

Booking funds for the National Library

The National Library has not had sufficient employees in vital posts for the last ten years," said Salma Islam, deputy director of Directorate of archives and National Library

BISHAWJIT DAS

The National Library could not publish its yearly national bibliography for the last nine years for what the authorities called shortage of staff.

Publishing the yearly bibliography is one of the major tasks of the National Library in any country. It brings national print materials to readers both at home and abroad.

The work of the National Library, established in 1973, is to collect books from all over the country, compile them, publish and keep references.

"But it did not have adequate employees to carry out the task for the last nine years," said Salma Islam, deputy director of Directorate of Archives and National Library.

"The work of bibliographers is highly technical. Three bibliographers and the chief bibliographer retired at the same time and the library has no-one to take care of their responsibilities right now. We could not fill the vacancies until now because of a government embargo," said Salma.

The National Library has a collection of five lakh books and journals and has access to 55 newspapers and 180 magazines.

"Any reader can use the library paying

a yearly fee of Tk 15. Researchers need a recommendation letter from their institutes to study here," said S Khan, bibliographer of the National Library.

"The readers of the library cannot take books home. It is open from 9:00am to 4:00pm."

Khan said the authorities are planning to extend the study time up to 10:00pm.

The National Library that has an average of 50 readers in the reading section is the only organisation that enjoys the copyright act, receives books from all publishers of Bangladesh and has a yearly fund of Tk 25 lakh to purchase books and journals.

"The National Library is the knowledge store for any nation. It is to provide the list of books for the nation for any need," said Sabira Manir, a researcher.

The library does not have any relevant ordinance or act to follow even about 30 years after its inception. The library has no advisory council to help it function smoothly. The Directorate of National Archives and National Library should have 82 employees, whereas it has only 59.

As a result, the library fails to keep references, publish the bibliography regularly and provide its readers with adequate facilities.



National Library at Agargaon failed to publish the national bibliography for nine years now.

Local newspapers supporting the community

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The editor of a community newspaper 'Kalabagan Barta' has appealed to other similar newspapers of Dhaka city to work together in bringing to light the problems faced by communities.

Masud Karim, Editor of the Kalabagan Barta, made the request while speaking on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the newspaper.

To mark the anniversary, Kalabagan Barta arranged a reception of celebrated personalities of Dhaka and Kolkata. Eminent journalist Obaid-Ul-Huq, former secretary and a researcher AKM Zakaria, poet Shamudra Gupta, poet Kajol Chakravarty and Shamir Das Gupta were present among others.

In a keynote paper on the role of community newspaper in social life 'Dr. Abul Azad said that community newspaper is an effective tool to identify the problems of the community and can influence the people of the community more than national newspapers.

For example, the roads of Kalabagan were so narrow that two rickshaws could not pass at a time, which made people wait hours in traffic jams. However, through a campaign initiated by the Kalabagan Barta, local residents have brought down boundary walls of the own houses and have broadened the road.

Obaid-Ul-Huq said that land grabbing has become a habit these days. He marveled at the Barta's success in motivating the people to give up stretches of land at a time when no one is prepared to spare an inch.

Women earning at home, working out a safer system

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The daylong workshop on social protection of women homebased workers ended yesterday at Women's Volunteer Auditorium with an appeal to ensure protection of the women who are striving for extra money for their survival.

The daylong workshop was part of a two day workshop on health safety and social protection of the homebased women work-

ers organised by Bangladesh Homeworkers Women Association (BHWA).

In the keynote paper Advocate Fawzia Karim Firoze, the advisor of Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA) spoke on the current ground realities facing women workers in the informal sector in the country.

There is no universally applicable model for promoting women homebased workers in developing countries like Bangladesh.

Changing economic, political and social conditions have had an influence on the family structure in our society. As a result, women are working not only to complement the family income but also to realize their personal potential. The meshing of home and work responsibilities can be daunting if they do not have a secure family life and are not treated as equal partner in the formulation of family policies. This situation cannot be remedied by legislation alone. A

concerted effort is necessary by homeworkers representative, Legislative authorities, Press support and World Labour and Development bodies like ILO and UN organisations.

A homeworker's contribution to the social and economic development of the nation cannot be overlooked. The contribution of the homebased workers should be taken into account in the process of development planning. Women's interests as mothers, citizens and workers should be considered when society sets rules and appropriate benefits that will provide them security in the society.

The work in development will not succeed until and unless social protection measures for women workers in the formal sector are implemented and these strategies are debated and incorporated in the policy making forums. So the need of the hour is a national policy for homeworkers which must specify and incorporate the social security system and inclusion of homebased women workers in the new Labour Code including protection against occupational health hazard, provision of maternity benefits, insurance schemes and policies. Above all national policy should be taken to allow the homebased organisations to form trade union.



Women making a living working from home demand a national policy.

