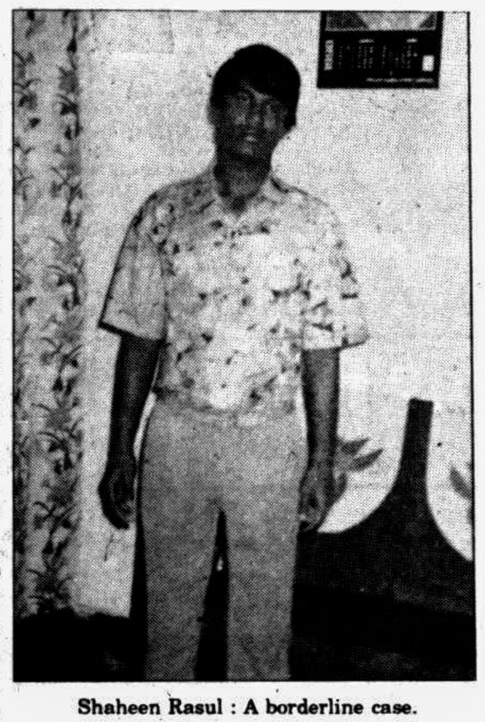
Dhaka Day by Day

Fighting Against the Odds

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

'Mental Retardation' — the term itself seems to weigh as heavy as a life sentence. When a child is confirmed as "mentally handicapped", "mentally ill", "mongoloid' or "abnormal" by the doctor or psychologist what sort of a future can he or she look forward to? One with constant disappointment, heartache and humiliation you would think. But beyond that deformed body, those glazed eyes and seemingly unresponsive face is a lost soul, a soul that craves for love, affection and a sense of belonging. It is amazing how when this basic need to be loved is fulfilled, people with such mental handicaps can overcome many of their deficiencies and lead close to normal lives.

Shaheen Rasul is such a person. He is what is called a border-line case. That is although his IQ is less than 70, which makes him fall under the category of the mentally retarded, he is more normal than many of the others in BIMR (Bangladesh Institute for the Mentally Retarded). He tells me that he is around eighteen years old. At present, he is a peon at the office of BIMR in Eskaton. His job includes running errands such as paying electricity bills, drawing money from the bank, posting letters, photocopying documents etc.



Shaheen Rasul : A borderline case.

As Shaheen goes on with his story I am a little puzzled for there are no apparent signs of abnormality in his appearance, speech or mannerism. With his pleasant disposition and engaging smile, he looks and talks like any normal teenager.

"So what is the problem?" I have to ask. "you see," he says, "I can't remember things. That's why I couldn't continue my studies. I read a page and the next instant I can't remember a single word on it. Also I have a very bad temper and I can't stand it when people accuse me of things I haven't done".

"When did your parents realize you had this problem of not remembering things?" I ask again. His reply is surprisingly straight forward. Says Shaheen quite matter-of-factly, "when I kept on failing my exams in school my father realized that there was something wrong with me. It was at that time that he heard about Special Education Classes being held at the Guide House and Will's Little Flower School where I was enrolled". It may be mentioned that these Special Education classes are held in schools with the objective of integration. Children with mental handicaps go to the same school as normal children although the classes they attend follow simplified syllabi. These Special Education Programmes have been initiated by the society for the Mentally Retarded. Later this society with the help of NFBU, a Norwegian organisation established BIMR. NFBU funds a large part of the yearly budget of this institution. Shaheen has been with BIMR for about 10 years. During his time here his teachers and instructors have given him extensive training and support for him to be the well-abjusted individual that he is today. One of his teachers tells me that he still has some trouble remembering certain things and sometimes does not understand the importance or immediacy of a certain task. But on the whole Shaheen is very hardworking and efficient.

Shaheen comes from a middle-class family. His father is a librarian of Films and Publications Department. One of his sisters is a student of Rajshahi University and another goes to Tejgaon College. In his spare time Shaheen likes to listen to music, read magazines such as 'Shanonda' and 'Ananda' and watch Hindi movies. His favourite film star, he says, is Madhuri Dixit. But his most pleasurable past-time is taking a rickshaw to wander around the city. Says Shaheen, "I don't like staying at home much. I love going out and roaming about. I know every corner of Dhaka city."

"But don't you have any friends?" I prod on. This is followed by a long pause after which he replies with a definite, "No". He then adds defensively with a smile, "If I have friends I'll just waste money and in any case I give my earnings to my father." The interview ends at this point for Shaheen has another errand to run. It is sad that there are many of us who cringe at the sight of mentally handicapped people as if they were beings from another planet. Perhaps their realities are a little different from *ours* — *we* the 'normal', the 'sane', *we* who kill each other at the slightest provocation, blow up buildings and burn cars 'in protest'. Perhaps, after all, I think to myself, *their* 'abnormality' is less destructive than our 'normalcy'. For Shaheen being normal is quite simple. He is not ambitious and quite happy to be a peon for it means more than anything, being useful.

