



A chouki or security outpost during the Moghul period in Karwan Bazar was set up where people were security checked before entering the city. There was a caravanserai near the chouki. The word Caravanserai was later distorted to Karwan Bazar.

e-mail: starcity@thecitythatwas.com

DCC runs short of insecticides to control mosquitoes

SULTANA RAHMAN

Mosquito menace has worsened in the city as the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is running short of adulticides to fight the insects in the ongoing breeding season, although the DCC has increased the allocation for mosquito control.

Nagar Bhaban sources said they need 200 litres of adulticides each day for the anti-mosquito drive while they have only 3,200 litres in stock.

"We will be able to continue the mosquito control drive for next two weeks. I don't know what will happen after that," said an official at the DCC health department.

Due to the lack of adequate adulticides, the DCC is conduct-

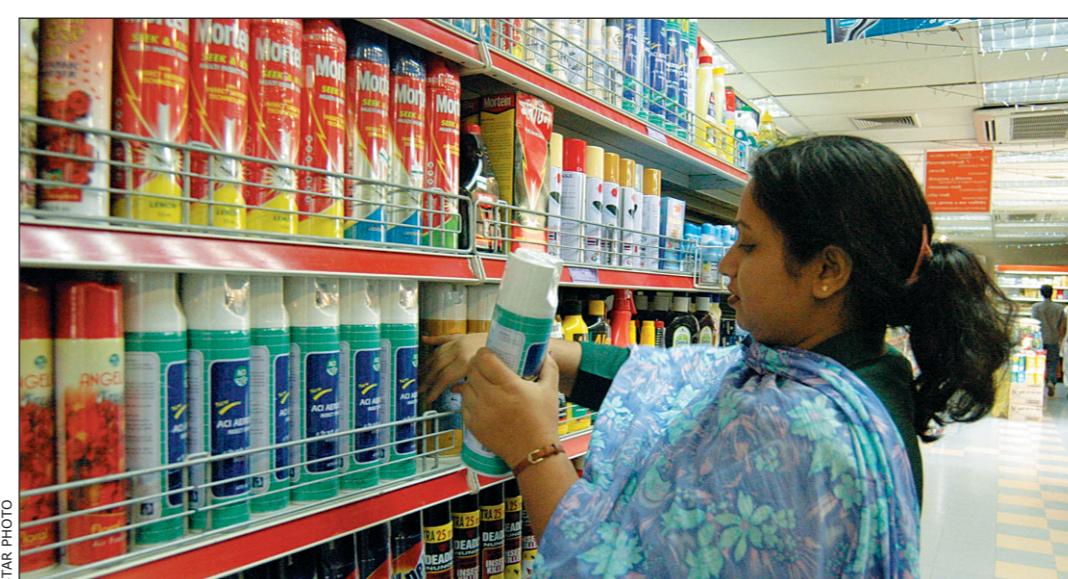
ing the drive only in the VIP areas, sources said.

Mosquito menace has increased to such an extent that the insects bite not only at night but also at daytime, city residents alleged. HSC examinees are the worst victims.

DCC this year increased the allocation for mosquito control, surveillance and monitoring by Tk 3 crore from last year's Tk 12 crore. But the process of purchasing insecticides was hampered as the tender was cancelled for three times.

DCC floated the tender for purchasing 50,000 litres of adulticides in the middle of last year but cancelled the bids for some lapses found in the bid documents.

"It will take a month to give work



STAR PHOTO

order to the selected bidder and two months more to import the insecticides," the DCC official said.

DCC uses both larvaecides and adulticides to control mosquito. Larvaecide is used to stop breeding of mosquito while adulticides for killing flying mosquitoes.

"We have enough larvicides to fight the mosquito breeding. In fact, adulticide is not effective to reduce the breeding," said Dr Nasim-Ur-Rahman, official of entomology department of the DCC.

DCC has taken larvaecide as their main strategy to control mosquito and it has employed four spray-men for each of the 90 wards. The spray-men are supposed to spray in their particular areas for four times a day.

But city dwellers allege that the spray-men do not perform their duty regularly. "If the areas were sprayed regularly, mosquito could not have increased to much," alleged Habibullah, a resident of Elephant road.

Meanwhile, drains, ponds, and canals in the city that covers over 2,000 acres of low-lying area have become ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

It is alleged that DCC has failed to keep clean the city waterbodies including derelict ponds, polluted canals, and stagnant drains.

"We are hopeful to control the situation as we are planning to take special drive to control mosquito breeding as well as to launch cleanliness drive," Dr Nasim said.

Feasting on country's heritage at tourism fair

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

"Enchanted" would you be on entering the Tourism Festival 2005 premises with the sight of the Paharpur monastery beside the Ahsan Manzil and the enigmatic sunset at Kuakata, as the entire country's beauty is placed before you.

Under the slogan "Desh Manushkey Desh Dekhano" (show the country to its people) Jubok Tourism Limited, a local tour operator and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) have organised the weeklong festival to bring our heritage and unique collections to the Shishu Academy compound where the festival is being held till March 3.

The presentation of kaleidoscopic sites of nature, scenic valleys, forests and sandy coasts has drawn large crowds, local and foreign and ignited their hearts with the wonders of this country. This festival, the organisers

hoped will enhance the tourism

"I just knew that my country is very beautiful but did not get a chance to tour it. This festival shows new ways of exploration," said Obaidur Rahman, a visitor.

