

Dhaka Day by Day

The Shopping Fever!

by Parveen Anam

It is definitely a recurring phenomenon. With monotonous regularity, it happens every year. And with it, comes the sense of wonder, bewilderment, confusion. Again. And this phenomenon comes in the shape and guises of our yearly mania, the 'Eid Shopping Mania'. It never fails to take by complete surprise and shock, the average human being in the land. Its not that Eid is something new or extraordinary; it is bound to come each year. And yet, anyone, darting to venture into a store around this time of the year, is more likely to be swept away in the avalanche of human beings, of all shapes, sizes and colour, clothes awry, snatching, squawking, qualling and pushing. The Bengal is certainly not known for his controlled behaviour at the best of times and at Eid time, he really lets his hair down. All the way. Its almost as if some hidden demon has come loose, making his awesome way into every store in sight, buying stuff he needs, thinks he needs, or more often than not, just BUYING. Surely he could not possibly need all the things that he is making a mad rush to buy. No sane human being could possibly need all those things they are hysterically acquiring.



SHARIF 1992

its almost as if their very lives depended on this mad buying spree. Surely they knew all along that Eid would come round as usual, at the usual time. So why this attitude of total surprise? And greed? And the mad, mad rush. Traffic dept. is in a state of total collapse due to all this rushing in and fro; and also because the traffic constable has just about given up and the traffic sergeant is busy getting his 'Eid bakhsheesh' elsewhere. Eid is a bad time on the 'bakhsheesh' front, many will bear out. Money was certainly not a criteria for the apathy the year round of these hysterical shoppers. Because if it had been, they would have shown some signs of it now. It is almost as though all and sundry possess an 'Aladdins

Lamp' or have 'Ali Babas Cave' to delve into, at the least, or perhaps some magic machine is printing out all this money, for these people to spend so lavishly on such trivial things? Perhaps it would be wise for future 'powers that be' to put some sort of restriction on this mass hysteria. Maybe a system of taxation, or something? But woe befall any soul who even dares to think of anything so audacious. Is this not the time to 'keep up with the Rahmans/Haques/Chowdhury's' etc. etc. How dare any suggestion be even hinted at keeping ones expenditure within reasonable limits? Did the Rahmans not buy their darling little daughter, a shalwar-kameez set for 6500 takas, just the night before? Is my darling daughter any inferior? Therefore I shall have to go and buy her TWO of those dresses. So there. That will teach them to show off to my little girl. And if the mistress of the house adorns her noble self in a sari costing anything less than 9500, surely the Chowdhurys would snigger behind their backs at her? And that would never do, would it? Thus this made competition to outdo the Chowdhury's, etc. etc. Love thy neighbour as thyself was probably repeated in vain, for these generous souls. The milk of human kindness seems to run dry at Eid time, when the competition to outdo the neighbour, takes on such astronomical proportions. How else can we even begin to explain to ourselves that they do not bat an eyelid, to make a purchase, for a 7-year old, with an amount that would be the pay of two months, for a middle class govt. employee? But again, perhaps it is wrong, to try and draw a rationale between this shopping and rationality. The two are at the two extremes of the pole, during this season of such living and giving. Just accept what you have been given by some kind relative and keep up a brave front. In the meantime, remember to avoid the stores, except in times of grave family crises.

Palestine problem can be solved if Arabs unite: Hafiz

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz Tuesday said the people and government of Bangladesh would continue to support the struggle of the Palestinian people for realisation of their demand for a motherland, reports BSS.

Addressing a seminar on the occasion of 'Land Day for Palestinian and Karama Battle' at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday afternoon as the chief guest, Mirza Gholam Hafiz hoped that the just struggle of the Palestinian brethren against Zionism and expansionism would be succeeded. 'It is not very far when the victory will be achieved', he said.

The two historic events the Palestine Land Day and Al-

Karama Battle have been observed world-wide since these two events are the turning points in the history of Palestine Liberation struggle.

Presided over by Al-Haj Maulana Eyaqub Sharafati, the seminar was organised by Bangladesh Khademul Muslim in society. The Ambassador of the State of Palestine Mohammad Shahta Zarab attended the seminar as the special guest.

Tracing the history of the Palestine struggle, Mirza Hafiz said the imperialists had created the problem several decades ago which had forced thousands of Arabs out of their homes. He said the only living

problem in the Middle East could be solved quickly if Arabs remain solidly united behind the cause.

The Law Minister said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had expressed his total support and sympathy to the cause of the Palestine. He said the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was invited to attend as a guest in the country's Independence Day celebrations in 1980. This had demonstrated how president Zia was solidly behind the Palestinian cause, he added.

Hafiz also condemned the demolition of Palestinian structures by the Israelis in the occupied areas and wanted the United Nations to play a stronger role against Israel.

Palestine Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab said the armed struggle was now the only way to liberate the homeland following the continuous refusal of the UN resolutions by the Zionist. 'The Israelis kept us with one choice that is to fight till the liberation of our homeland, which can be achieved by the unity of the Arabs and Muslim world by supporting the Palestinians', he said.

