

Dhaka Day by Day

Those Nosy Parkers

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed



'Nothing is free in this world,' so it is said. Yet, there is something which is available in abundance and doesn't cost a penny. It's the free and, we might add, 'unsolicited' advice one gets in the megacity. We Dhakaites love to meddle in other peoples' business. Blame it on the dearth of entertainment activities to indulge in, the city dwellers can hardly remain aloof, when someone is perturbed, confused or simply pondering a decision. Whether or not their opinions have been sought is totally immaterial.

Rinnie, a young mother relates her dilemma. It was time, this year, for her child to start school. She received tons of advice from everyone, 'you can't enrol him there, it's a B-Grade institution!' Another school was dismissed because the principal was said to be corrupt, etc. etc. Exasperated, she ignored all the unwanted information and one day simply took her son and got him admitted into the nearest kindergarten to her home. The lady says that both she her husband, and not to mention the boy are pleased with her selection.

Most often than not, there is a busybody in every family. Those who don't have one, thank your stars! These people are usually know-alls who are offended if you don't consult them before taking any decision, involving your family, from the guest list of your daughter's wedding to the decor of your living room, they show an irritating and often quite unflattering interest in your daily life.

At a certain engagement ceremony the bride-to-be's parents were dumbfounded when the father's big brother and the mother's elder sister started a squabble over setting the wedding date. Needless to say, it was an awkward moment for everyone present, which of course included the would-be-in-laws! Seriously, don't the parents get the final say in their offspring's matrimonial matters?

Let's not forget the neighbours. Love thy neighbours - you were taught as a child. But how can you, when some of them feel it's their neighbourly duty to interfere in others' private lives? Incidentally, 'Matters of the heart' interest them most. Didn't Mr. X know

that his recalcitrant 17-year-old son was having an affair with Mr. Y's 15-year-old daughter? So, what's it to them? A nosy couple once stated that parents are in a way too liberal these days and are doing a poor job of raising kids. The same duo performed the role of watch dogs in a city neighbourhood to perfection, successfully preventing the blossoming of any romantic union. It was some consolation however, for the disappointed young love birds when the obnoxious couples' 19-year-old daughter eloped with a dubious character. Your maid's torrid romance with the darwan or driver might have escaped your attention. But what are neighbours for? They will monitor your domestic help's extra curricular activities with alacrity for you.

Sometimes even the colleagues and acquaintances can't resist imposing their views and opinions on you. Often your dependable dentist is declared 'incompetent and commercial,' likely to do more harm than good. The microwave oven you purchased too, was definitely a bad bargain. No doubt things would have been different if you only listened to the astute ones. Then, there are those insensitive remarks and pester you relentlessly: 'why does your kid look so emaciated, don't you feed him properly?' 'You certainly should work out and get rid of the Cellulite?' 'Blah, blah, blah...'

At times, even total strangers can't help butting in. Like when a kid threw a tantrum for candies at a local market. A man approached the mother and advised her to grant her daughter's wish. He believed that she will break the little one's heart by not giving in, and that is no way to bring up kids!

You're browsing through at a bookstore, when a fellow shopper tells you that Dominique Lapierre is too depressing and suggests reading Stephen King instead. So, who asked his expert opinion?

People, it seems, enjoy playing the roles of shrinks and counsellors. With everybody devoting quality time in everybody else's personal affairs, it's probably not surprising that there is a lack of real guidance and counselling centres in the metropolis.

Importance of wetlands in country's economy stressed

Experts and environmentalists yesterday urged for the adoption of effective measures to protect the country's huge wetlands for the sake of ecological balance as well as national economy, reports BSS.

They said the wetlands of Bangladesh are an ecological heritage of the region and their sustainability is needed for agriculture, fisheries, wildlife and livelihood of millions.

They observed with concern that due to the effect of Farakka the permanent wetlands are becoming seasonal ones disrupting the ecological and economic system of the region and called for immediate settlement of the water sharing issue between Bangladesh and India.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) in association with its affiliate here the Coastal Area Resource Development Association (CARDMA) organised the seminar in observance of the World Wetland Day commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, 1971, popularly known as the Ramsar Convention.

Chaired by noted Zoologist Prof Kazi Zaker Husain, the seminar was attended by environment and forest secretary Syed Maghrub Murshed as the chief guest.

Prof Ainun Nishat, Hasna Maudud, Harun er Rashid, Attique Rahman, S M Rashid and Prof Anwarul Karim spoke in the seminar.

Prof Ainun Nishat said a major part of Bangladesh which is constituted with wetlands is being affected due to increased population and expanding infrastructure. 'But indiscriminate use of the wetlands as 'all-season crop land and infrastructural purpose must be checked through administrative and legal measures.'

Describing his experience in wetland study, Prof Nishat said the local people were well aware of the importance of wetlands and strongly suggested to adopt their ideas and folk wisdom in conservation of the wetlands.

