

Dhaka Day by Day

A Tent that Looks Ugly

by Neil Ray

Luis Kahn did not have the slightest idea of a police tent on the Jatiya Sangsad plaza when he modelled the magnificent edifice. Nor did the French architect think that the country for which he built this picturesque parliament house would one day — and very soon — cease to exist. In place of two separate geographic parts of a strangely fashioned country sharing this marvel of an architecture, one proud and sovereign country would have it as its epitome of political and democracy culture.

The world famous architect would not have perhaps regretted to prove himself wrong on this second point. For the nation that now has this house as its own is by any standard a worthy inheritor of such such a beautiful possession. In 1971 the nation has come through the severest of tests. It was a supreme sacrifice the nation made to earn its independence. But one can be almost sure that the architect would be saddened to see an ugly tent pitched right in front of the



Jatiya Sangsad and in the middle of the manicured lawn.

It certainly could not have been in his plan. But after what had happened with the national flag recently there was perhaps little choice than to go for this eye-sore measure. Police guard had to be stationed to ensure that no miscreants take yet another opportunity to remove the national flag from its post and put up in its place a piece of bizarre cloth there. So

the explanation for the impromptu measure and makeshift police tent right in the middle of the plaza.

Luis Kahn possibly erred on yet another point in that he thought no one in his right sense would ever take away the flag that symbolises the national sovereignty and pride. But in this country of limitless contrasts and paradoxes there are quite a number of Mirzafars too. They are yet to reconcile with the idea of an independent country here; rather they express their allegiance to the country that was but is no more. So the authority had to station guards to stop any such mischief or desecration of our national flag.

Could Kahn think of a better place for the flag or even a longer post? However there is no doubt that this tent is a misfit in the beautiful surroundings. Kahn's plan has been changed and even tampered with in a number of details but the essential broadness of vision in space has been given a free play. This tent looks ugly there. But

the assault on our national flag cannot be allowed to. Therefore some permanent measure has to be taken to stop such wrongdoing. This however has to be done without compromising the architectural beauty of the monument. The flag pole can perhaps be redesigned to stop tinkering with it. Or guards have to be there all right but not in a tent. One or two policemen can be assigned to look after the flag by rotation 24 hours a day.



Poet Shamsur Rahman speaking at an open discussion on 'Resist the anti-liberation and communal forces' organised by the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad at the National Press Club auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Farakka is an int'l problem: Akbar

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain has said that not only the northern parts of Bangladesh but also West Bengal in India is experiencing the process of desertification due to Farakka, reports UNB.

The Minister was addressing a workshop for journalists on 'The National Environmental Management Action Plan' at the Press Institute of Bangladesh here yesterday.

Akbar said the impact of Farakka is causing environmental degradation, including gradual desertification in northern parts of the country. 'Withdrawal of water at Farakka is also causing desertification process in West Bengal in India. And the Indian people should be made aware of it through writings by our journalists.'

Farakka is not only a regional problem but an international problem as well, he added.

A total of 61 participants from print and electronic

media took part in the workshop, jointly organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Forum of Environment Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB).

The day-long workshop was a follow-up of 23 grass-root-level workshops on the National Environmental Management Action Plan (NEMAP). Series of workshops will also be held with the participation of different professionals, including lawyers, businessmen, industrialists as well as academicians.

A former Executive Director of the ESCAP, S A M S Kibria was the chief guest at the inaugural session, chaired by FEJB President Chinmay Mutsuddi.

PIB Director General Prof Tawhidul Anwar, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Karar Mahmudul Hasan and Babar N Kabir of the UNDP were present as special guests.

Power system loss in city reduced to 29.65 pc

System loss in power distribution in the city has decreased by 8.61 per cent to 29.65 per cent since the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) was established in September 1991, reports UNB.

This was stated in Parliament yesterday by Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mohtarraf Hossain in written reply to A K M Abu Taher.

What's on today...

- Zahir Raihan Film Society:** Will screen a Bangla Film 'Golapi Ekhon Trainee' directed by Amjad Hossain in its ongoing Bangla-Russian Film Session. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.
- SOS Children's Village:** Has organised a voluntary blood donation ceremony on the occasion of International SOS Children's Village Day '94. Venue: SOS Children's Village, 1 Shamoly Mirpur Road. Time: 4 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka Central:** Regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

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Visitors at the second annual art exhibition of the students of Cezanne art school in the city yesterday.

Thai FM donates \$ 10,000 to Holy Family Hospital

Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri visited Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital yesterday and donated 10,000 US dollars for the hospital's development, reports UNB.

Soonsiri handed over a cheque for the amount to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Syed Shahidul Haq Jamal MP, who welcomed the Thai Foreign Minister at the hospital.

The BDRCS Chairman presented him a crest of the Society.

Treasurer of the Society M A Jinnah MP, Managing Board member Shamsuddoha MP and M A Samad were present.

10,000 tons of wheat for flood victims

The government has decided to grant 10,000 metric tons of wheat worth Tk 6 crore under Test Relief and Food for Works Programmes for the flood victims of Sunamganj district, reports UNB.

The wheat will be distributed immediately in the affected areas as a part of massive post-flood relief and rehabilitation programmes.

The decision was taken at a high level interministerial emergency meeting held yesterday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting also decided to distribute another 1000 metric tons of wheat as gratuitous relief among the flood victims of the district.

Plan to set up fertiliser, sugar mills in next fiscal

Government has a plan to set up a fertilizer factory and another sugar mills in the country during the coming 1994-95 fiscal year, reports UNB.

This was stated by Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan in parliament yesterday replying to a question from Md Neyamatullah (BNP).

The minister said the proposed Shahjalal Fertilizer Factory will be set up at Fenchuganj in Sylhet by BCIC and Pabna Sugar Mill in Pabna by BSPIC.

Investment target for the 1994-95 fiscal has been set at Tk 323 crore for setting up small industries, he informed the House.

Call to resist June 30 hartal

A rally of the left-leaning students alliance in the city yesterday urged the people to resist the June 30 hartal called by some Islamic groups, reports UNB.

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) rally at the Dainik Bangla crossing also demanded immediate release of the editors of Dainik Janakantha.

Addressing the rally, Chhatra Front President Belal Choudhury and JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League general secretary Abdullahi Kaiyum called for united resistance against the 'fundamentalist elements using religion to serve their own interest.'

Our staff correspondent adds: Twenty-seven cultural organisations of the country Saturday expressed their solidarity with the programme announced by the Sammlita Sangskritik Jote to resist the June 30 hartal.

The organisations are: Nagarik Natya Sampradaya, Theatre, Arannyak, Dhaka Theatre, Natya Chakra, Desh Natak, Natya Kendra, Dhaka Natyam, Padatik Natya Sampradaya, Gram Theatre, Mukto Natak Dal, Nabadhara Natya Sampradaya, Dhaka Shubachan, Bangladesh Theatre, Prekkhapat, Rishwj Shilpi Gosthi, Gana Shilpi Sangstha, Dhaka Theatre Mancha, Sharashruti, Kanthashilon, Mukta Dhara, Karak Natya Sampradaya, Shorte Abriti Sangsad, Nataraj, Divvyta, and Dhaka University Charushilpi Parishad.

BANBAIS interview from June 22

Interview for the post of assistant publication officer of Bangladesh Bureau of Education Information and Statistics (BANBAIS) will start from June 22, reports UNB.

A press release of Bangladesh Public Service Commission said yesterday the interviews will be held at the commission's office on June 22 at Rajshahi, June 25 at Dhaka, July 7 at Chittagong and July 14 at Khulna.

BTV Monday

4:30	Opening announcement Al-Quran
	Programme summary
4:45	Documentary: Growing up Children
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Sports programme: Football
6:05	Moder Garab Moder Ashq
6:45	Open University
7:15	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Janamat
9:00	Musical programme: Geetibitan
10:00	News in English
10:30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
11:00	Musical programme: Disco Rally
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
2:05	World Cup Football live telecast: Brazil vs Russia
5:35	Netherlands vs Saudi Arabia

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Occasional moderate or moderately heavy rain or showers likely to occur at most places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and light to moderate rain may occur at many places over Khulna division during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said similar weather will prevail at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi division with heavy falls at places over the regions of Noakhali and Patuakhali during the period.

Weather likely to improve in the next week but predicted little change in the next two days.

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degrees Celsius was registered at Sylhet and lowest 23.6 degrees at Kutubdia and Khulna.

Day's temperature is likely to rise by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius over the country.

The country's highest rainfall 154 mm was recorded in Chittagong yesterday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:11 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	31	25.8	86
Chittagong	29.2	24.6	93
Rajshahi	31	26.1	88
Khulna	31.8	25	87
Barisal	31.5	24.6	90
Cox's Bazar	27	24	96
Sylhet	33.5	25	82
Dinajpur	32.5	26	88

Tender Notice

No. 223-11 / Engg. Dated: 16.6.1994

UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form 'Tender for works' are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors (Bldg./Furniture) of Dhaka University for the undermentioned works. The tender will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on the date mentioned against each work and opened on the same day at 12.15 P.M. in presence of the undersigned and the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as earnest money a sum of taka as stated below against each work in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from the office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender after depositing the cost of schedule & tender form as stated below (non-refundable) after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned.

Sl. No.	Name of works	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Price of tender form	Time allowed	Opening date
1.	Repairs to a room of old Canteen.					
1.	Re-construction, repairing & cleaning the Sewerage line & surface drain at east side of the Soil Science & Bio-Chemistry bldg. DU.	Tk 32,136/61	Tk 724/-	Tk 30/-	15 days	29th June '94
2.	Supplying fitting fixing & laying R.C.C pipe & construction of pit south side of Science Annex bldg. DU.	Tk 45,137/42	Tk 903/-	Tk 30/-	15 days	29th June '94
3.	Construction of R.C.C ceiling over the Chairman's bathroom at Botany extension bldg. (Ground floor), DU.	Tk 17,020/45	Tk 340/-	Tk 20/-	15 days	29th June '94

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