

Dhaka Day by Day

Just Another Day

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Etiquette is defined in the dictionary as 'rules for formal relations or behaviour among people'. This may include standing up for ladies, saying 'excuse me' when coughing or having one's tea without slurping. It may be a little too much to expect us to be up on such rules, after all they are not just inventions of English custom and do we not want to put a stop to our age old obsequiousness to our former rulers? But why do we not wear lungis to the office? Why bother with ties and suits, trousers and shirts? The answer is that we are a very selective race adopting those Western customs that are easy to emulate. It is much easier to know how to wear the latest fashion than develop the sensibility of bringing at public nose-picking.

Imagine travelling in a rickshaw through the flooded streets of my favourite area — Motijheel. As the poor rickshaw-wala wades through the water you suddenly hear a loud splash or plop that does not sound like rain. Not to worry, it is only a creature resembling a gentleman in his trendy pants and stripe shirt climbing the phlegm that has clogged up his lungs. The sound itself seems as loud as thunder. This is followed by a few more splashes of the same thing from passing buses. Your body goes through an internal battle to prevent you from throwing-up and you avert your eyes and think of a far away place with fragrant flowers and green fields, but what do you see? Along the graffiti painted walls another trousered gentleman answering the call of nature, while at the same time nonchalantly looking at the passer by on the street. There does not seem to be a single wall, drain, tree or bush that has not been sprayed on by such dutiful citizens. The pungent smells as you walk by such areas are strong enough to give you a strange sort of 'high'.

Then you walk into the office building you are supposed to go to. Instead of waiting just a few hours for the unpredictable lift or rather liftman, your impatience spurs you on to run up the stairs. But then you stop dead on your track. Don't panic! What you see before your eyes is not an aftermath of a bloodbath. The

blotches of red in the corners are just stains the considerate 'paan' addict has left behind! Didn't you know such dark corners of the staircase of buildings serve as ultimate spittoons for many a betel leaf maniac who find great pleasure painting the white walls red.

To continue with my story, you enter the office and then have to wait a few minutes for the peep who is too busy digging his nose as if it were a gold mine. After he has finished collecting all the treasure he could find, he condescends to inform his boss that you are here.

And now you will accuse me of female chauvinism. Well I am not finished yet! After a whole day of the delights, I have just mentioned you may decide to go to the wedding where you will not know anyone and where you will be as warmly received as you are when you try to get a US visa. Then after much shoving and pushing you manage to get a seat at the table to eat the meal that is the main attraction of the occasion. As you wait patiently for the 'biryani' plate to move to a reachable distance while your fellow diners eat with the zeal of squirrels storing nuts for the winter, you may peek a glance at your bedecked bejewelled neighbour.

While you wonder at the number of layers of foundation on her face and psychedelic eye-shadow, she breaks the ice with a loud burp and request to pass the 'borhani' jug. If this does not convince you of how at home she feels with you then her next move might. At the end of her meal she takes the end of the wedding card that she has incidentally brought along — and promptly sticks it between her teeth to serve the purpose of a tooth pick or dental floss.

By now you may be a little fatigued with such uplifting events and call it a day. As you drift off to sleep with visions of floating mucous, toilets that are literally public and tooth-picking beauties, you may begin to see the word etiquette in a different light. In your slumber you may dream of a Dhaka with more public toilets and heavy fines for littering, spitting, and fouling public places and the concept of civic sense among the people. Will this ever be a reality? Or is it like asking — will humans ever lay eggs?



City unit of Awami League brought out a procession demanding repeal of Indemnity Ordinance on Monday. —Star photo

Sena Kalyan Sangstha stipends

Sena Kalyan Sangstha has granted stipends amounting to Taka 39,12,120 (thirty nine lakh twelve thousand one hundred twenty only) to children of shaheeds and ex-servicemen studying in degree and higher level stages for the session 1990-91, an ISPR release said Monday, reports BSS.

