

Dhaka Day by Day

Book-stall Decoration Matters

by Lamis Hossain



One of the nicely decorated stalls. — Star photo

Getting visitors at the Bol Mela to stop by a stall, let alone buy a book, is an uphill struggle. Reading is the last thing on the minds of young men and women, sitting in little groups in the middle of the street, staring at passers-by, or surreptitiously buying snacks during the day.

But the stall owners have risen to the challenge. Some merchants have decked up the stall itself and chosen unconventional names just to grab your attention.

How could you miss a shop called *Bostl* (stom) which tries to look 'slummy' with a long jute banner overwhelming the visitor? Or how about *Shonaton Chetona* which splashes its 'Everlasting Convictions' in a banner of multicolour paint.

Quite a few stalls have opted for a tropical or ethnic look: *Udyog* or Initiative, has a bamboo weave banner, while *Tripti Madhur*, or Sweet Satisfaction, has a small thatched shade above the name.

Some have tried so hard that you can't even read the name. *Uchisto*, or Discarded, is spelled out, appropriately enough, with empty cigarette packs. It's impossible to decipher, unless you look at the neat block letters painted below it. Another stall has its name emblazoned in yellow with a colourful parrot standing in for the first letter. Unfortunately, it takes a while to figure out what it says — if you figure it out at all.

Other stalls don't take any artistic risks, but try to lure customers with their tongue-in-cheek attitude. *Naki Mitha Kollam*, 'Did I tell a lie?' stares coyly at the passers-by, while *Chokkhu Mela*, With Eyes Open hopes to get the same reaction from you.

Next to stalls with loud names like *O Wow!*, *Awaz* (noise) and *Duranto* (restless), however, are an equal number with more depressing names like *Bhanga Hridot* (broken heart) and *Lokshan* (loss), or colourless ones like

Procheta (efforts) and *Sanchol* (savings). What these names have to do with the occasion of Ekushey is however another matter altogether.

The most prominent stall is *Nished Kalahol*, or Prohibited Uproar, which ironically stands in the busiest and noisiest part of the fair. The large booth, set up in front of a bus stop, displays a tasteful array of punjabis along with the books. In terms of presentation, it gets our first prize among the stalls outside the Bangla Academy.

Imaginative decor is mostly confined to the unofficial outside stalls. The ones within the Bangla Academy premises are more restrained in their expression. Except for a stall called *Uta Pata* or Upside Down with letters stuck in different angles on bamboo poles, most of the other booths are simply named after the publisher, or take predictable names like *Knowledge*. The focus is mainly on the books themselves.

The best stall here is *Protipokkho*, or Opponent, the name of which seems to be carved out on burnt wood. The background of the sign board is a bright orange tin sheet. The interior of the stall is covered in check cloth. Many NGO stalls adopt a similar approach. *Probertona*, for example, has twig shelves and a burnt out wood signboard.

Most of the visitors, however, don't walk around staring at the decor and the signboards of the various stalls, which may explain why a lot of the shops didn't bother with embellishments or fancy decorations. Instead, stalls outside the official mela use an impressive array of cut badges, cards, posters and even punjabis to lure you in.

But it's not surprising that the stalls resort to a variety of methods to draw customers. Anything unconventional might just detain the finicky visitor for more than only a few seconds. At least, that's the expectation.

Hanif condoles Hashem's death

By Staff Correspondent

Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif in a statement yesterday expressed deep condolence at the death of police personnel Abul Hashem.

Hashem was gunned down by some identified youths on Friday last.

He said, if the members of the law enforcing agencies have to face such attacks on their lives, how can the civilians feel secured.

Hanif prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of his bereaved family.

Kalchakra Ekushey Gold Medals '94

By Staff Correspondent

Kalchakra Sangskritik Sangstha, a cultural organisation, has announced the Kalchakra Ekushey Gold Medals '94 Award for ten personalities for their contribution in their respective fields.

The recipients of the awards are Mahub Anam (journalism), Prof Mustafizur Rahman (medicine), Hasinur Rahman (Administration), Mustafa Aminur Rashid (banking), Ferdousi Rahman (music), Dolly Jahur (film), Abdul Hye Shikder (literature), AKM Abdur Rouf (art and culture) and AKM Shamsuddin (organiser).

The awards will be distributed on February at the National Museum auditorium at 3 pm on February 28.

Symposium

By DU Correspondent

A symposium on 'a proposal to the United Nations on moral development approach: A new world order for peace' was held at the Dhaka University, yesterday.

The Director of the Bangladesh Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching (IASTT) Professor Abu Obaidul Huque presented the key-note paper.

The function held at the DUCSU building was organised by the Dhaka University Newspaper Readers' Forum (DUNRF).

In the proposal Dr Huque argued that morality is the masterkey to curb today's widely talked about problems of AIDS, violations of human rights, environment pollution, oppression on women and drug abuses.

DUNRF president, Rezaul Karim presided over the symposium, said a press release of the forum yesterday.



The Bangladesh Short Film Forum held a press conference at the Jatiya Pres Club in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Fourth Int'l Short Film Festival begins today

The fourth International Short Film Festival begins in the city today, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF) is organising the week-long grand festival of creative films.

Elderly poet Begum Sufia Kamal will inaugurate the festival at Public Library auditorium at 3 pm. Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif will attend the function as special guest.

More than 100 selected films from 20 countries will be screened at the biennial meet of short films.

The venues of the festival are Public Library auditorium, Indian Information Centre, Russian Cultural Centre and Alliance Francaise.

There will be four shows a day at 11 am, 1 pm, 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm.

The festival will include a number of retrospective on renowned film personalities including Satyajit Ray and Chaplin.

A seminar on 'Prospect of an Alternative Media' and Alamgir Kabir memorial lecture on Writik Ghatak will also be held.

Earlier, the BSFF had organised similar festivals in 1988, 1991 and 1993.

TODAY'S FILMS

Following films will be screened —

3:30 pm: Four Seasons (Armenia) by Artavaz Pelle-schjan; Black Rider (Germany) by Pepe Danquart; Chaka (Bangladesh) by Morshedul Islam; Kangeiko (Canada) by Walter Sheperd. **6:30 pm:** Bhavantarana (India) by Kumar Shahani; Bodies & Pleasures (Canada) by Nowell Berg & Douglas Berquist; The Marshall Island — Living with the Bomb by Dennis O'Rourke.



Troupers of the Natyadip performing in a play — *Hati*, organised by the Sammilita Sangskritik Jote — a cultural guild, at the altar of the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

WHO team due today

An eight-member delegation of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Sasgkawa Memorial Health Foundation (SMHF), International Leprosy Mission (ILM) and Demien Foundation arrives here on a three-day visit to Bangladesh today, reports UNB.

During the visit, the team will hold talks with the officials of the government and non-government organisations.

Boats seized

KHULNA, Feb 13: Bangladesh Navy ship Surma during routine patrol yesterday seized three more foreign fishing boats from near the Hiron point raising the total number to eight in five days, reports BSS.



Happy Birthday
Darling Rowshan
— Fayza

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Dhaka Grammar School
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'Open lexicographic cell in Bangla Academy'

Noted educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui yesterday urged the Bangla Academy authorities to open a lexicographic cell with a group of trained personnel to work continuously on compilation of Bengali dictionary, reports BSS.

He appreciated the Bangla Academy authorities for undertaking compilation of dictionaries and said, it should continue in the interest of revision and re-edition.

Prof Siddiqui was presiding over a discussion on 'thoughts of Dr Muhammad Shahidullah about lexicography' at the Bangla Academy premises yesterday. Dr Jahangir Tarek presented the key-note paper while Prof Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed and Prof Muhammad Daniul Huq took part in discussion.

Prof Siddiqui also urged the Bangla Academy authorities to invite experts from outside who could help compile dictionary.

Referring to the Bengali dictionary of regional dialects compiled by Dr Muhammad Shahidullah, Prof Siddiqui said that he had done a commendable job for which he was remembered by the intelligentsia.

"His works on compilation of dictionary by collecting words, giving their etymological explanation and other relevant aspects are lying scattered," he said stressing restoration of all these written materials to help research; in this field.

Dr Jahangir Tarek in his paper, said Dr Shahidullah was enthusiastically attached with compilation of the Bengali dialect dictionary because he was able to discover the roots of the nation through etymological explanation of various words of different regions.

