

Dhaka Day by Day

Tokens from across the Seas

by Raffat Binte Rashid



Dhaka has become a place where you can get anything — if you have the money. This includes furniture from far away lands. Just take a walk along Pantho Path or Kawran Bazar and you will come across quite a few shops selling foreign furniture.

For the last couple of years ship furniture has created quite a stir among the people living in the cities especially Dhaka and Chittagong. Foreign ships anchoring at the Bay, sell off all their furniture before sailing off for home. The furniture is bought by some dealers in Chittagong who in turn sell to wholesalers of various shops.

"The furniture is bought by lot which has all the required furniture pieces," says Wahiduzzaman, an employee of Furniture Bitan, a shop in Pantho Path.

"The cost price of lots vary according to the number and type of item, the largest lot that we purchased had 200 to 150 items, costing us about 40 to 30 lakh takas," he says.

This furniture made of wood and white formica is brought to the capital by truck. All items are readymade which are then varnished. They are not reproduced. Rumours are that these shops in the name of selling foreign ship-furniture sell locally made goods, but to this, Zaman defending their trade, says such an allegation is completely false.

"Unless you have very good and professional carpenters and ship furniture catalogues, such replicas are just not possible to make."

In fact the very look of the furniture differs from our local items. Local furniture whether chairs, tables, beds or sofa sets, usually have the touch of an artist. There would be some sort of motif or ornamental work engraved somewhere in the design. The furniture of-

ferred at these shops, however, have a very spartan, uniform look. Simple and very different they attract all types of customers.

"A luxury bed of 5 ft by 7 ft was sold in our shop for Tk 14,000," informs Zaman. Business is reasonably fair throughout the year and now even after Eid the rush is the same he thinks.

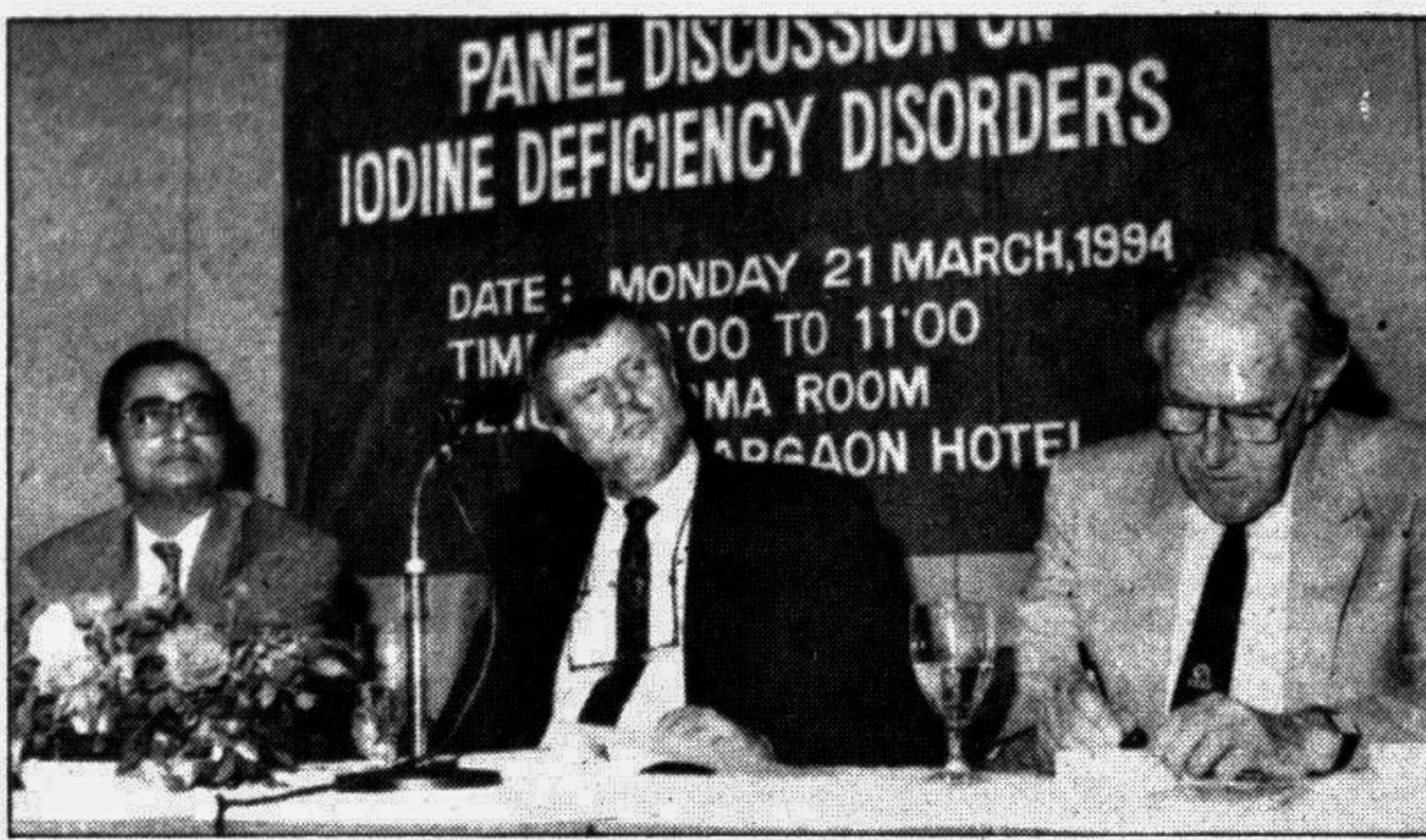
A small mirror with two medium sized drawers would cost Tk. 3200 to Tk. 3000. Double bed Tk 5000, medium sized bed Tk. 4000, and single bed Tk. 3000. There are sofa sets for Tk.10,000 and Tk. 7,000, outrageous to some maybe, but there's always scope for bargaining.

