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# Down to Earth

# Of banner & graffiti galore in city

By A S M Nurunnabi

Banners seem to form an indispensable part of urban culture. They have mainly com-mercial and political ends to

The banners carrying commercial messages are often found to be seasonal. For example, with the advent of the academic year for schools, we find a marked change in the city's landscape.

Banners advertising admissions to English medium private schools are found aplenty. The profusion is particularly noticeable in some select areas of the city. The English medium schools are in no way an economically easy proposition for the parents of the children attracted by such advertisements.

Yet the large number of banners advertising such schools on city streets seem to convey the impression that whatever be the qualitative nature of such schools, they are an indication of a thriving business.

Besides the English medium schools, the street banners cover a wide range of subjects, notably training in different computer courses, training in different technical trades, competitive claims of excellence by different coaching centres for admission to different courses of study at universities, medical and engineering colleges and other technical centres, etc.

Display of banners announcing reduction sales of consumer items at some shopping establishments, etc. is endemic throughout the year, but at times of festivals, they take an euphoric form. The prospective buyers are bewildered by such publicity campaign and are unable to decide whether there is actually any reduction in prices or they are merely evewash.

From the large volume of banners used for various purposes in the city, it may be felt that banner painting must be a big business. It does not seem to be less lucrative than signboard painting. One reason for widespread use of banners as a medium of publicity may that

দরখান্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে

করতে হবে।

ভাতা দেয়া হবে।

আহ্বান করা হবে।

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they attract more public atten-tion for long periods at lesser costs. Of course when there are heavy rains or storms, they are liable to be damaged.

The indispensability of banners is also obvious for several purposes. When processions and rallies are organised. a lew banners carrying slogans of the sponsoring agencies and their purposes are an absolute necessity. Even when symposia and seminars are held indoors, a big banner identifying the occasion is placed behind the rostrum. This helps photograph the occasion for the purpose of publicity.

The banners constitute a characteristic aspect of the city landscape. Though they somewhat clutter the lower airspace their function as eye-catching medium of publicity cannot be under-estimated. As such a rising trend of their use is inevitable for various purposes.

Graffiti or wall-writing has

a long tradition in our country. The tradition has, however, worked as a drag on the clean facade of an urban area. Graffiti is resorted to mainly for conveying political messages and slogans. It has become so pervasive that it constitutes one of the distressing aspects of our city life. The abominable disfiguration of the city's walls and buildings that it entails is a constant eyesore. It was generally observed previously that these wall-writings were often executed in a crude manner with unsymmetrical and rough formation of the alphabetical letters carrying the messages. Lately some improvement is noticeable in this respect. This seems to be due to the factor that nowadays most of the wallwritings are done with the help of ready-made metal castings containing the alphabetical let-

Whatever forms the wallwritings take, either crude or improved, the city landscape invariably suffers from their existence. Since there appear to be no rules or regulations either

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

''তরুণ ও অপেশাদার বিজ্ঞানীদের উদ্ভাবিত প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন''

শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় ১৯৯৯-২০০০ আর্থিক বছরে

তরুণ ও অপেশাদার উদ্ভাবকদের

সম্ভাবনাময় প্রকল্পসমূহের মান উন্নয়ন করা হবে।

আগ্রহী উদ্ভাবকদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নের তথ্যাদিসহ সাদা কাগজে

(১) আবেদনকারীর নাম (২) পিতার নাম (৩) ঠিকানা (৪) পেশা

দরখান্ত আগামী ২৭শে সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯৯ তারিখের মধ্যে

নির্বাচিত প্রকল্পসমূহের উদ্ভাবকদেরকে বিশেষজ্ঞ বিজ্ঞানী/প্রযুক্তিবিদদের

প্রকল্প উন্নয়নকালে উদ্ভাবকদেরকে নিজ ব্যবস্থাপনায় ঢাকায় অবস্থান

প্রকল্প উন্নয়নকালে উদ্ভাবকদেরকে প্রতিমাসে ২০০০/- টাকা হারে

প্রাথমিকভাবে বাছাইকৃত আবেদনকারীদেরকে আগামী ২১ অক্টোবর

'৯৯ তারিখের (সম্ভাব্য) মধ্যে সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের জন্য পত্রের মাধ্যমে

বিজ্ঞানমনস্ক হউন, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির চর্চা করুন

সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলুন

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মোঃ হাবিবুর রহমান চৌধুরী

(৫) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (৬) প্রকল্পের নাম ও চিত্রসহ বর্ণনা।

