

KARAGARER DIARY

A document of country's history

DU CORRESPONDENT

The revised second edition of a book titled Karagarer Diary by Deputy Speaker Col (ret) Shawkat Ali was unwrapped at a function in the city yesterday. Discussing on the book, speakers termed it a document of the country's history. They said Shawkat, also a freedom fighter, wrote the book neutrally and a true picture of the post-liberation politics has been elaborated wonderfully in it. Poet Mahmuda Sharmeen Benu said this book is a document of time and country's history. Journalist Abu Sayeed Khan

said the writer has neutrally elaborated the socio-political and administrative scenario of the post-liberation Bangladesh in the book. He said these incidents are the elements of the national history. Maj Gen (ret) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, writer Harun Habib, Dr Mamtaj Patwari, MA Aziz, Mahmud Hasan Khokan were present at the programme at the central public library auditorium with Publication Secretary of Awami League Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin in the chair. Anwar Faridi, chief executive of the publication house Magnum Opus, said this book was first published in 1983.

'Beggar-free country by 2021'

ALPHA ARZU

The government will engage at least seven ministries and non-government organisations (NGOs) in making the country free of beggars by 2021, said a deputy secretary of the social welfare ministry.

Social welfare ministry will be the secretariat while home, land, youth and sports, health and family welfare, women and children affairs, labour and employment ministries, local government division and Bureau of Statistics will also work to conduct the countrywide survey and rehabilitate beggars.

A steering committee, led by the social welfare ministry, will run the programme at a cost of about Tk 13 crore, which will be implemented in two phases - survey and rehabilitation.

The programme has three components - rehabilitation and engagement of rural beggars in income generation at their own villages, urban beggars excepting Dhaka city, and floating beggars as well as slum dwellers of the capital.

The beggars will be divided into four categories - children between 12 years, male and female beggars aged between 12 years and 50 years, above 50 years and beggars with disabilities.

The child beggars will be provided primary education, vocational and technical training and then be provided with employment opportunities.

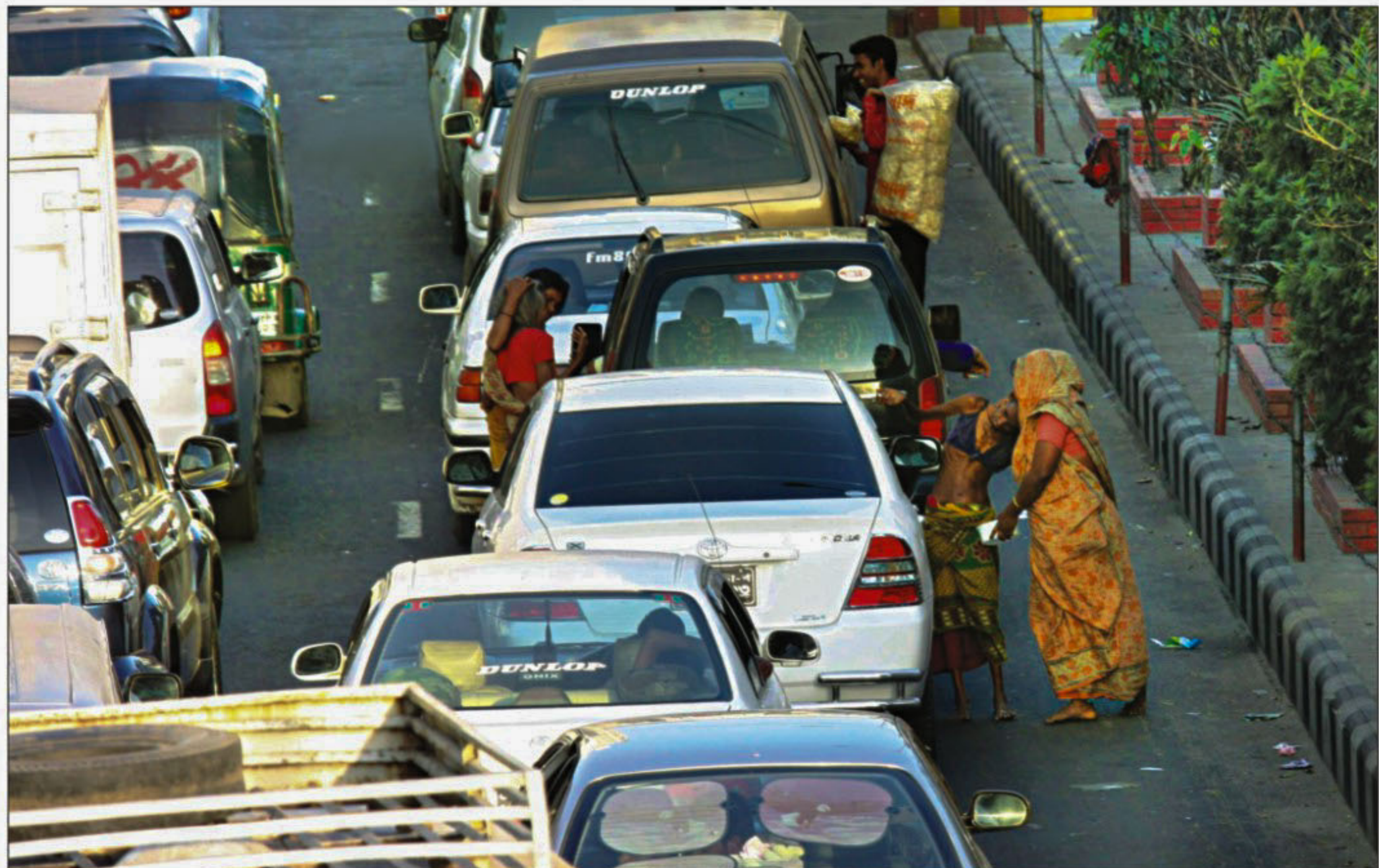
The beggars aged between 12 and 50 years will be offered training as per their qualifications while those with above 50 years and disabilities will be offered permanent rehabilitation under the shelter or residence project.

The beggars with disabilities will get training based on their abilities and will also be offered micro-credit for income generation, said the ministry officials.

A pilot programme will be implemented in fiscal 2010-12 to set up eight rehabilitation centres in four beggar-prone cities. A centre will have the capacity to rehabilitate 250 beggars and 2,000 beggars will be rehabilitated at the centres.

COUNTRYWIDE SURVEY

The countrywide survey will be conducted in



Begging is a common scene at different traffic points in the city, though it is the most degrading job for a living. Vagrants beg alms from passing vehicles in the streets. The photo was taken in Kakrail area recently.

all six divisional cities. Dhaka will be divided into four zones for the survey. The survey is aimed at identifying the number of beggars, gender, age, addresses (root village), causes of begging, types of begging and their socio-economic conditions.

The survey will take only 60 days and it will be completed by June, said Social Welfare Secretary Quomaran Nessa Khanam.

The field offices of statistical bureau and

NGOs will be involved in this survey. There are estimated seven lakh beggars across the country. A total of 6.14 crore will be spent to conduct the survey.

BEGGARS REHABILITATION ACT

The cabinet meeting last month approved a bill proposing provisions of imprisonment and fine for offences of forced begging or maiming anybody for alms.

The bill proposed three-year imprisonment

and Tk 1 lakh in fine for forcing someone to beg. It also proposed five-year imprisonment and Tk 5 lakh in fine for cutting off anybody's limbs or gouging out eyes for making him/her a beggar, said a deputy secretary of the concerned ministry.

The cabinet approved the bill to update the Vagrancy Act of 1943 by incorporating strict provisions against forced begging and also make the country beggar-free by 2021.

Baira elections Apr 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The triennial elections to Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) will be held on April 24.

Two panels -- one led by Ghulam Mustafa, incumbent president of Baira, and the other by Abul Bashar, owner of Sarkar Recruiting Agency -- are in the race.

Besides, there will be seven independent candidates to contest the elections, says a press release.

The polls of Baira, the apex body of 831 recruiting agencies

involved in finding and processing the overseas employments of millions of Bangladeshis, will be held at Baira Bhaban at 130 New Eskaton in the city.

A three-member election board, led by Baira member Tofael Ahmed as its chairman, has been formed to conduct the polls.

A 15-member team comprising a joint secretary of commerce ministry and officials from Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will support the board to hold the polls.

OBITUARY



With deep shock we would like to inform that Alhaz Md. Azizur Rahman (95), the founder chairman of N. R. Group and father of Mr. Mukhlesur Rahman, Managing Director of the Group, passed away on the 17th day of April 2010 afternoon (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajun).

We express our heartiest thanks and gratitude to those individuals and organizations who expressed their shock towards the deceased and sympathy towards the bereaved family members.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for salvation of his departed soul.



N. R. GROUP Officers & Employees of N. R. Group

Edn policy won't contradict religious values: Nahid

BSS, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government is working relentlessly to modernise madrasa education keeping its goal intact.

He was exchanging views with a delegation of Qaumi Madrasa Board at the ministry.

He said the government wants to upgrade madrasa education so that students who pass from madrasas can also contribute to different fields of national development.

Nahid said introduction of subjects like Bangla, English, mathematics and geography would help improve quality of madrasa educa-

tion. He assured that the proposed national education policy in no way would contradict with religious values.

Qaumi madrasa teachers placed various problems of their institutions, including recognition of madrasa certificates under a single Qaumi education board.

They emphatically said that the Qaumi madrasa students and teachers are not involved in any sort of militancy.

Qaumi madrasa teacher leaders including Maulana Hossain Ahmed Barakoti, Maulana Mahmud Alam, Mufti Kefayetullah, Mufti Mizanur Rahman Sayeed and Maulana Abdul Baset Barkatpuri were present.

ATTACKS ON KAMRANGIRCHAR Criminals threaten victims for filing case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 11 days of attacks in the city's Kamrangirchar area, the criminals were allegedly issuing threats to the victims for filing a case in this connection.

Some ruling party cadres equipped with firearms, sharp weapons, hockey sticks and bamboos made the attack at Ashrafabad on the outskirts of the city on April 9 and set fire to at least six plastic factories, four sawmills and 10 shops and looted several other business establishments.

As the employees of the establishments tried to protect the valuables, the criminals attacked them injuring at least 30 people, the victims alleged.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, one of the victims, Haji Din Mohammad, said since they filed the case, the criminals were asking him for its withdrawal and threatened to kill them if they do not comply with their demand.

He also alleged that police did not arrest the criminals who were roaming around the area under the nose of the law enforcers.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Kamrangirchar Police Station Shafiqul Islam Sikder, however, said they so far arrested seven to eight alleged attackers.

He also said none lodged any complaint regarding the threats to the victims.

BAR ON MIR NASIR SC stays HC order till Apr 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed until April 25 a High Court (HC) order that directed the government not to bar former BNP state minister for civil aviation and tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin to go abroad.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain also asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal petition with the SC against the HC order by April 25.

The chamber judge passed the order upon a government petition seeking stay on the HC order.

The HC on April 18 directed the government not to prohibit Nasir, also an adviser of BNP Chairman Khaleda Zia, to leave the country for treatment.

ATM সেবা সাময়িক সময়ের জন্য বন্ধ রাখার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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