

DOWN TO EARTH

Problem of Street Vendors In City

By ASM Nurunnabi

Street vendors have now become a permanent feature of the city life. Their presence seems to be ubiquitous — in fact, they can be found in large numbers near every important shopping centre. Anybody who has visited Baitul Mukarram, Motijheel, Gulshan and New Market areas will agree that footpaths no longer belong to the pedestrians and they are under permanent occupation of street vendors.

It is said that a number of factors help the street vendors to gain access to choice spots on footpaths. Sometimes 'possessions' of these spaces are sold to the 'highest bidders' by the local mastans (muscleman) who take protection money from the users. Sometimes, it is alleged, they operate, on terms of *quid pro quo*, with the blessings of the quarters responsible for maintaining order in those areas. Whoever be the patrons of the street vendors behind the scene, it appears that there is an increasing trend in their occupation of footpaths. So much so that it seems to be leading to a situation that forces pedestrians to abandon the sidewalks and use the main roads for walking from one place to another. To add to the affliction of the footpath users, the street vendors leave scattered a whole lot of rubbish — mostly by the fruit vendors — on the footpath and all around. The problem today is that the hawkers' wares have been spilling over the pavements to whatever open space there is.

There is no denying that the street vendors conform to the law of demand and supply. They can sell their commodities because there are enough consumers to buy them. In fact, the main point of attraction for the consumers is that the commodities sold at these places — be it a safety pin or a dress — are substantially cheaper than at the shops. This fact alone makes the vendors ever popular with the low-income groups.

In spite of the blessings of the so-called patrons behind the scene, the street vendors mostly maintain a precarious existence. There exist a sort of love-hate relations between shopkeepers and hawkers who

pay rent for the open basement of the shops. These relations sometimes get disrupted under pressure from those shopkeepers whose interests suffer on account of some vendors occupying a considerable part of the sale of the regular shops. Moreover, there are police raids on the street vendors from time to time. It is sometimes alleged that the raids against the vendors result from the refusal of certain vendors to pay 'tolls' to the police for the use of the municipal space. Such suspicions need to be removed from the public mind by the higher authorities concerned in public interest.

In evicting the vendors from the streets, the police seem to have a difficult problem, chief among them being

the absence of any sound planning for an alternative arrangement for the hawkers and street vendors. To set aside separate spaces for them would not be easy but considering the mounting pressure from an evergrowing population of the metropolis, this may be one possible remedial measure. Other possible measures include making some make-shift arrangements for them to sell their goods at different city points and on streets preferably on different days of the week. One such market used to be held at Bangla Motor, but for some unknown reasons this has come to a close. The need definitely is to arrange for such markets for the hawkers instead of bringing about their premature closure.



Workers busy making a 1200ft lane Friday to enable the DC-10 to be towed to the Zia Airport hangar for repair. —Star photo by Enamul Haq

DC-10

From Page 1 Col 8

CAAB Chairman said that some of the components would be used during the operation.

The CAAB Chairman admitted the damage to the equipment because of neglect but claimed 70 per cent of the components were still usable.

He said that the vehicle was normally used for salvaging aircraft which are forced to belly-land on the runway.

The CAAB Chairman said that after getting clearance from the McDonnell Douglas representative — manufacturer of the DC-10 — some 13 tons of fuel was pumped out from the damaged aircraft yesterday.

The 130-ton aircraft would be placed on a huge trolley and pulled by the heavy tractor of the Army. Some equipment of the partly-damaged recovery vehicle would be used to place it on the trolley, the CAAB chief said.

Meanwhile, the extent of damage to the aircraft has not yet been ascertained despite initial examination by representatives of the manufacturers and the insurers.

"It is too early to say (the extent of damage)", Michael Majerus, the McDonnell Douglas expert, told The Daily Star over telephone.

He declined to elaborate saying he was not authorised by his company to talk to the press.

Witnesses said that several hundred labourers have been working round-the-clock to construct a 1,200 ft passage to link the accident spot to the runway.

Dispute over poll results plunges Lanka into crisis

COLOMBO, May 21: Shri Lanka's ruling party today took control of two provincial administrations despite opposition claims for leadership and plunged the country into a fresh political crisis, reports AFP.

The provincial councils are the most important local government bodies and they enjoy limited autonomy to enact laws, raise taxes and establish a provincial force as well as paramilitary units.

The SLFP said it, together with a breakaway faction of the UNP, had a one-seat majority in the 55-member southern council and a two-member lead over the UNP in the 52-member northwestern council.

An SLFP-led five-party alliance Friday established its control over the western council, which covers the territory of Colombo, with its candidate Chandrika Bandaranaike sworn in as the chief minister.

The UNP was able to get an absolute majority only in four out of the seven provinces that went to the polls Monday.

Constitutionally, provincial council governors who are appointed by the president, should appoint chief ministers from the party, which according to his opinion, could command a majority of the regional assemblies.

"Of course, at the first available opportunity we will defeat the UNP at the two provincial councils. The government has acted against democracy despite our informing that we enjoy a majority," De Silva told

(Related story on Page 5)



Opposition politician Chandrika Kumaratunge (L), daughter of former premier Srimavo Bandaranaike, is greeted by supporters after being sworn in as Chief Minister of the key Western province in Colombo yesterday. —AFP photo

Govt to utilise talents of MBA students: Hafiz

By Staff Correspondent

The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz yesterday said that the government would take all necessary measures to utilise the talents of the Master's of Business Administration (MBA) students.

The Minister was addressing the installation ceremony of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Alumni Association in a city hotel as the chief guest.

Prof Salam meets PM

From Page 1 Col 5

national Centre on Theoretical Physics at Trieste in Italy, said the 67-year-old scientist, who has been suffering from neurological ailments and diabetes, and is now confined to a wheelchair.

Salam said that he had discussed with World Bank officials financial assistance for the International Centre for Science, Technology and Environment for Densely Populated Regions to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister on Saturday.

He said the Bank officials assured support if the government of Bangladesh gives priority to the project.

In response, Begum Zia assured that her government would do everything possible for the development of the Centre.

Referring to the trip to the Bay of Bengal in 1978 which Prof Salam made with Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and a group of meritorious students, the Prime Minister said it was aimed at showing the young talents of the country's vast water resources and inspiring them for its exploitation.

Begum Zia said the then BNP government had laid importance on science and technology and set up a separate ministry in this regard. But during the autocratic regime, the sector remained completely neglected.

The present democratic government has once again laid importance on development of science and technology, she added.

Mentioning the desertification process which has started in the northern region of the country, the Prime Minister told Prof Salam that priority was also being given to preservation of the environment.

Wishing Prof Salam early recovery, Begum Zia said the world, particularly the people of the Third World, need very much a scientist of his calibre.

Prof Salam presented some of his books to the Prime Minister. Accepting the gift she said these would be of great help to the young scientists of the country.

Education Minister Barris:

ter Jamiruddin Sircar and three scientists of Prof Salam's science academy at Trieste — Prof Ennio Freoli, Prof Serena Fonda and Prof Naseem Rahman — were also present during the meeting.

Earlier, Nobel laureate Prof Abdus Salam arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a 5-day visit to Bangladesh.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar received the Pakistani scientist at the Zia International Airport. Additional Secretary in-Charge of Science and Technology Division Abdullah Haroon Pasha, High Commissioner of Pakistan Anwar Kemal, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University Dr Shamsur Ali and senior officials of Science and Technology Division were also present at the airport.

PM's visit to DU Students' bodies continue agitation

By DU Correspondent

Different students' organisations of the Dhaka University yesterday demanded implementation of their 10-point demands before the Prime Minister goes to the campus Sunday.

The students staged processions on the campus and chanted anti-government slogans. They also held rallies at the TSC road crossing in which they criticized the government.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to preside over the special convocation Sunday in which the Dhaka University will award an Honours Causa Doctor of Science (DSc) degree to Prof Abdus Salam, an eminent physicist of the Sub-Continent.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) held a big protest rally at the TSC which was addressed by Pankaj Nath, Iqbalur Rahim and K H M Liza.

AIDS spreading fast in Asia

GENEVA, May 21: Some 14 million people worldwide are infected with the Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV), the precursor of AIDS, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said today, warning it was spreading fast in Asia, reports AFP.

Eight million of those infected live in sub-Saharan Africa. But the HIV virus is spreading in parts of southern and south-eastern Asia as fast as in Africa, WHO said. It has infected some 1.5 million adults in this region of Asia, with India and Thailand being the main countries affected.

In some towns in central and eastern Africa one in three adults is infected, and in rural areas the virus is spreading south and west along communications routes, WHO said. Nigeria, with 20 per cent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa, was particularly badly hit. WHO said the HIV virus had spread virtually throughout the country, and among some groups of prostitutes the level of infection was 15-20 per cent.

"We can soon expect more new infections in Asia than in Africa. And as the second epidemic — the epidemic of AIDS takes hold in Asia as it has in Africa, we can anticipate that individuals, families and communities, will be affected in the same tragic way we are already seeing in parts of Africa," said Michael Merson, director of the WHO global programme on AIDS in Geneva Friday.