A complete list of stipend holders has been sent to the headquarters of Army, Navy, Air Force, Director Bangladesh Armed Services Board and all district armed services boards. Stipend money will be remitted by Agrani Bank, Amin Court Branch, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka through Bank Draft/ Demand Draft to the registrars/ principals of the universities/ colleges of the stipendiaries concerned for disbursement.

For renewal, the stipend awarders will submit their promotion reports/marksheets duly countersigned by the principals/ departmental heads to this office as and when result/ promotion reports are published. Marksheels/ promotion reports should bear the stipend holding no. and father's particulars of the awarders.

More relief for flood victims

The Ministry of Relief Monday sanctioned more relief materials and money for the flood-affected people of the country, reports BSS.

The Ministry of Relief has sanctioned 305 metric tons of rice, 495 metric tons of wheat, 2000 pieces of saree, 2000 pieces of lungi and Taka 7,35,000 in cash as gratuitous relief for the flood-victims.

The relief materials and money were sanctioned for the districts of Manikgonj, Narayanganj, Madaripur, Faridpur, Sariapur, Mymensingh, Chandpur, Nawabganj, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Kushtia, Kishoreganj, Magura, Jamalpur and Rangpur.

Govt keen to flourish art and culture

All out efforts would be made by the present government so that national art and culture flourish and separate identity of the people was nourished, said Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs, Monday, reports BSS.

Addressing as chief guest a function to unveil plaque of the 'training building' of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the afternoon, Prof Chowdhury disclosed that the government under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would soon take up programmes to build the National Fine Art Gallery, a modern auditorium, with a view to fulfilling nation's long felt desire.

Presided over by Acting Additional Secretary of the Cultural Ministry Islam Uddin Malik, Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman attended the function as the special guest while Shilpakala Academy Director General Kamal Lohani gave the welcome speech.

The Education Minister further announced that the government had decided to distribute Taka 40 lakh — Taka one lakh each to all the 40 Shilpakala Academy in the country — this year. This reflected the earnest desire of the present government to help enrich the art and culture of the country, he added.

Prof B Chowdhury said the basic development of the pre-

sent Shilpakala Academy had been done during late President Ziaur Rahman as he strongly felt that Bangladeshis, being a separate identity and having rich culture and heritage, should develop their culture. He said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was also in strong belief of enriching our own culture.

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman said that the present government would not hesitate in providing fund to the Shilpakala Academy for its overall development. He said funds had been channelized to construct the modern auditorium and arts and crafts gallery. Rahman also assured all cooperation to the Shilpakala Academy for its development.

He felt that the separate identity of the Bangladeshi culture could be strengthened by academy's unhindered efforts.

DG of the academy Kamal Lohani said the sanction of Taka one crore for the construction of the training building by the present government had fulfilled the long felt need of the national institution devoted to enriching art and culture.

Lohani announced that the academy would soon organise the fifth Asian art exhibition in which 15 countries would participate and hold month-long drama festival.

What's on today . . .

BIISS seminar

A three-day national seminar on 'Bangladesh in the Nineties: Society, Polity and Economy, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) at the institute auditorium at 10 am today (Tuesday).

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the seminar while Foreign Minister A.S.M Mostafizur Rahman will be present at the inaugural function as special guest. Five Working sessions of the seminar will be presided over by Prof. K.M Saaduddin, Prof. Talukdar Maniruzzaman, Prof. M. Shamsul Haq, Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed and Dr. Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin.

UNAB symposium

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a symposium today (Tuesday) in observance of the International Day of Peace.

Acting President Representative, UNDP Winston Temple will attend as chief guest.

Professors Salahuddin Ahmed, M Afzaruddin, Abdus Selim and Syed Ahmed Hossain, Secretary General, UNAB and Vice President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations will participate in the discussion.

President, UNAB, Prof. M Innas Ali will chair the symposium.

Girl Guide Assoc

Bangladesh Girl Guides Association will organise a function today (Tuesday) of 9 am at the Guide House at Baily Road in observance of the Peace Day.

Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs will attend as chief guest.

Lion Clubs International

Lions Clubs International has convened a function in observance of 'International Peace Day' today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the premises of Lions District headquarters, BLF Bhaban, Agargaon.