He laid emphasis on developing a wetland inventory and proposed to entrust the WARPO, which is coordinating flood management studies and actions, with the re-

sponsibilities of wetland conservation.

Maghrub Murshed said, 'The government has planned to declare 50,000 hectares of the Sundarbans as 'heritage site'. Plans to announce Madhabkunda water fall at Maulvibazar as natural park, the St. Martin's Island as a marine park, Teknaf coastal belt as reserved area, are also in progress.

'We have signed the Ramsar Convention in 1992 and we have a conservation policy under which the St. Martin's Island, Barandera region, and some reserve forests and sanctuaries are being conserved', he said.

Hasna Maudud described the importance of the wetlands for bio-diversity, recharging and filtering ground water, treatment of domestic wastes, checking erosion of river banks, resisting cyclones and reducing the rapid on-rush of flood waters.

In his speech, Prof Zaker Husain said by protecting nature, the country might be benefitted through attracting tourists to its heritage sites besides gaining the ecological values.



Awami League brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. — Star photo

BCU JU unit confce held

By JU Correspondent

Educationist and columnist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury blamed the mainstream parties of 'selling' the country's interests to the imperialist forces by involving foreign diplomats our internal affairs.

Our leaders are solely responsible for the present economic and political crisis in the country and now they are pushing it towards anarchy,' he added.

Addressing the students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) at the 16th conference of the Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) on the campus Monday, Prof. Chowdhury urged the youths to come forward with secular and progressive views to save the country. He also underscored the need for democracy.

Presided over by former president of the JU unit of BCU Sarwar Hossain, the conference was attended by Syed Hasan Imam, Sazzad Zahir Chandan, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Abdul Matin Talukder.

Syed Hasan Imam urged the students not to be used by the political parties and to strengthen the movement against Jamaat-Shibir axis.

A 15-member executive committee of the JU unit of BCU was formed at the council session with Abu Rezoan Ureka and Ahsan Kibria Siddiqui as president and general secretary respectively.

Kamrul Hasan's anniversary of death observed

By Staff Correspondent

A memorial meeting on renowned artist Kamrul Hasan, also known as Patua, was organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday on the 8th anniversary of his death.

The meeting held in the conference room of the Academy, was addressed by Rafiqun Nabi, Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin, Aly Zaker, Dr Nowajesh Ahmed, Begum Nahid Akhter, Subir Chowdhury and S Reza Karim.

The speakers discussed the life and works of the great artist, who died on stage of the National Poetry Festival in the TSC area eight years ago. He had just finished drawing the famous caricature of the then autocratic ruler, Ershad.

Rafiqun Nabi, in his tribute to the artist said, 'Alongside art, he also taught us that artists have a role and responsibilities outside the work of art.' Hasan was not only a versatile and innovative artist, he was also a relentless proponent of Bengali nationalism and progressive politics, Nabi added.

Remembering the life of the artist, Dr Sharfuddin said Hasan, who was born in a cemetery where his father used to work, had gone from an act of rebellion at that time. 'He was a charismatic character, who influenced a lot of other artists,' Sharfuddin added.

Nabi made jurist for body against child labour

Professor Rafiqun Nabi, director of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, has been nominated a member of the jury board in the International Tribunal Against Child Labour and Forced Labour to be held next month in Mexico city, reports BSS.

The selection of Prof. Nabi a noted artist and cartoonist of the country as a member of the tribunal, was made at a meeting held in the city Thursday. Prof. Kabir Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

Nabi through his famous cartoon 'Tokai' (Urchin) has evoked people's conscious about the woes and miseries of the underprivileged.

The selection meeting was attended by Dr Abdullah-al-Muti Sharfuddin and Dr. Ahmed Rafique.

NGWF observes TU Rights' Day

The National Garments Workers Federation (NGWF) yesterday observed the Trade Union Rights Protection day in the city, reports UNB.

The workers brought out a procession and held a rally at Topkhana Road on the occasion.



Japanese Ambassador Yoshikazu Kaneko handing over some equipment to the National Heart Foundation Hospital in the city Thursday. Social Welfare Secretary Shah Abdul Hannan, Justice Chowdhury A T M Masud and Prof Abdul Malik president and secretary general of the foundation respectively, received the equipment.

What's on today...

Rotary Club of Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held, Venue: Sarojganj Hotel, Time: 5:15 pm.

National Democratic Front: The front will hold a press conference, Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium, Time: 5 pm.

ICMAB exam rescheduled
The examination of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) scheduled for today, will begin from 2.30 pm instead of 10 am due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

Qulkhwani
Qulkhwani of Syed Fakhruddin Iqbal, senior sub-editor of Dainik Janakantha, was held at his Purana Pallan residence after Asar prayers yesterday, reports BSS. Political leaders, journalists, relatives, friends and well-wishers of the deceased attended the *qul* and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

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Auction Notice

Banque Indosuez proposes to auction one car DAIHATSU CHARADE, 4 Door Sedan, 1300 CC, Model 1989.

