

Dhaka Day by Day

Earning a Living Through Queer Means

by A. S. M. Nurunnabi

As an individual is endowed with a variety of traits, none of which exactly match those of others, so also there is a kaleidoscopic range of pursuits by which a large section of people poised on the borderline of survival and extinction earn their precarious living to keep their body and soul together. This may be treated as a philosophic reflection on the infinite variety of nature's creation which we sometimes pause to ponder casually.

But on many occasions, the cruel reality of some situations leaves a terrible impact on our conscience and feelings of irrevocable dispensation. In this context, let me cite the queer occupation of selling ashes followed by some wretched women particularly in some areas of Dhaka where domestic gas is mostly in use. Even a decade ago, few people thought that ashes could command a price for their use in cleaning utensils and crockeries mostly for people below a certain stratum of society. Those were days when domestic gas did not come into common use. Housewives in those days mostly used to depend on ashes derived from burnt wood fuel in their kitchen for the cleaning purposes. The whole picture changed with the rapid expansion of gas network for domestic use. Those who are financially better-off had their detergents and washing powders, but those who cannot afford them had no alternative but to depend on the pitiable women who hawk their wares of ashes. The bags of ashes they carry on their heads tend to lend a grotesque image to their already

wretched appearance. Many people in urban areas look for easy labour-saving devices because of the modern constraint on time and energy. When such people go to market to make purchase of a live fowl, they often want to avoid the grisly act of killing and properly dressing it at home. For such an unpleasant job, a class of mini-butchers, most of them small boys and girls, are readily available around. You give them a pittance in money and you carry home your load of chickens neatly cleaned and dressed.

Have you ever observed some miserable-looking women and tender-aged boys and girls carrying their ubiquitous gunny bags slung behind their backs and moving about on city roads, lanes and by-lanes? Did you ever feel curious about what these bags contain and what they are after? A patient observation will show that mostly they scavenge the dustbins along their itinerary. A common hearsay is that in many affluent countries, things which may be considered relatively useful in our less affluent eyes are just thrown away into road-side dustbins. Of course, such a scenario cannot be expected here. Our dust-bins are the repository of the dregs of our daily life. Hence a mystery shrouds the kinds of trash that these hapless beings collect and the most intriguing part of the story is that whatever things are collected from these dustbins, there is certainly some use for them which enables these hapless creatures to eke out a living, however precarious it may be.



Women hawking straw brooms. — Star photo

70 pc unirrigated land largest scope for nation's development

By Staff Correspondent

Adoption of a national irrigation action plan for increased crop diversification was urged at a seminar on "Promotion of manual irrigation in Bangladesh" held at the Sonargaon Hotel on Wednesday.

Presenting a paper on the "dissemination of manual irrigation," the Assistant Director of the Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), Marcelino Rozario, pointed out that the 70 per cent of unirrigated agricultural land is one of the greatest development opportunities before the nation in increasing total production, reducing dependence on the monsoon crop and enhancing minor crop production.

"Let us recognise irrigation as one of the keys to development and adopt a national irrigation action plan on the scale of the flood action plan," Rozario urged while addressing the seminar organised by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) on the occasion of the 700 years of Switzerland. This part of the seminar was chaired by Shahidul Islam, Director General, Directorate of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

Despite the growth of shallow-tube-well and low-lift pumps, he noted, there is still a very important role for manual irrigation for poorer farmers and for minor crops. He said the treadle pump has "unmatched potential" in this regard for the near-landless, marginal and small farmers.

Introduced by RDRS agriculturists Narendra Nath Deb and Gunnar Barnes the treadle pump gained popularity among the farmers as it is portable, easy to install and operate, produces a good output, is very cheap and easy to maintain. Different versions using pulley and dhaki systems were developed and improved varieties with twin cylinders are also in use.

To increase the dissemination of manual irrigation, Rozario suggested the increase in manual pump production and distribution; improving extension services — particularly through the department of agriculture extension; increase in subsidy and credit facilities; and giving the poor the right to share-crop unirrigated land during the dry season.

Noting that the nation's land and water resources are perhaps the greatest sector of opportunity, he said, to tap that potential development of irrigation is a must.

Delving on the problem of marketing the manual irrigation pump (MIP), the Director of the International Development Enterprises (IDE), Bill Drenner, called on the government and the

NGOs to come forward and help dissemination of manual irrigation pumps.

He said almost five lakh farmers are already using MIPs in the country and another six million can use it now. Noting that there are 6,000 dealers who stock and sell these products around the country, he said, the track work for marketing these pumps is well laid.

Cooperation from a great number of people will be needed to make the treadle pump a national cause, he added.

Rounding up the discussions, Shahidul Islam said that the DAE has already started using MIPs on a limited basis in crop diversification programmes and the results were "very encouraging."

Noting that treadle pumps increased the production of vegetables like kakrol and banana substantially, he advocated for providing 100 subsidies for the poor and landless farmers to procure these pumps.

In his vote of thanks Dr Urs Heterli, head of SDC, while thanking the participants for taking part in the seminar called for the recognition of treadle pumps on a national basis because of the great socio-economic impact of these pumps in poverty alleviation. He said large scale dissemination of MIPs is a tremendous challenge and called for a more clearer role regarding this by the NGOs and related government agencies. "We at SDC would like to work with other organisations to help disseminate information about MIPs," he added.

Later, Minister for Information Barrister Nazmul Huda attended the premiere of the feature film titled Janani, projecting the usefulness of manual irrigation in a peasant's life in Bangladesh.

The minister also distributed awards to the inventors of the treadle pump and rower pump.

Seven hundred MIPs were also distributed among those NGOs which have credit programme facilities operating in the country.

Earlier, the day-long programme was inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Chaired by Dr Urs Heterli, the welcome address was made by the Charge d'Affaires of Switzerland Albert Mehr.

Minister of Agriculture Major General (Retd) M Majidul-Haq and head of agriculture of the World Bank resident mission Frank Thornely addressed the seminar.

The first working session on "the agricultural impact of manual irrigation" was chaired by the Additional Secretary of

the Ministry of Agriculture Ershadul Huj, Associate Professor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Dr A Sattar Mandal presented the key-note paper while Dr S M Hasanuzzaman, former member of the Planning Commission, read out a paper on "crop diversification and manual irrigation." Joint Secretary (PPC) of the Ministry of Agriculture Akmal Hossain spoke on the "government policies towards manual irrigation."

In the second working session on "the socio-economic impact of manual irrigation" chaired by Dr Urs Heterli, the senior fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Mahmudul Alam presented the key-note paper based on a BIDS study.

Dr Mahub Hossain, Director General of BIDS, presented a paper on "manual irrigation and poverty alleviation" at the session.

Asghar Khan arrives today

Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, Chairman of Tehrik-e-Istiqal of Pakistan is expected to arrive in Dhaka today on a week-long private visit, informed sources said Wednesday, reports UNB.

He will be accompanied by his wife and son. Tehrik-e-Istiqal is one of the components of People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) led by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

5 hijackers arrested

Detective police on Wednesday arrested five alleged hijackers and toll collectors from the Dhaka University campus.

Police raided a room adjacent to the canteen of International hostel of DU in the early hours of Wednesday and arrested them. They are Abdul Haq, Rajab Ali, Jagadis, Shahyed Ali and Babul.

Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement AL Quran
- Programme summary.
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.30 Jana Ajana
- 6.00 Cartoon: Captain planet and the Planeters
- 6.30 Jiboner Alo
- 7.05 Antaranga
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama of the week: Julekhar Ghar
- 9.50 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Dipta Chetana
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.40 Friday's programme
- 11.45 National Anthem and closing

HERE and THERE

Tarkabagish Parishad

Maulana Tarkabagish Parishad Wednesday observed the 91st birth anniversary of late Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish in a befitting manner.

