

Dhaka Day by Day

Popular Porcelain

by Rahat Fahmida

The porcelain shops at the shopping centres in the city draw attention instantly. One is likely to have a misconception that most of these smart looking, glazy products are imported. But to their utter astonishment they turn out to be local products.

With the rapid spread of industry, the exodus from the countryside and resultant transformation of the urban lifestyle, city-dwellers of the past two decades have found themselves living in an increasingly Western environment, to the extent of certain utility products. And porcelain product is just one of them.

The density of urban populations, the development of complex transport system and the growth of industries have contributed to the change of attitude of individuals. For competition in the international market, business houses, or rather industries have to design their products according to their liking. They have to keep par with their style of designs.

Porcelain industry is just a child compared to the age of earthenware of this country. But their productivity and technology has been in a lightening speed.

The history of porcelain here goes back to not more than 25 years. The concept of porcelain, as mentioned earlier, is very much a foreign or rather Western concept, though it has been in use in China for a very long time.

At present, in Bangladesh, there are five porcelain industries in regular production, of which two are export oriented and the others meet the local needs. Four of these porcelain industries are located in Dhaka and one in Bogra. The five industries are: Monno Ceramic Industry, Bengal Ceramics, People's Ceramic, National Ceramics and Tajma Ceramics.

Monno Group of Industries is the leading unit of this sector. This private unit was established in 1987. Their total number of employees come to around 600. The capacity of this industry is on an average six tons per day. From this about four tons are exported and the other two are for the local market. One tonne

of production is worth one lakh taka. Hence, its annual export is of about 12 to 15 crore taka. This industry mainly export their products to London, Germany, Italy, Middle East, Korea, and Australia.

The other industry, which also has an export market is Bengal Ceramics. Their daily production is three tonnes, of which they export two tonnes and the other one is for the local market. The daily production of the People's Ceramic is five tonnes.

Mostly all the industries in ceramic business are private limited companies. They follow the company law as implied in the constitution of Bangladesh.

Almost all the equipments used in the ceramic industries are imported. When the purchase of these equipments is negotiated, a kind of package deal is agreed upon which, among other things, includes terms and conditions relating to training facility of the personnel who will man the equipments, installation of the equipments in the country of import and the trial run by the engineers/technicians of the manufacturer, so that adjustment can be made where necessary.

All the raw materials are mainly imported from India, China, Japan and Korea. Though a large quantity of the white clay is available in this country, but the extraction of iron oxide and silica from that clay means setting up another plant. This not only means investment, but initiative to a great extent by the local industrialist in this business, for whom it is easier to import rather than go in for the plant.

The quality of these products and their designs is comparable to the Western world from the very initial stage of this industry in this country. Some of them are exact replicas of certain European designs, for which the exact dices have been brought in.

No environmental hazards have so far been reported in this sector. The workers are said to be insured through the individual industries. But no investigation in this regard has been done, to look into the adverse effects.



Too hard to believe these are local products.

PM shocked at loss of lives in Pak train disaster

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the train disaster in Pakistan and condoled the deaths and injuries caused by the accident, reports BSS.

In a message to the Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, she conveyed sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolence on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh to the government and people of Pakistan at the tragic accident near Sukkur, Sunday.

The Prime Minister prayed for the departed souls.

The Prime Minister expressed deep shock at the train disaster in Pakistan and condoled the deaths and injuries caused by the accident, reports BSS.

In a message to the Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, she conveyed sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolence on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh to the government and people of Pakistan at the tragic accident near Sukkur, Sunday.

The Prime Minister prayed for the departed souls.

Training course for newsmen begins today

A ten-day training course jointly organised by the Press Institute of Bangladesh and Dinajpur Press Club begins today (Tuesday) at the auditorium of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, says of press release.

About twenty journalists from Dinajpur, Bogra and Nilphamari will participate in the course.

Kamal Lohani, Associate Editor of PIB, Khondaker Ali Ashraf, Senior Assistant Editor of the Dainik Bangla and Rafiqul Islam Nasim, Senior Instructor, PIB will conduct different sessions of the course.

Women support centre set up at Shamoli

A women support centre has been set up at Shamoli here at a cost of over Taka one crore to provide a safe-shelter to the oppressed and helpless women, reports BSS.

Arrangement has been made to provide 100 oppressed women a safe-shelter for three months in this centre.

This was revealed at the tenth meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women's Affairs Ministry at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman in the chair.



The Nepalese envoy in Bangladesh Bir Bahadur Shrestha called on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her JS office yesterday.

