

Dhaka Day by Day

Touch of Elegance to Wood

by Raffat Binte Rashid



Razia Rahman and Aminul Rahman are an exclusive pair; together they made a dream world, their very own. Their world is a dreamland for almost every people and demands little cultivated taste and class, for its appreciation. It is comfortable, cosy unlike any shop, especially a furniture shop. They both have brought life to wood pieces, their products actually attract anyone's attention, even if there is no intention to make a purchase. It is a totally different world, a different vision. Tuntuni is a shop for hand-carved wooden furniture.

"Furniture pieces are Razias passion, informed Aminul her husband, she had the tendency of changing her furniture very often, in fact at least once a year. So I hired a permanent carpenter and set for him a workshop in our garage, and this made my wife thrilled. She made furniture and renovated her home as often as she desired. Suddenly seeing the carpenter at our home, friends and relatives started placing orders at their convenience, 'make me a stool, a table, this and that'. In the beginning my wife did these free of charge, obviously they paid for the wood. And ultimately she turned this into her business, and for 9 years she has built Tuntuni from a scratch to what it is now", he informed proudly.

Tuntuni is a furniture shop with a difference: here all the pieces are special, every piece has the touch of elegance and of course excellence. Razia has a factory in Gandaria, where 16 workers are employed. She and her husband supervises the work every day. All furniture items are carved and polished with utmost care, and it is pointless to say that a woman's touch naturally adds glamour, even to wood. The workers are hired on contract basis or daily basis, where their pay varies from Tk 135 to Tk 250. They are all from different parts of

Bangladesh, Dhaka, Faridpur, Pabna, and their different experience naturally adds colour to the workshop.

Designs are suggested by Razia sometimes she blends the styles of east and west and sometimes picks them up from catalogues. Except for shaping, all other hand-works are done in the factory. A table with a glass top, with all sorts of decoration and relief just beneath the glass, flowers, birds, elephants all neatly carved costs Tk 16,000/-. A sofa set with beautifully carved decorations costs Tk 65,000/- a dressing table with a Moghul look costs Tk 26,000/- then there are Italian sofa sets, beds, various tables, chairs and decoration pieces. Their prices might seem awfully high to many, but the quality and woodcraft of Tuntuni are definitely worth the purchase.

They also make decoration pieces which are low priced. They gather drift woods from the coastal belts and place them on top of a small wood piece in a very artistic manner. Just a touch of thought and an eye for beauty bring life to these lifeless things.

"We no doubt have a limited market, but the customers are happy. We are happy, a mere hobby has turned out to be a flourishing business. Furniture for Banga Bhaban, International Conference Centre, President's Secretariat are partially done by us. Concord Engineers gave us the sub-contract, and this was definitely a big step. We make all sorts of domestic and office furnitures," Aminul said.

They use nothing but Chittagong teak and Burma teak, they get plenty of good wood from Dhaka.

Recently they plan to make terracotta flower pots and other furniture pieces. It is definitely a promising area, and may be Tuntuni, a wood craft furniture shop, will be a pioneer in using terracotta culture in a wide range.

Injectable contraceptive for women likely soon

A wider range of contraceptive methods may soon become available to women as a result of a meeting organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the subject of once-a-month injectable contraceptives, a WHO press release said, reports BSS.

International experts in the field of human reproduction, reproductive biology, obstetrics and gynaecology, family planning and contraceptive delivery research, meeting at WHO's headquarters in Geneva 1-3 June 1993, have concluded that contraceptive injections given once a month are as effective as longer-lasting injectable such as DMPA (also known as Depo-Provera). The group concluded that two specific preparations under review—cyclofem and mesigyna—can be added to the existing range of contraceptive methods. Both medications have high efficacy, good cycle control and a relatively low incidence of side effects. The expert panel was confident that these new monthly injectable in many instances will be given preference by women in different countries of the world.

"We are pleased with the final results of clinical studies showing no differences in pregnancy rates between well-researched long-acting gestational contraceptives, such as Depo-Provera, and once-a-month combined estrogen plus

progesterone injectable under review," commented Dr Jock Findlay, co-chairman of the meeting, "they block pregnancy practically 100 per cent".

The group which included scientists, clinicians and family planning experts from Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States of America, as well as representatives of National Drug Regulatory Authorities and Pharmaceutical Industry, analyzed all available data on once-a-month injectable contraceptives.

