

Dhaka Day by Day

Dangerously Charming

by Afifa Raihana

Snakes have a special place in our myth and culture. The reptiles don't play a vital role in the lives of people living in the city but in the countryside their presence cannot be ignored. There is fear of snakes, specially in the rainy season, there are snake songs and of course, snake charming is a matter of great interest in the village fair.

Anwara Begum (35) is a snake charmer. Her family has been in this profession for years. She was trained in India by a Guru there. Anwara has three children, two sons and a daughter. All of them are in the snake charming business.

Anwara has been performing before the public from her childhood. She has no fear of snakes, no matter how poisonous they are. "I have been bitten by poisonous snakes ten to twelve times in my life," says Anwara. Her hands are full of marks of snake-bites.

Anwara has five snakes in all. There is one python, one cobra, two Pankhura and one Kalnagini. The python is huge, it eats two to four chickens everyday. Anwara also owns a mongoose to make the performance more interesting. The mongoose is a born rival of the snake. When let loose it fights fiercely with the cobra. The mongoose is so ferocious that it can kill venomous snakes without getting injured.

Singing snake songs and playing a flute, Anwara makes the snakes dance to the tune. People gather all around her and watch the game mesmerised. While she is singing the snakes try to bite her once in a while but Anwara is too skillful. And that's what makes the performance so attractive. When all five snakes are performing at the same time, Anwara's sons make sure that none of the snakes go and bite the spectators.

Apart from performing in the streets, Anwara has another very important task. She treats

patients who are bitten by snakes. Suppose a poisonous snake bites a person in the hand, as soon as possible a knot with a rope has to be tied tightly in his arm to stop the blood circulation. That way the poison won't be spreading all through the body. In this state if the patient is brought to her even after two days, she can cure him. But once the poison has spread all over, it is very difficult to save that person.

A snake charmer's way of treating a snake-bitten person is very different and interesting. Known as *Ojha*, he or she recites some magic

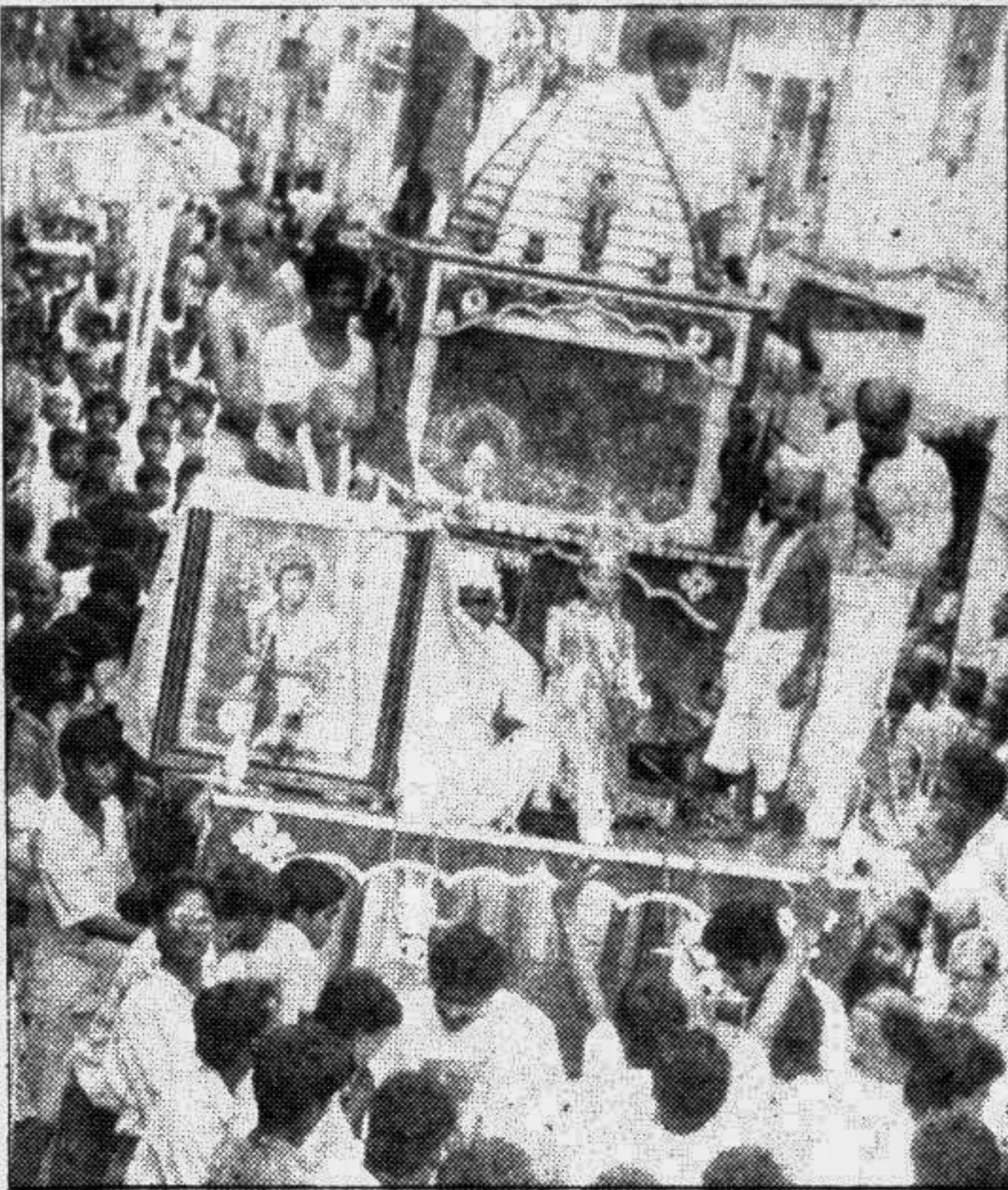
words which are known as "mantra" over and over again. The main theme of the mantra is to scare the poisonous snake, asking the snake to take its poison back. After the mantra has been read for at least a couple of hundred times, Anwara makes several incision in the patient's hand beneath the knot. She also makes pierce with a pin near and around the place where the snake has bitten. A lot of blood comes out of the incisions and with that comes out the poison. Anwara then puts some medicine on the hand and that's enough to cure a snake-bitten person. The medicine that the snake charmers use for this purpose is made by themselves with

various roots and shrubs. They get on an average almost 10 to 20 snake bitten patients every year. People from all over the country and mostly from Sylhet, Chittagong and Khulna come to her for treatment. She has no specific rate for treatment but she takes money for the medicines.

When asked about her monthly income Anwara said, "I can't give you the actual figure but what I earn is enough for me and my family." She also said that the snakes are not only a necessary tool for their performance but they are also a part of their family.



Anwara's spell of charm—Photo: The writer



The traditional Rathajatra was observed amidst huge enthusiasm by the members of the Hindu community yesterday. —Star photo

US trade show in January

The 4th US Trade Show in Bangladesh will be held in January, 1995. The three-day show, an established annual event and the premier Trade Show in Bangladesh, exhibits US goods and services. It will be held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from January 12-14, 1995, says a press release.

The 3rd US Trade Show held at Dhaka Sheraton last January attracted 38 participants representing over 80 US companies.

The American-Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF) in co-operation with the US Embassy at Dhaka will organise the Trade Show. The interested participants wishing to exhibit US goods and services have been requested to contact the ABEF office at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Smuggled goods seized in Khulna

KHULNA, July 10: A patrol team of the Bangladesh Navy during routine anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol recently, recovered smuggled goods worth about Tk one lakh sixty nine thousand from different places under Mongla thana, reports BSS.

The seized goods which included stolen diesel oil and nylon ropes were later deposited with the local customs authorities, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

Tribhuj Prakashani award-giving ceremony held

The award-giving ceremony of the Tribhuj Prakashani was held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city Saturday, says a press release.

Minister for Information Nazmul Huda was present as chief guest while chairman of the Bangla Academy Gazi Shamsur Rahman presided over the function.

The recipients of this year's award are: Begum Sufia Kamal and Naomi Shihabnabi (poetry), M A Mohaimin (posthumously), Khaleda Salauddin, and Muktiadir (literature), Ferdousi Rahman and Shabnam Mushtari (music), Zeenat Barakatullah (dance), Mamunur Rashid (drama), A S Mahmud (commerce and industry), Dewan Shamsul Haq (organisation), Mahub Anam (journalism), Gazi Azhar Ali, M Fazlur Rahman, and M A Qudus (social service), Dr A H M Zafar and Dr Sultana Jahan (medical science), Lutfar Rahman Sarkar (banking), Z A Khan and Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury (insurance), Zebunnessa Jama (lyrics), Hashem Khan (arts), Ulfat Kabir (image), Nurul Karim Nasim and, Dr Mozaharul Haq (spread of education), Saif-Ud-Dahar (computer science), Tariq Zaman (Publication and business) and Nurjahan Saima (acting).



