

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Shopping with Delight in Banga Bazar

by Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury



The apparently unpleasing market attracts a lot of people each day

Have you ever experienced the profound shock of finding out that the shirt which you have recently bought at an exorbitant price from a classy shop at Elephant Road was purchased by someone you know at an unbelievably cheaper price than yours?

You needn't bother to ask the other person. Because with a conquering smile he or she will unmistakably name a shopping venue of which you know little — Banga Bazar must be that notorious villain which had just ruined your mood.

The much talked about market, which is especially popular with the youths of the city is located at Fulbaria. This apparently unpleasing shopping venue stands opposite to the Fire Brigade Headquarters.

The name of the market can hardly be seen from a distance written in beautiful calligraphic blocks or sparkling from a neon board. Near the traffic stand at Fulbaria you will see a big row of automobiles, starting from a Mercedes to a Suzuki — Maruti in yellow and black license plates parked outside the shopping area. And instinct will thereby lead you to your destination. Once inside you will see the wonders that await you.

The place which we know as Banga Bazar is really four markets of the same sort put together. They are Banga Bazar Hawker's, Gulistan Hawker's, Mahanagari Hawker's and Aadaras Hawker's Market. But since Banga Bazar had a head-start, it is more popular with the customers and, to most of the people outside, these four markets have assumed a common identity — Banga Bazar.

There are usually two kinds of commodities in these markets. Ready-made garments and footwear. But it is actually the ready-made garments which attract people from all walks of the city life into this market. A great number of foreign customers too flock into the market each day to find out about the latest arrivals.

The speciality about the garments that are found in Banga Bazar is that they are of wide varieties, made according to the ongoing or current vogue and they are strikingly cheap compared to the other shopping places of the city. Men's shirts, T-shirts or trousers that are sold here cannot really be matched by any other sellers outside in price at least, if not in quality.

For women of our country who prefer wearing 'sarees' and 'shleewares', Banga Bazar could not be such an interesting place after all. But those who occasionally wear skirts, trousers,

shirts, T-shirts, sleeping gowns would find that this market is full of wonders.

Agatha Piper, a European in her late 20s admits, "I come here often. There are so much clothes to choose from that it puzzles you sometimes. And the garments that are sold here are remarkably cheap. Today I have bought a complete track-suit with 550 takas only. A sports suit of the same kind would cost about 100 dollars in any other country. I can't understand how they manage it!"

Mojammel Hoque, who is a shop owner and a Shop Owner's Committee Chairman explains, "Most of the clothing which are sold here are supplied to us by the local garment factories. These are really defective items, which have been rejected after strict quality control test. Most of the defects are very minor and in some the error is microscopic. After buying these we sometimes have to remodel or re-shape them and then we iron and pack these items. I wouldn't say that we are deceiving our customers in any way. Because we give them every opportunity to look through the article which they are buying."

Mojammel complained that, "Even though it is a very competitive market, business is not going all too well. Because there are approximately 1200 shops here. But we do not have that many customers each day. Even if we have 1000 customers, still 200 shops would be left with no one to buy. We actually need a better venue and a 'pucca' building. During the Ershad rule we handed over about eight crore Takas to the Municipal Corporation for this purpose, but still nothing has been done in this regard."

None of the shops at Banga Bazar sell at fixed price. Normally the salesman demands double the sum for which he is ready to sell. If you are not a clever buyer you have every possibility to fall into his clutches. Usually salesmen ask for an outrageous price when they see a foreign customer. But foreigners too, are now not very bad at bargaining.

Most of the salesmen here address the foreigners as 'bandhu' (friend) regardless of the fact that these foreign people may not understand a word that they say. But we would like to think that they say it with good intentions. Isn't it a sublime way of addressing a fellow human being as 'bandhu' when most of the people of the world are engaged in continuous strife against one another?

# TB, leprosy patients will get international standard treatment

Tuberculosis and leprosy patients of the country will get treatment of international standard with the introduction of short course chemotherapy in TB and multidrug therapy in leprosy soon, reports BSS.

These two latest treatments will be offered by the Mycobacterial Disease Control (MBDC) under its 'Further Development of TB and Leprosy Control Service' project involving Tk 110 crore.

An orientation on short course chemotherapy and multidrug therapy for 60 physicians working in different TB and leprosy hospitals and clinics began in Dhaka yesterday.

Inaugurating the two-day course at the National TB Control Project auditorium, Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said short course chemotherapy in TB and multidrug therapy in leprosy were very effective treatments that cure the patients within the shortest possible time.

