

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Things Old and Precious

by Raffat Binte Rashid

It is 2:30 pm, shown in an American, St. Thomas wooden clock. Nothing unusual.

Tick tocking as it should, the polished frame or the shining brass, lion heads studed at the corners, can never reveal its original age or its grandeur.

This is a 70-year old collectors' item, at least in this part of the continent. But this unique masterpiece is only Tk 6000, quite cheap if its history, time and value are to be considered.

In fact, pieces of furniture, works of art of past period, showing ancient styles of the past times or relating a tale of the distant past, is not always what Dhakates crave for.

Dhaka is not a city where antiques are found in abundance, collected or even properly valued. These shops are as rare as the antiques themselves.

The most shocking part however, is the total ignorance of the vendors. Except for a very few people, who take the pain of knowing the real stories behind each item, no one really bothers about facts or history.

The real collectors are mainly people who have developed a fancy for antiques for personal pleasure. The shops where these are found are nothing other than ordinary handicraft shop. And maybe, out of mere luck they would be able to say "these are not local goods, all foreign." Only this fact "foreign items" add to their value. Real values are overlooked.

Only a few, countable shops, are found scattered in Gulshan, Mohakhali and that too in such an inconspicuous way that no one would ever guess what things of values they have behind their shabby look.

Chandeliers, for example locally known as *fanush* collected from *Masjids* and from someone's private collections, are as old as 250 years.

Lights of various shapes, like a big bowl attached to a brass body, are priced from Taka 2,000 to 4,000 to 5,000.

These shops mainly offer decoration pieces cutlery, crockery, usually sold by the captains and crew of various ships. Big bowls are priced at only Tk 300 to Tk 400.

Perhaps the most interesting item of these

shops on offer is an iron used by coals. Ancient brass made, these irons almost look like boxes with real hot coals poured inside to heat up the alloy and later serve the purpose.

Another interesting piece is the jewellery moulds. Local jewellery designs such as ear rings known as *Makri* or necklaces, bangles or *balas* are also found. These moulds are mostly of recent times showing designs of the Pakistan era.

There are also wooden statues collected from Faridpur or Mymensingh, places famous for their wood works. These statues are sold for Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500.

Small bronze statues of Hindu gods and goddesses collected from Dhamrai and other adjoining areas are also to be found.

Unorganised, these shops have many valuable things which are not properly evaluated. The shop keepers or owners are completely unaware of their attraction.

depends not on the items but how much it holds

A marble-stone table, five and half feet in circumference was sold for Tk 75,000. The year or place or source of this particular item is unknown, at least the shopkeeper couldn't say.

Our main business is reproduction, i.e. producing, if wanted, the replicas of these antique items," says Khokon, a salesman of one such shop.

The prices of replicas depend on labour cost. Our factories or places from where these are made are scattered in Bakshi Bazar and Bonshah.

Business right now is very dull, in fact this business is not seasonal or anything and depends only on people's desire for antiques or luxury items," he explains.

These shops, though have grand pieces of the past where each item has a story of its own, do not exactly know their real value. Many of the items look old, not because of their age but because they have gathered inches of dust on them due to neglect and lack of interest.

OF COURSE THE  
STATUE IS 3,000  
YEARS OLD EVEN  
THESE PHONES  
ARE 1645 YEARS OLD

SHAKER '94



The Sadarghat Road which leads to the city's launch terminal is jammed with hundreds of rickshaws. Illegal road-side shops turn the narrow street even narrower. The picture was taken yesterday.

— Star photo

## Principal Kasheem's anniversary of death today

The 3rd death anniversary of Principal Abul Kasheem, a renowned educationist and one of the architects of the Language Movement, will be observed today, says a press

On the eve of Principal Kasheem's death anniversary President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia paid tributes to the memory of the great educationist in separate messages.

BSS adds: President Abdur Rahman Biswas said the nation would remember with gratitude the contributions of late Principal Abul Kasheem for the cause of mother tongue.

He said as a member of parliament Principal Kasheem had dedicated himself to establish Bangla as a state language.

He said, as an educationist Principal Kasheem had established many educational, social and cultural organisations. The nation owe to him in many ways.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia paid high tributes to the memory of Principal Abul Kasheem.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

They will join an international force of 200 UNOMSA (United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa) election supervision and support officers recruited through United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme.

The Bangladeshis will carry out a two-month assignment to support the aspirations of the South African people to establish rule of a democratic government.

This is the second time after the recent assignment of 63 Bangladeshi election support officers to Cambodia that Bangladesh has been called upon by the UN to provide experienced professionals to assist it in its peace mission.

It is expected that Bangladesh shall also be invited to participate in the upcoming elections in Liberia through the UNV.

## 5 to take part in UNOMSA

Five Bangladeshi nationals have left Dhaka for Johannesburg to participate in the United Nations Peace Mission ahead of the elections in South Africa, reports UNB.

The Siraj brothers are the sons of Major General (retd) K M Siraz Jinnat, who is also a noted genitourinary surgeon of the country, and Farida Siraz.

The Siraj brothers are the sons of Major General (retd) K M Siraz Jinnat, who is also a noted genitourinary surgeon of the country, and Farida Siraz.

It is expected that Bangladesh shall also be invited to participate in the upcoming elections in Liberia through the UNV.

## Two brothers get FRCS

By Staff Correspondent

Two brothers — Dr Mamoon Siraj and Dr Masoom Siraj — of Bangladesh got academic distinction in Britain.

Dr Masoom obtained FRCS (Edin) degree this year while Dr Mamoon obtained in the previous year.

The Siraj brothers are the sons of Major General (retd) K M Siraz Jinnat, who is also a noted genitourinary surgeon of the country, and Farida Siraz.

It is expected that Bangladesh shall also be invited to participate in the upcoming elections in Liberia through the UNV.

## Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with a fair sky is likely to prevail over the country during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Friday).

The Met Office forecasts day temperature may remain unchanged over the country.

The highest temperature of the country of 35.7 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessor and the lowest of 11.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday (Thursday).

The sun sets today at 6.06 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6.11 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.5	14.0	39	34
Chittagong	31.0	18.0	42	39
Rajshahi	32.0	13.0	61	33
Khulna	32.6	13.3	63	35
Banshali	31.6	14.4	63	52
Cox's Bazar	33.0	20.0	42	55
Dinajpur	30.0	14.4	68	39
Sylhet	31.8	14.2	50	34

## World leaders' Eid greetings

Heads of the states and governments of different countries had sent messages of felicitation to President Abdur Rahman Biswas on the eve of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr, reports UNB.

The leaders wished health and happiness of the President and well-being of the friendly people of Bangladesh. They also hoped steady progress and prosperity of the nation.

The heads of the states and governments include President of Egypt Mohammad Hosni Mubarak, King Hassan of Morocco, Amir of the State of Qatar Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, President of UAE Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmed Al Bashir, President of Nizer Mohammad Ousmane, Guinea's President Lansana Conte, Amir of Bahrain Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Sultan of Oman Qaboos Bin Said and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The heads of the states and governments include President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday greeted Cassam Uteem, President of Mauritius on the occasion of its Independence Day, reports UNB.

In a message the President conveyed his warm greetings and felicitations on the happy occasion and wished Cassam health, happiness and long life.

"I am confident that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and people will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come," the message said.

Biswas also wished continued progress and well-being of the friendly people of Mauritius.

In a separate message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday congratulated Sir Aneeroor Jangautha, Prime Minister of Mauritius.

In her message Begum Zia said "I sincerely hope that the friendly relations existing between our two Commonwealth countries will be further developed and strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of our two people."

The President referred to the recent Hebron massacre and said the government of Bangladesh and the people had strongly condemned the Hebron tragedy. He said words fail to condemn the way the enemies of Muslims had killed the devotees offering prayers in the mosque. "We have to gather courage against them," he said adding "at the same time we have to strengthen the Muslim unity and be devoted in spreading the ideals of Islam."

The President referred to the recent Hebron massacre and said the government of Bangladesh and the people had strongly condemned the Hebron tragedy. He said words fail to condemn the way the enemies of Muslims had killed the devotees offering prayers in the mosque. "We have to gather courage against them," he said adding "at the same time we have to strengthen the Muslim unity and be devoted in spreading the ideals of Islam."

He said the mosque is a symbol of holiness and it is the sacred place to surrender oneself before the almighty Allah and to his directed path. He said one of the great teachings of Islam is to establish society based on mosques.

He said the mosque is a symbol of holiness and it is the sacred place to surrender oneself before the almighty Allah and to his directed path. He said one of the great teachings of Islam is to establish society based on mosques.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

In her message, the Prime Minister said he would remain as a source of inspiration to the future generation in the struggle of enhancing the dignity of the nation and Bangla language.

She said Principal Kasheem had played a pioneering role in giving institutional shape to the main spirit of language movement. He was the first to establish Bangla College at Mirpur to offer higher education in Bangla. He also wrote Bangla text books, she added.

শাহুমুর এবং  
স্বর্ণের গহনা

টায়াইল মাট্রিকুল ও রেশমো

১৪৩/১ নিউ বেলী রোড, ঢাকা

২/২৩ ইন্হার্ন প্লাজা, সোনারগাঁও রোড, ঢাকা

ফোন: ৮৩৪৫৬৭ ফেক্স: ৮৩২৯২৮

SHOW  
ROOM  
OPEN  
9 AM - 8 PMGRAND  
SALE  
30% REDUCTIONON EXPORT REJECTED ISMAIL CARPETS  
OF VARIOUS BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS  
THIS REDUCTION IS ONLY VALID FOR  
CARPETS IN OUR OWN SHOW ROOMISMAIL CARPET  
INDUSTRIES LTD.  
HOTEL NIDMAHAL BUILDING  
105, SUKRABAD, MIRPUR ROAD,  
DHAKA-1207. PHONE: 314180, 311576HURRY,  
THIS SALE  
WILL LAST  
FOR ONLY  
15 DAYS

## আবশ্যক

প্রাচীন বেসরকারী সংস্কৃত ও বৰ্তমান নির্মাণের জন্য নিয়ে বৰ্তমান পদসমূহে আবশ্যিক প্রক্ট হচ্ছে সরাসরি আবাবন কৰা হচ্ছে।

নথি পদের নাম	প্রকাশিত বেগুনাতা	অভিজ্ঞা



<tbl\_r cells="3" ix="3" maxcspan="1" maxrspan