BCL (S-A) brought out a mourning procession in the city Thursday. —Star photo

Save the Children (USA) President in city

James J Bausch, President of Save the Children (USA) arrived in Dhaka on Thursday for a short visit, says a Press release.

SC (USA) is working in 41 countries around the world including Bangladesh to help children through helping their families and the communities to help themselves.

Bausch, however, is no stranger to Dhaka. He had visited Bangladesh as President of SC (USA) in 1989 and had undertaken trips in the remote areas of the country for a first hand knowledge of the workings of SC (USA) in Bangladesh. Earlier, he had served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Comilla for three years from 1962-64.

In Memorium

Late Abdul Aziz Khan
November 1, 1890-April 26, 1972

With fond memories and pride, we remember, on this 101st birth anniversary of Late Khan Saheb Abdul Aziz Khan of Pabna, the many social and humanitarian services he rendered to the people of Pabna.

Let his glowing examples be a beacon light for those he left behind to follow and emulate.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Tanveer Aziz Khan
Ahmed Raihan Khan
Taneem Aziz Khan
on behalf of his family.

437 works to be on display in Asia art festival from today

A month-long 5th biennial Asian Art Exhibition begins simultaneously at the art gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Osmani Smriti Auditorium Gallery today (Friday), Minister of State for Cultural Affairs, Prof Jahanara Begum said in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

Speaking at a press conference at Shilpakala Academy here in the morning, Prof Jahanara said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the exhibition at Osmani Smriti Auditorium at 1030 am.

This year, in all 13 countries — China, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Soviet Union, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russian Federation, and host Bangladesh will participate in the exhibition.

Besides, France and the Netherlands will participate in the exhibition as observers.

A total of 439 art works of 271 artists will be put up at the art galleries of Shilpakala Academy and Osmani Smriti Auditorium for display. The galleries will remain open from 2 pm to 7.00 pm everyday for the public.

Of the 439 art works, 159 were done by 129 artists from the host Bangladesh.

Side by side with the exhibition, a two-day seminar on "a critical appreciation of Asian art in relation to world art" will be held tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

Besides, artists and art-connoisseurs of the country 23 distinguished guests from abroad will participate in the discussion.

Three prizes of Taka 50,000 each will be awarded for the three best art works.

Replying to a question, Prof Jahanara Begum said that the present government was interested in the promotion of art and culture in the country.

Regarding a question on setting up an Asian Art Institute in Bangladesh, the State Minister said the government was contemplating to set up such an institution.

She said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had already approved the idea of setting up an art gallery in the country.

Additional Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Islamuddin Malik, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Kamal Lohani, and Director Fine Arts of Shilpakala Academy, Syed Jahangir were present at the press conference and replied to different questions from the journalists.

Members of the Jury Board and participant artists from home and abroad were also present at the press conference.

ANNOUNCEMENT

From today, The Daily Star is pleased to introduce this new column where individuals and organisations can insert, at nominal charges, Birthday Greetings, Anniversaries, Congratulatory Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, In Memorium, etc.

For bookings/details, please contact :

Advertisement Manager

Phone : 246023-4, 863035

Seminar on Dhaka tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh is going to hold the publication ceremony of its latest publication Dhaka: Past, Present and Future at 9 am tomorrow (Saturday) in its auditorium.

A one- day Seminar will be held on "Urban Research Application" sponsored jointly by the Asiatic Society; the Centre for Urban Studies, Dhaka university; Centre for Dhaka Studies (Dhaka Nagar Jadughar) and Faculty of Architecture and Planning, BUET.

Mirza Abbas, MP Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation will grace the occasion as the chief guest.

Professor M Shamsul Huq, Chairman, University Grants Commission will be the special guest. To mark the publication ceremony of Dhaka: Past, Present and Future, the book will be sold at special discount to the general public from the office of the society.

In the seminar Prof Nazrul Islam, Department of Geography, University of Dhaka; Professor Abu H Imamuddin, Faculty of Architecture and Planning, BUET; Dr Shahida Rahman Imam, Department of Architecture, BUET; Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed, and Professor Muntassir Mamoon, Department of History, University of Dhaka; Professor Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Department of Economics and Dr Raihan Sharif, Department of Geography, Jahangirnagar University will present papers.

Youth Day to be observed today

80 lakh educated youths unemployed

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Sadeque Hossain said in Dhaka concerted efforts of the people of all walks of life were needed to turn the vast youth force into human resources, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference here Thursday on the eve of the National Youth Day, the State Minister underlined the need for governmental and non-governmental initiatives for implementation of the youth development programme.

