

Dhaka Day by Day

Sultan of an Elusive World

By Samia Islam

The growing number of video shops and their networks in Dhaka are giving rise to a stiff competition among them and accounting for innovative service. Some rental services are there to rescue you now when you are too lazy or just plain unable to walk or drive to your club to get the new releases of the week, so hat you can pass the day sitting before your TV getting up-dated about the movie arena. Now your favorite video shops are just a phone call away in most parts of Dhaka. In the DOHS, Mohakhali areas one such video shop has this door-to-door rental service. But more interesting is its delivery man Sultan, a 12 years old boy who looks not more than eight or nine years of age. Born in Dhaka he now lives in Mohakhali with his uncle, aunt and nine cousins, who happened to own the shop. You can see him with his sack-full of videos, sometimes carrying an unopened umbrella in the scorching heat of the noon, sometimes eating some fruit or playing on his toy flute or at times shuffling along and stopping at everything that attracts his attention, stooping to pluck a flower, watching a butterfly or a passing car and then, contented, walking on, sometimes as late as 10.30 at night.

When offered to write about him in the paper so that people all over Dhaka city may know of him, he was all teeth from ear to ear. To make sure that nothing was left out he asked if there would be a photo of him as well. When the answer to his question was in the affirmative he started to talk.

His father left his mother only a couple of years after his birth and he has no memory of those days. Now his mother lives with her sister, and he with his paternal uncle. He works without pay for his cousins. His day starts at 6:30 am and ends around 10.30 pm (sometimes later). As he is working in a field where he has to deal with names of movies etc, naturally question arises about his education. He has had no institutional training as he is busy working all day, but his uncle has taught him some Bengali alphabets and phonetics but a test revealed that everything is pure guesswork which is remarkable. But he doesn't agree and insists that further education is quite unnecessary for his line of work.

Asked about the sorts of problems he encounters in this business, his forehead creases and after pondering for a few moments, he de-

clares he has none. When he was nudge a bit, "Do not your feet ache after a hard day's work?" His smile broadens almost to a grin. "Oh that? Of course it does," as if it was silly in asking the taken for granted. "What about the famous mastans of Dhaka? Do not they pose a threat since you carry all the money and cassettes with you, return so late at night?" He nods his head this time and admits that the DOHS region does scare him at night because the people here are unknown to him but "in Mohakhali the top mastans are mostly related to us" by blood? Well, he doesn't know that all he knows is that they will only protect him and not harm him in any way. Some consolation at least. He even knows most of the security

guards in this area and they let him come and go late at night quite as he pleases, how does he do that? "Mostly because I am small, people trust me. Take the work for instance, there are other delivery boys in our shop but people call and ask for me. They feel safe with me. I owe it to my size," again the grin. Even his under-sized physique is to his advantage. Quite spontaneously the question comes to mind: what happens when he finally grows out of his cute form and elfin charm? Even this does not affect him in the least, "Don't you see? I am an apprentice in our shop, when I grow up, my cousins promised to hand over the shop to me. All this will be mine someday, because

my cousin is trying to go to America. Once he flies out of the country, I will be taking care of business." Let's hope so but doesn't he want to go to America like his cousins? "If Allah as well as circumstances permits, I might but I think I will stay back otherwise who will take care of Amma?" What about his dad? Has he ever seen him? Does he come to visit? He laughs, "Once I hid behind some trees in our village and watched him go by." Why hide? "Well, who told you that he wants to see me?" The point was well taken.

Since he deals in such a commodity that enslaves thousands of people around the globe, I asked him about his choice in movies. "I don't have the time to sit 2 1/2 hours for a movie besides, I hate this stuff."

Postscript: Disappointing him more than the writer, Sultan's employer has forbidden him to have his photo published in a newspaper.

I DIDN'T SEE THIS BATMAN-1, IT'S SO BORING... SO I AM NOT PAYING YOU! AHM! DO YOU HAVE BATMAN 2?



