

Dhaka Day by Day

Rag-pickers' Wretched Existence

by Rashed Mahmud Titumir



Barek, Mariam are familiar faces in Dhaka city. Everyday in the early morning, they come out in the streets. In the dustbin, they begin searching throw-away papers, plastic bags or broken bottles. Barek gets up before the Azan. He has to go to Saidabad outfall from Nilkhet on foot — quite a long distance for walking. By noon, he sells his pile to a particular shop nearby.

He recalled how he started "One day I tracked down four pairs of worn-out shoes. I became so delighted that I could not hold myself," says Barek after a break.

"I took them to Nalgola bazar and sold out the six kilograms of shoe. In exchange I got one hundred taka," adds Barek.

Barek reasons that he received that amount because of the quality of plastic.

"From that very day, I joined this business (he views waste collection as a business)," continues Barek.

For Barek, a 12-year-old child, this is the time when he should have been in school. It is this hostile environment and his compulsion for survival that have pushed him into rag-picking which he considers a trade. Street children like Barek, who come mainly from the urban migrant families, are paying a heavy price for the means of their mere existence. These children are underfed, overworked, in poor health, illiterate and deprived of all the basic requirements.

Barek earns Tk 25 a day on an average. He has a family of five members. His mother works as a maid-servant.

In reply to a question Barek says, "I don't feel comfortable in any other job. This is an independent profession. I don't have to bear with anybody's temper."

Barek is not even aware whether rummaging through the waste materials is conducive to health or not.

However, he says, "sometimes I feel a headache, off and on. I suffer from diarrhoea."

Once he was seriously affected by diarrhoea. He had to go to the doctor. The physician advised him not to continue rag-picking.

"I have no other alternative," he told the doctor. Mariam's mother works in a house at Elephant Road. Mariam and her grandmother collect throw-away substances from the streets. She is still an apprentice in the line.

Till now, she is not aware of the price her collection can fetch. Therefore, she gathers pieces of papers.

Mariam, 9, do not have a rigid schedule. Whenever, her grandmother, 70, feel well, they get out in the street.

"I don't like the rainy season. Throw-away papers get wet," says Mariam. When asked, both Mariam and Barek say they do not know, what has happened with the waste matters they collected and sold.

Recycling of waste goods is an issue too heavy for them to comprehend.

They do not know how they are saving the city from the environmental pollution and helping the national exchequer through value-addition.

In Bangladesh, where growing numbers of people destroy environment, at least a section of street children is doing a marvellous job by clearing up the garbage in its limited capacity. A rare find on rarer occasions may be a reward for these neglected children. But their contribution has been possible only at a great price on their account.

Perhaps these rag-pickers' job can be made a little safe through the introduction of a system of scientific disposal of wastes. A few implements, if supplied to these unfortunate children, will protect their health. Their service should deserve this much.



A 13-member delegation of the Bangladesh Plastic Product Manufacturers' Association led by its President Liakatullah called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia at her office yesterday. Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali was present. — PID photo

Top-level changes

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday announced a series of top-level changes in the administration, according to an official hand out.

Planning Commission Member Dr Ekram Hossain has been transferred as chairman of the Land Reform Board while Dr Md Abdul Rashid, Secretary, Works Ministry, has been transferred to the Textile Ministry in the same capacity.

Commerce Secretary Syed Ahmed has been appointed Member, Planning Commission and Relief Secretary Md Abdul Hakim was made Textile Secretary.

Textile Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim has been transferred to the Commerce Ministry and Planning Commission Member Md Abu Hena appointed Secretary of the Jute Ministry.

The Additional Secretary at the Cabinet Division, Abdul Hamid Choudhury, has been posted as Secretary Religious Affairs Ministry while Biman Managing Director and Additional Secretary, Abdul Muiz Choudhury was made the Acting Additional Secretary in the Land Ministry.

The Additional Secretary at the Industries Ministry, Ataul Karim, has been made Additional Secretary in the Special Activities Division while the Additional Secretary at the Prime Minister's office was posted as the acting additional secretary at the Relief Ministry. The Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority A K M Amanul Islam Choudhury was appointed Chairman of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority.

Biswas for strengthening scout movement

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for strengthening the scout movement to turn the country's youths into an organised and disciplined force, reports BSS.

"Our future generation need to build themselves up as competent citizens to face the challenges of the age and scouting could help them attain leadership qualities for the future," he said.

President Biswas, also the country's chief scout, said this at the concluding ceremony of the fifth Bangladesh and 14th Asia-Pacific Jamboree at the National Scout Training Centre at Mouchak, Gazipur in the evening.

