

Illegal markets play games with DCC

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has started an eviction drive to rid the city of unauthorised kitchen markets that outnumber the authorised ones.

But leaders of the authorised kitchen markets named the drive as 'fruitless' as local influentials together with the police reset these illegal markets in no time.

DCC has 198 authorised kitchen markets in the city, while number of the unauthorised kitchen markets exceeds 250, said an official of the estate department, yesterday.

Anwar Hossain Sikder, president of the Dhaka Metropolitan Fish and Kitchen Market Small Traders Association told Star City that after demonstrations and several programmes against the illegal kitchen markets, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka initiated a drive to evict these

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The gap between two kitchen markets should be at least one kilometre, according to the City

Corporation Act 1985. "The Act also prohibits kitchen markets under private ownership but the act is violated," Hossain said.

An official conducting the eviction drive at Milk Vita crossing at Pallabi yesterday said that at the meeting between the DCC and the trader's association, the corporation decided to evict 24 illegal kitchen markets of which six have already been evicted. The

markets were evicted from opposite Auditor General's (AG) Office in Segun Bagicha, Bou Bazar in Khilgaon, along the Jatrabari overbridge-petrol pump stretch, opposite Tejgaon College in Farmgate, near Palashi Bazar, and at Milk Vita crossing in Pallabi.

Another official of the estate department said that lack of police force hinders the drive. The drive should start early in the

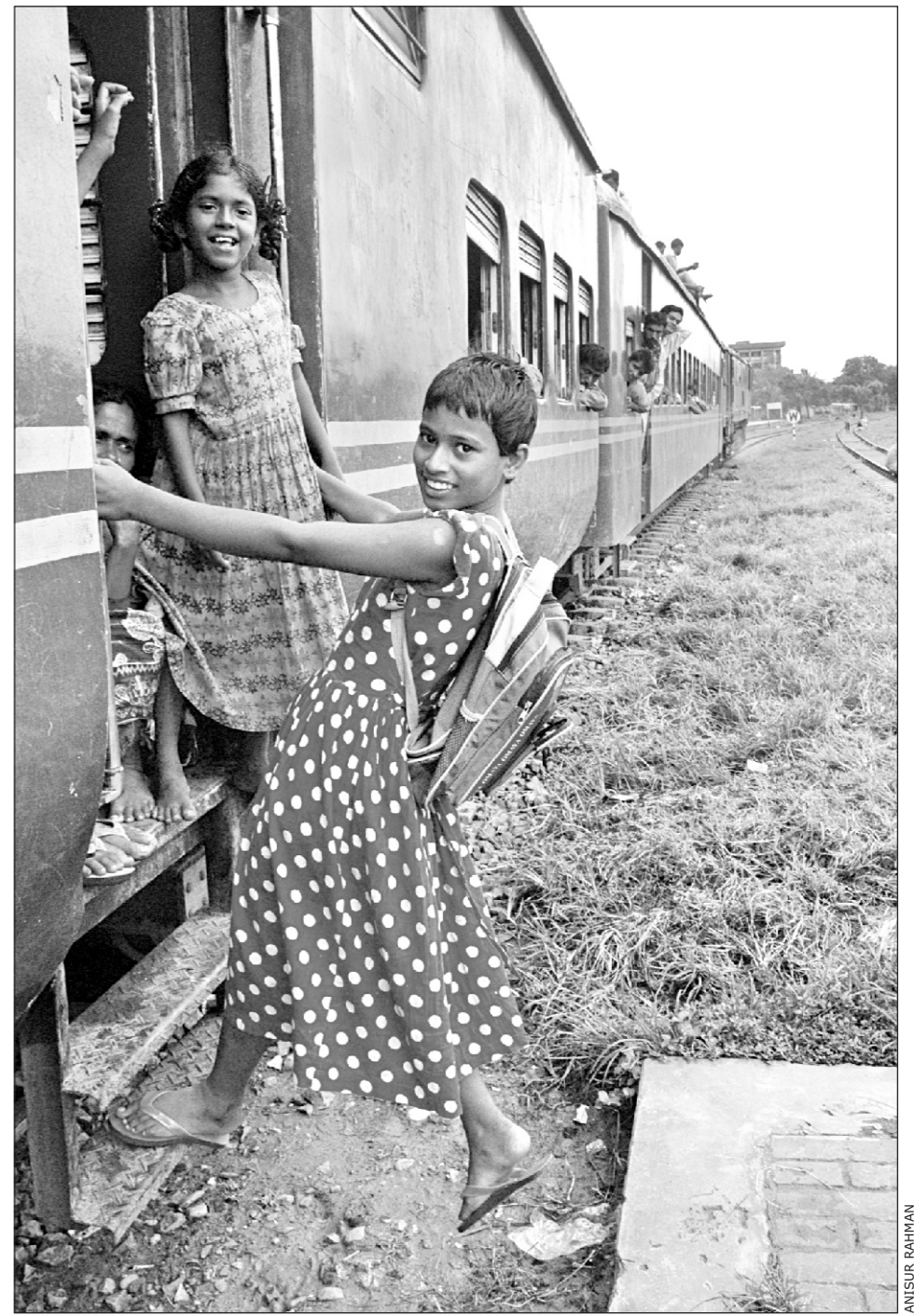
day in order to identify and evict the illegal markets but in reality the drive delays because of the unavailability of sufficient police force.

