

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Professionally Sustaining a Folk Art

by Rahat Fahmida

To the outside world, this squalid suburb on the northern fringe of Dhaka looks no different from any other suburbs that characterise this city. But within its narrow lanes is a crescendo of activity that gives the suburb and its occupants a unique flavour. Kakrain at Narayhat, houses a large number of potters. Nepal Pal and Associates are one of the largest producers from this village.

No one really knows when it all began. But for generations now, every youngster in the area has become a potter. This trade runs in our blood," says Gurudhar Pal of Kakrain. Today there are about 4,000 potters in the area.

Gurudhar Pal puts up a road side stall on the Dhaka-Arteha highway, right opposite the 'Smriti Soudha' at Savar.

From morning to mid-night, in this village there is a whirl of kick wheels as the potters turn out flower pots of various designs and shapes, in hundreds. Most of the products are

traced down during the archaeological research, are the ones imported into this part of the world by Mughal emperors. These imported wares are totally different from the country wares, in its finishing and production it is clearly visible.

Earthenware is a part of the culture and heritage of Bangladesh. Only recently it has stepped up to add to the economic benefits of the country, even if that is very little.

In the early days, potters lived strictly around those particular areas, where the right kind of clay or earth was available. The potters village still have the same priority for its locality. They are scattered all around the villages of Bangladesh. Talking about their traditional work, — they supplied the villagers with utility products. Nevertheless it has shown their concept of art and their quality in artistry.

It was only, very lately realised, it is firing fund of the creative activity, traditions and



Woman assisting a potters work

disposed off at the various dealers in the capital, from where they are sold through exclusive showrooms to bear stunning price-tags. But generally, the mass produced earthenware attracts hordes of eager buyers from all over, who find the prices nominal and workmanship good.

"You cannot buy them at such a cheap price," says Selina Khan, who was visiting 'Smriti Soudha' at Savar with some foreign delegates. The price of flower pots ranges from five taka to around 50 taka, depending on the size and design. Potters like Gurudhar Pal are even seen around the Dhaka city at corners of various main roads, with their products, where they do attract many customers. This, too has come about in the last five years.

From the time immemorial, it is seen, unpolished terra-cotta work to be one of the earliest products of earthenware family. The glazed potteries which are found or rather

tastes define the distinctive genius of the people. Thus the non-government organisations (NGOs) thought, this earthenware product is bound to make an imprint on economic activity and define the strengths of Bangladesh's productive processes.

The potters initial entry into the urban market were through the various gift-shops, or rather handicraft were picked-up, highly appreciated and suggested as exportable product. Hence now these products are not directly exported by the potters, but via six main export houses of the country. It was learnt, Nepal Pal and Associates of Kakrain produce mainly unglazed potteries. And their total annual production is of about nine lakh taka.

These traditional products are now regarded as direct source of inspiration for development, and in return, development should assign to this handicraft a central role as a social regulator.



Awami League brought out a procession at Motijheel Commercial area during the hartal hours yesterday.

## TCB earns profit of taka five crore

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) earned a profit of more than Taka 5 crore during the last financial year (1991-92), reports BSS.

This was disclosed in the 10th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Commerce Ministry here Saturday.

Commerce Minister M K Anwar presided over the meeting. Threadbare discussions on the activities of TCB was held.

The members of the committee Kazi Anwar Hossain, Begum Farida Hossain, Ansar Ali

Siddiqui and Kamruddin Ehyia Khan Majlish were, among others, present on the occasion. Commerce Secretary Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury and Chairman of TCB Nefaur Rahman were present.

It was observed that the TCB along with other Non-Government Organizations has an important role to play in the market economy.

The committee recommended strengthening the activities of TCB after restructuring its organogram by analysing its present work force.

## Concern over massacre of Bosnian Muslims

CHITTAGONG, Aug 15: Speakers at a seminar here yesterday expressed deep concern over the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina of former Yugoslavia by minority Serb aggressors and called for an immediate halt to the massacre, reports BSS.

The seminar on mass killings in Bosnia-Herzegovina and world conscience, held under the auspices of World Muslim Human Rights Organisation at Battus Sharaf here was presided over by Maulana Abdul Jabbar, Pir Saheb of Battus Sharaf and addressed among others by Dr Moynuddin Khan, Dr Muhammad Shah, Prof Abdum Noor, Prof Rezaul Karim Mamun, Rafiqullah Chowdhury, ex-MP, and Chittagong District Bar Association president

Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza.

They said that the world bodies including the United Nations were playing the role of silent spectators when men, women and children were brutally butchered by minority Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina with a view to cleaning the land of the Muslims. They said, mere lip services and threat would not dissuade the Serbs from killing Bosnian Muslims. There is immediate need for armed intervention against Serbs to stop the killing, they added.

The participants called upon the UN, the United States and OIC to take effective measures to save the Bosnian Muslims from annihilation and ensure independence

## Mausami Shishu competition begins

Mausami Shishu Competition — 1992 began yesterday at thana level, according to a press release, reports BSS.

Organised by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy, the competition is being held on three subjects — quest for knowledge (group), group debate and jari song.

