

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Graffiti and the Dhakaite

by Parveen Anam



The newspaper industry, for all its pomp, glory and show, has apparently not yet realised, it is in keen competition, and a competition, where it is about to lose. Hands down. There is no question, but that the paper industry is on the brink of ruin. They are of course blissfully unaware of the whole situation. But then, 'ignorance is bliss' the wise profess. So bless the papers, for their blissful ignorance. And they are ignorant yet, because they keep such odd and long hours, working themselves to the bones till the wee hours of the morning, that they have had no time to be out on a reconnaissance mission, in the early morning hours, to see their competitors, in their full glory.

They will not have to walk far; a small walk down any city street, and they would be left speechless at the number of 'writings on the walls'. Literally. Anything that you ever wanted to know, starting from who needs to be freed from jail to the political philosophies of the mighty political parties, are there on the walls. For you to read, in bold print. You don't even need your glasses. Their consideration is marvellous. Who wants to carry reading glasses on morning walks? Starting from telling you in no uncertain terms who you should vote for, to what to do about your balding pate to how you can spend your leisure time. It's all there on the walls. Take your pick. That in the process, the wall of the neighbour is a total mess on the outside, is of course none of either his business

or yours. Of course, the Municipal Corporation, from time to time, manages to add its share to the whole scenario, by threatening people and giving them 72 hours to have sparkling clean walls, 'or else'... Great sense of humour, these Municipality guys have, we must admit. Either that or they are in league with the guys who paint the signs on the walls. What other reason can they possibly have for issuing such absurd 'commands'? But again, 'Ours is not to reason why'. Or perhaps they are trying to show some solidarity with the newspaper fellows. Unemployment being at the heights it is, it would never do to have the entire newspaper industry on the dole. And that is a distinct possibility, if the 'writings on the wall' continue at the rate it is going. What never fails to surprise the common man, is when these little guys actually come and paint all those little slogans. In the dead of night, perhaps? Nocturnal habits of the slogan painter, is obviously questionable. They would be of great help to the 'intelligence' people, when they cannot catch the little robber, who ran away with the neighbours valuables, I am sure. However, at the end of the day, the newspaper man had better tighten his belt or he might well find himself joining the ranks of the unemployed, because by the time the Dhakaite is back from his morning walk, he knows all there is to know, about Dhaka and a few scientific theories too, in the bargain. And all from the 'writings on the walls'.

100-bed hospital may be set up in each dist Hqs

The government plans to set up one 100-bed hospital in each of the district headquarters, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from JP member Advocate Fazle Rabbi (Gaibandha) the Health Minister said at present one 100-bed hospital is in operation in each of the 14 district headquarters. The government has plans to convert the existing hospitals at district headquarters into 100-bed hospitals in phases.

The Health Minister said there are 522 government hospitals in the country. These include specialised hospitals, hospitals attached to medical colleges and thana health complexes.

Replying to a question from Jamaat Member Sheikh Ansar

Alj (Sathira), the Health Minister said the number of approved beds in these hospitals is 25,550. These include 557 cabins and 2,533 paying beds.

Kamal Yusuf said 5055 physicians, including 343 dental surgeons, and 6952 nurses are employed in these hospitals.

The Minister said each doctor administers health care to between 50 and 60 patients per day. On an average a nurse takes care of six patients per day, he added.

The Health Minister, in reply to a question from Awami League member Advocate Dhirendranath Debnath Shambhu (Borguna) said a 50-bed cancer hospital has started functioning at the Cancer Institute, Mohakhali from March 15. The government

plans to convert this hospital into a 200-bed hospital.

Another reports says: Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday informed the House that 21.7 million children between the ages of six and 71 months had been suffering from malnutrition.

In a written reply to a question from Dr Mozammel Hossain (AL-Bagerhat), the Minister said the government had taken up several steps to save the children from malnutrition.

The steps include nutrition rehabilitation programme through children nutrition centres, publicity to ensure breast feeding, growth monitoring programme for the children under five years of age and the programmes of distributing vitamin 'A' capsule.

Youths must be utilised in planned way: Speakers

The restlessness of the youths and their uncertain future came in for a thorough discussion at a seminar in Dhaka yesterday and the speakers opined that country's vast youth force must be utilised in a planned manner for nation's future, reports BSS.

Held under the aegis of the Society for International Development (SID), Bangladesh Chapter, key note paper at the seminar was presented by former Adviser in interim government ABM G Kibria and the discussions included Dr A Moïn Khan, MP, Home Secretary Manzurul Karim, former civil servant and member, Awami League Advisory Council AHSS Sadeq, ILD Director in Bangladesh WK Blen and CPB leader Mujahidul Islam Selim. ATM Shamsul Huq, Member, Planning Commission

and Chairman of the Bangladesh branch of the SDI, presided.

Kibria, who is also a former Inspector General of Police, in his paper on "Youth, Unemployment, Delinquency and Crime" dwelt in details the prevailing situation of Bangladesh's youths and other related matters.

He painted a gloomy picture about the present and future of the vast but idle youth force, which otherwise could be a potential strength for the nation's all-round development and said a youth community without future could be dangerous.

Kibria explained the economic scenario vis-a-vis the unemployment, crimes and terrorism and said the youths could constitute a solid meaningful force for a developing country like Bangladesh if utilised in a planned and effective manner.

The discussants were in agreement that despondency, lack of clear direction and temptation in a society, where honesty seems to have no value, generally lead to crimes, terrorism and frustration.

