

# Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Shoppers Get Raw Deal

by S. Y. Bakht



Perpetual traffic jam near Gausia market at Elephant Road — Star photo

The Eid shopping season has just started in the city with beginning of the month of Ramadan. The family shopping spree will increase in the coming days.

But for shoppers, a trip to the local shopping centre may not turn out to be a pleasant one at all. Frequent traffic jams, over-crowded markets without proper public facilities, wide circulation of counterfeit and sub-standard products, poor customer service and a host of other somewhat unpredictable problems can turn a shopping trip into a frustrating and exhaustive ordeal.

This is generally the time year-marked for doing the family shopping in clothes and other personal use items, and also for buying gifts for near and dear ones.

It is considered to be a booming time for business, as a major portion of the total annual merchandise retailing business is done during the two Eid festival periods. Shop-owners, in a number of shopping centres of the city, claim to do more business during this time of the year than in any other single period of the year.

Among the numerous shopping centres and markets in the city, none of them happens to provide the required minimum standard of public service amenities and facilities and most of them flout safety regulations.

Almost all shopping centres and markets in the city do not have adequate parking facilities, forcing cars and rickshaws to park on the streets. Even on a regular day, there are severe traffic jams during peak-hours on major streets near New Market, Baitul Mukurram, Gulistan, Elephant Road, Mouchak at Malibagh and other places. The traffic problem just compounds during busy shopping periods, often clogging major streets for hours.

Many shopping malls do not even have public toilets and the ones that do have them are so unhygienic that they are unfit for use. Drinking water facilities and rest-areas for shoppers are not available in any city shopping centre. A good number of these markets also frequently violate safety standards and regulations.

However, most of the shops in the city are extremely well-stocked and it seems that as long as demand is there, supply of goods remain surprisingly steady. A wide variety of products

are available in Dhaka. According to a number of shoppers, just about everything, including smuggled goods and contraband items, are available in the big city. Smuggled sarrees, cosmetics, shirts, trousers, shoes, electronic items, cigarettes, food-stuffs and various other items are abundantly and very much openly available in city shops.

Some city shops have such a wide variety of smuggled goods that shoppers popularly refer to them as "Dubai Market" and "Singapore Market". In one such market in the city, advance orders are taken for goods not available at the moment, with an assurance of bringing in the product in only a week's time.

Sarees are perhaps the most widely smuggled clothing item and the one most sought-after by women shoppers. Shop-keepers in more than one market in the city have been heard to boast of having the "very latest design" Indian sarrees available.

Counterfeit and sub-standard products are also widely sold in city markets, making it difficult for shoppers to judge the quality of the product they are buying. A shopper recently bought a nice bottle of expensive perfume, only to find out later that it contained locally concocted spurious liquid inside. Thus, shoppers may find themselves in a helpless situation, unable to get any form of reasonable retribution for being blatantly cheated. Although legal frameworks perhaps do exist, consumers do not seem to be able to get any form of protection. Shoppers also have to be on the look-out for counterfeit bank-notes, as their circulation increases around this time.

Anti-smuggling raids by law enforcing agencies increase in frequency around this time of the year. In previous years, well-publicised raids were conducted to "stamp out" smuggling, typically by raiding only a handful of shops in some prominent city markets to confiscate smuggled sarrees and other goods. Shoppers pointed out that these kind of raids fail to control smuggling to any meaningful degree, all they do is cause a price-hike at the height of the shopping season. To control smuggling effectively the entry points need to be monitored more diligently, they noted.

## 'Nazrul literature inspired people in '71'

Centenary-litterateur and journalist Mohammad Nasruddin on Tuesday called upon the people to come forward for giving democracy an institutional shape, reports BSS.

"All must be vigilant so that no one can conspire against democracy, achieved after long struggle," he said this while presiding over a discussion organised by the Nazrul Institute on the occasion of Independence and National Day.

Held at the institute premises at Dhanmondi, the discussion was attended by former Adviser to the Acting President Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed as chief guest.

Prof. Kabir Chowdhury, Prof. Fakir Kalam Manzur Morshed, Fakhruzzaman Chowdhury and Sharifullah participated in a discussion session on "the role of Nazrul literature in our independence struggle." The Executive Director of Nazrul Institute Prof. Moniruzzaman gave the speech of welcome.

Nasruddin said the Bangalee nation would not tolerate any conspiracy against the independence of the country. Autocracy, which suppresses democracy, fundamental rights and freedom of speech, had no place in our soil, he added.

