

Orphanage barely able to support its charges



Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage is suffering from a lack of funding.

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The yellow buildings bearing the splendor of the Nawab-era architecture have lost their grandeur long ago. The sound of happy children frolicking around has ceased too. Still the Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage in Dhaka's Azimpur tries its best to provide service and support to orphans.

At present 318 children are staying at the orphanage. Among them, 148 are girls and 170 are boys.

In the past, the orphanage could accommodate more children but acute shortage of funds and a decline in donations have meant that there's hardly any room these days.

"We cannot admit more orphans even if we want to due to the financial crisis. It feels awful to reject someone on the face but we have to do that most of the times," said Golam Muntazar, superintendent of the orphanage.

"Those who want to enroll a child have to fill the prescribed form of the orphanage and must have a certificate of his or her orphan status signed by the local MP or Ward Commissioner," informed administrative officer Mohamed Ehsan.

The children should be above six and must have a relative or a guardian. The orphanage no longer admits abandoned child as its Baby Home wing stopped functioning some time back.

"We could not afford the extra staff and other facilities that the Baby Home needed to look after the infants," said an official.

The orphanage complex was built on an 18-bigha area in 1909. Inexplicably, the buildings erected nearly a century ago were never renovated.

Rainwater peeping through the crumbling ceiling is a common occurrence during the monsoon and the staff quarter is in the risk of caving in.

"The part of the orphanage where the children stay is still livable but the staff quarter is in a sorry state. Our employees deserve better homes as they are providing service but we are unable to arrange anything good for them," admitted honorary secretary of the orphanage G.A. Khan.

"The orphanage requires at least Tk 5,00,000 per month to function properly. But our earnings from renting a few shops at the market nearby and some houses in old Dhaka, hardly exceed Tk 1,50,000," said Khan adding that it was becoming increasingly difficult to bear the expenditure.

The orphanage sometimes gets private donation but that amount is not much and rather uncertain.

The authorities also blamed the government's apathy for their present state.

The orphanage was allocated Tk 14,88,000 for 1995-96. But in the next five years it did not get any financial help from the Ministry of Social Welfare. Superintendent Muntazar informed that they had received a fund of Tk 7,20,000 for the year of 2001-2002. The ministry has also assured the orphanage of a Tk 400 per-person allowance for 160 wards.



Young artists are not happy with the deals they get from the city's art galleries.

A fine line for Fine Arts students

SHIMU RANI DAS

For young painters and artists of the city, showcasing their talent and creativity can be a tough proposition as there are very few art galleries.

Even if their work makes it to the galleries, chances are that they will receive at most 50 per cent of the selling price of the paintings. Besides, art studios prefer to exhibit paintings of prominent and established artists as they can profit more on them and draw a better audience.

"First of all we don't have sufficient galleries in Dhaka. There's a good number of promising artists here but booking a gallery for a show is always a problem as they are hard-pressed to accommodate us," said Hossain Muhammad Farook, a student of Fine Arts of Dhaka University.

"Even if they give us the opportunity for an exhibition, the galleries cut off a substantial part of the proceeds. If they sell Tk 10,000 worth of paintings, they give us three to five thousand."

Farook added.

Director of Dhaka University's Institute of Fine Arts, Abdus Sattar, attributed the plight of the young artists to a combination of scarcity of galleries and an acute shortage of genuine art lovers.

"There are only twelve art studios in Dhaka including our own Zainul Art Gallery. We only allow quality paintings here. The students of the institute get a 50 percent discount for an exhibition if their works meet the qualifying standards of the Zainul Gallery. They are also allowed to take home all the proceeds but you won't get this facility at commercial galleries which keep in the range of 25-40 percent of the total amount.

"Apart from that, we have a very, very limited art market. Only a section of the elite buy paintings while financial constraint often prevents the middle-class from purchasing artwork," said Sattar.

The lack of appreciation for art among the masses also bug the young artists.