Another interesting thing that you may mark in the same side walk, just opposite to it, is the second hand furniture shop. Rusted gates, grills, broken doors and windows, even old bath tubs, everything lying on the footpath was for sale. When people refurbish their homes or change houses, they tend to sell off their junk. Even such, 'junk' items are bought by dealers, lot wise.

Again, depending on the items, a lot price can vary between Tk 20,000 to Tk. 80,000.

These items are sold piece by piece. Suppose you need a single door or two sheets, often you'll get them here. The price range starts from Tk. 500 straight up to Tk.20,000. But everything depends on how many items you buy and what type they are.

Strange and amusing, Dhaka is a city of surprises. A single window pane or a gorgeous chest-of-drawers, anything if you have the eye for it, can be acquired at these shops. This new introduction of foreign furniture has certainly widened the choice for consumers as well as the range of opportunities for small-time traders.



UNICEF Representative Rolf C Carriere speaking at a panel discussion on Iodine Deficiency Disorders organised by the UNICEF at the Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Planning Commission Member Mokammel Haq is on his right and Basil S Hetzel, Chairman of International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, on his left. — Star photo

Seminar on 'Educational Research' ends

Educationalists and scholars on the concluding day yesterday of the two-day seminar on 'Educational Research and Development' underscored the need for proper planning for the development of the education sector, reports BSS.

Four papers were presented on the last day of the seminar organised by the National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM). S M Al-Hussainy, Dr M A M A Rahim, Dr F K Chowdhury and Dr Mahmudul Alam presented the papers.

The papers dealt with various aspects of education commensurate to the need of the society.

Dr M A Bari and Prof Mofazzil Ahmed presided over two sessions each.

Those who participated in the discussion were Dr Sharfuddin, Dr M A Jallil, Mrs Nilufar Begum, Kazi Azher Ali, Dr Faderel Amin Reza, Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Dr Siddiqur Rahman, M A Jabbar, Anwarul Huq Khan Majlish, Dr Mazharul Huq and Abu Abdullah.

Director of NAEM Ms Selina Mohsin co-ordinated the seminar.

Gayeshwar to attend int'l confce in Geneva

State Minister for Environment Gayeshwar Chandra Roy left the capital yesterday evening for Geneva to attend the second ministerial meeting of the conference of the parties to the Basel convention on movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, reports BSS.

The State Minister is leading a two-member Bangladesh delegation to the five-day meeting in the Swiss capital.

Gayeshwar Roy is expected to highlight the Bangladesh position in the meeting on movements of hazardous wastes and disposal.

Dutch envoy meets DSE chairman

Ambassador of the Netherlands Henricus Gajentaan called on Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Chairman Khurshid Alam at DSE in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, Gajentaan exchanged views with the chairman over operational work of DSE, its problems and prospects, present situation of capital market, security and exchange commission, privatisation process and other related issues.

DSE vice-chairman Imtiyaz Hossain, councillors Khwaja Abdul Quddus, Md Shahiq Khan, Md Rakibur Rahman and second secretary of the Royal Netherlands embassy Roelof C Buffinga, were present on the occasion.

Later, they visited DSE trading floor and witnessed the trading activities for some time.

United efforts needed to combat IDD by '95

By Staff Correspondent

Efforts should be made to achieve universal salt iodization by 1995 to combat iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) in the country.

"Many organisations and individuals will have to work together in this field," Rolf C Carriere, Representative, UNICEF, Bangladesh, told a panel discussion on IDD held at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

The educationists have the biggest stake in this regard as 50 million Bangladeshis are missing 5 IQ points each because of iodine deficiency. Also the development planners, consumer protection agencies, social organisations and livestock industries should come up in achieving the goal.

The UNICEF has already sanctioned Tk 55 crore in iodine deficiency prevention programmes and Tk 25 crore has been spent for the programme till June 30, 1994.

The IDD is a significant societal problem which has already reached 47 per cent of the country's population, Carriere said.

