

Dhaka Day by Day

Mushrooming Shopping Centres

by Goutam Prosad Das



Dhaka, the city of mosques, is going steps ahead to be also the city of shopping centres in the near future. Or is it already one? Within a span of five to six years the number has almost doubled. To add glitter to the number, lighting and fireworks — no matter if there is any forthcoming festival — are given an ample display almost routinely. Setting aside the architectural magnificence of a few of such establishments, others are simply a jumble of bricks, sand and concrete. Starting from Victoria Park upto a crossing of some four or five large roads a few kilometers away, you will come across at least a dozen of such unplanned shopping places catering to the needs of only a fraction of the city's eight million people.

Some areas in the city have several shopping places with too few people to avail of the elaborate arrangement. For example the shopping centres, namely Ayesha Shopping Complex, Mouchak Super Market, Anarkali Super Market, Nahar Market, Century Arcade, Bishal Shopping Centre and Eastern Plaza are in the same neighbourhood located within one or two kilometers. Vacant spaces in these areas are viewed with commercial interest and the establishment of new arcades with ultra modern fittings has become a craze. The sudden collapse of business in the newly installed shops as well as the traffic chaos all around in these densely populated areas shows that there is a surfeit of trading houses.

Setting-up of shopping complexes on the outskirts of the city serves three purposes namely: urbanisation, reduction in traffic jam and formation of secluded shopping 'villages' for weary city dwellers.

Most of the shopping centres in the city heart lack adequate parking lots and the presence of hawkers with their commodities and innumerable rickshaws jumbled on pavement in front of the centres and along the road side contribute significantly to the violation of traffic rules. The situation further deteriorates in the rainy season when the nearby drains and manholes become full to the brim with muck and water. The soggy and slippery shopping complexes turn the blithesome evening shopping spree into disgusting affairs. Free flow of air and toilet facilities are a rarity. Whether these business set-ups, moreover, have any safety measures against sudden outbreak of fire is hardly known. Illumination of frontal side facing by electricity of many a shopping plaza is done to lure the shoppers. But perhaps we are not always aware of the hazards underlying in the faulty electric cables and other accessories which have been the prime causes behind many tragic incidents in many big cities of the world.

As Dhaka emerges as the 21st megacity of the world before 20th century ends, such uneven growth is likely to increase with the addition of population. Also the changed attitude in consumerism will add new dimensions to shopping patterns. All of us are not surely resourceful enough to make flawless and 'complete' shopping complexes at every avenue of the capital but at least we can ensure the basics of safety and security in these public places for comfortable and hazard-free shopping.

Khaleda invited to world summit on social dev

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman received Michael Strenberg, the leader of the Danish delegation at his office in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The visiting Danish dignitary handed over a letter of invitation to the foreign minister from their Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for attending the forthcoming world summit on social development, scheduled in Copenhagen from March 11 to 12 next.

'BNP will resist conspiracy to undo democracy'

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will resist any conspiracy to jeopardise democratic process. Shipping Minister M K Anwar said yesterday, reports UNB.

The BNP government will do anything to hold election in a free and fair manner within the constitutional framework, the minister stressed.

He was addressing a discussion organised by the Zia Mancho on the occasion of National Solidarity and Revolution Day held in front of Jatya Press Club.

The pledge of the day is to consolidate democracy. Anwar said, adding that people had voted BNP to power through a world acclaimed election for five years.

Late President Ziaur Rahman had introduced multi-party democracy and established people's rights in the country, he further said.

Those who are now vocal for democracy, killed the democracy by introducing one party rule in the name of Baksal. ... the very political party is now enjoying the fruits of democracy, he added.

It was also addressed by Zia Mancho leaders — Manzurul Hasan Mangu, Rafiqul Islam, and Rehana Salam. The discussion was followed by a cultural function.

12 to get Nipa Shishu Foundation Gold Medal '94

By Staff Correspondent

The Nipa Shishu Foundation has awarded 12 personalities with the "Nipa Shishu Foundation Gold Medal '94" for distinct contribution in their respective fields.

The recipients are D P Barua — journalism; A K A Firoz Noon — research and writing; Lion Fakir Ashraf — organiser; Rtn Md Mosharraf Hossain — organiser; Nazir Uddin Ahmed — banking; Principal Hamida Ali — education; Henia Ershad, Md Emdadul Huq, Moazzem Hossain Chowdhury — social welfare; Syed Azharul Kabir, Khair Uddin Ahmed — anti-drug campaign and Golam Kader — juvenile literature.

The names of the awardees were announced at a function held yesterday in the city with Haolader Nurul Islam, Chairman of the foundation in the chair. The medals will be distributed in December next.

Trust fund at DU Botany Dept

A scholarship will be awarded to the meritorious students of the Department of Botany of Dhaka University engaged in M Phil studies for every two years under Mansur Ali and Ataharunnessa Trust Fund, reports UNB.

A cheque for Tk one lakh was handed over to the Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Emajuddin Ahmed yesterday for setting up the trust fund.

Prof A K M Sirajul Haque of the Statistics Department of Dhaka University handed over the cheque on behalf of the donor Dr Mohammad Abdul Bari Mallik, a research professor at the Langston University, Oklahoma, USA.

Abdul Bari, a former student and teacher of the Botany Department of Dhaka University, decided to set up the Trust at the university in memory of his parents.

Among others, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Wakil Ahmed, Chairman of Botany Prof Syed Hadjuzzaman and Prof Shafigur Rahman were present on the occasion.



Sunday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- 4:45 Anu Paramaru
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Cartoon film
- Tom and Jerry Kids Show
- 5:40 Sports programme
- 6:30 Jiboner Janya
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Business Programme: Taka Ana Kart
- 9:00 Drama serial: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Classical programme
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing



Visitors on the inaugural day of a seven-day long aboriginal art exhibition at city's Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday. The Shilpakala Academy and the Australian High Commission have jointly organised the exhibition. — Star photo

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Pony

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Iresh Bhaiya

Wafi & Tauma 0-1114

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Baby & Miran 0-1115

'Country suffering from intellectual dishonesty'

By JU Correspondent

Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan said yesterday the country is now suffering from the problem of 'intellectual dishonesty'.

"They have never played the proper role in Bangladesh", he said referring to the role of intellectuals since country's independence.

He was addressing as chief guest a workshop on "Society, Politics and Morality: Bangladesh Perspective", jointly organised by the Darshan Congress of Bangladesh (Bangladesh Philosophical Congress) and the Centre for Philosophical Research and Activities at the Jahangirnagar University.

Professor Abdul Jalil of DU and Professor AFM Ubaidur Rahman of JU presented the keynote paper. The workshop comprising three sessions was presided over by Akhter Imam, former professor of DU, prof Abdul Matin of DU and prof Abul Hossain, the pro-VC of JU.

Referring to the present crisis in country's political arena the Industries Minister said all problems should be solved according to the provision of the Constitution.

He said, "Students community is our future, hence they

must not be political fodder".

Professor Abdul Matin said it would be a good omen if the politicians refrain themselves from blaming one another for any political crisis.

JU Professor M Salimullah Khan said, "It is a matter of great regret that the party which played a vital role during the Liberation War is now collaborating with the anti-liberation forces."

A good number of teachers of different universities, philosophers and students attended the workshop.

Merill meets Hanif

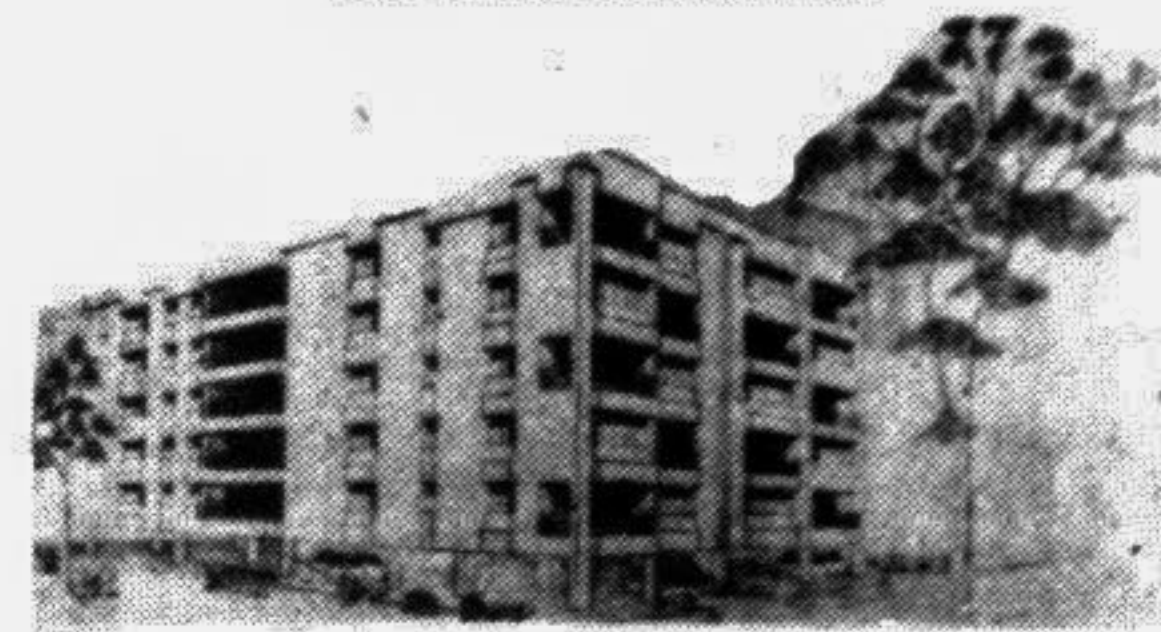
The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, David Merrill yesterday called on Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mohammad Hanif at his office, reports BSS.

They discussed in a cordial atmosphere on various mutual issues. The US Ambassador showed keen interest on different development activities of Dhaka city. Mrs Merrill was present during the discussion.

Later, Merrill accompanied by Mayor Hanif went round Gulistan, Nawabpur and Sadarghat areas of the old city by a traditional horse driven-cart.

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Former Students Day in Indian HC Nov 11

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka will observe November 11 as the 'Former Students Day' to mark the birth anniversary of the subcontinent's noted politician and India's first education minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, an Indian High Commission press release said here Friday, reports BSS.

First Secretary of the High Commission J C Pant has requested all the former students who studied in India and their spouses to attend the function at 5 pm at the Indian High Commission auditorium at 754 Satmasjid road on the day.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country with partly cloudy sky over the regions of Chittagong and Noakhali during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office says night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Dhaka and the lowest 17.7 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5:17 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	19.7	73	72
Chittagong	32.0	22.3	80	66
Rajshahi	31.5	19.8	85	68
Khulna	32.4	21.9	80	81
Sylhet	32.0	20.4	72	77

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We are looking for an Ex-Commissioned Officer from the Army in the rank of Capt/Maj for the post of a SECURITY OFFICER. The officer must not be over 35 years of age as on January 1, 1995. Those who are upto meeting the rigours of such challenges and are of sound mind and health need only apply.

Attractive compensation package, inclusive of benefits as applicable within the framework of the laid down rules on the subject and free housing on site are some of the areas covered within for those who join the team.

Application with a detailed CV and a recent passport size photograph should reach the MANAGER COORDINATION latest by November 20, 1994. The envelope should be clearly marked and underlined SECURITY OFFICER. Officers dismissed need not apply.

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