

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Hanging Footpath Markets

by Sabah Choudhury

There are more than one hanging footpath markets in the city of Dhaka. Two of these distinguish themselves by as if proclaiming for the umpteenth time: vive la difference. One caters wholly to male needs and the other exclusively to female demands, and compulsions shaping out of a sense of curiosity that comes only to woman. The farmgate overbridge bazaar is a kind of men's haunt only, while the New Market overbridge arcade is pronouncedly bent on winning over the woman passerby and neither her consort nor her companion.

It would be difficult for a pedestrian in Dhaka to walk on its pavements, without inadvertently bumping on to a footpath hawker selling trifles or something of more significance.

They sell everything starting from clothes for the entire family, to shoes, household goods and lots of cheap stuff, which serve as a kind of luxury store for the footpath shoppers. It is so common a sight of Dhaka's city life that one does not even notice them.

Another interesting fact about them is that many have left the terra firma, and gone high up, and have set up a mini market of their own kind in the air.

The two overbridges of Dhaka, one at Farmgate, and the other at New Market, both located at busy points of the city.

It is often difficult to climb those long and seemingly unending steps, but once one has reached the top, a new world emerges. A world of variety and gaudy colours. There are rows of tray shopkeepers, as well as those just on the ground with their wares, spread in front of them. Crowding the narrow stretch of space at the top, they sit on both sides of the bridge and together with the beggars make up the 'permanent' residents of the sky, leaving only a narrow space for the people to walk through.

But despite all this, there is a magic to all of it. As one walks on, one can enjoy a bird's eye view of the locality from above. Some tourists can be seen recording this view in video-

cameras. These markets are quite tempting specially to the ladies. It is often difficult to stop oneself from buying colourful hairbands, hairpins, tiny and dainty looking ear-tops, chains of various kinds and hundreds of other trivials which makes life a little more beautiful and exciting.

Then there are those household stuff, mostly made of plastic with a wide range to choose from. There are containers of every size and kind, trays of different sorts, baskets to keep fruits etc. and many little things, the usefulness of which only the woman know. These are those sorts of things without which one can easily do.

So by the time a woman crosses and is descending the steps of the overbridge, she has done her bit of somewhat useless shopping, which will make her feel guilty for the rest of the day.

Things are different at the Farmgate overbridge. As one ascends the steps a man sitting with a lot of view cards and posters is visible. He has posters of popular film, TV and sports stars and so on. Recently, leading politicians and Saddam Hussein have joined the media stars.

A little boy is visible a few yards away, selling fountain pens and ball point pens of different shapes and sizes. Further away sits a man with leather wallets and belts. A small crowd of men and young boys can be seen crouching in front of a vendor, obviously selling a favourite item, lapel pins.

The man sitting with a rundown weighing machine seemed to be weighed down with Atlas's burden on his shoulders. When a man finally goes down the wide steps he has not bought many things, except perhaps a pen or a lapel pin. This by all definition is a man's market, very masculine.

Of course, there are beggars here too, all bandaged and lying like a corpse, but that is a part of the city life.



From crockeries to thread and needle —Star photo

Pindi, Dhaka hold talks

Iraqi pullout demanded

Bangladesh and Pakistan exchanged broad-based views on the present critical Gulf situation.

The two countries at formal talks in Dhaka on Sunday also reviewed 'status of peace initiatives by different quarters to bring about a quick end to the war through diplomatic means,' a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told UNB.

Pakistan Minister for Production, Islam Nabi who flew in Dhaka Saturday night led his country's 4-member team at the meeting at the Foreign Office. A 7-member Bangladesh side was headed by Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Fakhrudin Ahmed.

Additional Foreign Secretary, Riaz Rahman who

attended the discussion, said that Pakistan delegation apprised Dhaka of Islamabad's 6-point peace formula, seeking an end to the war, in an hour-long meeting.

Bangladesh side explained the country's position on the overall Gulf situation, he said.

It may be mentioned, Bangladesh stands for implementation of the UN resolutions seeking total withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of the tiny Sheikhdom.

Islam Nabi, who is visiting Bangladesh as a special envoy of Pakistan, will deliver a message from Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed tomorrow.

Matin's solo painting exhibition concludes

By Staff Correspondent

'I want my art to help people make new discoveries of nature, in all its beauty and power', says Bangladesh artist A. Matin Talukder Manju. His solo exhibition has just ended in the Soviet Cultural Centre in Dhaka.

The subject of Talukder's art is nature. He is exploring it with the artistic means, close

to him. These are ceramics and painting. Having a University degree in ceramics (Talukder graduated from Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, and from the Central Academy of Arts and Design, Beijing, China), he considers this to be his major artistic devotion. Still, feeling that there is still much room

for expression of his passions and abilities he is in a constant search for other dimensions of his work. Thus he started painting using Chinese water-colour techniques, which he studied additionally while in China.

