

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

When Labour Goes Unrecognized

by Rashed Mahmud Titumir

Perhaps buried somewhere in the subconscious mind is an image of a 'golden city'—a clean, bright, modern place which draws tourists and visitors. It is an image that for so long has impelled us to push the metropolis further. And in the case of Dhaka, the attempt is to turn it into a *tilottoma*, a mythical virgin woman of incomparable beauty whose different limbs were made by Vishwakarma, the heavenly artisan by taking bits from all that were most beautiful in the universe. So, some

one in high position had the lofty idea that people cramming the streets and pavements are 'nuisance'. The shoe-shine boys, carmers, hawkers, street-peddlers and the rest of them fell under the category.

"The attitude seems to be 'get them out of sight'. Rules are rules, and they must be applied," says Bayes Mirdha, who sells shirts from garment factories beside the GPO.

"The first thing you notice is that small scale street vending provides an occupation for tens of thousands of the city people and the number is steadily on the rise, thanks to migration from villages due to the push factor," argues Bayes, a 26-year-old youth.

According to him, of all the branches of the economy, leaving aside the rickshaw-pulling, this is the one that constantly provides work for new arrivals.

Why do city people increasingly use the services these street traders provide? "Mainly because they charge lower price and they are handy", quips a customer. "They adapt very easily to the fact that their customers may have little to spend," says another customer. "Moreover, in these days of style and fashion, people want to buy more with less price," he adds.

Bayes admits that the goods sold there are not usually as good or as durable as those that can be bought from the shopping malls.

The activities of the 'informal economy' is

not sanctioned by the law. In effect, they find themselves forced into illegality—because the rules restrict or prevent them. Thus they have to run a rat race—clear the streets again and again.

"The regulations enforced by law enforcing agencies and administrative officers of various kinds are a constant threat to us, the small operators, and we are at the risk of suppression at any time by a controller, whether real or bogus," says Bayes.



"Moreover, because of our so-called illegality, we have to be at the mercy of toll-collectors and *maestans*," continues Bayes.

Economic crisis, to a certain extent, changes the landscape. Increasing landlessness and poverty force them out of their village home and hearth and into cities for survival. And they are finding themselves plunged into the 'informal' economy and they use their initiative in their new role, exploiting the fact that the potential clientele has also increased.

Of course, it is true to say that they 'do not pay any tax'. But Bayes argues that they 'pay their dues'.

"We pay fax when we buy things. We support our parents and family, and are sending our children to schools to the best of our ability. Is it not paying taxes?" Bayes tries to be convincing.

The essential point is, continues Bayes. "Everyone from the hawker to the woman selling food is trying to earn a living and does so as honestly as possible. This rejection of idleness and refusal to become a 'parasite' is an attitude which deserves to be recognised and respected."

"But what about the current rules and regulations? What do they have to say about this form of entrepreneurship?" posing the question Bayes Mirdha goes to attend the customer. He knows how to please them and earn his livelihood.



Participants at the Hunger Project-organised first strategic forum on "What constitutes an enabling environment for the poor to succeed in their own development?" held at a local hotel yesterday. Seen from right to left are SM Al-Hussainy of Swanirvar Bangladesh, Badru Alam Majumder of Hunger Project, Abdur Rob Chowdhury, MP, and LK Siddiqui, MP.

— Star photo

BRAC to set up 13000 more non-formal schools

The number of non-formal primary schools run by the BRAC will rise to 35,000 in its project areas in the country during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The BRAC has so far set up 22,000 non-formal primary schools during the past 9 years ending in March this year. Another 13,000 such schools will be set up during the current fiscal to raise the total number of schools to 35,000.

Briefing a delegation from the North African state of the Republic of Chad, a spokesman of the BRAC said these schools are disseminating education among children of the poor parents.

It is stated that over two hundred thousand students have already completed three-year course in the BRAC-operated schools until last year. Ninety five per cent of these young learners have enrolled

themselves in Class four of the government primary schools.

At present nearly 7 lakh students are studying in the BRAC-run primary schools. It is interesting to note 70 per cent of these students are

Hunger Project discussion held

The importance of dissemination of information to the people for motivation to achieve the desired objective where the poor would succeed in their own development was stressed at a discussion in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The discussion, organised by the Hunger Project, was held at a city hotel for a media strategy that will foster an enabling environment for the poor to succeed in their own development.

The discussion, initiated by Prof. Badru Alam Majumder, Country Coordinator, Global Hunger Project, Bangladesh chapter, was participated by Abdur Rob Chowdhury, MP, LK Siddiqui, MP, Enayetullah Khan, Chief Editor of the weekly Holiday, Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, SM Al-Hussainy, Chairman, Swanirvar Bangladesh and Nazrul Islam, chairman, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation.

Interested persons may apply with full particulars/Bio-Data with two copies of passport size photograph to Box No. A-18 C/O, The Daily Star, Dhaka within 16th July, 1994 latest.

ROK envoy meets Mosharraf

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Jong Kyon Byun called on the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at his office here yesterday.

The envoy stayed with the Minister for some time and discussed different issues of mutual interests particularly Korean assistance for the promotion of Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh.

Janakantha journalist released

Assistant editor of the daily Janakantha ATM Shamsuddin Ahmed was released yesterday from the Dhaka Central Jail upon order by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, reports UNB.

