

Dhaka Day by Day

Men Behind the Banners

by Sharier Khan



The cinema fans of the city are often drawn by the colourful banners of the cinema halls. Sometimes, the viewers find the banners deceptive as the films are not sometimes that colourful. "Well, the heroine is not attractive enough", a movie goer would say indicating to a banner of a recent super hit film.

"That's a creation of our own imagination," Sitesh, a cinema banner artist says, "I do it for the sheer joy I get from adding something from my imagination."

Sitesh is an artist of a cinema banner production firm. The office is at Gullistan. But the workshop is located in an alley behind the court house in old Dhaka. Although the banners are vividly painted with luminous pink, green or blue, the place where artists in groups paint them are totally opposite. The workshops lack plenty of light, the floor is rough and dirty, the roof is seemingly falling and everyone smells of no perfume other than kerosene.

Sitesh works with a group of 11 artists. The youngest ones, like Liton who is 16 year old, paints the background of the banner. The older ones makes the portraits of Anju Ghosh or Ilias Kanchan or some bizzare foreign kung fu fighter.

"I started drawing 18 years ago", 30 year old Suresh Kumar Sur said, "I had a guru at that time who taught me everything I know about painting."

Looking at young Liton, smilingly he said, "now we have become gurus and teach Liton everything."

Suresh and Vikram, 28, were both painting a banner of a film - 'Chander Alo'. The banner size was 12 feet by eight feet. They are very cheap. Per square foot it costs about eight to 10 taka.

"I do not know if it's really cheap for us to paint something at a cost of 10 taka per sq foot," Vikram said, "but it is a fact that the film producers do not pay us in due time."

"They would delay payment saying, the film did not do well or the film was a flop!" he added.

Usually, the film producers order for 50 to 60 banners for one film. The artist team, working day and night continuously, finishes at least four banners a day. If the film makes a super hit, like 'Beder Meye Josna', the order for banner rises up to 150 or more.

"When the film is a super hit, we go under immense pressure and sometimes even fail to supply the banners to cinema halls in time."

Sitesh said, "Against such non-stop working weeks", he said, "sometimes we do not get any job at all for weeks."

The artist team is engaged in different part of a banner. At first stage, artists are given photographs of action and hero and heroine. Senior artists composes in a few lay outs. Then those small scale compositions are produced before the film producers for approval. After the approval one or two artists would make graphic lines on the photographs of Shabana or Razzak, for enlargement. Others would draw similar graphic lines maintaining a ratio on a banner made with markin cloth.

"Canvas banner is very expensive," Vikram said, "sure we do like to paint on canvas", applying a coat of green Chinese lacquer on the eye lash of the heroine of 'Chander Alo', Sitesh said, "but I love the to paint on hard board, which are drawn as banners to be decorated on film publicity trucks."

The markin cloth is thin. Artists do not even use a back ground water-proof acrylic colour coating. They use Chinese lacquers and acrylics as paints. Turpin and kerosine is used to mix the colours and for washing purposes. They require Chinese hard brushes to paint on the banners.

"The biggest banner I have ever drawn was a huge 60 feet by 40 feet one," Sitesh said sipping a cup of tea, "the film was 'Shiri Farhad'".

The artists are usually quite poorly paid. The junior gets 400 taka every month. The most expert artist gets 4 to 5 thousand taka per month. But there is no fixed working hour for them.

Artists paint the banners selecting colours of their own choice. They are given black and white photographs of celebrities and they pour all colours from their imagination. They enjoy the freedom of calculatively exposing some parts of the bodies of the heroes and heroines, mostly heroines! But Sitesh and Vikram seemed bored.

"This profession is leading me nowhere!" said both. "We feel deprived, some how."

"So," they both began working on a banner, softly said, "We both are thinking to quit this profession and start some business." Finishing the face of the Alo's hero, Sitesh finally spoke, "If you want to establish yourself in this country, painting isn't the right thing. But business is!"

Help of affluent society sought for welfare of retarded children

RAJSHAHI, July 29: Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu today called upon the affluent section of the society to extend their full cooperation to the physical and mentally retarded children for their proper rehabilitation, reports BSS.

The Mayor was addressing a function of rehabilitation programme of deaf and dumb organised by Social Welfare Department at Blind, Deaf and Dumb School here.

One youth and one young woman who were the ex-students of the school were provided with self-employment instruments worth Taka 10 thousand under the programme. The programme is being financed with the interest of money donated by a philanthropist of United States.

The Mayor said the physically and mentally retarded children should not be neglected. They could contribute their mite to the country if they were provided with proper knowledge and training, he added.

The Mayor announced Taka ten thousand grant of city corporation for the rehabilitation programme. He also as-

sured to solve the existing problems of the institution.

The function was addressed by Superintendent of the institution Anwara Begum and Headmaster Azhar Ali.

Thirty deaf and dumb children and 20 blind children are being provided education and vocational training in each class in the institution from class one to five.

ICTVTR Board of Directors meet ends

The 18th meeting of the Board of Directors of Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) concluded in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegates from Bangladesh, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and UAE, the representative of the Secretary General of the OIC, Ambassador Muhammad Zamir, Director Science and Technology Department and the Director General of the centre Prof Dr A M Patwari attended the meeting.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday.

