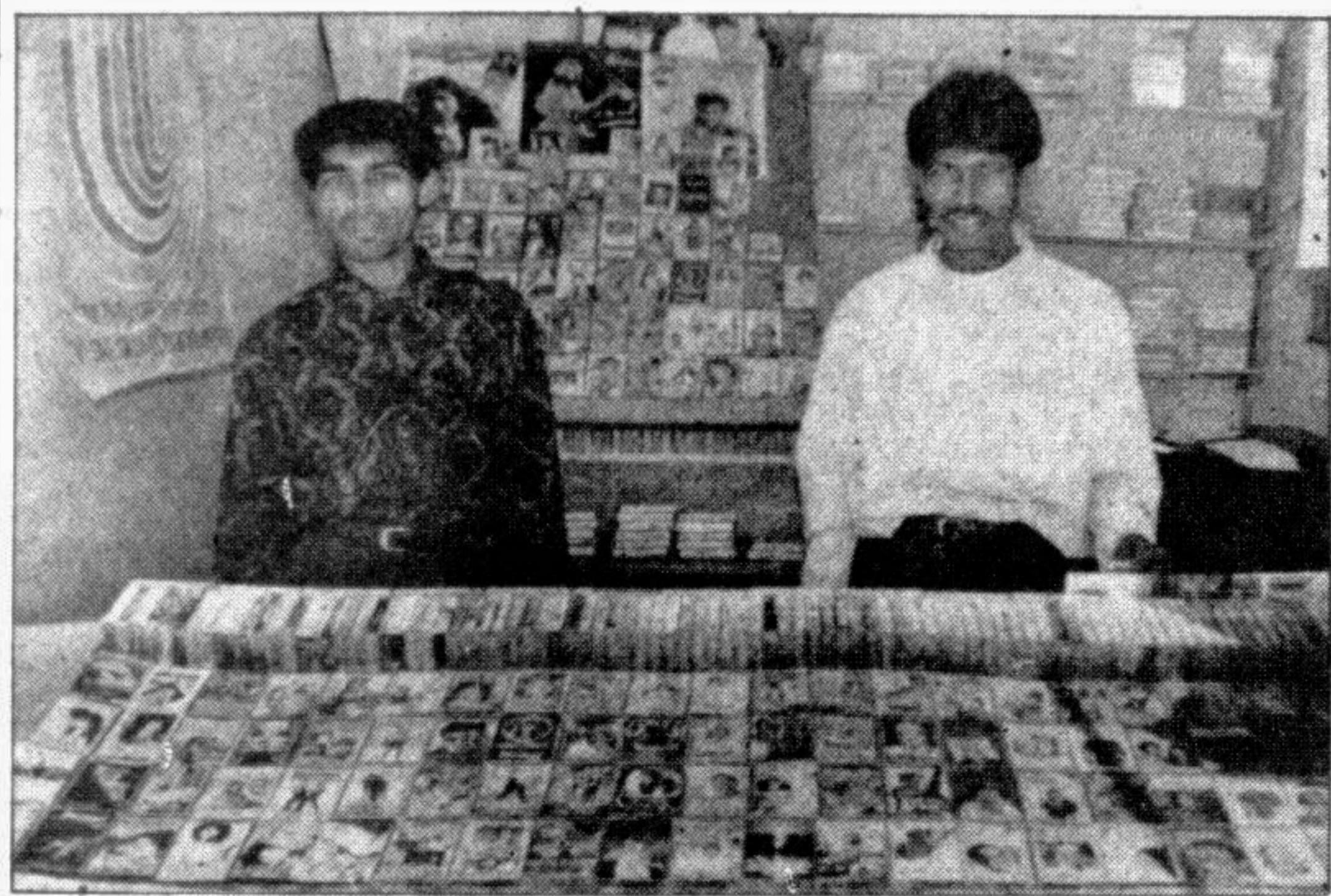


Dhaka Day by Day

Cassette Culture on the Offensive

by Raffat Binte Rashid



"Choli ka piche kaya hai, jireya dayo amari customers now," says Iqbal. "These are the two most hit Hindi and Bangla songs this season. Every young, old, or middle-aged are heard humming these tunes, financial motives."

In fact, it is so much popular with young men and women that even in the ongoing book fair, which is to uphold the spirit of our language movement, these songs are played and that too in a high-pitched volume.

Actually there is nothing wrong with playing these sort of songs in the book fair. At least there are no hard and fast rule that this or that should be played specifically within this boundary. But one might wonder and try to establish a common thing between songs played here and the Ekushey Book Fair.

