

Dhaka Day by Day

Vendors In Park

by A S M Nurunnabi

They are small children, boys and girls, aged eight to 10, yet engaged in peculiar occupations to earn their livelihood. A stroll in the city's parks, such as the Suhrawardy Uddyan and the Ramna Park may acquaint one with such experience.

The strollers in the park may feel a need for a drink of water. The need is felt more in summer than in winter. Yet in all seasons, these small boys and girls with their portable pitchers of water, move around to look for customers. They have their own business tactic: they know that those persons who come to the park with small children in their tow, may be more in need of water for their children who tend to get thirsty easily. The sight of water available within easy reach may tempt them more. So these vendors of water loiter around such groups of children.

Sufia and Arif, two such children, frequent the Suhrawardy Uddyan, with their pitcher-full water. They are not more than nine or ten years old. They are not relatives, yet as they live in the same slum, they have developed a common interest and they move together looking for customers. Their friendship helps stand them in good stead when pitchers of water are full and heavy to carry. The two children are gullible enough to reveal a secret or two of their trade: in the winter season their sale falls at a low ebb... Yet on some days they manage to earn Tk 10 a day at the rate of Taka one per glass of water. There were even some days, as they said, when they got no customers for their water. Only when they are able to earn some money, they take their meals at noon, but when they fail, they are forced to skip a meal. Their business definitely picks up during summer when they are invariably able to earn a steady income. But they complained that they face one difficulty at this time: there are more competitors in this line.

There is another kind of vendors in the park: those who sell ready tea. Their business

is more brisk in winter than in summer. Such vendors are of varying ages. This trade is currently facilitated by the use of the present-day large-sized thermos flasks which cater to the needs of more customers. The need of customers for a satisfying hot drink is readily supplemented by another group of vendors selling potato chips and peanuts. While the elders take their hot drinks, the children accompanying them can be kept satisfied by offers of chocolates and lozenges which are also supplied by wandering vendors.

If you thirst for soft drink, the vendors are also at hand to supply it. They are mostly juveniles; they go about their business with such gusto and energy that none fails to observe it, as they move from one spot to another in the wide landscape in their search for customers. This group of vendors informed that they earn more or less a steady income ranging from Tk 20 to Tk 30 per day, and their working hours extend from morning till evening. They confided in view of their steady daily income, they manage to have a regular meal at noon at a nearby roadside eatery costing Tk 8 to Tk 10 per meal.

An insight into the diversity of occupations was provided by some wretched women gathering fallen dry leaves from the many trees in the park. The volume of fallen leaves was so considerable that it did not take them much time to fill a big-size jute sack. On enquiry it was learnt that though most of their collections go to meet their fuel needs, if there be any surplus, they manage to sell it to their neighbours in the slum where they live. Although the price they get for it is paltry, the cash thus earned sometimes helps them meet some of their essential needs when such earnings have been saved over a period.

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Italian Red Cross team due today

By Staff Correspondent

A high level Italian Red Cross delegation led by its Vice President General Paolo Carlini arrives in Dhaka today, says an Italian Embassy press release.

The main object of the visit is to identify new fields of cooperation between Italian Red Cross and the government of Bangladesh in order to plan and implement new projects in the area of health and education and to review the ongoing programmes with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

The Italian Red Cross has already financed the building of 10 cyclone shelters in the area of Chittagong.

After the cyclone of 1991 funds were collected in Italy for the rehabilitation of the cyclone-hit people. With some of this money at that time aid was brought directly on a chartered plane to Bangladesh. New projects are planned.

The Italian Government also has 2 emergency projects running in the area: one for the rehabilitation of health and sanitary structure and one for agriculture.

One of the financing of aim of the delegation will be to consider possible new micro initiatives in the field of health assistance and training.

A large number of this type of projects is already under implementation in several districts of Bangladesh run by Italian volunteers and NGOs.

The new areas of intervention are expected to be in favour of the Rohingyas, in integration of programmes already started and financed by the Italian Technical Cooperation in Bashkhali, in health projects already established in the districts of Jessore and Rajshahi, the press release mentioned.

Some of these projects are already partly financed by Italian private donations.

