Dhaka Day by Day

Gulshan Sans its Shine

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Once not too long ago, the name 'Gulshan' which can be interpreted as a place radiant with flowers, evoked an image of genteel elegance and quiet beauty. Yet Gulshan of now, is neither elegant nor quiet. With the encroachment of commercial enterprises and indiscriminate construction, the residential area has become a centre of chaos and ugliness.

Several years ago, Bichitra magazine had a cover story on the snobbish areas of Gulshan and Banani where the elites of society showed off their bare backs and pedigree dogs on the streets and whizzed their sports cars from one end to the other in decadent frenzy. This Beverly Hills kind of scene has been replaced by one with worn-out trucks screaming their obnoxious horns, armies of whimsical rickshaws and stray, mad, dogs with unpredictable natures. The composition of pedestrians has also changed with scores of garment workers, day labourers and small-time traders thronging the streets.

rickshaws, cycles and people spilling out from the overcrowded bazaar. Even the police station looks shabby and lacadasical with battered vehicles lying around in the front.

What about the neighbourhood itself? The older houses that represent what may be termed as the 'old rich' as opposed to the 'new rich' have still retained some of their past elegance with their quaint gardens, exotic creepers and hanging plants. Those that once had a lakeview, however, can now look forward to storeys of hard cement the not very attractive backsides of highrise apartment buildings. This rude intrusion is all over Gulshan using every little space there is. blocking views, sunlight and the gentle breeze from the ever diminishing lakes.

The overcrowding of Gulshan is reflected in the numbers of people lolling around on the little inner roads, once the haven for walking. Most of these idlers are the hired help of expatriates and local elite. In fact, the inmates of the houses are seldom seen, either out of



This 'cultural revolution' would not have been such a bad thing if the area had been large enough to accommodate the increased numbers of people and if there had been some sort of planning as far as the construction of buildings is concerned. A cinema hall with its vulgar posters of deformed women standing right at the corner of Gulshan Number one has ensured an everlasting traffic problem with hundreds of rickshaws taking up more than half of the street corner, the rest of it being occupied by tempos, buses and scooters. This makes driving through the chaos quite an obstacle race as one dodges star-struck cinema goers cum jaywalkers, rickshaws with no sense pasture field, goats, dogs, cats, you name it.

Shabby hardware stores, small eating places known as 'hotels', barber shops and electronic repair shops decorate the lower half of the circular cinema hall, only adding to the general unkempt look. Garment factories are everywhere in this once quiet neighbourhood occupying the top floor of buildings with their tiny windows that resemble a prison. Aesthetics seems to be the last thing on the minds of builders of these monstrosities that dot the two ends of Gulshan.

Gulshan number 2 is just as worse. Buses stop where they are not supposed to stop_ right outside a restaurant. The road that goes to Baridhara is cluttered with unruly

town, at coffee parties or locked up in some corner of the house in the world of video games and films. It is therefore the cooks, the darwans, drivers the kitchen helpers, far outumbering their employers, who laze around outside the gates of the ivory towers playing cards but generally ogling at the nervous garment worker or any other female that passes by, either by car, rickshaw or foot.

This makes activities previously so pleasurable and unhindered like walking, jogging or cycling, a royal pain. After all, who wants to walk along the road with fifty pairs of eyes looking you up and down? Snooty, risque ladies with their snooty poodles, so fondly of direction, cows which think the road is a depicted in the Bichitra article, are therefore, an extinct species on these roads nowadays. It is only a few, who brave the roads for a morning jog or evening walk by pretending not to see the potholes, defective street lights and the endless line of gaping men.

The snob appeal of an area like Gulshan, is thus, rather weak inspite of all the expensive restaurants, stuck-up shopkeepers, embassies and foreign clubs. In fact, a large proportion of the elite have moved to higher planes_ Baridhara. What is left is a Gulshan that has neither 'gul' (flowers) nor 'shaan' (grandeur) but a locality that is overcrowded, disorganised and increasingly inelegant. Perhaps the author of that satirical Bichitra article would like to take a second look.

Merrill meets Noman visits Razzak Mostaque

The US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill called on Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shatkh Razzak Ali at his office at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of bilateral interest.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman yesterday went to the PG Hospital to see the condition of Mostaque Ahmed Chowdhury. MP, reports UNB.

Chowdhury was injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-

Chittagong highway.