DU Social Welfare students start 6-day strike today

Students of the Social Welfare Institute of Dhaka University will go for a 6-day strike from today demanding immediate resignation of the institute's Director, reports UNB.

In support of the strike, the students of the institute yesterday (Monday) staged a demonstration at its premises and held a rally.

The rally was addressed by A B M Mosharraf Hossain, Ashit Kumar Malakar and Shamsul Alam Liton.

Blind always a burden for society, admits Health Minister

Over one million people of Bangladesh are blind or visually handicapped and every year the number is increasing due to poverty, illiteracy and poor communication, reports BSS.

This was disclosed in the workshop on Update in Ophthalmology held in Dhaka yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest.

The Health Minister said a blind man is always a burden for the society. Blindness and visual disability is a burning problem for the country.

He said government has undertaken projects for prevention of blindness in collaboration with World Health

Organisation which is being implemented through National Institute of Ophthalmology.

National Institute of Ophthalmology has already covered 397 out of 400 rural thana health complex doctors and medical personnel by providing necessary training on primary eye care. Necessary instruments of primary eye care had already been supplied to these thanas he said.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said it was essential to upgrade the knowledge of our eye specialists about up-to-date concepts and modern technology for providing efficient curative service on blindness. He hoped that the knowledge gained by our eye specialists

from this workshops would help increase their knowledge and skill and in turn our people will get better services from them.

Two lakh children are suffering from night blindness in our country. Of these, 30,000 become blind while another 15,000 die due to malnutrition, whereas only 100 GM of leafy vegetables daily in normal diet could prevent this unwanted blindness.

Presided over by Director National Institute of Ophthalmology Professor Dr Humayun Kabir, the function was also addressed by WHO Representative in Bangladesh Dr A N A Abye Sundure and Prof M A Huda.

MESSAGE FROM DAVID JOHNSON

European buyer requires following stock: Mens, ladies, children and underwear in all depts pls. submit samples, spec. and best prices asap.

Contact: FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL WASA Bhaban, Kawran Bazar Dhaka Phone: 811207-10. S-300

Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed cover are invited from local importers of printing paper for supply of four hundred and ninety (490) reams double crown 80 Gm offset printing paper of Japan origin. Interested parties may submit tenders quoting rates per ream of above specifications together with sample to the General Secretary, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nimitali, Dhaka 1000, within 10 November, 1992 (3-00 PM). Tenders will be opened at 4-00 PM on the same day in the presence of tenderers if any turns up at the appointed time.

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

D-606

HERE and THERE

Rural Medical Assoc

An international seminar on "Health for All by the Year 2000 AD Quinacrine and for Permanent Family Planning without Operation" was held at the conference hall of the Chittagong Chemical Complex recently.

It was organised by Barakkund unit of the Bangladesh Rural Medical Association.

Dr Elten Kessel, Secretary General of the World Rural Medical Association attended the function as chief guest.

Mahila Forum

The second annual conference of Bangladesh Mahila Forum began Monday afternoon at the auditorium of the National Press Club with the slogan of ensuring rights of women at all levels.

The conference presided over by the President of the Forum Advocate Ferdousi Sultana was attended by Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, Chairman of Bangladesh Press Council as chief guest while Vice-President of the Federation of University Women Munira Khan, President of Women's Voluntary Association Shilu Abed and Journalist Rosy Ferdous participated in the discussion.

Islami Biplabi Andolon

The founder Chairman of Bangladesh Islami Biplabi Andolon, Maolana Shamsul Huq Zihadi and Secretary General Hafez Ziaul Hassan Zia in a joint statement Monday condemned the armed attack on the Ahmadya Mosque.

They also demanded of the government to form a probe body into the incident and punish the criminals.

Silk Route Travels

The new office of Silk Route Tours and Travels was inaugurated at Motijheel in the capital Monday evening.

