

Dhaka Day by Day

Banking on Deshi Craft

by L Hossain

Apparently, an alternative to Aarong and Kumudini is finally here. Saptagram's new shop on Kemal Ataturk Avenue provides sweet relief to jaded shoppers. All things 'deshi' and irresistible displayed in different rooms range from handloom silk, vegetable dye shalwar kameez, punjabis, shawls, scarves, sarees to household items.

The shalwar kameez are unlike those found elsewhere. Gorgeous silk kantha stitch sets in olive and steel grey are priced at Tk 2250 while Endi cotton two piece sets with subtle same colour embroidery start at Tk 2000. Saptagram stocks vegetable dye block print sets in cotton and linen designed by Ruby Ghuznavi from Aranya. The practical kameez come with pockets and in tasteful colours such as orangish-red, deep blue, brown, black and white.

The Saptagram outlet is also a saree heaven selling affordable vegetable dye cotton to silk print and more expensive jamdani sarees. The silk Endi shawls at the shop are easily a 'must buy' this season.

One of the more tempting attractions at the shop is the rainbow range of handloom silk material which could tantalise even the most disciplined shopper. Everything from the cocoon raising to the dyeing is done by

women involved in Saptagram's income generating activities. Reviving the handloom, one of the largest rural industries in Bangladesh, not only creates employment for women but also brings back a non-polluting, environmentally friendly mode of production which produces high quality fabric and reduces the country's dependency on foreign textiles.

The Saptagram shop makes it possible for the NGO to market the products from income generating activities and provide a fair deal to the women. Selling at a retail outlet reduces reliance on wholesale buyers who are not always prompt with payment.

Although the shalwar kameez, sarees and the silk are the best items at the shop, Saptagram has a decent line of punjabis and coatees as well and its stock of Khadi or handloom cotton are ideal for winter punjabis. The material which is from Guha Babu in Comilla, the only Khadi supplier in Bangladesh.

Judging by the rush of buyers on the opening day, the Saptagram outlet is clearly a welcome addition to the shopping scene. It's the place to go for anyone tired of buying and receiving gifts from the same old predictable places.



Revival of traditional skills.

Indian Express criticises opposition strategies

The Indian Express yesterday strongly criticised the uncompromising attitude of Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and the manner in which the agitational programme is conducted in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In an editorial commentary the daily said what the opposition parties have failed to appreciate that debate and compromise constitute the essence of democracy and that sheer obduracy can undermine its future.

The daily said that the Awami League had never been reconciled to the BNP's victory in the last general elections and had been looking for an opportunity since then to bring down Begum Khaleda Zia's government.

Since the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has ignored the demand of Awami League and its strange partners — authoritarian Jatiya

Party and fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami — to step down in favour of 'what the latter calls a neutral caretaker government,' the opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed, has decided to continue the agitation which has severely disrupted normal life in the country for a year and a half.

Since the discussion meeting organised by the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh scheduled to be held today has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

Fresh date for the meeting would be announced later.

Office of the Executive Engineer Thakurgaon Water Development Division (EAST) BWDB, Thakurgaon

Tender Notice No EAST-02 of 1995-96

Name of work : Construction of 10V-2.00mX1.89m spillway in connection with re-habilitation of Bhully Bundh Irrigation project under ADP during the year 1995-96.

Location of work : At Union Balia, PS & Dist Thakurgaon.

Eligibility of contractor : 'A' and 'B' class contractors of BWDB during the year 1994-95. (Only who has deposited enlistment fee for 1995-96)

Estimated cost : 60,19,909/00

Earnest money : 2.50% of the estimated cost of Tk 1,50,498/00.

Token earnest money (For fixed deposit holder) : 1% of the estimated cost of Tk 60,199/00.

Tender document will be available from : 1) The Manager, Sonali Bank, Thakurgaon Branch, Thakurgaon. 2) The Manager, Sonali Bank, Panchagarh Branch. 3) The Manager, Sonali Bank, Munshipara, Dinajpur. 4) The Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Cost of tender document : Tk 750/- per set (Non-refundable).

Last date for selling of tender documents : 27-12-95 during office hour.

Date and place of receiving tender : On 26-12-95 & 27-12-95 during office hour and on 28-12-95 up to 12.00 (Noon) by: 1) The Executive Engineer, Thakurgaon WD Division (East), BWDB, Thakurgaon. 2) The Executive Engineer, O&M Division, Panchagarh. 3) The Executive Engineer, O&M Division, Dinajpur. 4) The Superintendent Engineer, Dhaka O&M Circle, BWDB, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Date of opening tender : On 28-12-95 at 12-30 PM.

Information regarding tender : All information will be obtained up to 27-12-95 from the office of the Executive Engineer, WD Division (East), BWDB, Thakurgaon.

Name & address of advertiser : Abul Hashim Sikder, Executive Engineer, Thakurgaon WD Division (East), BWDB, Thakurgaon.

