

# Let them play, let them grow

Environmentalists call upon the government to give up the culture of holding fairs on playgrounds and free them from illegal occupiers as fast diminishing open spaces is hampering physical and psychological growth of children

SULTANA RAHMAN

Environmentalists have again called upon the government to save the remaining playgrounds in the city for the sake of healthy psychological and physical growth of the children.

Around two thirds of Dhaka's 10-million strong population are children. But the city has only 10 playgrounds and 41 parks owned by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) but even those are not suitable for children.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA), Institute of Architects (AIB) and Dhanmondi Paribeshbadi Jote jointly organised a procession last Sunday asking the authorities to stop holding fairs on all playgrounds including Dhanmondi ground.

At present, Dhanmondi Club is holding a fair on the ground, which will continue for a week.

Environmentalists have repeatedly organised protests to end the culture of holding fairs on all playgrounds and also to free them from the illegal occupiers.

"None can use playgrounds for commercial purpose without DCC's permission," said Abu Naser Khan, general secretary of BAPA. "So why are they allowing the commercial occupiers to deprive what is rightfully the children's?" he asked.

Many city dwellers complained that the fast diminishing open-spaces and playgrounds from the cityscape is hampering physical and psychological growth of city children.

"There is only a small corridor in my house where I can play with my little bicycle and a few toys. Besides this television is the other entertainment I have," said eleven year old Sakib who lives in Khilgoan.

"The lack of physical movement may cause serious mental hindrance to children. It will not handicap them mentally but a mental imbalance is a probability," feared Dr HM Firoz, director of National Mental Health Institution

Children of the city are compelled to entertain themselves indoors which is making them psychologically isolated and creating a long-term negative effect in their personality, Dr Firoz said.

But the DCC and other concerned bodies are allegedly neglecting the notion of playgrounds, as they are not taking action against the occupiers.

State department of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) claim that they have a shortage of manpower as well as unavailability of police to evict the occupiers.

"There is very limited access for children to play in the playgrounds as organisations, one after another, arrange fairs there. This is happening every year," said Abu Naser Khan.

"Most of the open spaces and playgrounds are occupied by either businessmen or land grabbers," he added.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) in a survey conducted, found several playgrounds and parks have disappeared.

Environmentalists and right groups allege that the DCC is not serious about freeing playgrounds as they earn a huge amount in revenues by permitting commercial use of the grounds and open spaces.

"Quite often we evict the illegal occupiers but local bodies including ward commissioners and regional DCC officials don't do their jobs of protecting the grounds," said a senior official of the estate department.

DCC sources said that there is a plan to hand over all parks and playgrounds to private sector which might solve the problem.



The week-long fair in progress at the Dhanmondi playground, organised by the Dhanmondi Club itself.

## DU ADMISSION SEEKERS



Students queue up at bank branches at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) for Dhaka University admission forms yesterday. Admission forms for the first year honours classes can be collected and submitted till December 28. Admission tests for 2003-2004 academic session will begin on January 16.

# Cheap shopping bags from garment waste soon

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Cheap, environment-friendly shopping bags made of thread produced from garment waste are likely to hit markets in the near future.

As banned polythene bags were trying to sneak in; the government was striving to find an effective alternative to stave off their comeback.

Jute-made shopping bags captured market immediately after a ban on polythene products but soon became 'unpopular' because of the 'high price'. Eventually, cheaper shopping bags made of nylon net, toxic fertiliser and cement packets flooded the market.

Frequent raids on markets failed to stop use of banned bags and shoppers and shopkeepers urged the government to provide them with a 'less expensive' alternative to jute bags. And till today, use of banned bags in various forms continues.

Recently, environment minister Shahjahan Siraj held several meetings with the garment factory owners who showed eagerness to extend all cooperation in producing the proposed bags.

Welcoming the move, garment owners said that this would be the best method in recycling the waste. On the other hand, this will also help protect the environment as most garment waste decomposes in the soil easily. They also said that the production cost would be cheaper than other bags in the market.