"The problems of the youth force are immense, the government alone can not solve these", he said adding that political commitment and social movement were essential for this.

Sadeque Hossain said about one-third of the total 11 crore population was youth and 1.47 crore of them were unemployed. The number of educated unemployed youth is 70 lakh to 80 lakh, he said.

The State Minister said framing of a national-level long-term master plan was needed for the massive development of the youth force of the country. The plan should be aimed at incorporating every youth from the remote village to the urban area for the flourishment of their latent talent and skill, he said.

Sadeque Hossain said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had established a separate ministry for solving different problems of the youth force and implementing youth development programmes.

The government of Shaheed Zia had earmarked a sum of Taka 125 crore in the Second Five Year Plan for the youth development programmes, he said regretting that the allocation had been slashed down to Taka 17 crore later on.

The State Minister said in the Fourth Five Year Plan Taka 30 crore had been sanctioned for youth development programmes.

Sadeque Hossain said the national Youth Day will be observed today (Friday) in the country in a befitting manner. The objective of the day is to imbue the youth force for engaging them in nation-building activities, he said.

WANTED

A rural Development Organization run by women, for women, seeks female candidate for the following posts. Application accompanied with detailed bio-data to be mailed to G.P.O. Box No. 2128 latest by November 12, 1991.

Post	No	Job Description	Qualification
Programme Officer	1	Periodic field visits to assess planning needs, implementation strategy, prepare reports and proposals, Liase with Go and NGO.	Degree M. S. S. (pre-Eco or Socio) fluency in written and spoken English must.

Remarks: Persons not fluent in English should not apply. Salary to be fixed upon discussion. Due to the nature of work and women committed to work for change, would be given preference over experience.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
জেনারেল সার্টিফিকেট অফিসারের আদালত।

—ঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি ঃ—

সার্টিফিকেট কেইস নং-৭৩, বি,কে,বি/৯০

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক এয়ার পোর্ট রোড শাখা, ঢাকা — বনাম

১। মেসার্স মেক্সিমকো
মালিকঃ মোঃ শরীফুল মোমেন
পিতামৃত,- আঃ ছামাদ
২। মোঃ মমতাজুল মোমেন
পিতামৃত-আঃ ছামাদ
গ্রাম-বড় বেড়াইদ পোঃ বড় বেড়াইদ
থানা-গুলশান, জেলা- ঢাকা।

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, উল্লেখিত সার্টিফিকেট কেইছের সর্ব মোট দাবী = ১৮,২০, ৭৭৯/-(আঠার লক্ষ বিশ হাজার সাতশত উনয়াশি) টাকা মাত্র আদায়ের নিমিত্তে সার্টিফিকেট খাতক এর নিম্ন তফছিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি আগামী ২০-১১-৯১ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১ ঘটিকার সময় নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর আদালতে প্রকাশ্য নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। নিলামে অংশ গ্রহণ করিতে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিগণ নিলামের বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী অবগত হওয়ার জন্য নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে যোগাযোগ করিতে পারেন। কৃতকার্য নিলাম ডাককারীকে আদালত কর্তৃক সম্পত্তির দখল বুঝাইয়া দেওয়া হইবে।

তফছিল

জিলা	থানা	মৌজা	খতিয়ান	দাগ নং	পরিমাণ
গাজীপুর	টঙ্গি	পাগার	১৪৯	৪৮৬	০.১২
”	”	”	”	৪৮১	০.৬২
”	”	”	১৩৮	৪৯০	০.৮৬
					১.৬০
ঢাকা	গুলশান	বড় বেড়াইদ	১৮৫	১৭৮১	০.২২
”	”	”	৯৬	১৭৮৩	০.৪২
”	”	”	”	১৬২৮	১.০২
”	”	”	”	১৭১২	১.৬০
					৩.২৬
				সর্বমোট	৪.৮৬

সাক্ষর
জেনারেল সার্টিফিকেট অফিসার।
ও ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট প্রথম শ্রেণী ঢাকা।

What's on today....

Religious conference

A conference of all religions will be held at the Ahmedia Muslim Jamaat Auditorium in Bakshibazar today (Friday) beginning at 3:30 pm. Members of the Muslim, Hindu, Christian and Buddhist communities will participate in the conference organised by the Majlis Khoddamul Ahmedia.

Seminar on housing

A seminar on 'housing problems and solutions: Bangladesh context' will be held today (Friday) at the seminar room of Technical Teachers' Training College, Tejgaon at 9am under the joint auspices of the Research Cell of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, Diploma Engineers Association and the Housing and Settlement Directorate.