## 'Unite against Indian collaborators'

Sheikh Mohtuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Siraj Sikder Parishad, Sunday urged the country's patriotic people to build up united resistance against what he said Indian collaborators, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion in observance of the 'contentment day' at the party's central office in Dhaka. Ahmed said the nation was grateful to those who pioneered in removing the regime, which had brutally killed Siraj Sikder.

## Two nominated for Bangla Academy award

Dr Mohammad Lutfar Rahman and Md Alamgir Hossain have been nominated for the Halima Sharfuddin Science Writer Award-1999 for their book 'Adhunik Computer Bigyan' (Modern Computer Science), reports UNB.

The award, introduced by the Bangla Academy, will be given for the first time at a function in the Bangla month of Kartik, said a press release of the academy Saturday.

The award comprising Tk 20,000 and a certificate has been introduced to encourage the young scientists and recognise the contribution of science writers for their creative writings.

Dr Abdullah Al Muli Sharfuddin, son of Principal Shayekh Sharfuddin and Halima Begum, has given money to constitute the fund for the award.



Sunday

- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Guram.
- Programme summary
- 5:20 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Recitation from the Bible
- 5:25 Cartoon Show
- 6:00 Sports Programme
- 6:30 Chena Jana
- 7:05 Rabintra Sangeet
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:25 Probaho
- 9:00 Drama Series: Oshin
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:35 Sur Lahari
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Monday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing announcement

## HERE and THERE

**JSD (Inu)**  
A meeting of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) Saturday called for a meeting of the JSD National Committee on August 27 and 28 to chalk out future programme of action in the context of disappointing socio-political situation of the country.  
JSD General Secretary Hasanul Haq Inu presented the report on the present situation in the political arena of the country.

**Save the Distressed People**  
A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Save the Distressed People (SDP) was held Saturday at its office at Khilgaon.  
The meeting presided over by its chairman Benazir Ahmed decided to install some tubewells for the slum-dwellers of Khilgaon and Kamalapur.

**Dr Hamidur to attend int'l conference**  
Dr. Md. Hamidur Rahman, Associate Professor, Geology and Mining Department, Rajshahi University (leaving for Kyoto, Japan tomorrow (Monday) to attend the 29th International Geological Congress on invitation by the International Geological Congress authority, Japan, says a press release.

**Janata Dal**  
A meeting of the Bangladesh Janata Dal central committee was held Saturday afternoon at its office at Mohammadpur.  
The meeting presided over by K M Obaidur Rahman expressed grave concern at the deteriorating law and order situation and called upon the government to improve the situation for the greater interest of the nation.

**Biplabi Jote**  
A meeting of the Central Steering Committee of the Sammilito Biplabi Jote was held Saturday afternoon at its office at Siddique Bazar.  
The meeting presided over by JSD president Mohtuddin Ahmed was addressed among others by Azizul Islam Swapan, Sardar Abdur Rashid, Belayet Hossain Sharif, Abul Quasem Khan, Mohammad Shahjahan, Rahmatullah Chowdhury, Manir Hossain, Siddiqur Rahman and Advocate Nazrul Islam.



'Brisk business' on the Gulistan traffic island during yesterday's hartal hours.

## Weather

### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6am today (Sunday) says, temporary light or moderate rain or thunder-shower accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The Met office forecast, rainfall activities may increase within two days.

Meantime, little rainfall was reported yesterday (Saturday) in 12 hours from 6am to 6pm. Chief amounts of rainfalls were: Bhola 24 mm, Satkhira 17mm, Teknaf 7mm and Rajshahi 5mm.

The maximum temperature of 34.0 degree Celsius was reported from Bogra and Tangail yesterday and the minimum of 24.0 degree was reported from Dhaka.

The sun sets today at 6.31 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.34 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	32.6	24.0	72	76
Chittagong	32.0	25.8	76	85
Rajshahi	32.7	25.2	86	83
Khulna	30.5	26.0	82	79
Bogra	34.0	27.3	82	72
Sylhet	32.5	24.4	91	92
Jessore	31.8	26.4	-	-
Cox's Bazar	31.6	25.6	89	85

## BCIC Notice Inviting Tender

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিয়ারানে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the CUFL and BCIC Enlisted Contractors Category A-1 for maintenance of Prill Tower by applying painting at a high altitude at CUFL.

Name of Work	Completion Time	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Documents
1. Maintenance of Prill Tower with painting works at high altitude by means of Gondola.	30 (Thirty) days (Fixed)	Tk 8,40,755/-	Tk 500/- (non-refundable)

Tender documents will be available at a cost of Tk 500/- (non-refundable) from the Office of the General Manager (A&F), CUFL on all working days from 15.8.92 to 20.8.92. Sealed Tenders will be received at the Office of the Dy Chief Engr (C), CUFL, Ctg up to 3.00 PM of 22.8.92 and will be opened immediately after 3.00 PM of 22.8.92 in presence of tenderers, if any.

BCIC enlisted Contractors shall have to furnish earnest money with tenders in favour of CUFL @2% of the quoted value in the form of PO/DD from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh without which tenders will be summarily rejected.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BCIC 710-10/8  
DFP(BA) 7964-11/8  
G-1007

Managing Director