Sources said the garment owners recently urged the government to allow them to use a portion of the now closed Adamjee Jute Mills in Narayanganj for the purpose.

"Discussions on the issue are on and once the government gives a go-ahead we will take necessary steps without any delay," said a garment factory owner.



Shopping bags made of banned nylon net, toxic fertiliser and cement packets are on sale at city shops

## marketprice

**Dhaka New Market, Dhaka**  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman MediumKGS 17.33  
 Rice coarse (HYV)KGS14.33  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS 35.33  
 Wheat Grain (Local White)KGS 11.17  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Desi)KGS45.00  
 Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS38.00  
 Khesari Dal (Desi)KGS21.00  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Desi)KGS22.00  
 Onion (India big)KGS19.00  
 Garlic Deshi (common)KGS37.00  
 Garlic Big (Imported)KGS31.00  
 Ginger (Desi)KGS29.33  
 Ginger (Imported)KGS44.00  
 TurmericKGS77.33  
 Turmeric (India)KGS85.00  
 Chili GreenKGS22.33  
 Chili Dried (Desi Bogra)KGS87.67  
 Chili Dried (Imported)KGS95.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holand)KGS17.00  
 Bitter GourdKGS19.00  
 Cauliflower Average SizePCS11.00  
 Local Bean GreenKGS13.00  
 Lau (Water Gourd)KGS15.00  
 Brinjal (Long purple)KGS15.00

More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
 Pumpkin (Sweet)KGS9.00  
 Papaya GreenKGS6.00  
 Radish WhiteKGS7.00  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS9.00  
 Apple (Australia)KGS65.00  
 CoconutPCS13.33  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Desi)KGS125.00  
 Mesua Bazar, Mymensingh  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman MediumKGS 13.88  
 Rice coarse (HYV)KGS13.00  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS 31.75  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS39.63  
 OIL & OIL SEEDS  
 MustardseedsKGS59.50  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Desi)KGS11.00  
 Onion (India big)KGS18.50  
 Garlic Big (Imported)KGS28.00  
 Ginger (Imported)KGS29.00  
 TurmericKGS75.00  
 Chili GreenKGS16.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported)KGS90.00

**VEGETABLES**  
 More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
 Potato (Holand)KGS15.20  
 Bitter GourdKGS16.33  
 Barbat Green (Long bean)KGS 15.00  
 Cauliflower Average SizePCS9.00  
 Cabbage Average SizePCS9.80  
 Carrot Medium SizeKGS10.00  
 Local Bean GreenKGS11.75  
 Lau (Water Gourd)PCS11.80  
 PatalKGS12.00  
 Brinjal (Long purple)KGS7.20  
 Papaya GreenKGS6.50  
 Radish WhiteKGS5.50  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS6.50  
 Apple (Australia)KGS65.00  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Desi)KGS162.50  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local)KGS5.88  
 Rangpur Municipal Market, Rangpur  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice coarse (HYV)KGS12.00  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS 30.80  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS43.80

Khesari Dal (Desi)KGS20.40  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Desi)KGS14.60  
 More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
 Onion (India big)KGS16.80  
 Garlic Deshi (common)KGS39.60  
 Garlic Big (Imported)KGS29.20  
 Ginger (Desi)KGS24.60  
 TurmericKGS64.00  
 Chili GreenKGS16.00  
 Chili Dried (Desi Bogra)KGS99.20  
 Chili Dried (Imported)KGS96.80  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holand)KGS10.50  
 Bitter GourdKGS11.20  
 Barbat Green (Long bean)KGS 11.20  
 Cauliflower Average SizeKGS11.80  
 Cabbage Average SizeKGS9.20  
 Tomato Ripen (Imported)KGS24.20  
 Carrot Medium SizeKGS14.00  
 Local Bean GreenKGS13.60  
 Lau (Water Gourd)KGS7.80  
 Brinjal (Long purple)KGS11.80  
 Pumpkin (Sweet)KGS7.80  
 Papaya GreenKGS7.80  
 Radish WhiteKGS6.40  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS5.80  
 Apple (Australia)KGS84.00