4:30 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
4:45 Programme Summary
Cartoon Film: Captain Planet and the Planeteers
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 Sports programme
6:30 Moder: Garabi Model: Asha
7:00 Open University
7:25 Nazrul songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Sukher Dukkara Family Planning programme
9:00 Ghore Bairey Women's Magazine
10:00 News in English
10:30 Comedy series Murphy Brown
11:10 Musical programme: Disco Rally
11:30 Khabar: The News
11:45 Closing

Hospital ayas demonstrate for reinstatement

By Staff Correspondent

Female attendants (Ayas) of different hospitals who were terminated from their jobs demonstrated in the city yesterday for their reinstatement.

The attendants gheraoud, the office of the Director General (DG), Health, at Mohakhali around 10 in the morning.

What's on today . . .

Zahir Raihan Film Society: Film "Goopy Bagha Phire Elo" (The Return of Goopy and Bagha) directed by Sandeep Ray will be screened. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6 pm

Dhaka Pantomime: A mime show will be presented as part of Bengli 15th Century celebration programme. Venue: Guide House auditorium. Time: 7:15 pm

Seminar: On "Communication in Population and Development: Role of Mass Media" organised by the Bangladesh 2000 will be held. Chief guest: Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury. Venue: United Nations Information Centre. Time: 12:15 pm



ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড

১৩১-১৪২, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা
টুলী, গাজীপুর।

রেজিস্টার্ড অফিসঃ

"বিএসইসি ভবন"

১০২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
ঢাকা-১২১৫

বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড এর সম্মানিত শেয়ার হোল্ডারগণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, মহামান্য সুপ্রীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ কর্তৃক কোম্পানী বিষয়ে ১২তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা অনুষ্ঠানে বিলম্ব প্রমর্জনপূর্বক অনুমতি প্রদানের প্রেক্ষিতে কোম্পানীর ১২তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভায় নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়াদি অনুমোদনকরে আগামী ১০ই জুলাই, ১৯৯৪ বাল্কা মোতাবেক ২৫শে জুলাই, ১৯৯৪ইং রোজ সোমবার সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় টুলী পৌর মিলনায়তন, টুলী, গাজীপুরে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবেঃ

- ১। বিগত ১০ই জুলাই, ১৯৯৪ বাল্কা মোতাবেক ২৪শে জুন, ১৯৯২ ইং তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত কোম্পানীর বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার কার্যবিবরণী নিশ্চিতকরণ।
- ২। ১৯৯১-৯২ইং অর্থ বৎসরের কোম্পানীর নিরীক্ষিত স্থিতিপত্র, লাভ/লোকসান হিসাব, লাভ-লোকসান বন্টন হিসাব ও নিরীক্ষকের প্রতিবেদন এবং কোম্পানীর পরিচালকবৃন্দের বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন গ্রহণ, বিবেচনা ও অনুমোদন।
- ৩। আর্টিকেলস্ অব এসোসিয়েশনের বিধান অনুযায়ী পর্যায়ক্রমে অবসর গ্রহণকারী পরিচালকের স্থলে গ্রুপ-এ এবং গ্রুপ-বি হইতে ৩ (তিন) জন পরিচালক মনোনয়ন/নির্বাচন।
- ৪। ১৯৯২-৯৩ইং অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য কোম্পানীর নিরীক্ষক হিসাবে চৌধুরী হোসেন এণ্ড কোং এর নিয়োগ ও ফির'র কার্যক্রম অনুমোদন।
- ৫। চেয়ারম্যান মহোদয়ের অনুমতিক্রমে সাধারণ সভায় আলোচনাযোগ্য অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি সম্পাদন করা।