As they say, there are a proper time and place for everything. These modern songs with Western music and dance beats are for all melas (fairs) except boi mela (book fair).

The Ekushey book fair has its own colour and music. It is already rich and hardly needs any other music to amplify its own richness or attraction for that purpose.

Bands are quite a craze with the young generation these days. If any five or four boys together have a keyboard, guitar and a drum set they qualify to be a band and with bizarre names such as 'Sunday Train' or '7 o'clock'. Actually what's in a name!

To meet this demand of the younger people, who make the bulk of the visitors in the fair, there are cassette stalls on the pavement along with the food and other stalls.

"There are approximately 80 to 100 cassette stalls only," thinks Iqbal, a cassette salesman of Jim Enterprise. These small stalls, outside the Bangla Academy, venue of the fair, and on the side walks are set up with business motives purely. And not surprisingly the cassette shops are full of as Hindi top ten or chamaak, a new album of four popular bands LRB, Chime, Obscure and Crossroads. Alamgir, Shurva Dev, Madonna or Michael Jackson — just ask for any on the hit list and they have it. "Azam Khan's cassette is quite in demand among the

customers now," says Iqbal. "This side of the fair shows no spirit of Bangla songs this season. Every young, old, or middle-aged are heard humming these tunes, financial motives."

There are few stores which are playing recitation of poems, but with full volume Hindi and band, songs around, these top volume recitation makes a cacophony of treacherous noises. The noise is making the whole fair quite irritating, you cannot even talk to the sales person because of the chaos, not to mention the noise pollution it is creating.

"Tomake chale, kathopokathan, pidim jalo premer are few best sellers in the recitation section."

Shimul Mustafa, son of famous actor Golam Mustafa has created another kind of sensation in the cassette business at the fair. "So far 120 cassettes (approximately) of Shimul Mustafa has been sold only from my store," reports Iqbal. However, he feels that more is being sold in big stores which has loud speakers and are well decorated. Then again some feel that many cassettes are sold merely on good name. Oh! It is his cassette that give me one sort of business, says one salesman who sells only cassettes of their own organisation and is trying hard to promote other's recitation too.

The names of the stores are quite amusing (or not so amusing). Jane Maren Na (Don't kill me) is a cassette store selling all these new introductions of the music world. (Even though the shopowner doesn't know what the name is supposed to signify.)

These naming or nomenclature of the shops are just another story all together. One might call it the new vogue of the fair.

However these do, somehow add colour to the fair as well. There is definitely the good side of all these but somehow they all seem lost in the chaos and confusion, not to forget the crowd. They claim to be promoting Bengali culture. Like it or not the Bangalees are in a new mood to redefine their culture. There is an ample manifestation of this. The craze for band music may be an indication.

Instt of Social Welfare team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said youngmen would have to acquire knowledge on business administration besides strengthening country's financial infrastructure to improve economic condition of the people, reports UNB.

He was exchanging views with a 14-member delegation

of MSS final year students of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research when they called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The delegation, led by Hafizul Islam, Director of the Institute, apprised the President of the activities such as research findings on evolution

process of social science including the upbringing of traditional family relationship and values.

"Our posterity have to understand the future need in remodelling society as indicated in the modern social science," President Biswas told them.



T A Chowdhury (Extreme L) speaking at a press conference on Norplant system at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Seen also in the picture are (2nd L to R) Alamgir M A Kabir, A K M Rafiqur Zaman and Prof Samsuddin Siddiqui.

— Star photo

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with a partly cloudy sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh in the next 24 hours commencing from 6 am today (Sunday).

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

The country's highest temperature of 30.3 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the lowest of 8.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5.52 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.32 am.

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

Cities/ Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	25.7	17.5	62	59
Chittagong	26.0	14.0	73	50
Rajshahi	25.0	10.4	85	69
Khulna	27.6	13.0	71	60
Bansal	26.0	12.4	85	66
Sylhet	24.8	11.2	83	47
Dinajpur	23.6	10.2	88	67
Cox's Bazar	28.0	15.0	57	67

GEC/1845(E)/94



A sequence of a drama '1971' staged by the Subachan Natty Sangsad at the central Shaheed Minar in connection with the Amar Ekushey programmes.

— Star photo

Justice Mesbahuddin's death condoled

The Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mirza Golam Hafiz, has expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the death of Election Commissioner, Justice Syed Mesbahuddin Hossain, who died of heart failure in Dhaka Friday, reports BSS.

He prayed for the eternal peace of Justice Hossain and expressed sympathies with the members of the bereaved family.

The Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, expressed his deep shock at the death of Election Commissioner, Justice Syed Mesbahuddin Hossain.

In a message of condolence the Energy Minister said, in his death the nation has lost one of her illustrious sons.

The recipients were awarded with Bangabandhu National Gold Medal and a commemorative plaque.

The recipients are: Prof Kabir Chowdhury (Education), Fit Sergeant Mohammad Fazlul Haq (Posthumous, for contribution in the Liberation War), Alhaj Abul Hossain MP (Education and Social work), Abdul Khaleque (Poetry), Prof Syed Moddassar Ali (Medical Science), Advocate M A Salam Talukdar (Social work), Alhaj Mokbul Hossain (Liberation War, industrialisation and social work) and Mariani Mannan (Recitation).

Eight get Bangabandhu Gold Medal

Former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain Friday said independence of Bangladesh and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman are inseparable, reports UNB.

He was addressing a function as chief guest arranged on the occasion of "Bangabandhu National Gold Medal" award ceremony, organised by "Sahitya Sangsad Khulna and Mujib Darshan and Tathya Kendra" at Sher-e-Bangla mazar in the city in the afternoon.

The gold medal, first of its kind in the country, was awarded to eight renowned personalities, including educationist, poet and social worker for their contribution in respective fields.

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The recipients are: Prof Kabir Chowdhury (Education), Fit Sergeant Mohammad Fazlul Haq (Posthumous, for contribution in the Liberation War), Alhaj Abul Hossain MP (Education and Social work), Abdul Khaleque (Poetry), Prof Syed Moddassar Ali (Medical Science), Advocate M A Salam Talukdar (Social work), Alhaj Mokbul Hossain (Liberation War, industrialisation and social work) and Mariani Mannan (Recitation).

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Action on Disability and Development (ADD) is an international organisation which promotes projects and initiatives which are run by disabled people in their own communities.

We now wish to appoint a Programme Manager in Bangladesh to lead a small team of people. Often ADD staff are disabled people and we provide further training if necessary.

The overall aim of the Programme is to establish a sustainable programme in Bangladesh to serve disabled people both adults and children. The appointee will be a Manager with demonstrable experience in management of people. They will need to be good at working with people since ADD regards relations with organisations of disabled people, parents' associations, the Government and NGO's, as being crucial to the success of the programme.

ADD welcomes applications from both men and women who have the appropriate qualifications. Disabled people with the appropriate qualifications are particularly encouraged to apply.

Please indicate if you are a disabled person and your disability.

Applications should be submitted along with:

- * a copy of your CV
- * a short statement in English in your own handwriting of not more than 500 words explaining what you think about the main problems for disabled people in Bangladesh.

Applications must be received by March 2, 1994 to the ADD Consultant, GPO Box 568, Dhaka-1000.

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Boi Mela's

timing for

Ramadan

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela will remain open from 2 pm to 7 pm except Fridays and February 21 during Ramadan. The timing for Fridays will be 11 am to 7 pm and for February 21 to be 8 pm to 7 pm, says a Bangla Academy press release.

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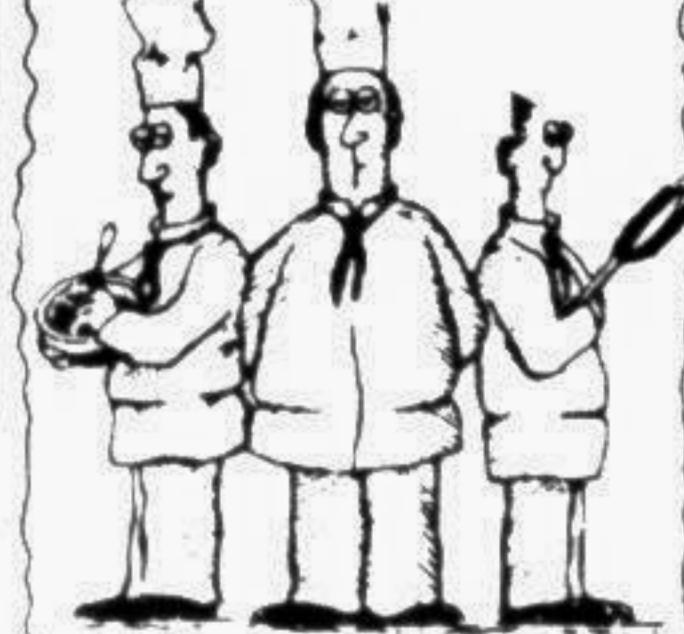
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