees
- 41 Opening in wall
- 43 Deposit
- 45 Concerning
- 47 Hosp.
- 48 casually
- 49 Fabulous thing
- 50 Half-free
- 51 Arrow poison
- 52 Milk; gentle
- 53 Guido's high note
- 54 Cray; color
- 55 Period of time
- 56 Not a Dem.
- 58 Printer's measure

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

SHE SA MADAM  
TERETE IMAGES  
OR LORDS RATE  
WOE RIAL TI  
PREENED NAP  
TRIO EARL TA  
HE OPT DYE ON  
EA TOES ASPS  
ELM PRECEPT  
IS READ VET  
PECK INTER NO  
TARIFF EMENDS  
TODAY RA ESS

**ACROSS**

- 1 Spend time in idleness
- 5 Small talk
- 9 Haze
- 12 Jason's ship
- 13 Danish island
- 14 Compass pt.
- 15 Looked intently
- 17 Note of scale
- 18 Greek letter
- 19 Developed
- 21 Toll
- 23 Porried evil
- 24 J.K., M.
- 26 Warm
- 29 Noise
- 31 Record
- 34 Negative prefix
- 35 Stitch
- 37 Small amount
- 39 Asar ID
- 40 Recent
- 42 Short swim

**DOWN**

- 1 Child's favorite spot
- 2 Native metal
- 3 Mature
- 4 Neglects
- 5 Military
- 6 — man (strong person)
- 7 Lumb
- 8 Labor
- 9 Weak
- 10 Aware of
- 11 Wield tooth
- 16 Expunged
- 20 Merry
- 22 Three-toed sloth
- 23 Slender
- 24 At this place
- 25 Sun god
- 26 Penpoint
- 30 Small bite
- 32 Root
- 33 Flying mammals
- 36 Intellect
- 38 Bank employees
- 41 Opening in wall
- 43 Deposit
- 45 Concerning
- 47 Hosp.
- 48 casually
- 49 Fabulous thing
- 50 Half-free
- 51 Arrow poison
- 52 Milk; gentle
- 53 Guido's high note
- 54 Cray; color
- 55 Period of time
- 56 Not a Dem.
- 58 Printer's measure

**Panther**  
The trusted condom of the Dependable Man

**Bangladesh National Museum**  
Shahbag, Dhaka-1000  
BNM Tender No. 06 Date (Jaista 21, 1398 BS) June 5, 1991

### Emergency Tender Notice & Re-tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited on emergency basis for the following works from government/ semi-government/ autonomous organisation enlisted first class contractors/ commercial firms/ bonafide suppliers and bonafide fine arts categorised experienced painting and modelling firms/ advertising firms for diorama and interior decoration works, for the Bangladesh National Museum and Ahsan Manzil Museum under its control.

Tender schedule can be purchased from the office of the undersigned till June 14, 1991 during office hours by applying to the Director General, National Museum with original copies (original copy refundable) of current Trade Licence, Income Tax clearance (if return submission) Certificate, Bank solvency and work order and completion certificate of such work, each supported by an attested copy, of the same, and obtaining permission thereof. Tenders can be submitted upto 2 p. m. on June 15, 1991 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 2-30 minutes in presence (if any) of the tenderers. Earnest money at the specified rate must be deposited with the tender through Pay Order/Draft from any Bank in favour of "Director General, Bangladesh National Museum". Otherwise tender will not be considered. Permission to purchase tender will not be given without necessary documents. The Museum authorities reserve the right to accept/ reject any/ all tenders without assigning any reason.

SL No.	Description of work	Price of Schedule	Earnest money	Time limit for work
1.	Display and diorama work at the mammals gallery of Bangladesh National Museum.	Tk. 200/=	Tk. 5,500/=	June 30/91
2.	Supply of liveries for the employees of Bangladesh National Museum.	Tk. 250/=	Tk. 6,000/=	June 30/91
3.	Supply of liveries for the employees of Ahsan Manzil Museum.	Tk. 50/=	Tk. 1,000/=	June 30/91
4.	Display work at Gattery Nos. 5 and 38 (B)	Tk. 100/=	Tk. 2,500/=	June 30/91

**RE-TENDER NOTICE**

1. Supply of chemicals and equipment for preservation laboratory. Tk. 100/= Tk. 2,500/= June 30/91
2. Supply of apparatus for Auditorium section Tk. 150/= Tk. 4,000/= June 30/91

DFF (G) 6844- 6/6  
G- 203  
Secretary  
Bangladesh National Museum