Meteorological office forecasts day temperature is likely to rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change. Extended outlook for another five days: rainfall activities would increase.

Light rainfall was recorded on Wednesday at Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sitakundu, Rangamati, Bhola, Khepupara and Tangail.

The sun sets today (Thursday) in Dhaka at 6-43 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5-27 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	9 am
Dhaka	32.00	26.1 88
Chittagong	31.2	23.2 88
Khulna	33.5	25.7 84
Rajshahi	34.0	25.6 82
Barisal	31.5	25.5 90
Cox's Bazar	30.6	25.0 87
Sylhet	33.2	25.1 73
Dinajpur	31.0	26.0 83

Shahriar's reinstatement demanded

Some 80 MPs yesterday expressed concern over termination of services of Shahriar Kabir as executive editor of Weekly Bichitra and demanded his immediate reinstatement, reports UNB.

Sixty one MPs of Awami League, CPB, Ganatantrik Party, Workers Party and JSD including two independent members in a joint statement termed removal of Kabir from Bichitra as illegal, politically

motivated, contrary to all democratic norms and practices and unwanted.

Kabir's removal tantamounts to bowing down to the killers of 1971, the statement said adding that his termination was contradictory as the government is accord-bound to withdraw cases against the sponsors of the Gana Aadiyat, of which Kabir is a member.

The signatories to the joint statement included Abdus

Samad Azad, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Shudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Matia Chowdhury of Awami League, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party, Suranjit Sen Gupta of Ganatantrik Party, Shamsuddoha of CPB and Shajahan Siraj of JSD and independent members Major (Retd) Hafizuddin and Nurul Islam Moni.

Massive cultural programmes during SAARC summit

The government will arrange massive cultural programmes on the occasion of SAARC summit scheduled to be held in December this year, reports BSS.

This was revealed at a meeting of cultural committee constituted for the SAARC summit held at the conference room of the Cultural Ministry Wednesday morning with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan-ara Begum in the chair.

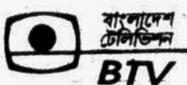
Urs mubarak

The 35th urs mubarak of Hazrat Data Oli Mohammad Ishaq Chisti Nizami alias Data Bhuka Shah Kalander (RA) will be held today (Thursday) at the Dargah sharif of Shah Sufi Syed Mohammad Yakub Hasan Chisti Nizami alias Data Mahub Ali Shah Kalander (RA) after Asr prayers, says a press release.

The mahfil will be presided over by Pirjada Syed Mohammad Yunus Hasan Chisti Nizami, Khalifa, Bangladesh. Devotees have been requested to attend the urs sharif.

Death anniversary

The 13th death anniversary of Abul Quasem retd Judge and advocate will be observed tomorrow (Friday). The friends, relatives and well-wishers of the deceased are requested to attend occasion and pray for salvation of the departed soul, says a press release.



Thursday

5.00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Geeta
6.00	Deah O Biggan
6.30	Jiboner Alo
7.05	School debate
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama of the week
10.00	News in English
10.25	Parliament Roundup
10.35	Olympic highlights
11.40	Khabar/The News
11.50	Friday's programme summary
11.55	Closing

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. Trieste V-05275 from Genoa, Fos, M.V. A. Victory V-36314 from Losangeles, M.V. Mont Blanc Maru V-05041 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama & Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. A. MEGACARRIER-11 V-9203, Imp. Rot. No. 545 / 92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 31.07.1992 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs act.

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Breastfeeding day Aug 1

World Breastfeeding Day will be observed on August 1, reports UNB.

The government has announced a 'National Breastfeeding Week' from August 1-7 to mark the occasion.

Different government and non-government organisations, including Campaign for the Protection and Promotion of Breastfeeding, have chalked out an elaborate programme during the week, said a press release yesterday.

মংলা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বি-৪ এর দপ্তর
খুলনা।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা মংলা বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের সিভিল ও হাইড্রোলিক বিভাগের অধীনে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারপণের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১-তে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজটির জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাকলিত মূল্য	বায়নার টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার দলিলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	সময়
১)	বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষের খুলনাছ খালিশপুর বি-২ বাংলোর নিচতলার বারান্দার এম, এস, গীল ও মশা নিরোধক ওয়ার নেটসহ পাল্লা নির্মাণ কাজ।	৳ ৪৫,৬৬২.০০	৳ ৯২০.০০	৳ ৬০/=	৪৫ দিন

টেন্ডার দলিল আগামী ২০-৮-৯২ ইং মোতাবেক ৫-৫-৯৯ বাৎ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (সিঃ ও হঃ) মবক, মংলা, বাণেশহাট, মহোদয়ের দপ্তরে এবং নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে পাওয়া যাইবে। আগামী ২২-৮-৯২ ইং মোতাবেক ৭-৫-৯৯ বাৎ তারিখে উপরোক্ত অফিস সমূহে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাবরে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত টেন্ডার গ্রহণ করা হইবে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী দরপত্র দলিলের সহিত পাওয়া যাইবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

নং-মবক/জস/২৫
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নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বি-৪
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