

Dhaka Day by Day

A Little Known Treasure-trove

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Where would you take your friends when they, for the first time, come to visit you in Dhaka? Of course the (usual) sight seeing; a grand (sweaty) tour of our very own old town. Maybe, assign a day or two for a visit to Savar or Sonargaon and definitely a number of times for shopping — Bangobazaar and all.

You most certainly would want to take your friend from England — or any place foreign — to a shop that has all the *deshi* products. To actually show him or her a glimpse of your so much talked about glorious heritage.

You might have some specific shops for the purpose, but Angana, a shop established by the Ministry of Women's Affairs with the help of CIDA under its SIDA project offers you a wide range of *deshi* products at a much cheaper rate.

Angana's speciality rather say it's reason for being so attractive is the hospitality and excellent customer service of its salesgirls. It makes your selection of items an easy task.

Of course, Angana offers every luxury item and at an unexpectedly reasonable price. A vegetable dye *panjabi* for men in an ash and white combination is only for Tk 400, a chocolate brown and mustard batik print *shalwar kameez* with *duppata* is only Tk 600. Gorgeous black with a touch of multi-coloured cross stitch embroidery work, allover on a three piece *shalwar kameez* is only Tk 1000.

Besides, batik print bed spreads, cross stitch cushion covers, jute mats, rugs, Angana has exceptional *tat* fabrics. These hand woven materials are now slightly changed into a 40-40 count. These are being block printed or screen printed further for other purposes as well.

You will find small but essential household items like glass coasters, decoration pieces with an ethnic touch. The exclusive half silk Jamdani, bi-colour silk sarees only add to the richness of the shop.

Angana is definitely a well thought marketing channel for all government

sponsored income earning activities under women's programme.

"Angana is no famous brand name and this is its only drawback," says Ayesha Shirin Rahman, Additional Director, Women's Affairs Department. "We are learning the marketing skills with time. For instance we had no idea

that only if we change the cotton count, duster cloth could be simply changed into a fabulous fabric. We print it and it becomes a saleable product," she explains further.

Many independent family-based artisans market their wares and produce through Angana. Potters, jute and brass workers, embroiders, wood carvers, leather workers and different artisans from all over the country have enriched the collection at Angana.

"We are trying our best to wrap our products in a more presentable way, so that they can survive in the competitive market of today," she says adding that they have good ideas but a weak implementation strategy.

"We need to develop skill and train artisans in such a way that they become real entrepreneurs with accounting knowledge and vocational skill," Rahman emphasises while talking about her girls at the remote village.

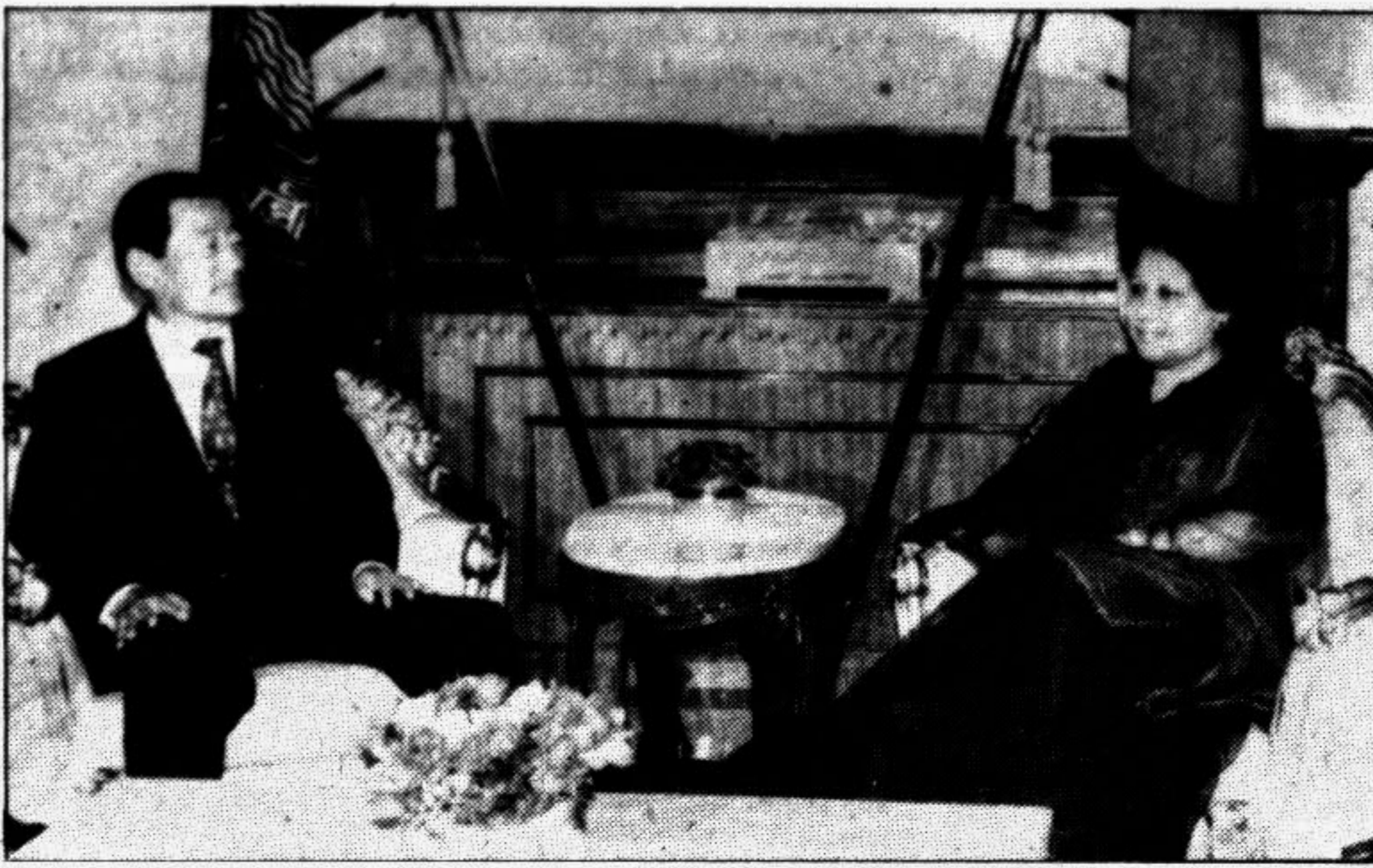
At present Angana has been absorbed as a component with the Centre for the Training and Rehabilitation of Socially Handicapped Women to increase the market feasibility of products produced by the inmates of the centre, she informs.

Proper marketing channels always remained as the sole constraint to women's income earning activities. As a result neither the women producers could be given their real worth nor could their products be sold. This often resulted in closing down of many such handicraft programme. And Angana through many such ups and downs has now finally emerged as a survivor since its birth in 1985.

Next time try out Angana, you will realise that it is a treasure trove.



Angana, makes your selection of items an easy task.



Visiting parliamentary delegation from Republic of Korea led by Sang Chun Chung called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Toll extortionists stab two

By DMCH Correspondent
Extortionists stabbed two persons as they refused to give Tk 20 thousand as tolls in Tallabagh area of the city yesterday afternoon.

A group of about seven people armed with lethal weapons attacked the Sony General store at about 6:30 pm and stabbed the shop manager Abdul Khaleque, 32, and assistant Salam, 10.

The injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, medical sources said. Details could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, Dhanmondi police said that they had heard about the incident.

Phensydil bottles, beer cans recovered

A special squad of the Department of Narcotics Control yesterday recovered 239 bottles of phensydil from a truck near the Demra thana of the city, reports BSS.

The bottles were packed in two sacks in a truck which was coming from Comilla. The squad, acting on a tip-off, stopped the truck near the thana and recovered the phensydil bottles.

One Abul Kalam Azad was arrested and a case was filed with Demra thana.

Meanwhile, another team of the Dhaka metro zone of the department recovered 216 cans of beer from a car at Banani here.

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What's on today

Seminar: On 'Dreams of Serving the Community' organised by Internee Doctors' Association and Beximco Pharmaceuticals. Speakers: Dr Mushtaq Mahmood and Dr Pinaki Bhattacharya. Venue: Doctors' Canteen, Mitford Hospital. Time: 12 noon.

German Cultural Centre: Presents Die Zweite Heimat (The Second Homeland) Chronicle of a Generation, in 13 parts. Venue: Goethe Institut, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown: The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club will be held. Venue: CIRDA, Chameli House, 17 Topkhana Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club will be held. Guest speaker: Professor Jalal U Ahmed. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga: The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30 pm.

Miladunnabi programme at DU: A discussion meeting in observance of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be held. Venue: Dhaka University Central Mosque premises. Chief guest: Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed. Prof M Shamsul Haq, President of Managing Committee of Masjidul Zamir will preside. The winners of the essay competition titled "Hazrat Muhammad (Sm) in Serving Humanity" will be awarded at the function.

Islamic Foundation: A fortnight-long programme to celebrate the Eid-e-Miladunnabi will begin. Venue: Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Time: 7 pm. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate.

Kuwait-Iraq Returnees Assoc: A representatives' conference will be held. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 10 am. Chief guest: Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

NDF discussion on interim govt: The National Democratic Foundation (NDF) will hold a follow-up discussion on Ishtaq Formula for an interim government. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium.

Seminar on multifibre arrangement: The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), and Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) have jointly organised the seminar titled 'Implications of the Phasing Out of the Multifibre Arrangement'. Venue: Ball-room, Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:45 am. Chief guest: Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam.

US cadets leave

The United States Military Academy cadet team left Dhaka Monday at the end of a two-day visit to Bangladesh. An ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Miladunnabi programmes

The government has drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports BSS.

The programme has been taken up at a high level inter-ministerial meeting held recently in the city with Religious Minister Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair.

According to the National Moon Sighting Committee report, the Eid-e-Miladun-

nabi will be celebrated tomorrow.

On the day, the national flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings. Flags and festoons inscribed with 'Kalema Taiebah' will be hoisted along the main streets of the city.

Islamic Foundation has drawn up a fortnight-long programme. Besides, Islamic missions, Islamic cultural centres, Waqf office, Bangla Academy will arrange semi-

nar and discussions on the life and works of Prophet Mohammad (SM).

Eid-e-Miladunnabi Mahfil will be held at Bangladesh Secretariat mosque on August 12. President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to attend the milad as chief guest.

All district and thana administrations, universities and other educational institutions and cultural centres will hold programmes on the occasion.

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More organisations demand release of Farhad Mazhar

By Staff Correspondent

More organisations and people yesterday protested the arrest of Farhad Mazhar, poet and Chairman of the Board of Editors, The Chinta.

Leaders of a Hamburg-based feminist organisation, Finrrage, in a statement addressed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Secretary of Home Affairs, expressed their deep shock saying, "We are extremely worried about the fact that someone can still be arrested and detained in Bangladesh without any justifiable reasons."

"We urge you to immediately release Farhad Mazhar and to repeal this shameful 'Special Powers Act,' they demanded.

Similar reaction was expressed by Sufia Kamal, Md Anisur Rahman, Sigma Huda, Saira Rahman, Khushi Kabir and 19 others in a joint press statement.

Prof Nesar, Dr Selim new president, secy of Physicians' Assoc

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Sheikh Nesaruddin Ahmed, Head of the Department of Medicine of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) and Dr Selimur Rahman have been elected president and general secretary of the Association of Physicians of Bangladesh (APB), a press release said here yesterday.

Other office-bearers of the APB are Prof Md Nurul Islam and Prof Tofayel Ahmed—Vice Presidents; Dr Sayed Atiqul Haq—Joint Secretary; Dr M A Wahab—Treasurer; Prof Mobin Khan—Secretary of Scientific Affairs and Dr A P M Sohrabuzzaman—Organising Secretary. Members elected are: Prof Munnir Uddin Ahmed, Prof Md Tahir, Prof Mahmudur Hasan, Prof Harun-ar-Rashid, Dr Kazi Deen Mohammad, Dr Emran Bin Yunus, Dr Rafiquddin, Dr Golam Rabbani and Dr F M Siddiqui.

Weather

Shower likely

Occasional moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershowers with seasonal gusty or squally wind likely to occur at most places over Barisal, Khulna and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office predicted that rain or thundershowers, accompanied by temporary seasonal gusty wind are likely at many places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions.

