

### Dhaka Day by Day

## It's a Hard Day's Work

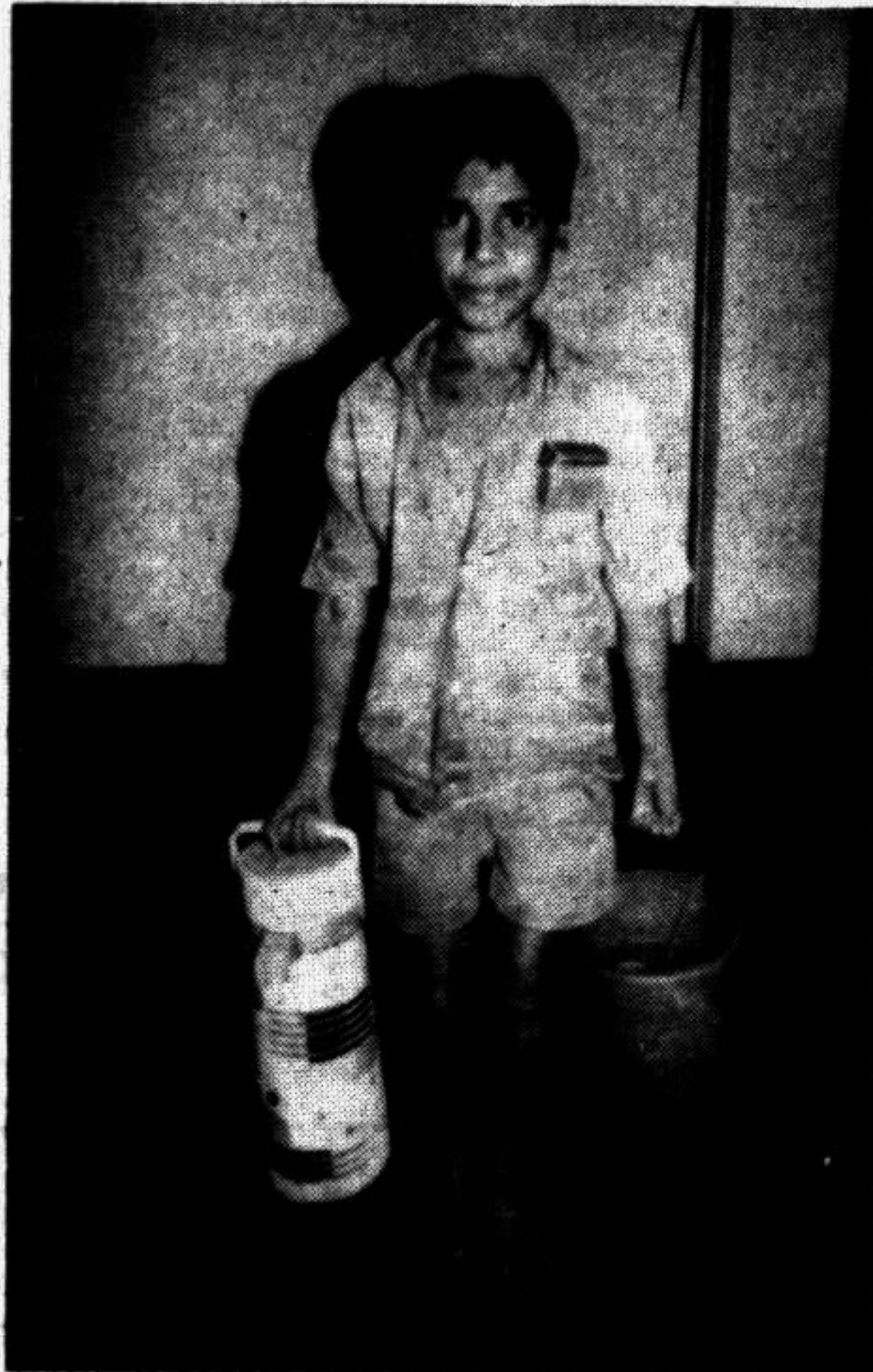
by Fayza Haq

Some people never grow up and remain impractical, impetuous and childish even in their old age. There is also the other extreme as in the case of Hamid Mia, an eight year old tea-seller. He has never played "kabaddi" or hopscotch, or marbles or even blind man's buff. He does not remember a day when he has spent an hour on games. It has always been work, work and more work for the boy.

"I haven't been to the Shishu Park or the cinema. I don't listen to programmes on the radio or watch TV in any neighbour's house. I have neither the time nor the inclination," Hamid tells me seriously, almost lisping his words.

Although he sells biscuits himself, he says he never treats himself to one as it will spoil his income flow. "I don't like chocolates or ice-cream" he says, lowering his eyes, with his cheeks flushing, so that I naturally suspect that he is fibbing. He has been eight years in this world and he is competing neck to neck with adults. "I must earn, save, build up a future, and look after my parents," is his constant obsession.

"My parents slave for me. My younger sisters go out to work and do late hours. I have two younger brothers to think of. If anything happens to my father I am the head of the family. How can I fritter away my hours?", he comments. He naturally has no time in hand, working two shifts, till eight thirty pm and beyond, to relax with watching something like a football match.



Hamid Mia: 'I must look after my parents'.

He is a little demon for work. Carrying his flask of tea, his tub of water, and the single cup, he wanders round a large section of the city making a living.

Does he always want to be a tea-seller and no more? At this tender age, with no proper guidance, he is a little confused about what he wants to do. "I would dearly like my father to open up a proper tea stall, and I would like to be his assistant. I am also fascinated by sewing machines that are operated with foot. My uncle in the village is a tailor and I wouldn't mind being one some day myself," he says.

What about the prospects of a little education and setting himself up in life? "No, I know nothing about this free school 'Shurovi' that you tell me about. I went to the 'patshala' for a month in the village. I hope some day to return to the village and study properly. Right now I am needed by my parents at their side. They depend a lot on the money I bring in. I think it would be selfish if I thought only of myself and took off to the village to study at this stage. Education is a pleasure and privilege I can't afford right now. I must put all my energy and enthusiasm in earning for the family and seeing to their comforts." Hamid tells me proudly that he can sign his name for commercial transactions, and that suffices him for the time

being. Although he denies having a craving for chocolates or cakes, which are available in plenty in the bazaars that he roams, he does admit to having a penchant for bananas. "I wish my father would bring home some. I simply adore them," he confides. Why does he not buy the fruit from the vendors on his own — after all, he has money in his hand? "When I give the accounts to my father at night, he would find out, and would be very annoyed. He works very hard and denies himself all types of luxuries. I would hate to offend him and get in his bad books. As I am the eldest son, he relies a lot on me. I wouldn't have the heart to disappoint him," Hamid explains in his low, hesitating, shy voice.

Hamid buys tea from Arambagh on an order basis. "I pay Tk 15 to the teamaker and sell each cup for Tk 1. I naturally make two trips to Arambagh everyday. I make good money on rainy days, and naturally in winter," he tells me about his work. "I've never been cheated. I keep a sharp eye out about payments. Nobody complains about my tea." He makes a clear profit of Tk 30 everyday, he claims. He operates around Motijheel, Fakirapur, and Thatar Bazaar.

His two younger sisters, Shanta, 7, and Morjina, 6, earn Tk 400 each, as thread cutters in garment factories. They too put in long hours, and do not know what it is to play, laugh, chat, as young people should do.

Hamid and his family live in a single room in Hannan Basti in the vicinity of Motijheel. They pay a rent of Tk 350 for the shed and are glad that it keeps off the rain and the heat. He gets to go home and have regular meals of rice and curry in the afternoons. He claims he has more than "daal" and gets to eat fish regularly, apart from vegetables.

His father Siddique looks after the medical bills, he narrates, and he is proud that he is seldom ill or fatigued. He is also contented with his wardrobe of faded and patched many-times, washed collection of two shirts and three trousers, obviously bought at the second-hand market. "My sisters have four dresses each," he says with pride.

For a boy who has never known the luxury of joy rides in rickshaws or buses, of buying balloons or eating "chat", Eid is a time of gourmandising and taking it easy. Hamid is available for work on weekends too, but twice a year he has his fill of "korma", that he says his mother cooks with excellence.

Hamid is not over anxious about the fact that the family has no savings in the bank. "That will come with time as we grow older and have more steady jobs. We are not doing too badly now," says the young boy who fetches water and chops wood, after his hard day's work.

### What's on today . . .

#### Drama festival

Nijera Kor, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) starts a two-day drama festival today (Friday) at the Mahila Samity auditorium at Baily Road in the city.

The festival begins with a discussion meeting starting at 5 pm. Writer Selina Hossain will present a paper on 'our culture and commonness' while Mohammad Nurul Huda's article is on 'culture and philosophy of life'.

Play writer Mamatazuddin Ahmed, Poet Asad Choudhury, actor Asaduzzaman Noor will participate in the discussion on the papers. Bazlur Rahman will be in the chair.

The discussion session will be followed by staging of open dramas by the landless association of the NGO from Madhupur, Paikgachha and Gaibandha regions.

#### Science service meet

'Science Service' will hold a general meeting today (Friday) at 4 pm at the Conference Hall of the Institute of Food and Technology (IFST) of the BCSIT in the city.

'Science Service', a newly formed voluntary science organisation is working for popularisation of science and creation of public awareness of environment. All members have been requested to attend the meeting in time.

#### SADMC certificate awarding ceremony

The certificate awarding ceremony of the Disaster Management Workshop of the South Asian Disaster Management Centre (SADMC) of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will take place today (Friday) at 7 pm in the conference room of Bangladesh Meteorological Department at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury, Deputy Leader in the Jatiya Sangsad, will be the chief guest and distribute certificates among the participants of the workshop. Prof Dr M Altmullah Mian, SADMC and Project Director of IUBAT will preside over the function.

#### Seminar on Eid-e-Miladunnabi

On the occasion of the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi and Islamic Unity Week, the Cultural Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dhaka has arranged a grand seminar today (Friday) at 10 am at the National Press Club auditorium in the city.

Prof MA Mannan, State Minister for Religious Affairs, will be present on the occasion as the chief guest.

Muhammad Ganji Doost, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dhaka will be present on the occasion. Prof ANM Abdul Mannan Khan will present an article on 'Miladunnabi and Islamic Unity' in the seminar.

#### BCU reception to SSC students

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will accord reception to the students passed this year's SSC examinations under the Dhaka Board at a function to be held at the cafeteria of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) today (Friday) at 4 pm.

On this occasion discussion by the successful candidates, recitation from poems and musical sores will also be held.

Former student leader Kazi Akram Hossain will attend the function as the chief guest. Actor Dr Inamul Haq, BCU President Nasir ud Doza and artiste Ashoke Karmakar will also attend.

#### Ex-services League

A preparatory meeting of national conference of Bangladesh Ex-services League will be held today (Friday) at 5 pm at 80-82, Mohammadpur Town Hall Government Market (1st floor) in the city.

Ex-services personnel staying in Dhaka have been requested to attend the meeting.

#### Jamaat meeting

The Central Working Council of Jamaat-e-Islami will be held today (Friday) at 9 am at the party office.

All the working council members have been requested to attend the emergency meeting in time.

#### Udichi conference

A three-day ninth national conference of Udichi, a cultural organisation, will begin today (Friday) in the city.

Over 1000 workers of the organisations from 150 organisational districts are expected to attend the conference, said a press release.

#### Nagorik Adhikar Parishad

Bangladesh Nagorik Adhikar Parishad's emergency meeting will be held at its temporary office at 373 Maghbazar in the city today (Friday) at 9 am.

All the members of the Parishad's executive committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

#### Rotary Club meeting

The 374th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will now be held today (Friday) at 10 am at Wari Community Centre in the city. The meeting was earlier scheduled on September 30 at Hotel Sheraton.

Today's meeting will be a joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central and the Rotaract Club of Wari in observance of the youth activities month.

#### Nasirabad UZ Samity

Nasirabad Upazila Samity will hold its general meeting today (Friday) at 4 pm at Road No 3, House No. 36, Dhanmondi Residential Area in the city.

#### Drug Resistance Body meet

Bangladesh Drugs Resistance Committee will meet its branch committees to exchange views at the organisations office today (Friday) at 5 pm.

### ... and tomorrow

#### Mahila Parishad's speech contest

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad holds a competition of speech on the topic 'why do I work with the Mahila Parishad' at the Business and Professional Women's Club Auditorium at 1 Baily Road in the city tomorrow (Saturday) at 3 pm.

Tomorrow's programme is followed by observance of organisational weeks at different areas during the September 21-27.

#### BAAS bi-ennial conference

The second bi-ennial conference of the Bangladesh Association for American Studies (BAAS) will be held tomorrow (Saturday) at the seminar room (first floor) of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

Prof M Shamsul Haq, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, will be the chief guest while William B Milam, Ambassador of the United States in Dhaka will be special guest on the occasion.

The theme of the conference is 'migration, migrants and the United States'. Two academic sessions will be presided over by Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi and Prof Muzaffar Ahmed. Compiled by NA.

#### Qul held

Qul khwani of Mrs Laila Chowdhury, wife of Barrister Shamsuddin Chowdhury, was held at her residence Rose Garden, House No 13, K.M. Das Lane in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, ex-Ambassador Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Shafiqul, ex-Counsellor Major General (ret'd) AMSA Ameen and Justice (ret'd) Abdur Rahman Chowdhury attended the qul among others.

#### DU admission

#### Ka Unit interview Oct 1 and 2

The interview of first year honours class admission seekers belonging to the Merit List with marks between 2001 and 2200 and 2400 (Ka-Unit) will be held on October 1 and 2 respectively at 10 am, at the Dean office of Science Faculty, a university press release said in Dhaka Thursday.

The interviewees have been asked to bring the main copies of SSC and HSC mark sheets.

## Coast Guards soon to execute maritime laws

State Minister for Shipping Harun Al-Rashid Thursday said that works were in progress for formation of a Coast Guard to execute Maritime Laws, reports BSS.

He said the Coast Guard would also work for prevention of smuggling and pollution of seas and rivers besides protection of fisheries resources.

The State Minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on "passenger and crew safety on board ship" held in observance of World Maritime Day-1991 at a hotel in Dhaka.

Organised by the Department of Shipping the discussion was also participated by Deputy Minister for Law and Justice A.B.M. Zahidul Haq, Senior Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Winston Temple Sempel Seminaro, Director General of Shipping M. Mozharul Huq, President of Bangladesh Ocean-going Ship Owners Association Abdul Awal, President of Bangladesh Launch Owners Association, Mahmudur Rahman, Chief Engineer of Shipping Abdul Malek, Naval Architect and Marine Engineering teacher of BUET M A Rahim and former Principal of Deck Personnel Training Centre (DPTC) Anis Ahmed, Shipping Secretary M. Azizul Haq presided.

Hurun-Al-Rashid said Bangladesh had supported the SAARC regional convention for suppression of terrorism-1988 and agreed in principle to ratify that convention. He said on ratification of this convention, a separate coast guard would be formed for which support was given in principle.

The State Minister said the government was committed to safeguard the life and properties of the people and with

that end in view it had adopted the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) convention on "suppression on unlawful acts against safety of maritime navigation", referring to the importance

of inland navigation which carries 70 per cent goods in the country the State Minister urged all concerned to work with patience to ensure safety of the passengers, crew as well as cargo.

### Fashion 91 & 92 Fashion Show Organised By Tribeni Shangstha Handicraft and Training Centre

Venue : Hotel Sonargaon  
Date : 12th October, 1991  
Time : 7.00 PM  
Ticket : Tk. 800/00 each  
Designer : 1) Shahana Jefrin  
                  2) Quazi Quamrul Islam Himu  
                  3) Manna Aslam.

Special Attraction : 1) Lucky Coupon Draw  
                            2) Sale After Show

Ticket Available At :  
1) Candy Floss Gulshan (1st Avenue)  
2) Hotel Sonargaon  
3) Video Connection Gulshan (2nd Avenue)

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TOEFL EXAMINEES

Examinees who register for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) in Bangladesh will be required to present a valid passport as identification, beginning with the November 16, 1991 test administration. No other form of identification will be accepted at test centers in this country.

Please note that no candidates will be allowed to take TOEFL without a valid passport beginning with November 16 TOEFL examination.

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### Weather

#### Heavy rains likely

Heavy rainfall is likely at one or two places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Barisal and Patuakhali during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday, reports UNB.

Met office said rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind with moderately heavy falls is also likely at most places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and at many places over Khulna division.

Thursday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 25.5 degree Celsius and the minimum 23.4 degrees. Rajshahi recorded the highest temperature 33 degree Celsius while Sylhet the lowest 22.4 degrees.

Percentage of humidity was 100 in the morning and 97 in the evening.

Sun sets tomorrow (Friday) at 5-51 pm and rises on Saturday at 5-49 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded on Thursday at important cities and towns were :

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.5	23.4	100	97
Chittagong	30.7	23.6	83	95
Rajshahi	33.0	23.0	95	91
Khulna	27.8	25.3	95	95
Tangail	27.5	23.5	95	90
Rangamati	29.9	24.0	81	91
Dinajpur	31.6	24.4	92	80
Barisal	28.2	24.6	100	97
Sylhet	25.0	22.5		91

#### 14 shows of 'Darpan' staged so far

'Nagorik Natya Sampradya has been regularly staging their 24th production 'Darpan', an adaptation of one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy 'Hamlet' at the Mahila Samity Auditorium. Till date 14 shows have already been staged, says a press release.

The drama has been adapted and directed by Aly Zaker.

'Darpan,' recreated on the model of Shakespeare's Hamlet, is rooted in a Bangladeshi rural setting, in character, portrayal and language.

The cast of 'Darpan' include Khaleel Khan, Nima Rahman, Kawasir Chowdhury, Shormishtha Rahman, Golam Sarwar, Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, Afsana Karim Mimi, Shahin Khan, Faroque Ahmed, Kazi Ruma and others.

'Darpan' will be staged on October 10, and 17 at the Mahila Samity.



Rashed Khan Menon, MP, speaking at a discussion meeting organized by National Committee for Reunification of Koreans at the National Press Club Thursday. —Star photo