He said, despite constraints, Dr Shahidullah had successfully compiled a unique dictionary in this part of the world.

Free Cinema Free Expression

4TH INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL, DHAKA

February 14-21, 1995

Main Festival Venue:
Public Library Auditorium, Shahbag

Screening Time: Daily
11 am, 1 pm, 3-30 pm & 6-30 pm

More than 100 selected short films from 20 countries will be shown in this 8 day long festival.

Special Screenings, Seminar and Alamgir Kabir Memorial Lecture on Ritwik Ghatak will also be held during the festival.

Inauguration: Today at 3 pm (For invited guests only)
Begum Sufia Kamal will inaugurate the festival & Mr. Mohammad Hanif, Mayor of the Dhaka City will be present as special guest at the inauguration.

One special show will be held today at 6-30 pm for public.
Detail programme & admission card will be available at the festival premise.

Organiser: Bangladesh Short Film Forum

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Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology

Dhaka

Wanted

No. D-1870 (2) Dt: 13-2-95

Applications are invited from the bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with requisite qualification and fitness for appointment to the following posts of this University.

- Institute of Flood Control & Drainage Research.**
 - Two temporary posts of Research Assistant for the project of (i) Coupled Numerical Modelling for the Transport of Estuarine Cohesive Sediments and (ii) River Embankment Failure Resulting in Sedimentation Over Flood Plain: Physical Model Experiments for the period of 36 and 30 months respectively or for the Project period (whichever is earlier) in the scale of Tk. 2850-5155/-

The employment of the selected candidates will be on purely temporary basis for the mentioned period and one fifth of their monthly basic pay will be deducted which will be paid in one instalment after the expiry of their appointment.

Prescribed qualification:

- The candidates must have a B.Sc. in Civil Engg. with Water Resources Major
- Alberta University - BUET Institutional Linkage Project.**
Administrative Officer (One), Salary: Tk. 8,000/- to 10,000/- per month (consolidated).

Qualification:

Candidates should possess a Bachelor's degree preferably with Honours and at least 7 years experience in office administration with some experience in project management and should have a good command of English. He must have a pleasing personality and shall be able to communicate with English speaking foreigners. He/She will be responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the Project Office and assist the Project Manager. Retired officers may also apply for the post.

Candidates having foreign degree/degrees will have to submit equivalence certificate to be obtained from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka along with their applications.

Eight complete sets of application (stating full bio-data) with the attested copies of all certificates, testimonials and Marksheets are to be submitted to the Registrar of this University along with a crossed Postal Order/Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk. 25/- (Twenty-five) in favour of the Comptroller of this University.

Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

Last date for submission of application: 6th March, 1995/22 Falgoun, 1401.

D-183 Registrar

বিদ্যুতের আলোর হাটার বিদ্যায়িকার বিতার ঘটনা

Office of the Superintending Engineer
Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board
House No. 828 (Old), 71 (New), Road No. 19 (Old), 9/A (New)
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

SECTION-1 INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 1st February, 1995
Credit No: 2129-BD
Bid Package No.: REB/SE/HO-16/95/121

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Rural Electrification Project, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied, through the Rural Electrification Board, to eligible payments under the Contract for supply & installation of central air-conditioning system and related works of 250 tons capacity for the 10-storied Rural Electrification Board's (REB) Head Office Building at Joarshahara, Dhaka.
- The Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the "supply and installation of central airconditions system and related works of 250 tons capacity which includes supply, installation, testing, commissioning, test run and maintenance of the air-conditioning system.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board, House No. 828 (Old), 71 (New), Road No. 19 (Old), 9/A (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh.
- A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 2000/- (Taka two thousand) or US\$ 55 (United States Dollar fifty five). For each set of Bidding Documents purchased, only one Bidder is eligible to bid.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two point five zero percent (2.50%) of Bid Amount and must be delivered to the above office on or before 12-00 hours on 28. 03. 95.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two point five zero percent (2.50%) of Bid Amount and must be delivered to the above office on or before 12-00 hours on 28. 03. 95.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12-30 hours on 28. 03. 95 at the office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Rural Electrification Board, House No. 828 (Old), 71 (New), Road No. 19 (Old), 9/A (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh.

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