

Dhaka Day by Day

To Rent or not to Rent an AC

by Hure Tarzia Hossain

When the mercury on the thermometer hits ninety, we find ourselves in a dilemma. Should we, or should we not rent home air-conditioning for the summer.

It all started when a colleague declared that she was going to rent an airconditioner for her home. Believe it or not the AC was not intended for herself or for her husband. It was for some very expensive electronic equipment they had in their house.

So now all of us at the office were thinking along the same lines. Wouldn't it be cool to have airconditioning for the summer! In the midst of our enthusiasm, we persuaded one of our colleagues into phoning a known AC-rental shop.

After finding out the rates, we lost some of our initial enthusiasm but we were still determined to go ahead with the idea. When temperatures were soaring at 40 C, for the first time in my life I had a terrible attack of prickly heat rashes.

At work, it's absolutely unbearable for us to leave our centrally airconditioned office and step into the sweltering heat. The problem was heightened when a colleague started taking oral medication for acne and I myself started using a new topical skincare product.

According to the doctor's instructions, we were both supposed to stay out of the sun. But try as we may, we find ourselves under the scorching sun time and again.

The idea of renting home airconditioning evaporates from time to time with the occasional monsoon showers. But the relief they bring is temporary and again we are left with the same debate.

One of my colleagues was finding it difficult to convince her parents why she needed an AC in the first place. I myself was feeling a little guilty thinking about what the electric meter would run up. Specially since I live with my in-laws.

In the middle of our confusion and indecision, our American colleague announced that she was leaving the country for more than six weeks. So it made no sense in renting an AC. She would be enjoying the cooler climates of Connecticut for the most part of the summer (too bad for the poor electronic equipment!).

So that did it. We totally dropped the idea of renting home airconditioning. Now on hot days, like millions of other Dhakaites we long for the rain and the cool splendour that comes with it. So much for airconditioning rentals!



Artists presenting folksongs at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday marking the beginning of the week-long folksong festival. — Star photo

TU leaders to resist power sector privatisation

Trade union leaders have vowed to resist any move to privatise the power sector, but recommended a statutory body by merging three existing organisations to streamline the dismal sector, reports UNB.

The proposed statutory body — Bangladesh Electricity Board — will be set up by merging the Power Development Board, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and Rural Electrification Board.

Representatives of two trade unions in the power sector at a five-day workshop that concluded in Dhaka yesterday welcomed the private sector only in generation of power, but were sceptical whether it would be able to ensure consistent supply.

While favouring commercialisation as a viable option for the sector to promote greater efficiency and more consumer service the workshop opposed corporatisation in the guise of privatisation.

The workshop on the "Privatisation and Power Sector Reform in Bangladesh" was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Jatiya Bidyut Samik Karmachari Union (JBKSU), Dhaka Bidyut Sharbarah Kartipakha Samik Karmachari Union (DBSKS-KU) and Public Services International (PSI), an international trade union.

The power sector has been losing Tk 6,50 crore a year, over one-fourth of the total loss of Tk 2,500 crore in-

currred by the public sector establishments annually.

The recommendation report, presented by JBKSU General Secretary M Zafrul Hasan at the concluding function, proposed that the Bangladesh Electricity Board will be responsible for power generation, transmission, commercial operation and distribution, and project implementation.

Participants at the workshop recommended that the existing public agencies in the power sector be made 'economical' through increased efficiency, eradication of corruption and wasteful use of resources and reducing system loss that now stands at 34.5 per cent.

Accountability systems for both managers and employees should be established and, at the same time, remedial action is required to reduce system loss.

Child trafficker sent to jail

An elderly woman, charged with an attempt to smuggle, out two youngsters to Sweden, was sent to jail yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said immigration official nabbed Shamsunnahar at Zia International Airport Friday while she was trying to smuggle out Rafiq and Babita to Sweden by a Biman flight.

CMP arrests absconder

CHITAGONG, June 17: A special team of the detectives branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in a drive arrested an absconder accused from Nasirabad area here last night, reports BSS.

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Attack on DU prof slated

The Faculty of Biological Science of the Dhaka University yesterday strongly condemned the attack on an elderly professor on Thursday evening at the TSC area, reports UNB.

The car he was travelling in was also reportedly damaged during the attack.

The note of condemnation was issued following a meeting held at the faculty.