The High Court on Monday granted bail to Ahmed who was arrested in connection with a post-editorial in the Janakantha that allegedly hurt religious sentiments of the Muslims.

Journalists and employees of the Janakantha were present at the jail gate when was released in the afternoon.

What's on today . . .

Tirjuk Natty Goshti: A Shakespearean comedy. As You Like It translated and directed by Rabibul Alam, will be staged. Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium.

Rapport: A three-week training course for Trade Union representatives sponsored by Rapport Bangladesh Limited will be inaugurated. Venue: Rapport Seminar Hall, 98, Malibagh. Time: 5:30 pm.

National Life Insurance Co: Prize giving ceremony of Annual Competition '93 will be held. Chief guest: Bangladesh Insurance Association Chairman M Maidul Islam. Venue: Academy for Planning and Development. Time: 11 am.



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman addressing a press briefing at the conference room of the Shishu Academy in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Weather

Temperature may rise

Temporary light to moderate rain or thunder shower is likely at many places over Chittagong division, at a few places over Rajshahi division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Wednesday, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period across the country.

Giving extended outlook for another five days, the weathermen said that rainfall is likely during the period.

Meantime, Rangamati experienced the highest 20 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Sathkira and the lowest 23.6 degrees at Rangamati.

Sun sets today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17 am. The maximum and minimum temperature and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	32.5	26.7
Chittagong	31.8	24.7
Rajshahi	32.0	26.0
Khulna	32.8	26.5
Barisal	32.5	26.0
Sylhet	32.2	25.8
Cox's Bazar	31.0	26.0
Dinajpur	26.3	88

2 killed in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Two persons were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

An auto-rickshaw driver Nayan, 35, died on the spot when his vehicle turned upside down as he lost control over the vehicle at Mohakhali in the evening.

In another incident, Ripon, 25, died as his car collided with a truck at Jurain around 1 am.

Fatally wounded Ripon was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died early in the morning.

Woman robbed

A woman on a rickshaw was robbed of her gold chain in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday morning.

When the lady, Bilkis Sultana Nila, cried for help at road No. 2, a police team patrolling the street chased the muggers and caught hold of one of them with a cracker at road No. 9, said police.

Nila told police that three muggers on an autorickshaw waylaid her and snatched her gold chain around 11 in the morning.

Police said the muggers exploded a number of crackers when police chased them. But no one was injured, they added.

WANTED
GENERAL MANAGER

Applications are invited for the above post. This is a senior position in leading Industrial Group of Bangladesh. Candidates should preferably be Electrical Engineer or MBA having 15 years experience in Marketing of electrical lighting-fittings and household appliances. He will be responsible for marketing of reputed brand of similar product in Bangladesh.

Interested persons may apply with full particulars/Bio-Data with two copies of passport size photograph to Box No. A-18 C/O, The Daily Star, Dhaka within 16th July, 1994 latest.

Career Opportunity

To meet our growth objectives, particularly relating to the marketing and distribution of the internationally renowned Nestle range of products, the following opportunities have arisen. We are looking for a select number of young and dynamic individuals to fill up three available positions.

POSITION : MEDICAL DELEGATE

Age maximum 28 years.

EDUCATIONAL

QUALIFICATION : Masters in any Science subject. Principal job responsibilities will include the promotion of dietetic products to the medical profession and co-ordination with the sales team.

The candidates will be based in any of our 10 branches in Bangladesh and be willing to work in a meritocratic environment.

Please apply in person on 12th July, 1994 at 10:00 AM with full Bio-data and a recent passport size photograph to:

Transcom Limited

52, Motijheel Commercial Area

Dhaka-1000

D-669

VACANCIES

Social Marketing Company (SMC), one of the largest marketing organisations in the country, has got openings for the following positions:

1. Consultant for Developing Training Curricula : SMC conducts three specific training programs for (a) Rural Medical Practitioners (b) Pharmacists, and (c) School Children.

We are seeking a Consultant to improve the curriculum for each of these training programs.

The successful candidate will :

- preferably be a Doctor (MBBS) with an MPH
- have experience in developing training curricula and materials
- have research background for evaluating impact of training.

The period of contract for the Consultant will be for three months.

2. Consultant in Human Resources Development (HRD)

We are seeking a Consultant to evaluate the existing management staff and ascertain their training needs. The objective is to improve the overall managerial performance to reach challenging targets.

The successful candidate will have :

- extensive wide experience as Manager of Human Resource Development in a large national/international or multi-national organization
- good academic qualifications
- excellent oral and written communication skill in English and Bangla.

The period of contract for the Consultant will be for three months.

3. External Relations Manager

We require an External Relations Manager to help co-ordinate SMC activities with external organisations and government. He/she will have to write reports, proposals, edit newsletters and give presentations on SMC. The successful candidate will :

- have an excellent command over English (both written & oral)
- have experience with the donor community, international agencies, Government and other external organisations
- have excellent interpersonal communication skills
- be result oriented.

The initial contract period will be for six months with further extension depending upon performance. Women are encouraged to apply.

Remuneration for all these positions are excellent and commensurate with ability and experience. Please apply in confidence to :



Managing Director

CORPORATE SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY

House - 105, Road 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

on or before July 18, 1994

Canvassing in any form will automatically disqualify the candidate