

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Defacing City's Landscape

by A S M Nurunnabi

Bill boards, hoardings, etc form part of a city's landscape. Particularly those which are festooned with neon lights add to the colour and charm of city life. It has been observed that the more a city is commercially developed, the greater the number of advertisement displays on road sides and at important places of the city. Of course, there are some cities, Singapore for instance, where the civic authorities do not allow setting up of any advertisement board at such places which hinders the view of natural beauty of any location at the background. Perhaps taking a cue from such examples, the Dhaka City Corporation has lately taken decision for removal of all bill boards and hoardings on that portion of the road running from the Shahbagh Avenue to allow unhindered view of the Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Uddyan, situated on each side of the road.

Now at the end of the general elections held lately, we are presented with a messy view of the city landscape. The rules framed in connection with the conduct of the elections, gave clear guidelines about the size and colour of election posters to be used by the candidates in course of their campaign. In the absence of any indication as to where such election posters should be used, the candidates and their supporters ran amuck with the placement of their posters. As the bill boards, hoardings, sign boards erected by the sides of City's thoroughfares provided convenient and readily available supporting spaces for the various posters, those advertising structures are now found to be the worst casualties of such indiscriminate posterage. At some places, it is

seen that the entire spaces of big advertising boards have been plastered with such posters, totally obliterating the advertisements carried thereon.

There seems to be no realisation on the part of the people who resorted to such random posterage that they were doing positive disservice to the people who put up the advertisement boards. Its foremost aspect is the financial loss caused to the advertisers who, besides paying lease money for the sites, incurred considerable erection and painting costs. The damage thus caused appears to be total in most cases and it does not seem possible to restore the original condition by just removing the posters. Repainting in almost all cases seems to be necessary and that means incurring an additional cost by the advertisers.

Perhaps, in future, the advertisers putting up such bill boards and hoardings will press the authorities concerned to take appropriate measures to protect their advertising structures on roadsides. In this connection, it may be noted that in the UK placement or pasting of posters or other election papers on bill boards and hoardings set up by others is an offence under their municipal law. If any political party seeking election in that country desires to put up any of their posters or election material, they need to set up their own structures for the purpose. Similarly it is felt that in future municipal law in our country should make it an offence to place posters or other publicity materials on bill boards and hoardings set up by other advertising concerns. Such a measure may help in maintaining a clean look of the city.

### JU convocation likely in Nov

By JU Correspondent

The first-ever convocation of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) is likely to be held in the first fortnight November this year, official sources said.

The university syndicate took the decision at a meeting recently.

Earlier the JU authorities had to revise the date three times mainly due to country's political situation.

Preparations including printing of the certificates and the making of the gowns for the attendants have already been completed.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) in the meantime has allocated a special grant for this purpose.

The fresh date of the convocation will be announced soon.

### JU budget for '96-97 prepared

By JU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have prepared a revenue budget of Tk. 15.38 crore, with a deficit of Tk. 66.00 lakh, for the fiscal 1996-97, officials said.

University syndicate at a recent meeting suggested the budget for the approval of the JU senate. The annual budget session of the senate will be held on June 27.

In the proposed budget revenue income has been shown as Tk. 14.52 crore while Tk. 15.38 crore has been proposed for expenditure.

Of the revenue income, the University Grants Commission will give Tk. 14.18 crore against Tk. 19.00 crore requested by the university authority while Tk. 1.2 crore will be collected from the university's own sources.

In the proposed budget Tk. 4.66 crore has been allocated for educational departments while Tk. 1.56 crore for residential halls and Tk. 2.44 crore for administrative departments. Education and research sectors are not getting adequate allocations as seventy per cent of the total budget is spent for paying salaries and other purposes.

Under the Annual Development Programme (ADB) of the fiscal 1996-97, a total of Tk. 7.83 crore has been proposed for development budget.

The allocations under the ADP have been proposed for the installation of a new telephone exchange, completion of a female residential hall, social science building and mathematics building and for higher educational training and research.



Anura Bandarnaike, a member of the SAARC election observer team, handing over personal messages of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Srimavo Bandarnaike to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in city on Thursday.

### SAARC seminar on monsoonal rain concludes

The 3-day SAARC seminar on "Predictability of Monsoonal Rain" concluded in Dhaka yesterday, emphasising on more frequent exchange of ideas and technologies among the member countries having common natural calamities, reports UNB.

"Probably Bangladesh is the worst affected country among the SAARC countries," Director General of Environment ANM Wahed said while presiding over the closing session of the seminar at a local hotel.

He said Bangladesh does not contribute to global warming and climate change, but is getting the effect of these for which the developed countries are responsible. "We became victims, but the situation was created by the developed countries."

Quoting statistics of the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Wahed said USA has the highest 5.03 per head per kilogram emission of Carbon Dioxide, followed by 4.6 in Canada, 4.2 in Germany, 4 in Australia, 0.2 in India and 0.13 in Bangladesh.

Referring to the effect of sea level rise in Bangladesh, the Environment Directorate chief said that only a 1-metre rise in sea level may lead to 17 to 17.5 per cent land-loss in Bangladesh in next 50-100 years.

In the concluding session, Deputy Director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) Anwarul Kabir presented country report on Bangladesh. Deputy DGM of Indian Meteorological Department Dr MK Guha presented his country report and Mandira Rajbahak of Nepal Met Department the Nepalese country report.

Country reports were also presented by Waqar Ahmed of Pakistan Met Department and BRSB Basnayake of the Sri Lanka Met Department.

The session was also addressed by BMD Director MF Qayyum and Deputy Director (headquarter) Sazedur Rahman.

Some 30 weather scientists and flood experts from five SAARC countries — India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh — participated in the seminar organised by Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

### Iranian film on BTV today

The Bangladesh Television will televise the Iranian film 'Je Pul Foteni' today. BTV will also screen the film Shetab Zadeh in the next quarter, says a press release of the Iranian Cultural centre.

### JUJA concerned

By JU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University Journalists Association (JUJA) in a press statement Thursday condemned the misconduct of a student leader with the JU correspondent of the daily Bhorer Kagoj recently.

It was alleged that Asadullah Asad, the general secretary of the JU Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), misbehaved with the JU correspondent of the vernacular daily Abdullah Al Mohan following the publication of his report titled 'Students anxious on returning of the JCD local faction' on June 17. He also threatened the correspondent with dire consequences.

JUJA urged all concerned to refrain from such practice in the future.

### Repolling was peaceful: FEMA

By FEMA Correspondent

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) on Thursday said that the June 19 repolling was satisfactory, and that barring few exceptions, the voting was open and peaceful, reports BSS.

"The fact that there were irregularities in some cases does not mean the election in general was unfair," Fakhrudin Ahmed, chairperson of FEMA said in a written statement on repolling at a press conference at city hotel.

### Errata

In our yesterday's photo caption published on Page 2, Fakruddin Ahmed, chairperson of FEMA, has been identified as secretary general of the organisation. We regret the inadvertent error.

### HR body urges next govt to run admn neutrally

By HR Correspondent

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) yesterday urged the party which bagged majority seats in the June 12 election to run the administration fairly and neutrally, report BSS.

The BSEHR also appealed to the second largest party to accept the election results and to go for self-evaluation.

Addressing a press conference at the BSEHR's Bhojona office here, its secretary-general advocate Sigma Huda said that the party which was going to form the government must run the country impartially and without any vindictive.

She said post-election violent activities were being reported from various parts of the country and hence the majority party must run the administration without any retaliation.

The BSEHR secretary-general also urged the second largest party to start self-evaluation for its election debacle.

Presenting the observations of the society, Huda said that the voters had proved themselves to be secular and rejected the fundamentalists. BSEHR, which observed the June 12 election and the June 19 repolling as an independent body with the assistance of over 5000 volunteers, said the retired army officers were not largely accepted by the people.

The society evaluated that the intellectuals were proved to be isolated from the people and failed to succeed in the election.

It also observed that the terrorists activities were curtailed to a great extent due to the restrictions imposed on

the movement of certain types of vehicles. Another indiscriminate use of black money.

During the observation, she said, a random survey revealed that 60 per cent of the voters stated the election as a brilliant example of fair play. 20 per cent commented as fairly well and the remaining 20 per cent described it as satisfactory.

She said that the women were extremely enthusiastic about the elections.

She observed that the announcement of election results from distant and remote areas at early hours and the results of Dhaka metropolis in the very late hours had given rise to suspicion in the minds of the people.

She alleged the returning officers had failed to issue the cards to many observers and even to some leading journalists. Allegations of vote rigging has also been reported from different parts of the country, she added.

The society suggested introduction of identity card for each and every voter, holding of the national election at least in three days instead of one day, stopping the door-to-door campaign to free the election from the influence of black money, collection of all licensed arms at least seven days before the election, establishment of mobile courts to monitor proper application of the election code of conduct, and introduction of curriculum on voting at the higher secondary level.



No qualms about the encroachment.

— Star photo

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