State award for resistants of toll collection demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Shop owners have demanded that the resistants of violence and collection of tolls be awarded by the state for encouraging social resistance of such crimes.

The Federation of Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners' Association and the Federation of Bangladesh Shop Owners' Association in separate statements yesterday raised the common demand. Both the federations observed that the building up of social resistance as called upon by the government leaders would not be possible unless the state patronise and reward the resistants.

Leaders of the two federations regretted that none either from the government side or the opposition part ever congratulated the businessmen who had set examples of bravery facing the terrorists at the risk of their lives. The federation leaders also called on the government to compensate for the members of the victims' families.

DCC evicts slum dwellers

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has evicted slum dwellers and illegal occupants from Kawranbazar, Farmgate and Kamal Ataturk Avenue areas in presence of two first class magistrates during drives between October 11 and 14, reports BSS.

A DCC press release said here yesterday the city corporation also evicted unauthorised floating shopkeepers and hawkers from Mahakhali bazar and park during the period.

BUET workshop on Women in Development

By BUET Correspondent

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will organise a workshop today (Friday) on 'Women in Development: Technical Profession and Education' under the auspices of the University of Alberta-BUET Institutional Linkage Project and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Minister for Education Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar will inaugurate the workshop at 9.00am at the Civil Engineering Building of the University.

Emile Gauvreau, High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh will attend the workshop as the guest of honour and Professor M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of BUET will chair the session.



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda attended as chief guest the launching ceremony of Euroguard, a water filter-cum-purifier at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

New type of water filter introduced

By Staff Correspondent

A new type of water filter cum purifier using ultra violet (uv) ray for treatment of water has been introduced in the Bangladesh market Thursday.

Services and Company, a local business firm marketing the product named EUROGUARD arranged a launching ceremony at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Explaining the functions of EUROGUARD experts from the manufacturing company said it purifies water in three stages-removing physical impurities like dirt, impart unpleasant taste and odour and finally eliminate all known water-borne disease-causing bacteria and viruses through ultraviolet (uv) treatment.

The apparatus can be mounted on the wall and it can purify one litre of water per minute. The product would cost about Taka 9495 in Bangladesh.

Nepalese envoy meets Matin

The Ambassador of Nepal in Bangladesh, Lok B Shrestha called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The envoy stayed with the Minister for some time and discussed matters of common interest.

They expressed the hope that the existing friendly ties and good relations between the two neighbouring countries would be expanded

The experts said the operating cost of the product would be less than using filters, chemical treatment or boiling water. They also said the product has already got market in different countries of Asia and Europe.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda formally inaugurated the launching ceremony.

In his brief speech he hoped that the introducing company would serve the customers with back up services.

'No plan to dredge Jamuna river'

The government has no plans to dredge the Jamuna river in near future, State Minister for Shipping Harun Al Rashid told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Answering a supplementary question from Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition, the state minister stated that because of the silting of the river ferry ghat on Sirajganj-Bhuapur had to be shifted. He, however, said that ferry service, which is now suspended would start functioning once the approach road was ready.

In reply to another supplementary from a lady member, the minister said despite dredging of the river Pasur, silting continues.

'38 accidents occurred in river routes'

Some 38 accidents have occurred in the country's river routes since 1990 claiming 189 lives, reports UNB.

State Minister for Shipping Harun-ar-Rashid said this in parliament yesterday replying to Mohammad Abu Bakr of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions, at a few places over Dhaka division and at one or two places over Rajshahi division with moderately heavy falls at places over Chittagong and the regions of Khulna, Barisal and Patuakhali during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Meanwhile, the chief amount of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday (Thursday) in the country were: Bogra 51 mm, Teknaf 21 mm, Kutubdia 9 mm, Chittagong 19 mm, Sitakund 5 mm and Dhaka 1 mm.

The maximum temperature of 34.5 degree Celsius was reported from Sathkira and the minimum of 21.4 degree was reported from Srimangal yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5.31 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.57 am.

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

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.5	25.5	90	82
Chittagong	28.0	24.2	98	93
Rajshahi	32.2	23.5	77	79
Khulna	33.6	23.4	87	82
Cox's Bazar	27.2	24.5	92	97
Sylhet	29.0	23.2	84	83
Dinajpur	29.5	23.0	88	89
Barisal	31.5	25.0	82	92

BIBM workshop concludes

A 3-day workshop on "Management Informations System in Banks," conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) ended yesterday, reports BSS.

Thirteen officers from different banks and financial institutions participated in the workshop.

The workshop highlighted the importance of management information system in banks and financial institutions and on the ways and means to develop and maintain it.

AHM Nurul Islam Choudhury, Director General, BIBM, presided over the concluding session of the workshop and gave away the certificates to the participants.

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Ex-students of Residential Model School/College, Dhaka interested to organise REMIANS Silver Jubilee Celebration are requested to attend a organisational meeting on Thursday 22 October 1992 at 3 PM at Residential Model College, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

Prof. Md. Abdul Hye Principal, RMC

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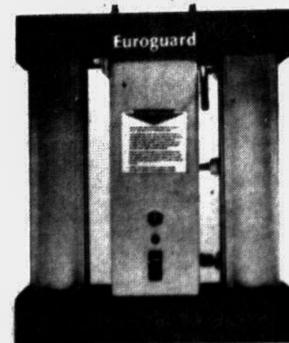
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