SHAKIR '93



The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee brought out a procession in the capital yesterday in observance of what it terms 'Hatred Day'. — Star photo

Zainul Mela inaugurated 'Evaluate creative genius of Shilpacharya'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday urged all concerned to evaluate the creative genius of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a three-day programme entitled 'Zainul Mela' organised by the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Smriti Parishad at the institute of Fine Arts Dhaka University. The President said late Shilpacharya was not only a great painter of the sub-continent but also a great humanist. He said Zainul Abedin, who enriched our art and culture through his unparalleled creativity, was also a great patriot who loved his people and soil from the core of his heart. He said all his work spoke about the people, their lives and struggle along with the beauty of the nature.

Presided over by national professor Principal Dewan Mohammad Azfar, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, Banker M Taheruddin and Naim Mashreq, president of the parishad.

Six persons were also awarded with 'Zainul Abedin Smriti Swarna Padak' for their contributions in various fields. The award recipients are Manzur-ul-Karim (scout movement), Hasinur Rahman (public administration), Sanaullah Nuri (journalism), A K M Abdur Rouf (painting), Abdul Baset (painting) and A K M Giasuddin Milky (agriculture).

Describing Zainul as a reputed painter of Asia and also of the world, the President said that his name would be remembered with respect in all ages to come.

In this context he referred to the immortal sketches of 1943's famine, the sketches of 1969's mass movement and great language movement, noting that the late Shilpacharya would remain immortal in the world of art only for these outstanding works.

President Biswas also called upon all concerned to maintain the memories of the late painter with due honour. He said the Art Institute of Dhaka, the Sonargaon Lokshilpa Jaldughar and Mymensingh Lokshilpa Sangraha Shala still bear the testimony of the Shilpacharya's memorable contributions to the society.

Plea to protect indigenous people's rights

By Staff Correspondent.

Speakers at a meeting in observance of the International Indigenous Day urged the government to protect the rights of the indigenous people.

The meeting organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-K) was held at its central office at Balaka Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Ruhul Quddus Babu, President of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-K) presided over the meeting.

Barrister Lutfar Rahman Shahjahan attended the function as chief guest while Abul Hasib Khan was present as special guest.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Advocate Adilur Rahman, Prasit Khisha, President of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, and Dhiraaj Chakma, former general secretary of Pahari Chhatra Parishad.

Abdullah Al Kuyum conducted the meeting.

Allegation refuted Seminar on drug policy Jan 3

By Staff Correspondent.

Alfa Obaidullah yesterday refuted the Janata Dal's allegation of evicting the party office by the police and armed musclemen.

The proprietress of the house, at Asad Avenue in the city, in a press release yesterday termed the published statement of JD leader K M Obaidur Rahman as 'motivated and misleading'.

Her house, she alleged, was illegally possessed by the Janata Dal leader Obaidur Rahman. However, with the intervention of Society for Human Rights Obaidur Rahman promised to vacate my house by the third week of December, she said. The ageing woman, paralysed in 1993, said that she moved into her house on December 24 morning accordingly.

Hours after moving in, my house came under attack of armed terrorists who assaulted my servants and my son and ransacked the rooms," the press release said.

Prof. Muniuruddin Ahmed, Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University, will present the keynote paper. Faruque Ahmed, President of Probhati, will preside.

WANTED

PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Applications are invited for the above post which exists at Dhaka's leading luxury Hotel.

The successful candidates would be under 35 years of age with Post Graduation qualification. He or she should have good personal appearance and have a high standard of English and Bangla both written and spoken. Journalistic background will be a plus for the position.

An excellent salary package is offered in line with senior Managerial position. Applications in strict confidence enclosing a recent photograph should be mailed to G.P.O. Box No. 3595 by January 10, 1994.



A rally organised by the workers of yarn, jute and textiles mills at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday. — Star photo

Jabbar Khan's death condoled

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and secretary general of BNP Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday expressed his profound shock at the death of noted film director Abdul Jabbar Khan, reports BSS.

In a condolence message the minister paid rich tributes to late Khan and said his contribution to film industry would be regarded as a milestone.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda expressed his deep sorrow at the death of film director Abdul Jabbar Khan.

In a message of condolence, the minister expressed his sympathy for the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Information Secretary Nuruddin al Masud also condoled the death of Abdul Jabbar Khan. He expressed his sympathy for the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

The 17th annual conference of the Bangladesh Chemical Society (BCS) will be held tomorrow (Friday) at the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., Rangadia, Chittagong at 10 am, says a press release.