Prof Chowdhury, himself a noted physician, expressed the hope that these two treatments would make a revolution in the field of medical sciences in the country.

He urged the physicians to deal with the TB and leprosy patients with utmost care and sincerity. He also stressed the need for creation of mass-awareness about these diseases.

The inaugural ceremony of the orientation course, jointly organised by the MBDC and National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB), was also addressed by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mohammad Strajul Haq, WHO representative in Bangladesh Dr A N A Abeysundere and Senior Vice-

President of the NATAB Mozfar Hossain Paltu.

The MBDC has undertaken the five-year 'further development of TB and leprosy control service' under the Fourth Five Year Plan with a view to reducing morbidity, mortality, disability and deformity due to TB and leprosy by controlling these two diseases.

According to latest official reports, there are 45 lakhs of TB cases in the country out of which five lakh 70 thousand cases are infectious and they are capable of discharging Mycobacterium TB through coughing and creating another one lakh 50 thousand new cases each year.

A World Bank report estimated that about two lakh 75 thousand leprosy cases are in Bangladesh. Though the death rate in leprosy is very low but the deformity rate is very high which is ranging between 16 to 20 per cent of the total diagnosed patients.

According to official sources, the existing facilities in the country for treatment of TB and leprosy are: One chest diseases institute and 12 TB hospitals with 576 beds and 44 TB clinics throughout the country and three leprosy hospitals in the country with a bed strength of 130.

The official sources said the existing facilities can hardly detect 10 per cent of the TB and 2 per cent of the leprosy patients.

The treatment completion rate in TB is about 40 per cent and in leprosy 60 per cent of the diagnosed patients.

The project further development of TB and leprosy control services' has been undertaken to detect more TB and leprosy patients and put them under treatment programme, the sources said.

## Bangla Academy sells Tk 45 lakh books

By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy has sold books worth Tk 45 lakh during the last one and a half years.

This was disclosed by the Director General of Bangla Academy Harun Ur Rashid at a book publication ceremony held Tuesday in the city.

The DG also said that the Bangla Academy was planning to publish biographies on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman, Maolana Bhasani, Suohrawardi and A K M Fazlul Haq.

## Milam meets Huda, Lutfur

The US Ambassador in Bangladesh, William B Milam, Wednesday called on Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at his Secretariat office, reports BSS.

They exchanged views on different aspects of bilateral issues and matters of mutual interests.

William B Milam, called on State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan at his office Wednesday.

They discussed issues of bilateral interest and mutual cooperation.

The state minister and the ambassador hoped that the friendly relations existing between the two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

## Computerisation of BSS underlined

By Staff Correspondent

The first meeting of newly-constituted Board of Directors of BSS held yesterday laid emphasis on the need for modernising the national news agency, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Julmat Ali Khan, the new chairman of the BSS board.

In his opening remarks, Khan, called for computerisation of the agency in order to modernise the news dissemination system of the national news agency. He also stressed the need for improvement of working conditions and development of more effective news service to build up BSS as a truly national institution.



## Thursday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Al Quran
- Programme summary
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-25 Child drama series: Cuckoo's sister
- 6-30 Shafar shathe
- 6-30 Jiboner Alo
- 7-05 School debate
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-40 Drama of the week
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Film: Family
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- Friday's programme summary
- 11-45 Closing

## Weather

### Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

A few places of Khulna and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Faridpur, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Bogra may experience temporary light or moderate rain or shower and rest of the country may remain dry during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, the Met office forecasts, while rainfall activities may increase within two days.

The regions of Chittagong experienced rainfall yesterday (Wednesday). Chief amounts of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6am to 6pm were: 60 mm at Teknaf, 19mm Kutubdia, 54 mm Cox's Bazar.

The maximum of 34.6 degree Celsius temperature was reported from Sylhet yesterday and the minimum of 24.0 degree was reported from Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 6.28 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.36 am.

The maximum and the 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	32.1	27.2	78	76
Chittagong	30.8	24.5	82	92
Rajshahi	32.5	26.9	80	
Khulna	32.4	26.7		92
Cox's Bazar	28.4	25.5	96	95
Sylhet	34.6	24.8	76	89
Barisal	32.2	24.8	86	91
Dinajpur	32.4	26.8	83	82



Ganatantrick Chhatra Oikya brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting attack on Rashed Khan Menon. — Star photo

## Discussion on reinvestigation into Dr Milon's killing tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A discussion meeting on 'Reinvestigation into the killing of Dr Milon and retrial of the killers' will be held tomorrow (Friday) at the gallery number one of Dhaka Medical College.

