

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Shopping Frenzy before Eid

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

Even an avid shopper thinks twice before going shopping during Eid season. The inevitable traffic jam on the way to the market, the "human" jam at the shops, the devious pickpockets, the hysterical shoppers... the reasons are innumerable. Yet, come Eid the average Dhaka dweller finds himself or mostly herself, heading shopwards anyway. What induces you to break your last year's solemn vow to finish Eid shopping two months before Eid? Lack of will power? Most definitely not! Well, the story actually goes something like this. The tailor doesn't have your dress ready even three weeks after the due delivery date. Your cousin calls from Boston at the crack of dawn, telling you to send her some traditional stuff. The list reads: and ethnic vest, hand-made paper note book with Grameen check cover, terracotta and water hyacinth jewelry etc. You have to buy a sari for your maid's grandmother, who decides to pay a visit a week before Eid and then also you need some Eid cards for friends abroad. Therefore you "must" go to the market. The back and forth agonizing trips to the shopping centres have, however, provided you a sneak preview of how the Dhakaites are gearing up for the biggest religious festival of the Muslim population. Eid seems to negate the fact that Bengalis are a laid-back lot. With renewed vigour and enthusiasm they literally "shop" till they drop.

You sit on one of those wild and noisy contraptions and dazedly wonder whether the tailor is going to give you his favourite line: "Hartal is impeding my work." Boredom forces you to look for amusement. You inspect the occupants in the near by vehicles. Sad, tired, anxious, animated, exasperated, angry all kinds of faces around you. The terrible thing is, they all seemed to be going to the shops. Suddenly a push from the back and the cacophony of bells and horns intrude your thoughts. Your previous impatience with the traffic deadlock gives way to dread as you take in the crowded entrance of the market. Before you know it, you will be pushed forward by some eager buyers desperate to get in. Don't be surprised at being pushed around either by people or by objects. It's the way of life here. After puffing and panting and fighting all the way you reach the tailoring shop, only to find out your guess was 100 per cent correct. The tailor had his "ready excuse" for you. You remember your finicky little sister wanted you to get burgundy velvet material from a shop located at the last row of Chadni Chowk. On any other day, it wouldn't be such a big deal but on Eid time, it was pure suicide! Anyhow, thinking about the

Eid spirit and all that crap you struggle to get inside. After shoving and jostling your way through the throng of masses (of course, you're not aggressive by nature, it's just that situation demands it) you reach the shop in question. But you can't enter as the place is filled with frenzied buyers. After screaming your lungs out for 15 minutes a kind hearted soul informs you that the burgundy material has been sold, but you can take the royal blue velvet instead. Having had enough of that market you decide to go to Eastern Plaza.

Just the thought of that air conditioned, spacious shopping centre soothes your ruffled nerves and even makes another dose of traffic hazards bearable. What a rude awakening you were in for! The jam there was inconceivable, worse than the one you faced earlier; giving you a pretty good idea of what's in store for you inside. The transport-blocked roads prevent you from turning back, so in you go. The "houseful" atmosphere in the usually calm plaza with its jam-packed escalators, under ordinary circumstances would have looked hilarious if it wasn't so pathetic. People were waiting in lines by the escalators reluctant to use the relatively bare staircases. As myriad customers walk along, you hear two mutter, "Why there are so many in sight and that's not the way it should be!" Puzzled you check, yes, you are at the accessories section of the complex which surely attracts more girls? But these days the erstwhile "women's paradise" Gwalia Market too swarms with guys. On your way out, you hear some one crying for help. Her handbag has been stolen. Obviously, the work of pickpockets. You frantically search your own bag. No, the money's there, but it couldn't have been you. Losing money during this time of the year at the markets is a common occurrence. Just a few days back a lucky lady got her money (about Tk 5,000) back near a prominent sari store at Baily road when she voiced her suspicions about a small boy. The security people and the passers-by came to her rescue. It was later known that the kid was a mere accomplice for a lady who he entered the shop with.

During crazy Eid time, it's wise for all the shoppers to follow two rules.

(1) Learn how to elbow and fight your way around the shops and

(2) Beware of pickpockets. Try not to carry too much money with you. After all not everyone is as lucky as the abovementioned lady.

All said and done it's better yet, to stay away from the city shopping centres at least three weeks before Eid. If you can, that is.

Tk 9.8 lakh snatched in city: Three hurt

By DMCH Correspondent

Unidentified gangs snatched around Tk 9.8 lakh injuring three persons in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The muggers snatched Tk 9 lakh from Islampur, Tk 75,000 from Gulistan and Tk 5,000 from Kawan Bazar areas.

A gang of about five armed men hurled several cocktails, opened fire and took away a bag containing Tk 9 lakh from Abdul Hannan, 35, an export-import businessman, at Islampur in the old part of the city in the afternoon.

Hannan, son of Hashmatullah Patoari received bullet wounds in his thighs and bomb injuries in his body, sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said.

The victim, elder brother of Abdul Azad, the owner of Daffodil Overseas Ltd at Khilkhet super market, went to Islampur at around noon to collect

the loan money from one Palash of the area.