WHO calculated that by 2000 the total number of people infected with HIV would reach 30-40 million. People who become HIV positive can develop AIDS as much as 15 years after infection with the virus.

172 more Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, May 21: Some 172 Rohingya refugees of 47 families returned to their homeland in Myanmar today, reports UNB.

Officials said the 47th batch of Rohingyas refugees left Nayapara and Rongkhal transit camps in the morning. UNHCR and relief officials here saw them off.

With this the total number of Rohingyas repatriated so far rose to 25,189.

Professor Salam: A profile

By Masud Arif

Nobel prize-winning physicist Professor Abdus Salam has a real soft corner for speedier technological development in the Third World despite his preoccupation in the industrialised West.

In keeping with this passion Prof Salam will attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of the International Centre for Science, Technology and Environment for Densely Populated Regions at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka today.

Born in Pakistan in 1926, Professor Salam, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1979, is the founder Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy. The centre was set up in 1964.

From this institute scientists, mainly from the developing countries, get great support to continue their research work and to exchange views with other experts from the developed world.

"Professor Salam is a truly outstanding physicist, a great teacher and a noble man with immense love and deep concern for the isolated scientists of the developing countries," Professor Lalit Mohan Nath, an ex-student of Professor Salam and a senior teacher of the Department of Physics of the Dhaka University, mentioned while talking to this correspondent.

He also added, "Prof Salam has been and will remain a source of inspiration to all the scientists of our country."

During the presentation ceremony of the Royal Medal to Professor Salam in 1978, the President of the Royal

Society of London remarked, "Salam has been active in promoting scientific research in developing countries. The Institute at Trieste... plays a leading role in encouraging theoretical work in these countries."

Professor Salam was born in the town of Jhang near Lahore, the ancient Mughal city. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics on December

Besides, he was awarded the Smith's Prize by the University of Cambridge for the most outstanding pre-doctoral contribution to Physics in 1950.

At the young age of 25, Salam was made a full Professor at the Government College Lahore and Head of the Department of Mathematics of Punjab University in 1951.

In 1954 he joined Cambridge University as a Lecturer and later worked in some other universities including the Imperial College in London.

Professor Salam received several awards including the Hopkins Prize in 1958, the Maxwell Medal and Award in 1961, the Sir Devaprasad Saradhikary Gold Medal from Calcutta University in 1977, the Einstein Medal from Unesco, Paris in 1979, and the Royal Medal from the Royal Society of London in 1978 — all for his contribution to Physics.

Moreover, for his contribution towards peace and promotion of international scientific collaboration, he also received several prestigious awards from around the globe.

Professor Salam obtained different fellowships and was conferred honorary Doctor of Science (D Sc) degrees from different universities and academies around the world.

In his homeland Pakistan, he received various awards including the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, the highest civilian award. He has held different important assignments in Pakistan as well as with the United Nations since 1955.

The Midnight File

Blast kills 2 in Egypt

CAIRO, May 21: A car bomb exploded Friday behind a police station, killing a 10-year-old girl and a government employee and wounding at least 13 other people, reports AP.

Ukrainian parliament rejects president's proposal

KIEV (Ukraine), May 21: Parliament on Friday rejected President Leonid Kravchuk's proposal to reorganize the government, preventing him from taking short cuts on the road to free-market economic reform, reports AP.

Colombian plane crash: 36 bodies recovered

BOGOTA, May 21: Recovery workers endured subfreezing temperatures, high winds, rain and poor visibility Friday to search the wall of an Andean peak for victims of a Colombian airliner that slammed into the mountain, reports AP.

The Boeing 727 crashed 500 feet from the ridge of a 12,300-foot mountain on Wednesday. All 132 aboard were believed dead.

The RCN and Caracol radio networks said the rescue team found 36 bodies Thursday and resumed its search Friday.

ISESCO to finance

From Page 1 Col 4

ISESCO, an affiliate of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), agreed to provide financial assistance to the students in Latvia for one year and also indicated further assistance.

Dhaka also placed counter proposals with the CIS governments for a student exchange programme, under which some CIS students would be able to come to Bangladesh for higher studies.

As a successor to the Soviet government, Russia was asked to meet the treaty obligations and a proposal was also placed to transfer all Bangladeshi students in Ukraine to Russian academic institutions.

In response, the Russian government agreed to provide scholarships to the Bangladeshi students in Russia but expressed its inability to do anything for those in other CIS countries. Russia also agreed to accept the Bangladeshi students studying in Ukraine as transfer students.