বোর্ডের আদেশক্রমে

এ কে দাসগুপ্ত

সচিব।

তারিখঃ ২৮শে জুন, ১৯৯৪ ইংরেজী।

দৃষ্টব্যঃ

- ১। কোম্পানীর শেয়ার হস্তান্তর বহি ১৯-৭-৯৪ইং হইতে ২৫-৭-৯৪ইং (উভয় দিনসহ) পর্যন্ত বন্ধ থাকিবে। উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে কোন শেয়ার হস্তান্তর কার্যকর হইবে না।
- ২। সাধারণ সভায় অংশগ্রহণ ও ভোট প্রদানে উপযুক্ত সদস্য তাহার পক্ষে সভায় অংশগ্রহণ ও ভোট প্রদানের জন্য প্রক্সী (PROXY) নিয়োগ করিতে পারিবেন। এ ধরনের প্রক্সী অবশ্যই কোম্পানীর একজন শেয়ার হোল্ডার হইতে হইবে। ৪.০০ (চার) টাকার রেজিস্টার্ড স্ট্যাম্প সংবলিত প্রক্সী ফরম কোম্পানীর রেজিস্টার্ড অফিসে সভার নির্ধারিত সময়ের ৭২ ঘণ্টা অর্থাৎ ২২-০৭-৯৪ইং সকাল ১১টা পর্যন্ত জমা দিতে হইবে।
- ৩। সদস্যগণের ঠিকানা পরিবর্তনের খবরাদি কোম্পানীর রেজিস্টার্ড অফিসে জানাইতে হইবে।
- ৪। যাহারা গ্রুপ-বি শেয়ার হোল্ডার হইতে পরিচালক পদে নির্বাচিত হইতে ইচ্ছুক তাহাদেরকে কোম্পানীর রেজিস্টার্ড অফিসে সভার কমপক্ষে ৭ (সাত) দিন পূর্বে অর্থাৎ ১৭-০৭-৯৪ইং সকাল ১১টার মধ্যে নির্ধারিত ফরমে মনোনয়নপত্র দাখিল করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

D-699

Anti-communal rally held

Sampradikaikata Birodhi Chhatra Samaj (SBCS), a conglomeration of different anti-communal student organisations, yesterday held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club to protest the growing trend of communalism in the country, reports UNB.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Kazi Sazzad Zahir Chandan, Uday Pal and Mohsin Sircar. Chhatra Maitry president Ragib Ahsan Munna presided.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershower likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions, during the 24 hours ending 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said it may occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the period.

Day's temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

Highest rainfall 5 mm was recorded in Chittagong during the last 24 hours and rainfall activities may increase in the following days.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:19 am.

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Salient Features of the Model

1. Formation of a 20 members-group of the poor especially women.
2. Member's participation in development education process.
3. Provide small credits to increase income of the individual members.
4. Ensure 100% loan repayment.
5. Emphasis on member's own savings.
6. Meet the cost of credit from a low service charge.
7. Minimal administrative expenses.
8. Making each ASA Unit (defined below) cost-covering in the least possible time (usually less than 9 months).
9. Decentralized management and effective monitoring.
10. Using the enhanced income the members meet expenses mainly on education, health, better food, etc.
11. Ensure participation of the women in the important affairs of the family and society.
12. Continuity of Human Development Trainings to increase consciousness, develop leadership, improved project planning, effective monitoring and increase credit-management skills.

Implementation Process

1. ASA unit is the centre of all activities. 1 unit consists of 1 Unit Officer and 4 Community Organizers. 20 landless poor (mostly) women form 1 group. 60 groups or 1,200 members make 1 ASA unit. Each group in their compulsory weekly meeting performs savings collection, loan refund and conduct development education.
2. 9-15 unit offices make a Region. The Regional Coordinator ensures all development activities of the region.
3. From starting one unit office in an area, it is possible within 5 to 6 months to reach 1,200 members and distribute loan among them. Minimum loan is Tk 2,000/- and maximum is Tk 5,000/-, 15% service charge on the loan can cover all expenses of the unit and by 9 months the unit becomes break-even.
4. From the recovery of loan repayments further loans are sanctioned for other units. This gives a revolving effect of using 3 times of the initial capital. In the first year of ASA credit operation with an investment of Taka 36 lacs a total of Taka 96 lacs had been distributed among 4,800 members of the 4 units. Presently the total loan disbursed is Tk 130.65 crores on June 1994 among 244,804 members of 263 units.
5. When the members receive loans they make more profit and save Tk 5/- in each week leading to an annual savings of Tk 250/- One member in 6 years saves more than Tk 5,000/- (including his interest on the savings) This total savings becomes the capital for the business venture. This is a process towards attaining sustainability.