Prof. Iajuddin said the Nazrul literature had inspired the people of the country in the struggle against the British and during our Liberation War.

The participants in the discussion said Nazrul envisioned democracy and fought for ending the discrimination between the rich and poor and against exploitation in the name of religion.

They stressed the need for more study and research on Nazrul literature for presenting properly his contributions to the future generation.

The discussion meeting was followed by a cultural function and poetry recitation session.

## PROGRAMME

### Puja Committee

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of 'Mohanagar Sarbajatin Puja Committee' will be held today (Thursday) at 5 p.m. at the Dhakeswari Mandir premises in Dhaka, reports BSS.

### Rotary Club meet

The 8th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Thursday) at 5.15 p.m. at the residence of Rtn. A Rab Chowdhury 'Himoneer' House No. 21, Road No. 3, Sector 3, Uttara. The meeting will be followed by Iftar, says a press release.

## Estate Acquisition and Tenancy Act (2nd Amendment) Ordinance promulgated

The government has promulgated the Estate Acquisition and Tenancy Act (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1991, repealing earlier Ordinance to restore Section 86 of the Act in the interest of the landless farm families, reports BSS.

An official handout Monday said the second amendment's Ordinance of the Act was published in the Extraordinary Gazette of March 9, 1991 while the first one was published in the Gazette of January 2, 1991.

The first amendment of the Estate Acquisition and Tenancy Act, 1950 (Ordinance No 3, 1991) was promulgated to amend Section 86 of the Act. As a result, the future of the landless farm families who have been leased out Khas Land in accreted land and government Khas Land have become uncertain and disputes arose.

After reconsidering the entire issues, the government promulgated the Second Amendment Ordinance restoring Section 86 of the Act.

## Better govt-opposition relations stressed

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar on Tuesday called upon the party workers and leaders to dedicate themselves in giving democracy an institutional shape for unhindered continuation of democratic process, reports BSS.

"We should not betray the cause of the people, who had voted us to power to have democratic rights and freedom," he said while addressing a discussion meeting organised by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JSSS) on the occasion of the Independence and National Day.

Held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Dhaka the discussion meeting was presided over by JSSS President Khurshid Ali and addressed by Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmad, State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda, State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan. BNP leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqi, Prof. Abdul Baten, Firoze Noon, BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed and former

## Soviet PM greets Khaleda

Soviet Prime Minister V. S. Pavlov has congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia on her appointment as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, according to official sources on Wednesday.

In a message Mr. V. S. Pavlov expressed the hope that Bangladesh Prime Minister's activity would facilitate developing the friendly Soviet-Bangladesh relations, strengthening mutual understanding and fruitful co-operation between the USSR and Bangladesh in the interest of safeguarding peace and security in Asia and the whole world.

The Soviet Premier also wished the Bangladeshi people progress, happiness and prosperity on the twentieth anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh.

## CEC leaves for Kushtia

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rauf left for Kushtia on Wednesday to supervise the Jatiya Sangsad election in a constituency there today (Thursday), reports BSS.

## Bombs hurled at AL leader's residence

At least three bombs were hurled at the residence of Akhtarul Alam, Organising Secretary of City Awami League at Taherbag in the city Tuesday evening.

Alam told BSS over phone that a portion of the wall of his residence was damaged due to the attack which took place around 7-30 pm.

## Obituary

Abdul Jalil, a Senior Mechanical Supervisor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, died of cancer Tuesday night at a city clinic. He was 53, reports BSS.

## Tributes paid to Madhu Da

Speakers at a discussion on the 20th death anniversary of "Madhu Da" urged all political parties to forge greater unity sinking petty differences to materialise the dreams of those who laid down their lives for independence, reports UNB.

Madhu, the owner of a canteen, now named Madhu's Canteen, at Dhaka University was killed by the Pakistan occupation forces on this day in 1971 after declaration of the country's independence. His wife, eldest son and the son's wife were also shot dead.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Wakil Ahmed presided over the meeting held in front of the Madhu's Canteen. It was addressed, among others, by former Adviser Prof. Yeazuddin Ahmed, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, MP, Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, BAKSAL leader Abdur Razzak, MP, Mojahidul Islam Selim of CPB, KM Jahangir, MP, AFM Mahbubul Huq of BSD, Rehena Prodhan of JAGPA, JCD leader Fazlul Huq Milton and Arun Kumar Hey, the eldest surviving son of Madhu.

