^{In}City

Dhaka: Home away from home



instance here ladies Greg Morgan. Executive Chef. Dhaka are clad in colourful Sheraton, who has been living in Dhaka sarees. for the last nine months, has shared his wedding receptions in Astold to Durdana Ghias

am an Australian and Pabna and Comilla. These were wonderful have been living in experiences. I observed the village rituals Dhaka from the end of and methods of these events. The house last November of the bride was decorated with colourful

flowers and papers, friends of the bride Before that I worked as an executive chef were singing wedding songs. The countryside was also very different from in a five star hotel in China. There I met a the city. Other things I dislike about the city are fellow Australian who the traffic, pollution and corruption. The was working at Dhaka

Sheraton at that time. political situation is very strange. That was the first time Everything is centralised in Dhaka. Once I heard about Dhaka. went to Chittagong I found it comparatively When I arrived, I manageable than Dhaka. There were was surprised. The more greenery, less traffic and it was comparatively less busy. People have a difficult and hard life here. There is a high rate of city was quite big, noisy and always

moving -- wonderfully busy and yet chaotic; unemployment. I feel really bad when I see people were racing small children begging on the streets. The local private companies are doing good evervwhere. business and trying to employ people. Everyone is in a hurry and nobody had any They are driving the country but I have not patience. But they are seen any remarkable strategy from the very friendly and government side to deal with the situation.

Being a chef I have a different kind of To me Dhaka is not thinking about food than a normal person. I had been to many countries as a chef and a modern city. The amount of rickshaws tasted many foods, so for me the impact of was overwhelming. I tasting new dishes is not surprising and it is do not like rickshaws very difficult to say which food is exotic. because they slow enjoy spicy foods like curry and down the traffic. And birivani and the dates and sweetmeats of that is terrible. This Shab-e-Barat. I do not like Hilsha because was also my first time it has too many bones. I like pangash, rui, in a Muslim country so Black Jew and prawns. Seafood is good noticed different and vegetables are fresh in Bangladesh local customs. For an This is the first time I am going to observe Ramadan in a Muslim country so I am

looking forward to it and the Eid festival.

helpful

When I arrived, I was surprised. The city was quite big, noisy and

always moving -- wonderfully busy and yet chaotic; people were racing everywhere. **Everyone is in a hurry** and nobody had any

We shall overcome some day

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Nupur returned from Geneva in September, having represented Bangladesh at a general session of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

"There is no way left for us unless we make the society aware and conscious of the Rights of a Child," she said. "We are working hard towards this goal and believe that we will overcome the barriers soon," she added.

Finding solace on the street a few years ago, after experiencing horrible abuse

that she usually trains children on the hidden dangers at Osmani Uddayan and every day she sees new faces. "I realise that violation of child rights still continues," she said. She has trained around 75 children and now these children are working like her.

Toma Roy, a class 10 commerce student of Naznin High School at East Razabazar wants to be an accountant.

She too is a working street child and believes that some day child rights will be established in the country.

A rights campaigner, Toma said: "Of course I believe in our

him back after eight long years and he was very confused. He said that he had established himself as a painter during these years. His father is an influential

He said that his family wants

transport leader at Chadpur, and was forced to get on to the streets because of the repression by his stepmother.

He said, "I begged, worked as operator room boy at cinema halls and sales boy in the grocery shops after running away. I tried to continue my study although not regularly as arranging a meal twice a day was a tough job."

Toma (left) and Khorshed, both are street children, actively campaigning for child

and family want to pay heed to

children and listen to their

opinions. We have to win over

the situation as we have no

alternative to establishing our

Khorshed, another working

street child, he was busy in

counselling two others children

who live together, where one

had abused other.

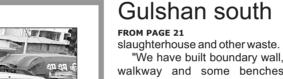
When Star City met

rights."

Nupur, talking to the Star City victory as we labouring heavily to establish our rights. said that she thought her life was over she was destroyed When asked why she is into and was a burden to herself these activities instead of trying "But the sense of my rights to secure her own future, she created an inner urge and said: "I don't want any child facing the same problems I desperation to stand to establish these rights and this faced and watch society's brutality. sense made me strong," she

About the confusion of going home, he said, "I enjoy campaigning for child rights as it is this sense that made me an independent individual now and I know that repressors are powerful than the repressed."

He said, he believes, that



walkway and some benches temporarily just to ensure possession of the land," said the CEO of DCC. Asked about the slaughterhouse inside the park, he said, "We cannot remove it unless we find an alternative site.'

About the shrine inside the park, he said, "You know how powerful the Pir and their followers are in our country."

The CEO of DCC had earlier told Star City that the parkland is a valuable asset because of its location and that it would be utilised accordingly in consulta-



A woman was begging on the Mohakhali-Gulshan 1 Link Road while her two children were sleeping on the pavement. The picture was taken yesterday.

tion with the PMO.

The principal secretary to the prime minister wrote a letter on October 26 last year to the DCC saying that the PM has clearly directed to set up a green park at the site immediately. In another letter on November

20, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas informed Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) of the ministry's clear stand to turn the space into a park Raiuk, the original owner of the

park, has time and again asked the DCC at the PM office meetings to give the park back to it saying it would develop the park with its won resource.

But the DCC authorities have all along been obstinately refusing to return the parkland.

said

At 14, she is aware of the vulnerability of children in the harsh grip of society and learnt unsafe sex and drugs. by paying a high price that About the problems child males can lure the young with face in society, she replied: "It is

soft words. Nupur now works to establish child rights and talks to children on the hidden dangers of society. Besides this she also continues with her education.

At the moment she is preparing to celebrate the Child Rights Week on September 29. She said that awareness of violation against child rights has increased but the incidents are not

The reason, she said, was

some day the situation will She said she campaigns change and somebody has to against child abuse, child work hard for that change. trafficking, early marriage,

"I should not leave these vulnerable children, should I? If I leave them now, how will they establish their rights?" he a long list, but I will say that, no asked. one in the government, police

A top official of the women and child affairs ministry said that a gulf of problems exist in establishing child rights in the country.

"But we have projects for the children, which provide for aid different types of children and we are trying hard to work on more projects to establish child rights," he said.

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National Museum-Thursday Ahsan Manzil--Thursday. Mouchak Market-Sunday Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday