

Adding worth to worthless

Rejected car tyres being recycled in environment-friendly way

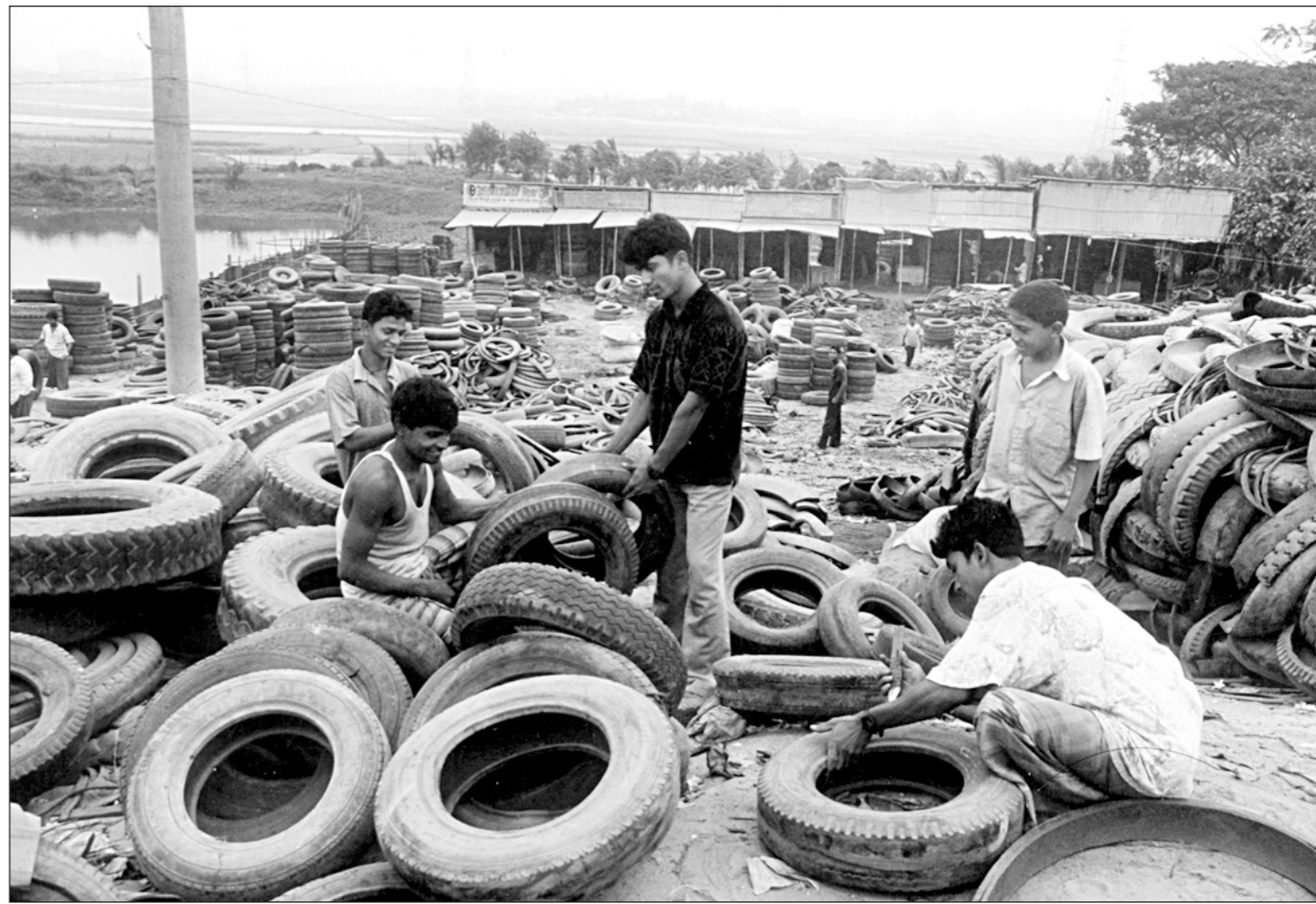
AKBAR HOSSAIN

Faruk Hossain is a very clever man. He has found a way to recycle old tyres at his small shop in Gabtoli. Without any sophisticated technology, Faruk and his employees can turn rejected car tyres into small parts for tempo shallow pumps. "Once a vehicle tyre becomes worn it's usually thrown away. But we gather the rejected tyres and make those useable for tempo pumps," Faruk said. Everyday hundreds of tyres are tossed into rubbish dumps. But little do people know that over a period of time these will become an environmental hazard since they are non-

perishable. For many years rejected tyres were often used as fuel in the brickfields, which caused serious environmental damage. But following a government ban such practices have ceased. "Basically, we hand-make cupling disks for four-stroke Vespa tempoes. And our process does not harm the environment," explained Faruk. "Usually cupling disks have to be imported from India and Italy and these cost between Tk 1,000-1,200 per piece," Faruk said adding, "But we can sell a cupling disk for only Tk 50-70 depending on its size and quality." Asked about the demand for cupling disks, he said, "It's not too

bad and in fact 90 per cent of our production is sold at Gabtoli and the adjacent area." He also said that the demand of different small parts increase during the winter season as the numbers of vehicles increase on the road. Faruk also said that apart from private cars, old tyres of different government agencies are also collected. "Sometimes we repair faulty tyres at a minimum cost. A new tyre costs between Tk 10,000-Tk 12,000," he explained. "Most of the tyres in Bangladesh are imported from India but if we could produce them locally, the cost would be lowered by at least Tk 4,000 per piece," Faruk thought.

