

AN ODE TO BEAUTY

| HASAN MEER |

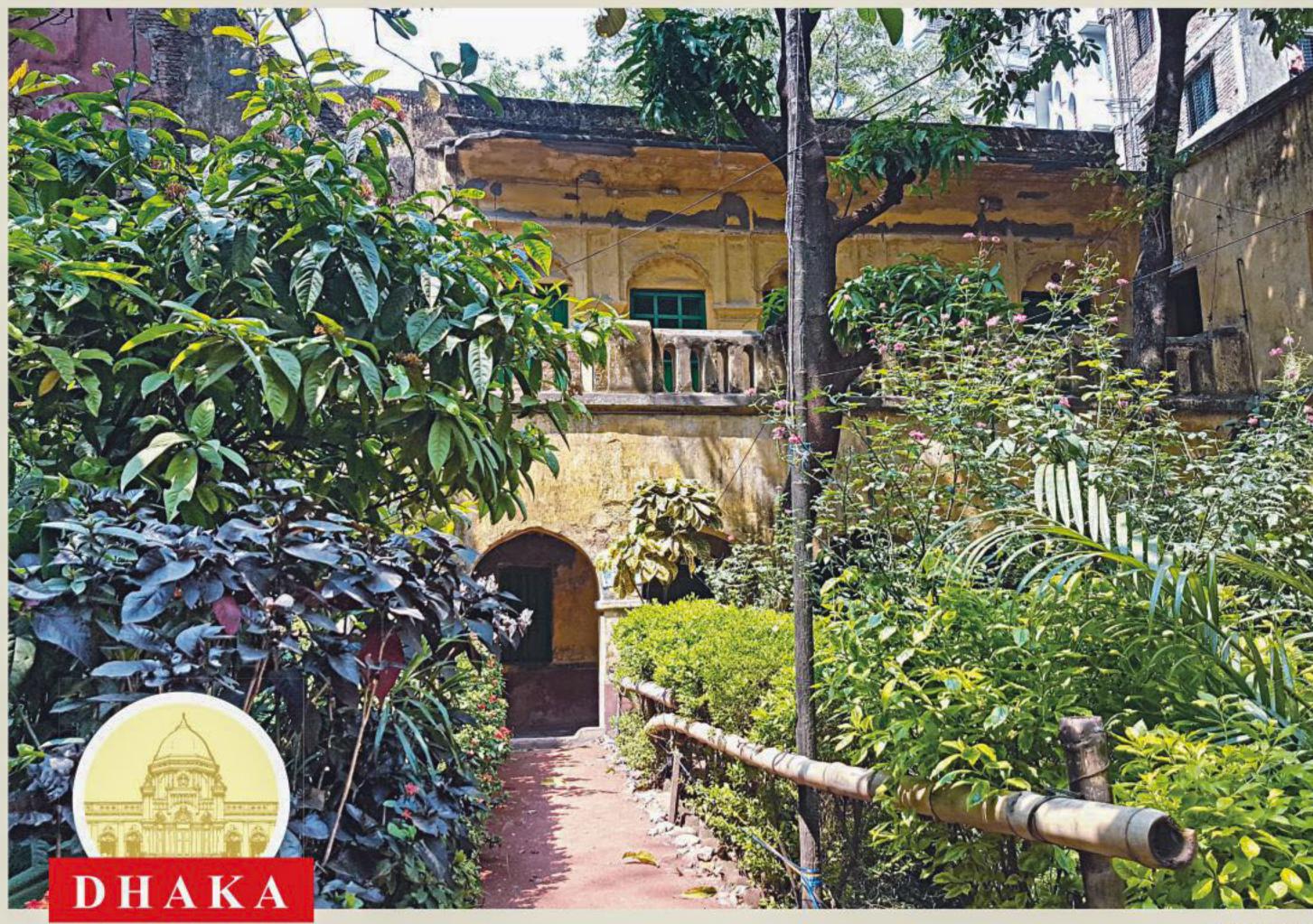


PHOTO: STAR

Imagine a place in the middle of hustle and bustle of Old Dhaka, where one can relax with family or friends, or even walk around a lush green courtyard.

If needed, one can speak to the chef about the fish of the day or the entire menu. If you are an adventurer at heart, you can even spend a night or two there, appreciating the serene and radiant surrounding. That would be nice, wouldn't it?

Then again, this place --Beauty Boarding -- is more than lodging or delectable delicacies. Visiting it is like having a complete experience, where food and aesthetics are blended together in its rich tapestry of history.