**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Desi)KGS152.00  
 HilsaKGS158.00  
 Chingri SmallKGS132.00  
 More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local)KGS6.00  
 Khulna Sadar Bara Bazar, Khulna  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman MediumKGS 13.80  
 Rice coarse (HYV)KGS12.80  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS32.00  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Desi)KGS44.40  
 Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS43.20  
 Khesari Dal (Desi)KGS22.00  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (Desi)KGS18.80  
 Onion (India big)KGS18.00  
 Garlic Deshi (common)KGS36.00  
 Garlic Big (Imported)KGS31.20  
 Ginger (Desi)KGS36.00  
 TurmericKGS73.00  
 Chili GreenKGS17.60  
 Chili Dried (Desi Bogra)KGS84.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported)KGS97.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holand)KGS15.00  
 Barbat Green (Long bean)KGS

12.80  
 Cauliflower Average SizeKGS11.20  
 Cabbage Average SizeKGS10.00  
 Tomato Ripen (Desi)KGS28.40  
 Carrot Medium SizeKGS12.80  
 More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
**FRUITS**  
 Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS8.00  
 Apple (Australia)KGS65.00  
 Apple (Pakistan)KGS60.00  
 Orange (India)4 PCS17.20  
 CoconutPCS12.00  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Desi)KGS120.00  
 Chingri SmallKGS80.00  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local)KGS6.50  
 TSP (Imported)KGS14.40  
 Ghop Market, Jessore  
**FERTILIZER**  
 Urea (Local)KGS6.00  
 TSP (Imported)KGS14.60  
 Jessore Sadar Bazar, Jessore  
**CEREALS**

Rice (HYV) Aman MediumKGS13.30  
 Rice coarse (HYV)KGS12.80  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS34.60  
 More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Desi)KGS45.00  
 Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS43.00  
 Khesari Dal (Desi)KGS21.00  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (India big)KGS18.80  
 Garlic Deshi (common)KGS38.80  
 Garlic Big (Imported)KGS31.20  
 Ginger (Desi)KGS37.20  
 TurmericKGS71.60  
 Chili GreenKGS12.80  
 Chili Dried (Imported)KGS105.00  
**VEGETABLES**  
 Potato (Holand)KGS15.60  
 Bitter GourdKGS22.80  
 Cauliflower Average SizeKGS10.80  
 Cabbage Average SizeKGS6.60  
 Tomato Ripen (Desi)KGS25.60  
 Carrot Medium SizeKGS11.00  
 Local Bean GreenKGS10.80  
 Lau (Water Gourd)KGS9.20  
 Brinjal (Long purple)KGS9.20  
 Pumpkin (Sweet)KGS9.00  
 Papaya GreenKGS4.40  
 Radish WhiteKGS5.60  
**FRUITS**

Banana Sagar (Medium)4 PCS6.40  
 Apple (Australia)KGS62.00  
 Orange (India)4 PCS22.40  
 More Information: +88-02-9114310, +88-02-9114093 or Mail:dam@daffodilnet.com  
 CoconutPCS9.20  
**FISH**  
 Ruhi (Desi)KGS114.00  
 Chingri SmallKGS98.00  
 Islamia Bazar, Sylhet  
**CEREALS**  
 Rice (HYV) Aman MediumKGS14.50  
 Rice coarse (HYV)KGS14.20  
 Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic)KGS36.40  
**PULSES**  
 Masuri Dal (Desi)KGS48.80  
 Masuri Dal (Imported)KGS41.20  
 Khesari Dal (Desi)KGS23.40  
**SPICES**  
 Onion (India big)KGS18.80  
 Garlic Big (Imported)KGS27.20  
 Ginger (Desi)KGS24.80  
 Ginger (Imported)KGS40.80  
 TurmericKGS72.00  
 Turmeric (India)KGS78.00  
 Chili GreenKGS21.60  
 Chili Dried (Desi Bogra)KGS87.00  
 Chili Dried (Imported)KGS92.00  
 Sources: Agricultural Marketing Department.