

Dhaka Day by Day

Hoodwinking overtakes Wood-work

by Ayesha Fariha



I would like to tell you a story about a carpenter and his customer.

Day 1: A woman hires a carpenter to build frames for a door and eight windows. The carpenter confirms he will complete the work in a week.

Day 5: The frame for the door is yet to materialise, and the carpenter says he needs Taka 3,000 to buy hinges, nails, clamps, handles, etc. he implies that the customer, being female and one who has all through lived in this city never to be familiar with mundane jobs like carpentry, does not possess the required intelligence to purchase these items. She does not take kindly to these aspersions on her gender, and she heads off to the first hardware store she can find. The total comes to Taka 225. There is a difference of Tk 2775 between the carpenter's estimate and the actual price of the goods, but she decides to keep silent on the matter.

Day 10: The door frame has just been fitted, and the window frames have yet to come into existence. The carpenter says he needs Taka 2,000 to buy glass for the windows. The customer says she will give him the money the next day. The woman then goes to a glass store and strikes

a deal with the manager. They agree he will tell the carpenter that he will charge Tk 2,000 for Taka 400 worth of glass, and the two men will split the difference.

Day 11: The woman tells the carpenter that she will accompany him to the glass store. Carpenter sweats. Everything goes according to plan, and carpenter is happy he has an accomplice. Work resumes. Client collects the balance Taka 1,600 from the glass store manager.

Day 12: The woman charges the carpenter, who incidentally has not produced the windows, and says the cost of the glass was only Taka 400. So where did the remaining Taka 1,600 go? The carpenter says the glass store manager is a crook. The customer says that it was he who pointed out this difference. She threatens to deduct Taka 1,600 from the carpenter's wages.

Day 15: The carpenter, working at a miraculous pace, has completed the work. The client makes the due payment minus Taka 1,600. The carpenter begs and pleads, but the client does not budge. She will pay eventually, but she intends to teach him a lesson first.

The moral of the story: If you can't beat 'em try and try and you will succeed.



WASA Workers and Employees Union held a protest rally for realisation of their various demands in the city yesterday. —Star photo

ICRC team meets BDRCS chief

A two-member delegation of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), now in Bangladesh, called on chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society BDRCS Maj Gen (ret) Abdus Salam MP at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation, led by the deputy regional delegate Marc Flegenheimer, held discussions with the BDRCS chairman on matters related to bilateral and mutual interests. The other member of the delegation was Denis Allistone.

Indian scientist arrives today

Dr. Jagdish Lal, an eminent scientist of India, will arrive in the city today at the invitation of Dhaka University, reports BSS.

He will hold discussion with the scientists of Botany Department.

He will also conduct the PhD viva voce of Md Kamruzzaman during his stay here.

Faezul visits Benarasi palli

State Minister for Jute and Textile A K Faezul Haque yesterday said the government was determined to make the textile industry a self-sufficient one, reports BSS.

He said this while visiting the Benarasi palli at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Haque said the government would extend all possible cooperation for marketing of the Benarasi saree, both at home and abroad, for the flourishing of the industry.

The weavers involved in Benarasi industry apprised the minister of their various problems and said that due to load shedding, the production of Benarasi was being hampered.

A total of 991 weaver families living in the Mirpur Benarasi palli have 4,500 looms.

About 1,50,000 pieces of Benarasi sarees are produced every year and the price varies from Tk 500-15000 per piece

Oman Air starts flight to Dhaka from Sept 28

Oman Air will start its commercial flight to Dhaka from September 28, an Oman Air press release said on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The inaugural flight on the day will start with the VIPs aboard which include Director General of Tourism of Oman, high officials, reporters from major dailies of Oman and businessmen.

New forum

A forum named 'National Forum for Officers' Association of autonomous Bodies' has been formed, a press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The forum was formed at the second organising meeting of the president, general secretary and representatives of the autonomous bodies council held in the city last week at the conference room of WAPDA Bahari.

What's on today...

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote: A discussion meeting and cultural function has been arranged in observance of the tenth founding anniversary of the Jote. Chief guest: Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha. Time: 4 pm.

World Maritime Day '96: The inaugural ceremony of the programme on World Maritime Day '96 will be held. Chief guest: ASM Abdur Rob, Shipping Minister. Venue: Osmani memorial auditorium. Time: 10 am.

Seminar on system loss: A seminar on 'Electrical Energy System Loss' will be held. Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh has arranged the seminar. Chief guest: M Nooruddin Khan, Energy, Power, Mineral Resources Minister. Venue: IEB seminar room. Time: 5 pm.

Seminar on CHT issue: A two-day seminar and open dialogue on 'Chittagong Hill Tracts: Peace, Democracy and Rights of Self-Determination' will begin. National Committee for Protection of Fundamental Rights in CHT has organised the seminar. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 10 am.

'Paintings '96': The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition of paintings '96 will be held. Sohail F Rahman, Chairman Beximco Group will inaugurate the show as chief guest. Artist Aminul Islam will be present as special guest. Dhaka Art Circle has arranged the show. Venue: Shilpangan, Road 5, House 25, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm.

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Akaler Sandhane' a film by Mrinal Sen. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House 25, Road 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Baha'i gathering: The weekly gathering of the Baha'i community will be held. Venue: National Baha'i Centre, Shantinagar. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club Bally Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Training programme on HR: Two-week long training programme on Human Rights in International Law will begin. Humanist and Ethical Association of Bangladesh has arranged the course in collaboration with Dhaka International University. Prof Nurul Monem is the coordinator of the training programme. Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources will inaugurate the programme. Venue: Dhaka International University premises. Time 4:30 pm.

Reception: Gitanjali, a Tagore song training academy, will accord reception to noted Indian Tagore song trainer Subhas Chowdhury. A cultural programme will follow. Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique will attend the programme as chief guest while Wahidul Haq will speak on 'Practice of Tagore in Bangladesh.' Venue: Indian Cultural Centre auditorium, Satmosjid Road. Time: 7 pm.

Cypriot envoy presents credentials

The newly appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus to Bangladesh, Stavros A Epaminondas, presented his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Welcoming the high commissioner, President Biswas said Bangladesh attaches highest importance to the friendly relations with Cyprus and is committed to further consolidation and widening of ties between the two countries.

The President said there are many prospects for expansion of cooperation between Bangladesh and Cyprus in trade, economic and cultural fields. He stressed exchange of trade and cultural delegations between the two countries.

The newly-appointed high commissioner conveyed the best wishes of the President of Cyprus Glafcos Clerides to the President, the government and the people of Bangladesh.

Earlier, on arrival at Bangabhaban, the high commissioner was given a guard of honour by the President's Guard Regiment. He took the salute and inspected the guard.

UNB adds: Newly appointed High Commissioner of Cyprus to Bangladesh Stavros A Epaminondas called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and hoped that the friendly relations between the two countries would be strengthened further in the days ahead.

2 police officers suspended

By Staff Correspondent

Two police inspectors were suspended on Tuesday for inefficiency, misbehaviour and reluctance in discharging their duties, police sources said.

The inspectors are Md Nazrul Islam, former Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Uttar thana in Dhaka Metropolitan, and KM Saiful Huda OC of Narayanganj Sadar thana. sources added.

PM hands over cheque to widow of Lt Col Md Hossain

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over a cheque of 50,000 US dollars to the widow of Lt Col Mohammad Hossain who was killed in Georgia last March, reports UNB.

Col Mohammad died in a mine blast on March 9 while on duty in the trouble-torn country as a member of the UN Peace Keeping Mission.

Fouzia Hossain came to the Prime Minister's office along with her eldest son Rehan Mohammad Omi. Her second son was born after the death of her husband. The boy is now six months old.

The Prime Minister expressed her sorrow at the premature death of Col Mohammad and wished welfare of the family.

Chehlum

The chehlum of Syed Ehsan Kabir will be held tomorrow after Asar prayers at House 100, Road 11/A, Dhanmondi, says a press release.

Ehsan Kabir, a member of National Council of BIRDEM died on August 18.

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

The chehlum of Obaidul Haq Salim, former leader of Bangladesh Chhatria League, Awami League activist and publisher will be held tomorrow at the mosque of Prominent Housing, Mohammadpur after Jumma prayers, says a press release.

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

Plastic surgery camp opens in city

A plastic and burn-surgery camp was opened at Mohammadpur BDF (Bangladesh Distriktin Foundation) hospital in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf formally opened the camp, jointly organised by BDF and the Society for Rehabilitation of Burn Victims (SR-BV). It was addressed by the State Minister for Social Welfare, Child and Women Affairs, Dr Mozammel Hossain, M Amanullah, MP and a plastic surgeon from the UK, Prof Ronald William Hiles.

The three-week long surgery camp will be conducted by Prof Ronald William Hiles and six other local specialists.

The health minister said the present government had announced health for all by 2005 to achieve the goal of reaching health care services to the remotest areas of the country.



Photo show

By Staff Correspondent

A six-day long exhibition of photographs, featuring life and nature of Bangladesh, by amateur photographer M Mazharul Hoq Monju will begin today at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

The show, 'Behind the bus,' organised by Bhulayan Academy computer and English language clubs, will be inaugurated by DP Barua, Managing Director and Chief Editor, BSS, at 3 pm today.

It will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm till October.

Country's literacy rate now 44.3 pc

Some 44.3 per cent of the country's population is literate, according to the sample vital registration (SVR) of Bangladesh Statistical Bureau, reports BSS.

Of the literate persons, about 49.76 lakh are Secondary School Certificate passed and 12.71 lakh are graduates.

Official sources said the government has taken up programmes to make about 30 lakh more people literate during the current fiscal year. Four such projects are under different stages of implementation to eradicate literacy.

Meanwhile, with a view to intensifying compulsory primary education, the food for education' programme has been extended to 15,865 primary schools in 1,243 unions of the country. Besides, the programme is also in operation in 294 Ebtadaee madrasahs. Official sources said the government has plans to expand the programme to selected unions of every thanas.

Dy secys concerned at non-implementation of enhanced pay scale

Upa Sachib Forum, a platform of government officers of the rank of deputy secretary criticised the authorities for not implementing their enhanced pay scale which was approved by the Prime Minister a few days ago.

The Probe news agency says, the Forum at a meeting Monday protests, what it called, the indifferent attitude of the Finance Minister in this respect.

It was observed at the meeting that over the years matters relating to the promotions and financial benefits of the officers of the civil administration had always been neglected.

The President of the Upa Sachib Forum, Md Abdus Salam presided over the meeting.

The meeting observed that the new government has so far promoted two army officers, commissioned after the independence of the country, to the rank of Major General, but in the civil administration, no officers, recruited after the liberation, got promoted above the rank of Deputy Secretary.

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