

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Old Traditions with a New Look

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

'Recycling', 'biodegradable' and '100 percent natural' may be the fashionable terms of the West today but they have been in practice for centuries in this part of the world. If anyone were to be ignorant enough to accuse Bangladesh of being environmentally 'backward', the Eco Exhibition of Sonargaon Hotel on September 7th would certainly discount such a presumption. Everything displayed at this remarkable gala was biodegradable and in tune with nature, even the jewellery!

The products, untouched by machinery, were all tastefully made and had a touch of class that was a nice break from the tedium of the usual unimaginative handicraft exhibitions. They displayed age-old traditions in a new, innovative look in keeping with contemporary tastes and trends.

For starters, there was an impressive collection of 'shitta patti' or cool floor mats from Nakhal in pleasing beige and chocolate patterns. A 'patti making' demonstration gave an air of authenticity to the exhibit. As for the patti, themselves, they represented the essence of traditional Bengali life style — cool, laid back and lightly slumbering.

The natural dye products displayed by Aranya were also hot items among the visitors. They included shalwar kameez in splashes of indigo, purple or green — the dyes all extracted from vegetables or plants.

Minature trees with little clay animals by Ikebana symbolized the exhibition's commitment to the environment. Small clay ducks, tortoises and birds decorated the plants which had banners with 'Save the Earth' slogans.

Traditional Jamdants from Demrah in vibrant colours were also on display. Unusual and in striking combinations of orange and green or purple and blue at the jamdants attracted many visitors, most of them female.

Also on display were colourful glossy posters with environmental messages. A UNFPA poster



exhibition organized by various NGOs were the clay jewellery and water hyacinth furniture. The 'Jewellery' from Potuakhali included bangles, earrings and necklaces all in red clay and were mostly sold out within an hour of the opening of the exhibition. Beautiful chairs, plant holders and laundry baskets all made from that seemingly useless plant we call 'kochuri pana' (water hyacinth), also attracted large crowds.

The 'environmentally friendly' products, as a visitor aptly named them, were all handmade by women and meant for both local and international markets. The exhibition, which was part of a day-long workshop titled women and the Environment by NARI (National Association for Resource Improvement) was an enterprising exposition of the talents of rural women and their intimate relationship with nature. A visit from Maneka Gandhi who was chief guest of the workshop, only added to the excitement.

QUL-KHWANI



..... the owl whose night-bound eyes are blind to the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.....
The Qul-Khwani of late Advocate A.F.M. Nizamuddin Haider will be held on Friday 10, 1993 at the Eastern Tower, 20 New Eskaton, Dhaka after Aasar Prayer. The deceased family humbly invites you to kindly attend the QUL-KHWANI. The breaved members of the family

Mahboob Alam made envoy to Brunei

The government has decided to concurrently accredit Mahboob Alam as High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, reports UNB.

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Sky will remain partly cloudy over the country during the next 24 hours from 6 pm yesterday, Met office forecasts.

Temporary light to moderate rain or showers is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, it says.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions, it added.

Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degrees Celsius during the period across the country.

The highest temperature of the country Thursday was 33.6 degrees Celsius recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 22.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at the same district.

The sun sets today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature	Humidity		
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.7	27.0	82	78
Chittagong	32.7	25.3	76	79
Rajshahi	33.4	25.8	81	93
Khulna	31.6	26.2	81	90
Barisal	31.5	24.0	83	79
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.0	72	68

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that in its extraordinary general meeting held on 27-3-93, the share-holders of METALALLOY INDUSTRIES (PVT.) LTD. have resolved to wind up the company voluntarily and appointed Mr M A Mannan, Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court as Liquidator. Anyone having any claim against the company may intimate the undersigned within 15(fifteen) days hence, M A Mannan, Advocate and Liquidator Metalalloy Industries (Pvt.) Ltd., Mansur Bhaban, 1st floor, 72, New Elephant Road, Dhaka.

S-290

CMC reopens September 18

CHITTAGONG, Sept 9: Chittagong Medical College (CMC) will reopen on September 18, reports BSS.

The decision to reopen the college was taken at a meeting of the college staff council held today.

CMC hostels will be reopened from September 18.

18,000 cases pending in Barisal

BARISAL, Sept 9: More than 18,000 various cases in the district are still pending in 17 courts causing untold suffering to the people concerned, reports UNB.

Under the district judge court, there are two additional district and sessions judge courts, two sub-judge courts, ten thana, assistant judge courts and two additional assistant judge courts.

Many cases remained pending as there are no judges in some courts.

Of the total pending cases, more than 2000 are of civil appeal cases, 2000 criminal appeal cases, about 1000 criminal revision cases, 8000 civil cases, 1000 miscellaneous cases appeals, 2000 miscellaneous cases and 1000 decrees and other cases including special tribunal cases and election cases.

Then there were the unique stationery products made from jute paper displayed by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). These included greeting cards, writing pads and folders in colourful designs.

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