

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

On the Roof

by Neil Ray



A roof on the head is a euphemism used to express the surety of a shelter. But it is much more: the cosy comfort and security against the onslaughts of elements. To the cloistered city people, however, a roof above means something more yet. When there are very few places to go, few friends to meet, a roof provides one with the space not only in the spatial sense but also in the spiritual sense. Indeed, the mental horizon expands only to get lost in the endless spheres of the sky.

Alone on the roof, one basks in the soothing silence which is the music of sphere. As the sun prepares for its daily departure into the great void of the western horizon with all its hues radiating into the crimson rays against a clean azure sky, the poet in each self takes over all other mental traits. The gathering dark clouds enveloping the entire length and breadth of the north-western sky, threatening impending doom in the summer also lifts the soul, for the encounter with the ferocious beauty is an experience unique in its way.

A roof, therefore, is the only real window of the mind for people of this soon-to-be a megapolis. It will perhaps not be before decades that people will be offering roofs for sale following in the footsteps of the Londoners already jostling for space for their residences. But compared to such economic use of the roof of a house, the indispensability of roofs here in Dhaka is no less valued by their discreet users.

Who does not know that trans-roof (like trans-Atlantic?) communication can lead to the most intimate relations of all?

Across the roofs comes flying a missile wrapped carefully with a piece of paper — of course not without writing — and the exchange continues. Whether great letters rivaling those of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett have ever been so produced is not known. But there are instances of affairs maturing through such billets-doux — mostly the roof taking the role of a go-between. The famous pastime of kite flying on the roofs of buildings in the city then has lent the skyline an air of festivity.

Yet nobody ever imagined until recently that roofs can be commercially used in a different way other than the Londoners, use in leasing and selling. This latest fad has already proved economically viable. This is roof-gardening along with pisciculture. Not that flower pots alone adorn the roofs of those with discerning tastes, but also fruit trees such as guava and grape vines yield quite a reward for the labour. Some have even started supplying plants commercially.

This venture is doubly rewarding because greening the roof means a handy retiring resort one has created oneself and for oneself. But as more and more people will be doing the same, Dhaka's roof-line will literally be a garden of Eden.



FUNSA organised a seminar in the city yesterday to mark the 48th UN Day. Seen from the right is Eimi Watanabe, Resident Representative of UN system in Bangladesh, Sarwari Rahman, State Minister for Women Affairs and Mahbub M Alam, chairperson FUNSA. —Star photo

Shishu Academy invites art works

Bangladesh Shishu Academy has invited art works from the children under 13 years to enter into the Beijing International Art Competition for Children '94, reports UNB.

The Song Quiling Foundation and the Children Development Centre of China have jointly arranged the international art competition, titled "Hai Kui Cup".

The subject of the art works is "My family" and the size should be in between 30 cm 40 cm and 60 cm 80 cm.

Children who were born after first January, 1980 will be considered eligible for the competition.

The last day for submitting art works to the academy is November 15.

Contestor's name, date of birth, age, gender, nationality, title of the art and address should be written in block letters at the back of the art piece.

Sher-e-Bangla Memorial Award distributed

Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the nation must pay due respect to its leaders to let know the future generation the history to make them worthy citizens of the country, reports BSS.

He said this while, addressing the 'Sher-e-Bangla Memorial Award' distribution ceremony: organised by Bangladesh Youth Front central committee at the BCIC auditorium here.

Those who were awarded in the function include L K Siddique MP (social works), Poet Mofazzal Karim (literature), Principal Mohammad Moslem Ali (education), Sohel Rana (cinema), Abdul Zabbar and Fatematz Zahora (music), Nawajesh Ali Khan (TV drama), and Shamim Ara Nipa (dance).

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent
Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday) says, the sky will remain occasionally cloudy over the country.

During this period, light rain or showers may occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Dhaka divisions and weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

The day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during this period while, the Met office forecasts, rainfall activities are likely after a couple of days.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded in Bogra and the lowest 20.0 degree was recorded in Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 5:26 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00 am.

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

Cities/towns	temperature in degree Celsius		humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.0	23.6	82	73
Chittagong	31.4	23.0	78	73
Rajshahi	31.5	23.0	71	87
Khulna	32.8	24.2	83	82
Barisal	32.2	24.4	83	-
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.5	68	77
Sylhet	30.8	22.5	97	82

Ibrahim memorial lecture

Discipline prerequisite for social stability'

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Muhammad Abdur Rouf yesterday said peace, discipline and sense of responsibility were pre-requisites for social stability which would gradually lead the nation towards its cherished goal, reports BSS.

"If we carry out our responsibility in a disciplined manner, peace will automatically come to lead us towards a happy life as there prevails a congenial atmosphere for it in Bangladesh," he said while addressing as the chief guest at the Dr Muhammad Ibrahim Memorial lectures at BIRDEM auditorium in the city.

Officers Club of Bangladesh Diabetic Association organised the memorial lecture on the occasion of the fourth death anniversary of Dr Muhammad Ibrahim. Dr Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director of Grameen Bank presented the key-note paper while association vice president Dr Wahiduddin Ahmad and general secretary Dr Shancara Begum took part in the discussion. Association president Dr A K M Hafizur Rahman was in the chair.

Justice Abdur Rouf also mentioned some plans of the election commission in his

speech which include floating a well-disciplined force of 600,000 election volunteers and issuance of identity cards with serial number for all eligible voters.

The Chief Election Commissioner called upon all to follow the discipline which was being maintained by late Dr Muhammad Ibrahim and at present by Dr Muhammad Yunus in their respective fields.

Dr Muhammad Yunus in his paper, said late Dr Muhammad Ibrahim had neither any political influence, nor any economic strength, nor even a basket of foreign help but a disciplined way of thinking which helped him establish an organisation like BIRDEM, now a proud institution for Bangladesh.

'Discipline is life', was his philosophy which covered not only a particular disease but the whole health system," Dr Yunus said adding that Bangladesh Diabetic Association was still the unique one in this field.

Dr Yunus, who received different prestigious national and international awards as recognition of his wonderful contribution to the economy, said that

Int'l Film Festival in December

By Staff Correspondent

The 2nd Dhaka International Film Festival will take place in the capital on December 23-31 this year.

This was disclosed at a press conference here yesterday by the officials of Rainbow Film Society, the sponsoring organisation of the festival.

According to the festival schedule, released among the newsmen, about fifty films from Germany, France, England, Australia, Russia, Japan, Netherlands, China, Thailand, India, Iran and the host Bangladesh will be exhibited during the nine-day festival. The shows of the festival will be held at the Central Public Library, German Cultural Centre, Russian Cultural Centre, Alliance Francaise and the Indian High Commission auditorium. However, the main centre of the festival will be the Public Library premises.

The slogan of the festival has been chosen as "Better Film, Better Audience, Better Society", Ahmed Mostafa Zaman of the society told the journalists.

The festival will be dedicated to the memory of late filmmaker Alamgir Kabir while the Bangladesh Panorama would be held in remembrance of late Nazir Ahmed, he said and added the budget for the occasion had been estimated at Taka eight lakh and 16 thousand.

The nine-day festival will be split into four parts — Panorama of Bangladesh, retrospectives, international film and children's film — to be held from December 24 to December 31. Besides, two seminars will be held on December 26, a cultural function on December 28 and a rally on December 29.

Organisers of the festival told a press conference here yesterday it is aimed at encouraging the frustrated talents to contribute their best towards creating a healthy cultural environment and resisting "mini-mafias" of the film industry, who are looting poor man's money in the name of "innocent entertainment".

Chairman of the festival committee Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Prof Enamul Haq and Mofidul Haq were, among others present at the press conference held at Dhaka Club.

Two retrospectives — one on Zahir Raihan and the other on Indian film-maker Aduor Gopalakrishnan — will be presented at the festival.

SAARC Council of ministers to meet in Dec

The SAARC Council of Ministers is likely to meet in Dhaka in the first week of December to review the implementation of the decisions of the last SAARC Summit, reports UNB.

If the new government of Pakistan endorses the planned schedule, an official source said, the foreign ministers' meeting will be held here on December 3-4. Six other countries have already agreed with the date fixed upon after consultations.

The ministerial meeting will be preceded by a two-day standing committee meeting and one-day programme committee meeting.

The current chairman of the SAARC Council of Ministers, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, will preside over the meeting which will discuss measures for further expansion of the areas of cooperation of the seven-nation forum.