"We are unable to convey the messages of our paintings to the people. They don't understand art and are rather ignorant. Our

countrymen are also not comfortable with the culture of buying paintings. When they see a Tk. 20,000 picture, they think that the money could be better spent on a refrigerator or a television set," lamented Hasan Rafi, another student of Fine Arts.

Follow art student Fahmida Hossain criticised the commercial galleries for their indifferent attitude towards the up and coming artists.

"The galleries don't have proper management and don't take promotional initiatives. In our city, the artists themselves have to manage the publicity aspect and lure potential buyers. But this should be the responsibility of the galleries.

"More galleries are an absolute necessity so that we can display and sell our paintings. But along with that, the mentality of the people need to change too. With a little sincerity, the galleries can play a major role in attracting a bigger audience and create more awareness about art," believed Fahmida.

Selling pork is no profit

The small community of pork-sellers in the city are finding that monsoon and hygiene fears are affecting trade

CITY CORRESPONDENT

A row of six small shops is nestled inside a narrow lane. Only a limited number of customers visit them. These shops behind Ananda Cinema Hall at Farm Gate are different from other meat shops in the city since they are the only place to sell pork.

Step into any of these shops and your eyes will rest on price lists common to each of them. Pork is available for Tk 80 while undercut meat is sold for Tk 220 per kg. Sausage costs Tk 140 per kg and Bacon costs Tk 200 per kg, the list says.

"The business is entirely confined within the Christian community," said Sajal Gomes, a shop holder. "Others do not even know about the place," he added.

The supply of pork takes place for six days a week, said the sellers. "We keep the supply off for a day so we need not refrigerate it a lot and can sell it fresh," said Robin Bernerd Rozario, a pork seller.

The pigs are not slaughtered in Dhaka, the sellers said. The meat comes mostly from Rangpur, Jessore and Pabna, the sellers noted. "It is slaughtered there and processed before brought to Dhaka," one of the sellers said.

"We are simply fond of it," said

Lucky Kuiya, who came to buy some Bacons. "It is not that we want to be different as another community but tempted by the taste," she said. However, some people said they stopped buying pork from the place since it is not properly processed. "Lot of parasites remains in pork if not properly processed," said Titus Muhuri (not his real name), a business person.

The business does not bring a stable earning, the sellers said. There is a slump in sale during the monsoon since pigs are not fed properly. Moreover, sale goes down during the Christmas as people leave Dhaka and go to their home districts. "We use to supply pork to Hotel Sonargaon even five years back but they stopped buying from us and importing it from Singapore," said Robin Bernerd Rozario. "Only two restaurants at Gulshan buy it from us now, he said. Sometimes organisations like The American Club or Canadian Club opt for buying pork from them, he added.

The sellers quoted their frustration for less income. "Sometime I think I should leave the business and do something else," said one of the sellers. "Then again I am not capable of starting something afresh at this age," he added.



The city's pork-sellers find a limited market among the Christian community.

Going beyond childhood barriers

They demand that policymakers listen to their needs and problems

CITY CORRESPONDENT

.....Eleven-year-old Ruzina lived out a traumatic past. She lost her mother in early childhood and severely beaten by her father before falling into the hands of child traffickers. But she was fortunate enough to be rescued.

Ruzina became aware of the problems in life and now got a clear perspective of it. Ruzina was among 40 children who attended a daylong event on June 18 to focus on plights children confront every day. The participants demand that the government think of children's needs and problems a little more sincerely before making a national policy for them.

The event was "Divisional Level Consultation Meeting on NPA with Children and Adolescent, Dhaka Division" organised by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) and assisted by Save The Children Sweden-Denmark.

The warm sunny day of mid-June became livelier with the vivacious children who gathered at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Auditorium. Children's opinions are important for a policy for whom it is

made, said the children and adolescents from different social strata. "The government should involve us in the policy by listening to our problems and needs," said Sharmin, who comes from the privileged class.

