

Street children's own savings bank offers hope

RAIHAN SABUKTAGIN

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Nurul Huda is one of the few fortunate street children in Dhaka who has been able to manage his own money, depositing it in a daily savings scheme that has brought him a small measure of financial security.

"This saving helped me ensure my dignity and I became self-reliant within a year," said Nur, a 16-year-old street child-turned-skilled tailoring assistant.

The savings also enabled him to arrange employment for his physically challenged brother Nesar and support his whole family, Nur said.

There are about 2 lakh street children in Dhaka, according to Appropriate Resources for Improving Street Children's Environment -- a joint project of the ministry of social welfare and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).

Nur, who spent eight years on the streets, said street children often spend their earnings as soon as possible as they are afraid of being mugged or of having their money stolen while they sleep. There is no secure way for these children to save their money for the future. Even the ones living in slums have no reliable means to save.

"If there were a specialised bank for vulnerable workers and street children, they could get a chance to save their earnings for their future," Nur said.

Nur ran away from a Madrasa in Narayanganj eight years ago and embraced a rough life on the streets of Dhaka. He struggled to make a living here. "I sometimes worked as a painter, sometimes whatever else I could find," he said.

He was arrested once by police during his days on the streets and was confined to a vagrant shelter home at Mirpur. A non-government organi-

sation (NGO) named Aparajeyo Bangladesh provided legal and other aid to Nur during his confinement at the vagrant shelter and took him into their custody later.

Nur was later introduced to a money deposit facility for street children called the "Child Development Bank" organised by Aparajeyo Bangladesh.

Nur said, "Ten months ago, I withdrew a total of Tk 17 thousand from the bank that I had deposited daily since the bank was launched in September, 2004. This savings helped me open a tailoring shop in Narayanganj where my physically challenged brother is the master tailor and I am his assistant."

He picked up several technical skills including tailoring during his days on the streets and only needed funds and a place to start his own venture.

Nur finally found a way to make his dream come true by saving up his earnings when the NGO launched the

savings scheme for street children on September 1, 2004.

Basudev Moitra, country director of the bank, told Star City that the bank offered only savings facilities and did not offer loans.

When asked about the legal grounds for operating the bank, he said, "Our goal is to establish a specialised bank for empowering the working street children financially and socially. We received approval from the NGO Bureau to receive deposits from street children."

Basudev said, "The members (street children) operate the bank on their own and keep track of transactions. We only helped them by launching the special bank two and half years ago and now the children are reaping the benefits."

The funds saved up by the children would help them lay the groundwork for their establishment in the society, he added.



Nurul Huda and his physically challenged brother at work at his shop in Narayanganj.

Holiday markets yet to shape up



Not really gearing up; holiday market gradually shaping up.

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

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New holiday markets set up on five city streets to rehabilitate evicted street vendors so far received poor response from both street vendors and buyers.

Street vendors are allowed to sell their goods between 8:00am to 5:00pm every Friday on specific streets of the capital. The designated places for these five holiday markets are on north side of Manik Mia Avenue, road from Matsya Bhaban to Segun Bagicha, a portion of road in front of Motijheel Ideal High School, road from Palashii intersection to Nilkhet and Shialbari slope on road to Mirpur Zoo.

A small number of street vendors showed up at the designated places to sell their products on the second day after the holiday markets were introduced. Very few transactions took place there and sellers are still confused about this new idea. Most of them turned up at the markets just to

A small number of street vendors showed up at the designated places to sell their products on the second day after the holiday markets were introduced. Very few transactions took place there and sellers are still confused about this new idea. Most of them turned up at the markets just to check out the situation.

"Our customers used to shop from us on their way [home or work]. On holidays, there are less pedestrians of that sort and I am not sure if this will work out," said a gaamchha seller on Manik Mia Avenue. "I don't think I will be able to cover my transportation cost today. I will not be able to recover my investment this month."

"New ideas always take time to become popular. We are advertising about the locations of the holiday markets in newspapers. I think once people start visiting these markets, these will gradually shape up," said Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, chief estate officer, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

"People from far away used to make special plans to shop at Bangabazar. I think it [holiday markets] will be exactly like that. They just need to accept the change," he added.

Kamrul, a t-shirt seller, said, "Holiday markets need to be set up beside New Market or any other market on holidays. Otherwise it will not draw that many customers."

Kamrul however was hopeful about future of the market on Manik Mia Avenue. "Manik Mia Avenue draws a lot of visitors in the afternoon. I think it will soon gain popularity among them"

Two of the holiday markets -- on at Palashi and the other at Shialbari -- failed to attract the street vendors.

"I live in Mirpur and which is why I wanted to check out the Shialbari holiday market. I don't know why they picked this place for a holiday market as this place is far away from the main road", said a vendor who was selling his product from a rickshaw van and was on the move.

When pointed out about selecting inconvenient places for holiday markets, Chowdhury, the chief estate officer at DCC, said, "It is difficult to find an open space or a free street in the city. We can't select a busy thoroughfare as it will again create traffic congestion. If people want to enjoy a free road, they will have to change the way they do shopping."

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm, (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 pm, News Headlines (English) at 9:05 pm

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 3:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:00 pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30 am

BTV

12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
01:30 Selected Programme
02:15 Sisimpur
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Cricket Shekha
04:00 Hijo Tomal
04:30 Oi Notuner Keton Urey
05:00 Dance Programme
05:30 Selected Programme
06:40 Shondha Maloti
07:00 Mati O Manush
07:30 Modhuchondha
08:35 Ekush Amar Ohonkar
09:40 Drama

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Anyodrishti
11:05 Talk Show: Meet the Press
12:15 Bhalobashar Gaan
12:45 Valobashar Kabyo
01:30 Bhalo Bashi Bhalo Bashi
02:30 Bishoy Colochitrey
03:15 Bhalobasha
Telefilm: Akash
03:15 Onghoto Meghla
05:40 Bishashey Bhalo Basha Hoy Na
06:20 Bhalobashar Diney
07:55 Bhalobashar Rangey
08:45 Special Drama: Rodela Bikel
10:35 Achhey Shudhu Bhalobasha

CHANNEL-i

09:50 Tritymatra
11:05 Sports Time (Live)

12:30 Citycell Tarakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shanghbad Potrey Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Film: Hothat Brishti
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:35 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Bol Mela Protidin
06:00 Telefilm: Hothat Brishti
07:50 Lukochuri
09:35 Game Show: Bhibha Dewood Game House
12:00 Gramephone Aaker Shangbadpotro

ntv

10:30 Gallery
11:00 American Cinema
12:05 Ei Shomoy
01:00 Japan Video Topic
02:35 Drama Serial: Mone Mone
03:15 Mega Serial: Shaola
03:50 Drama Serial: Neer
04:25 Bhalobashar Boshontey
05:20 Bhalobashar Pothey Pothey
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Bibhrat
08:25 Siddiq Kabirs Recipe
09:10 Special Programme: Shopner Neelpori Din Dorpon

Rtv

10:00 Phalguner Nobin Anonday
10:40 Swapno Diner Gaan
12:00 Amar Desh
01:00 Aj Potrikay
01:35 Shoto Proshno
03:45 Drama Serial: Nirontor

PICK OF THE DAY

Lukochuri
On Channel i at 7:50pm
Special Drama on Valentine's Day
Cast: Sajal, Nafiza

Rodela Bikel
On ATN Bangla at 8:45pm
Special Drama on Valentine's Day
Cast: Humayun Faridee, Subarna Mustafa

04:20 Teen Love Teen Lokshan
05:10 Borney Borney Rochilo
06:00 Aker Bangladesh
06:35 Bhalobashar Boshontey
08:00 Special Drama: Sister Maria
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
10:30 Amader Valentine
12:05 Joto Durey Jao Pher Dekha Hobey

02:00 Nongor
03:30 Drama Serial: Shomrajyo
04:00 Rupantror Golpo
04:30 Fusion Biz
05:15 Expression
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Itihasher Path Dorey
07:00 Tumi Megh Ami Shoshi
08:15 Telefilm: Birugh Boshonto

BANGLAVISION

09:05 Raat Bi Raatey
09:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:30 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
03:05 Ebong Classer Bairey
05:00 Protidiner Boimela
05:30 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Cinebit Shadakalo
08:10 Drama Serial: Joba Kushum
09:20 Drama: Jodio Shondha

STAR PLUS

09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa

06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 The Suite Life Of Zack And Cod
07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
07:55 Boly V - Star Plus
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati-Srk
11:30 Kahin To Hoga
12:00 Paraya Dhan

STAR MOVIES

10:10 Guess Who?
12:00 Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou
02:00 The Triangle - Ep. 03
03:30 The Librarian
05:10 Never Been Kissed
07:00 Shall We Dance
08:50 White Noise
10:30 Sleeping With The Enemy

STAR WORLD

09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 Commander In Chief
11:30 Falcon Beach
12:30 The O.C.
01:30 Koffee With Karan
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:00 Fashion House
06:00 Arrested Development
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 American Idol

09:30 Heroes
10:30 Grey's Anatomy
11:30 Fashion House

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
10:30 Bringing Home Baby
11:00 Amazing Baby Videos
11:30 Life On The Edge
12:30 Body Basics
01:30 Snake Week
02:30 Detectives Stories
03:30 Everything You Need To Know
04:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
06:30 Danganman Adventures With Geoff Mackley
07:30 Snake Week
08:30 Life On The Edge
09:30 African Adventures
10:00 Stuntclaws
10:30 Building The Biggest
11:30 Dead Tenants

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 Fight Science
10:30 Teleall
11:00 Bhagyashali Ratna
11:15 Global Sky Shop
11:30 Naked Science
12:30 Is It Real?
01:30 Dangerous Company
02:30 Polar Bear Mom & Cubs
03:00 Cyanea Octopus
03:30 Fight Science
04:30 Croc of Mondonguillo

05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Africa's Viper Giant
06:30 Fight Science
07:30 Relentless Enemies
08:30 Battle Of The Wines
09:30 Tomado
10:30 ShowReal Asia

STAR SPORTS

09:30 Cricket Crazy
12:30 Royal Bank Of Scotland
02:30 Football Premier
03:30 Tna Impact
04:30 Tna Impact
06:28 Mtn One Day International Series
10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss
10:30 Mtn One Day International Series

ESPN

09:00 Sports Yatra
10:30 Nba Action
11:00 Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07
12:30 English Premier Football League
02:30 Indian Premier Hockey League
05:30 Toyota Football Up Close
06:00 Sports Yatra
06:30 Asian X Games 2006 - Inline Stre
07:00 Indian Premier Hockey League
09:30 Sportscenter India
10:00 Champions Of The World
10:30 Sportscenter India
11:00 Sportscenter Asia