The conference will be inaugurated by the Minister for Industries A M Zahiruddin Khan as the chief guest while Prof. M A Mannan State Minister for Science and Technology and Wasek-Al-Azad chairman, BCIC will be present as special guests on the occasion.

BCS annual conference tomorrow

The 17th annual conference of the Bangladesh Chemical Society (BCS) will be held tomorrow (Friday) at the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., Rangadia, Chittagong at 10 am, says a press release.

The conference will be inaugurated by the Minister for Industries A M Zahiruddin Khan as the chief guest while Prof. M A Mannan State Minister for Science and Technology and Wasek-Al-Azad chairman, BCIC will be present as special guests on the occasion.

Huda for promotion of unani, ayurvedic system

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday called for the promotion and expansion of unani and ayurvedic system of treatment in reaching medicare facilities to all, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a publication ceremony of two books —History of Medicine, and Principles and Terminology of Unani Materia Medica (Unani Vesol Biganar Multitil) written by Hakim Kaviraj Abdur Rob Khan — at the auditorium of Atomic Energy Commission in the capital.

Organised by the students forum of the Bangladesh Unani Ayurvedic Medical, the publication ceremony was presided over by president of the student's forum Miah Fazl Ahmed it was addressed by the president of Unani Ayurvedic Physician Federation Hakim Khoda Dat Ahmed and Hakim Ataur Rahman of Unani Degree College.

Barrister Huda explained the importance of the Unani and Ayurvedic system of treatment facilities in the country and said the present government would extend all cooperation in this regard.

He recalled that it was late President Ziaur Rahman who had first realised the efficacy of such traditional and indigenous system of treatment in the country and accordingly encouraged the development of Unani Ayurvedic and homeopathic systems.

The information minister said concerted efforts through harmonising all the available medical practices could help the country in achieving medical services to all by the year 2000.

Barrister Huda appreciated the endeavours of the author of two books on Unani Ayurvedic system of treatment and assured them that the government would extend all assistance for the publication of more books on the subjects.

He advised the practitioners of Unani and Ayurvedic system of treatment to take their best of care so that nobody suffer from the ill treatment or wrong diagnosis.

Weather

Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

The weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country with partly cloudy sky.

Met Office forecasts night temperature may fall by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 27 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and Bogra and lowest of 11.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimongal.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5:22 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:41 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.0	14.0	85	73
Chittagong	26.0	14.8	73	65
Rajshahi	26.6	15.3	88	75
Khulna	25.7	13.5	98	-
Barisal	24.6	13.4	94	80
Sylhet	25.8	14.2	79	65
Dinajpur	26.5	14.0	84	72
Cox's Bazar	26.5	16.0	62	82

টিচারিয়া শাখা স্থানান্তর

বর্তমান অবস্থান
দাগ নং- ১১৪১
খতিয়ান নং- ৩
মৌজা- আটঘরিয়া
খানা- আটঘরিয়া
জেলা- পাবনা।

প্রস্তাবিত অবস্থান
দাগ নং- ১১৩৬
খতিয়ান নং- ১৪৩
মৌজা- আটঘরিয়া
খানা- আটঘরিয়া
জেলা- পাবনা।

সন্মানিত গ্রাহকদের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আগামী ০১-০১-৯৪ইং তারিখ থেকে নতুন অবস্থানে নিয়মিত ভাবে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু হবে।

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
দেশ ও জাতির সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক

ফিলিয়াল (১০)- ১১৭২৫
৯৬-২৩/২২

BTV

Thursday

5.00 Opening announcement. Al-Quran Programme summary

5.10 News in Bangla

5.35 National TV school debate competition

6.30 Mass Education Programme: Esho Para Shikhi Jiboner Alo

7.00 Nazrul Sangeet

7.25 News in Bangla

8.00 Drama of the week: Durao Kobhao

8.35 News in English

10.00 Mini series: The Grass is always Greener

10.30 Khabar/The News

11.30 Tomorrow's programme summary

11.45 Closing