Auction will be subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The sale will be on as is where is basis.
- 2) Quotations will be accepted for 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
- 3) Quotations will be opened on 10.02.96 and the Bank reserves the right to accept/reject any offer without assigning any reason.
- 4) The purchaser will have to pay the amount in cash to the Bank.

For all inquiries, please contact on telephone Nos. 9561836/38, 9566572, 9566566-7 during office hours.

Banque Indosuez
47, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Office of the Executive Engineer
Chandpur O&M Division
BWDB, Chandpur

Tender Notice
Tender No 17/1995-1996
(2nd Call) Group-B

1. Tenders are hereby invited from the 'A & B' class contractors for the year 1994-1995 under BWDB in connection with Chandpur Town Protection Scheme under Chandpur O&M Division, BWDB, Chandpur during the year 1995-1996 financed by GOB (217-Dev).

| Tender No Group No | Name of work | Estimated amount | Tender security @ 2.5% | Cost of tender document | Time for completion of work | Eligibility of contractors |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 17/95-96 Gr. No. B | Meghna River Bank protective work by carrying, placing & dumping of CC blocks including the items of allied works at Natunbaraz & Puranbaraz area, Chandpur | 4252387.00 | 106810.00 | 750.00 | 90 days | 'A & B' class |

2. Name of offices where tenders will be received on 11.2.1996, 12.2.1996 during office hours and on 13.2.1996 up to 12.00 noon by:
 - a) Office of the Superintending Engineer, Dhaka O&M Circle, BWDB, Dhaka.
 - b) Office of the Executive Engineer, Chandpur O&M Division, BWDB, Chandpur.
 - c) Office of the Executive Engineer, Comilla O&M Division, WDB, Comilla.
3. Name of offices where tender documents will be sold up to office/banking hours on 12.2.96. No tender documents will be sold on the last date fixed for receiving the tender.
 - a) Office of the Manager, Sonali Bank, Sholghar Branch, Chandpur.
 - b) Office of the Manager, Sonali Bank, WAPDA Branch, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
 - c) Office of the Manager, Janata Bank, Samabya Beponi, Kandirpar, Comilla.
4. Tender will be opened on 13.2.1996 at 12.30 PM simultaneously in the respective offices receiving the tender in the presence of the tenderer who wish to be present.
5. All other relevant informations may be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days.

PANI-372/95-96
DFP-2466-30/1
G-204

Executive Engineer
Chandpur O&M Division
BWDB, Chandpur

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Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in Local/Foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufactures/suppliers/indentors/dealers (enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Army:

| Serial | Nomenclature | Qty | Selling date | Date of opening | Cost of I/T and currency |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. | Nicad Bty MA-6982-2A | 24 | 10-2-96 to 09-3-96 | 11-3-96 | Taka 10.00 Local currency |
| b. | Camera Model K1000 OR Yashica J-Mini supper OR Nikon FM-2, OR Canon 35mm, Japan +2.5% spares | 12 | 10-2-96 to 09-3-96 | 11-3-96 | Taka 20.00 Foreign currency |
| c. | Fd Tel Set complete with accessories, China OR Fd Tel Set TA-312/PT complete accessories, USA. | 20 | 10-2-96 to 09-3-96 | 11-3-96 | Taka 20.00 Foreign currency |
| d. | Fd Tel Cable Type WD-1/TT USA ORD-10, UK complete | 10 | 10-2-96 to 09-3-96 | 11-3-96 | Taka 10.00 Foreign currency |
| e. | Fd Tel Exchange 20 Line complete with accessories | 02 | 10-2-96 to 09-3-96 | 11-3-96 | Taka 15.00 Foreign currency |
| f. | Spares for Radio Set-889 | 25 line items | 10-2-96 to 10-3-96 | 13-3-96 | Taka 20.00 Foreign currency |
| g. | Fax Machine Non Tac complete with accessories + 2.5% spares | 2 | 10-2-96 to 10-3-96 | 13-3-96 | Taka 15.00 Foreign currency |
| h. | Spare parts for Radio Set | 20 line items | 10-2-96 to 10-3-96 | 13-3-96 | Taka 20.00 Local/Foreign currency |
| i. | Robin Brand Generator RGX-2400 OR Honda Generator EM-2500X complete Japan | 109 | 10-2-96 to 10-3-96 | 13-3-96 | Taka 100.00 Foreign currency |

2. Detail specification, nomenclature, and quantity of items have been mentioned in the tender schedule. The tender schedule will be available on cash payment against the mentioned amount (not refundable) at above mention dates on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on aforesaid date at 1000 hrs in presence of all tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/96/255
DFP-2394-30/1
G-202

Major
For Director General