Hannan, who went to the Islampur branch of the United Commercial Bank with his sister-in-law said that the muggers started throwing crackers and firing when they went out of the bank at around 2:15pm.

In another incident, a group of youths snatched Tk 75,000 from one Kamrul, 60, a cloth trader, after injuring him near Gulistan cinema hall.

Kamrul, who came to Dhaka from Barisal to purchase cloths was passing the area by a rickshaw. He was admitted to the DMCH and later released, medical sources said.

Meanwhile, muggers stabbed one Jamal, 23 and snatched Tk 5,000 from him near the rail crossing at Kawan Bazar.

Jamal, a trader, was admitted to the DMCH with stab injuries in his head and back.

What's on today

Birth anniversary of Ramakrishna: The four day programme will mark the 161st birth anniversary of the saint. Venue: Ramakrishna Mission. Time: 12 noon.

French film show: The film 'Les Granges Brulees' will be screened. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 3:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: 7-13, Satmasjid Road. Time: 3:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: 76, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4:45 pm.

Upward trend in Ctg Eid sales

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 18: Chittagong, the country's commercial hub today witnessed brisk Eid-shopping.

Most of the city markets including Reazuddin Bazar, Bimani Bazar (New Market), Mimi Super Market, Apollo Market, Highway Plaza and Lucky Plaza have been illuminated.

Thousands of buyers streamed into the city markets and make-shift pavement shops.

During a spot visit, it was found that prices of goods are cheaper at the footpath shops than at the city's posh markets.

A locally made shirt costs between Taka 80 to 100 in the pavements while it is sold between Taka 300 to 400 at the posh markets.

As a result, pavement-shops and Jahur Hawker Market which is popular for second-hand clothes, drew large number of customers even from

the affluent class.

Market sources said that due to cheap prices and availability of variety in clothes, Jahur Hawker Market attracted even the posh shoppers.

However, it is alleged that customers often fall victim to cheating at the Singapore Market which is also known as Dubai Market at Agrabad Commercial Area.

However, the city markets are flooded with foreign goods due to laxity in anti-smuggling drive.

Most of the contraband arrive through Chittagong Airport and by road, sources said.

In the early part of Ramadan, task force personnel raided the Mimi Super Market. But the raid turned into a clash with the shopkeepers that left around 20 persons injured. After that incident no further raid was made in the city markets.

Weather

Weather to remain dry

Weather is likely to remain dry across the country during the next 12 hour till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says no appreciable change in night temperature is expected over the country.

The country's highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest 8.7 degrees at Sri-mangal.

The sun sets today at 5:56 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	29.5	13.2	48	40
Chittagong	29.8	14.4	57	42
Rajshahi	29.6	10.3	66	54
Khulna	29.0	13.9	73	57
Barisal	29.6	12.6	63	57



Dr M A Wazed Miah speaking at the publication ceremony of his book at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

— Star photo

Obituary

Rabeya Khatun, wife of late Abdul Hafiz and sister of former Vice Chancellor of the Rajshahi University Dr Montajuddin Ahmed, died of brain haemorrhage Saturday. She was 76, reports BSS.

She left behind two daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Lake Circus, Jam-e-Mashjid. She was buried at the Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard.

Rehana Ahmed, wife of late Nizam Ahmed, died yesterday at her residence at 35B, Road No 27 (old), Dhanmondi R/A. in the city, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons and one daughter.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held today at Lalmatia Block-C, Masjid after Zahr prayers.

ANATOMIC MASSAGE SANDAL

SONY

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আমরা আমাদের মক্কেল SONY CORPORATION, JAPAN -এর পক্ষে বাংলাদেশের সকল ইলেকট্রনিক্স প্রযুক্তি প্রদর্শনকারী, সংযোজনকারী ও সকল খুচরা ইলেকট্রনিক্স যন্ত্রাংশ আমদানীকারক প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহ, পাইকারী ও খুচরা ব্যবসায়ী এবং সর্বোপরি সম্মানিত ক্রেতা সাধারণসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানাইতেছি যে, **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড, ৬৮, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশে আমাদের উপরোক্তিত মক্কেলের একমাত্র এবং বৈধ একমাত্র হিসাবে দীর্ঘদিন যাবৎ **SONY** নামের টেলিভিশন, টি-ইন-ওয়ান ও অন্যান্য ইলেকট্রনিক্স সামগ্রীসহ যাবতীয় খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ বৈধভাবে আমদানী করিয়া সরাসরি **SONY CORPORATION, JAPAN** -এর অভিজ্ঞ বিদেশী প্রকৌশলী ও তাঁদের তত্ত্বাবধানে দেশীয় দক্ষ ও অভিজ্ঞ কারিগর দ্বারা সংযোজন করিয়া **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড এবং তথ্যসহ তাহাদের অনুমোদিত ডিলারদের মাধ্যমে দেশে পৌঁছে দেয়া করিয়া আসিতেছেন। সম্প্রতি বেশ কিছু অভিযোগের প্রেক্ষিতে আমাদের উপরোক্ত মক্কেল অবগত হইয়াছেন যে কিছু সংখ্যক অসদুপ ব্যবসায়ী ব্যবসায়ী বিদেশের কোনো বাজার হইতে নকল ও নিম্নমানের **SONY** নাম সজলিত বিভিন্ন খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ আমদানী করিয়া তাহা স্থানীয়ভাবে অসদুপ ও অনভিজ্ঞ কারিগর দ্বারা সংযোজন করিয়া বিদেশ হইতে সরাসরি আমদানী করা **SONY** টেলিভিশন হিসাবে বিক্রয় করিতেছে বা ক্রিয়ার অপচেষ্টায় রত যাহা দলবিরোধিতার আওতাধীন নহে।