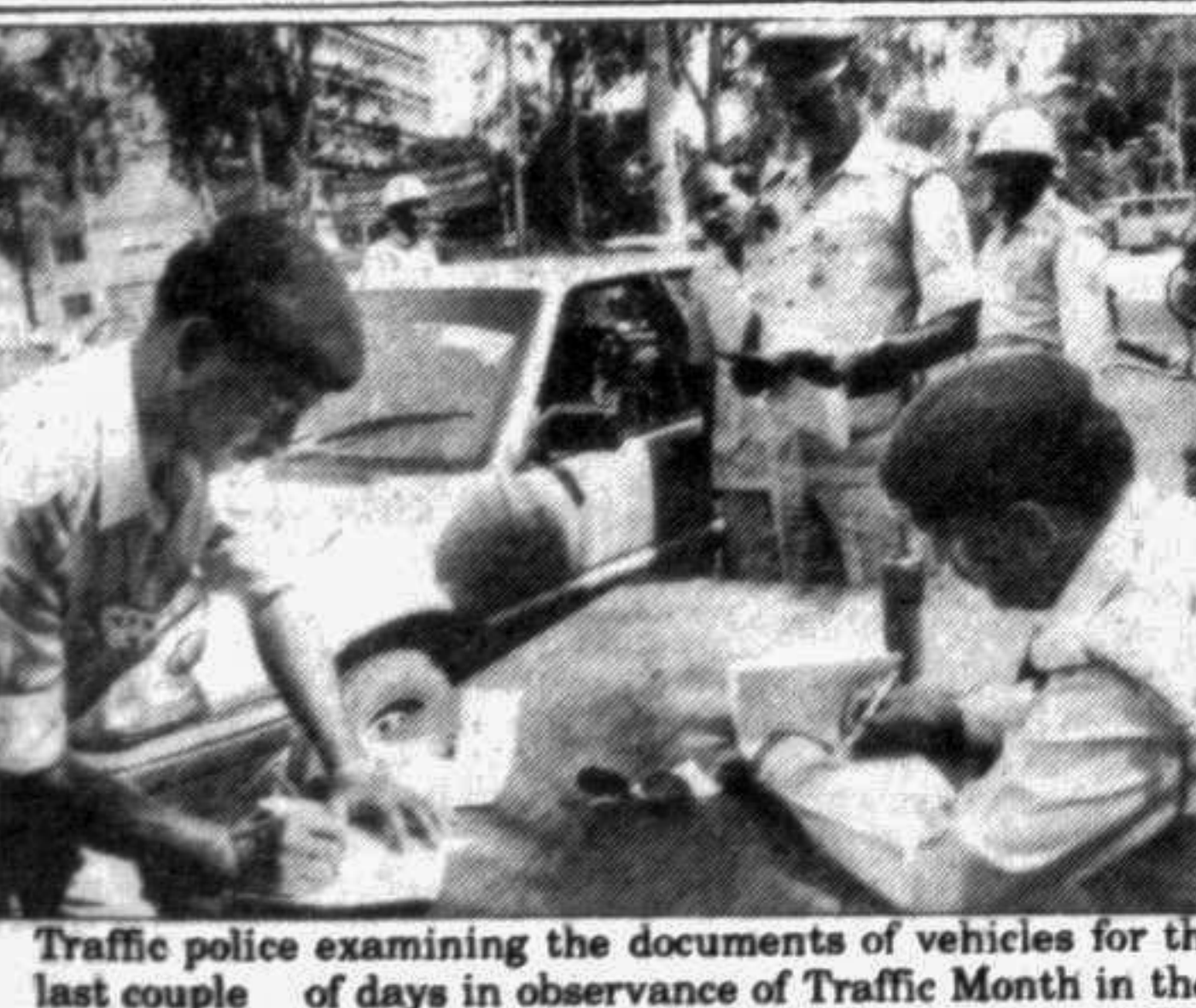
Chairman of Al-Baraka Bank and President of Brother's Union Club Amanullah Miah formally inaugurated the office at 9/C Motijheel.

The inaugural session was followed by a milad mahfil which was attended by many businessmen and industrialists.

Sewing machine handed over to Khairul's wife

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas yesterday handed over a sewing machine to wife of late photo journalist Khairul Alam on behalf of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

Alam was killed under the wheel of a train near Sonargaon rail crossing recently during an assignment.



Traffic police examining the documents of vehicles for the last couple of days in observance of Traffic Month in the city.



Anniversary of Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda's death today

The 15th death anniversary of eminent scientist and educationist Dr Muhammad Qudrat-e-Khuda will be observed here today (Tuesday), reports BSS.

To mark the occasion a discussion meeting on the life and activities of late Qudrat-e-Khuda will be held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) at 11 am the same day.

BCSIR Chairman Dr M Wajuzzaman will be the chief guest at the function.

Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda foundation will also observe the day through holding of milad mahfil.

RU Pass course exams begin May 11

RAJSHAHI, Nov 2: BA, BSS, B Com and B Sc (Pass) examinations of 1992 under Rajshahi University will be held from May 11, 1993, the Controller of Examinations announced here yesterday, reports BSS.