The SAARC, formally launched in Dhaka in 1985, has so far identified 12 areas of cooperation to promote the socio-economic condition of more than one billion people in the region.

The forthcoming meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers will review the execution of programmes of action like SAPTA, South Asian Development Fund and the poverty alleviation adopted at the 7th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka last April.

It will also consider proposals for developing cooperations between the SAARC and other regional organisations including the EC and ASEAN.

Debate competition concludes

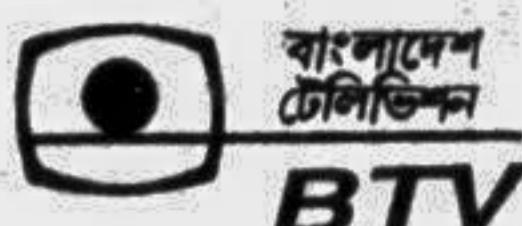
Rummanuddin Ahmed of BAF Shaheen College was adjudged the best orator at a debate competition held at Dhaka College, reports BSS.

Professor Wakil Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University was the chief guest at the prize awarding ceremony held Thursday at Dhaka College.

Twenty-nine students from nine colleges including the host Dhaka College participated in the competition held on Wednesday. Pravat Utsav of Dhaka College in association with Fritz Air Freight Bangladesh organised the competition.

Presided over by Prof A KM Mutasaninur Rashid, Principal of Dhaka College, the award giving ceremony was attended, among others, by Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Vice Principal of the college Anisur Rahman and leaders of students union.

Pravat Utsav also organised an inter-college recitation competition in association with Fritz.



Saturday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary.
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-25 Moner Katha
- 6-00 Cartoon : Young Robinhood
- 6-30 Tarunya
- 7-00 Banshari
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-30 Maati O Manush
- 9-00 Parichay
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Dallas
- 11-30 Khabar/The news
- 11-40 Tomorrow's programme summary Closing announcement
- 11-45 Closing

I HAVE FOUND MY MATCH



- Q. Could you tell me about your feelings when you first faced the TV camera?
- A. It was an exciting moment. How would I look in the TV screen, what would be the acceptance to the millions of TV viewers - what fearful feelings! I still get emotional when I think about it.
- Q. Why did you agree to model for Meril Impel shampoo?
- A. It's a long story. When I got the offer from an advertising agency I agreed but on one condition.

- Q. What was that condition?
- A. I would try the shampoo and if I am satisfied, only then I would act as the model.

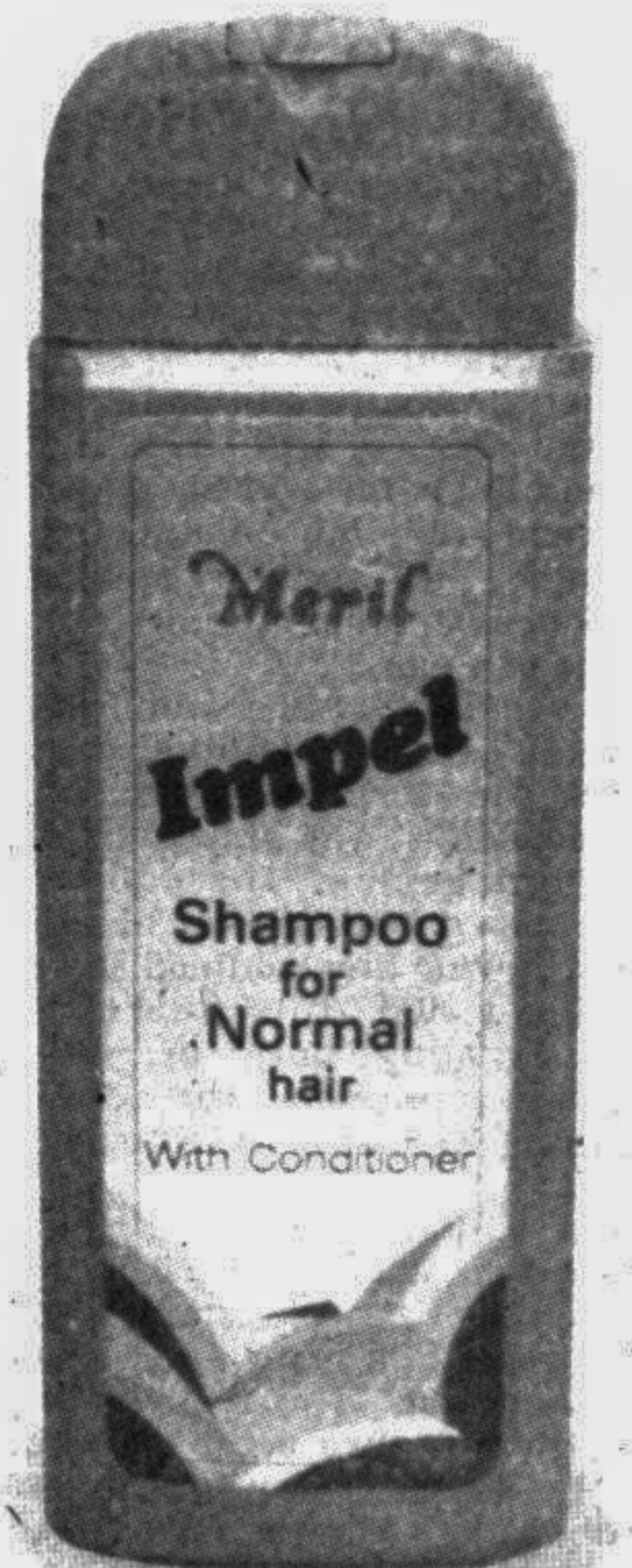
- Q. And then?
- A. Infact I was looking for a shampoo which would make my hair soft shiny and healthy. It is very difficult to take proper care of my hair regularly due to my busy acting career and studying for exams.