The speakers, mostly former student leaders of the University having close acquaintance with Madhu, recalled Madhu's contribution behind students movement and urged all to follow the ideals of those heroes who sacrificed their lives for the cause of independence. The independence, achieved at the high cost of millions of lives and chastity of lakhs of mothers and sisters is now at stake due to long autocratic rule and conspiracy by anti-liberation forces. "Let's forget our difference of opinion to protect country's independence and sovereignty unitedly", Tofael Ahmed made the call for all. Amanullah Aman said the student community would continue movement until establishment of democracy and a corruption-free society in the country.

He sought cooperation with the new government in giving democracy an institutional shape. CPB leader Selim stressed the need for greater national unity to consolidate the victory of democratic movement through materialising martyrs' dreams of an exploitation-free society. "We'll be guilty to the martyrs if we again fail to establish people's rights in the country," said Abdur Razzak and urged the new democratic government to uphold true history of the nation.

## Rehabilitation of wounded FFs urged

Speakers at a discussion organised by Dhaka City unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubad on the occasion of Independence and National Day on Tuesday underscored the need for establishing the democratic rights. The speakers also urged for rehabilitation of war wounded freedom fighters and prayed for the peace of the departed souls of the freedom fighters.

The meeting presided over by Abu Syed Khan Khokon was addressed, among others, by Jubadal leaders Advocate Abdus Salam Azad, Manjural Haq, Moazzem Hossain Khan, Anwar Aziz, Anwar Hossain Laitu, Sarwar Sultan Ahmed, Khan-dakar Ahmedul Haq and Muhammad Masud.

## Plea to resist alien culture

Speakers at a discussion Tuesday called upon the literary and cultural organisations of the country to launch a vigorous movement against the intrusion of alien culture into Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Organised in connection with the 21st National and Independence day by Bhatikrom Shahitya Parishad, the discussion was presided over by Mohammad Sajjad Hossain, Prof. Mohammad Abdul Awal, Adviser of the Parishad, attended the function as the chief guest while Mohammad Jahangir Hossain and Md. Aminul Karim Choudhury took part in the discussion.

## Submission of returns mandatory

# Corrupt practices in polls cognizable offence : EC

The election of a returned candidate could be questioned by an election petition made by a contesting candidate for that constituency for violation of provisions relating to expenses under the Representation of People Order, 1972, reports BSS.

If the allegations were proved the election of the returned candidate might be declared void or any other candidate might be declared elected, an Election Commission Press release has said.

Any person could also file a case for election offences and corrupt practice in the election with a competent criminal court as any violation of the provisions of the election law was a "cognizable offence" for trial by a competent criminal court. The Election Commission said this in reference to certain comments made by a section of press on the violation of the election expenses limit during the recent elections to the Jatiya Sangsad.

With a view to dispelling the doubts created among the people on the role of the Election Commission about the implementation of the related laws the Commission said certain amendments were made to the 1972 Representation of the People Order to limit the election expenses of the contesting candidates to the Jatiya Sangsad, a provision has been made under the amendments limiting the personal expenses relating to election upto Taka 5,000 and the election expenses upto Taka 3 lakh for each contesting candidates. The commission said a new provision was incorporated in

the order for submission of a statement before the start of the main election campaign by every contesting candidates stating the probable source of fund to meet the election expenses, assets and liabilities, his annual income and expenditure and a copy of the income tax return last submitted by him (if he is an income tax assessee).

Besides, the Commission said it was obligatory to every candidates to submit to the Returning Officer a return of election expenses in the prescribed forms with bills, receipts and necessary documents within 15 days after publication of his or her name in the gazette.

