

Dhaka Day by Day

Cheap but Useful Furniture

by Lamis Hossain



A different type of furniture.

We are accustomed to the sidewalk merchants of the city from cigarette hawkers, pan, betel and flower vendors, to coconut sellers, but what about a thriving furniture business sprawled on the walkway?

Mohammed Delwar has certainly found a choice spot to display his wares. Tables, chairs, alnas and beds occupy much of the wide pavement in a busy market place near one of the posh residential areas.

He is not a newcomer though. "I've been here for a long time, about eight to nine years," says the taciturn salesman looking rather reluctant to elaborate. Nor is he the first one to bag this lucrative location. "There were others selling furniture here before me."

Above other things, Delwar values the proximity of the college to his business. "A lot of students come here," he informs. A glance at the goods on offer explains why. Delwar's furniture is of the rudimentary sort. No velvet cushions or soft leather backs, but just unpainted wood held together with a few well-placed nails. The chairs may not be fancy but they are healthy for your back.

"They are made of all kinds of wood," he informs, "mango, jackfruit, jam. They are made in nearby factories." The price range is between Tk 200-Tk 350 for the larger pieces and Tk 60-Tk 80 for the smaller ones. Sometimes he sells two to three a day and sometimes none.

Anwara, a regular customer with a full set of golden teeth explains why she comes here. "The price is cheaper than in the market. I

have bought some things for my daughter's new nursing home — a table, two single settees for the visitors and some other tid-bits."

"It is not always possible to buy expensive things," Anwara comments. Indeed, Delwar admits that some cannot afford to. "Newlyweds come here," he says, "they buy the basic items to start a home."

But are his prices low because he does not have to rent out shop premises? "No, not at all," he answers narrowing his eyes a little. "I have to give rent to the police." The police? "They are to be satisfied," he explains. "I give some every week. It's been happening for years."

Delwar explains his "cosy" relationship with the law enforcing agents. "The police make sure I don't get bothered by the City Corporation, but instead they are the ones harassing me every week," he laments.

Delwar wants the names of the corrupt officers to be printed, but Anwara advises that it may not be wise. "If you reveal their names, you will definitely be kicked out of this place," she warns. "So what?" Delwar responds. "I was kicked out last year, but after a few payments, I got back again."

The furniture man is nonchalant. He believes that he has a right to carve out a niche on the public thoroughfare. After all, countless others do it around Dhaka, so why shouldn't he? Delwar asserts his position. "Why should they throw me out? I haven't committed an offence, have I?" No one had the heart to tell him otherwise.



BONFIRE: The street urchins, popularly known as tokais, making bonfire near the Bangabandhu Avenue during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal in the capital. — Star photo



Police making a feeble attempt to extinguish a little bonfire raised by the tokais on a city street during yesterday's hartal hours. — Star photo

One killed, two injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

One rickshaw-puller died on the spot and two of the passengers of the rickshaw were seriously injured when a truck hit the rickshaw on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road at around 6.30 pm yesterday.

Witnesses said, a Dhaka-bound truck made a head-on collision with the rickshaw coming towards Narayanganj town along with two passengers.

The skull of the unidentified 30-year-old rickshaw-puller was crushed killing him instantly.

The two seriously injured young unidentified passengers were taken to the Narayanganj General Hospital in unconscious state.

A case has been lodged with the Patulla thana in this connection.

British MP visits Proshika projects

British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Tony Baldry visited some development projects of Proshika, a non-government organisation, in Manikganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Baldry, who flew in the capital Friday to promote British investment in Bangladesh, visited a fish project, a non-formal primary school, a training and research centre and a model project at Koita and Haturia.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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বাংলাদেশ ডায়ারিটিক সমিতি
১২২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এডিনিউ
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জনসাধারণের সুবিধার্থে বারডেম হাসপাতালের সি. টি ক্যান ২৪ ঘণ্টা খোলা রাখা হয়। তাছাড়া পূর্বের চার্জও নিম্নোক্তভাবে হাস করা হয়েছে।

সি. টি ক্যান-এর প্রকার	পূর্বের হার (টাকা)	ব্রাহ্মসকৃত নতুন হার (টাকা)
১। সি. টি ক্যান ব্রেইন	৩,৫০০/-	২,৯০০/-
২। সি. টি ক্যান অ্যাবডোমেন	৫,০০০/-	৪,৩০০/-
৩। সি. টি ক্যান হোলঅ্যাবডোমেন	১০,০০০/-	৮,৫০০/-

১১৪৯

মহাপরিচালক

Tk 2702.61 cr agri loans disbursed during BNP rule

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had distributed Tk 2702.61 crore among the peasants as agriculture loans from 1991-92 to 1993-94 financial year, reports BSS.

In reply to a question from Abdur Rouf Chowdhury (BNP-Kushtia), the Finance Minister said that the amount was distributed through Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rajshahi Agricultural Development Bank and the four nationalised banks.

Replying to a supplementary question, the Finance Minister asserted that there was accountability in sanctioning the loans among the people during the BNP rule.

He said that during the past autocratic regime there were reports of diverting agricultural loans to other non-agriculture sectors, but such practice had been curbed due to definite policies being pursued by the BNP government.

The Finance Minister said the government had taken up a programme of Tk 50 crore this year for providing loans to

the trained manpower in the agricultural sector. "If necessary, we shall distribute money," he said and added, "There is no dearth of money."

Reunion of ex-students

By SSMCH Correspondent

Reunion of ex-students of the 20th batch (1977-78) of the Chittagong Medical College will be held on November 20, at 1:00 pm at Ramna Chinese and Thai Food, Ramna Green, Dhaka.

All ex-students of the batch have been requested to attend.

For further information all concerned have been requested to contact Dr Alamgir Chowdhury 505194/71, Dr Faridul Hasan 401680 (res), Dr Rownak Jahan at the library of IPGMR, Dhaka and in Chittagong Dr Ramij Chowdhury 226057 (off) 204330 (res), Dr Abul Kalam Azad Mukul RS General CMCH, Dr Mahmudul Hasan Khokan, Registrar ENT of CMCH.

Tender Notice

No. 15 of 1994-95

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the Class-I (one) special & Class-I, II, III, IV approved Bldg. Contractor/firms of PWD for the undermentioned work & will be received by the undersigned & as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Bhola/Patuakhali/ Barisal/Madaripur/Shariatpur/Gopalganj/Perajpur/Jhalakati in their respective offices up to 12.00 Noon of 28-11-94 & will be opened by the above officers on the same day at 12.15PM.

The schedule of rates & its connected papers can be seen & obtained from the above mentioned officers during office hours up to 27-11-94.

Gr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost.	Earnest money	Time for completion of the work
I (one)	Special repair to male convicted prisoners block ward No. 3 & 4 attached to Dist. Jail at Barguna during the year 1994-95.	Tk. 1,33,381/-	Tk. 2,668/-	90 (ninety) days.
II (two)	Special repair to male convicted prisoners block ward No. 5 & 6 attached to Dist. Jail at Barguna during the year 1994-95.	Tk. 1,33,687/-	Tk. 2,674/-	60 (sixty) days.
III (three)	Special repair to Hospital Building attached to Dist. Jail at Barguna during the year 1994-95.	Tk. 1,52,454/-	Tk. 3,050/-	60 (sixty) days.

DPP-9560-8/11
G-1765

Md. Anwar Hossain
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Barguna.

Mustafiz presents credentials to DPRK's Vice President

The Bangladesh Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mustafiz Rahman, presented his credentials to the Vice President, Pak Song Choi, at Pyongyang on Friday, reports BSS.

Ambassador Rahman, also envoy to China, is based in Beijing and concurrently accredited to the DPRK.

According to a message received in Dhaka from Pyongyang yesterday the DPRK Chief of Protocol escorted the ambassador from the state guest house at Pyongyang to the meeting hall of the Supreme People's Assembly where the credential ceremony took place.

As DPRK is yet to name its President as an interim arrangement, the Vice President has the responsibility to accept credentials from ambassadors.

After presenting his credentials, Ambassador Rahman had had a thirty-minute talks with Vice President Choi.

Choi requested the Bangladesh ambassador to convey the invitation to the Bangladesh Prime Minister to visit their country.

In his comments Ambassador Rahman conveyed thanks for renewing the invitation to the Bangladesh PM and hoped that the bilateral relations would grow in strength particularly in the field of economic cooperation.

'Lawyers have important role in establishing rule of law'

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam yesterday said that the lawyers had an important role in establishing rule of law and giving democracy an institutional shape, reports BSS.

Shamsul Islam who is also holding the charge of the Ministry of Information was addressing a function while unveiling the foundation stone of the newly constructed Munshiganj District Bar Association building in Munshiganj.

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abul Hye, district and sessions judge Munshi Mohammad Ali, president of the district bar association Din Mohammad, general secretary Kazi Nazrul Islam and former president of the bar association Kazi Afsar Hossain spoke on the occasion, among others.

The minister appreciated the role of lawyers in making the people aware of their legal rights. Despite differences of opinion we all are committed to establish the rule of law, he said.

Islam pointed out some of the government's initiatives to create more opportunities so that every citizen might get necessary legal assistance.

Abdul Hye said that democracy and rule of law were supplementary to each other. He urged the lawyers to give the people legal assistance so that they might enjoy their civic rights.



Sunday	
4:30	Opening announcement
4:45	Programme summary
5:10	Educational programme: Shikkha Dikkha
5:25	News in Bangla
5:40	Cartoon film: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
5:50	Sports programme
6:30	Mayeder Jonnya
7:00	Open University
7:25	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Biggan O Nari
9:00	The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10:00	News in English
10:30	Chhayachanda
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary



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Weather

Temperature may fall

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts slight fall in night temperature expected over the country during the period and little change in the weather is predicted in the next two days.

The country's highest temperature 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest 17.0 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 5:14 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:13 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in different parts of the country are given below.

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.2	20.0	72	77
Chittagong	30.4	21.5	76	75
Cox's Bazar	30.5	20.5	70	78
Sylhet	29.0	19.0	71	71
Rajshahi	31.0	17.4	71	75
Rangpur	30.4	18.6	76	80
Dinajpur	30.4	17.0	73	74