

Dairy sellers milk money

For over a century, two dairy wholesalers at Rathkhola, on Nawabpur Road have supplied thousands of sweetmeat and other dairy product users with fresh milk. Rathkhola wholesalers have remained the main source of milk for the city dwellers for as long as they remember.

SYED TASHFIN

Just like the fruit selling 'aarots' (warehouse) and fish selling 'aarots' of Kawran Bazar, Sadharghat and so on, there also exists a very ancient milk 'aarot', operating in this city for over the last hundred years. The 'aarots' or warehouses are located at the intersection of Rathkhola road near Gulistan and are the only two major milk-selling warehouses that the city has to offer currently. Reportedly, milk-sellers from all over the city, as well as those in and around the Dhaka district rushes to these two warehouses almost daily for the sale of their milk at very reasonable prices. The warehouses have an illustrious history, narrated the milk-sellers, porters and so on of the place.

Reportedly, the two warehouses belong to the Zameendar (Landlord) of Nawabpur, who had won the two warehouses and a large portion of the land around the Nawabpur area, through a case against the British government, in British court during the late 1800's. The Zameendar was Late Krishtodas Bashak, whose descendants still

receive the reasonable rents of Taka 3000 per month from such shops, over the last hundred years.

At the inception, the old city of Dhaka had over eight or nine such warehouses but over time the rest perished leaving the two existing warehouses.

"I remember this shop from the time I was only five, and people from all over the city and the nearby districts came over, on horseback or on foot to sell and buy milk from here," said Shamsudding Bhuiyan, a 77 year old resident of the area. One of the two warehouses was rented to Motilal Ghosh of the Motilal Mistanno Bhandar, while the other was looked after by Madhu Ghosh, who later handed over the ownership to Nuru Miah. These businessmen, who had initiated the warehouses somewhere during the time of Emperor Jahangir, have handed the ownership to their descendants down the line.

"Even during the riots, milk sellers and buyers were seen working here and now during the hartals, the scene has not changed," said

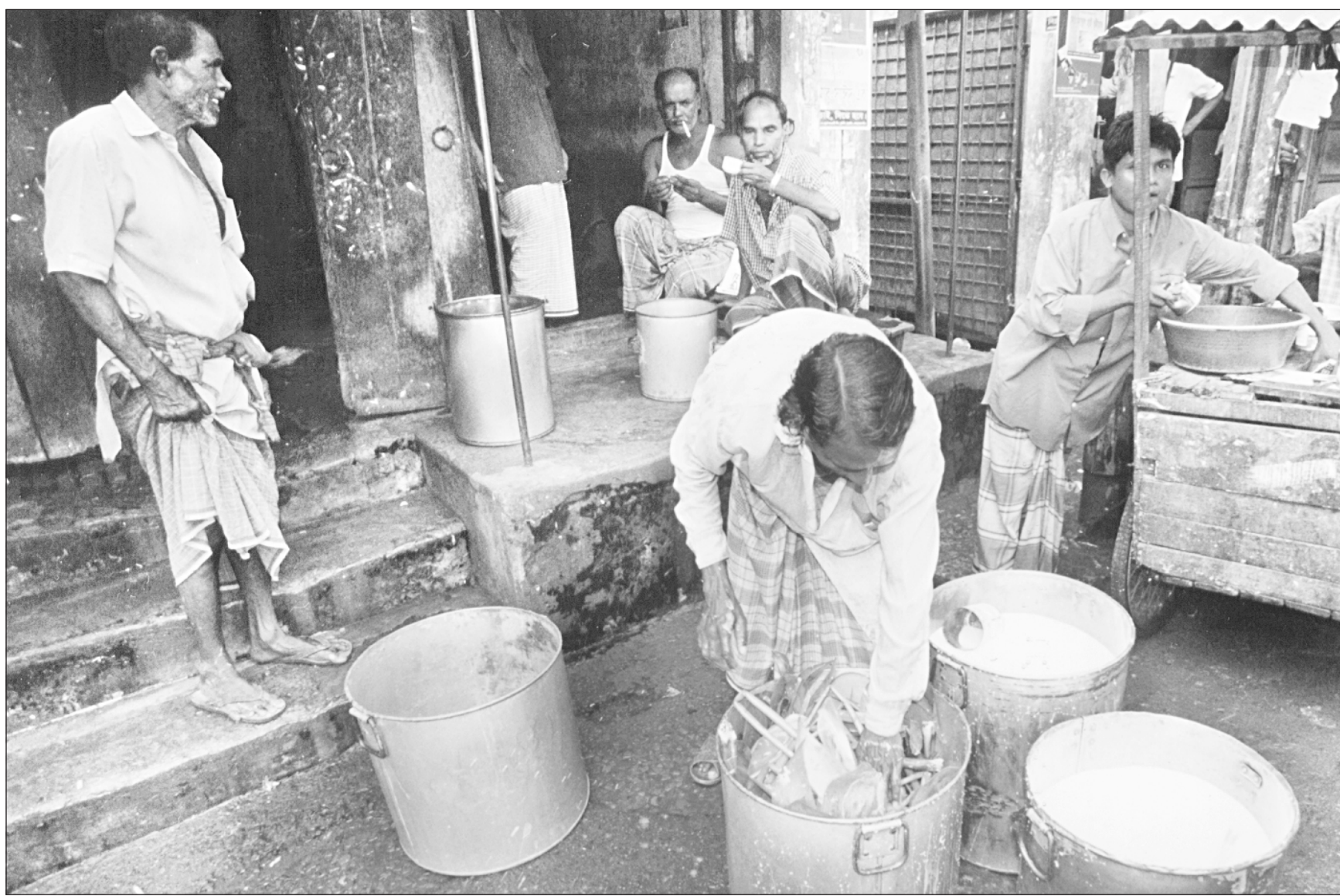
Jagannath Shah, a porter by profession, who has been involved with these warehouses since 1945.

