

Dhaka Day by Day

A Room with no View

by Tanya Mahnaz Hoq



SHARER '95

A girls' commonroom is a place in which the female students of an institution congregate, perhaps to rest in between classes, fix their toilet, or even have a real girl-to-girl chat with their friends. Here is where they can let their hair down and put their feet up to relax from the 'always too sharp' eyes of their male counterparts. Actually, commonrooms were built for the times when the female students hardly dared look at the male students, let alone talk to them and would spend all their free time in these rooms.

Of course, now the times have changed and it is unthinkable for a girl today not to have male friends if she is studying in a co-ed institution. But whatever the case, she still needs some privacy. The Arts Building of the Dhaka University has two such commonrooms for the female students, one situated on the ground floor and another on the top floor. These are strictly for girls only, boys are not allowed except without special reason or permission. These commonrooms are big rooms with lots of chairs, tables and sofas thrown about everywhere, a dressing-table with a broken mirror, toilets and a little snack-bar in each one. These offer light refreshments, tea and soft-drinks to the students. The rooms always reverberate with the chattering female voices, especially during the peak hours as they

gossip with friends or take a little rest before the next class or even get some quick revision done in a corner before an exam. This is also the place where the girls advertise their talents — posters of sales of clothes and jewellery, fashion shows dramas, cooking-classes etc. can be found pasted on some of the walls. There seem to be so many of these that nowadays a separate notice-board is needed for them. But sadly, the commonrooms (like almost everything else in DU) wear an unkempt and shabby look. The furniture is all old and broken, with sagging sofas and cracked sinks and mirrors to name a few. The toilets are not worth mentioning, all that can be said is that they badly need cleaning up. The ancient-looking coin-operated phone in the corner is not always in working order and even the food that is sold is not of good quality. The commonrooms of universities in our neighbouring countries like India are in a much better shape. At least they happen to be clean and the food is also of a much superior quality. It makes one sad to complain like this, but since the girls have no choice, this is where they have to go to put their feet up if the day gets too strenuous. Even in a huge place like DU, the girls need some degree of privacy and the commonrooms serve this purpose. So if they were only made to look a little more pleasant!

BCL (S-P) calls strike at DU tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Bangladesh Awami League has called a day-long strike in the Dhaka University tomorrow demanding release of the BCL activists arrested during the week-long hartal programme.

The BCL Leaders at a press conference yesterday also criticised the police attack on BCL rallies during hartal hours. "It is our constitutional right to resort to hartal, barricade meetings for realising our democratic demands," Bahadur Bepari, president of BCL, DU unit told the press conference.

But the police, he alleged attacked the BCL rallies on November 6 and November 8, without any provocation and arrested BCL vice presi-

dents Ajoy Kor Khokon and Pankoj Debnath, BCL DU unit general secretary Abdul Wadud Khokon and some other central and DU unit leaders.

They demanded action against the police officers involved in the incidents.

BCL will organise a rally on the DU campus today to protest, what it called government's oppressive attitude towards the opposition. Examinations will not be exempted from the purview of the strike.

The press conference held at the Madhu's Canteen of DU was attended by BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim, DU unit president Bahadur Bepari and central vice president Mahbubul Haq Shakil.

What's on today...

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

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

BOU convocation: The first convocation ceremony of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will be held. Venue: BOU campus. Chief guest: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Korean food festival: The two-day Korean food festival will begin. Venue: Korean Residence of Korean envoy at House 34, Road 35, Gulshan. Time: 11 am.

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

Chhatra Command's Padajatra Nov 22

Muktijoddha Chhatra Command (MCC) will organise a Padajatra in the city on November 22 as part of its month-long programme demanding trial of the war criminals and scrapping of their voting rights, reports UNB.

Beginning at the Jatiya Press Club at 3:00 pm on the day the Padajatra will be concluded at the Central Shaheed Minar.

NDF criticises EC

By Staff Correspondent

The National Democratic Foundation (NDF) has alleged that the Election Commission has not taken adequate steps to debar terrorists, loan defaulters and others failing to pay up their outstanding telephone and electricity bills from participating in the next general elections.

The government and the opposition should immediately resolve the present political crisis and dissolve the present parliament to ensure a free and fair election, says a press release.

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First ever get-together of professional secretaries

By Staff Correspondent

The job of secretaries has now become more creative, responsible and competitive, said the speakers at a get-together of the Bangladesh Professional Secretaries Association (BPSA).

First of its kind, the get-together was convened at a local hotel yesterday.

Sultana Akbar, Deputy Director, Department of Women's Affairs was the chief guest, while Shaheda Muid, member, BPSA presented the keynote paper.

Obaida Kabir, president, working committee for the formation of BPSA said, "It will create an opportunity for the professional secretaries to exchange views."

The job of a secretary has now become more demanding and multidimensional, observed Shaheda Muid in her keynote. Elaborating the job of a modern-day secretary she said, "The job demands qualified person, with ability of serving the customers, networking the management, besides understanding of human psychology and, above all, honesty to maintain confidentiality."

"In pursuit of excellence and to meet the need of this demanding job, secretaries must acquire professional skills," observed M Mosharrar Hossain of Rapport Bangladesh.

"The job of a secretary now enjoys the potentials for building up a career," said, Sultana Akbar. With the advent of new technologies, it has now become one of the most challenging job, she added.

The BPSA was formed in July this year and aims at creating opportunities for the professional secretaries, organising seminars and workshop at the national and international levels.

7th nat'l dental confec Nov 28

By Staff Correspondent

The 7th Bangladesh national and 3rd conference of the South Asian Dental Associations Federation will begin on November 28 in the city. The four-day conference will be held at Hotel Sonargaon, says a press release.

Safiyyullah's qul today

The quikhwani of AFM Safiyyullah will be held today at 4 pm at his residence in Mirpur, says a press release.

Safiyyullah, the eldest son of Dr Md Shahidullah, died on Wednesday at Holy Family Hospital. He was 78. He left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters. He was buried at Mirpur Intellectuals Graveyard on Thursday.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qul.

Death condoled

Twenty-five senate members of Dhaka University in a joint statement condoled the death of A F M Safiyyullah, says a press release.

In a condolence message they recalled his contribution as DU senate member and as a promoter of autonomous rule for universities.

Meanwhile Advocate Syed Ahmad Hossain, secretary-general, United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) and former senate member of the Dhaka University in a condolence message condoled the death.

Govt college teachers' token strike

Bangladesh Government College Teachers' Council will observe a token strike on Monday demanding upgradation of their scale, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the council yesterday with its president Prof Ali Akbar Khan Dollar in the chair.

The council regretted that the education cadre was not

included in the upgradation of cadre services from 6th to 5th grade and urged the government to upgrade the salary scale of the education cadre at par with the officials of the 11 cadres in the government service.

They threatened to launch a greater movement if their demands are not met by December 1.

UN fair in Khulna

now Nov 22, 23

KHULNA, Nov 16: The two-day UNO fair scheduled to begin on November 20 at Zia Hall in the port city will now be held on November 22 and 23, reports UNB.

The fair will be organised on the occasion of 50th anniversary of United Nations Organisation.

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