Obituary

Syed Habibur Rahman, a social worker and a senior business executive, died of heart attack in Dhaka last night. He was 65, reports UNB.

S H Rahman was Managing Director of Black Wood Hodge (Bang), a British firm.

Born of a respectable family of Maj Bhandar Darbar Sharif in Chittagong, he left behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

His body will be taken to Maj Bhandar Darbar Sharif today (Tuesday) for burial. Namaj-e-Janaja will be held there after Asr prayers.

What's on today

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held today (Tuesday) at Hotel Sonargaon at 5-30 pm.

FPAB training course
Sadek Hossain, Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports, will inaugurate a three-day training course for Youth Organisers of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) today (Tuesday) at 9.00 am at Shaheed Mozaddin Auditorium, 2 Naya Paltan, Dhaka-1000.

Alamgir M A Kabir, President of FPAB, will preside over the inaugural session.

Press Conference
Bangladesh Dristhin Adhikar Aday Parishad will hold a press conference today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium on the rights of the blind.

National symposium
A national symposium on "People, Development and Environment" will begin here today (Tuesday) to highlight the complex interrelationship of population, natural resources, environment and development with special reference to Bangladesh.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the two-day long symposium at a city hotel.

The symposium has been jointly organised by Bangladesh Rural Development Board and the Social Science Division of the World Conservation Union.

Workshop on the disabled
Bangladesh Society for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Congenitally Disabled (BSPRCD) in collaboration with WHO and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will hold first international conference and workshop tomorrow (Wednesday) at 9 am at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf will be the chief guest.

. . . . and tomorrow

Weather
Moderate rain likely
By Staff Correspondent
Moderate rain or shower may occur over the regions of Chittagong, Noakhali, Comilla, Faridpur, Dhaka, Barisal and Patuakhali with moderately heavy falls at places during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday).

Dry weather will prevail elsewhere over the country with partly cloudy sky during that period.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, the Met office forecasts, and weather is likely to deteriorate within two days.

The maximum temperature of 33.8 degree Celsius was reported from Jessore yesterday (Monday) and the minimum of 17.4 degree was reported from Dinajpur.

The sun sets today Tuesday at 5.18 pm and rises tomorrow Wednesday at 6.06 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the 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	33.5	21.6	66	63
Chittagong	29.4	23.8	80	81
Khulna	33.2	23.5	77	83
Rajshahi	32.4	18.3	73	80
Cox's Bazar	30.0	-	-	85
Sylhet	32.2	21.5	88	77
Dinajpur	31.3	17.4	75	73
Barisal	32.4	22.0	92	92

Commonwealth team calls on Saifur

The visiting three-member Commonwealth Equity Fund delegation yesterday called on Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at his office here, reports BSS.

The delegation comprised Trustee James Rullman, Portfolio Manager, Engineering, Marketing Stephen J McCarthy and Representative of Director's office, Economic Affairs Division Dr Bishaka Mukherjee.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly the prospect and possibilities of Commonwealth Equity Fund investment in Bangladesh.

Saifur Rahman gave a brief resume of the present prospect and avenues for overseas investment in Bangladesh following the reforms so far taken by the present democratic government.

SENDON UPS

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT
"BRACHI NIKET" 54 DILKUSHA CA (4TH FLOOR)
G.P.O. BOX NO. 1420, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH.
TEL: 239782, 233317 FAX: 880-2-863991, TLX: 642685 B1

Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited
(A subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)

গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করুন এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ে বিল পরিশোধ করুন

Tender Notice

Subject	Cost of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money
01. a) Supply of Woolen suiting cloth, for Coat & Pants.645 Yard (589.53 meter). b) Woolen Shawl (Ladies) 14 Nos. As per sample	Tk 250/- per set	5% of the quoted value.
02. Supply of Electrical goods	Tk.100/- per set	5% of the quoted value
03. Supply of Printing goods (Only for Printing Press owner's).	Tk.50/- per set	-Do-
04. Supply of Stationery goods.	Tk.400/- per set	-Do-

Place of Selling, Receiving and Opening of Tender Documents:
a) BGSL, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla.
b) BGSL, 100 Momin Road, Chittagong.
c) City Gate Station, BGSL, Demra, Dhaka

Selling date of Tender documents : 02.11.92 to 15.11.92
Date and time to receive tenders : 16.11.92 @ 11.00 a.m.
Date and time to opening tenders : 16.11.92 at 11.15 a.m.

BG-1202
DFP (BA) 10555-29/10
G-1390