

Dhaka Day by Day

In Search of a Home

By Nadia Kabir Barb

Having moved to Dhaka after nine years of living abroad, I found myself with the delightful task of finding somewhere to live. Now I must admit I had no idea of what I was letting myself in for. Had I known, I would probably have moved back to Germany or made my husband a "ghar jamai."

The way one finds accommodation in Dhaka is as follows (especially if one is not altogether organised): First of all, you drive around Dhaka looking for "TO LET" signs. Once you spot these you have to take down the addresses at lightning speed, the reason being that you get hooted at if you dare slow down. Usually the signs are obscured by rickshaws, pedestrians and, maybe, a tree or two so that if you do not possess 20/20 vision it is virtually impossible to read.

The next step is to actually find some of the addresses that have so painstakingly been copied of the "TO LET" signs. From personal experience, I found that road numbers are almost randomly given (or so I thought at the time) or never where they are logically supposed to be. The result being that one can never find the house/flat one is looking for.

The third step is to forget the idea of taking down addresses from obscure little "TO LET" signs and just targeting one area and driving around until you find a sign on the gate. But this stage I had decided to target Baridhara as it seemed to have the fewest roads to drive around in!

You then have to ask the darwan at the gate whether you can inspect the flat/house

in question. Luckily the response is usually very positive. I was looking for a flat and not a house so drove around trying to see as many flats as I could. I must confess here that both my driver and I have a totally useless sense of direction, the result being that I got thoroughly confused and ended up asking to see the same flat 2-3 times. In fact, one security guard-actually said, "Ap er porer bar ashley charge korbo! (Next time I'll charge you)". Needless to say that I was mortified.

Once you make it inside the flat you will find so many things that are not quite what you wanted. For example, one of the flats I visited had a lift which was not only psychodically coloured but also built for one person. I would go as far as calling it a claustrophobic's nightmare. (I found myself trying very hard not to hyperventilate).

Another example was the servant's quarter. While I was visiting one of the flats I asked to see the servant's quarter. The gentleman informed us that we were standing in it. I was until then under the false impression that we were standing in a wardrobe. You would have to be extremely tiny or be able to sleep standing up! I decided not to rent that flat, in case you were wondering.

The last stage is to actually take the plunge and say you like somewhere enough to want to rent it. Once that major decision has been taken, one must of course get in touch with the landlord/lady, but that is altogether a different story.



An exposition of local musical instruments began at the Sonargaon hotel yesterday in observance of the Tourism Month. — Star photo

Need for adopting new act stressed 84 lakh mental patients in country

The country has only 54 specialists in psychiatry against 84 lakh mental patients at present, former deputy leader in parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

"Efforts thus should be made to raise the numbers of psychiatrists as the ratio of psychiatrist and patient is now one to 1.60 lakh," Prof Chowdhury told the opening session of the National Scientific Conference on Women's Mental Health organised by Bangladesh Association of Psychiatrists (BAP) at a city hotel.

Prof Chowdhury also underlined the need for adopting the new mental health act which has already been proposed by the BAP to revise the existing "Indian Lunacy Act" enacted by the British rulers in 1912.

Presided over by BAP president Prof AA Munib, the session was also addressed by former MP Dr AQM Quamruzzaman, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed, leading psychiatrists Prof AKM Nazimuddowla Chowdhury, Prof Hedayetul Islam and BAP general secretary Prof Anwara Begum.

BAP also awarded fellowships to Prof Nazimuddowla Chowdhury and Prof Hedayetul Islam for their contributions to the field of psychiatry.

Prof Chowdhury said integrated policy should be taken

to impart education to women and uplift their social status to check mental disease among females.

He said the government has decided to help set up a national mental health institution in the capital.

Different specialists presented technical papers in the scientific session of the national conference on issues including women's mental health, job stress and mental health of working mothers and comparison of psychiatric morbidity in different nature of job among garment factory workers.

Attack on DU teacher condemned

By DU Correspondent

The students of the Department of Economics of the Dhaka University yesterday in a statement condemned the brutal attack on Nuban Ahmed, a teacher of the department.

Nuban Ahmed was attacked by some unidentified miscreants in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Sunday evening.

The students in the statement said the attack on Nuban Ahmed is a sign of deterioration of the law and order situation of the country. They demanded punishment of the culprits and urged all to be united against these terrorists.