সরাসরি তত্ত্বাবধানে স্ব স্ব প্রকল্প উনুয়ন করতে হবে।

তিন মাসের মধ্যে প্রকল্প উনুয়নের কাজ সমাপ্ত করতে হবে।

নিম্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট পৌছাতে হবে।

from the municipal authority or any other quarter to regulate this unsightly aspect of city life, the propensity for resorting to this sort of activity for any cause whatsoever has been steadily on the increase. Previously under autocratic regimes. orders were issued to wipe out the ugly signs. This bore some results for a temporary period. But the graffiti culture has been so much ingrained in us that it seems that no amount of efforts backed by proper civic ethos will ever eliminate it com-

Lately, a new trend is noticeable in the use of the city walls as vehicles of advertisements of various commercial products. We are used to seeing hoarding signs and billboards along the streets of the city as advertising media. Now under the new trend the entire space of a big portion of a wall is taken up for advertisement purposes. The trend seems to be steadily growing in the city. One of the reasons for this new trend may be that painting such advertisements of consumer products on walls of buildings is more economical than setting up hoarding signs

and billboards and such painted advertisements on walls are perhaps more durable and stable, not subject to uprooting by storms or cyclones. In one respect, these painted advertisements are at least are less painful to the eye than the crudely executed graffiti with political import.

There is no denying that these aspects have an important bearing on the make-up of the city's look. As such, an imperative necessity in this context seems to be to devise suitable ways and means for tackling the graffiti problem in the city. A prohibitory regulation by the civic authorities carrying stiff penal provisions for the sponsors of random placement of graffiti may be an answer. But at least, provisions may be made so that no graffiti is allowed in certain specified areas of the city in the interest of aesthetic considerations.



Connoisseurs appreciate a painting by renowned artist Shahabuddin Ahmed at a solo exhibition at Designer's Den Art and Fashion Gallery at Gulshan in the city yesterday.

## Shahabuddin's show at Designer's Den

A solo exhibition of renowned artist Shahabuddin Ahmed was inaugurated at Designer's Den Art and Fashion Gallery at Gulshan in the city yesterday evening, bringing into fore some of his recent works.

The exhibition drew a large number of art lovers who also came to have a glimpse of the artist who recently turned 50.

State minister for youth, culture and sports Obaidul Quader presided over the opening ceremony of the solo. French Charge de Affaires Jean-Guy de Wargny and Managing Director of Grameen-Phone Trond Moe were also present as the special guests.

By Staff Correspondent

Top Bangladeshi artists, art critics, art collectors and local and foreign dignitaries were present at the inaugural ceremony. GrameenPhone is the sponsor of the exhibition. Rizwan Bin Farooq, chairman of the Designer's Den Art Gallery, conducted the inaugural ceremony.

Quader, paying rich tribute to Shahabuddin, said he has received innumerable honours and accolades both in Bangladesh and abroad. The fact that his works were displayed in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics bears testimony to his brilliance, he

The minister also said Shahabuddin took part in the War

much longer than laws, she said

citing examples of some more

killings in custody, including

that of Jalal after Rubel's death.

ing used for political purposes,

and party and even personal in-

Describing her experience as regards trial of the Rubel mur-

der case, Naznin Akhter said

"We went to most of the reputed

lawyers, but none came forward

to help us as we did not have

enough money. Instead, the

lawyers sided with them

(killers) because they have

give Taka one lakh on instal-

ment basis, but this also did not

are false things to our family

Nasima Islam, widow of veteran

workers' leader late Tajul

Islam, alleged that the state

failed to ensure trial of the

killed about 15 years ago, I am

still haunted by the panic that

befell on my family on Febru-

ary 29, 1984. Today my sons

have become adult, but they are

still scared. None can feel se-

cure after seeing the killing of

of Rubel and Tajul, poet Farhad

Mazhar said, expecting trial to

the state is meaningless because

East Timorese troops had been

withdrawn. It was believed the

remaining 3,000 were regular

now is under the control of the

Martial Law Military Com-

mand in East Timor which has

a strength of three brigades,

2,000 soldiers, were identified

as coming from the marines

and the airforce's special forces.

spokesman's office said today

that 5,000 locally-raised East

Timorese security forces had

The brigades, each of about

The statement said police

"The whole of East Timor

Indonesian troops.

the statement said.

Demand trial of the killers

innocent student Rubel."

"Though my husband was

killers of her husband.

members now.

"Even we assured lawyers to

"Democracy and rule of law

Speaking on the occasion.

