

Dhaka Day by Day

Harassed by Beggars

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

There are very few pleasures left in this overcrowded, polluted city. One of the rare treats is perhaps just sitting on the bench of a park — whatever is left of it — and enjoying the greenery around. Yet even this simple enjoyment can be hampered unnecessarily.

Take this scenario: You are standing among the beautiful *Krishnachura* trees of Ramna contemplating whether to have that mouthwatering *chatpati* right next to you. Soon enough, you are munching on that irresistible tamarind-pulse-potato and egg creation while listening to the delightful twittering of birds returning home with the setting of a crimson sun. Suddenly, you are awakened from this dreamy haze by a persistent tug on your sleeve and a droning that is far worse than the ultimate pest's, the mosquitoes "Afaaa, Afaaaa ekta teha deeben, sharaheen kisu khai nai, (sister give me a Taka, I have not eaten the whole day). You're 'phuchka' gets stuck halfway down your oesophagus (and mind you this is not a pleasant feeling).

partly from surprise, partly from a sense of guilt that may prompt you to take out a taka to get rid of the 'intruder.' Big mistake. Within seconds, like locusts, a whole army attacks you. Some are children, some are adults with children, others are crippled, blind or have some kind of incurable affliction. Overwhelmed and mobbed, whatever lofty intentions you may have had in you, are replaced by a sense of frustration almost anger, at being forced to move away from the place.

This account may arouse in some, extreme indignation for its callousness and insensitivity regarding those 'unfortunate' people we call *fakirs* (beggars). There is no doubt that the overall poverty of this country has forced many people into beggary. For those born with a handicap, or maimed by an accident or malnutrition, there is very little scope of getting employed and asking for alms may be the only answer. But to say that 'no one wants to be a beggar' would be misinformation. There are plenty of able bodied young men and women, among this 'unfortunate group' who just won't work even if they get the opportunity. They would rather stand for hours in the sun waiting for the cars to stop at the lights and wangle a taka or two from the passengers. Just try asking one of them if they would like to work for you and they will give you several excuses why this is impossible, or just walk away.

The reason for this is simple. Begging is the easiest way to get money. The only thing that is needed is patience and a total lack of self respect. On an average a *fakir* earns between 20 to 100 taka or more per day. This amount, though erratically obtained, is far more than the earnings of a day labourer or a maid. Added to that is the freedom of moving about wherever and whenever one wishes to, with no

shaheb or 'bibi shaheb' to lord over. Moreover, being a beggar means no social obligation, no need for respectability. With the streets as home, there is no rent or electricity to pay for and all the money earned can be saved. There are rumours that many seasoned fakirs, have saved so much from their begging, that they have bought land and even built houses in the outskirts of the city!

No wonder then that the number of beggars in this city is in the thousands, a number that is increasing every day. One may be a little curious then to notice that in other cities of the world that are just as poor or even poorer, there are not as many beggars as in Dhaka. Calcutta, for example, a huge city that is practically crumbling with poverty overpopulation and neglect, does have its quota of people asking for alms. But they are not even heard in number to the one in this city, preferring to sit in a corner and perhaps rattle their cans at most when someone passes by.

Dhaka beggars are much more aggressive. Whether you are stuck at the stop lights, outside a super market or on the pavement, they will attack you from all sides. The little ones will grope at your arms and follow you every-

where you go until out of utter exasperation, you will hand out a one-taka note.

Many will go to any length to wangle something out of you. There are those who nurture and expose their afflictions shamelessly to attract attention. Take the emaciated topline girl who is walked around by her companion to show her caged-in chest at the Mahakhalai rail gate or the little boy with someone else's medical certificate who exposes a tumor in his testicles by not wearing any pants. Then there is the young woman with an infant, a familiar scene in Dhaka's streets. If she has no child of her own, she will hire one from another beggar or just pick one from the street and expose him/her to hours of scorching heat just to get some money out of some poor victim stuck in traffic.

This kind of deplorable exploitation is only possible because our culture of living off others, permits it. On a personal level we burden our well-to-do relative, on a national level, the begging bowl is offered to foreign donors. Whether we give beggars money out of compassion or compulsion, the outcome is the same: it only encourages this demeaning activity. Of course rehabilitation and employment programmes are necessary to get these people off the streets. But with this there should be a conscious effort to give the message to those people that begging is shameful and self destructive. One way to do this is by not giving alms. Otherwise we shall be forever paying this unwarranted 'tax' that actually hampers rather than helps a nation's development by encouraging idleness and parasitism.



A T M Shamsul Huda speaking at a seminar on the Role of Public Administration in the Development of Bangladesh organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management at the BCS (Admn) Academy in the city yesterday. From left are Mokammel Haque, Momtazuddin Ahmed and Md Shahidul Alam.

'Accountability in admn can alleviate poverty'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for ensuring accountability in the administration to make the poverty alleviation programme a success.

