

Dhaka Day by Day

Experiences of Beauty Parlour

by Sunshine Khan



Beauty parlours being to our minds many a picture. Among middle classes in suburban cities in America and Britain, beauty parlours are the place where one can get not only a perm for the hair, but also the local gossip, the latest updates on one's favourite soap operas (domestic as well as on television). It's a great place to meet friends unaware, with their hair dripping down their faces, for example, or their faces covered in muck.

The Dhaka beauty parlour is no exception. In such establishments all over the city one can get the usual perm, manicure, horrendously unflattering haircuts, wedding hair and makeup. They serve as gossip places about everyone and often as any such spot in Dhaka, offer one the opportunity to check out suitable girls for their son/brother/nephew. Dhaka beauty parlours also offer a variety of things other counterparts in the West don't. One such thing is mehendi for the hands, hair and feet. During the two days prior to Eid, when the shops were overflowing with customers, beauty parlours also received a hefty share. Indeed, one saw long, long queues similar to food ration lines outside of Hong Kong, in front of Beethi's, Lili's, Women's World and other popular beauty salons in Dhaka. Another feature, peculiar to Dhaka only, is that one can also get their ear, nose and any other body parts pierced in a Dhaka beauty parlour.

The other quite gruesome feature is that one can receive treatment, along with a facial that tightens the skin, gives it a much sought —

after wheat complexion. Unfortunately, the bleach treatment that one is often horrified to witness the beauty parlour goes torturing themselves through, kills the skin cells and is thought to contribute to skin cancer. This unhealthy obsession for fair skin in women is prevalent throughout the sub-continent. Specially in the upper classes, one sees too many people subscribing to it and trying to live up to it.

One can speculate that the entire notion originates from the Aryans who came and conquered the Dravidians, the indigenous race of the Indian sub-continent thousands of years ago and gave us the caste system, among other evils. They also instilled in us a deep craving to look "Aryan", similar to what most North Indians such as Indian film actress, Karishma Kapoor with her blue eyes, looks like. So, this penchant for white skin or Aryan look (the world cannot help but conjure up images of Hitler burning people and books) goes a long way back. Bleach cream is actually as far as one knows made to be used not to lighten the skin but to lighten hair growth on the upper lip, legs or arms. Are food and drug control authorities listening?

So the Dhaka beauty parlour experience is clearly an unusual one, not to mention hazardous to health. Next time you are in one and getting the latest on Cruz in Santa Barbara or politicians' penchant for chiffon, please take heed, and think about what you are doing your skin!

What's on today . . .

Seminar on plastic surgery: A one-day seminar on plastic surgery will be held. Organiser: Dhaka Community Hospital. Venue: Auditorium of the hospital, Chowdhurypara, Malibagh. Time: 10 am.

Art exhibition: To mark the 75th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, an art exhibition will be held. Poet Begum Sufia Kamal will chair. A cultural function will also be held following the programme. Venue: Bangabandhu Bhaban premises. Time: 3 pm.

Palli Shishu Foundation: The 17th annual conference of the Palli Shishu Foundation of Bangladesh will be held. Venue: Foundation's central office (House No 6/A, Barabag, Section-2, Mirpur). Time: 9:00 am.

BB sports: The annual sports of the Bangladesh Bank Club, Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hockey Stadium. Time: 8:30 am. BB Deputy Governor Mahbubur Rahman Khan will inaugurate.

Pry teachers' meeting: An emergency meeting of the leaders of the Bangladesh Private Primary Teachers' Association will be held. Venue: Col Taher auditorium. Time: 10 am.

Inaugural ceremony: The opening ceremony of oncology unit of Delta Medical Centre Ltd will be held. Venue: 26/2, Darussalam Road, Mirpur. Time: 10 am. Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza will inaugurate.

Lions Club of Dhaka Lalbagh: The regular club and board meeting will be held. Venue: Purbani Hotel. Time: 7:30 pm.

. . . and tomorrow

Spring festival: Chhayanat, a leading cultural troupe in the country, has arranged the festival. Venue: Bakultata, Inst of Fine Arts, DU. Time: 7 pm.



Police barring a Jamaat-e-Islami procession towards Food Directorate near the Zero Point in the city yesterday. They brought out the demonstration protesting price spiral of the essentials. — Star photo

Jatra festival begins Mar 19

A 17 day National Jatra Festival will begin at the Shilpakala Academy premises from March 19, reports UNB. President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to inaugurate the festival.

Some 15 'jatra's traditional drama, selected from all over the country will be staged in the festival.

DU student with arms arrested

By Staff Correspondent
Police arrested an injured Dhaka University student and recovered a revolver from his possession at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Wednesday. The arrested Sohel Chowdhury is a Masters final year student of the Soil Science Department.

Biswas attends luncheon with lawyers

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday attended a luncheon party at the Supreme Court Bar Association, reports UNB. President of the Supreme Court Bar Association M Hafizullah hosted the luncheon at its premises.

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AGM of Health Edn Society

The annual general meeting and election to the Bangladesh Health Education Society was held on Wednesday in the lecture room of BIRDEM, says a press release.

Prof Khurshida Khanom and Minati Prova Chowdhury were elected as president and general secretary of the society respectively.

Symposium on petroleum

A day-long symposium on 'Petroleum Engineering Education: It's Problems and Prospects' was held at the council room of the BUET Wednesday.

The Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resource Engineering, BUET, organised the symposium.

Seminar on Soil Science Mar 22

A two-day seminar on 'Role of Soil Science in Agricultural Education Programme for the 21st Century' will begin at BARCE auditorium in the city on March 22, reports UNB.

Agriculture Minister M Mazid-Ul Haq will attend the seminar to be organised by the Soil Science Society of Bangladesh.

Obituary

Golam Rasul, director of the clearance and movement department of the Bangladesh Power Development Board in Chittagong, died of cardiac arrest at his residence in the port city Wednesday. He was 50, says a press release.

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