

**FedEx**  
Federal Express

**Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.**  
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation  
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

**CHITTAGONG**
**Hotel Hawaii Building**  
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong  
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

**CEPZ**
**Ctg. Export Processing Zone**  
Old Admin Building  
Halishahar, Chittagong  
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

**KHULNA**
**K.D.A Building**  
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna  
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932

**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES

**Refrigerator & Freezer**
**Instalment facility available**
**Transcom Electronics Limited**  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA  
Dhaka: 815307-10, 819425-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578  
Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

**ART290 - 265 Litres**

## Down to Earth

### City's Community Centres

By A S M Nurunnabi

In Dhaka City, community centres are a source of lucrative business. They are a well-known phenomenon in our urban society. Lately they have proliferated in many areas of the city. They represent a far cry from the days when social functions like weddings, birthday parties, wedding anniversaries etc. used to be held within the four walls of one's house or in space topped by canopy set up in close proximity to one's house. Such practices still continue when the number of guests to these kinds of functions is small. But where the number of guests is large, the limited accommodation capacity in urban settings has given rise to the need for hiring a community centre.

There is no dearth of community centres which now dot many important areas of the city. Such centres as venues for important social functions are the result of high demand for such places in the context of our social ethos. In some particular localities, Dhanmondi residential area or Iskhan area, for example, there are well-known establishments of this nature which draw business throughout the month.

The peak season comes in winter, whereas a comparatively dull season ensues in the rainy period or in the month of Ramadan for obvious reasons. In a thickly populated city like Dhaka, there is always a steady demand for such places, so much so that it is often necessary to book them well in advance, particularly those with high popularity.

Many of the community centres in the city are spacious enough to accommodate a large number of guests with provision for parking space. Many of such places are at present equipped with air-condition facilities. In general, the basic rent for such places which are well-appointed range from Tk 8,000/- to Tk 12,000/- for the AC fitted ones for a day. With this is added charges for hiring furniture, crockery, cutlery, service charge for cook, bearers and cost of illumination, if the function is held at night.

There are also a number of community centres established in some wards of the city by the Dhaka City Corporation. They have a low profile with limited space and rather poor facilities. Some of them are of such a low standard that they cease to serve as community centres and are used for a miscellany of purposes such as office, godowns and rickshaw parking space.

As the rent of the City Corporation's community centres is rather low and thus affordable for many with moderate means, they are mostly patronised by low-income groups in neighbouring areas.

There are also some community centres near residential government colonies in the city. The rent for these places is less than those charged for private community centres and offer moderate, if not equal, facilities.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on holidays.

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centres have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order, which seems to be followed more in its breach than in its observance.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on holidays.

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centres have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order, which seems to be followed more in its breach than in its observance.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on holidays.

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centres have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order, which seems to be followed more in its breach than in its observance.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on holidays.

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centres have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order, which seems to be followed more in its breach than in its observance.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on holidays.

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centres have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order, which seems to be followed more in its breach than in its observance.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

Observers note a disturbing aspect of the community centres operating in the residential areas of the city. In their opinion, they tend to disturb the peace in such areas and also affect the social structure of the families living there. The traffic situation in those areas is similarly disturbed by the heavy influx of vehicles carrying guests to the centres quite frequently, particularly on holidays.

The new ethos of holding social functions in community centres have created a new outlook for the city dwellers because of the prevailing space constraints for holding such functions. Besides, they offer a steady and prized source of income for their owners.

The financial benefits accruing from them have led many entrepreneurs to favour construction of such projects in preference to residential housing. With the rising city population, this trend is likely to attain greater pace, whatever be the implications of the government's Guest Control Order, which seems to be followed more in its breach than in its observance.

Because of their convenient locations, they are mostly favoured by residents of the colonies.

Outsiders also are eligible for hiring these places. The comparatively favourable terms offered by them for their use act as an incentive both for the residents of the colonies as well as for outsiders.

## Election of teachers representatives to JU bodies today

By JU Correspondent

Election of teachers' representatives to the Syndicate, Academic Council and Finance Committee of Jahangirnagar University will be held today. The voting will be held at the university Teachers' and Officers' Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Some 250 teachers are likely to cast their votes today to elect 11 representatives—four to the Syndicate, six to the Academic Council and one to the Finance Committee.

Four panels of teachers—two Pro-Awami League and two Pro-BNP—are contesting in the election.

But sources said some Pro-BNP teachers belonging to "Sayeed Khan group" and pro-Awami teachers belonging to "Bayes group" have reached an understanding and are contesting for alternate posts.

Some other Pro-BNP teachers tagged with "Mustahid group" and pro-Awami teachers belonging to "Sharif Enamul group" have also reached similar understanding.

Four teachers' representatives—one each from the professors, associate professors, assistant professors and lecturers—will be elected.

Teachers of Sayeed Khan—Bayes panel for the four Syndicate posts are Prof. Amin Muhammad Ali (in the professor category), Ahmed Reza (associate professor category), Abdur Rob (assistant professor category) and Sanwar Hossain (lecturer category).