British grant for Rohingya repatriation

Britain will provide a grant one million pound equivalent to Tk 6.2 crore to help repatriate Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar, reports UNB.

The grant was sanctioned under the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) in response to the recent appeal by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and World Food Programme.

Since 1992 Britain has provided a number of grants to UNHCR and other organisations for the relief and repatriation of the Rohingyas.

The latest grant brings the total ODA contribution to the "Rohingya operation" to 3.4 million pound equivalent to Tk 21.41 crore.

Chair coach service in Upaban, Parabat trains

Bangladesh Railway introduced luxurious reclining chair coach in its Dhaka-Sylhet route Upaban and Parabat inter-city trains, reports BSS.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad inaugurated the chair coach service in two shovan class coaches at a simple function at Kamalapur Railway Station last morning.

Communications Secretary Wafiqul Islam, Director General of Bangladesh Railway M A Munaf attended the function.

Under the programme, chair-coach service had already been introduced in Mahanagar inter-city train on Dhaka-Chittagong route and Joyantika inter-city train on Dhaka-Sylhet route. The same facility will be introduced in Tista and Ekata inter-city trains on Dhaka-Dinajpur route and 'Simanta Express' on Khulna-Nilfamar route by January next. The service will be extended in all the inter city trains in the country by the end of next year.

The luxurious chair coaches were being assembled in railway's own workshops using local expertise.



Gonotantik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) brought out a procession in the city yesterday calling for resisting today's hartal called by the Shibir. — Star photo

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-বাসবি/প্রকৌশল/১০০৭/৯৫ তারিখ: ১২-১২-৯৫ইং

- এতদ্বারা প্রকৃত, অভিজ্ঞ ও ব্যাচনামা জেনারেলের সোল ডিষ্ট্রিক্টর, এজেন্ট ও আমদানিকারকদের নিকট হইতে অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের ঢাকা শহর এবং ঢাকার বাহিরে জেলার শাখাসমূহের কম্পিউটার কক্ষে ২.০ কেডি এ ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন ১৫টি পোর্টেবল জেনারেটর সরবরাহ ও সংস্থাপনের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে।
- দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ২৭-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখে বেলা ৩-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বাস্তব সম্পদ ও সাধারণ সেবা বিভাগ, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ভবন নং-১ এর ৭ম তলায় রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব পুঁজী হইবে এবং দরপত্রসমূহ এদিনই বেলা ৩-১৫ ঘটিকার উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র কমিটি কর্তৃক খোলা হইবে।
- দরপত্রের সিডিউল সকল কার্যনিবাসে অত্র বিকাশের হিসাব শাখা হইতে অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের অনুকূলে টাকা ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার অফেরযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার জমা দিয়া অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ২৬-১২-৯৫ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সমগ্র হইবে।
- দরপত্রের সহিত অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়ের অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হইতে পুঁজী ব্যাংক ডাকট বা পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২.৫% (শতকরা আড়াই ভাগ) হারে বায়নার টাকা জমা দিতে হইবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র এবং নির্ধারিত আবেদনীয় বাস্তব জমা কৃত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের অথবা পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বানের এতদ্বারা ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

নূ-উদ্-দাহার
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক

Electoral Training Institute
Election Commission Secretariat
1/10 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Memo No. ET/1/A (4) MU/95/156 Dated: 14-12-95

Tender Invitation

Sealed tenders in prescribed schedule as per the following terms & conditions are invited from bonafide & experienced manufacturers, traders & suppliers for supply of the undermentioned goods to the Electoral Training Institute under Election Commission Secretariat.

Serial No	Name of goods	Estimated Cost	Price of tender Schedule	Date of selling tender Schedule	Date & time of Submitting tender
1	Office furniture	3,53,500.00	400.00	from 23-12-95	28-12-95
2	Photocopier Machin	1,46,500.00	400.00	upto 27-12-95	upto 12-00 Noon

Terms & conditions:

