

# RISING STARS

## A Labour of Love

by Naheed Kamal

THE thrill of turning out beautiful objects is a fulfillment unsurpassed by anything else. No matter what we create, from the moment we are able to discern our needs, it gives us a sense of satisfaction. Creation, is after all an art given to us by God. God created us and since we are created in the image of God we too create. Children create when they draw with crayons or build with "Lego" blocks. Some people draw, paint, sketch or even garden or cook. Others write music or stories. While others build with wood, clay or stones. In the same way some sew. Sewing too is an art form. Wonders can be achieved with a needle and thread. It is an ancient art and for that matter all forms of art is ancient. Even robots can paint, draw, build or sew yet the human hands can do wonders and work miracles.

quilt and to this quilt the village women added colourful motives and works of wisdom. Over the years as one generation after another continued to adorn these quilts with colour, it has evolved into a part of our tradition. Nakshi Kanthas are deeply entwined with Bengali culture. The colours of the Nakshi Kantha reflect the colours of Bengal: lush greens, earthy reds and bright yellows. These can hold you in a trance

forever. They are bright and warm or soothing and calm. The stitches are intricate and magical. If you take a closer look at the work you will see that the entire cloth is filled with stitches through and through. "Every little stitch done by hand. Impossible!", claims the non-believer. But fact is that they are, always have been and always will be.

quires much care and attention. The minutest details need to be stitched on to show the pictures clearly: the eyes of a woman slants just so, the baby's mouth curves just right and this is what makes it even more appreciative.

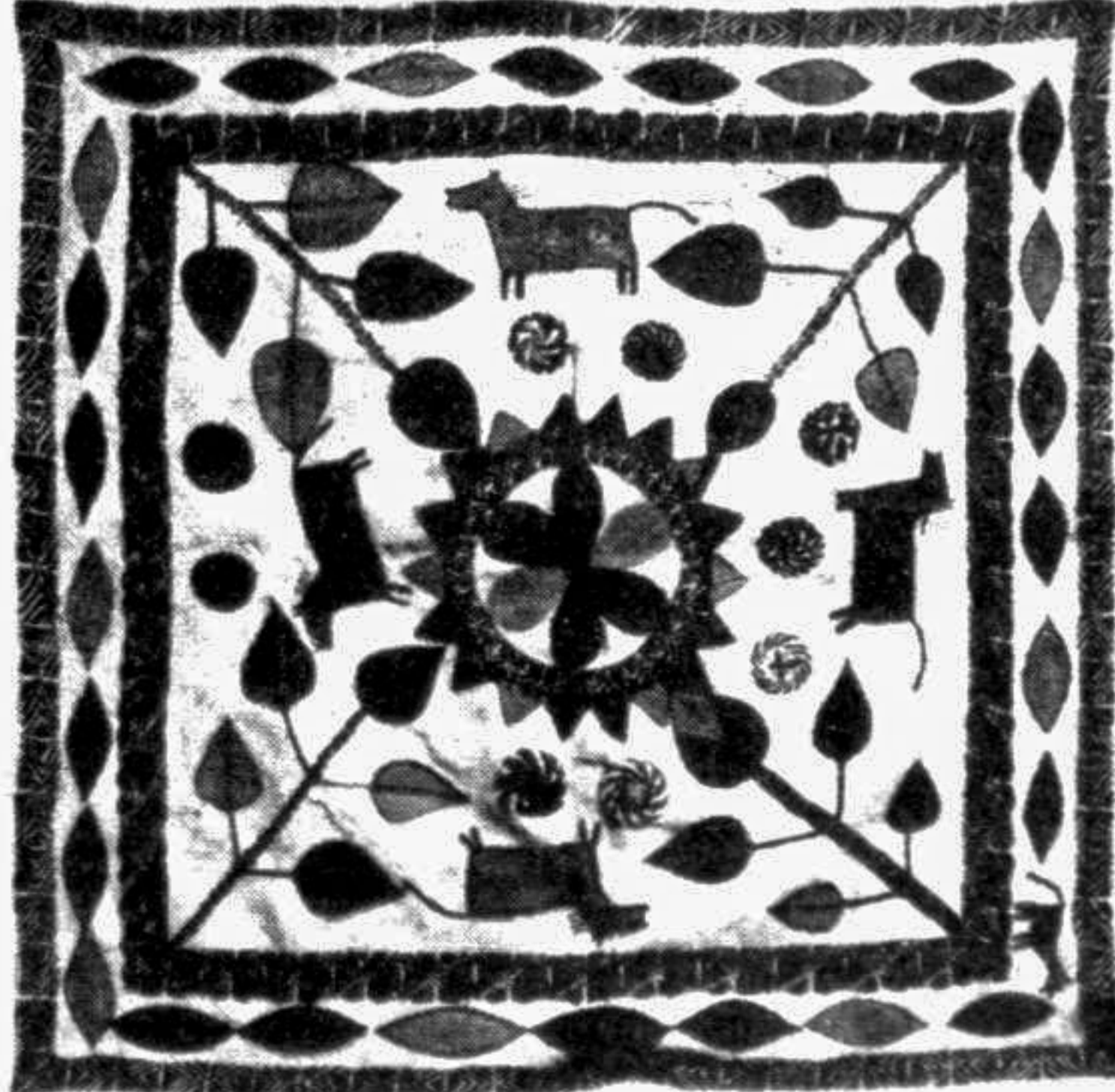
Each quilt depicts a different phase of Bengali lifestyle and culture. Starting from epic stories to daily lifestyles and entertainments—these are all depicted with care on these quilts. The women who create these beautiful objects possess an art form that has been tried and tested. To these women however it is not a rare art but merely a part of their upbringing and culture to be able to sew these motives.

