

Dhaka Day by Day

Bibi's Quest for Innovation

by Rafat Binte Rashid

Even though we proudly say that the future lies in the hands of today's youth, we never bother to extend our hands to build them or teach them.

Like wild flowers or weeds they grow on their own untended, until at time when we are overshadowed by their glamour and wit and are finally forced to accept or recognise their ideas and works.

Bibi Productions, an advertisement agency in its neonatal stage, is one with an exception to the rule. "I don't want the already famous and set artists for my agency. I don't ask for experience, I see talent, the capability to work and of course the promise to flourish in them, and if these criteria are present in a person, a student or a graduate, she or he is hired on my team," explains Bibi Russel, one of the co-directors of Bibi Productions, emphasising on young talents.

targets and hope to work diligently towards that set goal also has Grand Master Neaz Murshed as one of the directors. With my previous connections abroad, I plan to link this agency with foreign companies. Because of the high labour charges, companies in developed countries look for alternatives to complete their graphics printing works.

"With my links I can get these works for my team and our workmanship, backed by originality and creativity can work wonders. Even when I am not in Bangladesh this agency can flourish. We don't have to run to Bombay all the time."

Her touch as we all know by this time is indeed different. She has the intuitions to transform mundane things like straws, shal pata (leaves), water hyacinth into extra ordinary products. A card tied with straws, made out of water hyacinth paper, written in gold and decorated with few dry flowers could look very chic and of course unique unless



Bibi, who has unlimited faith in the young ones has actually launched this agency banking only on her confidence in her young team. Their excellent workmanship, their seriousness and depth of knowledge are actually what is the driving force behind this agency. They literally have access to limited funds only but at the same time they didn't even opt for any. This would only make them puppets of their donors she thought.

Her sole intention is to prove that all Bangladeshi products and produce can be successfully wrapped in creativity and marketed. This new and already vibrant firm is doing all sorts of creative works. Many might think that Bibi's work means designing only, but that line of work is not yet included here.

"We are going for calendars, brochures, logos, fashion, some graphics work. Like, we have already done the logo for Feed Back's Baulana album. Of course ultimately we will go for TV commercials what we are trying to do is produce something that is all the way made in Bangladesh," she relates her working plans.

you see or make it yourself, but that's Bibi's touch.

For instance, let us take Grameen checks. It is possible to make thousands of products besides dresses, shoes, accessories, these are just few out of the many. Even the Grameen Bank head didn't have in mind so many enterprising options while launching the product. Simple jewelleryes from shells, local beads, wood, terracotta, hats made out of tal pata (pal leaves) decorated in rainbow colours, are mainly her accessories to glamorous fashion shows and such promotional works.

When you see one of her products you simply wonder, "is it Bangladeshi, why didn't I think or find it earlier. It is simple, casual yet captivating, all it takes is the mind to see and the determination to work it out, after all Bangladesh is a country full of resources.

It is really possible to change the image of our country with just a few creative minds who are constantly on the look out for innovative ways to present a Bangladesh that no one thought to exist.



BIRDEM employees and staff held a protest rally at the hospital premises yesterday condemning the attack on an employee by a ruling party MP on Friday. — Star photo

Sircar tells madrassah teachers Help upgrade curriculum

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday urged the madrassah teachers to give suggestions for the qualitative development of madrassah education to meet national demands, reports BSS.

He was giving away certificates as chief guest among the trainees of the first batch training course of Madrassah Teachers' Training Institute at the Bangladesh Madrassah Education Board in the city.

Additional Secretary, Education Ministry Shahidul Alam, Chairman of Madrassah Education Board Prof Abdus Salam Khan also spoke on the occasion.

The minister said, madrassah teachers are respected by the people, so

they can play a vital role in the development of the country.

Later, the minister handed certificates to 47 trainees who are principals of different dakhil and alim madrassah of the country.

Exhibition on education

A five-day exhibition on education organised by British Council at its library in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The show is open everyday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm till July 26.

It will cover many aspects of education in Britain and Bangladesh.