Scouts from the Philippines, Australia, Nepal, Pakistan, India and host Bangladesh took part in the eight-day jamboree, the theme of which was "Scouting for Better Future."

The President said the jamboree has provided opportuni-

ties to the scouts of different countries to exchange their knowledge and experiences and this would also inspire the participants to acquire higher education and practical knowledge to ensure better future.

Later, the President distributed the "Chief Scout's Award" among the best performers of the jamboree and exchanged souvenirs with the scouts participating from the foreign countries.

Wilkes Little Flower School won the highest seven individual awards from Dhaka region, while engn Syed Hossain received the second highest scouting award 'Silver Hilsa' for his role in promoting scouting in the country.

President of Bangladesh Scouts M Mahbubuzzaman, Chief Scout Commissioner Manjurul Karim and President of jamboree organising committee Habibul Alam Bir Pratik also spoke on the occasion.

Pacific Air Force Commander calls on Biswas

A five-member delegation led by General Robert L Rutherford, Commander of the Pacific Air Force of the USA called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Talking to Gen Rutherford, President Biswas observed that there was excellent relationship between Bangladesh and the USA. He said that Bangladesh Air Force being a flying-oriented force, availability of flying courses and training facilities would be quite useful to it.

Gen Rutherford said that since Bangladesh Air Force was a dependable force for maintaining peace and stability in the region, the areas of further mutual cooperation could be explored. He also lauded the positive role by Bangladesh defence forces in peace-keeping operations in the disturbed areas of the world.

Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Chief of Bangladesh Air Force, Ataul Haq, Secretary to the President, Major-General M Gholam Mowla, Military Secretary to the President and James Nach, Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Dhaka were present on the occasion.

Nat'l council confce of IDE begins today

The 18th national council conference of Institute of Diploma Engineers (IDE) begins in the city today, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed will inaugurate the three-day conference at IDE headquarters at 3:00 pm while deputy leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad will attend it as special guest.

Addressing a press conference at its headquarter general secretary of the central executive committee A K M A Hamid said some 5,000 councillors, out of its 60,000 members, will attend the conference. "Entrepreneurship towards Poverty Alleviation" will be the year's slogan, he added.

Posthumous award for S M Ali to be given today

By Staff Correspondent

The Maitree Samaj Kalyan Sangha will posthumously award the founder-editor of The Daily Star late S M Ali with the Maitree Padak for his outstanding contribution to journalism.

According to a press release of the voluntary socio-cultural youth organisation, the award will be given today on the concluding day of the fourth Maitree Poush Mela.

Since 1980, the Maitree Padak has been awarded to individuals for their remarkable contribution in various spheres like removing illiteracy, self-employment projects, improvement of environment, relief and rehabilitation, sports, cultural and social development and others.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely over the country. Met Office forecasts night temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

The country's highest temperature of 29.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Cox's Bazar and lowest of 11.4 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:32 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:44 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.9	13.6	78	76
Chittagong	27.0	14.4	80	60
Rajshahi	28.2	14.1	88	77
Khulna	28.0	12.4	86	63
Barisal	28.4	13.0	93	74
Sylhet	27.4	14.5	84	68
Dinajpur	26.6	13.8	87	67
Cox's Bazar	29.2	15.5	73	74

Sabrina

Twenty—the golden age is glorified today
Happy Birthday Friend

Happy Birthday



Rommel

from
Abba, Amma,
Bhaiya, Appu

ANANDA MELA

VENUE: ESKATON LADIES CLUB
DATE: 13th & 14th JANUARY
THURSDAY & FRIDAY
TIME: 10.A.M TO 8.P.M

COME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ENJOY THE DAY

অফিসার্স ক্লাবের মহিলা কমিটি আয়োজিত

আনন্দ মেলা

২৬, বৈশাখী রোড, অফিসার্স ক্লাব প্রাঙ্গণ

১৩, ১৪ ও ১৫ই জানুয়ারী '৯৪

বৃহস্পতি, শুক্র ও শনিবার

১৩ই জানুয়ারী সকাল ১০টায় উদ্বোধন করবেন
মাননীয় পূর্বমন্ত্রী ব্যারিষ্টার রফিকুল ইসলাম মিল্লা

IUBAT ADMISSION

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY (IUBAT)

(ESTABLISHED IN 1991 AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH)

1. Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE), Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME), Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE), Engineering Degree Programs of **Indiana University USA** taught at IUBAT and Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA.
2. Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees jointly with **Assumption University, Thailand**, taught at IUBAT.
3. Diploma in Computer Science and Diploma in Accounting.
4. Certificate programs for Executive Development, Computer and English Language, Hotel & Catering.