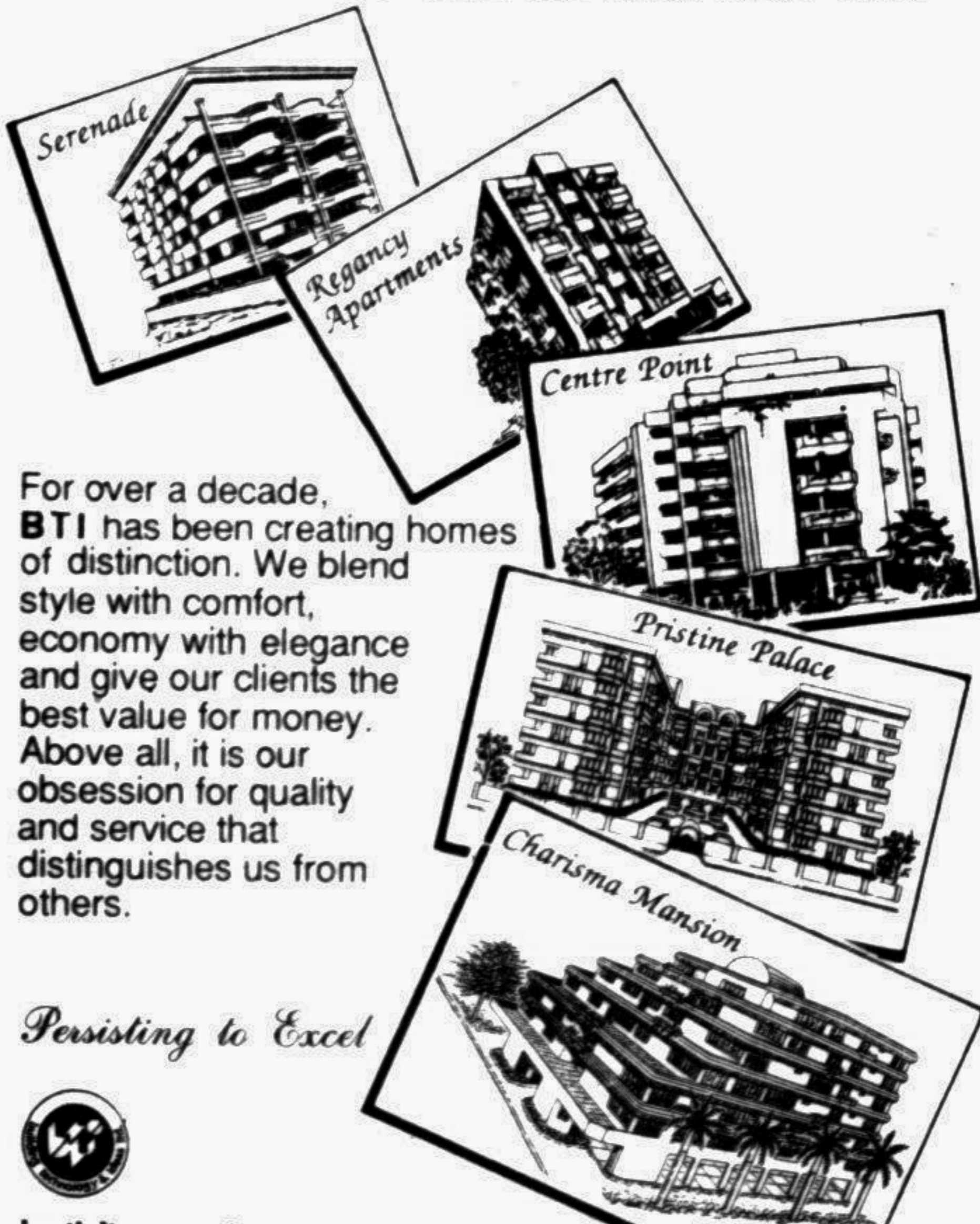
Country's highest temperature was recorded 33.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet and Dinajpur and the lowest 24.6 degrees at Teknaf.

The sun sets today at 6:39 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.0	25.6	75	85
Chittagong	29.8	26.5	86	77
Rajshahi	32.7	26.7	78	85
Khulna	31.3	26.4	92	83
Barisal	30.4	26.0	86	92
Sylhet	33.5	25.0	88	98
Cox's Bazar	29.5	25.5	95	80

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