

Dhaka Day by Day

The Bottle Pushing Kids

by Shahrier Khan

Child labour is not very nice to watch and accept. But in countries like Bangladesh, a poor boy like Kabir must do something to earn his living. Kabir could work as a tempo conductor or assistant mechanic in a filthy workshop; but he is working as a cigarette vendor cum illegal wine pusher.

Illegal selling of liquors is not very uncommon in Dhaka city. In some places, specially in busy areas, they are selling whisky, wine, beer, even champagne in camouflage.

Boys 12 or 13 years old like Kabir are sitting on their stools looking as innocent as their cigarette boxes and casting surreptitious look at everyone.

Around the busy shopping place at the Kamal Ataturk Avenue, you may run into one of these fellows. If you look like a prospective customer you are likely to be hooked.

"How did I get involved?" Kabir says. "Why, what's wrong with it? My brother is doing this job for a year, I was always his working assistant."

This business is going on here for more than a year now. A few days ago kids like Kabir or Ali sold wines almost directly from their cigarette shops. But after a police raid wine exchange became more indirect. Now they are selling wines from sophisticated houses.

Ali, 16, is a guard of an office located in the residential area of Banani. His business begins after the office time. He sells wines from the office gate. His boss can hardly imagine such a

thing is going on in this house and this 16-year old angel along with another elderly guard is responsible for that.

How can these people gather such quantities of expensive wines and liquors? All says that this business is based on stolen liquors from the embassies, also some come stolen from a warehouse which is located nearby. He says that some foreigners too are involved in this business.

Just behind the Beauty cinema hall at Gabtoli, there are cigarette stalls and general stores. These not-so-innocent looking stores attract Phensidyl fans. There are other types of drugs — but Phensidyl is exclusive here.

"Well, ustad, how many do you want?" you may hear from a wandering kid, carrying a jug full of water and a plastic glass. Here, kids do the connection job. They do not look so cute, of course. They live in a tougher environment than Kabir or Ali. They were hardly interested in personal conversation which I tried to carry on several times. "Well, if you want to buy a bottle, name it... can't talk about brothers and sisters now", said one 13-year old kid.

Carrying a jug and a plastic glass is symbolic. It means the carrier of the jug is a pusher. In the evening this place becomes a haven for the drug addicts. Addicts roam around on a barren field behind the cinema hall. These kids lend their plastic glasses to their customers who seem to enjoy their phensidyls more in this glasses than in the bottles.



Wealth amassing case

'Mostafiz identified himself as Ershad's representative'

By Staff Correspondent

Prosecution witness, magistrate A T A M Ismail deposing before the Special Judge Court, trying Ershad for amassing wealth, said on Tuesday that Mostafizur Rahman asserted himself as the representative of the deposed President.

Magistrate Ismail who was one of the members of the eight member inventory committee, formed to prepare a list of the items found in Senabhaban, was recalled by the Chief Prosecution Lawyer, Attorney General Aminul Haque.

Aminul Haque showed a letter written to the convener of the inventory committee by Mostafizur Rahman, in which he asserted that he was representative of Ershad and asked for some documents on behalf of his brother-in-law (Ershad).

The letter was written on March 13, 1991. Magistrate Ismail said that the letter was given in a closed envelope.

Magistrate Ismail also said that a herbal medicine 'Ginsang' was also found in the Senabhaban. The Chinese made herbal medicine cost about Taka 500. He also submitted a copy of the 'Reader's Digest' which contained an article on that particular medicine. The article stated, "the Chinese medical texts tout its efficacy against impotence, gastritis, malaria, cancer, arthritis, headache, insomnia, depression, loss of memory, common cold and countless other ills."

Chief Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque cross examined the prosecution witness. DL: Why did you raise the

question on 'Ginsang'? PW: That was found among many other things at the Senabhaban. DL: Was it an aphrodisiac? PW: No, it was not an Aphrodisiac. DL: Have you ever used it? PW: Yes. DL: Do you know any other herbal medicine of China? PW: Yes, I know, such as Chin Chun Bao. DL: What does it do?

Freedom of US media house

A New York based media monitoring organisation labelled Bangladesh as the "least free" press in South Asia, reports UNB.

India alone among SAARC members was included in the list of 61 countries where media is most free.

The report of the private foundation Freedom House was published in the July-August issue of the Asian Mass Communication bulletin.

A total of 61 countries was listed as "most free" and 65 countries as "least free". Partly free labelled countries include Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco.

Least Free media countries include Saudi Arabia, Syria, Oman, Qatar Bahrain and Bangladesh.

The media in major Arab countries were not much better, the report said. Most of the European countries and United States have come under the category of "most free" press.

PW: This is an anti-ageing herbal medicine. DL: Have you ever used Sarbadi Salsha? PW: No, I did not. DL: Have you ever heard the name of Hamdard? PW: Yes. DL: Do you know the name of 'Kuwac-Halua' or 'Sarbadi' or 'Makardhaji'? PW: No. DL: Ginsang — is it a money plant? PW: No. DL: Had Ershad authenticated the letter of Mostafiz in which he asserted his identity the representative of Ershad? PW: No. DL: He described himself as the representative of Ershad an asked him for some documents. PW: Yes. DL: Do you know there are two types of power of attorney — one is specific and the other is general. PW: I don't know how many types of power Attorney are there.

Attorney General: This is not supposed to be known by him. At this stage Sirajul Haque stopped the cross examination. Judge Mohammad Ali Khan adjourned the court till September 14.

JU employees call off strike

The third and fourth class employees of Jahangirnagar University Wednesday called off their strike and resumed duties. The strike was withdrawn following a fruitful discussion with the authorities.

