

Dhaka Day by Day

The Hassle Of Choosing Gifts

by Fayza Haq

In Dhaka one is often invited to weddings, "ajikas", "Musallams", and birthdays. This is done by the family and friends, who care for you, and remember you, in their moments of rejoicing.

It is necessary then that you should scour the city of Dhaka for something suitable, and find an item that will please the mind of the recipient.

At one time it was easy to walk into shop, if you had the means and inclination, and buy almost what you will. Today even when foreign items are in the shop, they play hide-and-seek game with you — as is expected.

A friend of mine, for instance, had to give three gifts for family members who were married, and were leaving for overseas countries.

She had exactly two hours to buy the necessary presents for the respective cousins, wrap them adequately, and reach the airport in time to hand over the three parcels of earrings and jewel-box. I admit, walking into a shop like "Arong" in Mirpur Road, or "Shetuli" in Green Road, one can collect quite a bit of fancy items. There are suitable shops for gifts near the P.G. Hospital or even on the New Elephant Road. The Bailey Road is there too.

There was New Year and my women friends showed me with gifts. They did not meet me personally, but left the exotic gifts with my mother. I was totally confused about how to buy, and deliver responding overtures of good will, what with my office and other varied activities. I ended up leaving packets of lozenges on the desks of my friends in their office. In their absence, I was relaxed only when I could contact them on the phone and make sure that they had received their parcels.

My young friend at the office had his precious sister's wedding. When I went to buy a cologne for the young woman — who was to be the bride — I found the shops in Dhanmondi quite uncooperative. I did not have money to squander but wanted to give the best possible gift imaginable. For I was indebted to my friend for all work at the office and otherwise. By the time I spotted a cologne, and the shopkeeper took it out to prove to me that it was not half

filled, the packet got torn, and the bottle slipped. The gift was then taped with scotch-tape, before going packed for the occasion.

An uncle of mine is scheduled to have a birthday celebration in the near future. I am grateful to him for all the affection he gives me and my friends. I tried so hard to get an adequate gift for him, but so far I have been unsuccessful. He is a fastidious individual and any gift, such as a decoration item or any best-seller, will not do for him. I have spent days scouring the markets along New Elephant Road, in New Market, and even at the Stadium area for something suitable. All I could lay my hand on was a can of imported cheese. I can only hope that he will enjoy it and the canned gift is not a mildewed one.

Last year, during the cyclonic spells, I wanted to get a "sari" for the daughter of a friend of mine. Going from Dhanmondi to Bailey Road appeared traumatic in a rickshaw. But I was determined that I would have a "sari" to please the girl called Tuli, who is always so cordial to me, whenever I visit her mother's home — especially when her mother is away. She then sits and regales me with stories of her university at Jahangirnagar.

By the time I returned with the gift for the girl in question, I was soaking wet, and I did not have much of a selection, as it had been able to beat the gathering black clouds in the sky. My friend, Rowshan Ara, at her house in Dhanmondi Rd. 4, had to wipe me dry. I then returned to my mother's domain at Satmasjid Road, wearing my friend's kaftan.

When you have the money, you do not have the inclination or the time to buy the necessary gifts for the various occasions in the city. The shops are then closed on special days which might clash with your own time off. My mother believes that the simplest thing is to give money, neatly folded, and properly wrapped. Yet I personally disagree with her, in some ways. It appears, when you give the packet of money, that you might not have had the peace of mind or inclination to venture into a shop and buy a suitable gift.



Young women trying to buy and parcel a gift

1500 Rohingyas arrive Friday

About 1,500 more refugees from Myanmar arrived Friday making the total to 2,45,531, officials said, reports UNB.

Arrival of refugees on an average 1,000 every day despite Dhaka and Rangoon reached agreements on repatriation of the refugees raised doubts in political circles about the efficacy of the accords.

Continuous influx of refugees from Myanmar indicate that persecution of the Muslims has been going unabated.

Agreement on repatriation of the refugees was signed between the two countries envisaging repatriation will start not later than May 15 and a batch of 5000 refugees will go back every alternate day.

Of the total refugees, 1,66,257 are living in 12 camps while 79,274 are passing their days under the open sky, officials said.

Week-long film session begins today

Rainbow Film Society in association with L. Alliance Francaise de Dhaka has organised a week-long film session, says a press release. The session will be opened by Professor Kabir Chowdhury today (Saturday) at 5-30 pm at the L. Alliance Francaise Auditorium, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhaka. While Professor Abdus Salim will be the main speaker in the session and Lutfie Najfb Khaw will welcome the guests.