With Russia agreeing to provide scholarships to the Bangladeshi students, the sources pointed, 50 per cent of the problem was solved as a majority of the Bangladeshi students are in Russian institutions.

The other CIS governments are learnt to have said that since all foreign students were being affected by the withdrawal of scholarships, the case of Bangladeshi students couldn't be considered in isolation.

The total number of Bangladeshi students on scholarships in the CIS countries is not available because the records maintained by the Education Ministry have become outdated as a large number of the students have since moved.

At present, the government has a list of 38 Bangladeshi students studying in Uzbekistan, 13 in Latvia and another 203 in Russia and Ukraine.

However, the sources noted that the actual number of students in the CIS was likely to be much larger as information from the other states was not available and repeated requests to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have met with no response.

In addition, a number of other Bangladeshi students went on scholarships from the Soviet Communist Party through the front organisations of the Bangladesh Communist Party, the JSD, the Mahila Parishad and other organisations.

AL dist leaders

From Page 1 Col 4

general elections, they argued. They felt that the smaller parties had always used the AL for major gains. Deliberating on the issue, the leaders referred to the case of National Awami Party MP Abdul Hafiz who was elected to Parliament with the AL election symbol (boat) and had recently quit the opposition bench to join the ruling party.

Some of the district leaders, however, were not averse to accepting an alliance provided the AL did not have to sacrifice any seats in the next parliamentary polls.

On the issue of Dr Kamal Hossain, most district leaders demanded the party high command take immediate disciplinary measures against him. They felt that Dr Kamal had been creating a lot of confusions among the party activists, especially, in the district level organisations of the party.

The extended meeting, with Sheikh Hasina in the chair, was adjourned at 10:15 last night to resume at 9 this morning.

Kuwait, UAE

From Page 1 Col 8

The Foreign Minister said he had met the Ameer of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed Al Sabah on the first leg of his visit and delivered a message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda.

During his stay in Kuwait City, Mostafiz also met the Prime Minister of the oil-rich Gulf state Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah.

Mostafiz had talks with Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Ahmed Al Sabah, who is in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on bilateral matters, regional and international issues of common concern.

During his visit to the UAE, Mostafiz told newsmen that he had delivered a message from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Sultan Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

He also had talks with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamda Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, covering bilateral matters, regional and international problems of common concern.

Geneva camp

From Page 1 Col 5

same venue in the camp. The workers of the SPGRS faction led by Ejaz Ahmed Siddiqui alleged that the supporters of the faction headed by Muhammad Nasim Khan had attacked them while they went to the camp to hold their scheduled meeting.

Leaders of the SPGRS (Nasim), however, refuted the allegation and blamed the Ejaz group for the attack.

The Ejaz faction broke away from the main Nasim Khan group four years ago following a leadership tussle.

Witnesses said that during the clash, both groups attacked each other with knives and sticks and several shops located at the camp were looted.

They said that police intervened and lobbed at least six teargas canisters to disperse the combatants. Police also used batons to bring the situation under control.

Officials said that 15 policemen were hurt in brickbating during the clash.

Following the fight, members of the SPGRS (Nasim) went for a 'fast unto death' in front of the Jatija Press Club since 6-30 pm Friday.

Earlier, a delegation of the SPGRS (Nasim) Thursday called on the Home Minister and submitted a memorandum to him.

The Nasim group will bring out processions across the country today (Saturday) to protest the police action on the stranded Pakistanis.

Administrative

From Page 1 Col 4

of aid received. An estimate reveals 40 per cent of foreign aid remain unutilised due to bureaucratic red-tapism.

The professional bodies' recommendations are being taken into consideration following their recent agitation demanding, among other things, removal of anomalies in the administration, separation of the judiciary from the executive, transfer of executive power to the elected representatives and on the basis of the Matin Committee Report, recasting the present bureaucracy.

The UNDP study team is being assisted by the ministries of Finance, Establishment and Planning, the Planning Commission, the Economic Relations Divisions and other relevant offices. The members include former secretaries, university teachers and high government officials.

A member of the team, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the body took up for consideration proposals of the professionals during its several rounds of talks with the latter.

Secretary of the Bangladesh Krishibid Institution, Javed Iqbal, alleged that a "vested coterie" in the administration was obstructing the GO's approval by the Prime Minister.

Bangladesh Medical Association President Dr MA Majed talking to this correspondent, remarked the entire administration was virtually hostage in the hands of a "vested bureaucratic clique" that in effect runs the country.

"The administration, therefore, needs a major overhaul," he opined.

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 58-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.