

Dhaka Day by Day

Entering with Absurdity

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Watching TV has become more fun lately, thanks to the advertisements which are almost more entertaining than the programmes. If you are in a sour mood just switch on the tube between programmes or during intermissions and you will be swamped with comedy that will leave you in splits. The ads depicting the most bizarre and ridiculous situations that sometimes have very little to do with the product portray cultural changes that have surreptitiously crept into our lives.

For one thing, these commercials show that we have entered the age of plastics. Every few minutes of the hour we must witness the domination of that insidious creature — 'melamine' that has made us completely forget what good china ever looked like. Young men and women become so excited over this substance that they begin to sing, dance or even leap into the air with melamine plates in their hands while a woman modelling traditional dresses cannot let go of her own melamine plates even when she is posing for the camera.

This kind of jubilation is not just confined to the 'melamine club'. By now we have been convinced that the most important things in life are toothpaste, washing soap sarees, and biscuits, all of which should be celebrated through giggling, swaying, or spinning. The saree ads of course win for the best 'wiggling' category. The women, usually a little on the plump side — although this has changed over the months — work themselves into a frenzy over sarees that are surprisingly named after men — Johnny, Jimmy, Tommy, Zia pronounced 'Jia' etc. Each lady, often a film actress, breathless and ecstatic is convinced that it is the particular brand of saree she is wearing that accentuates her self-proclaimed beauty and lure.

In the meantime, biscuits dry as dust bring together friends, family and lovers who have nothing better to do munch cookies all day.

Then there are the fifty different brands of milk powder so nutritious, vitamin enriched and energy giving. They forget to mention — a little radio active too. One only wonders why we have 'World Breastfeeding Day' and why we dream of the good old days of fresh cow's milk when powdered milk is such a life saver.

The contraceptive ads claim to perform even greater wonders bringing happiness, stability and fortune to couples. In one of these commercials, a woman seems to have even



learnt how to bake mouth-watering black forest cakes only after taking the pill!

If it is clean teeth that is the key to happiness, there are plenty of 'fresh and clean' toothpastes where young people grimace and dance with delight. The insecticide revolution is also apparent in these ads. A wife is condemned as incompetent for not being able to kill the fly after which her husband takes his revenge by spraying the substance into the audience's face with a menacing expression on his face. Presumably, he wishes to kill both mosquito and wife in one go! In another ad, a whole family is in a fit of delirium after discovering their own special brand of insect killing agent or some other carcinogen.

As for those who are ready to smash either the TV screen or their own heads after watching an endless series of these commercials especially at the most crucial moment of their favourite programme, increasing their threshold of tolerance would be of some help. With a little patience and imagination, these ads can actually be quite entertaining. If you have a little sense of humour, that is.



The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee brought out a procession in the capital yesterday in support of tomorrow's hartal. — Star photo

Increased use of fertiliser suggested

Experts at a seminar on "Fertilisation and Environment" yesterday recommended increased use of fertiliser to reach the level of farm productivity obtained in many developing countries, reports UNB.

"Fertiliser as essential plant food nutrient will remain as key contributor to increased food production, food security and for sustaining human civilisation," the recommendation said. The seminar opined that the present level of per hectare fertiliser use in Bangladesh is much less compared to many Asian countries where the cereal yield is more than 4.0 tons per hectare. Bangladesh should increase fertiliser use per hectare of land for boosting food production.

At the same time, the seminar suggested, the nation should have its own environmental standard developed on the basis of the present level of agro-chemicals used and their pollutant concentrations. The cost-effectiveness of new technologies to reduce the level of pollution alongwith the nation's technical capability and financial resources should be considered.

Agriculture Secretary ANM Yusuf chaired the seminar while Dr Z Karim of BARC, Dr IJ Kimmo of ESCAP/FADINAP, Prof SZ Haidar of Dhaka University and M Reazuddin of the Department of Environment presented four papers explaining different aspects of fertiliser. Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) organised the seminar which was attended by nearly 100 experts from different institutions.

Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin, Mahiuddin Jaigirdar, Dr KM Badruddoza, Dr Fasihuddin Mahtab, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Dr AH Khan, Dr NI Bhuiyan, Dr MS Islam, Prof Shah Mohammadullah, Prof Enamul Haq, Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, Dr Aminul Islam, Sufia

Amirul and Prof Shamsul Islam were among others who took part in discussion. The speakers said the increased nutrient mining from our arable land was seriously threatening sustainable agricultural productivity and environmental development.

This trend of mining has to be corrected and reversed towards building soil productivity through balanced fertilisation, integrated nutrient management and best agronomic practices, they added.

They said the importance of organic matter in increasing the soil fertility and long-term agricultural productivity should have priority attention by all agricultural development practitioners.

So improved farming system practices emphasising efficient organic recycling, diversification of cropping through increased fertilizer use should be encouraged. This should be supported by adequate production and availability of biomass, they added. Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin stressed integrated use of agr-inputs like HYV seed, fertilizer and new technology to boost production. Indiscriminate use of fertilizer caused soil and environmental degradation, he cautioned.

Cases against 25 for littering

A mobile court headed by Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) first class magistrate, Ranapati Kumar Das yesterday filed cases against 25 persons for littering violating DCC rules.

The court also fined about Tk four thousand from eight persons for littering at random instead of using particular dustbins and places.

The DCC in a press release noted, the authority would follow such strict measures for littering in front of residential homes, hotels-restaurants and shops from now on.



A day-long painting show of three contemporary Bangladeshi artists — Kanak Champa, Khalid Mahamud Mithu and Jamil Ahmed — was arranged Wednesday at the residence of France Ambassador in Bangladesh Jean-Michel Lacombe.

Kidnapped girl rescued, 3 arrested

Police Wednesday rescued a school girl three hours after she was kidnapped from Uttara in the city, reports UNB.

Three alleged kidnappers — Julhas, 24, Wahidullah, 22 and Sheikh Ahmed were arrested.

Chowdhury Umme Shaila alias Lupa, 13, a student of class eight of the Civil Aviation High School, was picked up by the three youths from the school gate at 10:40 am. The kidnappers fled with the girl by an auto-rickshaw, police said.

Prompt action of the police brought the abducted girl back to her parents within three hours.

Police found Lupa near the Khilkhet bus stand.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. XETHA BHUM V-16, 17, ex. M.V. NANTA BHUM V-1620 from Bangkok ex. M.V. SIFI BHUM V-577 from LA CHABANG ex. M.V. AKA BHUM V-211N N and ex. M.V. WANABHUM V-197N from Jakarta have been relayed to M.V. OPTIMA V-850 Imp. Reg. No. 86193 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 30-10-1993 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.
103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.
AS AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD., TOKYO.
PHONES: 50317, 50068/89

বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম এক্সপ্লোরেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company Limited

(A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)
Material Control Division
HBFC Building (9th Floor), 22, Purana Paltan, Dhaka

"গাছ লাগান; গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Tender No 123.53.47 Dated: 20-10-1993
Ref No 123.25.59

Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers/manufacturers on prescribed schedule for supply of Personal Computer.

Tender schedule containing terms and conditions will be available at our Accounts & Finance Division, Ibrahim Mansion (3rd floor), 11, Purana Paltan, Dhaka during office hours from 6-11-93 at a cost of Tk 300/- per schedule (Non-refundable). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender. Tender in separate sealed covered superscribing the case number and description of goods may be dropped in the Tender Box at Material Control Division, HBFC Building (9th floor), 22, Purana Paltan, Dhaka at 12:00 Noon on 14-11-93 which will be opened on the same day at 12:10 PM in presence of tenderers (if any).

Management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all the tenders and increase/decrease the quantity of the item without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP (G) 17369-25/10 C-1456

Prevention of AIDS for growth of tourism stressed

By Staff Correspondent

Health and Family Welfare Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf Wednesday laid special emphasis on the prevention of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), particularly in the expansion of national tourism industry.

"We want the growth of our tourism industry, but must be alert of the fact that HIV infection is often caused by the tourists", the minister told a seminar in the capital as its chief guest.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation organised the seminar titled "AIDS and Tourism Industry" at the national Museum auditorium in the evening in observance of the current 'Tourism Month'.

Chaired by the Secretary of the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, Afzalur Rahman, the seminar was also told about the national and global picture of the still incurable disease by the doctors, university teachers and representatives of some international organisations.