The warehouses begin their business from 10 am in the morning but the business usually picks up from 3.00 in the afternoon. On a daily basis, around 30 to 40 maunds of milk arrive at each warehouse.

"By 8 p.m. all the milk is sold off as there has always been a high demand for the pure milk that we provide to this city," said Lalji Ghosh, the manager of one of the warehouses.

Reportedly, the price of the milk varies from 8 to 25 taka per liter at each warehouse, the lowest price existing at the earliest hour. The milk is supplied to the sweetmeat shops, milkmen, and so on.

"We are satisfied with the way these warehouses been operating from their initiation, as it supports more than over three hundred families of milk-sellers in and around the city," said Md. Hashem, a sixty year old porter. The warehouse also acts as a residence to such porters where they have been living from the very beginning.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

The milk wholesalers of Rathkhola have been operating in the city for over one hundred years.

Taller chimneys lead to lower pollution

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Eighty percent of the brick kilns around Dhaka City have complied with a government order and converted their chimneys from 30 feet to 120 feet, said sources in the Department of Environment (DoE).

Last November, the government asked about 1,000 brickfields to build their chimneys 120 feet high to cut air pollution.

"We are happy with the progress the brick kiln owners have achieved so far," said DoE Director General Omar Faruque Khan.

"The government order will help increase the combustion level of coal. The dispersion of smoke from the chimneys will also be better," he said.

Initially, the brick kiln owners faced multiple problems converting the chimneys on the government order. No experts were available at the time. On top of that, the cost of conversion was too high: at least Tk 15 lakh is required for that, said President of Brick Kiln Owners Association Afazul Islam Afaz.

Despite constraints, the brick kiln owners hired people from India and tried their best to convert the chimneys into 120 feet, said

Afaz.

"It will save at least 25 per cent of energy. Pollution will definitely decrease thanks to more burning of coal," said Afaz.

The work for conversion was not finished before the deadline expired. "A very few people in Bangladesh have learnt the technique to build such a huge structure and we could not build the chimneys in time. That's why we met the environment and forest minister and sought a two-year extension of the deadline," said Afaz.

The government enacted two laws in 2001 to control brickfields. One of them says a brickfield should be set up in an area that is away from 50 trees and as many houses.

"Bangladesh is one of the densely populated countries. If this law is applied, the brick kiln industry will face a big blow. The other law that empowers a magistrate to close down brick kilns is also a hurdle," said the association president.

"The minister assured us that the two laws would be amended," added Afaz.

All work, no play

BISHAWJIT DAS

The children in the city are compelled to entertain themselves indoors and on the streets as markets and small businesses mostly occupy city playgrounds and parks.

Dhaka, a city of 10 million people with a child population of two third, has only 10 playgrounds and 41 parks owned by Dhaka City Corporation.

However, BELA in a survey found 10 playgrounds and 61 parks in the city, of which some 5 or 6 parks have disappeared. Besides, there are scarcely any serious initiatives for children.

Apmar has arranged a child carnival for the kids between 4 and 8, as well as the parents, at 6 pm, on September 29 at National Museum auditorium. It will give an opportunity to the city kids to participate in recreation and creative activities, said the initiators of the organisation.

