

Decades of dedicated service to mankind

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a leading philanthropic voluntary service organisation, has a long history connected with when it comes to unclaimed dead bodies and self-less dedication.

This organisation is well known for its contribution in carting and burying unclaimed corpses of underprivileged

people, having 21 vehicles, it provides free ambulance services within the city for both patients and dead bodies.

Leading in voluntary service for humankind the organisation has been instrumental in burying over 3,500 unclaimed bodies while its ambulances have provided services to around 7,000 patients during the period 2005-2006.

Anjuman executive director

Shafiqul Islam said that other than burials, their services are open to all people irrespective of religion, class or nationality.

"We are always stretching our services within our capabilities to ensure maximum benefits to distressed people of the society", he said.

Other activities of the organisation include maintenance of orphanages, educational facilities with

special emphasis on female education and non-formal education for children belonging to the underprivileged section of the society.

It is also committed to providing relief to the destitute and distribution of clothes along with other services to a large section of the poor.

"We have plans to extend our services but there are always constraints in funds and



An official of Anjuman Mafidul receives donation at its office at Kakrail.

management," said Shamsur Rahman, Anjuman's deputy executive director. "We need more ambulances to cope with the increasing demand of transportation, but we lack funds to do so," he added.

The organisation's income sources are contributions made

by its members and the public, zakat and fitra collection, sales of hides during Eid-ul-Azha along with the funds collected from numerous charity boxes kept at different graveyards and commercial firms.

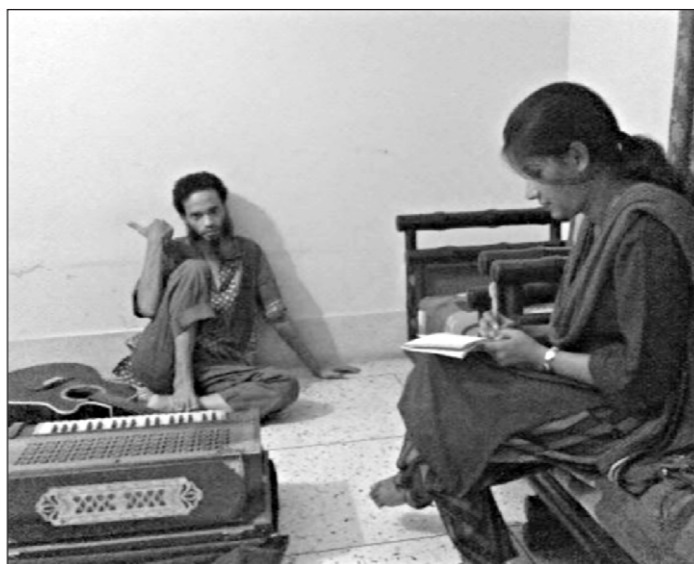
Beside assistance from the society, the Anjuman receives

annual grants from the local government, rural development and co-operative ministry (LGRD).

Since its inception in Dhaka in 1947 Anjuman Mufidul Islam has been serving the distressed humanity in the area, and concentrating mostly on burial

of unclaimed dead bodies of Muslims, carrying of corpses to the remotest corner of the country through ambulances, commutation and treatment of the sick at hospitals.

Dhaka: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Hyder Husyn (left) exchanging his views.

The Daily Star (TDS): What is your first memory of Dhaka?

Hyder Husyn (HH): I was brought up in a conservative family. We used to live in a big house in Nawabbari that had a boundary wall, which we were forbidden to cross. I cannot remember anything beyond the walls, and the lasting impression on my mind was the coal engine of the train that I travelled to my maternal grandfather's house in Kishoreganj

and the scenes of Dhaka city while returning home in a horse driven cart from the station at Phulbaria.

TDS: What was the city like when you first came to Dhaka?

HH: Old Dhaka was busy which at the moment sometimes seems rather vacant in comparison to the whole city. People were kind and compassionate. Rickshaw pullers and taxi drivers were friendly and did not ask for fares. But this is very rare now and most of them hurl

invectives over trivial matters.

TDS: What do you miss most in the city at present?

HH: I miss the affection among people. Earlier if anyone was wronged on the road the passers-by used to help him or her. But nowadays the people turn away from these situations. One reason is that money and

power have got into the wrong hands.

TDS: What is your most memorable event in Dhaka?

HH: Meena bazaar. I remember as a child we visited Meena bazaar that was held round a pond at Nawabbari in Islampur. The girls arranged the stalls and we boys were buyers.

TDS: How have the changes in the city affected your life?

HH: I feel very sad when I compare the present with the past.

TDS: Which part of Dhaka in your eyes, should we be proud of?

HH: The VIP roads adorned with different trees is the thing we should be proud of. When I see these roads Dhaka seem cleaner compared to other roads.

TDS: What do you envisage for Dhaka in future?

HH: I always dreamt of Dhaka as a city of lakes like Venice that is surrounded by lakes; but that dream did not come true and the reality is quite the opposite.

However, today I envisage that Dhaka will be a safe city, where we could live a secured life.

Hyder Husyn, became famous by singing many songs including those in Dhakaiya language. He spoke to Wahida Mitu of Star City.

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Might take longer than

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Business Association.

The businessmen also urged the government to keep its promise in allotting them with shops at the newly established market.

"We have invested crores of taka in giving advances to farmers. If the existing wholesale businessmen do not get allotment the entire supply to the city will suffer as the farmers won't sell their vegetable to any businessmen other than to those from

whom they have taken advances," said Abdul Halim a wholesale vegetable seller.

In 1994, the BNP government had vowed to relocate the Karwan Bazar wholesale market but the process was stalled due to lack of cooperation among government bodies.

The ruling BNP lead four party alliance government started the process of relocating the vegetable wholesale market in 2004.

In an inter-ministerial meeting

with the LGRD Minister, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair in 2004 the commerce ministry had proposed to set up six wholesale markets at Hatir Jheel, Khilgaon, Lalbagh, Tongi, Aminbazar and Jatrabari.

But they had to revise their previous decision due to various reasons and finally decided to establish four wholesale markets at Tongi, Gabtali Jatrabari and Keraniganj.

"Considering that establishing wholesale markets in the outskirts of the city would be helpful to keep the city environment clean we finalised this four spots. Besides this will keep the city free from unnecessary rush," said the DCC official.

It has been known that DCC mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka objected to the plan of establishing the wholesale market at Lalbagh as he felt that there was not enough free space in that part of the city.

Many objected to setting up a wholesale market in Khilgaon as traffic congestion is already acute in the area.

Assault on passengers

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The Airport PS authority said they have to follow certain rules and regulations to take action against Ansar personnel, as they are employees under the Home Ministry of Bangladesh.

"We will take steps against these personnel after discussing the matter with the Director General of Ansar and ZIA authority," said the officer.

Chief Security Officer of ZIA

international Airport said they would take action if they find the Ansars guilty.

The family of the victims said eight members of the Ansars came their home to apologise for their misdeed and have requested not to file any case against them.

The Ansar officials however could not be contacted in spite of repeated attempts.

Abahani playground

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any share with the businesses.

"The aim of our club is to build a beautiful society, so why should we be involved in such activities," Faruq asked. "As the place is vacant and of no use we permitted an individual only to live here as he is homeless," he added.

"The encroacher had applied for permission from the government in 1999 to have the place on lease, and we protested," Faruq said.

"This is public property and if the authorities are not concerned regarding the encroachment, there is nothing we can do about it," he further said.

He also said that a garden will be made after Eid and then the encroacher will be asked to leave the place.

This reporter found several discarded bottles of phensidyl on the playground, but Faruq denied the use of any drugs on the playground area.