The candidates of Mustahid-Sharif Enamul Kabir panel are Prof. Enamul Haq Khan, Dr. Mahboob Kabir, Mujibur Rahman and Khodoker Ashrafur Munir.

Besides, six associate professors are vying for three posts of associate professors while six from assistant professor and lecturer are contesting for three posts of assistant professor or lecturer in the Academic Council.

Prof. Ruhul Amin (Bayes-Sayeed Khan group) and Prof. Idris Ali (Mustahid-Sharif Enamul group) are contesting for the lone post in the Finance Committee.

## RUTA polls tomorrow

RAJSHAHI, Mar 3: Election of the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) will be held on Sunday, reports UNB.

Some 30 candidates from two panels—Yellow and White—are contesting the election for 15 posts. The Yellow Panel is backed by Awami League and left-leaning parties while the White by BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Prof. Abu Saleh Abdun Noor of Population Science and Human Resources Development Department, Dr. M. Abdus Sobhan (2) of Applied Physics and Prof. Mohendranath Adhikari of Philosophy are contesting for the posts of President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively from the Yellow Panel.

Their rivals from White Panel are Prof. Abdul Quader Bhuiyan of Social Science Department, Dr. Shamsul Alam Sarker of Mathematics and Prof. Abdul Hasem of Applied Physics.

Some 800 teachers of the university are expected to cast their votes in the election to be held from 8 am to 1.30 pm without any break.

## Non-govt pry teachers on strike

By Staff Correspondent

The non-government primary school teachers continued their strike for the sixth day yesterday, said a press release.

About 23,000 non-government primary school teachers began a 13-day long strike across the country demanding nationalisation of their service.

The Non-government Primary School Teachers' Association has threatened to announce a tougher movement from their grand conference at Paltan Maidan in the third week of April if their demand is not met immediately.

The judge should not have the sole authority to decide what should be made public and what shouldn't be," he said.

Last Wednesday the court ordered Sharif to find a new legal team or one would be appointed by the court.

The charges against Sharif, his brother, and five close aides, were laid in connection with an Oct 12 incident in which it is alleged he refused to allow the aircraft returning Pakistan's army chief to land in southern Karachi.

That same day the army took power, arrested Sharif and eventually allowed the Pakistani International Airlines passenger plane to land. The aircraft had apparently only seven minutes of fuel remaining.

The judge should not have the sole authority to decide what should be made public and what shouldn't be," he said.

## Failing to export gas may mean missing the bus

### Dhaka should get highest benefit out of its gas, observes Shell MD

With an estimated reserve to meet domestic need for at least 45 years, Bangladesh should seriously consider exporting gas failing which may mean missing the bus, says a top executive of a multinational company, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh should look at getting the highest benefit out of its gas. It should fix an energy policy and consider exporting to generate funds for reinvestment in energy sector," said managing director Andrew Vaughan, Shell Bangladesh, as intense lobbying went on to get their suggestion through.

The Anglo-Dutch oil and gas exploration company's Bangladesh Chief said yesterday gas in the ground is worthless and Bangladesh has too much of it for a small domestic market.

Bangladesh has a proven recoverable gas reserve of 13 trillion cubic feet, three trillion of which have already been extracted. Shell maintains the reserve is 15 trillion, and more to be found.

"If neighbouring India eventually decides to buy gas from the Middle East, Bangladesh is likely to miss the bus," he told members of Overseas Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (OCAB).

He, however, said Shell or other companies are not the authorities to decide on the issue. It is the Bangladesh government, and to some extent the Indian side, who are to take the decision.

Vaughan said export of gas through pipeline would be easier and more profitable for

Bangladesh instead of selling power after building plants and connecting with the buyer country.

He identified corruption, indecision and bureaucracy as obstacles to the pace of development in the sector, but hastened to add: "Shell has never paid any bribe in Bangladesh."

The Shell managing director proposed setting up of a separate body comprising representatives from both public and private sectors to overcome the problems in the energy sector.

"Bangladesh should seriously take up an energy policy possibly on the basis of a 1993 one, which was again brought forward in 1996... It will help guide the energy sector," he told the journalists.

See page 11 col 8

## Hasina asks partymen Project govt's achievements to people

FARIDPUR, Mar 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today asked her partymen to work unitedly and project government's successes to the people so the party could return to power at next election, reports UNB.

"If we cannot come to power for the next term, the people will not get the real fruits of development activities conducted by the government," she said asking her party leaders and workers to stand united.

Addressing leaders and workers of district Awami League and its front organisations at the Circuit House in the afternoon she said the government would be able to complete its welfare programmes if elected to a second term.

The basic needs of the people will be fulfilled and none will remain homeless or illiterate if the Awami League comes to power again, she said.

"Already we have worked a lot and taken massive development programmes across the country and the people have started getting the results," she said and mentioned government's project for the homeless, landless and illiterate.

Governments in the past plundered public money and were only busy amassing wealth, they unleashed terrorism and resorted to repression on the people to make their fortune, she told her workers.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister also listened to various problems of the party and the workers and suggested them to uphold party interest above personal interest.

Earlier, the Prime Minister attended the Chehlam for late Afsana Mosharraf, wife of Khandoker Mosharraf Hossain. She went to the house of Mosharraf Hossain and joined munajat.

Sheikh Helal Uddin, MP, Prime Minister's son-in-law Khandoker Mashur Hossain and her daughter Sayma Hossain Putul and their relatives attended the chehlam.

## Biman aircraft averts mishap at Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Mar 3: A Biman aircraft averted accident at Sylhet Osmani International Airport tonight. Biman officials said.

The aircraft, an F-28, developed technical problem just before landing at the airport at about 8:30 pm.

A Biman official said there were 84 passengers and five crew on board the aircraft.

Some passengers said there were a number of severe bumps seconds before the BG 607 flight landed.

## Pinochet returns to Chile

SANTIAGO, Mar 3: Former dictator Gen Augusto Pinochet returned to Chile today, 16 months after he was detained in Britain on torture charges, reports AP.

Pinochet's plane was greeted by Chilean flags. Gen in march music and vociferous debate about his fate.



Stagnant water and rubbish have made the place behind the Dhaka WASA building at Karwanbazaar in the city a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. —Star photo

## One electrocuted, 7 hurt in city

By Staff Correspondent

A construction workers was electrocuted and seven others were injured when an iron beam fell on a live electric wire at Bashabo in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Ananda, 25. Of the injured, four were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). They were identified as Mahbub, Yar Khan, Abu and Karim. Others injured were sent to the local clinic last night.

The incident took place at about 7 pm while they were working in an underconstruction building, west of Bashabo cinema hall.

Ananda's body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Injured Feni BCL activist dies in city

FENI, Mar 3: A Chhatra League activist, who was injured by a group of terrorists on Tuesday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in Dhaka on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Family sources said Jane Alam Kiron, 20, was abducted by the terrorists from West Chhillonia on Tuesday. They took Kiron to a brick-field in Lalpur area and tortured him.

Kiron was first admitted to Cosmopolitan Hospital at Feni and later shifted to a hospital in Dhaka where he died Thursday night.

## AFTAB BAHUMUKHI FARM SALES CENTRE NOW AT GULSHAN

138 Gulshan Avenue, Circle-2

**OPENING 5th MARCH**
**Aftab Products at Gulshan**

- Dressed Broiler
- Aftab Fresh Milk
- Egg
- Varieties of fresh fish



Aftab Bahumukhi Farm Limited has set up modern dressing plant first of its kind with technical collaboration of world famous STORK company of the Netherlands. The dressed HALAL BROILER Chicken are marketed throughout the country by Aftab Sales Centres.


**AFTAB BAHUMUKHI FARM**

(A Member of Islam Group)

Main sales centre: 3-C Purana Paltan, Dhaka - 1000. Phone: 9564974, 9550314  
Other sales centres: 109 Kalashur, Mohammadpur, Dhaka  
B.A.D.C. sales centre, Krishi Bhavan, Dikusha, Dhaka

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Teigaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

## One of Sharif's lawyers to return to case

KARACHI, Mar 3: One of deposed premier Nawaz Sharif's lawyers agreed today to withdraw his resignation, which he submitted last week to protest a court ruling barring Sharif from giving uninterrupted testimony in an open court, reports AP.

Khawaja Sultan said he agreed to return after a personal plea from Sharif, who is facing charges of kidnapping, hijacking, terrorism and attempted murder—charges that carry either the death penalty or life in prison.

"Because I have been associated with the case from the beginning it will be very difficult for another lawyer to take over," Sultan said in an interview.

Sharif returns to court on Monday along with his six coaccused.

Last week Sharif's legal team resigned en masse to protest a court ruling which required Sharif to submit his testimony in writing. The ruling however allowed Sharif to make a verbal statement, but one that could be censored by the judge.

The order followed a request from the prosecution who feared Sharif could reveal state security in an uncensored statement. The prosecution had requested a closed court session.

The judge refused, but agreed to monitor Sharif's statement. Sharif's legal team submitted their resignations to protest.

The judge should not have the sole authority to decide what should be made public and what shouldn't be," he said.

Last Wednesday the court ordered Sharif to find a new legal team or one would be appointed by the court.

The charges against Sharif, his brother, and five close aides, were laid in connection with an Oct 12 incident in which it is alleged he refused to allow the aircraft returning Pakistan's army chief to land in southern Karachi.

That same day the army took power, arrested Sharif and eventually allowed the Pakistani International Airlines passenger plane to land. The aircraft had apparently only seven minutes of fuel remaining.

The judge should not have the sole authority to decide what should be made public and what shouldn't be," he said.