

Dhaka Day by Day

Water Vendors in Parks

by A S M Nurunnabi

City life presents many scenes. These scenes, on account of their continuous existence, are taken for granted by the city dwellers who express no surprise or curiosity about them.

One of such scenes is the vending of drinking water by some girls of tender age in the city parks. They can be seen, for example, in Ramna Park and Suhrawardy Uddyan. Seeing them one may feel intrigued about the various ways the quest for a living goes on in the city.

These vending youngsters are mainly in the 9-10 age group. According to existing law, they are supposed to be in the free primary schools, but the hard necessity of earning some additional amount to supplement the income of their parents or guardians has compelled them to take to this unusual earning practice.

The sultry days in summer drive some people to seek the cool shade of trees in the park for sometime for relaxation. While thus resting, they may feel the urge for a drink of water. There are, of course, other vendors selling soft drinks in the park. But their price may be beyond the means of some people taking rest in the park. For such people, a drink of water for a small sum may seem affordable. Thus there is a constant demand for drinking water among certain sections of visitors.

In this trade, young girls, rather than boys, appear to be more predominant. Their tools of the trade are an aluminium jug and a glass. One of the girls, engaged in such a trade is named Rahima, aged 10. Her father is a day labourer and mother a maid servant. They live in a slum area of the city.

Rahima's working day begins early at 9 in the morning when she comes to the Ramna Park with her pitcher and tumbler. Filling the

pitcher with water from a nearby tap in the park, she begins her rounds from one end of the park to the other. Some people not so fastidious about the quality of water or its source respond to her offer of water. She is not insistent on any specific amount as price of her water. She accepts whatever amount is paid to her. Some people offer her a taka or two for the water. She remembers one occasion when a gentleman gave her Tk 10 for her water during a hot spell when his two children became thirsty in course of their outing in the park. Her daily average income from selling water is about Tk 20-30. During holidays or festivals, the earning may go up to Tk 50 per day. At the end of the day, she hands over her earning to her parents after spending a small amount of it for her mid-day meal.

Though her life is full of hardship, she gets consolation when she compares her life with the fate of other girls and older women who seek to earn their living by collecting dry leaves from the trees in the park by sackfuls and selling them as fuel in the slum areas of the city. Of course, she has to face competition from other girls similarly engaged in water selling in the park but they are not many.

With the increase in the number of visitors to the park consequent on the rise in city population, these girl vendors find a steady demand for their water. It is, of course, a form of child labour but, since it affords a measure of freedom, its galling aspect is less in evidence. It, however, bears testimony to many unusual means of subsistence adopted by a less fortunate section of city populace, like selling ashes for purposes of cleaning utensils in some neighbourhoods of the city or working as mini-butchers for dressing chickens in city markets.



Vending water for a pittance



Visitors at a photographic exhibition on King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, organised by the Thai Embassy in Dhaka to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the king's accession to the throne, yesterday at the Hotel Sonargaon. — Star photo

King Bhumibol in frame

By Staff Correspondent

A one-day photographic exhibition celebrating the life and work of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand was held yesterday at a city hotel.

The Embassy of Thailand in Dhaka organised the show on the occasion of the golden jubilee of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne.

Sixty rare photographs depicting the life and activities of Thailand's longest reigning monarch were put on display at the ballroom of the Hotel Sonargaon from 9 am to 2 pm.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr Nazma Chowdhury, adviser in charge of the ministries of social welfare, labour, manpower, and women and children's affairs.

Referring to the fifty eventful years of the Thai King, Dr Nazma said it was wellknown that the services rendered by King Bhumibol to development and welfare work had benefited millions in his country in addition to making the nation an important member of the ASEAN group.

Dr Nazma observed that Bangladesh-Thailand cooperation in different fields were on the increase, reflecting the growing ties between the two nations.

The opening ceremony was also addressed by the Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, Sunthorn Vidhyameth.

One mugged off Tk 75000

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers stabbed a businessman and snatched away Tk 75,000 from him at Nawabpur road in the older part of the city Wednesday evening.

Noni Gopal Chowdhury, an iron rod trader, came under attack by a gang of four muggers when he was returning home along with three of his employees, family sources said.

The miscreants stabbed him in the hand and took away the cash.

Earlier, Chowdhury was robbed of Tk two lakh in the same area in Ramadhan this year, sources added.

Sutrapur police has been informed of the incident.

BOU to open course on nursing

Dr Gail Crawford of Athapasca University of Canada, an expert on distance education, is now in Dhaka to help Bangladesh Open University develop course and curriculum on nursing for BSc classes, says a press release.

During her month-long stay in Bangladesh Dr Crawford will also provide assistance to BOU in text-book writing and planning tutorial and practical sessions for the nursing degree. BOU is likely to open BSc in nursing later this year.

Preparatory meet for PASLOS ends

Project Development Committee meeting for the preparation of the 25th Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistics Seminar (PASOLS-XXV) concluded in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

PASOLS-XXV will be the second such seminar in Dhaka. Earlier in 1989 Bangladesh Armed Forces co-hosted PASOLS-XXV.

The Pacific Area Senior Officer Logistic Seminars are aimed at improving logistic management capabilities and foster the spirit of regional logistic cooperation which is accomplished through exchange of logistic information amongst senior defence officers from Pacific Asian and Indian Ocean nations as well as through the pursuit of bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

Zonta Club polls May 19

The annual general meeting of South International Club II for the year 1995-96 will be held on May 19 at 3.30 pm in Surma, Hotel Sonargaon, says a press release.

The AGM will be followed by the elections for the committee for the year 1996-98 at the same venue.

What's on today....

Seminar on architecture: The Institutes of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB) has organised a day-long seminar on "25 years of architecture in Bangladesh". Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury will attend the seminar as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton hotel. Time: 9:30 am.

BPSA meet: A meeting of the Bangladesh Professional Secretaries Association (BPSA) will be held. Ayesha Chopra will speak on "Attitudes and approaches which influence success." Venue: ICDDR,B seminar room. Time: 10 am.

Rotary Club of Dhanmondi: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. German Ambassador Bruno Weber will speak on 'Bangladesh-German Economic Co-operation'. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Film show: French cinema *Le'on* (The professional) by Luc Besson will be screened. Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised the show in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise, Dhaka. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10 am.

IFCAB seminar: The International Film Critics Association (IFCAB) has organised the seminar on the autonomy of electronic media and Bangladesh context. Prof Kabir Chowdhury will preside. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4 pm.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The film society will show the film *Leon* (The Professional) as part of the ongoing Luc Besson retrospective. Venue: The Alliance Francaise. Time: 10 am.

Khelaghar reunion: Kendrio Khelaghar Ashar has organised a reunion marking its 44th founding anniversary. Venue: Khelaghar auditorium, 278/3, Elephant Road. Time: 4 pm.

Photo show: The fourth solo exhibition by Md Kamal Uddin will open. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Time: 10 am. The show will remain open till June 6, from 12 noon to 8 pm everyday except Fridays.

Orchid show: Orchid Society of Bangladesh has organised an orchid show. Venue: NWK premises, Road 50, Gulshan. Time: 9 am to 6 pm.

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্রাহ্মকেন্দ্র আন্তর্জাতিক নিরীক্ষা বিভাগে স্বামীদের জন্য কিছু নিরীক্ষা অফিসার প্রয়োজন : প্রার্থীদের যাকিন্তে স্নাতক ও কোন সিএ সার্ম থেকে আনিকেলমিশপ সমাপ্তির সনদ প্রাপ্ত হতে হবে। শিক্ষানবিস হিসাবে তাদের এক বছর কাজ করতে হবে : বেতন ৫০০০/- টাকা।

চাকরীতে স্বামী হওয়ার পর গ্র্যাডুইট, প্রভিডেন্ট সার্ম ও ইন্সট্রাক্টরদের সুবিধা পাবেন। প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই নিরীক্ষা কাজের জন্য প্রত্যন্ত আবেদন বাওয়ার মানসিকতা থাকতে হবে। উল্লেখ থাকে যে মহিলা প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করা হবে :

আগামী ২৬ মে ১৯৯৬-এর মধ্যে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত ও এক কপি ফরমসহ কর্মী ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ, ব্রাহ্ম ৬৬ মহালায় ঢাকা ১২১২, এই ঠিকানায় আবেদন করুন। আবেদনপত্র ও বাবের উপর আবেদনকৃত পদের নাম উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে।

ব্রাহ্ম

Employment Opportunity

Appointment of Managing Director

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), established in May 1990 is an apex financing organisation for distribution of micro-credit through its carefully selected Partner Organisations (i.e NGOs) in the rural areas of Bangladesh for self-employment, income generation and poverty alleviation of the landless and assetless people. PKSF is grounded on a strong footing and has created its own identity and image as a viable and unique organisation in the field of poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. The Foundation channels micro-credit through NGOs to the targeted rural poor, undertakes intensive supervision and also renders consultancy services for building specially designed financial institutions for the rural poor. It also undertakes intensive supervision, monitoring at grass-root level and sponsors exploratory research work to find out the impact of its credit programme on the poor beneficiaries.

The Managing Director is the chief Executive Officer of PKSF who works under the policy direction of its Governing Body. He is responsible for the management of the affairs of PKSF and has to play a leading and innovative role for managing and expansion of the activities of PKSF.

Qualifications: The intending candidates are expected to have high academic achievements with at least 20 years experience in the field of finance/planning, rural development (preferably micro-credit management), and poverty alleviation at top management levels. He or she should have demonstrated leadership qualities and excellent organising, analytical, negotiating and problem solving skills. The candidates are also expected to have experience of leading organizations in any of the above mentioned fields.

Emoluments: The emoluments will include a monthly salary not exceeding Tk. 30,000/-, monthly house rent allowance of Tk. 15,000/- and other allowances. The Foundation will also provide the Managing Director with a full time transport with driver. These conditions may be revised by the Governing Body of the Foundation from time to time.

The appointment will be made on contract basis for an initial period of not exceeding 5 years, subject to annual evaluation of performance by the Governing Body of the Foundation.

Application in sealed envelopes under registered post should be sent to the following address not later than 15.6.96

Chairman, Search Committee
for Appointment of Managing Director
Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
House No. 5, Road No. 2
Dhanmondi Residential Area
Dhaka -1205

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