"The police force is now be-

of Liberation and most of hi works "tend to reflect war memories and experiences".

A total of 43 paintings have been displayed in the exhibition. The price of the painting "Call of Revolution" is tagged at Tk 2 lakh, "Victim 71" and "Two freedom fighters" Tk 1 lakh each, "Joy Bangla" Tk 75,000 and "Thirsty" Tk 25,000.

fighters.

sketches in bold brush-washlines composed in a beautifully balanced arrangement. His figures almost always are freedom

open to public till September 30 from 10:30 am to 8 pm.

### Showcause notices on 5 DU students

thorities have served showcause notices on five students of Ziaur Rahman Hall, for assaulting a second year student at the hall on Tuesday, said a press release. Uddin of Political Science De-

ternational Relations Department, Selim and Sajjad Hossain of History Department and Monir of Bangla Department. The authorities asked them

pelled, the press release added. Faruq Sikder and hit him with

sharp weapons when he protested their non-payment of hall canteen. The authorities also formed

investigate the incident. Headed by senior house tutor of the hall Md Selim Bhuiyan, the probe body includes Dr Main Uddin Kamal and Abdul Halim.

### activists surrender ın Assam

state of Assam today, a senior official said, reports Reuters.

"More than 90 activists of the ULFA (United Liberation Front of Assam) surrendered with 25 weapons and some explosives to the state chief min-

ries assault rifles, US-made carbines, several ammunition

Police said the guerillas had been granted amnesty in exchange for the surrender.

# off strike

From Our Correspondent

Sramik Union protesting retrenchment of 60 workers.

TNO of Shahjadpur thana and representatives of different

strike on September 7 to protest retrenchment by the owners. The strike created acute fuel supply in 16 northern districts.

IAB letter to Rajuk

### Computerise archive to prevent theft of files

By Staff Correspondent

The Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB) has urged Rajuk to computerise its archive section to prevent theft of important files.

The IAB, the apex body of professional architects in the country, said this in recent letters to the Rajuk Chairman and the Ministry of Public Works to contain increasing irregularities in building construction and town planning.
It is alleged that documents

on illegally approved building plans and unauthorised buildings often get missing from Rajuk. Lack of documentation hampers legal action against the offenders.

"Site Inspection Report, particulars about the plan approval process and the copy of the approved plan, all have to be stored in computer," the letter

The IAB letter also put forward a set of suggestions which include publication of building construction laws in different newspapers in a reader friendly

IAB President Rabiul Hussain also emphasised the need

### Wall collapse: One killed, 10 hurt in Ctg From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: One woman was killed and 10 others were injured when the wall of a dilapidated house collapsed during repair work at Dewan Bazar under Kotowali thana in the city this afternoon.

The victim was identified as Suraya Khanam, 30.

The wall collapsed at around 2.30 pm, injuring 11 people in-cluding Suraya Khanam who was waiting for a baby-taxi, standing beside the wall. She died on way to hospital. Of the injured, three were

admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

for strict implementation of existing laws rather than enacting new ones. " The Building Construction Act gives Rajuk the power to demolish unauthorised buildings or those con-structed deviating from plans, without going to court. If an architect or engineer is found involved in any such irregularity, Rajuk can bar him from prepar-ing plans and inform respective professional organisations for taking action.

To stop unauthorised construction and deviation from plans, steps must be taken to disconnect gas, electricity, water and telephone lines from any building whose plan has been cancelled.

The IAB has also urged Rajuk to publish addresses and details about newly approved plans for high rise buildings in daily newspapers regularly. It also urges the authorities to publish the address of any building whose plan has been cancelled.

" By doing this, Rajuk can greatly help create a social resistance against unauthorised construction".

### CU dormitories reopen today

CHITTAGONG, Sept 17: All dormitories of Chittagong University reopen at 10 am tomorrow and classes will resume on September 20. All resident students have

been asked to submit their identity cards to the provosts of their respective dormitories before their entry, Gazi Salehuddin, proctor of the university, told BSS.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Abdul Mannan in a statement on the eve of the opening of the university urged all student organisations and general students to maintain a healthy and normal academic atmosphere on the campus at any cost.



জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

### ''তরুণ ও অপেশাদার বিজ্ঞানীদের উদ্ভাবিত প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন''

প্রকল্পের আওতায় ১৯৯৯-২০০০ আর্থিক বছরে মেধাবী দরিদ্র উদ্ভাবক ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের শিক্ষা বৃত্তি প্রদান

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর পরিচালিত "তরুণ ও অপেশাদার বিজ্ঞানীদের উদ্ভাবিত প্রকল্প উনুয়ন" প্রকল্পের আওতায়

৬ষ্ঠ শ্রেণী থেকে ১০ম শ্রেণীতে অধ্যয়নরত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদেরকে জুনিয়র গ্রন্থ এবং একাদশ শ্রেণী ও তদউর্দ্ধে অধ্যয়নরত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদেরকে সিনিয়র গ্রুপে এক বছরের জন্য বৃত্তি প্রদান করা হবে।

বৃত্তির হাব প্রতিমাসে জুনিয়র গ্রুপে ২০০/- টাকা এবং সিনিয়র গ্রুপে ৩০০/- টাকা।

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ অথবা অন্য কোন জাতীয় বা আন্তর্জাতিক বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনীর উদ্ভাবনীমূলক প্রকল্প প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণকারী মেধাবী দরিদ্র উদ্ভাবক ছাত্র-ছাত্রীরাই আবেদন করতে

উল্লেখিত শর্তপুরণকারী আগ্রহী ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নের তথ্যাদিসহ সাদা কাগজে দরখান্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

(১) জারেনকারীর নাম (২) পিতা/অভিভাবকের নাম (৩) ঠিকানা (৪) শিক্ষা প্রভিটানের নাম ও ঠিকানা (৫) শ্রেণী ও (৬) রোল নং।

আবেদন পত্রের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে। ১। জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ অথবা অন্য কোন জাতীয় বা

আন্তর্জাতিক বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনীতে পুরস্কার/অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রদত্ত মূল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি।

২। স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের সত্যায়িত বিগত বার্যিক পরীক্ষা এবং সর্বশেষ পরীক্ষার নম্বর ফর্দের (Progress Report) অনুলিপি।

৩। স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান প্রদত্ত অভিভাবকের বাংসরিক আয়ের সার্টিফিকেট

8। স্ব স্ব শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান প্রদত্ত চলতি শিক্ষা বছরে শ্রেণী কক্ষে উপস্থিতির হারসম্বলিত সার্টিফিকেট এবং সত্যায়িত এক কপি ছবি।

উল্লেখ্য সিনিয়র গ্রুপের আবেদনকারীদেরকে উপরোক্ত ১ - ৪ ক্রমিকে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্র ছাড়াও দরখাস্তের সাথে এস.এস.সি. এইচ.এস.সি. ডিগ্রী

ইত্যাদি (স্ব স্ব ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য) পরীক্ষার নম্বর ফর্দের (Mark sheet) সত্যায়িত কপি প্রেরণ করতে হবে। দরখান্ত আগামী ২৭শে সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯৯ তারিখের মধ্যে

নিম্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট পৌছাতে হবে।

: sufee out the মোঃ হাবিবুর রহমান চৌধুরী क्लान : ৯১১२०৮৪, ৯১১৪১२৮

বিজ্ঞানমনক্ষ হুউন, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির চর্চা করুন সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তুলুন

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cial role in the post-poll scene of government formation in the

event of a hung parliament. Uttar Pradesh will witness a genuine quadrangular tussle pitting BJP, Congress, Samajwadi Party and BSP against each other in most of the 85 constituencies in the state, the highest in a state in India.

The Congress, which failed to win a single seat in the previous hustings in 1998, is this time banking on the image of Sonia Gandhi, along with the 'magic' of Nehru-Indira Gandhi family, anti-incumbency factor in Uttar Pradesh, where a BJPled coalition is in power, and factionalism in the saffron

also hopes to benefit from a perceived shift in Muslim voters' support to it from Samajwadi Party and from 'disenchantment among upper caste voters which had greatly

backed the BJP in 1998 in UP. The BJP is seeking to cash in on the image of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to try and repeat its performance of 1998 when the party had won 57 seats in Uttar Pradesh.

bency factor and factionalism

The BJP is well aware that if it gets less seats in UP than in 1998, its prospects of returning to power at the centre will be in jeopardy. But the party is pin-ning its hopes also on division of anti-BJP votes among Congress, SP and BSP.

The Muslims constitute a sizeable chunk of voters in Uttar Pradesh and are likely to play a key role in tilting the balance in a number of constituencies. If Congress looks up to Muslims and backward castes votes for its revival in UP, SP and BSP for their sur-

In Bihar, which has the second highest number of parliamentary seats — 54 — it will be mainly a direct battle between RJD on one hand and BJP-led

Meanwhile, main opposition Congress reacted sharply to exit polls telecast by Doordarshan terming it as a 'crude bid' by the ruling alliance to influence voters in remaining three phases of polls.

the BJP keep its head above the water," Congress spokesman Kapil Sibal told reporters here Thursday.

### Indian polls

From page

The Congress leadership

The BJP leadership privately admits it is a difficult task, given the anti-incum-

in the state unit of the party.

alliance on the other.

"No amount of jugglery through the exit polls will help

### longer than law's' By Staff Correspondent Naznin Akhter, elder sister racy and rule of law but these of university student Rubel who are not for the commonman in our country", she lamented. was killed in police custody, yesterday said people need se-"Hands of terrorists are

terests".

Hands of terrorist much

curity of life prior to rights to vote and food. "What shall we do by establishing rights to vote and food if there is no security of life? Rights to vote and food are

meaningless if there is no guarantee of life." Addressing a discussion on "Insecurity in civil society and ways of resistance", organised by human rights organisation Jana odhikar at the Central Public Library, Naznin said a number of innocent people were killed in police custody even

after the murder of Rubel. Shamim Reza Rubel, a meritorious BBA student at the Independent University, was beaten to death in the custody of Detective Branch police on July

23 last year. Naznin Akhter, a Lecturer in Economics at Purana Paltan Girls' Degree College, in her emotion choked voice also gave an elaborate description how brutally police tortured her younger brother in front of

family members. After Rubel's death, a judi cial commission was formed. But no recommendation of the commission has yet been implemented. "It was completely an eye-wash", she observed.

After his killing, police filed eight false cases against Rubel with the motive to identify him as a terrorist, snatcher and armed hoodlum.

those, she alleged.

The cases proved false, but no action has been taken against the persons who filed

### the existing state structure is "Many people talk of democfaulty. 8000 troops pull out of East Timor

### Advance peacekeeping team due today

Commander of the UN force heading for East Timor, Major General Peter Cosgrove, is expected to arrive in the territory tomorrow, a spokesman for Indonesia's armed forces said.

"Peter Cosgrove will come to Dili on Saturday to talk with Major General Syahnakri in detail on the steps for handing over the job," chief military spokesman Major General Sudrajat told Reuters. An Australian defence

Dill with a small advance party tomorrow. The first batch of multinational force was expected to arrive in East Timor on Monday. AFP says: Some 8,000 Indonesian troops in East Timor

have left or are on their way out

of the territory and into the border town of Atambua in West

Timor, Indonesian military

headquarters said today. "The personnel of the Wiradarma Military command in East Timor, who total 8,000 people, joined by the civil ser-vants, have to immediately leave East Timor and head for the Atambua border," it said in a statement.

Military officials said ear-

lier that 5,000 locally-raised

officers still in East Timor source confirmed Cosgrove, an Australian, planned to land in would also be withdrawn from the territory, although it did not say when. Captain Gig Sipasulta from the East Timor Martial Law Military Command

been withdrawn.

"We pulled them out in order to minimize the possibility of conflict," he told the agency. "The withdrawal still continues today and is expected to continue until the arrival of the peacekeeping force.' The Military Command has said the Indonesian armed

UN multinational force over their withdrawal. See also page 5

forces will coordinate with the

Senior artist and art critic Syed Jahangir said Shahabuddin has put up mostly figural

The exhibition will remain

### By DU Correspondent The Dhaka University au-

partment, Sheikh Farid of In-

bills after taking meal at the a three-member committee to

# Over 90 ULFA

GUWAHATI, India, Sept 17: More than 90 tribal guerillas surrendered to the Indian government in the northeastern

# and landmines.

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 17: Movement of tank lorries began this evening after 10 days of non-stop strike enforced by the Uttar Banga Tank Lorry

lowing a fruitful negotiation among the concerned parties at a meeting held at Baghabari Depot with Sramik Union pres-ident Shanker Kumar Tambuli in the chair.

meeting.

The students are Momin

to reply within seven days why they should not be expelled from the university. In case of their failure, they will be ex-The five accused beat up

ister today," PV Sumant, director general of Assam police, He said the weapons they de-posited included pistols, AK se-

### Tank lorry workers call

The crisis was resolved fol-

transport and workers unions in North Bengal attended the The Tank Lorry Sramik Union went on an indefinite

The Tank Lorry Owners and Sramik Union decided to hold their next meeting to resolve the retrenchment issue on Monday at Bogra Circuit House.