He said the DCC does not have enough force to make the eviction sustainable and this lack helps unscrupulous groups to reset the markets.

He said that the market in front of the AG office at Segun Bagicha had been evicted twice, but the local influential group that controlled the market has already started work on resetting it.

"The corporation is helpless in the face these influential groups and shortage of its workforce and no good initiative will be successful under such circumstances," said the frustrated official.

When asked how successful the drive would be, the mayor said: "Let's wait and see".



Children from the slum in Tongi, step onto the entrance of a halted train, and swing as the train moves before it gathers momentum. This amount of fun lasts only for a minute or two, but these kids returning from school are unaware of the risk they take.

Expats step in to aid 'fight for sight'

FAIZUL KHAN TANIM

Sporting affectionate messages on Bangladesh flag wristbands, five expatriate women aided by locals held a charity event to raise funds for the Islamia Eye Hospital and M A Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology on Friday.

Excited expatriates thronged the Heritage Restaurant in Gulshan for the half-day event to buy export quality garments items from 11 local donor garment factories, paintings from renowned painters and airline tickets. The proceeding of this selling will fund to open a new ward in the hospital.

"Our husbands are attached to embassies and high commissions and instead of whiling our time away, we wanted to help an organisation that is genuinely working towards curing people, with no monetary expectations," said Randah Jaber, from Jordan and an event organiser herself.

"This hospital performs a noble cause and we thought of helping it. It hurts to see Bangladeshi patients suffering which is why this initiative became a must. If we foreigners can help, the locals here should facilitate even more," she added.

Visitors were happy to donate whatever they could.

"This is a great opportunity to help a genuine cause. I feel that whatever small amount I'm donating goes to a noble cause," said Shamisa Alam, from the Middle East.

"We are five in the group: Randah from Jordan, Anita Tikki from Australia, Sucharita Saha and Nabeela Abdullah from India and myself. We always wanted to help the hospital," said another organiser, Ayshan Sajjad from Turkey.

This venue was given to us free by the owner Rezwan Bin Farooq, painters Jamal Ahmed and Samiran Chowdhury donated pieces of their work of art, Emirates Airlines gave two roundtrip tickets Dhaka-Dubai and 11 garment factories not wanting to be named, donated a bulk of apparels to be sold and the proceedings go towards a new ward," Ayshan added.

Amazingly, all donors wished to remain anonymous, a proof of their affection in assisting a noble cause, said the organisers.

Islamia Eye Hospital and M A Ispahani Institute of Ophthalmology, a non-profit organisation offering treatment at no or low cost to the patients since its inception in 1960 and since then has continued to work in collaboration with different international organisations like Sight Savers, an International NGO, Orbis International,



Crowds that thronged the Charity Sale organised by a group of five expatriate ladies in aid of the Islamia Eye Hospital at the Heritage Restaurant in Gulshan on Friday.

Standard Chartered Bangladesh and many more for prevention of blindness.

Representing the hospital, were matron admin Momota Adhikary, nurse and in-charge of

paediatric ward, counsellor Banani Chakrabarty and nursing assistant Kakoli Devi, who were awestruck with the vast arrangement.

