

Dhaka Day by Day

A Lesson in Kindness

by Ayesha Fariha

It was a hot sunny Friday, and I was most reluctant to go all the way to Shyamoli to see a handicraft exhibition at the Centre for the Training and Rehabilitation of Destitute Women. However, my conscience got the better of me.

A little trip was certainly not going to kill me, and I set off for CTRDW, believing myself to be very generous.

The exhibition was an effort on the part of the Centre to enable abandoned women to earn their own living and take care of their children. It was modest to say the least as it was organised at short notice, but the few items that were put up for sale were definitely a good treat. There were some beautiful block printed sarees in muted colours such as light pink, light blue, and grey, and a number of tie-dye and block printed sarees and shalwar-kameezes in the bright colours — blue, green, red, yellow etc. The clay flower pots, vases, dolls, and animals on display are available everywhere, but are not as inexpensive. In fact, everything there was so reasonably priced that I ended up buying a lot more things than I should have. After all, I was going to be all heart that day.

After the shopping spree, a tour of the premises took me to what is called the day care centre. I was greeted by about 50 adorable children between the ages of 1 and 4 years of age.

They were quietly watching television, but as soon as some of them realised they had a visitor they came running towards me, talking excitedly. A few shy ones stood in the corner watching suspiciously. The leader of the pack, a small girl with jet black eyes and black curly hair, handed me a stick of sugar-cane she had in her hand saying 'khao, khao' (eat, eat). I refused, not wanting to deprive her of her treat, but she took my gesture as a sign of rejection and walked off with tears in her eyes. I called out to her, but she did not respond. Before I knew it, the door shut and I was on my way to another floor.

On my way back home I realised how easy it is to hurt a young child, and how cruel condescension can be. It was so easy for me to spend a little money and buy needless items to fool myself into believing that I had done my fair share for poverty. There was a child who had probably never seen a good meal in her life, and she still offered me whatever little she had. A little thoughtfulness could have prevented this hurtful incident.

I was proud of myself for taking time out to go to the Centre, and spending money there, that the thought of showing a little bit of kindness never occurred to me. I hope the amount I spent goes towards helping at least some of the children in some way.



No room for condescension, when it comes to children.

Seminar on cancer

Dhaka Community Hospital arranged a special seminar on cancer at its seminar room yesterday, reports UNB.

Dr Sthabir Dasgupta presented a paper on 'Early Cancer Cases in Clinical Practices' while Dr Sudipta Roy on 'Role of Psycho-Pathology in Cancer Diagnosis.'

Dhaka University Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed attended the seminar as chief guest.

Dutch envoy meets Noor Uddin

Ambassador of Netherlands to Bangladesh Robert A Vornis called on Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan at the latter's office here yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interest with particular reference to power and energy sectors.

Qulkhwani

The qulkhwani of Jamila Khatun, mother of M A Malik, chairman, NAM Group of Industries, will be held today after Magreb prayers at Baitus-Salam Mosque, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, says a press release.

All relatives, friends and admirers of the deceased have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and *doa* matfil.

'Health policy on the basis of nat'l consensus soon'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf yesterday said a comprehensive health policy would be formulated soon on the basis of national consensus, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest a priority setting workshop on human resource development in health and family planning services in Bangladesh, jointly organised by Health and Family Welfare Ministry and World Health Organisation (WHO), at a city hotel. Health Secretary Mohammad Ali, Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Nicholas Etheridge, World Bank resident representative Pierre Landel Mills, head of British Overseas Development Agency Cabin S Parkhall and WHO representative in Dhaka Dr W Hardjotanojo also spoke.

The minister said human resource development plan would be an important component of the national health policy.

9 dev projects to be implemented

Religious Affairs Ministry will implement nine development projects at a cost of Tk 30 crore during the current fiscal, reports UNB.

This was disclosed yesterday at a meeting held at the conference room of the Ministry with State Minister for Religious Affairs in the chair.

The meeting was told that the Ministry and its different organisations will implement various projects, including a permanent Haji camp and an Islamic Foundation complex at Sher-e-Bangla, said a PID handout.

IG police off to Turkey

M. Azizul Haq, Inspector General of Police, left here for Turkey on Tuesday to attend the 65th Interpol General Assembly Session scheduled to be held from October 23 to October 29, a police press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

What's on today . . .

Symposium on liver disease: The second symposium on liver disease, organised by the Department of Hepatology, IPGMR, will begin. Chief guest: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf. Venue: Grand Ballroom, Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9 am.

Drawing competition: On the occasion of United Nations Day '96, the UN System in Bangladesh has organised a drawing competition and commemorative function. Chief guest: Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 11:30 am and 12:30 pm respectively.

Tagore songs soiree: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha has arranged an evening of Tagore songs. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Shat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.

Symposium on UN: In observance of United Nations Day-96, UNAB has arranged a symposium. Chief guest: SAMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5 pm.

JSJ conference: The annual conference of Jatiyo Sramik Jote, DCC branch, will be held. Chief guest: Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab. Venue: Dhaka Jela Kirra Samity auditorium (DDSA). Time: 11 am.

Bigyanchetona Parishad meet: They regular meeting of the parishad will be held. Guest speaker: Toab Khan of Daily Janakantha. Venue: 51 Aziz Supermarket, 3rd floor, Shahbag. Time: 5 pm.

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

Astronomical Assoc discussion: The Bangladesh Astronomical Association has organised a discussion meeting to mark the first anniversary of observation of the last solar eclipse of the century from Bangladesh. Venue: Association office, 46, Dr Quadrat-e-Khuda Road, New Elephant Rd. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

No change in temperature

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy across the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says no appreciable change in day temperature is expected during the period throughout the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Chittagong and the lowest 19.2 degrees at Srimangal.

Sun sets today at 5:25 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01 am.

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	33.3	22.4	69	73
Chittagong	34.0	23.3	75	68
Rajshahi	23.2	21.3	73	78

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'Govt to help flourish intellectual thinking'

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader said the present government being imbued with the spirit of great Liberation War, would help flourish intellectual thinking, reports UNB.

The state minister was talking to an eleven-member delegation of the Asiatic Society when they called on him at his secretariat office yesterday.

Talking to the delegation, Obaidul Quader assured that the present government will do everything possible to help flourish intellectual thinking which is a precondition of democracy.

Led by the society President Prof Wakil Ahmed, the delegation informed the state minister of the on-going activities of the society.

They also requested him to remit or reschedule the loan given to the society earlier for the publication of history of Bangladesh.

The state minister assured the delegation that necessary steps would be taken in this regard after consultation with the concerned authority.

The delegation, among others, included general secretary of the society Prof Akmal Hossain, fellow Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin and counsel- lor of the society Prof Serajul Islam.

They presented a set of publications of the society to the state minister, says a PID handout.

Secretary in-charge of the ministry of Cultural Affairs Anisul Haq Chowdhury was present.

Meena bazar

A week-long colourful meena bazar of Bangladesh handicraft, arranged on the occasion of Tourism Month '96, began here yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Abul Hossain inaugurated the meena bazar at the Hotel Sonargaon lobby.

A total of twenty three stalls have been set up in the exhibition with a large variety of handicraft produced by the artisans of the country.

The function was attended, among others by, Managing Director of Sonargaon Hotel Mosharraf Ullah and acting General Manager of the hotel Hidetaka Ishiyama.

High officials of the ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the hotel, were also present, says a PID handout.

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