"Previously we used to sell rejected tyres to the brickfields but now they don't buy because of the government ban," commented Shahin, another trader. On the question of engaging child labourers, he said, "Most of the workers are my relatives if I don't employ them where would they go and how would they survive?" The old tyre traders are interested to receive government credit for expansion of their business. "The government should seriously think about the usefulness of rejected tyres as we produce different types of things through recycling," Shahin observed.



Rejected tyres being recycled at Gabtoli shops.

Trucks defy timing

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Authorities restricted trucks in the metropolitan aiming to ease traffic jam, but many trucks still comfortably ply the streets at hours they are not permitted to be. Loaded trucks are not permitted on the city streets from 8:00am to 8:00pm on weekdays and 8:00am to 5:00pm on Thursdays. Some businesspeople opposed the restriction primarily

highlighting insecurity of night transportation of goods, but it was appreciated by all city dwellers. The rule is applied strictly to those trucks that come from different districts. These trucks have to wait near Amin Bazar, Abdullahpur and Kanchpur Bridge, entries to the city, up to 8:00pm everyday to keep with the timing. But the situation has deteriorated, as there is no control over the trucks that enter the city during restricted hours.

These trucks roam the city hindering the plan of easing traffic congestion. It is alleged that truck drivers bribe law enforcers to permit trucks plying the streets. Ansar Uddin Pathan, deputy commissioner (traffic-south), denying the allegation, said: "We never allow any trucks into the city within the restricted period and whenever we spot such movement we immediately take action." There is another allegation against law enforcers permitting

entry before schedule. Shoeb Ahmed, additional deputy commissioner (traffic-north), denied the allegation, saying sometimes it happens on humanitarian grounds, especially "when the trucks carry perishable items". "Sometimes we extend 30 minutes before and after entry times, only because of the perishable goods they carry," he said.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Temporary meter readers to curb systems loss

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Energy Division of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is thinking of hiring more temporary meter readers and also providing electric meters to curb corruption and thereby reduce systems loss. Although the proposal was discussed at a meeting of the advisory council chaired by State Minister for Energy Iqbal Hasan Mahmood on May 12, no decision was taken. However, insiders at the Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) said they have already introduced meter readers on temporary basis six months back. "We assume it will prevent the corruption regarding meter reading," said a DESA high-up. DESA has ceased appointing full-time meter readers and currently there are only 198 such readers. As part of its new policy readers are retained for three months with a non-binding provision of renewal after that period. Presently the organisation has 156 temporary readers. A high official of DESA

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explained the advantage of employing temporary meter readers is that they can't indulge in corrupt practices as they don't get enough time to build up a nexus with consumers in just three months. Moreover, they never know if their contract will be renewed and job will be secure. "In most cases they cannot promise a consumer to produce a false reading as they would not be in charge of that meter for certain periods," the official said

adding that DESA tried to rein back the corrupt meter readers by transferring them from one area to another. "But they (the readers) in response would arrange clients wanting lower reader readings, to be mutually exchanged. "Also transferring permanent meter readers is virtually impossible especially if they belong to trade unions then it allows them to agitate," he added. About supplying meters it is found the responsibility fell on

the shoulders of the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and DESA. However, DESA consumers who have single-phase connections can purchase their meter. But nowadays too many low-quality meters are being installed that don't give accurate reading. If DESA and Power Development Board began providing meters to consumers there would be less chance of pilferage, sources believed.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
Heart
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital
 Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
 Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980
- Eye**
 Istamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
 Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, 7318166,
 Shamaria Hospital- 9131901
 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

MARKET CLOSED

- 9122560-69
 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR) - 8811751-60
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
 Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7310061, 7310061
 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
 Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,
- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursaday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyuddha Jadughar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
 Navana 9558065
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
 Cab One 7113282-3
 Nihon 9347277
 Orion 9347277
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
 Capital 9352847
- Union** 8130485
 Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
 Cab Ex 9358401
 Cabline 8321162
 JBS Cab 019364575
 Sajon 018126036
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
 Cab One 7113282-3
- Palki** 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011

TRAIN TIMING

- Subarna Express** Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Mahanagar Prabhathi Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm
Turna Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm
Parabati Express Leaves Dhaka at 12:30 am
Joyantika Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm
Upaban Express Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am
Tista Express Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm
Ekata Express Leaves Dhaka at 1:35 pm
Upakul Express Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am
Padma Express Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 2:55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 9:11 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 7:05 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2:30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9:20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6:40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1:05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11:55
 Reaches Noakhali at 1:35 pm
 Reaches Jagannath at 2:30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412