The two new preparations—cyclofem and mesigyna—were developed by WHO's special programme of research, development and research training in human reproduction. The panel examined results of five large scale clinical trials involving 9,793 women for 102,058 women-months of use of both contraceptives. The pregnancy rates were all below 0.4 per cent for mesigyna and 0.2 per cent for cyclofem. More than 65 per cent of women had predictable regular cycles and discontinuations for bleeding-related problems were less than half that occur in case of progesterone-only injectable. Available data indicate a return to ovulation within two to three months of discontinuation.



The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Emajuddin Ahmed and the Vice-Chancellor of Tanta University of Egypt Dr A El-Yamani signing a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing a linkage programme between Dhaka University and Egyptian Universities at a simple ceremony at the former's office yesterday. Seif Allah Noseri, Charge d'Affaires (left) and Ayman M Amin Tomoum Cultural Attache (right) of Egyptian Embassy also in the picture.

Huda addresses NAM conference

Dhaka iterates commitment to New World Information Order

The Information Minister, Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to the establishment of a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO) according to a message received here, reports BSS.

Speaking at the fourth conference of the information ministers of the non-aligned countries here yesterday, he said, "It is our common quest for a fairer deal in the dissemination process to put forward our view points on various international issues and to project our cultural heritage and traditional identity." "Our objective," he said, "is to ensure a balanced objective synthesis of all views and stances in the information dissemination process."

He said the democratic government of Begum Khaleda Zia attaches utmost importance to information as an essential tool of democracy and vehicle for development and reiterated firm commitment to ensure complete freedom of the press, freedom of expression and opinion. Barrister Huda said the press, radio and television in Bangladesh faithfully depict the activities of the people, parties and organisations of all shades of views and opinions. He said the Bangladesh government has allowed international TV network to operate freely in the country to ensure free flow of

global information. Quoting the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, he said, "freedom of the press is the best safeguard of democracy, transparency and accountability. All hindrances and barriers in the way of freedom of the press have been removed."

Bangladesh, he said, has consistently supported the needed establishment of a New World Information and Communication Order (NWICO).

Bangladesh, he said, believes that there should be a greater democratisation in international relations. Emphasising the need for NAM countries to pool their resources for effective participation in the dissemination of news, Barrister Huda said the economically disadvantaged Least Developed member Countries (LDC) lack necessary infrastructural base for effective exchange with news agencies of other member countries, who have access to better technology including computerisation.

He said the LDCs should therefore receive support in the form of equipments and consultancy to enable them to build their own infrastructural base. He said exchange of news among non-aligned countries suffered due to high telecommunication tariff and in setting up satellite links between the news agencies. He proposed in-

roduction of UNESCO-recommended tariffs for the communication circuits for NAM news on a priority basis.

Barrister Huda said the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) should be approached to reserve adequate and equitable orbital and spectrum resources for use by the developing countries.

The NAM countries, he said, ought to intensify and strengthen south-south cooperation in the field of information on the basis of collective self reliance.

He suggested for taking concrete steps to undertake long-term plan on the use and application of modern technologies in the audio-visual media of the NAM countries to reduce the existing technological gap in the field of communication.

Praising the contribution of UNDP, UNESCO and other UN bodies in introducing modern technology to the mass media in the third world countries, he said, "We should seek enhanced cooperation and support from them in our efforts to intensify scientific research in this vital field."

Bangladesh, he said, recognises the importance of information in nation building and promoting amity among nations.



The Movement for Implementation of Sylhet Division brought out a procession in the city demanding declaration of Sylhet as a distressed area. —Star photo



Akikun Nisa Ahmed's death anniversary today

The eleventh death anniversary of Akikun Nisa Ahmed, a prominent social worker and leader of the women's liberation movement of Forties and Fifties of undivided Bengal and noted writer of great publications like 'Adhunik Stree' and 'Adhunik Swami' (Modern Wife and Modern Husband), will be observed today (Thursday) by the Central Memorial Committee at Dhaka and Mymensingh, says a press release.

To mark the occasion, doa mahfil and Quran khwant will be organised today after Asr prayers. Alms will be distributed among the destitutes tomorrow (Friday), the press release added.

BBC STAR TV The Brotherhood to focus on India June 20

BBC World Service Television on STAR TV presents 'Assignment: The Brotherhood' this week the global affairs documentary focuses on the current political situation in India. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won notoriety in the West and terrified India's Muslim minority when its militant Hindu supporters destroyed the mosque at Ayodhya. The BJP is now India's biggest opposition party, and a real contender for power, says a press release.

Tune in on Sunday, June 20, at 6:10 pm (Local Time), when Nick Clarke will investigate claims that, behind the newly-respectable front, a far more sinister organisation going by the name of 'The Brotherhood' pulls the strings.