Radio Beijing team to be accorded reception

Bangladesh Radio Beijing Listeners' Club will accord a reception to the visiting three-member delegation of Radio Beijing broadcasting today (Saturday) at National Scout Bhawan auditorium in the city at 5.30 pm, reports UNB.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda will attend the reception as chief guest and Mahbubul Alam Tara, Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, as the special guest. The delegation, which arrived here on April 28 on a 12-day visit at the invitation of Bangladesh Radio Beijing Listeners' Club, visited Sylhet, Chittagong and Narayanganj, said a press release.



Ittehadul Ummah brought out a procession protesting attack on Alems and C R Dutta's recent remarks on minorities in the city Friday

Khaleda's interview with Voice of Germany

'Democracy will take some time to be on firm footing'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said democracy will take "some time" to be firmly established as all political and economic institutions had been ravaged by nine years of autocracy in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"We are all working to that end and democracy will be given a solid and permanent shape by gradually rebuilding the institutions," she told the Voice of Germany in a radio interview broadcast from Koin Friday morning.

Begum Zia said her party had been in power practically for only six months now during which steps already taken to rebuild the democratic institutions included restoration of parliamentary system of government through a consensus.

"If we really want to give democracy a firm footing, all sections of the people, including the government and the opposition parties, must make united endeavours in the same way as they did in toppling autocracy," she said.

For building the political and economic institutions which had been left in shambles, she said peaceful and democratic environment was essential.

In this connection, she explained the steps already taken to remove terrorism from the educational institutions and said a peaceful and congenial environment can be brought about only by united efforts of all the political parties and

elements. She said her government was determined to take severe action against unauthorised holders of arms in the educational institutions irrespective of their party affiliations.

Asked about bottlenecks in the economic reconstruction, Begum Zia said her government had taken specific practicable programmes to create a climate for industrial investment and economic growth.

The industrial policy has been appreciated by foreign investors and there had been good response yielding positive results so far for the reconstruction efforts, she said.

Begum Zia expressed her confidence that Bangladesh

economy would achieve a strong base in the next two to three years.

About SAARC, the Prime Minister said efforts have been geared up to revitalise the regional forum and give it the dynamism as envisioned by late President Ziaur Rahman.

Specific proposals have been made in the last summit for common endeavours for poverty alleviation and overall welfare of the one billion people of South Asia, she said.

In conclusion, Begum Zia said she expected more cooperation and assistance from a united and democratic Germany in consolidating democracy and poverty alleviation programme in Bangladesh.

Seminar on Information Technology May 11

A 5-day international seminar-cum-workshop on "Role of Information Technology in Socio-Economic Development" will begin on May 11 at the BCIC Bhawan, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by Bangladesh Computer Council and the Kuala Lumpur-based Asian and Pacific Development Centre, the seminar will be attended by 40 participants from China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and host Bangladesh, says a press release.

Bankers urged to reflect people's expectation

State Minister for Finance Mojtibur Rahman Friday called upon the bank personnel to reflect the expectations of the people in discharging their assigned duties, reports BSS.

The State Minister was addressing a meeting of the high officials of Janata Bank at its area office in Bogra. Chairman of the Bank's Board of Directors Imamuddin Ahmed and Managing Director of the bank Taheruddin also spoke on the occasion.

Tagore's birth anniversary observed in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, May 8: The 131st birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore was observed in the port city and elsewhere in the district today with due fervour, reports BSS.

Large number of political, social, literary and cultural organisations arranged day-long programmes which included discussion meeting, poetry recitation, staging of drama and musical soiree.

Sammita Pachishey Baisakh Ujapan Parishad in collaboration with district administration observed the day at DC hill park holding various programmes.

Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad held a discussion meeting at the Public Library Auditorium with Dr Karnal A Khan in the chair.

Principal Abu Taher, local journalists Arun Das Gupta and Abul Momen participated in the discussion.

Shilpakala Academy here held a cultural function at its auditorium. The outgoing Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong, AR Khan, presided over the function.

Happy Birthday
To
Leena
&
Many many happy returns.
Love
Touheed

Happy Birthday
and
Many Happy returns
to
Rony
(Ishtiaque Ahmed)
Ammu, Abbu,
Chachi, Chachu, Imi,
Bony, Kishwar and
Dadi

Each non-govt pry school to get Tk 2 lakh for uplift: Salam

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder Friday stressed removing legal barriers on the way of carrying out welfare-oriented activities, reports BSS.