আরও উল্লেখ্য যে, আমাদের উপরোক্ত মক্কেলের স্থানীয় প্রতিনিধি/এজেন্ট, **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড 'বাতীত বাংলাদেশের অন্য কাহারো **SONY** নাম সজলিত কোন ইলেকট্রনিক্স সামগ্রী আমদানী ও বাজারজাত ক্রিয়ার আইনভুক্ত কোন অধিকার নাই। আমাদের মক্কেলের প্রতিনিধি/এজেন্ট, **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড -এর **SONY** টেলিভিশন ব্যতীত বাজারে পাওয়া যায় এমন তথ্যকথিত **SONY** টেলিভিশন গুণগত মানের দিক হইতে অনেক নিম্নমানের এবং উহার কোন গ্যারান্টি/নিশ্চয়তা আসে নাই বা বিক্রোতা নিশ্চয়তা দিতে অপারগ।

যেহেতু আমাদের মক্কেলের এজেন্ট **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড-ই **SONY** সামগ্রী বৈধভাবে সরাসরি আমদানী করেন এবং আমাদের মক্কেলের তত্ত্বাবধানে সংযোজন করেন সে কারণে কেবলমাত্র **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড-ই **SONY** টেলিভিশন-এর জন্য ৪ বৎসরের গ্যারান্টি দিতে সক্ষম। অন্য কেউ নয়। বিদেশ হইতে খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশের নামে অবৈধভাবে আনীত তথ্য কথিত **SONY** সামগ্রীর কোন গ্যারান্টি নাই। আমাদের মক্কেল তাই 'বিতীতভাবে' সকল সম্মানিত ক্রেতা সাধারণকে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছেন যে:

● ৪ বছরের গ্যারান্টি ও **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড-ই **SONY** টেলিভিশন ব্যতীত অন্য কোন **SONY** টেলিভিশন ক্রয় করিবেন না;

● অন্য কোন **SONY** টেলিভিশন ক্রয় করিলে তাহার জন্য **SONY CORPORATION, JAPAN** বা **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড দায়ী থাকিবেনা এবং কোন প্রকার গ্যারান্টির সুবিধা প্রদানে বাধ্য থাকিবেনা।

উপরোক্ত অবস্থার প্রেক্ষিতে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে এই মর্মে সতর্ক করা যাইতেছে যে, যদি কেহ আমাদের মক্কেলের এজেন্ট **SONY** ইলেকট্রনিক্স লিমিটেড-এর অনুমোদন ব্যতীত অন্য কোন উপায়ে অবৈধভাবে **SONY** নাম সজলিত কোন ইলেকট্রনিক্স সামগ্রী দেশে আমদানী করে বা খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ আমদানী ও সংযোজন করিয়া তাহা বাজারজাত করে অথবা ক্রয় ক্রিয়ার ক্ষেত্রে কেহ কাহারোকে সহযোগিতা করে তবে আমরা আমাদের মক্কেল **SONY CORPORATION, JAPAN** -এর ব্যবসায়িক সুনাম ও বর্ধমান রক্ষাকল্পে এসকল অসদুপ ব্যবসায়ী ও তাহাদের সহযোগীদের বিরুদ্ধে দলবিরোধিতার আওতাধীন যাবতীয় গ্রহণযোগ্য ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করিব।

বন্দোবস্ত পামসুখিন হাফিজ, অ্যাডভোকেট
দেওয়ান হোসেন, অ্যাডভোকেট

মিজা কামরুল হাসান, অ্যাডভোকেট
মকিমুল হক মিজা, অ্যাডভোকেট

দি ল কনসাল্টেন্টস

৩৫/এ, পুরানা পল্টন লাইন, ডি.আই.পি. রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০

Eid Mubarak from

AMA International University Bangladesh

9, Mohakhali C/A, High Tower, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Announces:

Opening of First Semester Classes, 1996-97 on Feb 28, 1996.

Orientation to be conducted on Feb 27, at 10 a.m. 1996 at the Campus.

(Parents & Guardians are Cordially Invited)



A I U B

MH MENG HORNG SHIPPING PTE LTD
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. MAJ SIF V-9603 IMP. ROT NO. 155/96 TOOK BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON 17TH FEBRUARY 1996 WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS PORTS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO AND/OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

AGENTS:

Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.

(A BIC COMPANY)



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