

Dhaka Day by Day

Selling and Buying of Antique Coins

by Shahrier Khan



Who are the main buyers of antique coins in Dhaka? The answer is simple; why, the coin collectors of course.

But coin dealer and unusable taka exchanger Mohammad Shahdat Hossain would not agree to this. In his opinion, the oldest coins are bought by 'fakirs' and the labour class people — not by coin collectors.

Shahdat Hossain, aged 25, sits with his small wooden box full of coins and unusable money on the Chawk Bazaar road at Old Dhaka. According to him, labourers and 'fakirs' sell old coins as they have no other way of earning their living. The buyers, after buying coins, would pierce them and turn them into lockets.

'Well, my actual money-earning source is derived from unusable currency exchange — not from selling old coins', says Mohammad Alik Chan, aged 28. Another coin and currency dealer says, 'I buy torn and dirty notes for a price little lower than actual value, sell them to the banks for higher price and next count my profit.'

Selling old currency notes is very profitable, but buyers are few. Shahdat Hossain sells all nineteenth century coins for 20 taka per piece. All early twentieth century Indian coins are for Taka 10 to Taka 15 each. Old Pakistani coins are sometimes sold for more than the original value. Everyday he saves around Taka 50 after spending his daily cost of living.

'I cannot exactly tell you how all these old coins come to my hand. They come to me in various ways,' says Shahdat. 'But most of these coins are sold to me by ordinary people and beggars.' Shahdat next shows me an 1835

Indian coin. 'A young individual sold this to me for Taka 6 only — I'll sell it for Taka 20', he explains.

The most expensive coin that Shahdat ever sold during this twelve years in his trade was an Indian coin dated around fifteenth century. He could not exactly identify the origin of the coin. He could not tell me exactly from which country the coin originated. But he identifies the coin as a Ram-Laxman-Sita coin. It was sold for Taka 2000 to a coin collector. But this sort of bargain is a rare event among the Chawk Bazaar coin dealers.

Alik Chan sold an Indian seventeenth century coin for Taka 500. He is ignorant about the origin of the currency and identifies it as the 'Dari-Pallah' coin.

All coin dealers came to this profession trained by their fathers and uncles. They are aware that these currencies hold much higher values in foreign countries and among real coin collectors.

'But I can not be a dreamer, a hard nut to crack for the customers. If I should wait for the connoisseurs of old coins, I shall have little time to count my profits,' says Shahdat. 'I do my price assessment guessing a prospective customer's financial means. This means the price cheap for 'fakirs' and expensive for enthusiastic customers.'

Around Dhaka, there are not many shops where old coins are sold. For coin collectors, these small merchants are the only hope. If you are interested in old coins you can certainly take a trip to the Chawk Bazaar and Oulistan area.

Radio artistes congratulate govt decision

Radio Bangladesh Staff Artistes Sangram Parishad Saturday congratulated the government decision to regularise the staff artistes of the radio in government service, reports BSS.

The convener Subal Datta and General Secretary Shaifur Rahman of the Sangram Parishad, in a statement, said, the decision was the outcome of the long cherished hopes and aspirations of the five hundred staff artistes of Radio Bangladesh. They said, no government in the past 52 years took any initiative of fulfilling the demands of the artistes.

The leaders of the Parishad expressed their gratitude to Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda for the initiatives to regularise the staff artistes.

The decision was taken following the meeting between the Information Minister and the Sangram Parishad on Thursday last.

"Ekushay Padak" for school, college teachers from '92

The government has decided to propose the names of primary, secondary and higher secondary teachers for the "Ekushay Padak" from next year, reports BSS.

This was decided at an inter-ministerial meeting on Saturday at the conference room of Cultural Ministry with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahan-ara Begum in the chair. Information Secretary Nuruddin Al Masud, Additional Secretary in-charge of the Cultural Ministry Islamuddin Malik and senior officials from concerned ministries and divisions were present in the meeting.

The state minister underlined the need for proposing the names of brilliant personalities for their outstanding contributions in the development of science and technology in the country along with eminent personalities from the fields of literature, art, education and journalism.

Humayun accredited to Chile

The Government decided on Saturday in Dhaka to concurrently accredit Mr Humayun Kabir, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Chile, reports BSS.

They discussed parliamentary issues and other matters of mutual interest.



Chhatra Oikya Forum brought out a procession in the city on Saturday demanding release of its leader Mosharefa Mishu. —Star photo

Founding anniversary of Society for Rule of Law

Respect to laws a must for democracy: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Saturday called for establishing democratic values in the society with a view to consolidating the hard-earned independence and the present democratic system, reports BSS.

