

Dhaka Day by Day

MIDAS Mini Mart

by S M S Jaja

MIDAS Mini Mart, a shop of dainty articles of dress, food, decor etc was opened on January 27, 1995. Financed by MIDAS, the project provides — marketing outlets for products of 20 enterprising owners entirely by women.

The shop a la Bazaar sells fancy goods, integrating women entrepreneurs of Giffraat, Shrijoni, Fantasia, Ruby Shilpa Kutir, Rupabati, Bontai Plants, Bhabhi Boutique, Spellbound, Narita, Tycoon, Juthika, Ritu's Fashion, Delicia, Satroon, Nabani and Sucharu. The Sponsors aim to provide quality goods for the average shoppers at competitive prices," said Khadiza Afzal of Giffraat. Consisting of five rooms on the ground floor at House No 13/1, Road No 27 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, the shop sells Punjabis (at around Tk 650), women's wares (at Tk 600 to Tk 3000), sarees (Tk 800-Tk 1750) and ornaments of pearls (Tk 240-Tk 1750). Also, you'll find Knick-Knacks such as nifty hand-made mirrors/Candles/dolls as well as dinky dresses for infants and even table mats and saucers. The first thing to catch your eyes as you enter the shop is the variety of *bonsai* plants at the counter. You will also find traditional tapestries and purses made of fabric and leather (Tk 240-Tk 1750).

If looking for something different, one will find oneself scouring through Raby's collection of instant food, curry-stuffs, herbal beauty-care products, chutney, mixes and above all herbal medicines. "This Arthritis Cure Oil for Tk 500 only is one of

my main attractions and hundred per cent of my clients have benefitted from using it," enthused Ruby of Ruby Shilpa Kutir.

When going on a spree without having hob-nobs is unfulfilling, shopping at the Mini Mart won't disappoint you either. The food corner 'Delicia' is just another room offering *Shammi Kabab*, paratha, planju mix, beef cofta, beef-roll, beef samosa, burgers and other casual snacks. The prices reasonably range between Tk 10 to Tk 30.

Despite the smallness of the rooms, the shop has a homely atmosphere and is the result of a concerted effort of a group of creative women. "All the entrepreneurs are also member of Women Entrepreneurs Association (WEA) and we are doing this as a part of MIDAS 'Women in Development' Programme," said Mrs Afroz Yusuf who is a school teacher and one of the three sponsors of Delicia.

According to Khadiza Afzal, the project is the second phase of MIDAS programme for Women in Development where it has been financing projects involving a total cost of Tk 200,000 without any collateral securities, under the MIDI programme for the last two years. During the period from September '95 to November '95, MIDAS has approved loans worth Tk 10.55 millions to 63 projects. Moreover, this project alone will create jobs for 606 people.

As it offers a 10 per cent discount, the MIDAS Mini Mart is worth visiting where one can eat and shop comfortably at affordable prices.



Female resident students of the Dhaka University brought out a procession on the campus yesterday condemning the recent police action at JN Hall. — Star photo

Programmes on Eid-ul-Fitre

The government has taken elaborate programmes to celebrate the holy Eid-ul-Fitre an official handout said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

A high-level inter-ministerial meeting on observance of the Eid-ul-Fitr was held yesterday at the conference room of the Ministry of Religious Affairs with State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan in the chair.

Secretary of the ministry Mohammad Abdul Hannan, additional secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs AKM Faroque and high officials of different ministries concerned were present in the meeting.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will give messages to the nation on this occasion.

The main Eid congregation would be held at the national Eid *gah* maidan at 8 am. In case of inclement weather, it would be held at the Baitul Mokarram National Mosque at 8 am.

National flags and bunting inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak' both in Bengali and Arabic will be hoisted by the sides of the thorough fares and road islands from Dhaka Gate at Banani to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh will telecast special programmes while the newspapers will publish special supplements.

Special diets will be served to the patients jail inmates, children centres, baby homes, vagrant welfare centres and the destitute

welfare centres.

After the Eid prayer, Ministry of Information will arrange screening of films and organise cultural functions at city parks and other areas.

Islamic Foundation and Islamic Cultural centres in different districts will arrange seminars and discussions on the significance of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Children reunion and charity football matches will also be held.

Divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and thana nirbahi officers will arrange programmes in accordance with the national programmes.

Similarly, Bangladesh missions abroad will also celebrate the day.

BCL demands resignation of DU VC

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League yesterday accused the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor of patronising the armed hoodlums of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), reports UNB.

"The VC is acting as the guardian of the ruling party's terrorists," said BCL president Enamul Haque at a rally in front of *Aparajeyo Bangla* in the morning.

Addressing the rally, the BCL leaders demanded immediate resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed as he failed to check the growing terrorism on the campus.



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What's on today....

- Film show:** The film *Sangam* by Zahir Raihan will be screened. Venue: Russian Culture Centre. Time: 2:30 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: House 7/6, Block-D, Lalmitia. Time: 4:30 pm.
- Founding anniversary:** The ninth founding anniversary of *Drists* will be observed. Venue: TSC premises, DU.
- Discussion on Islam in the US:** The United States Information Service will hold the discussion. Venue: Jiban Bima Bhaban. Time: 2:30 pm.

Weather

Weather to remain dry

Prevailing dry weather is likely to continue across the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Met Office says no appreciable change in night temperature is expected over the country during the period. Giving extended outlook for another five days, weathermen forecast rise in night temperature. The country's lowest temperature 10.4 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the highest 31 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar. The sun sets today at 5:48 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37 am. The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	min	max	morning	evening
Dhaka	12.4	29.5	64	43
Chittagong	14.8	30.3	73	54
Rajshahi	10.8	27.6	79	59
Khulna	14.4	29.5	66	59
Barisal	13.4	29.5	80	60
Sylhet	13.0	28.5	64	40

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(A. S. A. Muiz)
Deputy General Manager
Establishment Department, Head office,
33, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

SBC/PR/Tender-05/96.

Photo contest winners

The external publicity wing of the Ministry of Information, yesterday announced the names of the winners of Colour Photo Contest 1996, reports BSS.

The winners are: 1st — Bayazid Akter, 2nd — Shihab Uddin, 3rd — Md. Shafiqur Rahman honourable mention (HM)-1 MA Beg, HM-2 Mur-taza Toufiqul Islam, HM-3 Bayazid Akter, HM-4 Habibul Bahar Chowdhury, HM-5 Sirajul Hossain, HM-6 Nasir Mahmud, HM-7 Anjan Kumar Majumder, and special jury award for Shueb Faruki.

The prize distribution ceremony and the inauguration of a photo exhibition will be held on February 10, at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 11 am.

The external publicity wing has for the first time arranged a colour photo contest and an exhibition on the scenic beauty of Bangladesh, its people, art, culture, customs-traditions, everyday life, archaeological sites, tourist spots and places of interests.

The exhibition is expected to be inaugurated by Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam. The exhibition which will remain open to all will continue till 12th instant.

Botany—2000 Asia begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: A three-day seminar and workshop on Botany 2000—Asia, began at the Mathematical and Physical Science Research Centre of the Chittagong University here today, reports BSS.

The seminar is being held under the auspices of Chittagong University Botany Department and UNESCO regional office of Science and Technology for South and Central Asia.

Vice-chancellor of the university Prof Raqul Islam Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop attended by botanists from India, Bangladesh and UNESCO.

Prof. Chowdhury expressed the hope that the workshop would provide an opportunity to the taxonomists from South and South-East Asia to expand and exchange their knowledge in the relevant field.

Botany-2000 Asia, would play an important role in stimulating taxonomic research on Asian flora, he added.

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN SAUDI ARABIA

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