With nature being his devotion he draws wild life, flowers, rural landscapes. 'Chinese style permits me to fulfil a wide range of tasks, he admits.

'First of all I'm painting Bangladesh, its nature. Wide river valleys, lots of space around huge green lawns - all this is typical of my country's nature, and I express it on the canvas with water colors and a Chinese technique.'

This combination of form and contents gives Talukder's art certain peculiarity that attracts art lovers.

One of the pictures, exhibited in the Soviet Cultural Center, was presented to the Soviet Ambassador in Dhaka Mr. V.S. Smirnov in a gesture of friendship and gratitude for the help, given to the artist for promotion of his works.

Detention of Moazzem challenged

Justice Fazley Hussain Habibur Rahman and Justice Abdul Hasib of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on Sunday issued rule upon the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs and another to show cause within one week why the detention of Shah Moazzem Hussain, a former Deputy Prime Minister, should not be declared illegal, reports BSS.

Md. Abdul Hye Khan, who claims to be a cousin of Shah Moazzem, filed the petition challenging the validity of detention.

Shah Moazzem was arrested on December 11 under the Special Powers Act 1974 after the fall of Ershad regime since then he had been lodged in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Moving the petition, Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hussain submitted that there was no valid ground to detain Shah Moazzem. He informed the court that the detainee was contesting for a seat in the February 27 Jatiya Sangsad election. His detention at this stage will be a great disadvantage for him, the counsel concluded.

Ban from weeklies withdrawn

The government has withdrawn the ban imposed earlier on two weekly publications Sunday, reports UNB.

The weeklies are 'Tilottoma' and 'Joyoddhan'.

This was stated in an official handout.

Democracy can't be established by party rule, says Rab

Secretary General of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) A.S.M. Abdur Rab on Sunday said healthy political atmosphere would not return without assuring participation of professionals in the state administration, enactment of law, policy making and their implementation, reports BSS.

Rab was addressing a number of election meetings at Bibihat and Ramdhal Bazar of Ramgati. He also spoke at a rally of intellectuals at Charabandar, according to a party press release in Dhaka on Sunday night.

He said democracy could not be established by party rule. The nation would not get rid of autocratic rule unless contradiction like professionals for change of government and political parties for formation of the government was removed.

Roads \$ Highways engineers election held

By Staff Correspondent

The annual conference and central action committee election of Roads and Highways Engineers Association were held in the city on February 8, says a press release.

An 18-member committee was elected with engineer, M A Bari as President and engineer Nurul Huda as General Secretary.

Death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of eminent thinker and litterateur Muniruddin Yusuf was held today (Monday), reports UNB.

A milad mahfil has been arranged on the occasion at his Mohammadpur residence on Tuesday (Feb 12) after Asr prayer.

It may be mentioned that the 72nd birth anniversary of the poet falls of February 13.

The third death anniversary of Alhaj Mvi. Tayeb Ali, the noted linguist, educationist and philanthropist of Kalkin under Madaripur district will be observed today (Monday). Quran-khani and Milad Mahfil have been arranged in this connection at his 13/B, 5/30 Mirpur residence, a press release says.

Truck Owners Assoc executives

S M Ziaul Huq and A Gafur were elected Saturday as president and General secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owner's Association for a two-year term (1991-92), says a press release, reports UNB.

Saifur Rahman Raj, G M Siraj, Alhaj Mothar Hossain Chowdhury and Khandakar Kutubuddin Ahmed were elected Vice-presidents and A B M Sharif Uddin as treasurer of the 53-member executive committee of the association.

More than 300 delegates from all over the country participated in the election.

Ekushey programmes continue

By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy in continuance of its Amar Ekushey programmes on Sunday held a discussion on the book 'Boris Pasternak' written by Mobasher Ali.

Shafi Ahmed and Shamsuzzaman Khan took part in the discussion in the Academy premises.

Shamsuzzaman Khan, one of the directors of Bangla Academy, said that the author confidently presented the life and contribution of a great writer like Pasternak to the Bangladeshi readers for the first time.

On Sunday evening Sagar Lohani recited poems and Dipak Kumar Mitra and Hasina Mamtaz presented folk-songs.

Meanwhile, Sammlita Sanskritik Jote Sunday staged dramas and presented recitation and mass-songs on the third day of its 12-day Ekushey programme at Central Shaheed Minar.

Groups from different parts of the country including Kanthashilon, Charon, Bangabandhu Shilpa Gosthi, Panchagar Gana Natya Dal and Bicharon staged their own programmes.

Today's programme: Shahnama of Ferdousi translated by Manir Uddin Yusuf will be discussed at Bangla Academy premises at 4.30 pm.