Any violation of all the provisions of the election law is a cognizable offence for trial by a competent Criminal Court

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Time gone by
  - 4 Hebrew month
  - 6 Alluring woman
  - 11 Ridicule lightly
  - 13 Sunset State
  - 15 Printer's measure
  - 16 Muse of poetry
  - 21 Vedic fire god
  - 19 Hyson
  - 21 Image; portrait
  - 22 Myself
  - 23 More
  - 25 Precipitous
  - 26 Bespatter
  - 29 Food fish
  - 31 Goddess of discord
  - 33 Exist
  - 34 Paid notice
  - 35 Tree juice
- DOWN**
- 1 Encouragement
  - 2 Contest
  - 3 Running

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACT FA STRAP  
 WOODED PAUSED  
 EN ONEROUS RE  
 GO SPIT TAUT  
 LETS TOTS USE  
 ORTEL TENT ER  
 CLOD DUAL  
 PR FRET GROPE  
 RAP DEAD SCOT  
 AGIO PLEA IT  
 NT STEEPLE AT  
 KANSAS TOMATO  
 GIANT HE MOP

- 38 Fri. follower
- 39 "Law"
- 40 As far as
- 41 Former Russian ruler
- 43 Clifton
- 45 Santa Claus
- 47 Make ready
- 50 Early morn
- 52 Dye plant
- 53 "Hat"
- 56 Animal enclosure
- 58 Giver of gift
- 60 Father
- 61 Baby's bed
- 63 Made a trip
- 65 Feel anguish
- 66 Preposition
- 67 Nav. off.



**Thursday**

5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran

5-20 News in Bengali

5-30 Sports world

5-55 Mahe, Ramadan

6-20 Documentary film

7-20 Jiboner Alo: Religious programme

8-00 News in Bengali

8-40 Weekly Drama

10-00 News in English

10-30 Drama Series: On the Trees

11-15 Khabar/ The news

11-30 Closing

## Weather

# Nor'wester likely

By Staff Correspondent

Nor'wester may hit Dhaka division and the region of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours, Met office forecast on Wednesday.

Unmeasurable rain was traced in Dhaka and Bogra while two millimeters rain was recorded in Mymensingh on Wednesday.

More rain may occur in Dhaka division and some places of Rajshahi and Khulna division during the next 36 hours. Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. A complex low over Bihar, Orissa, Gangetic West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh extending through over head Bay.

Seasonal low lay over Bay. Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No appreciable change.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns of the country on Wednesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.5	23
Chittagong	33.4	21.8
Rajshahi	35.6	19.4
Khulna	34.6	22.7
Sylhet	33.0	20.4
Feni	34.6	20.0
Comilla	34.0	20.0
Barisal	34.5	21.4
Jessore	34.9	21.9
Dinajpur	32.4	18.7
Bogra	33.5	21.2

Highest temperature recorded in major regional cities on Wednesday were:

Colombo	32	New Delhi	31
Karachi	36	Bombay	32
Bangkok	34	Hong Kong	27
Singapore	34		

## TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by the Chief Engineer, BTMC 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka from the reputed and bonafide Air-Conditioning firms for installation and commissioning of Air-Conditioning Plant (Air-Washer) with supply, fabrication and installation of overhead ducting system and its ancillary works & adjust the same with Humidification system of pre-Spg & Spg for the following Mills as detailed:

S1. Name of the mills No.	Estimated cost of the work	Earnest money	Price of Tender schedule (Non-refundable)
1. R. R. Textile Mills No-2, Bashbaria, Sitakunda, Chittagong.	Tk. 28,08,450.00/-	Tk. 70,500/-	Tk. 750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty only).

The earnest money must be enclosed with the Tender in favour of BTMC, in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh.

Existing contractors of BTMC who have expertise and successfully completed more than one central overhead supply Air Ducting of A. C. System and firms who are expertised for installation of Industrial Air-Conditioning (with chillers/ Air-Conditioning/ Humidification (Air-Washer) plant and have successfully completed minimum 2 projects (Not less than 150 tons capacity) under Govt./ Semi-Govt./ Organisation/ Corporation may purchase the Tender documents on getting clearance from the Chief Engineer, BTMC. The bidders must enclose CBA. Electrical contractory & supervisory licence, Bank Solvency certificate, up to date income tax clearance certificate, list of so project so far completed, list of Tools & equipments, Bio-data of Engineers & Technical Staff and status of the firm along with the Tender. It may also be noted that the above mentioned documents shall have to be produced at the time of obtaining permission for purchasing tender documents.

The tender documents will be available during office hours from the Addl. Chief Accountant (H.O), BTMC (1st Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka on or before 7-4-91 upto 12-00 noon.

Tender will be received upto 11-00 A. M. on 8-04-91 and will be opened at 11-30 A. M. on the same day in presence of the bidders (if any) in the office of the Chief Engineer, BTMC, Bastra Bhaban (3rd-Floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar C/A., Dhaka.

Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

TMC-21  
DFP (BA) 2418-23/3  
G-31