The programme would include children taking part in reciting popular nursery rhymes and puppet and magic shows. The guardians, along with the kids, would also have things to do. They would enjoy a 'never-ending' story telling time, sharing

the joy of the kids, said the initiators.

Apmar, an organisation that takes initiatives for recreation and creative activities for children, hopes to give 'something different' to the kids apart from 'idly' watching TV or playing computer games.

Children nowadays have forgotten what nursery rhymes are, be it in English or in Bangla,

and Apmar is trying its utmost to bring back the childish rhythm into their lives. Children are so bent on TV and computer games that they do not know and enjoy the puppet and magic shows.

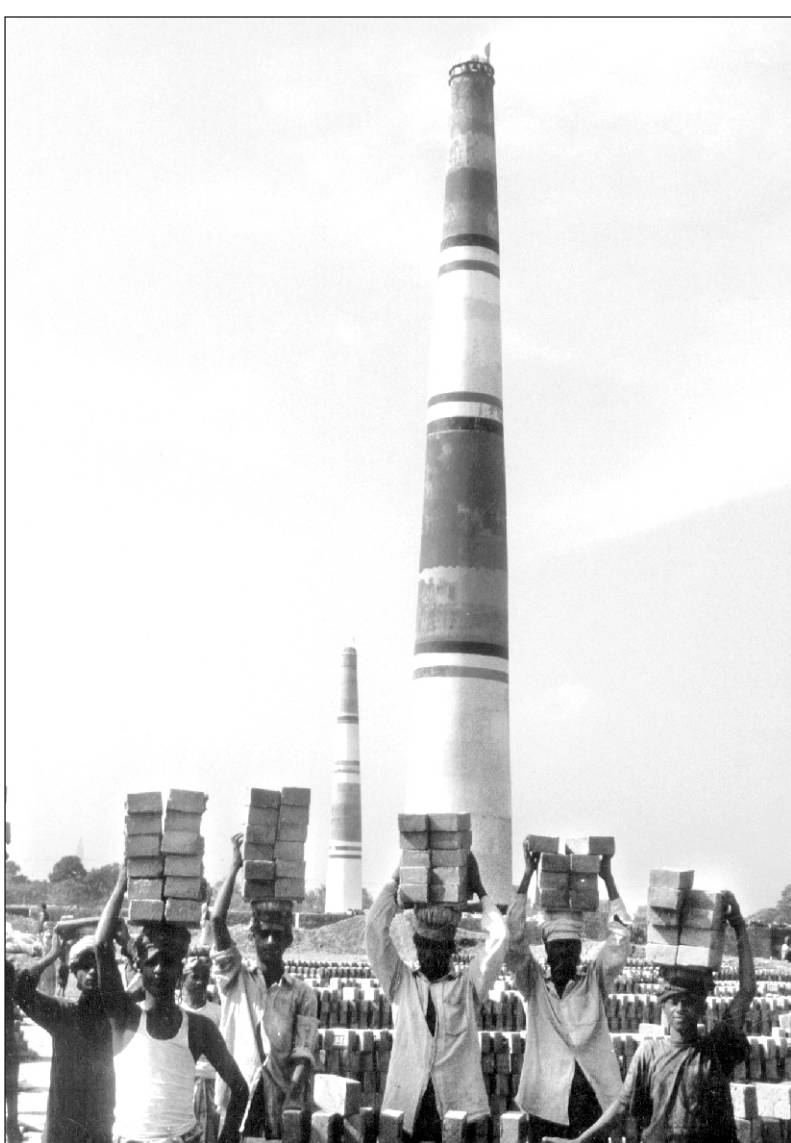
Times like how children enjoyed movies such as The Sound of Music or Annie, where puppet and magic shows were introduced are no more the trend. Hopefully Apmar will be able to

bring back the children in them.

The initiators are contacting different academic institutions to help to them achieve their goal. "We are planning an interactive theatrical entertainment for the kids, by the kids in Bangladesh, which is rare and unknown to our children," said Nasrin Siraj Any, an organiser of Apmar.



Video game outlets are becoming one of the few entertainment options left to city children.



The new taller chimneys aid the dispersion of smoke, reducing pollution.

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-
8311731-25
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 Collage
Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital
(ICDDR)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061,
7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital-
8626812-9

Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank-
8614040

Ambulances For Deaf Bodies

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
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajaxmi Market-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
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

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabat 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

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

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- 8611333
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