- Q. Did you find such a shampoo?
- A. (With a mischievous smile) Well that was interesting. It was a great experience for me to try Meril Impel Shampoo. Meril Impel was just the type of shampoo I have always wanted.

- Q. How?
- A. Meril Impel makes my hair Soft, Silky and Lustrous.

- Q. Hmm---I can see that, should I also try this?
- A. Yes, certainly, if you wish to have healthy & shiny hair. Let me tell you a secret; I have found my match.

- Q. What? Who is it? May I reveal it?
- A. Of course, (in a whisper) I love the way it caresses my hair, its fragrance lingers on. It is Meril Impel Shampoo.



Meril Impel Shampoo pH balanced which matches with the scalp and hair.

Meril Impel



MY FAVOURITE FEELING

Canadian HC meets DU VC

The Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Jon J Scott paid a courtesy call on Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed at the latter's office Thursday, reports UNB.

Post office holiday tomorrow

All post offices across the country will remain closed tomorrow (Sunday) on the occasion of Durga Puja, reports UNB.

But the post offices serving GEP and EMS will remain open to sell envelopes and stamps.

Food for edn programme inaugurated

Home Minister Abdul Mattin Chowdhury said yesterday that the present government was working tirelessly to educate the people and introduced "food for education" programme for children who came from needy families, reports BSS.

He was addressing a series of meetings at different primary schools at the Rupganj thana in Narayanganj district on the occasion of inauguration of the food for education programme under Rupganj thana administration.

Agrani Bank

Head Office Motijheel Dhaka

Real Estate & Common Services Division: Tender Notice No. RECS/535/93 Dt. 14-10-93 for Purchase of Winter Woolen Uniform for 1993.

Tender Notice

- Sealed Tenders strictly as per related schedule for purchase of woolen winter uniform clothes for Non-clerical Employees of the Bank are hereby invited for bonafide Bangladeshi Manufacturers/Suppliers.
- The details of purchase with terms & conditions are detailed on the related schedule which may be available up to the working day & hour of 30-10-93 through written application with Non-refundable Pay-order of any scheduled Bank for Tk. 500/- (Five hundred only) favouring Agrani Bank & other acceptable documents of previous experience, Bank solvency certificates, income tax clearance trade licence etc. etc.
- The Tenders may be dropped up to 3-00 PM of 31-10-93 at the Tender Box kept for the same purpose at Real Estate & Common Services Division, Agrani Bank, Head Office, 7th floor which shall be opened on the same day at 3-15 PM in presence of the bidders if found present.
- The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all of the Tenders for a re-tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFF (BA) 9375-17/10 Mohid Barkat-a-Khoda Dy General Manager G-1407