The participants highlighted physical torture, risky child labour, sexual harassment, lack of entertainment, lack of healthcare, neglect to physically challenged children and child marriage as some of the burning issues.

They put an underscore on poverty alleviation, employment, social awareness and political measure, proper enactment of law, lessening of discrimination, lowering of treatment costs for children in all government hospitals to reduce their plights.

The meeting was chaired by Aminul Islam, BASF executive board member, and moderated by Shaheen Ara Begum of BASF. Mahbul Alam, deputy secretary of the women and children affairs ministry, Lena Carlson, programme co-ordinator of Save The Children Sweden-Denmark and Dr Naushad Ahmed, Unicef planning officer were present as special guests.

flight timing, essential prices & handy numbers

MARKET PRICE

Vegetables (Tk Per Kg)	Jira- 125
Tomato- 22	Dhania- 30
Potato- 12	Daruchini- 140
Barboti, Beans- 16	Salt- 11
Dherosh, Okra- 16	Soyabean- 46-49/Litre
Jhinga- 16	Butter oil- 210
Chichinga- 14	Ghee- 280
Jali Lau- 16/Piece	Mustard oil- 70
Lau- 25/30 (Medium/Big)	Dalda- 50
Patol- 14	Tea- 120-160
Lemon- 3-5/Piece	Sugar- 28
Peas- 10/ (450 gm packet)	Wheat- 15
Sajna- 25	Musur Dal- 42
Eggplant- 14(Black), 16 (White)	Pulse- 20
Koralla- 16	
Pudina Leaf- 120	
Cabbage- 15	
Green banana- 10 (Hali)	
Green papaya- 8	
Lati- 10	

Meat & Egg
Beef- 80
Mutton- 140
Chicken- 70
Egg- 14 (Duck, Farm), 15 (Local Chicken)
Fruits
Pineapple- 25-35/piece,
Papaya- 25-30/piece
Fuli- 30-40/piece
Bel- 15-20/piece
Jackfruit- 150-200/piece
Watermelon- 30/50-60/piece
Mango (Indian)- 70/kg
Grapes- 120/kg
Apple- 80/kg
Orange- 80-90/dozen
Banana- 35/dozen

FLIGHT TIMING

Sunday

KA-110	ARR	0605
KU-281	ARR	0610
GF-258	ARR	0615
BG-032	ARR	0630
KA-111	DEP	0705
KU-282	DEP	0730
GF-259	DEP	0730
QR-344	ARR	0730
QR-345	DEP	0840
BG-030	ARR	0845
EK-336	ARR	0935
BG-019	DEP	0950
SV-804	ARR	1000
BG-018	ARR	1005
EK-338	DEP	1050
BG-036	ARR	1100
BG-060	DEP	1100
BG-018	DEP	1130
SV-801	DEP	1200
BG-092	ARR	1210
BG-020	ARR	1220
TG-321	ARR	1250
TG-322	DEP	1400
BG-108	ARR	1400
BG-093	DEP	1710
BG-021	DEP	1900
BG-094	ARR	1920
BG-039	DEP	1930
BG-061	ARR	1930
EK-337	ARR	1940
BG-041	DEP	2000
EK-337	DEP	2050
SO-436	ARR	2140
SO-435	DEP	2300

