

Dhaka Day by Day

A Shopping Delight

by Raffat Binte Rashid



If you are sad and blue, if there is no one to talk to, (or you don't want to talk) or if your everyday happenings are something you can now predict, then don't despair, just grab your purse and go out shopping.

Shopping is really the only cure to that lonely 'what do you feel' — even if it is window shopping. The latter one is especially entertaining, you have exactly the one way rickshaw fare, to, maybe, Gawsia or New Market or even Aarong but still what the heck, let's go out and shop. You may call this (the already cleared) bag clearing day.

Aarong, a shopper's paradise, has exactly the things you want with a price tag that you can't afford.

So it's better if you ask your chauffeur (the rickshawala) to go to Chadni Chawk or Gawsia. The ground floor of famous Gawsia market looks something like the shops in Calcutta, or shopping malls in any other place. Just name your dream you'll get it. Rajasthani stone setting ornaments or Jaipuri trinkets or even American designer's trinkets, cosmetics, bags you see in Vogue or Femina magazines are all there.

Take a detour and turn to Chadni Chawk for clothes. If this market does not suit your mood, walk towards New Market, taking the flyover to go and buy books. This may however, cost your entire salary.

But amazingly this over-bridge that connects Chadni Chawk and New Market is itself a shopping area. You get (though perhaps the crude replicas) of everything inside the big shops or even outside on the pavement.

This is something different and might agree with your 'I want to do something different' mood now. Did you even think of collecting a

Hatchhog (a big lantern) well you came to the right place, you will get a small but exact copy of the original here. Shorta, (the devise with which you cut betel nuts), made of iron and found in many designs are seen here. Yes even those big ones with designs that your grandma had. If you chew betel nuts this could be a priced possession or you could just use it as a show piece. In that case look for the one your grandma had, today, it is an antique item.

Hanam Dista is an iron cup with a pounder used to break spices but traditionally used to grind herbal medicines, is also available here. Pitha Shanch dice with motif with which traditional rice cakes are made are also found here.

So much for almost out of use traditional item, but this flyover also offers you modern wares too. Chinias of Monno or Bengal ceramics, like cups, tea sets, plates and dishes are found too. Even utensils of bell metal (an alloy of brass and possibly zinc) are also found here. Spoons to cook, big plates, bowl, glass even caskets to hold betel leaf is also seen (though these are rare items even here). These items are traditional yet very much in use, specially in Hindu families.

You also get cassettes, posters of Bipasha or Divya of course of Shahrukh here too. Walking and looking into every shop here is really a delight. You'll be amazed at the cheap price and rare items. But like everything — even this rare walk of yours, you might not find any such thing there, the day you decided to go. Because these shopkeepers and the police are always in a 'hide and seek' and police innovated 'pay me' game. But next time you are tired of high price shops, go to these footwalks — they are also a delight.

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Favourable climate for foreign investment prevailing : Moyeen

South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Jong Kyu Byun called on State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at his office yesterday discussing and exchanging views on various bilateral issues and matters of mutual interest, reports UNB.

Dr Khan told the ambassador that the government had given more priority to poverty alleviation, expansion of education and development of health sector in the current annual development programme and allocated more money in the annual budget.

On the significance of primary health care, compulsory primary education and food for education programme, the state minister said human resource development and self-employment would be possible after successful implementation of the mid-term and long-term plans the government have taken.

As a result, he added, a healthy and desired socio-economic condition would be built up gradually.

Pointing at the liberal investment policy of the country, Dr Khan said a favourable climate for foreign investment is prevailing in Bangladesh at present.

He lauded Korea for their assistance in different projects, including road commu-

nication in Bangladesh, and hoped that the relationship between the two countries would be more closer on the basis of mutual understanding and co-operation.

The Korean Ambassador referred to different steps for the development of physical and economic infrastructure of Bangladesh aiming at social stability and hoped that the pragmatic programmes taken up by the democratic government would play a positive role in national welfare.

Both of them expressed the hope that the friendly and cordial relationship between Bangladesh and Korea would be further strengthened in future.

Strike called off

The Bangladesh District Election Officers' Association has withdrawn its two-day strike scheduled for July 6-7 following fruitful discussion with the Chief Election Commissioner, reports UNB.

The decision was taken unanimously at an emergency meeting of the association yesterday with its president Mohammad Shah Alam in the chair, said a press release.

The association had called for the work stoppage to realise the demand for additional job facilities.

Janakantha journalist granted bail

By Staff Correspondent

A High Court Bench of the Supreme Court yesterday granted a two months' ad-interim bail to ATM Shamsuddin, senior assistant editor of the Daily Janakantha.

The bench comprising Justice DM Ansaruddin and Justice Nurul Islam granted the bail on a writ filed against the rejection of a bail prayer by the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge.

The Officer-in-Charge of Motijheel thana on May 12 filed a case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate accusing four journalists of the newspaper, including Shamsuddin, of distorting a verse of the Holy Quran.

Earlier, Shamsuddin had surrendered before the CMM on June 18 and prayed for bail. But the CMM rejected the prayer and sent him to the central jail. Later, he prayed for bail before the District and Sessions Judge Dhaka who also rejected his appeal. Finally, Shamsuddin filed a writ in the High Court on July 3.

Advocate Khandakar Mahbub Hossain assisted by advocates Golam Kibria, Mohammad Afzal Hossain, Md Harunur Rashid and Khurshida Bilkis Banu appeared for the petitioner.

Chairman of Swainirvar Bangladesh SM Al-Husainy addressed the seminar as chief guest while it was addressed, among others, by the Director of Goethe Institut H Lechner Dr Jahangir Alam and Mir Mahfujul Haque. President of the Samity Dr Anwarul Azim presided over the function.

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