Prof Syed Abdul Ahad, Chairman of the Soil Science Department was attacked and injured in front of the Jagannath Hall of the university by some unruly youths protesting the new budget on Thursday.

'Send relief to flood-hit areas'

Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad yesterday called for dispatching relief supplies immediately to flood-affected areas of Sunamganj and Sylhet districts, reports UNB.

In a statement he said, nearly 10 lakh people in the districts had been marooned in flash floods caused by onrush of water and incessant rains.

Besides, he said, 60 per cent of dwelling houses and standing crops went under water.

Azad asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to rescue the marooned people and provide them with food and shelter.

Tribal instt in Bandarban near completion

The ongoing development project of the Bandarban Tribal Institute (BTI) will be completed soon, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at the 39th meeting of the standing committee on Cultural Affairs Ministry held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum in the chair.

The objective of this project worth Tk about 71 lakh, is to improve the institute, including land acquisition.

Desertification day observed

RAISHAHI, June 17: World Desertification Day was observed here in a befitting manner today, reports BSS.

A procession led by Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain was brought out in the city this morning with the objective to create public awareness about the desertification process now underway in the region due to adverse effect of Farakka.

State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq, Raishahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, school children and others also participated in the procession which paraded city streets of Shaheb Bazar area.

The procession was organised by the Environment and Forest Ministry in observance of the World Desertification Day.

A discussion was held at Kakonhat, 25 km from Raishahi town on the day.

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq, Raishahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu spoke at the meeting.

IUB summer course begins today

The 1995 summer semester of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) begins today, says a press release.

Addressing a freshers' reception yesterday, president of the university Prof A Majeed Khan called upon the students to study seriously and make best use of their time.

Vice-rector of the University Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

Errata

The photo caption published yesterday on page 2 of our daily should read Global Assistance for Integrated Development (GAID) president Kabir Muhammad Shahjahan Khan, general secretary Ratna Rahmatullah and other members of the association planting a sapling in the city yesterday (Friday) as part of its afforestation programme. We regret the inadvertent mix-up.

Mother & child



Somethings just go together!

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BID NOTICE

Memo No 81/95-BAA/1220 June 17, 1995
 Sealed bids are hereby invited from bonafide contractors having experience in constructing and furnishing works of Construction, Re-Construction and Extension works.

| Name of work and location of the project | Time period | Earnest money |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| Construction, Re-Construction and Extension for the 18 (eighteen) Institute of Geriatric Medicine Building at Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. | months | 2.50% of quoted amount |

- The intending bidders have to apply in their letter head and must submit the following documents to M/s Sthapati Sangsad Ltd, House No 4, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205 at least one day before the last date of selling of bidding documents for obtaining permission to purchase the bidding documents.
 - The intending bidders must submit copy of enlistment in Govt, Semi-Govt and other organizations alongwith the application.
 - Certificate regarding satisfactory completion of similar nature of works amounting to Tk 200 lacs only in a single contract from the concerned Engineer/Officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer.
 - The bidders must provide in original & copy of last two years audited balance sheets of the firm.
 - A bank solvency certificate in original and copy showing one year transaction with the bank and shall have to produce a bank certificate in original stating that they have a bank deposit of Tk 20 lacs in cash on the date purchasing of the bidding documents.
- On being satisfied with the documents submitted by the applicant, bidding documents will be sold only to the approved contractors at a non-refundable amount of Tk 2,500.00 (Taka two thousand five hundred) only for each in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of the Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha O Jara Biggan Protishthaner Unnayan O Shamprosharon, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka during office hours on all working days up to 25-06-95 from the office of the Consultant, M/s Sthapati Sangsad Ltd, House No 4, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.
- The bids shall be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned in the notice in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha O Jara Biggan Protishthaner Unnayan O Shamprosharon, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
- The bids will be received at (a) office of the Member Secretary, Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha O Jara Biggan Protishthaner Unnayan O Shamprosharon, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka and (b) office of the Consultant M/s Sthapati Sangsad Ltd, House No 4, Road No 9, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205 up to 11:00 hours on 28-06-95 and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 hours in presence of the bidders, if any.
- The bid notice will also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the bidders.
- The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid in part or in full without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Dr M A Wahid
 Member Secretary

Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha
 O Jara Biggan Protishthaner Unnayan O Shamprosharon.