Monday

HKG-DAC	BG-013	DEP	0145
KWI-DAC	BG-056	ARR	0610
AUH-DAC	BA-145	ARR	0600
KHI-DAC	GF-258	ARR	0615
DAC-HKG	BG-012	ARR	0620
DAC-KWI	BG-006	ARR	0705
DAC-AUH	GF-259	DEP	0730
DOH-DAC	BG-040	ARR	0730
DAC-DOH	QR-344	DEP	0800
DXB-BOM-DAC	BA-144	ARR	0800
DXB-DAC	KB-126	ARR	0800
DAC-CCU	BG-040	ARR	0830
JED-RUH-DAC	QR-345	DEP	0840
LHR-DXB-DAC	EK-582	ARR	0840
DAC-KUL	KB-126	DEP	0840
JED-CGP-DAC	BG-084	DEP	0900
DAC-RGN-BKK	BG-022	ARR	0930
DAC-ZYL	BG-091	DEP	0950
DAC-RUH	BG-042	ARR	1000
CCU-DAC	SV-806	ARR	1000
KWI-AUH-ZYL-DAC	EK-583	DEP	1015
DAC-BKK	BG-097	DEP	1100
ZYL-DAC	BG-078	DEP	1130
DAC-CCU	SV-809	DEP	1200
DAC-CGP-MCT	BG-092	ARR	1210
CCU-DAC	TG-321	ARR	1250
DAC-RUH	BG-701	DEP	1345
BKK-RGN-DAC	SV-802	ARR	1400
KUL-DAC	TG-322	DEP	1400
DAC-BAH-KWI	IC-723	ARR	1500
DAC-DXB	BG-703	DEP	1530
SIN-DAC	IC-724	DEP	1550
DAC-SIN	SV-801	DEP	1600

TUESDAY

BAH-KWI-DAC	KU-281	ARR	0610
RUH-DMM-DAC	GF-258	ARR	0615
DAC-DXB	KU-282	DEP	0730
DAC-DEL	GF-259	DEP	0730
DAC-HKG	QR-344	ARR	0730
DAC-DMM-JED	BG-083	ARR	0750
DAC-DXB	BG-0345	DEP	0840
BKK-DAC	BG-050	ARR	0840
DAC-KTM	HY-461	ARR	0845
RUH-DAC	BG-036	ARR	0850
DAC-BKK	EK-336	ARR	0935
CCU-DAC	BG-091	DEP	0950
DAC-KTM	BG-028	ARR	1000
DAC-CCU	SB-804	ARR	1000
DAC-RUH	HY-462	DEP	1045

DAC-JED	EK-336	DEP	1050
DAC-CCU	SV-807	DEP	1200
DAC-CGP-AUH	BG-092	ARR	1210
KTM-DAC	BG-070	DEP	1215
HKG-DAC	TG-321	ARR	1250
CCU-DAC	BG-026	ARR	1330
TG-322	DEP	1400	
SIN-DAC	SV-896	ARR	1400
BKK-DAC	IC-723	ARR	1500
DAC-DOH-DXB	BG-014	ARR	1515
KUL-DAC	IC-724	DEP	1550
DAC-DXB-BRU-JFK	SV-811	DEP	1600
DAC-SIN	BG-014	DEP	1640
DAC-KUL	BG-093	DEP	1710
DAC-DXB-LHR	BG-035	DEP	1815
DAC-KUL	BG-104	ARR	1910
BG-094	ARR	1920	
BG-039	DEP	1930	
EK-337	ARR	1940	
EK-337	DEP	2050	

DAC-KUL	DAC-RUH-MED	CCU-DAC	DAC-SIN	BKK-DAC	DOH-DXB-CGP-DAC	DAC-BKK	RUH-DAC	CCU-DAC	LHR-DXB-DAC	DAC-CCU	DAC-RUH	DAC-ZYL	DAC-CCU	DAC-JED	DAC-RUH	DAC-DXB
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COURIER

National
Asian courier Service Ltd- 8313543
BAE- 9884851
Central Courier Service- 9881118
Confidence Courier Service Ltd. 9567036
Chisty Courier- 7110177-9, 7100842-4
Cosmopol Services- 9552793, 9557975
Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222
Solphin Courier- 9558802
Dreamland Courier Service- 9550326, 9569759
Pioneer Courier Services- 9561727, 9569759
Probashi Courier Services- 9346359
Rainbow Express Parcel Services Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703
Reliance Express Services- 9558118, 7110249
Sundarban Courier Services- 9551984, 9556189, 9551656
Sunrise Courier Services- 9568751

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999 is the helpline in Dhaka just in case you need to reach police