What's on today

DU Teachers Assoc meet

General meeting of the Dhaka University Teachers Association will be held today (Thursday) at 11.30 am at the Dhaka University Club.

Rainbow Film show

Rainbow Chalchitra Sangsad will screen a Russian film 'A Private Conversation' today (Thursday) at the Soviet Cultural Centre at Road No 7, House No 510, Dhanmondi at 6 pm.

Musical evening

The newly formed Dhaka Performing Arts, a cultural organisation, will hold a musical evening at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 7 pm today (Thursday). The organisation has been formed to protect the interest of performers and to participate by Shayam Shundar Baisnab, Shefali Gosh, Dilruba Khan, comedian Kajal and others.

Shudhijan Pathagar

In observance of the 27th founding anniversary of the Narayanjan Shudhijan Pathagar, a seminar in cooperation with the National Book Centre will be held at 5 pm today (Thursday) at the library premises.

The seminar entitled "planned development of non-government libraries in Bangladesh" will be followed by the Hossain Jamal Memorial Award '91 ceremony. Mr AU Malik, Additional Secretary of the Cultural Ministry, will be the chief guest and it will be presided by Fazle Rabbi, Director of the National Book Centre.

Scouts role in community development stressed

The five-day workshop on "Evaluation of the First National Community Development Project" concluded at the Scouts Training Centre at Mouchak in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Jointly sponsored by the World Scouts Bureau (WSB), Asia-Pacific region and Bangladesh Scouts, the con-

Young Lawyers' President leaves for Perth today

By Staff Correspondent

President of Bangladesh Juba Atnjibi Samity (Bangladesh Young Lawyers Association) and Bangladesh Youth Front, Advocate Faruq Ahmed leaves today (Thursday) for Perth, Australia to join the International Lawyers Conference arranged by Law Asia.

Faruq will present an article on the professional problems of young lawyers of Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world. The conference will begin on September 15.

Correction

Due to oversight, Safar 30, 1412 Hijri, was printed instead of Rabiul Awal 1, 1412 Hijri, in the dateline of Wednesday's issue of our newspaper. The correct date, Rabiul Awal 2, 1412 Hijri, appears in our dateline today (Thursday, September 12, 1991). — Editor



Anniversary of Nazma Jesmin's death today

The second death anniversary of noted researcher, novelist and playwright Dr Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury will be observed today (Thursday) says a press release.

A 400-page commemorative volume on the life and works, of Dr Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury edited by Syed Abul Moksud and Mustafa Majid has been published to mark the occasion.

The second 'Nazma Jesmin Chowdhury Memorial Lecture' will be held at the Institute of Modern Languages of Dhaka University on October 30. Noted economist Prof M Anisur Rahman will present a paper on 'The National self-reliance'.

A Milad Mahfil will be held at a girls orphanage here at 4.00 pm.

Thursday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran, pro-gramme summary
5-15 Recitation from the Geeta
5-20 News in Bangla
5-30 Esho Gaan Shikhi
5-55 Cartoon Film: Captain Planet
6-30 Jiboner Alo
7-05 Katha O Sur.: Song programme
8-00 News in Bangla
8-40 Drama of the week
10-00 News in English
10-30 Mini series: Take Me Home
11-30 Khabar/The News

Permission to set up private university under study

Minister for Education and Culture Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Wednesday said "disaster management" would be incorporated in the national curriculum, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest the certificate awarding ceremony of the "Disaster Management Workshop for World Vision of Bangladesh Executives" at the conference room of Bangladesh Meteorological Department at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Sponsored by South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SADMC) of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), the function was presided over by Prof M Aminullah Miah, Project Director of IUBAT.

It was addressed, among others, by Terry L Jeggle, Representative of Asian Institute of Technology as the guest of honour, James Hillton, Director of World Vision. M Khan Chowdhury, Director Meteorology, Engineer MZ Mamun, Saleh Sultana and

Dipal Sarma. Describing the disaster management at present as a

Three killed in mishaps

Three people, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents Wednesday, reports UNB.

An unidentified man in his 30s was stabbed seriously at Segun Bagicha this noon. He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

A youngman, aged about 20, was crushed under the wheels of a train at Tongi rail crossing at about 4.15 pm. He could not be immediately identified.

Chandran Bibi (55) died at the DMCH where she was brought earlier from Kakrail Lane in the city. She allegedly took poisonous 'dhutra' but further details were not available.

All the three bodies were sent to the hospital morgue for post mortem.

crying need of Bangladesh, he said, devastating cyclones, floods, tidal bores, epidemics, etc., have become a part of our national life.

The minister said disaster cannot be always prevented but their effects can be mitigated.

He underlined the importance of systematic observation and analysis of measures relating to disaster prevention, preparedness, emergency response, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The minister further said that the government was actively considering to give permission for setting up private university considering to give permission for setting up private university in the country.

Terry L Jeggle underscored the need for strong political commitment of the population and the government to mitigate the extent and consequences of disaster in Bangladesh.

Later, the minister gave away the certificates among 25 participants of the workshop.

MENG HORNG SHIPPING PTE LTD NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS. M. V. FONG SHIN V9121 IMP. ROT NO. 600/91 WILL TAKE BERTH AT CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 12TH SEPTEMBER WITH IMPORT CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE FROM VARIOUS DESTINATIONS AND ALSO CONTAINERS EX-SINGAPORE.

555 Stands out for taste. Advertisement for 555 cigarettes featuring a pack and a lit cigarette.

ECONOMIST REQUIRED. The World Bank Resident Mission in Bangladesh requires the services of a well trained Bangladeshi Economist to be recruited as a Local Consultant. The contract will be initially for a period of nine months and is renewable.