The State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan was present on the

occasion. The health minister said of a country like Bangladesh tourism could be a big source of foreign exchange earning. "We must encourage and attract the foreign tourists through the flourishing of the industry", he said adding appropriate steps were also needed to check the infection of AIDS by the foreigners.

In this context, the minister also felt that the local people, especially of the high risk group, must be educated on the disease. He urged all concern to mobilise public opinion against the deadly disease, and to promote the use of condom and other preventive measures among the high risk behaviour people including the prostitutes and their clients.

On the AIDS situation in Bangladesh, Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said, "We're sitting on a volcano with all our neighbouring countries ravaged by AIDS, growing fast in Asia." Although it is said there are only 16 HIV positives in the country, but we are not sure if the number is 16 hundred or 16 thousand."

Prayers for Manzoor Mannan

The Old Faujians Association (OFA) will organise special prayers meet for the recovery of Manzoor Mannan, Collector of Customs and his family who were injured in a road accident on October 22, says a press release.

The milad mahfil will be held at the OFA school premises at Dhanmondi today (Friday) after Asr prayers.

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন

BTV

Friday

Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary
- 8:25 Alor Dishari
- 8:40 Natun Kuri
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:05 Moner Mukurey
- 11:15 Film show: Tarzan
- 11:55 Film: Images
- 12:30 Closing

Afternoon Session

- 3:00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary
- 3:15 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3:40 Movie of the week: Little Bird of Happiness
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports Programme
- 7:25 Programme of modern songs: Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:00 Magazine: Etyyadi
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Drama serial: LA Law
- 11:30 Khabar/The News

এজেন্ট ও সরবরাহকারীগণ লক্ষ্য করুন

জাপানী বিনিয়োগে অভ্যাসনিক অটোমেটিক প্রাট থেকে বোলভজাত বিতন্ড পানি সরবরাহের জন্য এজেন্ট/বোলভ সরবরাহকারী/সিঙ্গেলেটসিট আবশ্যিক।

যোগাযোগঃ Fazel Mohammed, M/S J & B Overseas Inc. N.13. W-4-5-1-707 Kita-ku, Sapporo-001 Japan. Tel & Fax : 81-11-707-4402

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

বার্ষিক বিভাগ-২

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন; আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

এতদ্বারা টায়ার আমদানীকারক/প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীসহ সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাত্ত প্রথম শ্রেণীর টিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে নিচে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য বালিশের ক্রম নং ২১১১০০ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইবে। দরপত্র আবেদী ০৪-১১-১০৪ই (১০-৭-১৪০০০০) তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকায় নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, প্রকৌশল বিভাগ (যন্ত্রিক-১ ও ২), সর্বক আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার অফিস এবং মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক (পরিষ্কার-এর দপ্তরে) সম্মুখে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে গণ্য হইবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদালালতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। কোন সিটি করপোরেশনের ব্যাংক ড্রাকট/সে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সহিত সন্মুক্ত করিতে হইবে। শতকরা হিসাবে দর এক এবং কবার উভয়ই পরিষ্কারকাজে লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথা দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। প্রকৌশল বিভাগ (যন্ত্রিক-১) সহ ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সর্বক আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার অফিস এবং হিসাব বিভাগের হিসাব রক্ষক-এর নিকট হইতে কাজের সম্বন্ধে বর্ণিত মূদ্রের বিনিময়ে (অফিসের/ব্যক্তিগত) দরপত্র সিটি করপোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রাপ্ত হইবে। এতদসঙ্গেই বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, প্রকৌশল বিভাগ (যন্ত্রিক-১)-এর দপ্তর হইতে জানা যাইবে। দরপত্র বোলভ তালিকায় কোন সিটি করপোরেশন বিতন্ড করা হইবে না।

কোন প্রকার কার্য দর্শনে ব্যক্তিগতকৈই যে কোন অথবা সম্মুখে দরপত্র গণ্য বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	সিটি করপোরেশন	সময়সীমা
১।	টায়ার-ডোজার (মডেল-কাট-৮-১৪ বর্ণনিক-২১০) এবং পে-লোকার (মডেল-কাট-১২০-অ-১৮০-০১)-এর জন্য নতুন ২৩-৫-২৫ ও ১৫-৫-২৫ সাইজের টিউব ছাড়া টায়ার সরবরাহ করা।	ঢাকা ৩০ (মিশ) ১০০০/- দিন	

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
বার্ষিক বিভাগ-২
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

টি-৭৩০

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

The weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says, weather will remain mainly dry with cloudy sky over the country.