He also stressed the need for taking up a massive communication programme to create awareness about the need for iodine.

Dr Basil S Hetzel, Chairman, International Council for Control of IDD (ICIDD), taking part in the discussion said that about 1.5 billion people

worldwide are at risk of IDD and said iodizing the salt is the cheapest way of combating this. He mentioned that there is an acute shortage of iodine in North America and Europe, but IDD does not exist there because of the anti-IDD programmes.

Dr C S Pandav, regional co-ordinator, ICIDD, said, the world is learning a lot from what Bangladesh is doing in combating IDD. He said the manufacture of indigenous iodization machine and the iodine testing solution are the unique inventions of the country.

"It is economically profitable to cure and prevent iodine deficiency," Dr Pandav said, "for every one Taka put into a human being, the benefit is Tk three."

Mokammel Haq, member, Planning Commission, said, 80 per cent of salt producing factories in the country have already been equipped with iodization plants. The remaining factories will be equipped with iodization plants soon.

"People should be made conscious of the IDD," Haq said, "for that we need social mobilisation. The current programme is emphasizing this side."

Over 50 journalists, NGO workers, government officials and representatives from the private sector participated in the discussion.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecasts, rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Mymensingh and Tangail during 12 hours commencing 6 am today.

However, weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, the forecast said.

The sun sets today (Tues-day) at 6:10 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:00 am.

Career Opportunity

Applications are invited from the male/female candidates for the following positions for immediate appointments:

- Office Executive: 1 (One) Post**
Requirements.
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 - ★ Proficient in written and spoken English.
 - ★ Experienced in computer operations.
 - ★ Skilled in electronic typewriting.
 - ★ Well conversant in office filing.
 - ★ Knowledge of shorthand.
- Garment Merchandiser: 1 (One) Post**
Requirements.
 - ★ Minimum 5 to 7 years working experience in reputed buying house or garment factory.
 - ★ Should have strong ability to work independently.

Applications with full bio-data, 2 copies of recent passport size photographs and photo-copy of all educational and technical certificates must reach to **Box No. S-119, C/o. The Daily Star, House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205 by 31st March, 1994.**

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Smuggled goods worth Tk 4.73 cr seized in Feb

Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan yesterday asked members of the police forces to strengthen the activities for increasing cooperation with the people to check inter-district robbery and other organised crimes, reports UNB.

He was addressing a fortnightly meeting of senior police officials at the Police Headquarters in the city.

It was informed in the meeting that police seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 4.73 crore and arrested 244 people on charges of smuggling in February.

The meeting observed that cases of robbery, stealing and repression on woman have declined in February compared to the previous month.

The meeting was attended by Additional IGP, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner, DIGs and AIGs posted in Dhaka and other police officials.

Criminal held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: A special squad of the detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested Mohammad Deedarul Alam alias Deeder, one of the main accused in the Chittagong Medical College killing incident of 1988 from Badurtala under Chandgaon Police here today, reports BSS.

The arrested had been wanted for several criminal cases for a long time.

Tk 6,500 looted from city petrol pump

By Staff Correspondent

A group of youngsters beat up a staff of a petrol pump at Sobhanbagh and reportedly looted Tk 6.5 thousand from the station yesterday evening.

The youngsters drove to Ayesha Service Station in a pajeero jeep, a microbus and a car and refilled the vehicles with 80 litres of petrol.

But when the cashier demanded Tk. 1040 as the price of the fuel, the youngmen beat him up and snatched the amount from the cash box.

The cashier said that the youngsters sped their vehicles and fled towards Dhanmondi immediately.

A case was lodged with the Mohammadpur police, but no arrest was made, according to police.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

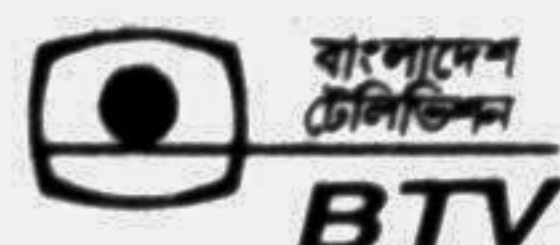
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY(NSU) invites applications for the following job openings

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- Administrative Officer.** (3) **Secretary to the Board of Governors**
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- Faculty Assistant** (7) **Administrative Assistant**
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Pay according to qualification and experience. Good knowledge of English is a must for all applicants. Application, CV, and contact telephone number should reach Registrar, North South University, 12 Banani C/A, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213 by 10 April 1994.



Tuesday

- 4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary Mass education programme
- 4:45 Esho Para Shikhi News in Bangla
- 5:10 Cartoon show: Captain Planet
- 5:25 National Television debate competition
- 6:35 Open University Modern songs programme: Sangeeta
- 7:10 News in Bangla Fortnightly drama serial: Subarna Samoy
- 8:00 News in English
- 8:40 Film show: Northern Exposure
- 10:00 Khabar/The News
- 10:30 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

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