The exhibits fall under six divisions of the country beginning with a dummy of Khulna's heritage the Sunderabans, the country's only mangrove forest, with a golpata tree, bearing fruit, guava leaves, poshur tree, a pot of date juice and other items of the forest. Various types of eatables like pomfret, lobsters, coconut and a shitalpati (mat made from date leaves) were exhibited.

Sylhet exhibits its famous cane products, unique juicy fruits like thaykor, saatkora, jara lebu (type of lemon), orange, tea brushes and leaves, coal, limestone from Sunamganj, other stones from Jafalganj, sand from Fazlpur.

Chittagong brought all the sea-related products like dried fish, coral, shell and snails, betel

leaves from Maheshkhali, pineapple from Ramgarh and coconut from Saint Martin's islands. Alluring many visitors were the Tripura handloom products.

Highlighting the rivers of Barisal and its marshes was a model of a launch at the entrance of the Barisal pavilion. "It reminds us that Barisal is full of rivers," said Arefin Ahmed, a Dhaka University student. Sharp sickles, axes and kitchen knives were toned down by Barisal's famous sweets, chandrapuli, patisapta and the mouth-watering pithas (local cakes).

The Rakhyane weavers display their handloom products. "Our products are popular but costly. We can survive if any organisation patronises us. We can sell cheaper," said Ong Than, a weaver.

Artists from Shakaribazar with their traditional conch work, Jamdani saris from Mirpur, cotton saris from Tangail and oranges from Bhawal adds

colour to the festival, with Dhaka division exhibiting a horse-driven carriage, rickshaw and the currently banned two-stroke 'babycab'.

Rajshahi division was an exception and exhibited all its publications including the local dailies and their famous sweets -- kacha sandesh, kadma. A charkha (spinning wheel) from Sirajganj, yoghurt from Bogra, kacha golla from Natore, saris and tobacco from Rangpur, kataribhog rice from Dinajpur were other attractions.

The divisions had their pavilions decorated with famous, historical and attractive monuments.

Snakes sway in rhythm to the notes of the charmer's flute, monkeys with the hilarious antics are sources of fun. Children too, are not deprived of fun as the nagardola, horse rides and cradles give them an insight of traditional and culture.

Visitors also enjoy the daily

cultural performances and organisers are presenting videos of our heritage that more or less seems to have been forgotten.

"The festival has been well organised. The organisers have worked hard to bring an entire heritage within a nutshell. The effort of the private organisation is commendable," said Abul Kalam Azad, a government employee.

The organisers are pleased with public response and said the festival will now be held regularly.

"After March 3, we will decide whether it will be Dhaka centred or otherwise," said Altaf Hossain, branch manager, Jubok Tourism.

BPC officials said they are happy in being part of the festival. "We are not lone promoters of tourism, and will continue to work towards better results of this sector," said Motahar Hossain, BPC's deputy manager.



An AMI ambulance patrols the city to pick unidentified dead bodies

Anjuman Mofidul Islam to celebrate centenary this month

Five voluntary organisations will receive awards for humanitarian services rendered to the destitute

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Anjuman Mofidul Islam (AMI), a voluntary organisation providing humanitarian services to the poor, is going to celebrate its centenary this year.

As part of the celebration, AMI will hold a two-day programme in Dhaka on March 5-6. The programmes will include a series of discussions and awarding of 'Manab Seba Padak' to five voluntary organisations in recognition of their humanitarian services, said Mohammad Azim Bukhs, chairman of AMI.

The hundred-year-old organisation now operating throughout Bangladesh has a plan to expand its activities that include setting up of a modern hospital in the capital.

The AMI is now raising fund to establish the hospital at an estimated cost of Tk 120 crore in Basabo in Dhaka. The government has allotted the land for AMI.

Another scheme of the AMI is Anjuman Medical Programme under which it will provide medicare ser-

vices for the poor, especially those who are living in slum areas in the city.

Ibrahim Mohammad Duplay, an Indian Muslim, established AMI in 1905 in Calcutta with the primary object to bury the unclaimed Muslim dead bodies. In 1947, AMI's activities were expanded to Dhaka.

The AMI buried a total of 29,259 unidentified and unclaimed bodies between 1992 and 2004. It is also providing ambulance service for carrying patients and dead bodies.

"We provide ambulance service in the capital free of cost and elsewhere in the country at minimum charge without considering cast, creed or religion of people," Azim said.

The AMI extended ambulance service to 64,388 patients during the same period.

The organisation is also running two orphanages, one for girls and one for boys in Dhaka where 157 orphans receive food, shelter, education, clothing and medical facilities.

Another orphanage has been set up beside the

Dhaka-Narsingdi road.

The AMI has opened a technical institute at the Boys Home on Rajanai Chowdhury Road in Dhaka last year. The Anjuman Mofidul Islam Technical Institute is aimed to provide the students with vocational training to prepare them for future life.

"We impart such training to the inmates of our orphanages as well as other poor students," said the AMI chairman.

At Gandaria in Dhaka, the AMI is running a junior high school for girls which has a total of 431 students.

The activities of AMI spread in 26 districts including all divisional cities. The organisation plans to extend its service to every district town.

"We are looking forward to open our branch in every district by next year if we get funds as donation," said Enamul Kabir, executive director, AMI.

The main source of income of this charity organisation is individual donation and rents of the houses and shops. It also gets an annual grant from the government.