Class for Spring semester starts on January 22, 1994.

For details contact IUBAT.

Prof. Dr. M. Alimullah Miyan, President, IUBAT

House-135, Road-9A (old 19), Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka-1209.

GPO Box-2857, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 816064, 816074. Fax: 880-2-863060.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for suitable candidates in the following positions for one of our Companies Manufacturing food related items :

1. FACTORY MANAGER

The Candidate should be in the age group of 35 to 45 years, capable to take responsibility of overall supervision of an industrial unit independently in Postagola area having experience for more than five years in a factory in supervisory level and holding B.Sc. Engineering/Food Technology/MBA Degree.

2. MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

Age limit below 40 years having Mechanical/Electrical Engineering degree with minimum five years experience in a similar position.

3. PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

Age Limit below 35 years with minimum Education upto Graduate level (Preferably Science) having five years Experience in supervisory work.

4. STORE OFFICER

The Candidate should be a Graduate (Preferable from Commerce) with five years Experience in store keeping and within age limit of 40 years.

5. ACCOUNTANT

The Candidate should be below 35 years having M.Com Degree or C.A. course completed with Minimum of five years Experience in similar position.

For all the above positions Qualification and Experience is Relaxable for candidate with successful Management capability. Salary with other terms and conditions of service will be very attractive. Please apply to Box No. A-01 C/O The Daily Star, Dhaka, Bangladesh with detailed Bio-Data alongwith a recent passport size Photograph in strict confidence to reach us before 25th January, 1994. On your envelop please mention the post for which you are applying.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited for a renowned Group of Companies for the following posts:

1. MANAGER-CUM-SECRETARY

The candidate should have the following qualifications:

- Experienced, energetic not above the age of 60 years.
- A university degree.
- Good written and spoken communication skills in English and Bengali, possessing interpersonal skills as well.
- Leadership quality to lead, motivate and guide others.
- Analytical and able to work under pressure.

2. LADY SECRETARY

With the following requirements:

- Good knowledge in short hand min. 100 words per minute.
- Typing speed min. 40 words per minute on Electrical Type Writer. Computer training on wordstar preferable.
- The candidate must be Graduate with 3 years secretarial experience.
- Smart, good looking, energetic personality with pleasant disposition having good command over spoken and written English/Bengali.

Attractive salary with other fringe benefits will be offered to the successful candidate. The confident candidates may apply on or before January 25, 1994 to:

Managing Director
RAN-JAS LIMITED

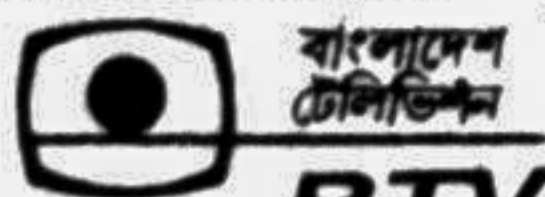
113-116 Old Airport Road
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.

GLEW basic training course inaugurated

The Group Leader Extension Workers (GLEW) basic training course was inaugurated by Prof Dr M Alimullah Miyan, President, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) and advisor to the project on January 3 at Dumuria and Sakthira thanas, says an IUBAT press release.

The basic training is participated by 25 GLEWs in each of the thanas with a duration of 8 days. The training, is aimed at developing extension skills to provide support to vulnerable women for self-reliance.

The GLEW scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Women's Affairs with assistance of World Food Programme of the UN in 10 thanas to make the VGD women more self-reliant as a pilot scheme. A total of 500 GLEWs are being developed to provide service to 7,500 VGD women.



Friday BTV Morning Session

- 8.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Alor Disheri
- 8.40 Shikha Dikha
- 9.05 Cartoon show : The Amazing Spiderman
- Moner Mukurey
- 10.05 Ayomoy (10th episode)
- 11.25 Film show : Tarzan
- 11.40 Population programme : Prescription
- 12.05 Film show : Images
- 12.30 Closing of morning session

Afternoon Session

- 3.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 3.15 Cartoon show : Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- Movie of the week : For Whom the Bell Tolls
- 3.50 Sports programme : Tennis
- 6.15 Open University
- 6.50 Malancha
- 7.25 News in Bangla
- 8.00 Magazine : Manobadhikar
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama serial : L A Law
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing