



Urchins roam the streets unaware of when they may be picked up by the police.

Rescuing stray kids from vicious circle

CHRISTINE WANNER

Street police court jail. The path urchins are forced to take when the police pick them up. Street police reintegration is what NGO Aparajeyo-Bangladesh hopes to make a reality with the introduction of a new handbook for the police.

"Never torture picked-up children, do not confine them with adults. Give them a patient ear. Note their names and ages and try to find their parents or get in touch with social workers" - are some of the mentioned 'dos and don'ts' Aparajeyo-Bangladesh wants the police to know to change their practices in dealing with street children.

The NGO will dispense the handbook, which contains information on how to react and whom to contact when a stray kid has been picked up in the near future. "We have put up some of the mentioned rules on signposts at the Tejgaon, Kotwali, Sutrapur and Ramna police

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stations," said Animul Islam, programme coordinator of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh.

The number of homeless children in Dhaka is estimated at 7 lakh, according to the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. Aparajeyo-Bangladesh provides 6,000 to 10,000 of them with a new home, education and vocational training.

When eleven-year-old Smriti was brought to the Motijheel Police Station, she was greeted by Ramina Choudhury, a social worker who

visits police stations on behalf of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh and looks into the interests of these children that are picked-up. If the children's parents cannot be located, the NGO provides them with shelter and education. The social workers of this NGO have been visiting police stations for two years and Smriti's case is a sign that the NGO's efforts are not in vain.

According to SI Iqbal from the Motijheel police station, the police feel relieved with this kind of cooper-

ation. But children are still being abused and deprived of their rights at police stations. Some police officers hand the children over the court, even if they are not involved in crime, said a social worker from Aparajeyo-Bangladesh said, adding that officers sometimes use section 86 of the DMP Act for those suspected of sex work, as the legal basis for this practice.

"We think that children should not be directly sent to court. The experiences in police stations, courts, correction centres or jails have negative effects on a child. After all, there is still the open street waiting for the young person," said Animul Islam from Aparajeyo-Bangladesh.

Besides Dhaka, Aparajeyo-Bangladesh is active in Chittagong, Barishal, Kulna and Jamalpur. Their annual budget is approximately Tk 8 crore, provided by international donors.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

DCC tangles delay project 'go-ahead'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects for better waste management are facing serious setback because of bureaucratic tangles at the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), speakers at a workshop said yesterday.

The projects, if implemented, will create at least 750 new jobs and attract US \$ 6.5 million foreign direct investment, they said.

The World Wide Recycling (WWR) of the Netherlands in association with the Waste Concern, a local environmental organisation, has developed the projects titled 'Landfill gas extraction and utilisation from Matuail waste dump site' and 'Composting of organic waste in Dhaka'.

Although the projects were approved by the National CDM Committee on August 8 last year, the DCC is delaying signing an agreement with the WWR for their implementation, said Iftekhar Enayetullah, director of Waste Concern.

The Waste Concern organised the workshop at the Brac Centre in the city with a view to sharing the project activities with its stakeholders.

"Under a project, methane, a major constituent of greenhouse gas, will be extracted from the waste dump site at Matuail and three to six MW electricity will be generated using the gas," said

Enayetullah.

Under the other project, 2,55,500 tons of waste at the Matuail landfill site will be composted a year.

The speakers said the two projects are first of its kind in the country and if these are not implemented immediately, foreign investments in such projects will be discouraged.

"The DCC can collect 1,700 tons of waste a day, 80 percent of which are organic substances. We will install a plant with a capacity of composting 700 tons a day at the Matuail dumpsite after the DCC signs an agreement with us," said Maarten Van Dijk, managing director of the WWR.

"The long-term goal of the project is to contribute to better waste management, separate collection of organic wastes, produce valuable compost and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill sites in Dhaka," said AH Maqsood Sinha, executive director of Waste Concern.

The projects will also help check ground and surface water contamination, he added.

"Under the project, 51,000 tons of organic fertilizer will be produced from the waste a year, which will enhance the organic contents in the soil," said Prof Dr Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET).

Bangla Foundation Course yet to begin

SURANJIT DEBNATH

Although 10 months have lapsed, the Bangla Foundation Course (FC)-1, compulsory for every first year student under the Faculty of Arts of Dhaka University (DU), has not yet begun because of a conflict among the teachers of the Bangla Department.

Around 1,500 students of 13 departments of DU are not certain if the course will commence without new teachers.

The problem arose a year ago with the promotion of three Bangla department teachers from Lecturer to Associate Professor and one joining the Institute of Modern Languages. The authorities have not yet filled in these vacancies.

"We suffer because of conflicts between the Chairman of the Bangla department Professor SM Lutfar Rahman and teachers," said an English department student.

"The authorities ignore the appointment of new teachers and classes cannot begin," said the Bangla department chairman.

Other courses started in the last week of April 2004 and are scheduled to end on March 10 this year. Examinations will begin March 27, according to the schedule for the 1st year students of the Arts Faculty.

"The problem lies with the attitude and understanding of teachers of Bangla department. With each other's cooperation and mutual understanding, classes in other department are going on even with a shortage of teachers," said Professor Sadrul Amin, Dean of the Arts Faculty.

"The course cannot be completed if classes begin at this moment," said Baitullah Kaderi, Associate Professor of Bangla Department who

took FC-1 last year. He added that he could not take classes after his promotion because normally, lecturers take the FC-1 course.

"We are frustrated at the indifference of the authorities and the silence of teachers of the Bangla Department," said Pronab Hawlader, a 1st year student of Sanskrit and Pali department.

Dean Amin blamed the Bangla department of not informing the

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authorities of the situation and said that the students had brought this to his knowledge two months ago.

"I will immediately take up the matter with the chairman of all departments under Arts Faculty and solve this problem," he told the Daily Star, adding that he had already recommended to the Pro-Vice Chancellor the need of new teachers for the Bangla department.

Denying an internal conflict in the



department, Professor SM Lutfar Rahman, its chairman told the Daily Star that classes have not yet started according to a decision of academic committee, but he said that it was impossible to take classes without appointing new teachers.

The Academic committee held four meetings but failed to solve the problem. Finally in a meeting on January

28, it decided that classes would start on February 15 with the help of six Bangla Department teachers.

"Classes are already hampered with hartals and strikes and now we are facing another big problem, a conflict among teachers," Masiur Rahman, a 1st year student of Library Science and Information Management Department.

"Our academic life is uncertain. The FC-1 classes are yet to begin," said Alamgir Kabir, a first year student of the Bangla Department.

"Even though there is a shortage of teachers, classes of the FC-2 English course are going on in full swing," said Kabir.

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

Islamia 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-
8612550-4, 8614545-9
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,
Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital - 9130800,

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,
7310061,7319022
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,

MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitual 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-Thursday
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
Muktijuddha 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 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express
Mahanagar Prabhati
Mahanagar Godhuli
Turna
Parabat Express
Joyantika Express
Upaban Express
Tista Express
Ekata Express
Upakul Express
Agnibeena Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am
Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

Union

8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 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

KGK 8620011

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
Information Resource Center, The
American Center - 8813440-4,
9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8,
8618905-7
Community Development Library-
8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka-
9126525-6
Indian Information Centre &
Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre-
9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125,
8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh
(PIB) 9330081-4