

Dhaka Day by Day

A Synthetic Extravaganza

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Entering the display centre in Sonargaon hotel where the interspersed sponsored Daewoo Fabric Show is being held is like visiting a trendy store in a mall in Europe or America.

This is the first time this sort of show is taking place, its distinctiveness lying in the tasteful layout of clothes and fabrics. This is credited to a Korean designer who has turned a promotional effort into a real work of art.

If this exhibition has a theme it should be 'synthetic extravaganza'. Rayons, polyesters, nylons in a multitude of colourful patterns are seen everywhere.

In the middle of the room is Daewoo's fall collection, there is an impressive collection of fashionable sportswear. The acrylic and knits section, for example, includes fabrics for jogging suits, a very popular item in the European fashion market, shirts and other casual wear in pleasing olive green, salmon plum and purple in multifarious patterns. The micro-polyester

and nylon sportswear section includes heavy winter jackets in dull greys and greens and trendy khaki rain coats.

The obvious intention of this show is to promote Daewoo fabrics and attract new buyers from all over the world, an objective facilitated by having the show in a Five Star hotel. But another purpose of this kind of show is as C W Park, deputy general manager of Daewoo Corporation says, to acquaint local garment companies with present and future trends in fashion to cater to a world market.

With fully integrated manufacturing and marketing facilities and conscious efforts to adapt to the ever changing fashion market, Daewoo has been able to meet a worldwide market with exports reaching up to 8 billion US dollars! Daewoo is the largest Korean conglomerate specializing in shipping, railway, construction, textiles, heavy industry equipment, automobiles, the list goes on. In Bangladesh Daewoo has been operating since 1978 as a joint venture with Dosh



Clothes made of Daewoo fabrics on display

Moving on to the next season Daewoo displays an exciting spring collection of bright floral prints in yellows, blues and pinks. This also includes delicate pastel prints of polycotton meant for bed covers and draperies.

For the hip sportsman — or sports woman, there is an impressive collection of fashionable sportswear. The acrylic and knits section, for example, includes fabrics for jogging suits, a very popular item in the European fashion market, shirts and other casual wear in pleasing olive green, salmon plum and purple in multifarious patterns. The micro-polyester

Garments. All raw materials are Korean made and stitching and sewing is done here by local garment factories. As for the exhibition itself, it has been done with enough taste and artistry to attract not only businessmen but anyone who is interested in clothes and fashion. With creative embellishments such as the arty display posters with names like Bio Spectrum, Roots and Natural View, and interesting combination of accessories in frameworks this exhibition is sure to impress the art lover.

Dhaka proposes ESCAP plan on food supply at reasonable price

Bangladesh has been elected Vice President of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on social welfare and social development now being held in Manila, reports UNB.

President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines formally inaugurated the conference. Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam is representing Bangladesh at the conference.

Addressing the conference on Monday, he pointed out the country's poverty, hunger and unemployment situation, reports reaching here from the Philippines capital said.

He also discussed the national policies and plan of action for achieving the goal of education for all by the year 2000.

"In spite of remarkable progress in food production, Bangladesh is yet to achieve self sufficiency", Tariqul said.

Fire fighting drill at Sheraton

A spectacular and a breath taking fire drill and rescue operation as part of Hotel Sheraton's week-long 12th Annual Environmental, Health and Safety Week was held at the hotel premises Wednesday, reports BSS.

National fire brigade and the fire fighting team of the hotel jointly conducted the half and hour mock fire fighting drill, a hotel press release said.

The objective of the week, which started from October 5, is to make the staff conscious about environmental protection, cause of accidents and preventive measures. The highlight of the week is the observance of a Non-Smoking Day throughout the hotel, the press release added.

He proposed to the ESCAP countries to plan necessary measures particularly on supply of food at reasonable price and setting up of suitable mechanism at the regional level.

He informed the conference that extensive programmes for population control have been undertaken with the assistance of internal agencies and friendly countries.

The Government aims to reduce the population growth rate to 1.8 per cent by 1995, Tariqul informed.

A separate ministry has been created to bring women in the main stream of development, the Minister said adding that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is keen for the advancement of the women folk of the country.

Earlier, in her inaugural speech, President Corazon Aquino appreciated the successful operation of Gramen Bank in Bangladesh.

Freedom Party demands new constitution

Freedom Party Wednesday demanded a new Constitution for the country, reports UNB. Addressing a press conference at the party office in the afternoon, leaders of the party said a new Constitution was needed to fulfil the aspirations of the common masses.

They also demanded election to a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution. The press conference was addressed by the Co-chairman of Freedom Party Col. (Rtd), Abdul Rashid, Major (Rtd), Bazul Huda was present among others on the occasion.

He said the present Constitution was full of discrepancies and it has been amended 12 times in 20 years destabilising the political situation. The Fifth Parliament has betrayed the people because they wanted to elect their President through popular suffrage, Rashid said. He said the parliament, the present government and the opposition have "usurped the people's rights in the name of democracy and constitutional amendment". The co-chairman demanded holding of all national elections under an interim caretaker government. Rashid also demanded freedom of judiciary, secured jobs to all above 22 and protecting the interest of the farmers, workers, low-paid employees and the landless and uprooted people.

HERE and THERE

Workers Federation

National Workers Federation on Wednesday demanded minimum wage of the workers at Taka 1,500.

The demand was made at a meeting of the extended committee meeting of the Executive Committee with Alamgir Majumder in the chair.

The Federation also demanded to accept three other demands of the workers. The meeting was addressed among others by Anisul Huq, SM Jamaluddin, Ruhul Amin Majumdar and Shamsul Huq.

JSD (Rab)

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rab) on Wednesday said that the country was heading towards anarchy due to ruling party's attitude to politicise everything.

At a meeting of the central committee with Prof Humayun Kabir Hira in the chair, the party expressed concern at the famine-like situation in the northern districts.

The meeting also demanded release of its leader ASM Abdur Rab.

Revolutionary Front

The National Revolutionary Front (NRF) on Wednesday demanded release of its front leader Aktimul Islam who was arrested from Jhenidah town on Sunday.

In a press release, the front condemned the government for harassing the workers of different political parties in the name of democracy.

Khaleda greets Swedish PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday greeted Carl Bildt on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of Sweden, reports UNB.

"The government and the people of Bangladesh join me in extending to you our warmest congratulations on your assumption of the high office of Prime Minister of Sweden," she said in her message.

Begum Zia expressed her sincere conviction that under Carl's leadership "the excellent bilateral relations that exist between our two countries will be further strengthened to the benefit of our two peoples."

She wished Bildt's good health, happiness and long life and the people of Sweden continued peace, progress and prosperity.

Mitford Hospital in unhygienic state

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to the Mitford Hospital here and expressed his dissatisfaction to see the unclean premises and other areas of the hospital, reports BSS.

He directed the concerned officials and employees to keep the hospital clean.

The Minister went round different wards of the hospital and talked to the patients freely and examined the quality of the food supplied to them by the hospital authorities.

Chowdhury later held a meeting with the Director and other executives of the hospital.

JU first year Honours classes resume Nov 2

All classes of first year honours of Jahangirnagar University will resume on November 2, a university press release said Wednesday, reports BSS.

This was decided at a joint meeting of deans, provosts and departmental heads with Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Salch Ahmed in the chair.

Textile Mills Corporation

Eid-e-Miladunnabi Mahfil of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation was held at the Textile Bhaban on Monday.

Chairman of the Corporation Mir Mahmud Sharif Ali was present at the Mahfil as the chief guest which was addressed among others by Mahbul Alam.

Muktitud

Speakers at a seminar on 'Street accident and its remedy' on Tuesday urged all concerned to abide by traffic rules to avoid frequent accidents.

The seminar was organised by social organisation 'Muktitud' at the auditorium of Scout Bhaban where Secretary for Labour and Manpower Manjurul Karim was present as the chief guest.

ICS

Bangladesh Islami Chattra Shibir (ICS) on Wednesday condemned the arrest of 17 leaders and workers of the organisation's Chittagong Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday.

In a press release, President of the ICS Abu Zafar Obaidullah and Secretary General Ilamud Hossain Azad said that conspiratorial cases have also been lodged against them.

Ultrasonic scaler donated by Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Dhaka North donated a modern "ultrasonic scaler" for the Dental Department of Dhaka University Medical Centre in Dhaka on Wednesday, according to a DU Press release, reports BSS.

Mr Shahadat Hossain, President of the Club, handed over the scaler to Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, in a simple ceremony.

Chief physician of the university Dr Ketabuddin and other officials, rotarians of Dhaka North Rotary Club, a former Rotary Zila Governor Dr Mohammed Moniruzzaman, were among others, present on the occasion.

Army relief operation continues

Army personnel continued their relief activity in the flood affected areas, an ISPR press release said in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

Army officers and troops from Bogra and Rangpur areas assisted the local administration in distributing about 425 metric tons of rice and wheat at different places of Bogra, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts on Tuesday.

Mustafiz leaves for Italy today

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman leaves today for Italy to attend an international seminar on global politics, reports UNB.

The five-day seminar titled "Overstretch: The Advantage Syndrome" begins today in an international conference centre at Rimini, close to the Italian capital, Rome, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The Foreign Minister, participating in the seminar at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, will speak on "World Government and Global Leadership."

World figures like former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Commander of the multinational coalition forces in the Gulf war General Norman Schwarzkopf will also take part in it.

French envoy calls on Planning Minister

The French Ambassador in Bangladesh, Serge Dugallax, called on the Planning Minister, A M Zahuruddin Khan, at his office in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

The Ambassador spent some time with the Minister and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent Light to moderate rain or shower may occur at one or two places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions. Weather will remain mainly dry over Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions, during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday, according to Met office.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. South-west monsoon may withdraw from Bangladesh during next 24 hours.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Wednesday were:

Table with 3 columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius (max/min), Humidity in percentage (9 am/6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Satkhira, Barisal, Comilla, Sylhet, Rangpur.

Call to set up diarrhoeal disease hospital in North Bengal soon

Professor Emeritus Dr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury Wednesday appealed to the government and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), to take up a plan immediately to set up a diarrhoeal disease hospital somewhere in North Bengal.

In an exclusive interview with BSS, Dr Chowdhury said the proposed hospital should be on the pattern of ICDDR,B Matlab Field Hospital and be centrally located in the northern region under the administrative control of ICDDR,B. He fervently sought necessary co-operation of the government in this regard.

He said that the recent outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases in the flood affected northern districts which claimed a number of lives was mainly due to lack of awareness of the people about this disease. Setting up of such a hospital would help create the awareness, he said.

He pointed out that establishment of the Diarrhoeal Disease Field Hospital of ICDDR,B at Matlab increased public awareness and helped in controlling the disease.

He said that whenever there was any outbreak of diarrhoeal disease in the northern districts the government had to airlift medicines and doctors on an emergency basis. Establishment of the hospital would ease that situation, he added.

Dr Sultan Ahmed, the father of pediatrics in Bangladesh and founder Chairman of the Dr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury Foundation, also appealed to various national, international and global agencies to come forward with their helping hands in setting up the hospital. He himself also promised to donate to the proposed hospital fund if it is materialised.

Dr Chowdhury has already donated a sum of Taka two lakh to the ICDDR,B

Endowment Fund formed recently for running their hospital services at Dhaka and Matlab.

ICDDR,B administration in the recent months appealed to the philanthropists and prospective donors in Bangladesh to donate to the ICDDR,B Endowment Fund. Donations to the fund is exempted from income tax.

The ICDDR,B said that it was facing difficulties in convincing the donors for bearing the costs of the two free hospital services of diarrhoeal diseases located at Mohakhali, Dhaka, and Matlab in Chandpur district.

On the basis of the suggestions of the donors, the ICDDR,B decided to form a Local Hospital Endowment Fund for meeting a part of the day to day hospital expenses at the beginning with the ultimate objective to make them fully self-sufficient.

The donation will be utilised for building flood shelters at Sarail Union of Banskhal upazila in Chittagong district where Bangladesh Scouts have already taken up a special project to protect the people and help them sustain after possible natural calamities, a press release said.

Donation for cyclone-victims

Bangladeshi workers in Libya Wednesday donated Tk 2,84,983 to Bangladesh Scouts Relief Fund for rehabilitation of the cyclone-affected people of the Chittagong coastal areas, reports UNB.

Noor Ali, Managing Director of the Unique Eastern, on behalf of the workers, handed over a cheque to the Chief National Scout Commissioner Manzoor Ul Karim at the National Scout Headquarters in Dhaka.

The donation will be utilised for building flood shelters at Sarail Union of Banskhal upazila in Chittagong district where Bangladesh Scouts have already taken up a special project to protect the people and help them sustain after possible natural calamities, a press release said.

Salt to be sold at 50 fair price shops

A part of the first consignment of 8,000 metric tons of salt imported by TCB has reached Dhaka, reports BSS.

According to an official handout issued this salt has been allotted to dealers appointed by the TCB to sell in Dhaka and Narayanganj metropolitan areas at Taka seven per kg.

For other regions outside the metro areas, directives had been issued to sell it to the members of the public at a price, to be fixed after adding the transport cost to be decided by the local administration, with the wholesale TCB

price of Tk 5.80 per kg and seller's commission at the rate of 0.80 paise per kg.

Besides, TCB has selected 50 special shops in Dhaka and Narayanganj metropolitan areas and the list of these shops has been published in daily newspapers.

This salt will be sold in these shops in an unmixing condition at Taka seven per kg. The price of salt will be displayed at red banners in these selected shops, the handout said.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Kheti Bank (বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক) featuring a tree illustration and text about agricultural services and branches.

Advertisement for Dhaka City Corporation (ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন) regarding a public hearing (পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প) and a notice about a public hearing (দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি).

What's on today . . .

Supreme Stamp International Supreme Stamp International is going to open its business transaction at Razia Mansion at Mitford Road in the city today (Thursday) at 11 am.

. . . and tomorrow

TV dance directors and artistes Dance directors and dance artistes enlisted with the Bangladesh Television will hold a meeting at the Shilpakala Academy's temporary Conference Room tomorrow (Friday) at 3 pm. The meeting has been convened by the Association of the TV Dance Directors and Dancers to discuss the cultural development of Bangladesh and welfare to all dance directors and dancers. Bhola Samity Bhola Zila Sramik Karmochari Kalyan Samity in Dhaka will distribute scholarships among the students of the families of workers and employees of Bhola district residing in Dhaka at the WAPDA Auditorium in the city tomorrow (Friday) at 4 pm. State Minister for Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control Manbarraf Hossain Shahjahan will attend the function as the chief guest and distribute scholarships. Health Secretary M Mokammel Haque will be present as special guest on the occasion.

TV Thursday schedule table with columns for Time, Program Name, and Description. Programs include Opening Announcement, News in Bangla, Drama of the week, Film show: Tender is the Night, etc.