

Dhaka Day by Day

Happy Co-residential Living

by Nilratan Halder



With more and more people landing in this capital city, looking for opportunities, the metropolis is not only expanding horizontally but vertically as well. The upward growth may not compare to the skyline of cities like New York or even Bombay. But at least people have started to demonstrate a changed attitude — no matter how much willingly or being forced by necessity — to their residences. Specious gardens with well-trimmed lawns no more adorn the residential houses, fronts and backyards, except of course the exclusive few in the posh areas.

For the middle class and lower middle class it is an unavoidable and unshakable fate to huddle in flats shared by inmates of all kinds of habits, with different backgrounds — educational and other. Not many are expected to be quite familiar with the ways of city life, urban practices and civic consideration for others. But after all everyone has his — even more important her — hubris. Let us leave courteous behaviour alone.

What about the 'thak-thak' sound late in the night or in the small hours? Someone has found to his (this time it is invariably he) convenient the late hours quite suitable for sticking a nail in the wall for hanging a calendar he has managed to procure. Or he or she (here it may be she too) has decided that the mosquitoes are pestering more than their usual share and so the sudden need for holding the mosquito net from the far corners. What more appropriate a time than this can one think of for the purpose? So now the walls are assaulted with a nail and a hammer and in its absence a pestle will do. Who cares if the co-residents on other floors have just fell asleep after a days arduous long journey or someone sick is terribly disturbed to the point of aggravating his illness.

But this is not the only way of treating the residents of flats by their more care-free co-resident to a sumptuous feast of sounds. Grinding spices on the stone with a pestle (*puta* and *puta*) at dead of nights is yet another common form of taking the liberty of exercising one's own right. Don't question if it is at the cost of someone else's. Some people, it seems, revel in inventing the various methods of getting on the fellow residents nerves. Some are of the habit of dragging the chair each time they mount or dismount from their kingly perches. If the practice is continued late in the night, those residing below might jump from their beds, thinking the doomsday has befallen them. When it is discovered that a chair on the floor above has produced that piercing sound as a result of the high friction caused by a fellow resident, the immediate instinct may be to kill but one has to swallow the wrath within.

Yet another form of co-residential entertainment is the ingenious games invented by your fellow tenant's children — each of whom are a devil — who won't go to bed even at those late hours because they have had their share of sleep at daytime. They really know how to keep the whole building awake, specially the residents below. They have their toy cars, a creaking tri-cycle — or if not all these items, at least coins. Now they will make with their tri-cycle endless rounds on the upper floor and below people thinking of a sleep, feel as if the small wheels of that machine are blowing their heads apart. The spinning coin routinely thrown again and again simply set the heads into a spin.

Add to this the ponding of betel leaf and nut (*pan* and *supari*) in a mortar at the odd hours conceivable, you will get a picture of a veritable mad house. But why bother, middle class people are made of tougher stuffs to ignore such nuisance and troubles. Hail middle class.

2 killed in Khulna bus plunge

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 25: Two persons were killed and forty others injured when a Khulna-bound minibus plunged into the river Bhadra breaking the guard-rail of a bridge under Dumuria thana of the district Sunday afternoon.

According to police and eyewitnesses, one Sharali, 60, died on the spot while another

unidentified person, aged about 35, succumbed to his injuries on way to the Khulna hospital.

About five persons were admitted to the Khulna General Hospital while others received first aid there. The driver and the helper of the bus have reportedly escaped.

63 arrested

Police rounded up 63 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, eight were wanted criminals, three were held under the Anti-Terrorism Law, another three under Arms Law, two for robbery, six on charge of stealing and three for women repression.



A S Mahmud, Managing Director of Mediaworld Limited and Chairman of Transcom Electronics Limited hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Labour MP from UK Keith Vaz last night at Hotel Sheraton. Picture shows a few of the guests present on the occasion. (From L to R) Ian Marsh, First Secretary of the British High Commission, Dhaka, Amin Ali, A S Mahmud, Keith Vaz, Atiqul Alam, Editor of the Morning Sun, Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor of the United News of Bangladesh. — Star photo

Govt urged to instil dynamism in admn

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council have urged the government to take steps for increasing administrative efficiency and abandon its policy of appeasing a handful of bureaucrats.

Modernisation and updating of different training academies and increasing facilities were the primary responsibilities of the government in order to increase efficiency of the administration, observed a meeting of the Prokrichi in Dhaka Sunday.

Presided over by Action Council Convenor Dr MA Majeed, the meeting was also attended by Dr Ayubur Rahman, engineer ANH Akhtar Hossain, MA Hena, M Ibrahim Mia, Javed Iqbal, Gazi Abdul Huq, M Ruhul Matin, Moshtaq

Hossain, MAK Azad, Md Manirul Islam.

Reacting to a recent press report on foreign training of 500 bureaucrats at a cost of Tk 112 crore, the meeting questioned the rationale of such training for a handful of officials.

It observed that the need for training of some 12 lakh government officials would not be met by organising training to only 500 bureaucrats.

Hundreds of bureaucrats earlier trained abroad had failed to bring about the desired increase in efficiency of the administration, it noted.

Quoting a UNDP report, the meeting pointed out that a section of officials, depriving others, had taken foreign training more than once.