The meeting organised by Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsad will be held to mark the birth anniversary of Shaheed Dr Milon.

Health Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Awami League Organising Secretary Tofael Ahmed, MP, JSD President Kazi Aref Ahmed, former General Secretary of the DUCSU and JSD (Aref-Inu) leader Dr Mushtaq Hussain, President of Bangladesh Aijib Samannaye Parishad, Shamsul Haq Choudhury, Shaheed Milon's mother Selina Akhter, Dramatist Prof Mamatazuddin Ahmed, Principal of the DMC Prof Jahurul Mowla Ahmed and the Secretary General of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Gazi Abdul Haq will participate in the discussion.

The Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsad in a statement, meanwhile, observed that the assassination attempt on the Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, was the part of a planned conspiracy hatched by the anti-liberation forces.

Political killings in the country was increasing as trial through proper investigation into the Milon murder case was not held, the Sangsad added.

## Training course deferred to August 22

The inaugural function of the training course on "History of arts and aesthetic sense" for Shilpakala Academy has been deferred to August 22, reports UNB.

The function earlier scheduled to be held on August 20 has been shifted for unavoidable circumstances.

Shilpakala Academy introduced the three month training course recently under its fine and performing arts training project.


## Be aware of ill motive of vested quarters: Mostafiz

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman Wednesday called upon all to be aware of ill motive and guard against design of the vested quarters who were out to create lawlessness in the society to fish in the trouble water, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting in Mongla the minister reiterated government's determination and utmost endeavour to improve the lot of common people through implementing the 19-point programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. He called for sustaining peace, stability and congenial atmosphere in all spheres of life.

Happy Birthday TO



**MAHID**  
AND 10 HUGS FROM ME ON 10TH BIRTHDAY OASIM UNCLE

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. Mont Blanc Maru V-06044 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, Hongkong, ex. M.V. Oceanus Tokyo V-24278 from Genoa, ex. M.V. California Apollo V-39147 from Keelung have been relayed to M.V. NEW GENLORD V-8192, Import Rotation No. 624/92, is due to arrive Chittagong on or about the 22.8.92 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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## Mausumi competition begins Aug 21

Dhaka District level mausumi (seasonal) competition for children will be held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka on August 24 at 10 am, according to a press release, reports BSS.

The competition will be held on knowledge quiz, extempore debate and patriotic jargan in chorus.

## Date of Alim, Fazil exams shifted

The Alim and Fazil examinations under Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board which were scheduled to be held on August 20 have been shifted to August 23 due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

## BUET teacher conferred Ph D

AKM Matur Rahman, has been awarded Ph D degree in Chemistry from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) recently.

Rahman, Assistant Professor of BUET has been conferred the degree for his thesis entitled, "Studies on the Carbohydrates of Jackfruit and their role on its ripening", according to a press release issued yesterday.

## Seminar postponed

A seminar on "Ferro-cement" jointly organised by BUET-CIDA which is scheduled to be held today (Thursday) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), has been postponed for an unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

## What's on today . . . .

**Audio-visual slide show**  
An audio-visual slide show titled 'Mahabanaspatir Padnabi (The story of tree)' will be held today (Thursday) at 4-30 pm at the conference room of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council at Farm Gate.

**Discussion on Krishna**  
Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Samaj Sanskar Samity will hold a discussion to celebrate Janmastami of Lord Krishna today (Thursday) at 5 pm at its central office.

**BCPFA reception**  
Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association (BCPFA) will arrange a reception on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of the association today (Thursday) evening at a local hotel.

The Chinese Ambassador Chen Songlu will attend the function as the chief guest.

## . . . . and tomorrow

**At La Galerie**  
A painting exhibition of the Artist Zakia Ahmed begins tomorrow (Friday) at La Galerie at Banani. The show will continue till August 30 and will remain open everyday from 9 am to 8 pm.

This will be the 21st presentation of La Galerie's exhibition promoting art and artist in Bangladesh.

**Rajbari zila samity meeting**  
A condolence meeting of the Rajbari Samity (association) in Dhaka will be held at the Shishu Academy in the city tomorrow (Friday) at 4.30 pm to mourn the death of Abdul Wazed Chowdhury, an Awami League MP and Moslehuddin Mridha, ex-MCA, both hailed from Rajbari.



US ambassador in Bangladesh William B Milam called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at latter's office yesterday. — PID photo