The minister mentioned some programmes taken up by the present government for revitalising the country's economy and education sector.

He said the government had decided to develop all the non-government primary schools within next three years. Each non-government primary school will be given a grant of Taka 2 lakh 20 thousand for development, he added.

The minister also said they had also achieved success by contributing 24 per cent from internal resources mobilisation to the annual development programme in the first year of their government.

He was addressing as the chief guest an Eid-reunion function of Jamalpur Association here at Shilpakala Academy.

The minister said at times despite their sincere efforts to do people's welfare, some legal obligations or barriers stood in the way.

He underlined the need for bringing about a change in the outlook of the people in this regard and said such legal

handicaps should be removed. Presided over by Abdur Rashid Talukder, President, Jamalpur Association, the function was addressed among others by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq, Hasinur Rahman, Establishment Secretary and President Greater Mymensingh District Association, Fakir Ashraf, Amanullah Kabir, Secretary General Jamalpur Association, Barrister Mainul Huq, Vice President, Jamalpur Association, Sujat Ali, Firoza Talukder, and Daulatuzaman Ansari.

TV Saturday

- 5.00 Opening announcement
- 5.05 Al-Quran Programme Summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.30 Khelar Jagat
- 6.00 Drama: Moon Dial
- 6.30 Matti O Manush
- 7.05 Banshari
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaha
- 9.00 Anirban
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama series: Dallas
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Sunday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

What's on today

Seminar on Islamic United Nations
Bangladesh Jana Parishad will hold a seminar on 'The Necessity of an Islamic United Nations' at the auditorium of Jatiya Grantha Kendra at 4 pm today (Saturday).

Asiatic Society discussion
A lecture discussion of 'Ecology of Urbanisation' will be held today (Saturday) at 4.30 pm at the seminar room of the Society at 5 Old Secretariat Road, Njmtali.

PIB workshop
A six-day workshop on 'Sustainable development and media' begins today (Saturday) at the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) at 10 am. The workshop, jointly organised by PIB and the Press foundation of Asia will be participated by 20 reporters from Dhaka and regional newspapers and news agencies. University teachers, academicians and senior journalists will conduct the workshop.

VHSS workshop
The Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) will hold a day-long workshop on 'NGO experiences in health and community development' today (Saturday) at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) Auditorium at Farmgate at 9 am.

VAN ophthalmological test
The Voluntary Assistance for the Needy (VAN) will conduct its oral and ophthalmological test programme on the slum-dwellers of South Jatrabari today (Saturday) at 10 am.

JSD (Rab)
The Dhaka city Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) will hold a representatives' meeting today (Saturday) at 5 pm at 225, Fakirerpool. JSD central president Nur Alam Jiku, General Secretary Professor Humayun Kabir Hiru and others will address the meeting.

Weather Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent
Met office in a weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Saturday) forecasts rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Mymensingh and Sylhet. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met office says.
Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country, according to the bulletin.
The maximum temperature in the country, 40.6 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi while the country's minimum 21.1 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet on Friday.
The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:32 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:19 am.
The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/ towns Friday were:

Cities/ Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	36	26.8	79	67
Chittagong	33	26.2	78	76
Rajshahi	40.6	23	57	29
Khulna	37.4	25.4	81	61
Sylhet	31.4	21.1	81	75
Cox's Bazar	33.8	27.5	66	78
Mymensingh	35	24.4	83	78
Rangpur	31	22.5	79	76

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board
Telecommunication Building, 36/1 Mymensingh Road, Dhaka

Tender Notice

No. G 10-18/90-91 Dated 02-5-1992 (19-01-1399BS)

Sealed tender is invited from bonafide photocopier machine supplying/repairing firm for repairing one photocopier machine Model T-A-2022 used at the office of Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board, Telecommunication Building, Dhaka. Tender will be received in Room No.422 of the Deputy Director (Estab & Admin) up to 12-00 Noon of 15-5-92 and opened on the same day at 12-30 minutes before the tenderers (if any) present. Bank Draft for 3% of the quoted amount (refundable) in favour of Accounts Officer (procurement & disbursement/head office), Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board, 36/1 Mymensingh Road, Dhaka should be deposited with the tender as earnest money.

2. The said photocopier machine may be inspected in presence of the Assistant concerned at General Section during office hours. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject overwritten, erased or lowest or any tender.

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