PANI-220/95-96
DFP-30445-5/12
G-1872

Postponed

The discussion meeting organised by the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh scheduled to be held today has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports BSS.

Obituary



Shanaz Ameen Dilshad, Secretary of Green Herald International School and wife of Ahadul Ameen, former Member, Administration, Civil Aviation Authority, died on Friday at the Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Hospital She was 48, says a press release.

She is survived by her husband, two sons and a host of relatives. Her mortal remains were laid to rest at the Banani graveyard Friday evening after Is'ha prayers. Her qulqhwani will be held at her Elephant Road (Magh-bazar) residence December 12 at 4 pm.

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

Women's rally Dec 12

The Samajtantrick Mohila Forum will hold a rally at the Jatiya Press Club at 2 pm on December 12 on the occasion of the Begum Rokeya Day, says a press release.

The rally will be followed by a meeting.

Convener, Bangladesher Samajtantrick Dal Khalequzzaman will address the meeting as chief guest.

Awarded

Brig M Atiq-ur-Rahman Psc (Rtd) has been awarded FBPS, the highest honour in photography in Bangladesh, says a press release.

He has been awarded for his dedication to photography.



Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad addressing a public rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

Nagorik's new production

Nagorik Natya Sampradaya will be on stage with their latest production *Himmoti Ma* at 6:30pm on December 15 at the Mahila Samity auditorium, says a press release.

Himmoti Ma is the Bengali translation of Bertolt Brecht's most acclaimed play *Mother Courage*. This will be Nagorik's 30th stage production and 5th Brecht production.

Nima Rahman, Abul Hayat, Lutfur Rahman George, Sharmistha Rahman, Nasirul Haque, Khaled Khan, Bipasha Hayat, Asaduzzaman Noor, Farooque Ahmed, Ananta Hira, Harunur Rashid, Tony Dias, Kazi Ruma, Nuna Afroz, Rashid, Ripon, Baset, Shapon, Shah Jamal, Subrata, Jhantu Baiyen have performed in the play.

Stage, light, back-ground music and sound designs of this production have been done by Mansur Ahmed, Nasirul Haque, K B Al-Azad respectively.

Costume design has been jointly done by Lisa and Dewan Mizan. Choreography has been done by Minu Haque. Biplab is in charge of stage management while Nuna Afroz has worked as assistant to the director.

BCL, JCD hold rallies on DU campus

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Bangladesh Awami League brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday evening and later held a rally at TSC.

The BCL leaders at the rally urged the government to accept the opposition demand for a neutral caretaker government to conduct the next general elections.

The speakers said, after the fall of autocratic regime, the people of Bangladesh expected a democratic government in power. But they observed surprisingly that another 'elected autocrat' had come to the power through the 1991 general elections, they said.

The BCL leaders said, no neutral elections could be held under the present BNP government. BNP had lost its credibility in conducting fair elections, they added.

The BCL rally was addressed by BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim, DU unit president Bahadur Bahari and organising secretary Sazzad Hossain.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP brought out an anti-hartal procession on the campus and held a rally in front of the DUCSU building.

The JCD rally was addressed by Fazul Haq Milan, Monir Hossain, Nasiruddin Ahmed, Ashim, Qazi Rafiq and Salimuzzaman Selim.

The JCD leaders urged the opposition to call off the destructive programmes like hartals and barricades. These programmes are obstructing the development oriented politics of BNP, they observed.

The BNP government could not be dislodged by such destructive programmes, they said.

Nasiruddin Ashim, acting president of JCD DU unit, urged the opposition to participate in the next general election for the sake of democracy.



Death anniversary of journalist Sirajuddin today

The 24th death anniversary of Shaheed Sirajuddin Hossain will be observed today, reports BSS.

Journalist Sirajuddin was picked up from his residence by the Al-Badr-Al-Shams gang on this day in 1971 and was brutally killed. At that time he was the Executive Editor and News Editor of The Ittefaq.

Twice president of the then East Pakistan Union of Journalists (EPUJ) Sirajuddin rendered sincere services for the promotion of journalism as well as protecting the rights of the working journalists.

His publications, *Ittefaq Katha Kao* and *Look into the Mirror*, were highly acclaimed. Besides, he translated a number of books from English.

He was awarded *Ekushey Padak* posthumously in 1980.

Shaheed Sirajuddin Hossain Smrity Sangsad has planned elaborate programme in observance of his death anniversary.



Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed giving away the 'Mofiz Trophy' to the best student-officer at the certificate awarding ceremony of BAF Flying Instructors' Course at BAF Base Mairur Rahman at Jessore yesterday. — ISPR Photo

Discussion on Begum Rokeya at Bangla Academy

A discussion was held here yesterday afternoon in the seminar room of Bangla Academy on the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day, reports BSS.

Dr Zaheda Ahmed, presented a paper on "Contribution of Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain to the Movement for the Emancipation of Women in Bangladesh."