Zarab thanked Bangladesh for its continued support to the Palestinian cause.

The seminar was attended, among others, by a number of ambassadors from different Muslim countries.

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact:
Advertisement Manager
Phone: 245063
PABX: 245061-2 & 246023-4 Ext: 20

What's on today....

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today (Wednesday) followed by iftar through the courtesy of Rtn PDG Iqbal Ansari Khan and Ann Munira Khan at their residence at 14, Green Road, Dhaka at 5:30 pm. Rotarians are requested to attend the meeting.

Sachetan Samaj Discussion
Sachetan Juba Samaj will hold a discussion meeting and iftar party today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at Bul Bul Lalitakala Academy. It will be presided over by the convener of the Samaj, Farook Ahmed.

Certificate Distribution Ceremony Shilpakala Academy
The certificate distribution ceremony among the participants of an workshop on Phantomine will be held today (Wednesday) at 10 am at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium. The workshop started on March 16 and ended on March 31.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5 pm at Sonargaon Hotel.

Discussion on Poet Mashreki
The 74th birth anniversary of Poet Abdul Hai Mashreki will be held today (Wednesday). Mashreki Academy in Dhaka will hold a discussion meeting on the day.

Jalsa
A jalsa mubarak will be held at the central office of Dewanbag Pak Darbar Sharif at Arambag tonight (Wednesday night) on the occasion of Shabe Qadre. The programme will include was nasihat and milad-mahfil.

Ainjibi Samity Emergency Meet
An emergency general meeting of Dhaka Ainjibi Samity will be held today (Wednesday) at 11 am at the samity auditorium. The samity will also hold a press conference on the same day at the same venue. The president of the samity, Syed Mahub Ali will address the conference.

UNESCO invites nominations for literacy prizes

UNESCO, Paris has invited all its member states to nominate one single candidate for the International Literacy Prizes, 1992, says a press release. The prizes are: (a) Nadezhda K Krupskaya Prize; (b) International Reading Association Literacy Award; (c) Noma Prize; (d) Iraq Literacy Prize and (e) King Sejong Literacy Prize.

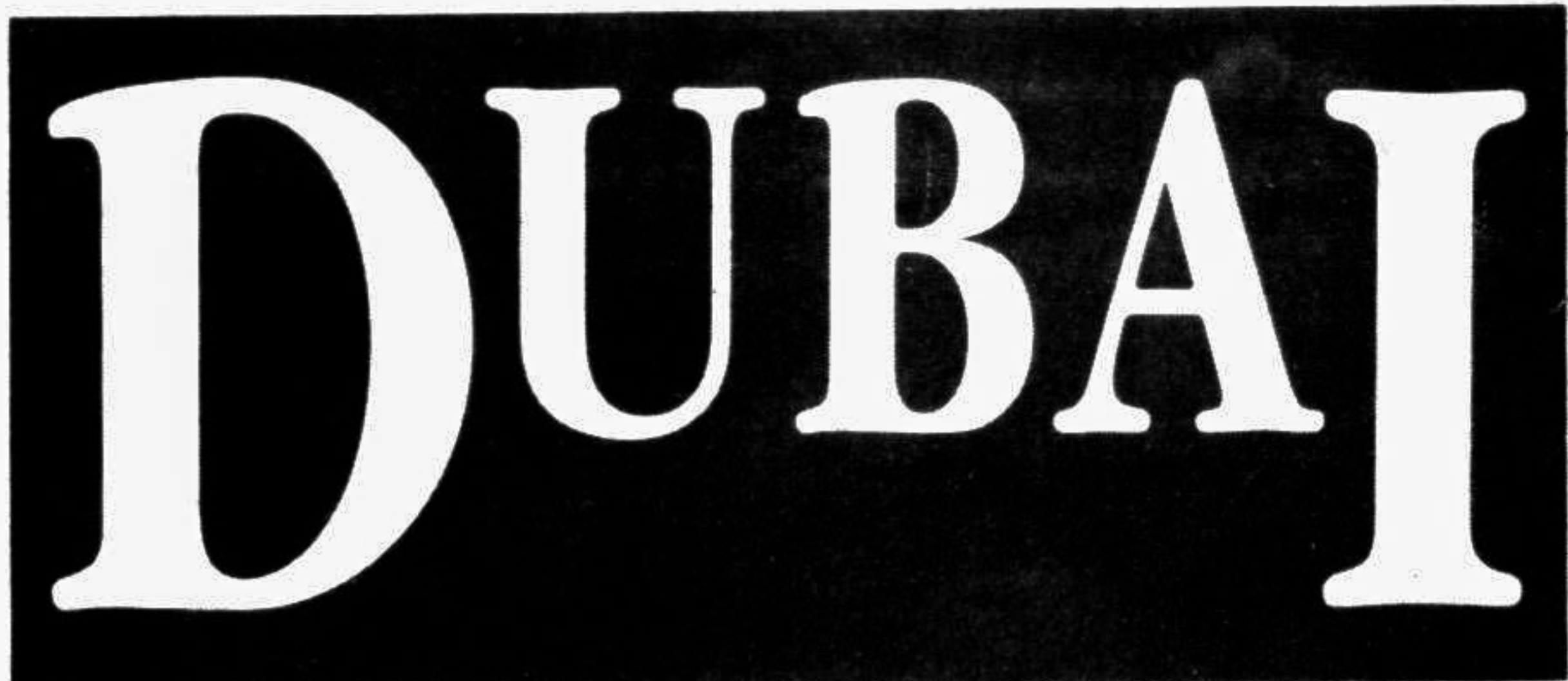
Relevant papers and information in this regard can be obtained from Secretary, National Commission for UNESCO, 1 Asian Highway, Palassy, Nilkhet, Dhaka 1205; (Phone: 863010, 508422) by April 15. The deadline for submission of nomination for the prizes is April 30.

