



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

A fruit seller has set up shop at the foot of a pedestrian's over-bridge near Sadarghat, obstructing the way for anyone wanting to use the stairs to cross the street.

Hawkers demand separate ministry for them!

They are pressing for implementation of their 11-point demand which includes a national policy on rehabilitation and trade licence.

SULTANA RAHMAN

More than 15 lakh hawkers in the city, fear being thrown out of business in repeated police crackdowns, urged implementation of a 11-point demand, including forming a national policy and a separate ministry for them.

For lack of a convenient market place, the hawkers have long been left to take up walking space, which forced the authorities to launch eviction drives.

The hawkers accused police of grabbing their wares in the name of eviction carried out as a routine work.

"If bribed, police give the seized goods back to the hawkers," alleged Haroon, who sells furniture in front of the Teachers' Training College.

"They bully us into paying them Tk 25 in bribe. We cannot afford that much, but they don't stop harassing us unless they get what they demand," Haroon added.

The hawkers are pressing for implementation of the charter of a 11-point demand, including formation of a separate ministry, a national policy on rehabilitation and trade licence.

The hawkers, who are often credited with selling wares comparatively cheap to low-income groups, are also blamed for illegal occupation of sidewalks and blocking the way of pedestrians in the city where 60 percent of people use footpaths to walk.

"We have a limited access to sidewalks, as wayside vendors use the footpaths as space for makeshift shops," said Ibrahim Khaled who was picking his way through the hawker-occupied sidewalk to Dhaka Newmarket.

The authorities have planned to build a number of hawkers' markets in different areas, as the possession of shops in other markets is beyond their reach.

According to Bangladesh Sammilta Footpath Hawkers

Parishad, a platform of hawkers, over 15 lakh hawkers have no alternative place where they can run their business.

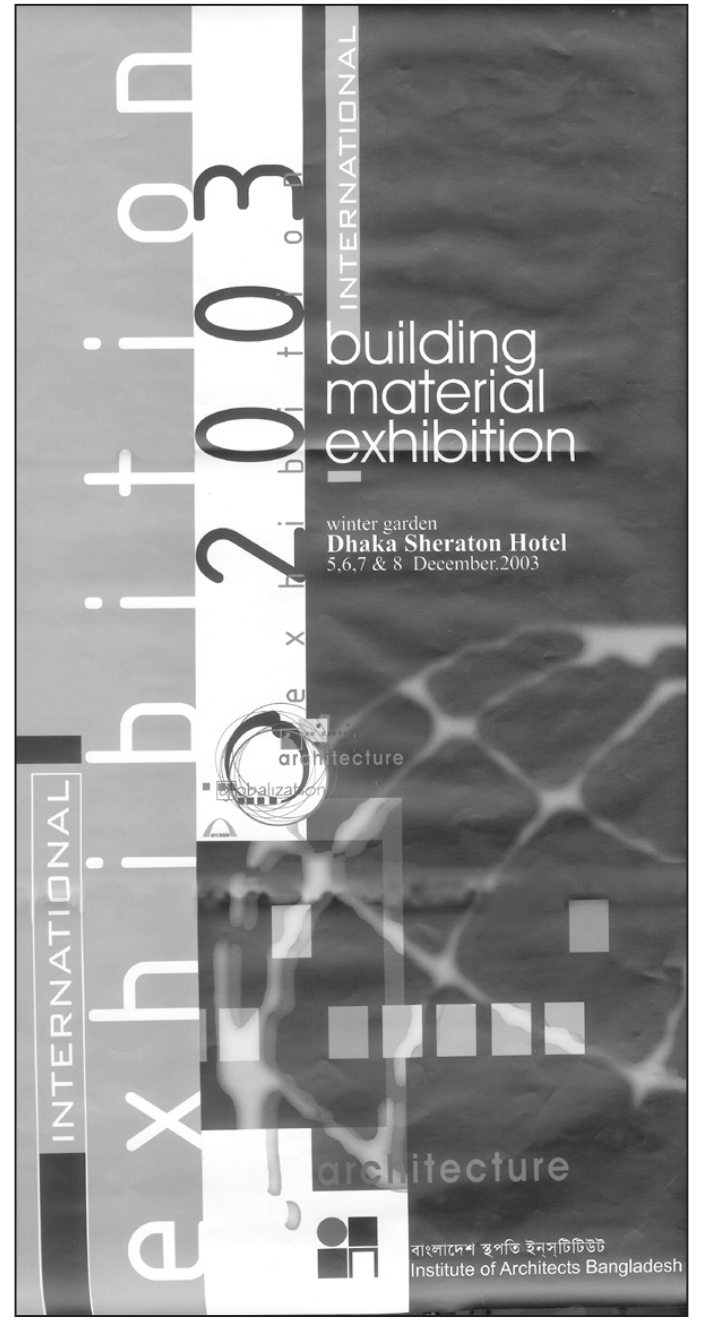
"Most hawkers are day labourers, struggling to stay afloat and trying to help their families out," said Oli Ulla Patwari, president of the organisation.

The other side of the issue is that Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) that owns 200-kilometre footpath is responsible for making sidewalks useable for pedestrians and launch eviction drives against the hawkers.

The DCC built at least two hawkers' market in Gulistan but has not yet distributed the shops to 'genuine' hawkers.