47 arrested

Police arrested 47 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, one was wanted criminal, three were held under the Arms Law and three for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, যানবহান দপ্তর প্রধান কার্য্যালয়, ঢাকা

ঃ পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঃ

ব্যাংকের নিম্নপিৰিত ১০টি গাড়ী "যেখানে যে অবস্থার আছে" ভিস্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য আগ্রহী ক্রেভালের নিকট হতে নিত্র বাক্ষরকারী কর্তক সীলমোহরকত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাতে।

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এক বা একাধিক গাড়ীর ব্দ্যা আমহী ফ্রেন্ডাদের দরপত্র সমূহ আগামী ১৩ই বুল, ১৯৯৪ ইং ভারিখ বেলা ১-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যান্ত সংস্থাপন বিভাগ, রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ, প্রধান কার্য্যালয়, ৩৪, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা এই ঠিকানায় রক্ষিত টেভার বাজে গ্রহন করা হবে এবং ঐ দিন বেশা ২-৩০ মিঃ এর সময় দর দাতাদের সমূবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) বোলা হবে। দরপত্রগুলি ভাকযোগেও প্রেরণ করা যাবে, তবে প্রেরিত দরপত্র সমূহ অবশ্যই দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ অপরাহ্ন বেলা ১-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগে হত্তগত হতে হবে। অন্যথার তাহ্য গ্রহনযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে না। প্রত্যেক গাড়ীর জন্য পুথক পুথক ভাবে দর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত টাকার ১০% হারে আনেট্রমানি তকসীলী ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডার/ডিমান্ড ছাকট রূপালী ব্যাংক লিঃ-এর অনুকুলে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হবে। আনেইমানি ব্যতিরেকে কোন দরশত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। অকৃতকার্য্য দরদাতাদের আনেষ্ট্রমানি সময়মত কেরৎ দেয়া হবে। দরশত্র পূর্ণ বা আংশিক গৃহীত হওয়ার শর নির্বাচিত সরদাভালেরকে ব্যাংক হতে শত্র দেওয়ার শর দর দাভাকে উল্লেখিত টাকার অবশিষ্ট ৯০% সম্পূর্ণ পরিশোধ করে ১৫ (পলের) দিনের মধ্যে গাড়ী/ গাড়ীগুলি ছেলিভারী নিতে হবে। ক্র্যুথার আর্নেইমানি বাজেয়াঙ বলে গণ্য হবে। ব্যাহকের কোন কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী কোন ভাবেই সংশ্লিষ্ট নরপত্রে অংশ গ্রহন করতে পারবে না। ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রেকে যে কোন বা সকল সরশন্ত পূর্ণ আংশিক গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার কমতা সংক্রমণ করেন।

(बम,चारे, छोपुती) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক



Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman (R) and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam (L) signing two agreements on expanding bilateral cooperation and international affairs at the state guest house Meghna in the city yesterday. -PID photo

Directive to introduce laminated driving licence

Oli Ahmed yesterday directed Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to take immediate steps for issuing laminated driving licences, reports

The directive came at the 28th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications at Sangsad Bhaban.

was informed that the revenue earning of BRTA this year would rise up to Tk 60

The committee discussed the report presented by BRTA Chairman AHMB Zaman on the

Communications Minister overall activities of the organi-

The report disclosed that a good number of steps were underway to make the organisation dynamic and improve the standard of customer-service, including setting up of 5 vehicle inspection centres in the country, updating the relevant laws as and where necessary through amendment and computerisation of registration and licensing.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, Whip Abdul Karim, Golam Mohammad Siraj MP (BNP) and Golam Hussain of Jatiya Party attended the meeting.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country. Day temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period.

Country's highest temperature was 35 degrees Celsius at Satkhira and the lowest 22.5 degrees at Dinajpur yesterday. The Sun sets today (Friday) at 6:40 pm and rises tomerrow

(Sunday) at 5:11 am. Maximum and minimum temperatures of some major cities recorded vesterday were:

City .		Temper Celsius	*		dity in entage	
114		Max	Min		9am	6pm
Dhaka		31.5	24.0		91	78
Chittagong		32.7	26.5		75	79
Rajshahi		33.5	24.5		78	66
Khulna		34.4	25,4		, 78	72
Barisat	9	30.0 1	23.7		f 98	79
Sylhet	2000	31.4	24.7		85	80
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Bangladesh's urban growth rate highest in Asia

Bangladesh's urban growth rate is the highest in Asia and it is growing by an average of 5 per cent every year, says a survey report of the United Nations, reports UNB.

There are 23 million urban dwellers in Bangladesh making up 20 per cent of the country's total population, according to statistics compiled by a number of survey groups of different UN bodies.

By the year 2001, the country's urban population will be more than 25 per cent, said the UN report prepared early this year. The annual growth in the

Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi was calculated at 6 per In 1991, Dhaka's population

four major cities of Dhaka,

was estimated at 6.95 million while Chittagong had 2.08 mil-

lion residents. Khulna 0.9 million and Rajshahi 0.51 million.

Showing migration as one of the major reasons for rapid growth in urban population. the UN report revealed that at least half of the growth rate is being fuelled by migration from the countryside.

Most of the people migrate from rural areas with a hope of getting more work in the cities. Disasters also play a part - 20,000 people are made homeless every year through each natural hazard and come to the cities to seek emergency shelter. The migration also took

the best job prospects because around one-third of the country's manufacturing industries are in the cities and towns.

place in the urban areas having

The survey further revealed that the migrants tend to go to

place where they already have relatives, and this 'chain migration' polarises city growth.

It found that although the migration had been taking place in the urban areas from the countryside with the idea of working in the city factories or offices, but in practice, a very few rural immigrants get

jobs in the formal sector. The most pressing issue for the urban poor is housing. When 95 per cent people of the rural areas own houses, in urban areas, this falls to 60 per cent, and for Dhaka only 30

per cent, the report said. About 30 per cent of the urban dwellers are considered to be "hard-core" poor.

The UN survey further revealed that Dhaka slums offer only 30 square feet per person and they rarely have access to safe water or sanitation.

'I(AFCO'

KARNAPHULI FERTILIZER COMPANY LIMITED (KAFCO)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO) invite sealed offers for supply of:

- 1. Structural Materials, Fabrication and installation of Warehouse M.S. Racks.
- 2. Bin Boxes G.P. Sheet and wooden.
- 3. Lockers, Reagent shelf, Tool Cabinet and Steel Almirah.

For the KAFCO Fertilizer Factory, Rangadia, Chittagong.

Tender documents containing schedule of jobs to be performed including other terms and conditions will be available in KAFCO's Dhaka office at 90-91 Motifheel Commercial Area, Uttara Bank Building (15th Floor) and Kashfia Plaza (2nd Floor), 923/A, Sk. Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong, on all working days against payment of Tk 500/- (Taka Five hundred) in cash for each enquiry package (non-refundable) during office hours. No document shall be sold on the day of closing of the tender.

Interested reputed Engineering workshops who can arrange power generators so that they are able to fabricate the Racks at site and finish the jobs within 90 (ninety) days are invited to participate in the tender. It is to be noted by all concerned that this notice includes 3 (three) separate independent packages and the bids received against each package shall be evaluated separately for awarding an order. The last date and time for submission of the tenders is 15th June. 1994 at 1100 hours.

The tender must be addressed to Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (ATTN: General Manager, Purchasing) 90-91 Motifheel Commercial Area, Dhaka and should be submitted at the same address within the specified time. The tenders will be opened in public immediately after closing time in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives.

KAFCO reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Govt college teachers meet Sircar

Leaders of the Bangladesh Government College Professors' and Lecturers' Associa tions held a meeting with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar in the chair yesterday

reports UNB. During the meeting, they discussed the 12-point demands of the associations. The demands include promotion of the teachers against 20 per cent reserve quota in second phase by June 17, creation of new posts in 118 colleges. higher scale of pay for all levels

of teachers and promotion of

librarians and demonstrators. Leaders of the Professors' Association Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman, Prof Badiul Alam, Moyeed Ahmed, Prof Mohiuddin and leaders of the Lecturers' Association Altaf Hossain and Abul Kalam Shamsuddin were, among others, present.



Friday **Morning Session**

Opening announcement Al Quran

Programme summary News in Bangla Alor Dishari

Our Friends the 8:35 Dolphin Sports Programme: Khelar Jagot

Comedy series: Major News in English

Moner Mukurey Film show: Taarzan Prescription 11:55 Documentary: World

Cup Football '94

Evening Session

3:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary 3:15 Cartoon film: Teenage

Mutant Ninja Turtles Bengali Feature Film: Duniya 5:10 News in Bangla Open University

7:20 Malancha News in Bangla 8:00 Comedy series: Perfect Stranger 9:00 Ektarate Sur 10:00 News in English

10:30 Film show: L A Law 11:30 Khabar/The News 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary

11:45 Closing

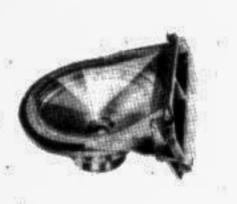
You'll see why it's better when you hear it





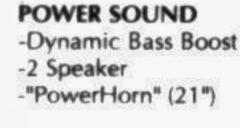
Television is more than a visual experience it's an audio experience too.

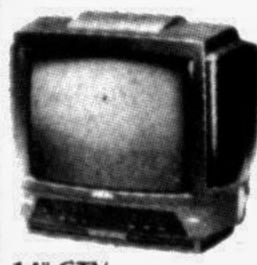
The fact is it's usually the sound that creates the drama and emotion while watching TV. That's why we've created a new range of colour televisions that is designed to please your ears as well as your eyes.



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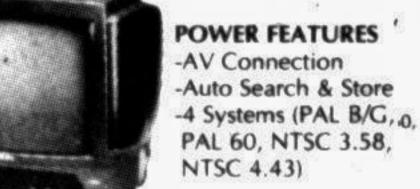
revolution from

Philips in Holland.

it features the

exclusive

20" CTV with Remote Control



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