Sammlita Sanskritik Jote will continue its Ekushey programme at Central Shaheed Minar from 4 pm.

Special prayers for ME peace offered

Three-day Annual Conference of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh concluded in its National Head Quarters in city with special prayers for peace in the Middle East and for protection of lives and properties of Muslims in the world and for Muslims of the Middle East in particular, says a Press release.

In his closing speech the National Ameer of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh dealt on how to preach the teachings of the Holy Quran with love and affection by winning the hearts of the people.

Alhaj Dr. Abdus Samad Khan Chowdhury, Mvi. Muhammad Khalilur Rahman, Moulana Bashirur Rahman, Dr. Mir Muharesh Ali, Dr. Tareque Saiful Islam, Moulana Saleh Ahmed, Alhaj Ahmed Taufique Chowdhury, Moulana Imdadur Rahman Siddiqui, Mr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi, Prof. Ameer Hossain, Mr. Obaidur Rahman Bhuiyan, Mr. Vazir Ali, Moulana Abdul Awwal Khan Chowdhury, and Mr. A.K. Reazul Karim delivered lectures in that function.

About 3000 attended the conference from all over Bangladesh.

Public vigilance for fair polls a need: Nizami

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Moulana Matinur Rahman Nizami said Saturday the nation must remain vigilant so that free and fair elections could take place. Otherwise, he said the anti-autocracy struggle would be meaningless, reports BSS.

The Jamaat Secretary General was addressing a projection meeting at Dhulauri Madrasa maldan at Sainthia in Pabna. Local Jamaat leader Moulana Abdur Rahim presided over the meeting.

Moulana Nizami said Jamaat-e-Islami was uncompromising in ousting the autocratic rule. In this regard Jamaat gave the nation a sense of direction he maintained.

Neither Jamaat-e-Islami, nor a single follower of the party did participate in the sale-out political trading during ousted President Ershad's reign, Moulana Nizami added.



Suryabanu with the loaded pistol. Her sister Rasheda, an accomplice, was also arrested in city on Sunday.

2 women held for stealing revolver

By Staff Correspondent

Kotwali police on Saturday recovered one stolen loaded revolver and arrested two women for their alleged involvement.

Police said one Motahar Hossain went to Jonaki Travels in D.C. Roy Road with his revolver with six rounds of bullets and ten thousand Taka in cash. He kept the bag on a

table and was busy in talks. Meanwhile, two women entered and stole the bag.

Later police arrested on Suryabanu Begum and her sister Rasheda Begum from Muradpur of Demra thana and recovered the loaded revolver.

Meanwhile, police on the last two days recovered three illegal guns and one round of ammunition from different city points.

Police on Sunday raided a slum at Mirpur Lalmitia and recovered a pipegun. One Md Mizanur Rahman was arrested.

Mohammadpur police on Sunday raided a slum at Aziz Mohalla and recovered a country made pistol. Police also arrested Md Shah Alam and Md Ramzan.

Cantonment police on Saturday challenged two suspicious persons moving around West Kafrul Janata Housing Society office. At this, the men fled away. Later police found a 38 bore revolver and one round of ammunition from the place.

Weather

Weather to remain dry for next 2 days

By Staff Correspondent

Weather will remain dry throughout the country for the next two days but bad weather is likely in the following few days, Met Office forecast on Sunday.

Night temperature was above normal by one to five degree Celsius. It may fall by one to two degree Celsius on Monday night.

The Minimum lowest temperature was recorded at 12.3 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the maximum highest temperature recorded 30.5 degree at Cox's Bazar.

Minimum and Maximum temperature recorded at Dhaka on Sunday was 16.5 and 28.6 respectively. Sun sets on Monday at 5.51 pm and Sun rises on Tuesday at 6.35 am.

Westerly low lay over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and neighbourhood. Seasonal low lay over South Bay.

Out look for subsequent two days: little change. Extended out look for another five days: bad weather likely.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.6	16.5	74	45
Chittagong	29.0	16.5	94	64
Rajshahi	29.0	12.3	75	66
Khulna	29.5	15.8	77	60
Dinajpur	27.6	14.0	92	73
Srimanga	128.5	12.6	87	91
Barisal	29.6	15.6	90	68
Cox's Bazar	30.0	17.5	74	80

Minimum temperature recorded in the major cities of the region on Sunday were:

Karachi	16 Degree Celsius	Colombo	21 Degree Celsius
Singapore	24	Bangkok	27
Beijing	-03		

Transfer of BCS (Ansar) GS resented

The newly-formed BCS (Ansar) association has strongly resented transfer of its General Secretary Khademul Islam from headquarters to Meherpur, reports UNB.

The association sources said Islam, who was elected the first General Secretary of the association, was served with an order relieving him from his responsibility at the headquarters from today (Monday).

They alleged that the transfer was the result of displeasure of some high-ups in the Ansar department over formation of the association on Friday last.

Diesel crisis baseless, says government

The Government on Sunday dismissed the apprehension in certain quarters about lack of adequate reserve of diesel-mobil due to crisis in the Middle East as 'unfounded and baseless,' reports BSS.

According to an official handout, there is a stock of diesel-mobil in the country to operate the shallow tubewells and power pumps during the Rabi season. The Government, therefore, advised the owners of irrigation equipment to operate them without being misled by hearsay and work for raising increased crop.

Strike at Suhrawardy Hospital continues

By Staff Correspondent

The strike demanding the removal of Project Director of Suhrawardy Hospital was continued on Sunday.

Third and fourth class Employees Association of Suhrawardy Hospital urged the authorities to bring back normalcy in the Hospital by removing the Project Director, according to press release.

PROGRAMME Workshop on film

A five-day workshop on film criticism will be held at German Cultural Centre at Dhaka from March 10 to March 14.

Bangladesh Federation of Film Society has organised the workshop which are expected to be attended by internationally recognised Indian film critic Mr. Chidananda Dasgupta.

Handicrafts exhibition

The one-month Banche Shekha handicrafts exhibition begins today (Monday) at Jahan Alam, Road No 11(New) House No 33(New), Dhanmondi at 11 am.

Rose Festival Friday

A Rose Festival organised by the Bangladesh National Rose Society for the year '91, will be held at Women's Sports Complex in the city on Friday, reports UNB.

Prof. M Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University will inaugurate the festival, says a press release.

The festival has been dedicated to the memories of those who had laid down their lives in the language movement of 1952, emergence of Bangladesh in 1971 and restoration of democracy in the country through anti-autocratic movement of 1990.

Jaker Party manifesto

The election manifesto of Jaker Party will be announced at a press conference today (Monday) at the National Press Club at 11 am.

The supreme presidium member of the party Pirjada Mustafa Amir Faisal will address the conference.

Founding anniversary of Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will observe its 15th founding anniversary meeting followed by a fellowship dinner and cultural programme to be hosted by Rtn. PDG Iqbal Ansari Khan & Ann. Manira Khan today (Monday) at 6-30 pm at their residence at 14, Green Road, Dhaka.

Therefore, regular weekly meeting of the club scheduled to be held on 13th February (Wednesday) at Sonargaon Hotel has been cancelled.

Meeting

A meeting of the Engineers Service Structures and Welfare Committee will be held today (Monday) at 6.00 pm in the Council Room of IEB.

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

CROSS

1 Down: 41 Sun, talk
4 Greek letter
9 Nice summer
12 Solemn wonder
13 Contests
14 Month for Mom
15 Sandy waste
17 Fine gauze
19 Pedal
21 Whirl
22 Whip
25 Rodent
27 Priest's vestments
31 Ancient
32 Guidance; management
34 Three-toed sloth
35 Chinese pagoda
36 Fish eggs
37 M-P linkup
38 Baby

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CHARADO NAIL
LEDA LIP ONCE
ARAB APE UTES
MEMBER REMISS
IN BARE
HOST SATIATES
ERA ELLEN OWE
MEMORIES BEET
RIMS LA
REDEEM BOTTLE
AREA EAR TIER
MIND STALEAN
PATS TED REDS

DOWN

1 Uncouth person
2 Be in debt
3 Footlike part
4 Monster

ACROSS

5 Fabrics
6 Printer's measure
7 Obtain
8 A continent
9 River in Germany
10 Type of cross

11 Hurricane center
16 Newt
18 Declare
20 Sailor; colloq.
22 Brag
23 Choice part
24 Paid notice
26 Large tract of land
28 Roman
29 Stupid mistake; slang
30 Nightly sound
32 Pigeon pea
33 Race of lettuce
35 The Pentateuch
39 Sun god
40 Period of time
41 Therefore
44 Frankfurter
46 Camera part
48 Follows dos
49 Soft food
50 Guido's high note
51 In music, high
52 Negative
54 Airline info
55 Torn or Taylor
56 Scurvy
59 Tantulum symbol

TV Monday

5.00	Opening.
5.20	News in Bengali
5.30	Cartoon Film: 'Frankenstein Junior' and 'The Impossible'
5.55	Shikhhangon: Educational programme.
6.20	Sports programme
7.05	TV debate for students
8.00	News in Bengali
8.30	Jibaner Janniya
9.00	Bulbul: Nazrul songs
10.00	News in English
10.30	Comedy series: 'Lucille Ball Special'
11.30	News in English



Members of Kantashilan, a cultural group, reciting poems dedicated to 1952 language martyrs at Central Shaheed Minar on Sunday

—Star photo