Role of NGO's in electoral process decried

By DU Correspondent

Dr Ahmed Sharif, a noted litterateur of the country yesterday said, the government has leased out the country to the NGOs.

He was speaking at a seminar on the role of NGOs in the political activities of Bangladesh held at the seminar room of the TSC of Dhaka University.

The Swadesh Chinta Sangha organised the seminar. He said, the government is in fact helping the NGOs expand their activities in the country in the name of helping the rural poor.

But the fate of the poor has not altered, he remarked. The seminar, chaired by Dr Ahmed Sharif, was also addressed by advocate Itrat Amin, Dr T Ali, Bashir Al Helal, Fayez Ahmed, Haider Akber Khan Rano.

Dr Nazimul Ahsan Kallimulla presented the key note

paper. Dr Sharif also said, "although we claim to be the citizens of a sovereign country, we are not so in reality."

The western world is tightening its grip on us through NGOs, he added.

Advocate Itrat Amin said, the fair election monitoring alliance (FEMA), has no right to act as a parallel organisation of the election commission.

Bashir Al Helal said, even a caretaker government is not enough to ensure fair polls unless we do have a strong election commission.

He also said, NGOs have no role in ensuring fair elections.

The speakers at the seminar urged the government not to allow the NGOs to involve in the political activities of Bangladesh.

Freshers urged to uphold DU image

By DU Correspondent

The leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) urged the freshers of Dhaka University (DU) to help make the DU campus free from violence.

At a reception accorded to the first year LLB honours students by BCL Law Department unit of DU yesterday, the leaders said, we may belong to any political party but we have to be united in the question of upholding the image of the university.

Obituary

Lutfur Rahman, former principal scientific officer of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Mymensingh died of diabetic related complications on Friday at BIRDEM hospital in the city, reports BSS.

He was 65. He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter. He was buried at Uttara Sector-4 graveyard.

His quikhwani will be held today at House-10, Road-33, Sector-7, Uttara after Asr prayers.

US ballet team due today

The Eugene Ballet Company, a popular dance troupe in the United States, will arrive in the city today, says a press release.

The troupe will perform in the city on July 24 and 25. It will also perform for videotaping before an invited audience at the Bangladesh Television on July 28.

The group will perform "Children of the Raven", a legendlike story in dance, incorporating traditional dance forms, crafts designs and totem poles of the Pacific Northwest Indian tribes.

The group will also present "Tango for Five"; "Sticks of It", a short, comic jazz ballet that is a tribute to chewing gum; "Columba Aspetit (The Peered In)", a dance for three couples performed to music by the medieval Catholic Nun, Hildegard Bingen, which depicts how society views women; and "Common Ground," a ballet which uses music and dance to compare the whirlwind pace of present-day life with the slower pace of life in times past.

Weather

Squalls likely over wide area

Moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions during 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Rajshahi division, the forecast said.

The sun sets today at 6:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:24 am.

Yesterday maximum and minimum temperatures (in Celsius) and humidity (in percentage) in some major cities and towns are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

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The British Council Vacancies for Secretaries. The British Council wishes to recruit suitable appointees to the posts (2 posts) of Secretary in the Further Improvement of Medical Colleges (FIMC) offices situated in the Medical Education Units of Dhaka Medical College and Chittagong Medical College. The secretary will work specifically for the staff of the FIMC Project but will also work for Medical College staff engaged in project activities. Candidates must be able to demonstrate the ability to work both independently and as a member of a team. At least 2 years practical experience in a similar post will be expected. Experience of Word Perfect 6.0 or a similar word-processing package is highly desirable. The salary will be in the range of Tk 8,000- to Tk 10,000 depending upon experience. Applicants should speak fluent English and will be expected to take a test of English language ability as part of the selection process. Application should be forwarded to The Director The British Council 5 Fuller Road Dhaka 1000. Please write "Application for the post of Secretaries" on the top of the envelop. Closing date is 20 August 1995. Please note that only applicants who are short listed for interview will receive an acknowledgement of receipt.

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