Persons and institutions having experience less than five years in this field are not eligible for nomination.

International Literacy Prizes are awarded in recognition of the services of institutions, organizations or individuals displaying outstanding merit and achieving special success in contributing to the fight against illiteracy. The award of these prizes is also intended to stimulate the sympathy and support of public opinion for literacy programmes in progress.

It may be mentioned that Bangladesh Association for Community Education (BACE) was awarded Noma Prize in 1980; Village Education Research Centre (VERC) received Iraq Literacy Prize in 1983; in 1985 Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) was awarded Noma Prize and Pathakali Trust got King Sejong Literacy Prize in 1990.

EMIRATES. REFINING THE SHAPE OF AIR TRAVEL



NOW 3 FLIGHTS A WEEK
(Effective from 1st April, 1992)

DHAKA-KARACHI-DUBAI						DUBAI-KARACHI-DHAKA						
DAY	DEP DAC	ARR KHI	DEP KHI	ARR DXB	FLT NO	DAY	DEP DXB	ARR KHI	DEP KHI	ARR DAC	FLT NO	CLASS
TUE, WED, FRI	1930	2200	2300	2359	EK611	TUE, WED, FRI	1000	1300	1400	1830	EK610	J/Y

The International Airline of the United Arab Emirates
DHAKA GSA: ABC-AIR LIMITED, 64, Motijheel Commercial Area, Tel: 241760, 243797, 243813, 245098
CHITTAGONG GSA: ABC-AIR LIMITED, 58, Agrabad Commercial Area, Telephone: 505647, 505648



Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khandker speaking at a seminar organised by Muktiyoddah Gobeshona Kendra (Freedomfighters' Research Centre) in observance of the 20th year of our War of Liberation in the city Tuesday. President of the centre Prof Mamtazur Rahman seen in the middle. Story on page 12 — Star photo

Parties slate arrest warrants against 'public trial' organiser

By Staff Correspondent

The General Secretary of Ganatantrik Party, Mohammad Afzal in a statement on Tuesday asked the government to stop harassing the leaders of the 'committee for realisation of ideals of the Liberation War and Resistance to killers and Collaborators of 1971' by the anti-independence fascist forces.

He said the fascist forces have been attacking the houses of the leaders of the committee and trying to intimidate them. They have also damaged the statue in memory of the Liberation War at Carmichael College at Rangpur.

The Convenor of Five Party Alliance, Naim Jahangir in a statement on Tuesday demanded the withdrawal of the cases against 24 political workers of the progressive forces filed by Jamaat-Shibir in Khulna.

He said the Jamaat-Shibir workers on March 25 attacked a peaceful procession on the eve of Independence Day. A Shibir activist was killed in the incident.

After the incident, Jamaat leaders filed cases against 24 persons including A B M Nurul Alam of BSD and Advocate Firoz Ahmed of CPB. He termed the cases as false and condemned the action.

JJD condemns 'violation of sanctity of court'

Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Jubodal Tuesday condemned the 'violation of sanctity of court' by a group of lawyers on Sunday protesting the warrant orders against 24 persons involved in the March 26 Gano Adalat (people's court) reports BSS.

Abu Sayeed Khan Khokan and Giasuddin Chowdhury Khokan, President and General Secretary respectively of city Jobo Dal, in a joint statement, demanded exemplary punishment to these lawyers.

They also demanded cancellation of registration of these lawyers.

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Tuesday forecast, rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong divisions and the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Jessore and Kushtia till 6 pm today (Wednesday).

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged all over the country, according to Met office.

The maximum temperature, 35.5 degree Celsius, in the country was recorded at Ishwardi and Jessore while the country's minimum 22 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and Sylhet Tuesday.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:15 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5:50 am.

Temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.5	26.2	63	41
Chittagong	31	22.5	82	77
Rajshahi	35.2	22	46	46
Khulna	34	24.5	87	69
Jessore	35.5	24.5	-	-
Ishwardi	35.5	27	39	43
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.5	84	78
Mymensingh	34.4	24.9	77	69

Wednesday

5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
5.30 Amian Razac
6.00 Mahey Ramzan
6.45 Kawaii
7.06 Impromptu speech
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Traditional world of Islam
9.00 Discussion programme
10.00 News in English
10.25 Milad Mahfil
11.15 Khabar/The News
11.25 Thursday's programme summary
11.30 Closing.