Drug Resistance Committee

Bangladesh Drugs Resistance Committee has organised a discussion meeting on "youths and drug addiction" in observance of "World Youth Day" today (Friday) at 5 pm at its office.

AL membership drive

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will launch the month-long new membership drive by the AL City Unit at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi today (Friday) at 4pm.

Mymensingh Zila Samity

A discussion meeting of the executive committee of Mymensingh Zila Samity will be held today (Friday) 4.30 pm at 384, Moghbazar (2nd Floor), Dhaka. All members of the executive committee of the samity have been requested to attend the meeting. Application forms for New Membership can be obtained from Samity Office every day from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm free of cost. The members of the Mymensingh Shilpi Gosti have also been requested to attend the meeting.

TV Friday

Morning Session

8.00	Opening announcement, Al Quran Programme Summary
8.10	News in Bangla
8.15	Cartoon Film
8.40	Nutun Kuri
10.00	News in English
10.05	Film show
11.15	Moner Mukurey : Drama
12.30	Close down

Evening Session

3.00	Opening announcement, Al Quran Programme Summary
3.15	Reading from the Tripitak
3.20	Alor Dishari
3.40	Movie of the Week
5.20	News in Bangla
5.30	Sports Programme
6.45	SAARC Programme
7.05	Sangeeta : Song Programme
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Comedy series : The Cosby Show
9.00	Magazine Programme
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film Show : L. A. Law
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.45	Close Down

Amendments to Varsity Ordn demanded

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Ainjibi Federation in a statement Thursday appealed to the government and the Parliament to make necessary amendments to the university ordinance and to promulgate special law to curb violence in the universities.

The statement signed by Najmul Hasan, Secretary General of he Federation said the country had suffered irreparable loss and injury in educational sector due to repeated violence and disturbances.

OP-1 Assoc submits memo to Schaffer

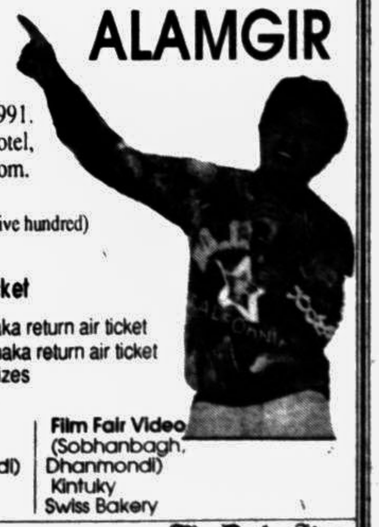
A memorandum was handed over to the visiting Deputy Asstt Secretary of State for South Asia Mrs Teresita C Schaffer on Thursday on behalf of OP-1 Winner's Association of Bangladesh, says a Press release.

Donil R Mearthy has received the memorandum on behalf of the Deputy Secretary. Convener of the Association Arman Hossain also presented a bouquet to the Secretary as a token of good wishes and welcomed her visit to Bangladesh.

GRAND CHARITY SHOW

COME FORWARD IN HELP OF THE NEEDY
INNERWHEEL CLUB OF DHAKA NORTH PRESENTS —
THE FAMOUS SINGER OF THE SUB-CONTINENT

ALAMGIR



Date : Thursday 7th November, 1991.
Venue : Sonargaon Hotel, Grand Ballroom.
Time : 7 P.M.
Ticket : Tk. 500.00 (Five hundred)

Attractive Raffle Draw
Prizes on Admission Ticket

1. Dhaka-Singapure-Dhaka return air ticket
2. Dhaka-Kathmondu-Dhaka return air ticket and other attractive prizes

Tickets available at:
Sonargaon Hotel
Video Connection
La-Bamba (Dhanmondi)
Stardust
Dhaka Club
Film Fair Video (Sobhanbagh, Dhanmondi)
Kintuky
Swiss Bakery

Space donated by — The Daily Star

Wanted

Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry invites Applications for immediate appointment in the following posts :

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY—Qualification : MA/M Com with Honours in Economics/ Accounting/ Management and 3 years practical experience. Academic qualification relaxable for CA/ICMA Intermediate pass, course completed, experienced candidate. Pay scale—2000-200-4400 plus admissible benefits. Age : Maximum 30 years.
2. PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER—Qualification : Bachelors Degree (Hons) in Mass-Communication and Journalism or Master's Degree in Economics/ Management/ Accounting with 1 year's experience. Efficiency in English and Bengali Typing is a must. Pay Scale : 1450-125-2950 plus admissible benefits. Age : Maximum 30 years.

Applications in own handwritting with full biodata, attested photostat copies of all certificates and 2 passport size attested recent photographs to be sent through Registered post only to the following address by 10th November 1991.

Deputy Secretary,
Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Chamber Building, Jail Road, Sylhet.

D-123