The boarding is located on Shris Das Lane, an alley that used to remain abuzz with book-binding shops, printing press, newspaper office and restaurants. The adjoining Bangla Bazar, the largest hub of book publishers in the country, still gives a glimpse of the glory

Established in 1949, Beauty Boarding is one of the very few enduring boarding houses in Dhaka -- a place where young and eager minds from across the country used to stay while pursuing their dreams.

It still is a boarding where one can pay a reasonable amount of money for food and lodging, ranging from Tk 250-550 per day. The boarding used to be the most vibrant literary den for writers -- a place to hang out and discuss their work.

The place boasts of an impressive list of patrons, who either stayed in or dropped

by. Shahid Qadri, Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haque, Al Mahmud, Hasan Hafizur Rahman, Sayed Atiqullah, Alauddin Al Azad, Abu Zafar Obaydullah, Sanjib Dutta, Nirmalendu Goon, Abul Hasan and Helal Hafiz are just to name a few.

Legend has it many of these luminaries penned their immortal works there.

The boarding is also etched in the country's history. As the political situation became

tumultuous in late 1960s, it had

to stop its literary and cultural

activities. On March 28, 1971,

Prohallad Saha, owner of the

boarding, along with 16 staff

of publishing houses in the

1950s. Upcoming writers used

to throng the area and Beauty

Boarding offered them a place

cooked meal," Samar Saha, son

of Prohallad, told The Daily Star

to unwind and have a home-

by the Pakistani army.

members and guests, were killed

"Bangla Bazar was the hub

He and his younger brother, Tarak Saha, run the place now. Upon walking through the

small gate of Beauty Boarding

on a weekday afternoon, a rustic two-storey yellow building -- shaded by trees -- welcomed this writer. There is an office on the

ground floor, next to a dining hall while the upstairs consists of rooms. "We haven't changed the

place much... People still visit us to have a sense of its history,"



said Samar. It was almost 2pm. He smiled and said, "Enough talk. Let's have lunch." Onto lunch we went.

The dining hall has rows of tables and chairs on both sides. The menu, which varies quite often, is written on a board behind the counter where Samar proudly stands and greets visitors while sharing the beauty of Beauty Boarding and how it has withstood the turns and tides of time.

The metallic plates and glasses shine brightly as one

Beauty Boarding is one of the very few enduring boarding houses in Dhaka -- a place where young and eager minds from across the country used to stay while pursuing their dreams.

Established in 1949,

awaits food. The food is aplenty, flavourful, aromatic and spicy -- a combination that can never go wrong.

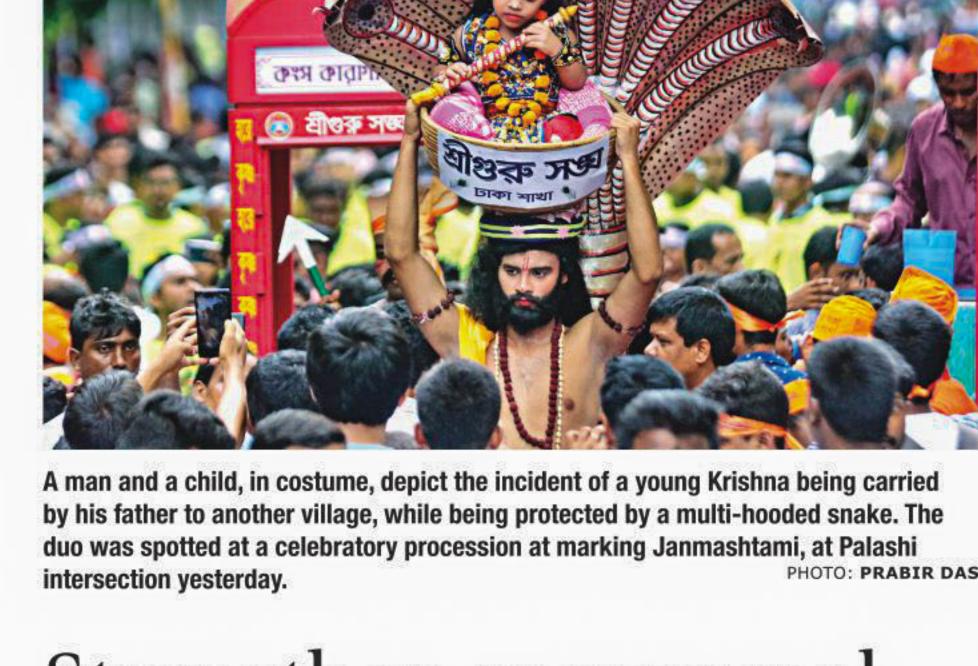
The server, a genial man, is great at what he does. To be more precise, Bimal walks around with bowls of curries, bhortas, lentils or bhajis and serves those quite generously upon request.