Prof Najma Begum and Prof Jubaida Gulshan Ara participated in the discussion. Eminent educationist Prof Anisuzzaman chaired the function while Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Mansur Musa spoke.

Dr Zaheda Ahmed, in her paper, said that Begum Rokeya was a pioneer in awakening the womenfolk not only in our country but in the sub continent as a whole.

She used to believe that female education is the only way for emancipation of women, Dr Zaheda said.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The Bangladesh Mahila Forum Friday organised a discussion meet on Begum Rokeya and her work at the Biswa Shahitto Kendra in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest, Begum Akhter Imam, the first provost of Rokeya Hall, DU, called for more participation of women in decision-making posts.

"Although we have women in top positions in politics, we are yet to have, for example, a woman vice chancellor," she pointed out.

"For their emancipation, the women themselves have to take the first step," Begum Imam told the audience, consisting mostly of women.



Jatiya Party activists hurled handmade bombs at the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque on the first day of the opposition called 72-hour countrywide hartal. — Star photo

Menon condoles death of Haranath

Workers Party general secretary MP Rashed Khan Menon yesterday condoled the death of Awami League leader and former MP Haranath Bine, reports BSS.

In a message of condolence Menon said that Bine was a dedicated organiser of the War of Liberation and an active politician who worked for the cause of communal harmony in society.

He also fought relentlessly for the establishment of social justice, Menon said.

He also conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Happy Birthday To BARSHA

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

THE CONTAINERISED CARGO EX. GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE V-90W FROM LONG BEACH, EX. RHEIN BRIDGE V-44W FROM HONGKONG, EX. OOCL FRIENDSHIP V-53E FROM ROTTERDAM, EX. XETHA BHUM V-126S FROM BANGKOK, HAVE BEEN RELAYED TO FEEDER VESSEL M.V. BANGLAR MONI VOY-56W IMPORT ROT NO. 1143/95 IS DUE TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG ON OR ABOUT 10-12-1995.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF THEIR CARGO FROM FCL CONTAINERS WITHIN 5 (FIVE) DAYS FREE TIME FROM THE DATE OF LANDING. IF THE CARGO IS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM LANDING THEN THE CARGO WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE RELEVANT CUSTOMS ACT.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক এর কার্যালয়
সড়ক বিভাগ, পটুয়াখালী

বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং ২৯১১-এর মাধ্যমে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে

১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	১। পটুয়াখালী সড়ক বিভাগে ১০তম বিঃ বিঃ এ. ৩.০৫ বিঃ প্ল্যান, ১২.২০ মিঃ সেগি এবং ৩.৬৬ মিঃ উচ্চতা বিশিষ্ট আর, সি, সি, বক্স কলভার্ট নির্মাণ কাজ।
২। কাজের নাম	২। "এ" হইতে "ডি" বিশেষ শ্রেণী।
৩। প্রাক্কলিত ব্যয়	৩। টাঃ ৮,৩৬,০০১/-
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৫। কার্যক্রমের সময়সীমা	৫। কার্যক্রমের তারিখ হইতে ৮০ (আশি) দিন।
৬। সড়ক, অবিলম্বের যে সব শ্রেণীর প্রকৌশলগণ দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে পরিবেন	৬। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, সড়ক বিভাগ, পটুয়াখালী/পিরোজপুর/ভোলা/প্রাণি ও ডিআইন বিভাগ, বরিশাল/প্রাণি বিভাগ (পটু) ঢাকা/নিম্নাধিকারকারীর দপ্তর এবং পটুয়াখালী সড়ক বিভাগের অধীন সড়ক উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তরসমূহ থেকে আগামী ১৭-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।
৭। যে সব কার্যালয়ে দরপত্র পাঠানো যাইবে	৭। অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, বরিশাল জোন, বরিশাল। ২। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, সড়ক সার্কেল, বরিশাল। ৩। তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, মনিটরিং ও ইন্সপেকশন (পটু) সার্কেল, সড়ক ভবন, রমনা, ঢাকা। ৪। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল/ভোলা/পিরোজপুর এবং ৫। নিম্নাধিকারকারীর দপ্তর।
৮। যে সব কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক মুদ্রিত/স্বাক্ষরিত/সিল/সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে	৮। মুদ্রিত/স্বাক্ষরিত/সিল/সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ১৮-১২-৯৫ইং/৮-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০মিঃ পর্যন্ত। ১০। মুদ্রিত/স্বাক্ষরিত/সিল/সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ১৮-১২-৯৫ইং/৮-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০মিঃ পর্যন্ত। ১১। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ২১-১২-৯৫ইং/৭-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকায়। ১২। দরপত্র লটারীর তারিখ ও সময় : ২০-১২-৯৫ইং/৬-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ মিঃ।

এ, কে, এম, রিজ্জাতুল ইসলাম
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক
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G-1869