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and the lowest 15.4 degrees in Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5:21 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.5	20.6	84	65
Chittagong	31.0	20.8	82	70
Rajshahi	33.3	19.8	82	88
Khulna	31.5	22.2	69	72
Barisal	31.6	22.0	85	83
Cox's Bazar	32.0	22.0	70	70
Comilla	31.0	21.0	82	81
Dinajpur	31.5	25.4	83	74

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Communications

Roads and Highways Department
Road Overlay and Improvement Project
Overlay Component

Notice for Prequalification of Contractors

Dhaka, Comilla & Chittagong RHD Zones
Contract No 0-1, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4 & 0-5

Dated: 21st October, 1993

1. The Government of Bangladesh has applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies toward the cost of implementation of bituminous overlay works on selected national and regional roads located in the Dhaka, Chittagong and Comilla RHD Zones of Bangladesh, east of the river Jamuna under Contract No 0-1, 0-2, 0-3, 0-4 & 0-5 and it is intended that a part of the proceeds of this loan will be used for eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation to prequalify is issued.

2. The Project Director, Road Improvement Project, Roads and Highways Department, Government of Bangladesh intends to prequalify contractors for the above mentioned 5 (five) Nos contract packages. The works to be carried out under the contract generally comprise (i) Strengthening of the existing pavement by hot rolled bituminous concrete overlays after making necessary repairs thereto (ii) widening of existing narrow pavement (iii) flattening of the sharp curves and (iv) provision of road signs and pavement markings. The tentative indicative quantities of some of the important items for each contract are given below:

	Contract No 0-1	Contract No 0-2	Contract No 0-3	Contract No 0-4	Contract No 0-5
Road Length under the contract (km)	87.50	69.00	109.50	66.50	129.50
Location of the Contract	DHAKA ZONE Dhaka Narayanganj Gazipur Tangail	DHAKA ZONE Mymensingh Tangail	COMILLA ZONE Comilla Chandpur Noakhali Lakshmirpur	CHITTAGONG ZONE Fari Chittagong	CHITTAGONG ZONE Chittagong Rangamati Bandarban Cox's Bazar
Pavement Repair (Sq.m)	140,911	91,090	158,138	57,611	84,718
Shoulder Repair (Sq.m)	118,500	32,250	37,500	750	134,250
Bituminous concrete (t)	91,477	71,641	114,392	72,565	90,099
Pavement widening (Sq.m)			83,600	75,650	

3. Prequalification is open to contractors and joint ventures of contractors from eligible member countries of the Asian Development Bank.

4. Interested eligible contractors may obtain further information and inspect the prequalification documents at the office of:

The Project Director
Roads & Highways Department
Road Improvement Project
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna,
Dhaka, BANGLADESH
Telephone No 236268

OR

Project Coordinator
M/s. Consulting Engineering Services (I) Pvt. Ltd
House No 17, Road No 4
Dhanmondi R/A.
Dhaka-1205, BANGLADESH
Telex No: 67120 DDC BJ, FAX 880-2-832907
Telephone No: 861887

5. A complete set of prequalification documents may be purchased by any interested eligible applicant from 1st November, 1993 on the submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable cash of amount in Tk 1,500.00 or US Dollars 40.00 to the address below:

The Project Manager, RHD, Dhaka,
Road Improvement Project,
Room No Ka 114,
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.

Requests submitted by mail should include a certified cashier's cheque or Pay Order encashable in scheduled bank of Bangladesh at Dhaka in the amount and currency indicated above in favour of the Project Manager, RHD, Dhaka, Road Improvement Project, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. In this case Roads and Highways Department (RHD) will promptly despatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed to the applicant.

6. The prequalification documents must be duly completed and returned to Project Director, RHD, Road Improvement Project, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka where they must be received before 1st January, 1994 at 12.00 Noon. Documents which are received late will not be considered and returned unopened.

Fazlul Karim
Project Director, RHD
Road Improvement Project
Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka

DFP (G) 17251-23/10
C-1453