

Dhaka Day by Day

Perils of shopping for a lady

by Fayza Haq

When a lady endeavours to go shopping in Dhanmandi with 'sari' or 'shalwar kameez'...

Should the lady have the gumption, and is under duress, and must visit the neighbouring shops for a packet of cigarettes, she is charged Tk 47, on some occasions. The cigarettes are meant for the visitors who might be visiting the home.

Similarly, the prices of fruits and vegetables nose dive, although the said items are purchased from the same shop. This is when the maid-servant of the house is sent to handle the matter, and the same lady is not in the scenario.

One is surprised that the same rule applies to garments at Ghousia Market or New Market or even the Banga Bazaar. The shop-keepers have a glimpse of the jaded and faded shawl that the lady may be wearing, and understand that you must be affluent. They, therefore, demand any wild price they can conjure.

Once a lady from Tikatully went to purchase some clothes at Ghousia Market. She was flummoxed at what ensued. She ended up with a shop keeper, grabbing her hands firm, quoting modern Bangla poetry en route to Dhanmandi Rd No. 4. Next, what followed, must be expurgated. Can you envisage such a situation during the month of 'Ramzaan'?

The other day, another lady living near 'Bhuter Gallee' went to buy 'lungis' for her brother's birthday. She ended up with a 'gamcha' type material because of her lack of knowledge of the texture of the 'lungi' materials, and as she can be easily gulked.

Whenever a lady has to buy items for birthdays, marriages, anniversaries, 'aqiqas', or occasions of congratulations for a new-born baby, a knowledgeable friend or confidante must be roped in. This maybe difficult when a lady's friends might all be working beyond 6 p.m., having begun work at 9 a.m.

The lady must rummage for the grubbest set of clothes and then bargain like a banshee. Who has the time or the chance to go through such acts and performances daily?

Even gentlemen in the city are known to don their dirtiest 'lungis' at Fakirerpul or Mau-chak or even Malibagh, when they do their daily chores of shopping for the house.

A lady maybe well aware where to get 'banned' medicines sold under the counter, and may have the authoritative department to get what she wants. She maybe well aware of all the vegetable, meat, and clothes shops, with fixed prices. Yet she could be working beyond midnight at the home and at the office.

Dhaka is not London or Washington or Tokyo. A lady must apply her ingenuity, to obtain all the required items for her family and friends, for all occasions.



A lady going shopping

Huda assures utilising services of geotechnical engineers

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said government would encourage and promote professional skill in various vital areas of national development to remove country's dependence on expatriate professionals, reports BSS.

Barrister Huda said more initiative would be taken to utilise services of Bangladeshi geotechnical engineers to reduce country's reliance on expatriate professionals who were now handling many engineering projects of national importance.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of the first two-day Bangladesh-Japan joint geotechnical seminar on 'Ground Improvement'.

Organised by Bangladesh Society for Geotechnical Engineering (BSGE) and Japanese Society of Social Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (JSSMFE), the seminar began at the Institution of Engineers here.

Former Planning Commission member Dr SHK Yusuf Zai, Prof H Aboshi, Prof Fumoo Tatsukoa and BSGE general secretary Prof Shafiqullah also spoke. BSGE President Dr Ahsan Khan presided.

Barrister Huda pointed out that in the past the developers had extended the cities by careless filling up of grounds disregarding its improvement. The result had been a 'nightmare' for the owners of these newly-filled lands who spent their fortune to provide foundation for even a modest structure, he added.

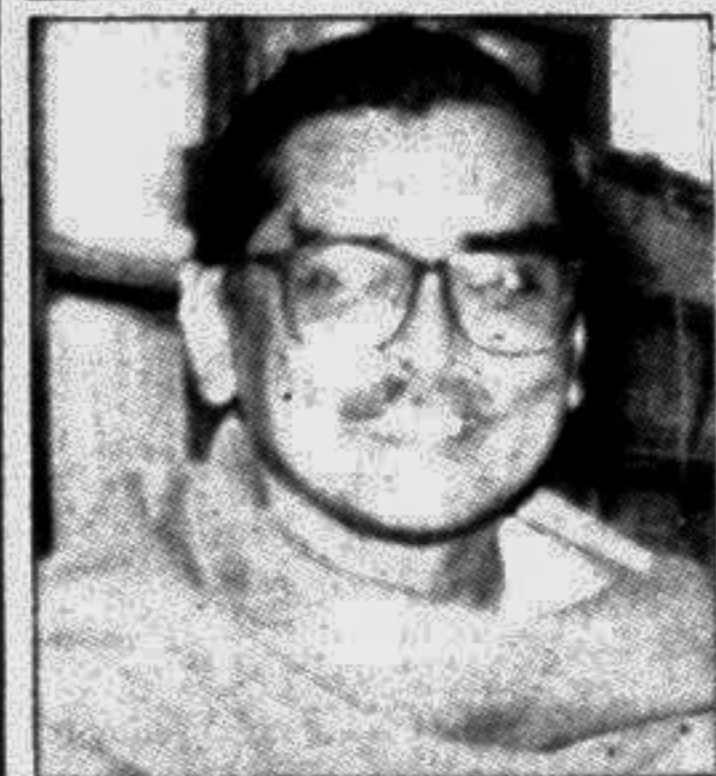
The Information Minister said, 'In a poor country like Bangladesh we should spare no effort to apply technology that can save our money and put us in no unnecessary trouble.'

We have seen during the past autocratic regime how the Dhaka flood embankment was planned and constructed with disregard to the soft soil condition that existed, Barrister Huda regretted and said it was surprising to know that even adequate soil exploration was not done before the work was undertaken.

Barrister Huda pointed out that embankment could not attain the very purpose of this costly Dhaka flood protection barrier.

He advised the geotechnicians and all other concerned to take lesson from this project and give more attention to the ground on which we build our structure.

Stressing the need for addressing the vital issue of ground improvement, the Minister said many of our cities were now going to extend on low lying areas where soils need to be improved before any construction or even filling could proceed.



Menon visits Daily Star office

Rashed Khan Menon, MP of the Workers Party visited the Daily Star office last evening. The Workers Party leader exchanged greetings with the Daily Star journalists present at the office.

While talking to the journalists, Menon expressed his thanks and gratitude to them for what he said the sympathy shown and support extended to him by the newspaper especially after the attempt on his life in August last year. Menon, after receiving treatment in England and Thailand, was back home on January 9, this year.

What's on today...

Dr M N Huda Memorial Lecture. The Department of Economics, Dhaka University, and the Alumni Association of the Department have jointly arranged Dr M N Huda Memorial Lecture at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium of the university today (Sunday) at 4 pm.

Peace Council Seminar. Bangladesh Peace Council will hold a seminar on 'Recent turbulent, communal situation in the sub-continent and future of the SAARC' at 4.30 pm today (Sunday).

Publication Ceremony. Chairman of the University Grants Commission and President Member of the council Prof M Shamsul Haque, will preside over the seminar which will be participated, among others, by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abus Samad Azad, Abdur Rob Chowdhury MP, Dr Abdullah al-Muti Sharfuddin and Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

The Department of Geography, Dhaka University, has arranged a publication ceremony for two books in Bangla (Bangladesh Bhugolik Samikshya and Bhugol: Disturbhongi o Darsan) published on December 16 last by the department. The ceremony will be held at the Science Annex building of the University at 4.00 pm tomorrow (Sunday).

Professor Enajuddin Ahmed, Acting Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University will be present at the ceremony as chief guest, while Professor Mohammad Harun-ur Rashid, Director General of Bangla Academy and Professor Obaidul Hoque, Chairman, Dhaka Board, will be special guests.

Apex Tannery Limited 65-66 Mottijheel C/A, Dhaka. Notice to Shareholders. Subject: Right Issue. The Company takes pleasure in announcing that the Right Share Issue has been fully subscribed. The Company wishes to express its gratitude to its valuable Shareholders for their participation in the Right Issue. Syed Manzur Elahi. Chirman

অফিস স্থানান্তর. জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরোর পত্র নং-ইএন-৩৪৫৭-(০)/১০০৮/৭/১৫০ তারিখ-২০/১/১৯৯০ইং এর নির্দেশ মোতাবেক সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, মেসার্স সিলভার লাইন এনোসিটেট, ট্রিডিং এক্সক্লুসিভ দফার নিয়ন্ত্রিত স্থানান্তর করা হইতেছে- পুরাতন ঠিকানা: মেসার্স সিলভার লাইন এনোসিটেট ৩৫৫ সেকেন্ড ফ্লাগা টাকা-১০০০ নতুন ঠিকানা: মেসার্স সিলভার লাইন এনোসিটেট বাগী নং-১৮, সড়ক নং-১০ জলদান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২ সর্বপ্রতি সকলকে এই মর্মে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে যে, প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি সংগ্রহের জন্য এবং এক্সক্লুসিভ বিক্রেতার কাছাকাছি কোন অভিজ্ঞতা বা দায়িত্বের ব্যক্তিকে জাযাজ্ঞান যেন উপরোক্ত নতুন ঠিকানায় এক্সক্লুসিভ সার্বিকভাবে সঠিক যোগাযোগ করেন ও অভিজ্ঞতার বিষয় বহু জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো, ঢাকাকে অবহিত করেন। এক্সক্লুসিভ নাম: সিলভার লাইন এনোসিটেট তারিখ: এফ, এ-এইচ, সেলিম ঠিকানা: বাগী নং-১৮, সড়ক নং-১০, জলদান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২ লাইসেন্স নম্বর: আর এল ০০৮

Kohinoor Chemical Company (BD) Limited Tender Notice. Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Co (BD) Ltd, Tejgaon Ind. Area, Dhaka from the genuine Manufacturers for supply of 3,60,000 pieces aluminium collapsible tubes for tibet snow and 2,15,000 pieces aluminium collapsible tubes for leather shaving cream (STD) in side lacquered with fitted cap against Tender Enquiry No. PD-III/KCC/373/22 dt. 20-01-93. Tender documents available at Tk. 200.00 (Non-refundable) per set from (1) Kohinoor Chemical Co. (Bd) Ltd., 349-350, Tejgaon Ind. Area, Dhaka (2) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha Comm. Area, Dhaka and (3) BCIC, Branch Office, 6, Agrabad Chittagong. Tender will be received up to 11:00 AM on 07-02-93 and opened immediate thereafter. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. D-54

'Alternative film makers must be committed to society'

Discussions at an international seminar yesterday called upon film makers to portray the real life of the people and picture of the country, reports UNB.

There is no definition of alternative films. It totally depends on the film-makers why and how they will make films. But an alternative film maker must be committed to life and society, said eminent Indian film-maker Buddhadev Das Gupta while presenting his key-note paper on "Alternative Cinema: In Quest of a Concept."

"A real film maker must decide why he will make the film. He has to choose between money and reality. Independent film makers can not be influenced by the so-called mainstream film industry only for money, he observed.

Lack of appreciation and monetary gain leads them to frustration. But the film makers depicting reality and life should not be disheartened. In the long run, their arts will get appreciation," said Gupta.

While talking about the role of government in this regard, the Indian film maker observed that for the survival of the alternative cinema, the government should provide grants, loans, incentives and awards.

Without Film Society Movement, alternative cinema can not exist. Because one is complementary to another. At the same time, press should take a positive role to help flourish alternative films," he said.

Syed Ahmed, who chaired the seminar held at National Museum auditorium, said an artist should try to find out the real meaning of life. Throughout his life he should try and try to realise the inner meaning of life. Indian film maker Dr Swapan Shaha said that an artist should have commitment to his society. He can not escape from society's political realities.

Organised by Short Film Forum in connection with the 3rd International Short Film Festival that began here Thursday, the seminar was addressed by Mr Shohedul Islam, Manzare Hasin Murad, Tanvir Mokammel, Syed Salauddin Zaki, Aziz Meher and others.

DG BPI calls on Ctg newsmen

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Bangladesh Press Institute Director General Dr M Tauhidul Anwar today met with local editors and other senior journalists here, reports BSS.

Weather

Cold wave may continue

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday) says, mild to moderate cold wave is likely to continue over the country for another 48 hours with dry weather.

The minimum temperature of 6.0 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday (Saturday) and the maximum of 25.7 degree was reported from Teknaf.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.39 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.42 am.

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

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (9 am, 6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet, Dinajpur.

Situation Vacant World Health Organization Bangladesh

Applications are invited for two positions of Field Sanitation Officers under the WHO Project: BAN CWS 001 — Community Water Supply and Sanitation under the following terms & conditions:

- a) Maximum duration of contract: one year. b) Remuneration: To be decided according to the guidelines set by Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance based on qualifications and experience. c) Qualifications and experience: Candidates should be Bangladesh nationals. They must have Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering or Post Graduate Degree in Social Science with experience in water supply, sanitation, health education and human resources development. d) Duty station: Elsewhere in Bangladesh. One of the positions is meant for Chittagong Hill Tracts area. Candidate(s) against this position from Chittagong Hill Tracts area will be preferred. e) Job descriptions include: i) Will work primarily on water supply sanitation and health education, (ii) undertake inspections and evaluation of related programme activities, (iii) assist in planning and conducting of workshops and field training to improve skills on water supply, sanitation and personal hygiene.

Applications addressed to the WHO Representative, Bangladesh with full bio-data and photograph should reach the WHO Project Office: BAN CWS 001, C/o Department of Public Health Engineering, Moon Mansion, 5th floor, 12/L, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka by 30 January, 1993. S-29

Nat'l juvenile contest begins Feb 4

The national juvenile competition at Dhaka district level under the auspices of the district administration will be held from February 4, an official press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The literary and cultural competition will be held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner here at 9 am on the maiden day while sports events including badminton, table tennis and swimming will be held on February 6 and athletics on February 7 at the Physical Training College field at Mohammadpur.

BTV Sunday program schedule: 5:00 Opening Announcement Al-Gharan Programme Summary, 5:10 News in Bangla, 5:20 Cartoon: Tom The Nasty Cat, 5:25 Sports Programme, 6:30 Open University, 7:05 Tagore Songs, 8:00 News in Bangla, 8:30 Prabaha, 9:00 Film: The Wjard, 10:00 News in English, 10:30 Star Bari, 11:30 Khabar/ The News, 11:40 Tomorrow's Programme Summary, 11:45 Closing.

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