Opposition's comment on BTV round-up deplored

Eminent writers, litterateur and citizens Monday expressed their astonishment and anxiety at the comments of some members of a section of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad following airing of BTV's parliament round-up written by reporter Shawkat Mahmood on June 6, reports BSS.

In a statement they said Shawkat Mahmood had tried to give an objective description in his Parliament round-up on what happened on that day. But certain quarter had made an unreasonable demand to bar him from writing the round-up and even attacked him personally.

They thought such comments were uncalled for and were a woeful interference with the freedom of the mass media and the press.

Quoting the Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament that Mahmood had split the DUJ and the Jatiya Press Club, they said such utterances are not only baseless but seem to betray personal grudges. They called upon all concerned quarters to behave in a responsible, conscious and ethical way for

upholding democracy achieved at the cost of great sacrifice.

Signatories to the statement included noted thinker Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf, Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Prof Abdul Ghafur, editor of the Bangladesh Times Mahub Anam, president of the DUJ Zahurul Haq, poets Sajjad Kadir, Musharraf Karim, and literary and cultural figures like Syed Lutful Haq, Ali Akbar, Abu Syed Zuberi, Sheikh Nurul Islam, Rezwan Siddiqi, Ahmed Musa, Mohammad Shahjahan, Abdul Hai Sikdar, president of the Zia Parishad Kabir Murad, office secretary of the DUJ Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, Abul Kalam Manik, Mokhesur Rahman Chowdhury, Ali Murad, Altuzzaman Harun, Shamsul Alam Liton and Jasim Uddin Ahmed.

The Bogra Journalists' Union and the Dhaka Medical College Students' Union, in separate statements, also expressed their surprise and anxiety at such utterances of a section of the opposition and termed those as interference with the freedom of the journalism and the mass media.

Weather

Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today says, rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places and a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to fall by one to three degree Celsius over the country.

The Met office in a warning forecast says, moderately heavy to heavy falls are likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the next 12 hours.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.8 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet and the lowest 33.6 degree was from Khulna and Srimangal.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.11 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	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.6	24.8	92	77
Chittagong	32.4	25.0	78	78
Rajshahi	31.2	26.2	80	85
Khulna	30.3	24.0	78	92
Barisal	29.8	24.8	90	100
Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.6	78	92
Sylhet	33.6	26.0	86	66
Dinajpur	32.0	26.5	82	83

10-taka prize bonds draw results

The 110th draw of 10 Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds was held Tuesday at the Chittagong Zilla Parishad Hall, Chittagong, says a press release.

The following 100 common numbers have been declared successful from amongst the numbers 000001 to 500000.

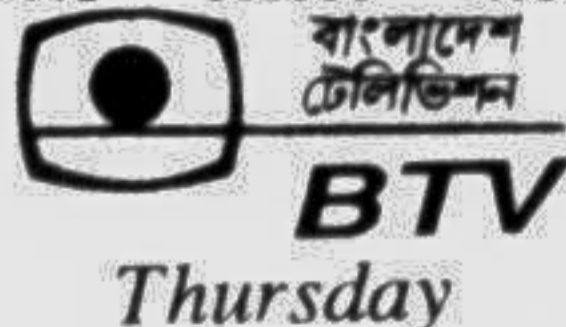
First prize of Tk 50,000 bearing No 433498, second prize of Tk 10,000 bearing No 389162.

Four prizes of Tk. 1,000/00 each bearing Nos 140364, 281008, 290536 and 407089.

Four prizes of Tk 500.00 each bearing Nos 110471, 135445, 410294 and 412262.

Ninety prizes of Tk. 100/00 each:

007954	089374	180964
278219	340296	008112
092643	182933	281021
342053	008255	106101
189771	288336	361092
009136	128426	200321
298295	368186	009681
128960	201619	298632
374978	012521	132235
208894	299586	380288
013975	132637	234947
305944	380309	016243
136843	235792	307780
388255	026722	137796
236958	309111	400688
030395	141290	250870
314074	401393	037546
141434	252620	319448
405705	052206	154510
254473	321227	411914
060516	158113	258974
322319	442731	072241
163882	261506	323167
448154	075435	168077
262157	325911	454576
078436	171654	278772
327657	486700	079017
173196	277340	328194
489812	082087	175593
277552	333914	493989



Time	Programme
5-00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary
5-10	News in Bangla
5-25	Debate
6-15	Esho Para Shikhi
6-40	Jiboner Alo
7-25	Nazrul Songs
8-00	News in Bangla
8-25	Drama of the week: Samantara! Rekha
10-00	News in English
10-30	Film show
11-30	China Beach
11-40	Khabar/The news
11-45	Tomorrow's programme summary
11-45	Closing



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