

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 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 hawkers 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-



From crockeries to thread and needle —Star photo

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.

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, Fakhruldin 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 Sheikdom.

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.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CROSS	CHAR	ADO	NAIL
1 "Beverly Hills" —	41 Sun, talk.	42 Rend	
4 Greek letter	43 — Lanka	44 Weary by dullness	
9 Nice summer	45 Trumpeter	46 Ape	47 Utes
12 Soienn wonder	48 MEMBER	49 REMISS	50 Bare
13 Contests	49 Aleutian island	50 ERA	51 SATIATES
14 Match for Mom	50 Female peacock	51 ELLEN	52 OWE
15 Sandy waste	53 Hard to manage	53 MEMORIES	54 BEET
17 Fine gauze	57 Everyone	54 RDEEM	55 LA
19 Pedal extremes	58 — Dame	55 BOTTLE	56 RIM
21 Near	60 Stalemate	56 AREA	57 EAR
22 Whip	61 Butter	57 TIER	58 STA
25 Rodent	62 Remains	58 MIND	59 ELAN
27 Priest's vestments	63 Square	59 PATS	60 TED
31 Ancient	64 Sulfite	60 REDS	
32 Guidance, management			
34 Three-toed sloth			
35 Chinese pagoda			
36 Fish eggs			
37 M-P linkup			
38 Baby			

DOWN	5 Fabrics	11 Hurricane center	19
1 Uncouth person	6 Printer's measure	16 Newt	
2 Be in debt	7 Obtain	18 Declare	
3 Footlike part	8 A continent	20 Sailor:	
4 Monster	9 River in Germany	22 Brood:	
5	10 Type of cross	23 Choice part	
6	6 Printer's measure	24 Paid notice	
7	7 Obtain	26 Large tract of land	
8	8 A continent	28 Roman 51	
9	9 River in Germany	29 Stupid mistake:	
10	10 Type of cross	30 Slang	
11	11 Hurricane center	32 Nightly sound	
12	12 Brood:	33 Race of lettuce	
13	13 Choice part	35 The Pentateuch	
14	14 Paid notice	39 Sun god	
15	15 Roman 51	40 God of time	
16	16 Stupid mistake:	41 Therefore	
17	17 Slang	44 Frankfurter holder	
18	18 Nightly sound	46 Camera part	
19	19 Race of lettuce	48 Follows dos	
20	20 The Pentateuch	49 Soft food	
21	21 Slang	50 Guido's high note	
22	22 Nightly sound	51 In music, high	
23	23 Race of lettuce	52 Negative	
24	24 The Pentateuch	53 Airline info	
25	25 Slang	55 Torn or Taylor	
26	26 Nightly sound	56 Still	
27	27 The Pentateuch	57 Tantalum symbol	
28	28 Roman 51	58	
29	29 Stupid mistake:	59	
30	30 Slang	60	
31	31 The Pentateuch	61	
32	32 Nightly sound		
33	33 Race of lettuce		
34	34 The Pentateuch		
35	35 Slang		
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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 Bangladeshi 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.

His combination of form and content 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 Husain 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

By Staff Correspondent

The government has withdrawn the ban imposed earlier on two weekly publications

Sunday, reports BSS.

The weeklies are *Tilottoma* and *Joyoddhama*.

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 Bibrishat and Ramdayal Bazar of Rangamati. He also spoke at a rally of intellectuals at Charakandar, 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.

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

About 3000 attended the conference from all over Bangladesh.

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.

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.

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

The fourth 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 Mabul will be arranged in this connection at his 13/B, 5/30 Mirpur residence, a press release says.

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.

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