Leaders of the parishad laid wreaths at the mazar of the leader and arranged a milad mahfil in the morning.

The parishad also organised a discussion and distributed foods among the destitutes.

Janadal founding anniversary

Janadal organised a discussion meeting on the occasion of its 8th founding anniversary Wednesday.

Presided over by party Chairman Khandaker Mahabuddin, the discussion was attended by former President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury as chief guest. Former Parliamentary Secretary Major (Rtd) Afsaruddin attended the function as special guest while party General Secretary Mohammad Shamsah, Vice Chairman Major (Rtd) Abul Hasan, Barrister Abdur Rab, Dr Moslem Chowdhury, Nurul Islam, Dr Amjad Hossain, Syeda Afsana and Foudjer Raj Chowdhury also spoke.

Garments Sramik Karmachari Jote

A rally of Sammilitiya Garments Sramik Karmachari Jote presided over by Saleh Ahmed Kamal on Wednesday demanded the reopening of all the closed garment manufacturing units.

The meeting held at Mirpur

also condemned the attack on garment workers by hoodlums. Jamaat

The Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, Maulana Muttur Rahman Nizami in a statement on Wednesday condemned the suspension of the activities of appointment of Sub-Inspectors (SI) of police force.

He said the decision to suspend the activities after taking written and oral examinations of the candidates is illogical and unethical.

He urged the government to resume the process.

JSD

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will hold a rally in front of Allawala Building today (Thursday) in protest against the abolition of the Upazila system.

The President of JSD, Nur Alam Ziku and General Secretary Humayun Kabir Hira will address the rally.

ILO confce begins

The 11th Asian Regional Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) began Tuesday in Bangkok. The conference will continue till December 2.

Bangladesh has been unanimously elected the Chairman of the resolution committee of the conference.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is leading the 7-member Bangladesh delegation to the conference.

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TV to be used for teaching purposes soon

CHARATI (Chittagong), Nov 27: Planning Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan said here on Tuesday that the BNP government would give preferential treatment to education sector and that the television would be used for teaching purposes very soon, reports BSS.

He said, we are planning to use electronic media, particularly the television, for teaching school boys as well as adults.

Speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony of Al-Helal Adarsha College as the chief guest at a hill top site here, the minister called upon all concerned to make all out efforts to restore peaceful academic atmosphere on the campuses. He said continued

trouble and terrorism in the educational institutions would be extremely harmful for the nation and as such the teachers, guardians, Saner section of the people should come forward to root out terrorism from the educational institutions.

The function held under the chairmanship of Maulana Momtazul Haq Chowdhury, a local politician and social worker, was also addressed by M Shahajahan MP, BNP leaders Mustafizur Rahman and Anwarul Haq Quaderi, Principal Rezaul Kabir Chowdhury.

Helal Humayun, Member-Secretary of Al-Helal Adarsha College organising committee presented a welcome address

to the chief guest. The college is being set up at a remote area of Sankania upazila to extend opportunities for higher education to local boys and girls.

Helal Humayun has donated three acres of land for the college. The Planning Minister said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia would also give greater attention to the neglected rural areas and that new roads and bridges would be constructed gradually in order to improve the communications system.

Zahiruddin Khan announced a donation of Taka one lakh for the college from his personal fund.

Glowing tributes paid to Munir Chowdhury

By Staff Correspondent

Shaheed Munir Chowdhury's contributions in modern theatre movement as well as enriching the literature of the country was recalled at a memorial meeting held to mark the 66th birth anniversary of late Choudhury at the Guide House auditorium in the city Wednesday.

Theatre, a leading drama group, organised the memorial meeting where Shaheed Munir Chowdhury Padak (Award) 1990 was delivered to late Amalendu Biswas posthumously. Widow of late Biswas Jotsna Biswas received the award from Lily Choudhury, wife of late Choudhury.

Chaired by Kabir Chowdhury, the function was also addressed by Dr Anisuzzaman, K G Mustafa, Rashid Haider, Mostafa Monwar, Ferdousi Majumder, Ramendu Majumder and Abdullah Al Mamun.

Dr Anisuzzaman said the glorious contributions of Shaheed Munir Chowdhury in the field of theatre movement would be ever remembered. The future generation would be immensely benefited from his literary works, he added.

K G Mustafa observed that a legendary character in the country's literature and theatre movement Shaheed Chowdhury never kept himself away from the stream of national politics.

Mostafa Monwar pointed out that Shaheed Chowdhury

had inspired the generation through his mighty pen which was indeed a rare case.

Rashid Haider said, Munir Chowdhury left behind many examples of overcoming frustration and anarchy in the society.

Abdullah Al Mamun hoped that Munir's name would glitter in our history and culture in the future.

Shaheed Chowdhury was not only a pioneer in Bangladesh television drama but also earned fame as a successful teacher of Dhaka University, he said.

Shaheed Chowdhury's sister Ferdousi Majumder and widow Lily Choudhury in emotion-chalked voice recalled him saying Munir would remain in the memory of people for ever.

While receiving the Shaheed Munir Padak for the year 1991 Jotsna Biswas reminded that late Amalendu struggled life-term to establish 'Jatra', the oldest art of the country. But the art was now on the verge of ruination, she said and made a clarion call to all concerned to sincerely work to revive the glory of Jatra.

The discussion meeting was rounded up with a cultural function.

Kabir Chowdhury in his presidential speech called upon the government to withdraw restrictions on staging Jatra.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry across the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm, Thursday, reports UNB.

Met office said no appreciable change in the night temperature is expected.

Wednesday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 27 degree Celsius and the minimum 16.6 degree. The lowest temperature of 12.2 degree was recorded at Rajshahi and the highest 12.2 degree at Bogra.

Percentage of humidity was 77 in the morning and 67 in the evening.

The sun will set tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.11 pm and rise on Friday at 6.23 am.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
জেনারেল সার্টিফিকেট অফিসারের আদালত।

—ঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ—

সার্টিফিকেট কেইস নং-৩০/বিকেবি/৮৮

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক বনাম
রাজাশন শাখা, সাতার
ঢাকা

মেসার্স মিয়া অয়েল মিল
প্রোপাইটার জনাব আহসান হাবিব
পিতাঃ হাজী ফজর আলী
সাতার বাজার, সাতার
জেলা-ঢাকা।

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, উল্লিখিত সার্টিফিকেট কেইসের সর্ব মোট দাবী ৬৩,৬০,৬৬০/- (ষেতটি লক্ষ ষাট হাজার ছয়শত ষাট) টাকা ও পরবর্তী সুদ ও খরচের টাকা মাত্র আদায়ের নিমিত্তে সার্টিফিকেট বাতক এর নিয় তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি আগামী ২৮-১২-৯১ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১ ঘটিকার সময় নিয় স্বাক্ষরকারীর আদালতে প্রকাশ্য নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিগণ নিলামের বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী অবগত হওয়ার জন্য নিয় স্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে যোগাযোগ করিতে পারেন। কৃতকার্য নিলাম ডাককারীকে আদালত কর্তৃক সম্পত্তির দখল বৃদ্ধি করা দেওয়া হইবে।

জিলা	থানা	মৌজা	খতিয়ান	দাগ নং	পরিমাণ
ঢাকা	সাতার	গেভা	৩০২/কাত	৭৪৫	০.৩০
"	"	"	"	৭৬০	১.৪ ১/২
"	"	"	"	১০	
"	"	"	"	১৫৫	২.১
"	"	"	"	৩০	১.৫
"	"	"	"	৩০	১.৪ ১/২

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