- Attested copies of up to date Trade licence, Bank solvency certificate, Income Tax Clearance Certificate and the Schedule purchase receipt should be submitted with the tender.
- 2.5% of the quoted amount as Earnest Money should be deposited with the tender through Pay-Order/Bank-Draft from any approved scheduled bank in favour of Director, Electoral Training Institute, Dhaka.
- In case of furniture, attested copy of past experience certificate of supplying furniture worth minimum Tk 350,000.00 (three lakh fifty thousand) under a single work order to Govt. Semi-govt. autonomous or an established private organisation, shall have to be attached.
- Separate schedules with terms & conditions and detailed description for furniture & photocopier supply can be procured at Tk 400.00 (four hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned up to 27-12-95 during office hours. No Schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.
- Tender for Photocopier/Furniture (whichever is applicable) should be superscribed on the envelope.
- Tenders can be deposited in the tender box kept at the Election Commission Secretariat, Block-6, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 up to 12-00 Noon of 28-12-95 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

DFF-31742-18/12 Md. Mokhlesur Rahman
G-1922 Director (current responsibility)

Tributes paid to Mir Mosharraf Hossain

Eminent literateurs yesterday stressed the need for more evaluation of the life and literary works of Mir Mosharraf Hossain, reports BSS.

They said Mir Mosharraf Hossain was one of the pioneers of Muslim literatures in Bengali literature who with his pen had helped the people of this part to rise against the colonial rule.

They were talking in a discussion on "Mir Mosharraf Hossain: in the Light of New Information" at Bangla Academy in the city in observance of his 84th death anniversary.

With Prof Moniruzzaman in the chair, the discussion was participated by Bashir al-Helal, Syed Abul Moksud and Prof Rajib Humayun.

Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Mansur Musa gave the welcome address while Shamsuzzaman Khan presented a paper on the theme.

UNB adds: Mosharraf Hossain Smriti Sangsad organised a day-long programme at the mazar of the great litterateur at Badami village in Baliakandi thana of Rajbari district.

The programme also include Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, placing wreaths and discussion meeting.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum yesterday said that the government would set up a cultural and research centre after the name of Mir Mosharraf beside his mazar at a cost of Tk two crore.

DAEWOO team meets Tariqul

A three-member delegation of DAEWOO group of South Korea headed by its executive vice-president Young Sang Choe called on Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam at his secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation discussed private investment in telecommunications sector of Bangladesh.

Death anniversary

The fifth death anniversary of pre-eminent vocalist, lyricist and music composer Mahmudunnabi will be observed today, says a press release.

Mahmudunnabi Smriti Parishad has organised a milad mahfil, feeding of destitutes on this occasion after Asr prayers at House 55, Road 9-A, West Dhanmondi.

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

NCC bird watch programme

A bird observation programme will be held on December 22 morning at the Mirpur Zoo lake under the auspices of Nature Conservation Committee (NCC) of Bangladesh, says a press release.

The programme will remain open for all from 8 am to 10 am. Interested persons are requested to report at the Mirpur Zoo gate by 7:30 am added the release.

Weather

Dry weather to continue

Dry weather may continue over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said night temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country.

The sun sets today at 5:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 27.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 10.8 degrees at Srirangal.

MBA admission test on Friday

The MBA admission test for the session 1995-96 of Dhaka University will be held on Friday at 10 am, reports UNB.

The seat plan is as follows: Admit No-6001 to 6880, IBA Bhaban, 6881 to 7665, Arts Building examination halls, 7666 to 8405, Arts Building class rooms and 8406 to 8655, Commerce Building.

Details of the seat plan will be displayed in front of the respective centres.

Happy Birth day to you
ROSE BUD

CHRISTMAS AT THE DHAKA SHERATON

• CHRISTMAS GOODIES : Christmas Logs and Bakeries on sale at the Lobby Cafe from December, 20

• CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER : Special Christmas Eve Dinner at the Vintage Restaurant Tk.1950/- per person

• CHRISTMAS DAY BUFFET LUNCH AND DINNER : Enjoy our special Buffet Lunch and Dinner at the Bithika Restaurant Tk. 750/- adult, Tk. 400/- child below 12 yrs. Lunch from 11 am and Dinner from 6 pm

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Edward II
from Britain



Date
2 January 1996

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Winter Garden
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Time
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Tickets
Taka 750/= per person

Available at:
Sheraton Hotel Lobby
27 and 28 December 1995
from 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm

The British Council Reception
26, 27, 28 and 30
December 1995
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They have brought with them inter-continental ballistic dance music, punctuated with jazzy horns, vibrant with heavy reggae rhythm and soaring above it all sweet soul vocals.

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