

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Where from Old Books Land on Footpath

by A S M Nurunnabi

There is nothing new about sales of various commodities on the footpaths of the city. A lot has been written about the role of hawkers in this respect. We, however, find no such widespread practice in respect of sales of old books and periodicals on footpaths. Old books traded in Dhaka city does not appear to have any organised cohesive entity.

In this trade, most of the available books comprise magazines, journals, and a haphazard variety of books on different subjects. No system or order is followed in the display of the books and magazines. This is understandable because the sellers use footpaths unauthorisedly for displaying their wares.

Books and magazines sold on city footpaths have various sources. One of the principal sources is provided by the roving class of buyers of old books and magazines and also old newspapers from various localities of the city. Sometimes old editions of books and publications from government and non-government libraries and organisations are sold to these buyers. There are also some publishing houses which sell out the old editions of their books and publications to the footpath hawkers. There are some publishing houses, faced with poor business, sell out their stocks at low prices to the footpath hawkers. In some cases, books carrying high price tags and those written by writers who have lost popularity are disposed of at concessional rates to make room for books by new writers currently enjoying popularity. There are some cases where books and periodicals published by different government offices, social, cultural or political organisations, schools, colleges and universities at their own costs or through collection of advertisement charges find their way to the footpaths, since it has been found hard to sell them at prices printed on their covers for lack of interest of readers in the subjects covered in those publications. Some enthusiastic authors sometimes publish their works at their own cost. But for want of proper publicity through reviews and discussions, such authors sometimes suffer losses on account of poor sales of their books. In such contingencies, stocks of their books are exhausted through complimentary distribution among friends and relatives or disposed of to footpath hawkers.



at whatever price they may fetch. We sometimes find books by unknown authors with bright laminated get-up which attract readers at footpath book stalls because of their comparatively cheap prices. It is alleged that sometimes new publications from Bangla Academy, Islamic Foundation, National Book Centre and other reputed publishers are available on footpaths through corrupt practices and sold at prices lower than those printed on such books.

Through whatever means books get to the footpaths for sales, they attract the interest of readers by a large, because they are offered at comparatively lower prices. Sometimes valuable books are available on footpaths at cheap prices.

There are some specific areas in the city where old books are available on footpaths. They are Purana Palatan, Sadarghat, Nilkhet-New Market junction, Mirpur Bazar No. 1, Mirpur-Kachukhet and certain other areas.

There were times when many good books were sold on footpaths at low prices. But nowadays on account of increased interest of book lovers, the book sellers demand somewhat higher prices for their books. Although most of the crowd gather at the footpath book stalls to browse through the popular magazines, a large part of the buyers are fans of the popular national and international news and film and literary magazines. The more current the issue, the higher is the price demanded. Of course, you should have the right bargaining capacity to clinch deals with the footpath book dealers.

Though the business of footpath sales of books is illegal according to municipal regulations, the hawkers connected with the business somehow manage through underhand deals with the agencies concerned. The prospects of widening the circle of readership through creation of interest among book lovers by offering books at low prices could not be realised mainly due to the factor that old books are not sold now by hawkers at convenient prices. The demanded prices are often arbitrary causing a lot of bargaining which leads to discourage potential buyers of old books. In these circumstances, a more reasonable price structure for old books may go a long way in generating greater interest among book lovers.

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## Teenager shot in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A teenaged boy was shot by a gang of unidentified youths near Abahani playground in Dhanmondi residential area in the city yesterday afternoon.

Shahidul Islam Ripon, 18, son of Abdul Latif of West Dhanmondi, sustained serious bullet injuries in his chest and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police said.

Medical sources said, Ripon is a first year student of New Model Degree College but Dhanmondi police said, he had passed in SSC examinations two years ago and currently he was not studying.

Police said that the youths engaged in a scuffle with Ripon during an open air concert in Abahani playground Friday night. They all are the locals, police added.

The armed group ringed Ripon near the Star Kabab shop, opposite to the Abahani playground, at about 2 pm and shot him in his right chest. Dhanmondi police said. Local people took the seriously injured Ripon to the DMCH.

None was arrested in this connection till last night, police said.

## Appointments, transfers

By Staff Correspondent

The government has announced some postings and transfers in the upper tier of the administration.

According to an official handout issued yesterday, Joint Secretary of the Finance Division Md Mahfuz Sobhan has been transferred to the Information Ministry.

Joint Secretary Daud-Uz-Zaman has been appointed Joint Secretary of the Labour and Manpower Ministry cancelling his earlier posting at the Department of Printing, Stationery, Forms and Publications.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka Md Abu Solaiman Chowdhury has been appointed Director of the Prime Minister's Office.

DC of Bhola Md Sikander Ali Mandal has been transferred to the Jute Ministry as Deputy Secretary, while Deputy Commissioner (Settlement) Nurul Islam has been transferred to the Textile Ministry as Deputy Secretary.

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Anxiety gripped these two passengers who got stuck at the Kamapur Railway Station as all modes of vehicles went off the road following the 32-hours hartal called by the opposition yesterday. — Star photo

## Weather

### Light rain at few places likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower with temporary gusty wind likely at a few places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and the regions of Khulna during the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office said, there are chance of light rain or thundershower at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions. Weather may remain nearly dry elsewhere over the country during the period.

No remarkable change in day temperature is expected throughout the country.

Khepupara experienced the country's highest 37 mm rainfall during the last 12 hours till 6:00 pm yesterday.

Sandwip experienced 27 mm, Sitakundu 13 mm, Teknaf 9 mm, Khulna 7 mm and Chittagong 6 mm rainfall during the period.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 33.7 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 23.7 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 5:39 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.2	24.2	71	77
Chittagong	30.9	25.3	83	92
Rajshahi	32.4	25.6	72	77
Khulna	32.5	25.0	78	89
Barisal	30.8	25.0	84	90
Sylhet	32.2	24.4	82	82
Cor's Bazar	32.5	25.0	77	80

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