

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Bengali Erotica

by Dipak Kumar Karmaker

The other day I was reading a newspaper standing before a bookstall which is often found beside the streets. I had my six years old nephew with me. He suddenly asked me to tell him the meaning of a picture which was the cover of a particular book and the stall was overflowing with such books. I, however, hurriedly left the stall and evaded giving answer to my nephew's question by diverting the latter's innocent curiosity to some other subject.

While walking along the roads, people in Dhaka frequently come across bookstalls beside the roads, which display a plethora of obscene books and magazines alongside of newspapers and weekly magazines. The huge growth of such scabrous literature naturally makes one think of its worth — or whether it has any worth at all.

From Shakespeare down to Anais Nin's French Erotica, in almost all literature, eroticism has been dealt with in some way or other, as it is, one should remember, superfluous to mention the vital role of sex in life. In good literature the subject is always intermingled with love. Erotic literature can be a source of entertainment and at times of sexual education.

But what do we find in the obscene books and magazines by the side of the streets in our country? These books are collections of shameless sexual experiences without any trace of decency. When a man reads such a book, he feels that he has entered a world which is as immoral as can be.

In these books, the writers fail to create any lifelike character nor is there any storyline or plot construction which can grip the attention of the readers and provide pleasure. All normal relationship is reversed so that even the most confirmed pervert may feel disgust at reading such books. All familiar taboos used in the abusive language seem to be reflected in these stories.

Reading of such books gives one the impression that their writers have torn down the whole edifice of civilization and regressed to the world of savage darkness. Placed beside such books, even Masud Rana may seem sublime literature or Dale Carnegie's writings (Bengali translations) may appear to have religious grandeur in respect of their so-called guide.

Severely criticize them as you may, they do not usually remain lying covered with dust. They, on the other hand, sell like hot cakes. People of almost all ages feel attracted towards them dazzled by their cover with flashy-fleshy picture, though they lament over the financial loss in the long run like the Dillika Laddu.

This kind of books and magazines are in Bengali slang familiarly called 'Chati'. Though people from all walks of life read this putative Chati, it is the students who are after them most. Go to a students' hostel and check their beds. Under the mattress of every student, you will discover quite a few chats. Neither is the case different for those who live in private residence.

But what is noticeable is that the attitude of the students towards chati is public rather than private. The extremely bizarre treatment of similarly absurd subjects in chats fails to create any semblance of reality in the readers' mind, they seem to be airy and figment of undeveloped imagination. That is why the readers do not feel any real passion which a genuine erotic literature gives rise to.

The nature of erotic literature is such that it draws a reader more and more inward, that is, makes him more and more private for that matter. This happens because of the mounting passion one feels while reading erotic literature. But our chati cannot stir passion whereas it absurdly can create laughter and fun only. As a result, instead of being something private, secret, it becomes something which is too open a thing public. Students read chati not particularly to enjoy them in their loneliness, but to gossip about.

The buying of chati is not so easy as the reading. The situation one faces in buying chati is a typical one. Although no nation or culture is without sex, our sex matters. In the public places sexual subject cannot be discussed freely. People feel shy to talk overtly about sex.

So, when you go to a bookstall to buy chati, the situation is not very easy. Such bookstalls usually cannot be found without people. People are reading different things standing before the stall, while you pretend to look for something very innocently. Your attention is fixed on a particular book, but you cannot take the book or ask the stallkeeper for it, because this would invite the curious eyes of the reading public — these are Prufrock's "eyes that fix you in a formulated phrase". On the other hand, there is the constant possibility of starting at seeing known face. All the more petrifying if it is one of the guardian class.

Chati has not much effect on the literate people except waste of time and momentary heat. For half-literate or less refined people, chati is something which lessens their refinement, the little they have, farther and farther. In chati they revive their favourable past and thus retrogress.

But above all the effect of chati is perilous on the immature children, if such a one falls into their hands. The naked exhibition of chats besides the streets can easily draw the attention of immature children. If an immature child reads such a book, the impression upon his or her mind will be deep and lasting and traumatic. Working slowly and silently in the hidden regions of the mind, it can bring about neurosis in the later life.

Reading of chati destroys the hard-earned control that a civilized mind has over himself. Such reading undermines one's intellectual faculty and makes one more and more sentimental. Bacon said, "Reading maketh a full man", indeed, reading of chati can make man a fool.

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## No alternative to cooperative movement: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday underscored the need for advancing the cooperative movement to build a happy and prosperous nation, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the International Cooperative Day, the President said there was no alternative to cooperative movement for achieving emancipation of the country's downtrodden.

President Biswas said cooperative serves as the torch-bearer in fulfilling the basic needs of the poor and the underprivileged. He also stressed the need for patronisation of cooperative movement in our national life for attaining self-reliance in all spheres.

Expressing solidarity with the cooperative movement, the President said the theme of this year's international cooperative day "fundamental values and world solidarity" was timely.

President Biswas wished the cooperative day a success and urged all to imbibe with the spirit of the movement.

## 'Siraj Sikdar's killers to be tried in people's court'

The office-bearers of 'Shaheed Siraj Sikdar Research Centre' said in the city Friday they had taken initiatives for trial of the killers of Siraj Sikdar in 'people's court' instead of taking shelter of law, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, the research centre functionaries termed the existing laws as a "means to protect the interest of the exploiting class" and said they would go to "people's court" as it was not possible to get fair trial by the existing laws.

The Siraj Sikdar research centre office-bearers said they would announce the detailed programme of their initiatives soon.

The office-bearers alleged that many political parties of the country were "demanding" the trial of killers of Siraj Sikdar for their narrow political gain and cautioned that the followers of Siraj Sikdar would face them with an iron hand.

## PDF supports SKOP strike

By Staff Correspondent  
Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) Friday expressed its solidarity with the 48 hours workers' strike on July 7 and 8 called by SKOP.

At the steering committee meeting of PDF presided over by its convener Dilip Barua, the party expressed its grave concern over the government's non-withdrawal of cases against the student leaders who were involved in the anti-autocratic movement.

The meeting demanded withdrawal of cases against 60 students of the Rajshahi University.



Information Minister Nazmul Huda planting a sapling at Narisha High School Friday. —PID photo

## 'Make tree plantation movement a success'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda called upon the people to come forward in making the tree plantation movement being carried out by the government throughout the country a success for ecological balance and development of environment, reports BSS.

According to a PID handout in Dhaka yesterday night the Minister said this while inaugurating the movement at Dohar by planting saplings on both sides of road at Moksdepur launchghat and within the compound of Narisha High School. Students of the school and people of the locality participated in the plantation programme.

The Information Minister also inaugurated a newly constructed sluice gate on the Narisha-Sadar Bepari Khal and enquired about the progress of construction work of

Sreenagar bridge. The minister was informed that the construction work will be completed in a week, the handout said.

The Minister later attended a mlid mahfil organised to pray for the salvation of the soul of student leader Shakil Mahmud, Secretary of Dhaka Polytechnic Students Union.

## BNPPP meet tomorrow

A meeting of the Parliamentary Party of Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held tomorrow at 3 pm at room No 932 in the 9th floor of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, reports BSS.

Prime Minister and leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting.

Present political situation and matters relating to the budget session will be discussed in the meeting.

Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain has requested all parliament members belonging to the BNP to attend the meeting in time.

## 83 held on various charges

Police Friday arrested 83 people in the metropolis on various charges, reports UNB.

Two of them had arrest warrants against them, said a press release of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), 11 were arrested on theft cases, four for toll extortion, two under Explosives Act and 10 on other charges.

Besides, it said, 48 people were arrested under the DMP Ordinance and six under Section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code.

All of the arrested were sent to the court.

## Weather

### Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent  
Light or moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at many places over Chittagong, Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am today (Saturday).

The Met office forecast, day temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country. Little change will be noticed during the next two days, the Met office says, but rainfall activities may increase by the next five days.

The country on Friday experienced rainfall at several places. The highest of 113 mm of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm was reported from Kutubdia. Rangamati had 78 mm, Teknaf 60 mm, Khepupara 52 mm, Feni 41 mm, Sylhet 32 mm, Sitakunda 30 mm, Dhaka 28 mm, Cox's Bazar 23 mm, Chittagong 21 mm, Khulna 18 mm and Ishurdi had 3 mm of rainfall.

The maximum temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was reported from Jessore Friday and the minimum of 22.5 degree was reported from Sylhet.

The sun sets today at 6.51 pm and the sun rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5.16 am.

The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	24.2	88	93
Chittagong	30.2	24.2	92	89
Rajshahi	32.8	25.9	85	73
Khulna	30.8	24.2	100	93
Dinajpur	33.5	24.2	85	78
Cox's Bazar	29.0	24.7	96	97
Jessore	33.6	25.2	-	-
Sylhet	28.2	22.5	98	93

## University Sains Malaysia

The University invites application from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Professor in any of the following fields:

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7. Urbanisation/Urban Planning, Economics
8. Medical Science: General Surgery, Anatomy, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics (Neonatology), Chemical Pathology, Obstetric & Gynaecology, Medicine (Radiotherapy), Clinical Psychology, Microbiology (Virology), Anesthesiology
9. Chemical Engineering: Process Control, Reaction Engineering, Biochemical Engineering, Toxic Waste Control, Plant Design & Safety, Multicomponent Distillation, Heterogenous Catalysis
10. Civil Engineering: Structural, Geotechnic, Environmental
11. Computer Science

### QUALIFICATIONS/EXPERIENCE

Candidates for the post of Professor should have Masters or Ph.D./MBBS Degree with at least 10 years of teaching experience in the field, especially at University level. Candidates should also have demonstrated research experience and substantial publications in journals at both national and international level.

### EMOLUMENTS

Gross annual emoluments range as follows:

Grade	Gross Emoluments
C	MS 97,560-110,040
B	MS 113,880-127,320
A	MS 140,760-155,520

The commencing salary will depend on the candidate's qualification, experience and the grade of appointment offered (MS 2.60 = US\$ 1.00).

### OTHER BENEFITS

Return passage for appointee and family (wife and 3 children), excess baggage assistance, paid annual leave of 30 days per annum, free medical benefits for staff and family. A nontaxable gratuity at the rate of 17.50% of the last drawn salary for every completed month of service will be paid on completion of contract. Clinical Staff in Medical School will be paid substantial clinical allowances.

### TENURE

Selected candidate will be appointed on contract for 3 years initially and renewable for another 3 years if necessary. Visiting appointment for one or two years will also be considered.

### APPLICATION

Send full curriculum vitae with three references and copies of degree certificates and present salary to the Deputy Registrar (Personnel), University Sains Malaysia, 11800 USM, Penang, MALAYSIA. All applications must be received in this office as soon as possible.

MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
DHAKA

D-363

## Japan international houseware show-92

### Bangladesh received order of \$ 111,500

Bangladesh has received on the spot orders worth 111,500 US dollar (approximately Taka 44,60,000) during its three-day participation in the Japan international houseware show-92 held at Chiba near Tokyo, reports BSS.

Four Bangladesh companies — Aarong, Kumudini, PCI and Saleh Carpet — displayed their products for the first time in the fair at the Makuhari Messe Exhibition Complex of Japan from June 11 to 13.

This year Japan External Trade Organisation provided space for the developing countries including Bangladesh in the international exhibition.

### EC officials to supervise enrollment of voters

High officials of the Election Commission Secretariat will visit all city corporations and municipalities to supervise enrollment of voters from today to July 10, reports UNB.

The measure for on-the-spot supervision has been taken as part of the Election Commission's special drive to prepare a faultless voters' list in the country's corporations and municipalities, said a press release.

to display their products. Jetro, an organisation under the Japan Ministry of international Trade and Industry, works as a liaison between Japan and the developing countries, Jetro Dhaka office sources said.

Besides Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, and Sri Lanka, among others, took part in the fair.

The Bangladeshi products displayed in the exhibition included Nakshikatha, small handicrafts designed with embroidery, cushion cover, bed cover, embroidery with photo frame, sewing and jewellery boxes, hot plate, tea pot mat, brass products like candle stand and jute carpet.

Meanwhile a good number of order and enquiries about Bangladeshi products were received by the participating companies.

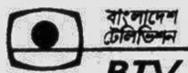
The sources said although the first two-day was exclusively for the importers and wholesalers, many general visitors visited the Bangladesh stalls. On the third and last day, Bangladesh stalls witnessed a good number of visitors including women. The visitors were seen to have a last minute glimpse of the exhibits displayed in attractively decorated stalls.

Jetro also provided an interpreter to help assist promotion of Bangladeshi products to the Japanese im-

porters, wholesalers and consumers during the fair.

"It is very encouraging that the Bangladesh stalls have drawn a large number of visitors including business leaders. The response is beyond our expectation," said Imran Ali Khan Lodi, a Jetro Dhaka official and participant of the exhibition.

Aarong was the only company who sent one participant along with samples while others sent only samples in the fair. Jetro Dhaka sponsored an official from the Export Promotion Bureau as a pavilion director.



### Saturday

5.00	Opening Announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme Summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Tripitak
	Khelkar Jagat
5.30	Drama Series: Toms
6.00	Midnight Garden
	Maati O Manush
6.30	Banshor
7.05	News in Bangla
8.00	Probaho
8.30	Nibedan
9.00	News in English
10.00	Dallas
10.30	Khobar/The News
11.30	Sunday's programme summary
11.40	Closing
11.45	

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