During its visit the delegation will meet the Minister of Health, the Minister of Relief, the Minister of Education, the Foreign Secretary, and the Representatives of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, UNDP, UNHCR and will visit projects in Jessore.

The delegation will leave on January 30.

Shaheen College prize giving ceremony held

The annual prize giving ceremony of BAF Shaheen College was held at its premises yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar attended the function as the chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

1/D Agrabad Commercial Area, Post Box No. 2052, Chittagong-4100

D-61



The Mukti Joddha Kalyan Trust (central office) employees brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press home their demands.

Star photo

Salam at a workshop

Water supply covers 85 pc of rural areas

Minister for LGRD and Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday emphasised the need for motivation programme for using safe water for all purposes, reports BSS.

He said that the present water supply coverage in the rural areas of the country was 85 per cent, one of the highest in South East Asia region. But the water use from portable source for all domestic uses is only 16 per cent.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the opening session of a three-day workshop on "Strategy Formulation for Water and Sanitation Sector of Bangladesh for 1996 to 2000" held in the capital.

Pointing to the present sanitation coverage of 33 per cent which was 11 per cent in 1990 Salam Talukder said if this trend continues the sanitation coverage will be increased to 75 per cent by the year 2000.

The LGRD Minister said the government of Begum Khaleda Zia had attached top priority to water supply and sanitation and a good number of such projects had been included in the current annual development programme in order to increase the service coverage in the rural areas.

Referring to the fast growing urban settlement where the demand for water supply and sanitation services had multiplied he said present capacities of the municipal towns need to be augmented to meet the situation. He said the challenge of both rural and urban water supply and sanitation should be met both by the beneficiaries and the executing agencies on participatory approach.

Organised by the LGRD Division in co-operation with the UNDP and the UNICEF the opening session of the workshop was also addressed by the Secretary of the division Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury, UNDP Resident Representative Elmi Watanabe, UNICEF Country Representative Rolf C. Carriere, Chief of Energy and

Prof Choudhury said proper training would make easy the communication system which could help understand people's problem and find ways to solutions.

He said development of communication system in the fields of education and health had now become important to maintain a link with the developed nations.

To succeed in the role the applicant must have sound practical experience, demonstrate a record of achievement in a fast moving and demanding environment and a high level of personal commitment and integrity with the ability to respond rapidly to changing situations. Applicants will be results oriented and must be able to set objectives and to provide matured leadership.

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To apply please write with personal and career details to the General Manager HRD and personnel at the address given below within January 31, 1994 enclosing a recent photograph and list of three referees.

Briefing on

Women's Affairs Ministry

A briefing session on the activities of the Ministry of Women's Affairs was held at a local hotel Sunday, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman was present as the chief guest while State Minister for Women's Affairs Sarwar Rahim briefed the heads of diplomatic missions, United Nations organisations and representatives of development agencies in Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister said late president Ziaur Rahman had initiated the task of involving women in the development activities by creating the Women's Affairs Ministry.

He said the prime objective of involving women in the development process by late president Zia was to bring down the level of poverty.

Mostafizur Rahman said, the Women's Affairs Ministry has been moving with positive steps for the uplift of the women community and the destitute women in particular.

Mostafizur Rahman presented a statement on the activities and projects taken up for the welfare of women by the Women's Affairs Ministry since its inception in 1978.

He briefed the project activities in the Women's Affairs Sector under the current Fourth Five Year Plan.

Biemilah Rahman Rahim

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Founder-Principal

Star photo

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GULSHAN-2

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NOTICE OF BOOK CLOSURE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

The valued Shareholders of the Company are hereby informed that the Share Transfer Registers of the Company will remain closed on 16th and 17th February, 1994 in order to facilitate Right Share offer to the Shareholders.

The Right Shares will be offered on a 1:1 basis at Tk 1200/- per share of Tk 100/- each (i.e. at a premium of Tk 1100/- per share of Tk 100/- each) to the shareholders whose names appear in the share register of the Company at close of business on 15th February, 1994. The offer for exercising the rights alongwith other details will be communicated to valued shareholders by mail/courier service on 16th February, 1994.

By order of the Board

Sd/-
B.K. NATH
Company Secretary

Dated : 25 January, 1994

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