"Its rustic charm, aged walls, heritage -- there's a strong sense of pride to it -- makes you part of something special," said Moni Akter, a master's student, who along with her friends dropped by to soak in the history.

"Don't forget the food," quipped her friend Shanto Alam.

Beauty Boarding still stands tall and remains popular for its affable atmosphere and reasonable prices. After a pleasant gastronomic experience, one can walk around this beautiful and proud landmark of our city, and of course, get busy taking selfies.

Do you have a Dhaka Vibe story to share? Email us your ideas or reports to dhakavibeds@gmail.com



Strengthen communal harmony to attain development: President

UNB, Dhaka

Terming communal harmony a great tradition of the nation, President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged people of all religions to strengthen it to attain national development and progress, through a collective endeavour.

"Bangladesh is a land of communal harmony. All religious festivals are celebrated here with fervour and gaiety. I urge people of all religions to maintain it through collective efforts, and utilise it for attaining development of the country," he

He made the call while exchanging greetings with members of the Hindu community at a reception at Bangabhaban, marking Janmashtami, an annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. The President also stressed the need for

strengthening family ties to prevent violent incidents and build a peaceful society.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder, noted Hindu religious personalities, leaders of Hindu Religion Welfare Trust, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, Dhaka Mahanagar Sarbajonin Puja Committee, Bangladesh Hindu-

Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad and people from various professions of the community joined the reception. Lawmakers, judges, ambassadors,

Bangladesh, senior journalists of the Hindu community, among others, also joined the reception. The invited guests were entertained with

the high commissioner of India to

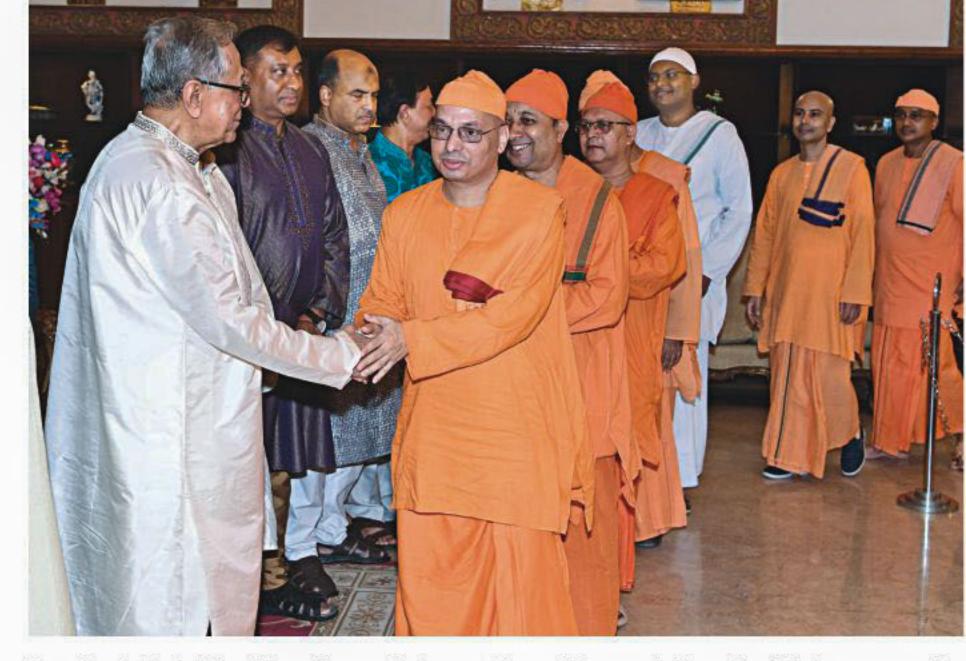
traditional food items at Darbar Hall, as the president went around and exchanged greetings with them.

ENEMIES OF HINDUS ARE ENEMIES OF THE NATION: QUADER

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the enemies of the country's Hindu community are also the enemies of the nation.

"Those who are your (the Hindu community) enemies and hostile to you, are communal forces... They are enemies of the state," he told a rally at Palashi intersection in the city, on the occasion of Janmashtami.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said there is no reason for Hindus to worry about their safety as long as the incumbent government is in power. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



President Abdul Hamid exchanged pleasantries with people from the Hindu community at Bangabhaban yesterday, on the occasion of Janmashtami. PHOTO: PID

DHAKA TODAY

LECTURE On Bangabandhu's thought on

education and its implementation Organiser: Bangladesh Itihas Sammilani Venue: Bangladesh National Museum Time: 4pm

PROTEST RALLY Demanding justice for the recent

rape incidents Organiser: Bangladesh Nari Mukti Kendra Venue: Jatiya Press Club Time: 4:30pm

MEMORIAL PROGRAMME

Remembering Novelist Rizia Rahman Organiser: Shilpito Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbagh Time: 5pm

SESSION

On anger management Organiser: Women Support Initiative Forum

Venue: EMK Center Time: 4pm

WORKSHOP

Research Paper: Documentation Using LaTeX Venue: Bangladesh University of Professionals Time: 2pm

recently.

HUMAN CHAIN

Protesting the recent fire incident in the Amazon rainforest Organiser: Biggan Andolon Mancha Venue: Jatiya Press Club Time: 10am

POETRY SESSION Poetry recitation and talk

Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmatia Time: 6pm



Environmentalists slam govt for failure to tackle dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of environmental activists yesterday critisised the government's failure to contain dengue, and urged it to involve people from all walks of life to tackle dengue outbreak across the country.

Speaking at a rally organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh, they termed the activities of authorities concerned in this regard "ineffective and eyewash". Speakers at the programme said the government

should integrate all local government bodies; educational, cultural, sports, business, and social institutions; public representatives and citizens to carry out urgent cleanliness programmes. "The government is yet to take an all-out effort

to tackle dengue outbreak. We demand that all government and non-government institutions across the country are engaged in this regard," said Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bapa. Mentioning that over 18,000 people were

infected by dengue fever last year, while the number has crossed 60,000 this year, the Bapa secretary said, "The government is not announcing the situation as an epidemic in fear of hurting its image."

Coming down heavily on the Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Atiqul Islam for fining house owners, he said, "These are just eyewash."

About the import of insecticides, Matin said, "There are questions on the effectiveness of the mosquitocides; they (city corporation authorities) are using those

without publishing the result of effectiveness tests. It is a failed project of the government."

There are allegations that city corporation officials

have ignored ineffectiveness of the insecticides -- as tested by icddr,b -- they import from abroad. The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) recently

announced that it would to look into the process of importing mosquitocides between 2005 to 2019. Urging the government to involve all citizens to

control the spread of mosquito round the year, he said, "Outbreak of the Aedes mosquito-borne disease is a common problem across the world, and they [other countries] have succeeded in controlling it."

Aminur Rasul, coordinator of People's Health Movement Bangladesh said, "Despite Kolkata being a crowded city, they have succeeded in controlling the breeding of mosquitoes. So why are they [city authorities] failing here? We need united efforts."

Organisers also placed a set of demands to the government, including prompt import of effective insecticides; assigning all public representatives to integrate people from all walks of life including students; arranging awareness campaigns; sending doctors to districts and upazilas based on needs; and ensuring fair price of all dengue tests and drugs.

They also urged the people to stay aware instead of being scared over the outbreak.

Fazlur Rahman, vice-president of Doctors for Health and Environment; Mihir Biswas, joint secretary of Bapa; and Prof Ahmmed Kamruzzaman, chairman of environment science department of Stamford University -- also spoke at the programme.

Over 61,000 dengue patients admitted to hospitals this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 61,000 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country this year, as the flow of patients continues.

According to Director General of Health Services (DGHS), 1,446 patients were admitted to hospitals across the country till 8am yesterday. With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients comes to 61,038. The number was 10,148 last year.

Meanwhile, three more patients died of dengue in Dhaka and Satkhira in the last two days -- raising the death toll to 114. The official number, however, is 47.

An eight-year-old child died of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne tropical viral disease, at Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Arian was admitted to Dhaka Shishu (children's) Hospital with dengue fever on Thursday and died around 3:30pm yesterday, said Abdul Hakim, public relations officer of the hospital. Till now, 12 children died of dengue in the hospital this year, he said.

Two persons -- Shahanara Khatun, 37, and Alamgir Gazi, 14 -- died of dengue in the last two days, reports our Satkhira correspondent.

Of them, Shahanara died of dengue early yesterday and Alamgir on Thursday evening, Satkhira Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Shaheen confirmed to The Daily Star.

"Shahanara was admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital after she was diagnosed with dengue on August 18. As her condition deteriorated, doctor referred her to Khulna Medical College Hospital. She passed away while being taken to the hospital around 1am," her husband told

the newspaper. Dr Asaduzzaman, medicine specialist at Satkhira Sadar Hospital, told this correspondent that he had referred Shahanara to Khulna Medical College Hospital after her condition worsened yesterday.

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