Pedaling their wares

SYED TASHFIN

The vegetable sellers, who previously peddled their limited stock of vegetables to different households; are now using vans which are letting them be more efficient and have a better daily income than the former procedure. Over the last one and a half year, a group of peddlers have been using three wheeler vans, which provide the peddlers with more space and give them the extra advantage to get to as many households they possibly can within a very limited amount of time.

"The 'tukri' that we used were too small and congested," said Mohammad Jamal, one of the vegetable peddlers. "They were usually very heavy to move around with, and as such, we were never able to make such business, through that mode."

Most of these peddlers have been in this business since their twenties, like Md. Delawar Sarder. Delawar did not have a steady income in the past, but now, with the implementation of this new idea, five of his buddies along with him, now enjoy a daily income of at least, Tk. 200. They have a group of very loyal customers, who prefer to buy these vegetables from their own doorstep rather than going to the market. Reportedly, the customers also take advantage of the fact that these veggie

items are priced at least two taka less than the market retail price.

Most of these peddlers, who work around the Kalabagan area and some parts of Dhanmondi, live in Boubazar, Jhigatola. They have been able to support their respective families with the monthly income that they receive by selling from these portable vegetable stores.

"Business have been so good that within the last two months, two of us have already purchased their own vans, so

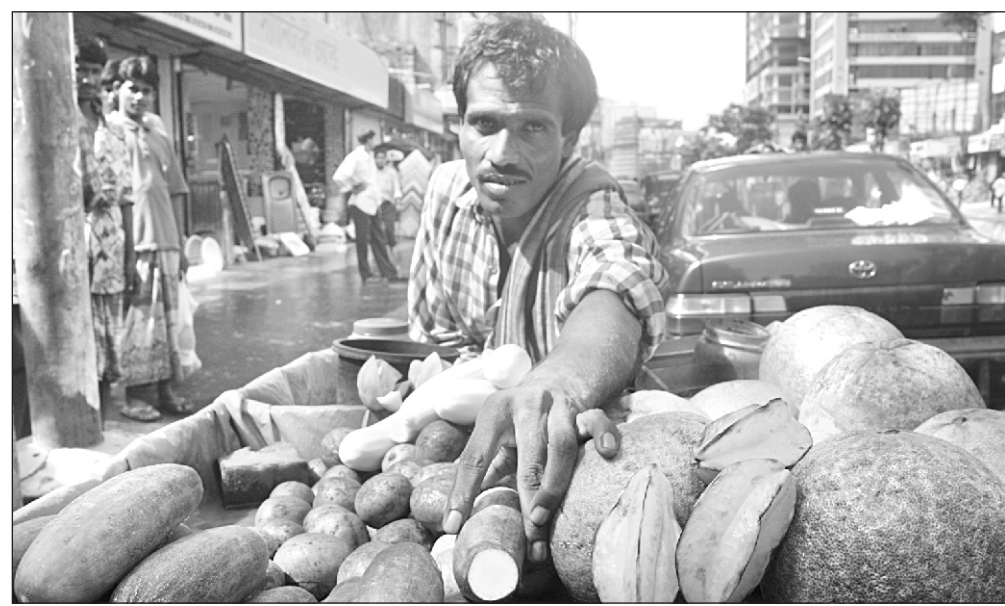
as to cut down on the extra expenditure from renting them."

Said Jamal. These peddlers buy their items off from Kawranbazar, daily at 2:00 in the morning. They arrange and stock their vans with the correct combination of these items by 5:30 in the morning. Most city dwellers, who are used to jogging around the Dhanmondi lake during working entrepreneurs. The peddlers disperse around 8 in the morning and go their own ways. Other than from the usual

threats from hijackers, extortionists and so on, these peddlers are extremely satisfied with this job of theirs.

"Usually we have 20 to 25 items on our vans, and by the end, we are always successful at selling every single one of these items off before heading back home," said Delawar.

Following the very footsteps of Delawar and his buddies, more peddlers around the Mirpur, Dhanmondi and other areas are adapting the same idea in order to ensure a steady and profitable daily income.



Rickshaw vans being used for facilitating vendors of vegetables.

Healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
Heart
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital
 Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health

- Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980
- Eye**
 Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
 Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

- Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69
 Salimullah Medical College Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR,B)- 8811751-60
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
 Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
 Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

MARKET CLOSED

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursdays
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursdays.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
 Navana 9558065
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
 Cab One 7113282-3
 Nihon 8624741-2
 Orion 9347277
 Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
 Capital 9352847
- Union** 8130485
 Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
 Cab Ex 9358401
 Cabline 8321162
 JBS Cab 019364575
 Sajjan 018126036
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
 Cab One 7113282-3
- TRAIN TIMING**
- Subarna Express**
 Mahanagar Prabhati
 Mahanagar Godhui
 Turna
Parabati Express
 Joyantika Express
 Upaban Express
 Tista Express
 Ekata Express
 Upakul Express
 Padma Express
- Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
 Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am
 Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55
 Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm
 Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
- Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412