They also spoke of the need for a national consensus on policies and strategies for poverty alleviation keeping the country's development approach away from party politics.

The seminar on "The Role of Public Administration in the Development of Bangladesh" was attended by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed as chief guest, while State Minister for Establishment Barister Mohammad Aminul Islam was present as special guest.

It was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM). Pro-Vice Chancellor of

the National University Prof Mahbubullah and Additional Secretary of the Economic Relation Division (ERD) Shahidul Alam were the key note speakers at the seminar.

Oli Ahmed in his inaugural speech said the government under a democratic system has to ensure its accountability through parliament but this accountability comes primarily from the performance of the administration.

He said the administration could maintain such accountability by maintaining law and order and ensuring the security of the lives and property of the people.

The minister said the people want an honest and service-oriented administration and the members of the bureaucracy 'should live up to their expectations.'

Students call to make gherao programme a success

By DU Correspondent

The Shampradayekata Birodhi Chhatra Samaj, a platform of the pro-liberation students, yesterday brought out processions and held rallies at the TSC and different residential halls of the Dhaka University to drum up support for its secretariat gherao programme tomorrow.

The leaders urged the student community to make the programme successful.

The Chhatra Samaj will gherao the Bangladesh Secretariat in the city and DC offices in the districts headquarters across the country tomorrow demanding arrest and trial of the 'fatawabaz' all 'war criminals', including Golam Azam.

The students also demanded a ban on the religion-based politics in the country.

German Courses ADMISSION

Classes : Morning, Afternoon, Evening
Enrollment : July 17-July 28, 1994 Sunday through Thursday 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. and 2 p. m. - 6 p. m. at German Cultural Centre Goethe-Institut Dhaka.
23, Dhanmondi Rd. No. 2, Dhaka 1205
Phone : 501879, 507325

Congratulations

to
SIMEEN & WAQUER HOSSAIN
& grandparents Latifur & Shahnaz Rahman
on the birth of their first child/grandchild,
a baby boy, on Wednesday, 13th July
at 8.26 am.

from
Family & Well-wishers

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গ্রামাঞ্চল সেবামূলক কাজ করার জন্য গ্র্যাক মহিলা ও পুরুষদের কাছ থেকে নিম্নলিখিত পদে দরপত্র আহ্বান করছে।

(ক) কর্মসূচী সংরক্ষক। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা স্নাতকোত্তর। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর। বেতন ৩৬৫০ টাকা।

(খ) কর্মসূচী সংরক্ষক (হিসাব)। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা স্নাতক (বাণিজ্য)। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর। বেতন ৩০২৫ টাকা।

(গ) কর্মসূচী সংরক্ষক। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা স্নাতক অথবা পরিবার কল্যাণ পরিদর্শক (FWV) প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত অথবা প্যারামেডিক্স (Paramedics) প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত। বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর। বেতন ৩০২৫ টাকা।

গ্র্যাকের সব একপেশে কর্মীদের জন্য নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন থাকার ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই সাইকেল, মটর সাইকেল ব্যবহার করতে হবে। চাকুরীতে স্থায়ী হলে গ্র্যাডুইট, প্রভিন্সেন্ট ফন্ড ও ইন্সপেক্টরের সুবিধা পাবেন।

উল্লেখ্য যে পূর্বে যারা গ্র্যাকে চাকুরী করেছেন তারা আবেদন করতে পারবেন না।

আগামী ২৫শে জুলাই সোমবার ১৯৯৪-এর মধ্যে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবনস্বাক্ষর ও এক কপি ছবিসহ কথী ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ, গ্র্যাক ৬৬ মহাবলী, ঢাকা ১২১২ এই ঠিকানায় আবেদন করুন। আবেদনপত্র ও বামের উপর অবশ্যই আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

গ্র্যাক

What's on today . . .

Conference: A grand conference of the Mujibnagar and Freedom Fighter Officer-Employees' Central Welfare Association will be held. Former Secretary Khandakar Asaduzzaman will preside. Venue : BARC auditorium. Time : 4 pm.

Condolence Meet: In memory of Saogat Editor Mohammad Nasiruddin organised by some 28 socio-cultural organisations. Venue: National Museum Auditorium, Shahbag. Time : 5 pm

Leo Club of Dhaka Central: A general meeting will be held. Venue : Startrek Computers, 53/1, New Elephant Road. Time : 5:30 pm.

Dutch envoy lauds policies for economic development

Out-going Ambassador of the Netherlands Henricus Gajentaan has lauded the government programmes and policies for economic development of the country, reports UNB.

He said that Bangladesh had achieved laudable success in poverty alleviation, women education and various other development programmes in last three and a half years.

"I am going back with a good impression about Bangladesh," the ambassador said when he paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Henricus Gajentaan was all praise for development programmes undertaken by the Bangladesh government and said that it had achieved progress in alleviating poverty and eradicating illiteracy.

"During my four-year stay in Bangladesh, I have witnessed the democratic struggle and elections. I think democracy is taking an institutional shape here alongside development," he added.

Development could be attained only in a democratic atmosphere, the Netherlands envoy said adding that Bangladesh would achieve development in every sector if the present democratic trend

continued.

He hoped that the existing relations and economic ties between the Netherlands and Bangladesh would be further strengthened. The ambassador also thanked Begum Zia for her government's cooperation during his tenure in the country.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia termed the existing relations between the two countries as excellent and thanked the ambassador for his country's cooperation in carrying forward the development programmes of Bangladesh.

BDR parade held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 14: The attestation parade of 47th batch recruits of Bangladesh Rifles held at the Baitul Izzat Rifles Training Centre and School parade ground this morning, reports UNB.

Director General of the Bangladesh Rifles Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain BP, PSC reviewed the smartly turned out parade as chief guest and took salute.

In his speech Major Gen. Anwar recalled the valiant role of rifles soldiers in the Liberation War of 1971.

Weather

Light rain likely

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal divisions, and at a few places over Dhaka division and at one or two places over Rajshahi division.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest 24.5 degrees at Hatiya yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:20 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some of major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.3	26.8	76	71
Chittagong	33.0	25.5	90	88
Rajshahi	31.7	26.6	86	77
Khulna	33.3	27.0	90	80
Barisal	30.6	25.6	97	83
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.2	92	88
Sylhet	34.7	25.8	76	72
Rangpur	34.5	25.8	92	63
Dinajpur	34.6	26.8	75	63

Directorate of Family Planning Population Building Azampur, Dhaka

Memo. No. PCFP/MCHFP/1113

Dated: 7-12-94.

Situation Vacant

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi National to fill the following positions for the project "Strengthening of MCWC in Bangladesh" under the Govt. executed and UNFPA project BGD/91/PO-2.

Sl No.	Post Title	No. of Post	Duty Station
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1. National Consultant 02 (two) Rajshahi or (Local) Rangpur

B. Duration of Contract: Initially for one year on special service agreement with possible extension for another one year upon performance.

C. Remuneration: Tk 35,000/= (Fixed) Taka thirty five thousand/month only plus per diem and travel expenses will be paid as per UNFPA/UNDP rules.

D. Terms of references: To work under the supervision of the Project Director & Assist Expatriate MCH-FP Advisor.

ii) Field work: At least 15 (fifteen) days in a month. Travel by public transport i.e. steamer/train and bus.

iii) To establish comprehensive Essential Obstetrics Care (EOC) at the selected MCWC's and basic EOC in other MCWC and THC's.

iv) To develop quality of care through micro supervision.

v) Improve the skill of the clinical service providers working at different level (district, MCWC, THC etc).

E. Qualification & experiences:

i) MBBS or equivalent degree accepted by Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

ii) Post graduate degree in Ob/Gyn and practical experience in surgical Ob/Gyn and O.T. management will be given preference.

iii) At least 10 (ten) years experience in MCH-FP program in the country or abroad.

F. Selection procedures: Selection Committee reserves the right to relax the condition for age limit for healthy and extra-ordinary candidates, those having above requirements should apply on or before 25-7-94 to the undersigned along with 2 copies of recent passport size photographs and other relevant papers.

Candidates in Govt. service should apply through proper channel.

DFP/G/12841-12/7

G-1161

Director (MCH-Service)

Workshop on CSD tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will arrange a day-long orientation workshop on the Combined Service Delivery (CSD) system for the health and family planning managers of 15 districts tomorrow at the NIPOF auditorium in the city.

According to sources, the workshop is a follow-up of the government's recent decision to launch a CSD system in the country. A plan of action has also been taken in line with the government decision and the first phase is likely to begin this month in 15 districts. Rest of the districts will also come under the plan in phases.

People are presently receiving health and family planning services from outreach site and satellite clinic through two separate Directorates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The CSD includes seven components of essential health and family planning services. These are: Pregnancy care and birth practices, breastfeeding, immunisation, family planning, CSD, elimination of vitamin A deficiency and education on health, nutrition, iodised salt intake and ARI awareness.

Friday BTV Morning Session

8:00	Opening announcement
8:10	News in Bangla
8:15	Alor Dishari
8:40	Look and Learn
9:00	Khehar Jagat
9:30	Film show: Batman
10:00	News in English
10:05	Moner Mukurey: Firt Dao Aranya (2nd part)
11:15	Film show: Tarzan
11:40	Programme of Health Prescription
11:55	Musical programme Morani

Evening Session

3:00	Opening announcement
3:15	Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3:40	Mov. of the week: El Dorado
5:10	News in Bangla
5:55	Sports programme
6:50	Open University
7:25	Musical programme
	Malancha
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
9:00	Manabadhikar
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: L.A. Law
11:30	Khabar/The news

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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it is our great pleasure to inform that the public subscription of shares of our company has been highly oversubscribed. We thank and felicitate the valued investors for their support and confidence in our company.