Addressing the seventh founding anniversary of the 'Society for Rule of Law' at a city hotel, the President said, without respect to laws, no society could achieve a solid foundation of democracy.

Presided over by the society's President, Pfor Rasuddin Ahmed, the function was addressed, among others, by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Justice Abdul Matin Khan, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Dr Rafiqur Rahman, Advocate Ahmed Hussain, Advocate Abdus Sobhan and M Hazrat Ali.

President Biswas who was the chief guest, said, the present society was a pluralistic one, and for that reason, cooperation and coordination of various shades of opinion was essential for attaining progress and prosperity.

The President said, it was the fundamental responsibility of the state to preserve rights of the individual. He said, the social peace and security were the safeguards of individual liberty.

President Biswas also pointed out that it was the responsibility of the citizens to

abide by laws and help achieve the rule of law in the society. He stressed the need for creating social awareness for establishing rule of law in the society.

Dwelling on the functioning of a democratic state, he explained that it was not a person but a group of people who guide the democracy. It was also the responsibility of all concerned to help ensure the success of the collective leadership and lead the nation to its cherished goal of rule of law and democracy, he explained.

The President called for maintaining tolerance and cooperative attitude by all concerned despite various earnest to give the hard-earned democratic process a permanent shape. In this context, he urged the lawyers to play their due role.

President Biswas said, indiscipline could not be the guiding principle of a normal life. He said, anarchic attitude disrupts the social life. He stressed the need for new laws in accordance with the need of the hour and felt for the urgent need of the independence of judiciary.

Explaining the present parliamentary democracy, he said, such system of democracy was successful when views and opinions of others were given due attention and respect. In this process of collective lead-

2 foreign boats seized at St Martins

CHITTAGONG, Dec 21: Bangladesh Navy Ship Khadem during intensified anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol on Thursday apprehended two foreign mechanised boats from St. Martins area and arrested all the 21 crew members, reports BSS.

The boats were impounded while they were engaged in smuggling paddy and rice. 500 maunds of paddy and 500 maunds of rice have been seized from the boats.

A case has been lodged with the Teknaf Police Station in this connection and the crew, boats alongwith smuggled goods have been handed over to St. Martin's Police for legal action.

Amendment to rules of procedure further examined

The adjourned meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure was held in Sangsad Bhavan last night with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The committee further examined the proposed amendment to the rules of procedure and took some more decisions.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pannil, LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Chief Whip Khandker Delwar Hossain, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Law Aminul Haque, Rahmat Ali MP, Advocate Fazley Rabbil, MP and Latifur Rahman, MP.

Italian envoy meets Speaker

The Italian Ambassador in Bangladesh, Dr Claudio Pacifico, called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at his office in the Sangsad Bhavan Saturday afternoon, reports BSS.

Mustahid, Mujib elected JUTA President, Secy

Dr. Khondoker Mustahidur Rahman and Dr. Md Mujibur Rahman were elected unopposed President and General Secretary of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association, according to the university sources on Saturday, reports BSS.

The election was scheduled for December 18 to elect an 11-member body of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association, but as there was no candidate against them, they were all elected unopposed.

The other office bearers of the association are Md. Salimullah Khan, Vice-President, Dr. Abdul Gani, Treasurer and A T M Atiqur Rahman, Joint Secretary.

13 awarded Bhasani Gold Medal '90-'91

Bangladesh Krishti Sangsad has awarded Moulana Bhasani Gold Medal 1990-91 to 13 persons for their contributions in different fields, a Krishti Sangsad press release said Saturday, reports BSS.

The recipients of the awards for 1990 are Kh Sahadat Hossain, Mansur Joarder, Prof. Hasan Abdul Qayum, Dr. Mirza Al Mahmud Manik, Engineer Abdul Mannan, MS Nasreen Nayeem, and Abu Nasar Rahmatullah.

Those who received the awards for 1991 are Abidur Rahman, M A Karim, Mustafizur Rahman, Capt (ret'd) A Baset, Jinnath Ali and Jahangir Habibullah.

The Krishti Sangsad held a function in connection with the distribution of the awards in Dhaka at the Soviet Cultural Centre on Friday.

Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Sangsad Sangstha, was the chief guest on the occasion. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury presided over the function.

In his speech Dr Siddiqui called for paying due honour to the celebrities.

He said, it was not correct to always black list the celebrities with the change of the government.

Justice Chowdhury described Moulana Bhasani as an institution and said 'we are forgetting his (Bhasani) ideals.'

Food for work programme '91-92 5.30 lakh tonnes of wheat sanctioned

The Ministry of Relief will sanction 5.30 lakh metric tons of wheat worth about Tk 371 crore under Food for Work Programme in the current 1991-92 fiscal year, reports BSS.

This was disclosed in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Relief Ministry held (Saturday) at the standing committee room No 1.

Presided over by State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan, the meeting was attended by its members AKM Shahidul Islam Bachchu, ATM Alamgir, Mohammad Niamatullah, Akter Hamid Siddiki, Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Abdul Matin Khasru, Kazi Shamsur Rahman, Mohammad Harun Rashid Mollah.

It was also revealed in the meeting that relief materials in cash and kind worth more than Tk 200 crore were sanctioned for the last devastating cyclone and flood affected people.

The meeting also informed that so far 83000 metric tons of wheat was sanctioned for

Test Relief Programme and 395 road bridges and culverts would be built under the supervision of Relief Ministry during the current fiscal year.

Lutfur Rahman Khan called upon the members of the committee and the concerned authority to take necessary measures so that the huge quantity of relief and other materials might be distributed properly among the really distressed and affected people. He urged them to supervise and take necessary steps for implementing the projects undertaken for the purpose.

Bangla-Myanmar ties discussed

The ambassador of Myanmar in Bangladesh, Mr Soc Myint, called on the Post and Telecommunication Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali at his office here on Saturday, reports BSS.

They discussed bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

Weather

Dry weather to prevail

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Saturday, Met office forecast.

Sky will be partly cloudy in Rajshahi and the region of Kushtia, Jessore, Dhaka, Tangail and Mymensingh during this period.

No appreciable change in weather is expected during the time.

The lowest temperature on the day was recorded at Srirangal.

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

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius			
Humidity in percentage				
Max	Min	9 am	6 pm	
Dhaka	25.5	14.2	78	68
Chittagong	27.5	15.0	80	70
Rajshahi	26.4	9.4	79	80
Khulna	26.2	12.0	80	66
Barisal	26.2	12.0	90	90
Cox's Bazar	27.5	16.5	68	58
Srirangal	26.6	9.2	79	77
Mymensingh	26.0	12.8	79	73
Dinajpur	25.7	10.6	85	76

What's on today

Rotary Club of Dhanmandi

The 276th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhanmandi will be held today (Sunday) at 5-30 pm at hotel Sonargaon.

Dr Aktaruzzaman, consultant, cancer surgery, Ahsania Mission Cancer Centre, Dhaka will deliver lecture on 'can we prevent cancer' as a guest speaker.

. . . . and tomorrow

Bulbul Lalitakala Academy

A nine-day programme will begin tomorrow (Monday) at the auditorium of Shilpakala Academy in observance of 36th founding anniversary of Bulbul Lalitakala Academy.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the function. The programme includes reception to the scholars in cultural field and cultural functions.

The last four days programme will be held at national museum auditorium. Those who will be accorded reception are G A Mannan, Rajha Khanam Zuhur, Kazal Ibrahim, Abdul Ahad, Kalim Sharaif, Dr Enamul Haque, Bedaruddin Ahmed, Feroza Begum, Ferdousi Rahman, Ronen Kishari, Kalum Chowdhury, Ferdousi Majumder, Sudhin Das, Shah Jalal Ahmed, Nina Hamid, Harin Majumder, Fazul Haque, Abed Hossain Khan, Harshad Roy, Abdul Latif, Hasan Ali Khan, Sanjar Das, Kamruzzaman Moni and Shaykendra Kishor Chowdhury.

Bring back youths to healthy life: Tariqul Islam

Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam on Saturday called for bringing back the juvenile and youths to healthy life as they were the driving force and future leaders, reports BSS.

Juvenile organization like 'Chander Hat' could play a vital role in this regard, minister said.

He was addressing the members and patrons of 'Chander Hat,' a juvenile organization of Jessore town, at the zila parishad auditorium.

It was also addressed, among others, by Mrs. Nargis Islam, president of 'Kingshuk' artiste Shah Mohammad Morshed and Md. Ashraf Hossain.

The minister also enjoyed a lively musical soiree performed by 'Kingshuk' artistes. The songs were composed and tuned by Ashraf Hossain, an artiste.

TV Sunday

Morning Session

8.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary

8.15 Live telecast of the opening of 5th SAF Games from Sri Lanka

Evening Session

5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary

5.10 News in Bangla

5.20 Recitation from the Bible

5.30 Manke Ntye Educational programme: Can You Do It?

6.30 Sports programme: Cricket

7.05 Tagore's songs

8.00 News in Bangla

8.30 Prabhu

9.00 Drama series: Oshin

10.00 News in English

10.30 Rag Rang

11.30 Khabar/The News

11.45 Closing

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