2 killed, 5 hurt in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

In three separate incidents, two people were killed and another five people were injured in the city yesterday.

Four-year-old Russel were smashed under a speeding truck at Jurap last evening while he was crossing the road.

In another incident, a woman who could not be identified was knocked down by an auto-tempos, a three wheeler, and died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 7 in

the evening. Both the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for the autopsy, police said.

Two groups of armed men clashed at Golapbagh railgate area leaving at least five people injured yesterday in the evening.

A seriously blast injured girl — Shilpi, 8, — was admitted to the DMCH. She was injured while the clashing groups chased each other blasting crackers around 6:30 pm.



Gil Gonzalez-Foerster (2nd R), a French journalist with the Reporters Sans Frontieres, met the leaders of the Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary Kalbaishakhi sequel with hail likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions during the next 24 hours.

Met Office said the weather will remain same at one or two places over Barisal and Khulna divisions during the period.

The day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

Yesterday Dhaka's maximum temperature was recorded at 33.5 degrees Celsius and minimum 22.0 degrees.

The country experienced 8 mm rainfall yesterday at Tangail only.

Humidity was 80 percent in the morning and 65 per cent in the evening.

The sun sets today (Tues-day) at 6:25 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:27 am.



Tuesday

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

President greets Malaysian king

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated the King of Malaysia Tuanku Ja'afar ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, to mark the anniversary of his assumption of the monarchy, reports BSS.

In his message of felicitation the President said, on the happy occasion of your assumption of the highest office of the supreme sovereign of Malaysia, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations.

It said may Almighty Allah continue to bestow upon your Majesty the sagacity to guide the brotherly people of Malaysia towards more peace, progress and prosperity. The President wished the King good health, happiness, and long life.

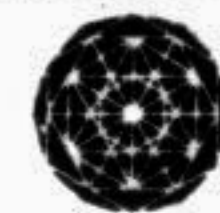
Mahila Parishad team calls on Jahanara

A women delegation led by Aysha Khanam, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, called on State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum at her office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Among others, vice presidents of the Mahila Parishad Bela Nabi and Chitra Bhattacharya and organising secretary Khaleda Mahub were present.

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Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd, Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites international sealed Tender No. PD (F)-22/93-94 for Purchase of Doctor Blades of PM-1&2 which will be opened on 07-06-1994 at 3-00 PM. Tender documents will be available on payment of Tk 100.00 (one hundred) per set from (1) KNM Ltd., (2) BCIC, 30-31 Dilkusha, Dhaka & (3) BCIC, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC — 395-21/4
DFP(BA) 3411-21/4

G-717

26th April, 1994
10th Death Anniversary of
Firdaus Alam



"By love, he is remembered ...
And he lives eternally
In caring hearts,
In lives he touched,
In the glow of memory."

TODAY AND EVERY DAY WE REMEMBER YOU

Iftekhharul Alam & Khorshedi Alam

LATEST ATTRACTION FROM BTA

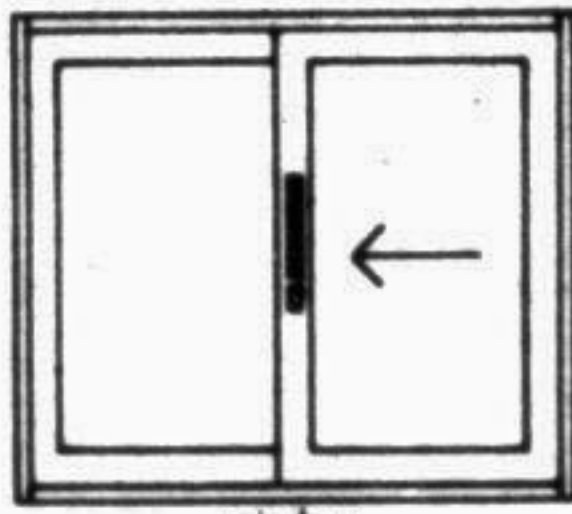
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Visitors looking at an art work at Arial Gallery. A 10-day long art exhibition by the Dhaka painters, a group of four artists, began at the gallery yesterday. — Star photo



Eastern Tubes Limited (BSEC)

374, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

Tender Notice

Eastern Tubes Ltd (BSEC), 374, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka invites sealed "Quotations" from the bonafide BSCIC Organisation enlisted Sub-Contracting Engineering for the repair of spare parts mentioned below:

Serial No.	Items	Amounts	Earnest Money	Closing & Opening date & time	Cost of Tender documents	Remarks
01.	Solenoid Valve	4 (Four)	1% of the quoted value on a Scheduled Bank Pay Order/Bank Draft.	Closing on 5.5. 1994 at 11-00 AM & opening on 5.5. 1994 at 11-15 AM.	Tk. 100/- (One hundred) only each set.	Tenders have to be dropped in the office of the Add. Chief Engineer (Maintenance.)
02.	Foster Valve	1 (One)				

Tender documents can be purchased during the office hours from 9-00 AM to 5-00 PM (except holiday) on cash payment from the Accounts Section, Eastern Tubes Ltd & Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, B. S. E. C., Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

ETL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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G-715

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