"The day Randah visited the

hospital silent tears ran down her cheeks as she watched patients queuing up for treatment. It is amazing what these few good people are doing for this country," Momota said.

The hospital representatives said many organisations helped them from time to time and expatriates like Randah and her group are no exception. Standard Chartered Bangladesh previously donated a big operating theatre where 10 different operations can be performed simultaneously and set up 30-bed children's ward while Orbis International set up a cornea department.

They said that hospital statistics show an increase of retina patients from 6,784 in 2003 to 9,931 in 2005, glaucoma patients from 7,041 in 2003 to 9,250 in 2005. The total number of operations conducted in 2003 was 10,022, which increased to 16,591 in 2005 and therefore they required continuous support.

Under the theme and slogan *Fight for Sight*, this hospital and institute has trained more than 300 ophthalmologists, providing medical training to 10. More than 110 surgeons received implantation of an intraocular lens (IOL) training that capacitated about 30 eye hospitals in launching IOL Cataract Surgery Services along with cornea training to more than 15 doctors and general training to 25 persons related to the hospital.

Duty imposed

FROM PAGE 21 consignments we imported from 2001. When we declined to pay, the government resorted to 'mediaeval' methods. They held up consignments at the ports forcing us to pay," he added.

He further said that it was not possible to increase prices on the books they imported at that time.

"Government has implemented a very aggressive policy for imported books and it has to decide whether books are educational or commercial," said Selina Siddiqi, owner of Taxila at Aziz Super Market.

"A few years back there were at least seven book importers in Aziz Super Market, and now there are only three, yet some are unable to repay loans because of the increase in costs," she said.

When the sixth of the Harry Potter series was released in Bangladesh 3,500 pirated copies were sold at Tk 100 each, said Nilkhet sources.

However, Penguin India said that at the same time in Kolkata and eastern part of India around 1,16,000 original copies of the same book were sold at original prices.

"Many international publishing houses have joint ventures in

India to publish books locally. Yet India imports lots of books every year. There is no customs duty, IDSC or AIT imposed on them," said Faisal.

Books are food for thought and are very important for a knowledge-based society. So imposing tax on books is equivalent to imposing tax on knowledge, creativity and education, he added.

Stamford in limbo

FROM PAGE 21 Science and Engineering.

"The second time students got agitated was after the Eid-ul-Azha when the university authorities again demanded full tuition fees of the trimester.

The students also alleged that the VC and his family members dominate the university's governing body.

While Prof Feroz himself is the founder-turned-VC, his wife, sister, brother and other close relations are on the governing body and hold most of the key administrative positions.

"My wife, sister and brother are trustee members. My sister also works as head of library while my brother Mashur Rahman Ripon looks after students affairs," Prof Feroz said.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
- Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660
 - BARDEM 8616641-50
 - Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60
 - CMH (Dhaka) 9870011
 - Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6
 - Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5
 - Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156
 - Lion Eye Hospital 9129127
 - Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4
 - Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444
 - Mitford Hospital 7319002-6
 - National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399
 - Orthopedic Hospital 9112150

- Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6
 - Samorita Hospital 9131901
 - Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800
 - Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119
- Clinics**
- Akad Clinic 8015855, 8022581
 - Aroggaya Niketan 9333730
 - BAVS Maternity 8016413-4
 - Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050
 - Gulshan Mother & Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992
 - Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513
 - Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929
 - Judi Maternity 9113322
 - Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385
 - Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566
 - Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625

- The Eye Clinic 9333238
- 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 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-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

- Passenger's Complain**
- 01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.
 - Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405
 - Cosmo Cab Ltd. 8112959, 8127191, Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-645257
 - JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575
 - Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731
 - Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204
 - Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740
 - Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,
- 8624741
 - Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144
 - Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4
 - RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536
 - Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740
 - Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257
 - Telex Cab Ltd. 7202201
 - Aliif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948
 - Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178
 - United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-

- 348474
- Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554
- Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644
- Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585
- Cab line Ltd. 8321162
- Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9
- Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415
- Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4
- Cab Express Ltd. 9341369, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111

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
 - Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9
 - British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
 - Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
 - Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
 - Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
 - The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
 - Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
 - Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4

TRAIN TIMING

- Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
- Leaves Dhaka at 3:15 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 6:40 am
- Leaves Dhaka at 12:45 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 9:45 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
- Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 8:00 pm
- Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

- Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 1:55 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 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 11:15
- Reaches Noakhali at 5:00 am
- Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm