

Dhaka Day by Day

Urban Form of Poush Mela

by Raffat Binte Rashid



It was held, not in any open space — as is the custom and tradition — nor was it arranged in any big auditorium or at a grand gallery — but only in a spacious room.

Yet, inspite of its miniature form and space constraint, it drew its usual crowds in their hundreds, and gave them the true feeling of the event, rather of the fair held in the villages. Well, in question is nothing other than the grand autumn fair, *poush mela*, which is organised around these times, in rural Bangladesh, when crops are ripe and excitement is high. This particular one was held, rather in an urbanised fashion, at the La Galerie from November 15 to 23.

Every corner of this mela was a surprise and an effort to go back to what it was like in old days. "Remember, we had those paper masks of striped yellow tigers, those magenta, purple, yellow *pakhais*, these are all now a part of the past. I honestly tried to recapture and recreate the past," says Akku Chowdhury, elaborating more on giving the urban Bangalee a mela feeling.

The entire gallery was decorated in such a way that every knook and cranny held an item of interest. Besides the common fair items like *batashas*, *kadmas*, plastic balls or utensils it had exclusive plywood laminated furniture the city edition of rural cane and bamboo ones.

Saadullah's furniture pieces made from the concept of Swedish architect Alvar Alto, like stalking stools, deck chairs, rocking chairs, bookcases definitely added an extra glamour besides reprint Tee shirts of Shahabuddin's works. The beautiful necklaces made from small beads in many colourful combinations by

Jose Van Mierlo, a Swedish lady in her own style, most certainly made girls to crave for those *'puttir mala*, *'reshmi churi* (bead necklaces and glass bangles) from the mela. Rugs and carpets with modern motifs and new designs, from Lintex took the place of *patts* and *shitalpati* (mats made from leaves).

Many gorgeous masks of Juise in the forms of an owl, horse and plain faces gave the air a happy mood.

Indigenous cane earrings and hair bands, bangles and eartops or drops (not pearls) of leaves, were simply exquisite. Then there were potteries, hand painted, sarées, embroidered and dyed and lamps from Creative Centre. "NGOs, freelance artists, designers and craftsmen took part in the fair — a total of 16 organisations including freelancers," informs Chowdhury.

It was a *poush mela* allright minus the dust, the cold and of course the inexpensiveness of the village melas. There with only Tk.10 you could buy a handful of things, whereas here you have to be satisfied with just the sweets, unless of course you are carrying few thousands in your wallet or purse.

Melas and fairs, in the cities are always like special treats, because they are like a break from the routine. However the yearly *meen-abazars* or *Baishakhi mela* are no fun these days. The reason basically is the repetition of last year's theme or items. At such a time La Galerie's *poush mela* was a relief, a sweet change, where you really had fun in discovering the things from the childhood and the things from the past.

Tributes to Mohan Mia

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder paid glowing tributes to the memory of Yusuf Ali Chowdhury Mohan Mia at a discussion held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Addressing the discussion, organised by the Mohan Mia Memorial Committee in observance of his 23rd death anniversary at the Jatiya Press Club, Talukder, said had there been personalities like Mohan Mia we could have resolved our political problems easily.

Presided over by president of the memorial committee Motahar Hossain Siddique, the function was also addressed by Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam, Ataul Huq Khan, Sudhir Chandra Sarkar, advocate Nurul Huq Majumder, MA Latif Majumder and Moniruzzaman Monir.

What's on today . . .

- Skating competition:** In observance of the Tourism Month '94, the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation has arranged a skating competition. Venue: Manik Mia Avenue. Time: 3:00 pm.
- Guitar concert:** A concert of classical guitar by Massimo Gasbarroni has been arranged. Venue: Premises of the Italian Embassy. Time: 6:30 pm.
- Children's art contest:** An art competition for the children will be held in observance of the current tourism month. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time 9:30 am. State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haque will inaugurate.
- Seminar on tissue banking:** A seminar on tissue banking. Venue: Atomic Energy Centre auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.
- BAMANEH confce:** A three-day international conference on "Maternal and neo-maternal health" begins. Organisers: Bangladesh Association for Maternal and Neo-Maternal Health (BAMANEH) and Mother and Child International (MCI), Switzerland. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate. Venue: Winter Garden, Sheraton Hotel. Time: 10:00 am.

Sircar off to Islamabad

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar left yesterday for Islamabad to attend a three-day Commonwealth Education Minister's conference in Pakistan capital, reports BSS.

Sweetest Tanisha
with lots of love in
your Birthday
MUNNU

Jeddah. Once a week.



Every Sunday, at 12:00 a wide-bodied 747 of Saudia leaves for the Kingdom's busiest city, Jeddah.

Day	Flight	From	To	Dep.	Arr.
Sunday	SV801	Dhaka	Jeddah	1200	1550

For more information, contact your travel agent or call Saudia on Telephone No. 816829, 816859, 816860 or 811641 Ext: 4968



saudia
SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES
Proud to serve You

EPSON ActionDesk™ 4000

	EPSON ENDEAVOR 45X/25	EPSON ACTIONDESK 4000	EPSON ACTIONDESK 4000	EPSON ACTIONDESK 4000
Model:	486SX/25	486DX/33	486DX/50	486DX/66
Processor:	80486SX	90486DX	80486DX	80486DX2
Speed:	25 MHz	33 MHz	50 MHz	66 MHz
Ram:	4 MB	4 MB	4MB	4MB
Cache Memory:	8 KB Internal	8 KB Internal	8 KB Internal	8 KB Internal
Diskette Drive:	3.5" FDD (1.44MB)	3.5" FDD (1.44MB)	3.5" FDD (1.44MB)	3.5" FDD (1.44MB)
Optional Drive:	5.25" FDD (1.2MB)	5.25" FDD (1.2MB)	5.25" FDD (1.2MB)	5.25" FDD (1.2MB)
HDD:	240 MB IDE Hard Disk	240 MB IDE Hard Disk	240 MB IDE Hard Disk	240 MB IDE Hard Disk
Keyboard:	101 Keys	101 Keys	101 Keys	101 Keys
Video RAM:	512 KB Video RAM	1 MB Video RAM	1 MB Video RAM	1 MB Video RAM
EPSON Monitor:	14" SVGA Color	14" SVGA Color	14" SVGA Color	14" SVGA Color
MOUSE:	EPSON Mouse	EPSON Mouse	EPSON Mouse	EPSON Mouse
DOS:	MS-DOS 6.0	MS-DOS 6.0	MS-DOS 6.0	MS-DOS 6.0

Now Available at Lowest Price

Sole distributor:
FLORA LIMITED

Head Office: 114, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Phone: 246950, 230491, 869160, 861416, Fax: 880-2-863461
 Banani Branch: 54, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, (1st Floor), Banani, Dhaka-1213, Phone: 600836
 Dhanmondi Branch: 78, Satmasjid Road Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Phone: 313422
 Chittagong Branch: Suraiya Mansion (1st Floor), 30, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong, Phone: 505959

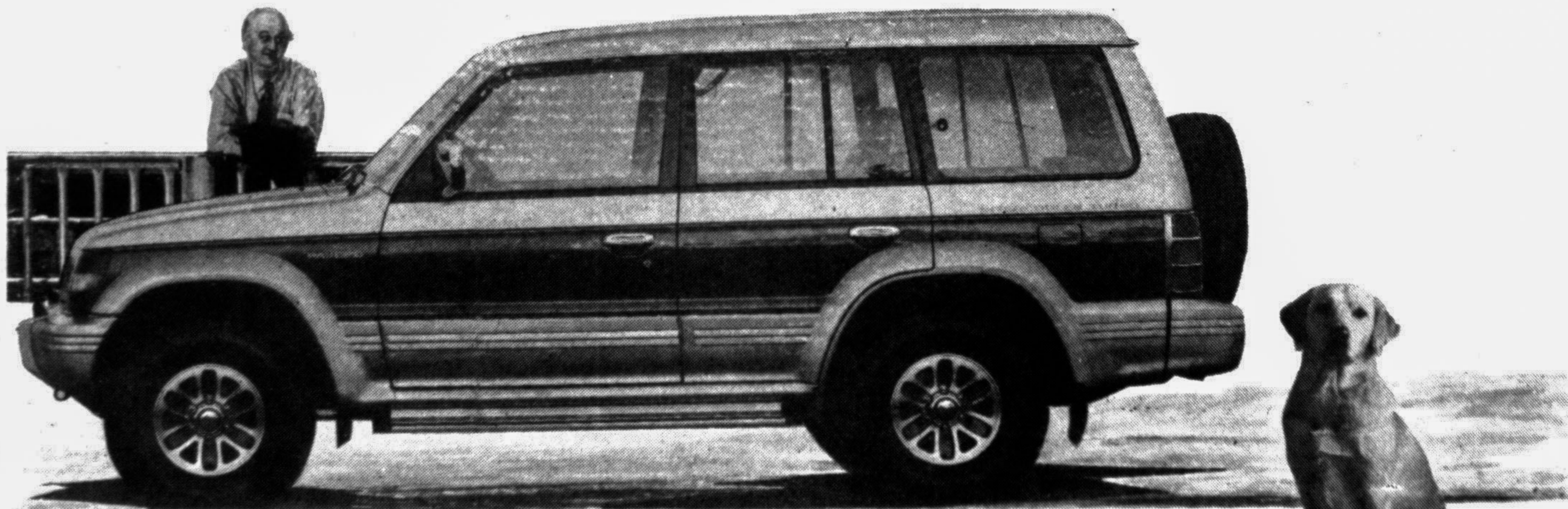
Buy from FLORA and associate with 22 years' of experience

MITSUBISHI PAJERO '95 V6

Master's Pride Possession



CREATING TOGETHER



RANGS LIMITED

OLD AIRPORT ROAD, DHAKA TEL: 325001-4, 817055, 817066, CDA AVENUE, CHITTAGONG TEL: 211224