"Getting a space in these markets costs a hawker Tk 2.5 lakh, plus bribes to an influential group to get access, which is all but impossible for them," Patwari said.

But a DCC official denied the allegations, saying the DCC tries to make the cost affordable for hawkers.



The poster of an ongoing international exhibition of building materials at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel running until tomorrow.

Architects debate globalisation

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) has organised a seminar on challenges facing Asian architects due to globalisation.

The six-day meet is scheduled to start today in Dhaka. The theme of the seminar is "Globalisation and Asian Architecture." Around 170 architects from 22 countries are expected to participate.

IAB is hosting the programme on behalf of Architects Regional Council for Asia (ARCASIA), an international organisation with which it is affiliated. ARCASIA currently constitutes of 17 national institutes of architects and provides a platform for Asian architects to interact, share experiences and foster the concept of environmental architecture.

Members of the IAB believe that the present period of human history is obsessed with the idea of globalisation and its discourses. Hardly any human activity or process is found free from its effect and architecture is no exception.

"Globalisation sometimes hampers the 'architectural identity' of a developing region by affecting people's visual expectation. People want to see some type of architectural work as they see in other parts of the world. Mere copying of western architectural ideas like small

apartment houses, overhead footbridges or underpasses will not benefit people unless they are accustomed to it. Besides, it may endanger architectural heritage," said an architect.

On the positive side, globalisation enhances architects' endeavour. It offers better access to materials, technology, and concepts. It widens the scope to practice creativity across national boundaries.

The members believe that architects in the Asian region should remain aware of not becoming victims of globalisation entirely. But at the same time, they should not get constricted by religious or social limitations and avoid globalisation.

The seminar will be a platform to discuss and debate the pressing questions on globalisation. 'Materials and technology', 'Culture and Identity', 'Social Divide and responsive design', 'City and its Context' and 'Practice and Pedagogy' will be the seminar's sub-themes.

Professor Anthony Vidler of Cooper Union, New York will present the keynote paper at the meet. Renowned architects Shigeru Ban, Axel Schultes, Kazi Khaled Ashraf, Suha Ozkan, Prof. Moazzfar Ahmed, Tay Kheng Soon, Khadem Ali, B.V. Doshi, and Adnan Morshed will be among the invited speakers.

Spreading knowledge for development

CHARLOTTE JACQUEMART

Looking for the most recent data on women's rights? Then head off for the Community Development Library (CDL), situated on road no 14A in Dhanmondi, in the city.

The CDL, an NGO, has active liaison with about 1000 other NGOs, research institutes and government agencies involved in development work. The staff of the CDL collects books, magazines, research papers and articles on 51 topics of development issues like human and women's rights, minorities, land, law or ecology.

The major donors of the CDL, founded in 1980, are HEKS-Switzerland, Unicef and Misereor-Germany. CDL's library budget was around Tk 3.3 million for three years. "Knowledge is an important tool for social, political and economic development. Therefore we have to make sure that everyone involved in development work is aware of the other's experiences," said Mofizur Rahman, the program co-ordinator of the CDL.

The Dhanmondi library, is the only one out of 27 centres run by the CDL, that is open six days a week.

"We consider ourselves a network of development information and communication," explains Rahman.

The other centres of CDL are located in Bogra, Khulna, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Ulipur, Kushtia, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Ramgoti, Sandwip, Hatija, Dashmina, Khepupara, Homna, Islampur, Gurudaspur, Nalitabari, Noria, Shahajadpur, Ishwardi, Louhojang, Monohorpur, Darshana, Charfassion, Talimnagore, Sylhet.

Many of these areas are remote, some only accessible by boat. Very often, the CDL centre is the only available resource for knowledge for the locals. In the year 2002, 4,28,770 people have frequented the 26 rural centres of CDL.

There are plans to build up more centres at Rangamati, Modhupur, Mymensingh, Rangpur and Chakarria.

The CDL in Dhaka has two sections, the reference and the

reading section. Around 30,000 books and research reports and more than 3000 videotapes are available here. To borrow a book or a film, one has to be a member of the centre. The annual membership is Tk 100, while a Tk 200 has to be deposited as security.

Books, periodicals and newspapers are accessible to everyone. CDL collects news clips from ten Bangla and English, newspapers on development topics. The CDL has also a wide collection of old magazines like Bickitra and Robbar, which are not so freely available.

The Star City correspondent found a dozen people in the library when he visited it on Saturday. "Under normal circumstances we have up to 150 people frequenting the Dhaka centre every day," explains Rahman. "We not only have NGO workers, but also students and journalists among our regular visitors," adds Roselyne Palma, head of the reference section.

CDL acts as a publisher too. So far about 90 titles of books and research papers on developing issues have been published.

The most recent one is "Children's Boundary, exploring struggle, and local contexts of Child Rights".

CDL believes that informa-

tion and knowledge are the crucial links missing between ignorance and enlightenment, poverty and prosperity, between de-humanised state and empowerment. "There is a

gap of knowledge between people, organisations and society. We try to provide information to bridge this gap," concludes Rahman.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

The library room at Community Development Library in Dhanmondi.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH	MARKET CLOSED	TAXI CAB	LIBRARY & INFO	
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,	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-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 Muktiyuddha Jadughar-Sunday Dhaka Zoo-Sunday Shishu Jadughar-Sunday	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	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