National Professor M. Shamsul Haq, former foreign minister will attend the function as chief guest while Lt. Humayun Zahir, District Governor Lions District 315-A as special guest.

Social Welfare Workers Assoc

Bangladesh Social Welfare Workers Association (BSWWA) will hold a seminar and a prize giving ceremony today (Tuesday) at the auditorium of the Department of Youth Development at 17 Segun Bagicha.

Md. Abdus Sobhan, Director General of DYD, Neill Mckee, Programme Coordinator of the UNICEF and Dulal Biswas, Adviser of the BSWWA will attend the programme as special guest.

Prizes will be given to Md Nurul Alam (Social Welfare), Jewel Aich (Magician), Anjana Sultana (dancer), Ali Imam (TV producer), Anwara (cinema artistic) and Ahlesham (film maker).

Rotary Club of Cosmopolitan

Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan has decided to bring out a peace procession today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm from the premises of the Institute of Engineers.

Prof. Jalal K-Ahmed will inaugurate the procession. The procession will be participated by Rotaract Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan, Cosmic, Dhaka University, Lalbagh Fort and Interact Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan.

Meanwhile, the regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Today's programme will be attended by young artists from TV or Rotaractors in presence of a few Rotaractors and Rotarylets.

Compiled by Sobel

S Korea eager to boost trade ties

The new South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh, Sung Oh Shin, presented his credentials to the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at Bangabhaban Monday morning, reports BSS.

Presenting his credentials, the South Korean envoy recalled the historical links between Bangladesh and his country.

He said South Korea was keen to consolidate its existing friendly relations with

Bangladesh in all fields including trade and commerce.

Welcoming Sung Oh Shin as his country's new Ambassador, the Acting President said friendly ties constituted a good basis for close cooperation between Bangladesh and South Korea in different fields.

He expressed his satisfaction that cooperation between the two countries had been growing satisfactorily over the years.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hoped that efforts would be

made to further diversify the existing area of cooperation to the mutual benefit of the two nations.

He mentioned the valuable assistance extended by South Korea for the relief and rehabilitation of the cyclone affected people in our coastal belt.

He also appreciated the visit of special envoy, Ambassador Myung, immediately after the disaster to express the solidarity of South Korea

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Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran programme summary
- 5.15 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Carton film: Adventure of the Galaxy Rangers
- 5.55 Educational programme
- 7.05 Nazrul songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama serial
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: War and Remembrance
- 11.30 Khabar/ The news
- 11.45 Closing

50-Taka Prize Bonds draw results

The 35th draw of 50-Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held Monday at the conference room of the Commissioner of Dhaka Division. The Commissioner, Dhaka Division presided over, says a press release.

The following 100 common numbers were drawn from amongst numbers 0000001 to 0500000.

First prize of Tk 2,50,000
..... 0343099
Second prize of Tk 50,000
..... 0412299
Four prizes of Taka 5,000 each:

0007404 0167641
0282511 0313750
Four prizes of Taka 2,500 each:

0293155 0296656
0374037 0396720
Ninety Prizes of Taka 500 each

- 0001097 0073815 0174983 0322314 0400748
- 0002026 0076605 0188445 0222707 0410365
- 0003023 0077672 0189530 0334406 0412274
- 0004071 0080004 0190790 0338811 0417009
- 0005049 0080885 0214107 0341674 0422213
- 0006036 0100047 0224997 0351993 0426201
- 0007005 0102289 0231474 0356707 0430198
- 0008033 0111272 0233950 0360767 0433934
- 0009015 0131456 0237423 0377318 0436170
- 0010082 0133409 0240480 0380983 0438406
- 0011019 0138251 0279547 0382577 0440415
- 0012012 0144072 0280636 0385562 0476701
- 0013083 0149294 0287361 0390975 0485101
- 0014073 0156185 0288668 0393064 0485104
- 0015083 0156885 0290873 0396014 0487779
- 0016040 0161648 0307887 0391920 0488303
- 0017045 0163603 0319013 0393500 0495403
- 0018047 0165465 0319340 0395982 0498323

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