In recent years the market for these Kantha stitched goods have grown considerably as our own senses have awakened.

The gratitude for all this must go to a few individuals. People who saw the light before others. For such people the aim was to help the rural and destitute women to rehabilitate the hapless.

Organisations such as BRAC and the Nakshi Kantha Kendra are the beacons of hope for these women. Not only do they give them life and hope but also keep alive our culture and tradition. The women now receive the just payments for their labours. The Nakshi Kantha is a magical object. It is decorative, enchanting and useful...

What else can you ask for?



Nakshi Cushion Cover. — Courtesy: Jessore Kantha Project, BRAC

## Looking Good This Summer!

Make-up

by Sumaiya Andaleeb

DRESSING up in summer is such a drag to put it in the simplest terms available. Nobody can actually enjoy plastering one's face with layers of foundation and powder and blusher and eye-shadow and mascara and lipstick and what-have-you!

But too many women in Dhaka, young and old alike, do exactly that. They ignore the heat and humidity outside their air conditioned rooms till it's too late. And then, their 'carefully' applied make-up starts to melt and trickle down their faces, smearing and smudging everything and making them look like clowns!

The whole point of using make-up is to look good, not ridiculous. Use the minimum of make-up for the maximum effect.

In summer, when everyone's skin begin to take on a healthy, natural glow, it is possible to get away with just the basics. It seems best to avoid the sticky, affair of foundation altogether and use a light moisturizer with a sunscreen instead. If necessary, dust on loose powder to remove shine but that is all. If foundation is absolutely essential make sure it matches your skin and don't smear it thickly all over your face and neck.

Concentrate instead on the areas that need it most and blend it evenly into the surrounding skin. Remember, a heavy base feels sticky in this humid weather and can clog pores, which means another outbreak of pimples.

Lipstick is unavoidable, faces look too drabby and lifeless without it. But, please avoid the heavy matte shade of last winter and the frosted colours of the last decade. Gloss on sheer shades of colour which actually subtly, yet dramatically brightens the entire face.

Eyes look best when left

natural, with just a touch of liner and mascara to accentuate them. Try the new dear mascaras — no more ugly black smudges made accidentally around the eyes. Lining the top eye-lids, the trend that came back in with the 60's came back last year, is still very popular. To keep up with the natural look, avoid the harsh black liner and use a more subtle shade like browns for day-time and grey for nights. Don't just look cool and comfortable, you can feel cool and comfortable too. It is only a matter of some smart summer sense.

Exercise

Exercising is the sensible way to keep fit and healthy. But during summer, it seems almost impossible to get the motivation to exercise. It is so much easier to just lie down lazily and relax and drink innumerable glasses of coke or lemonade or just plain water! lead, as you please.

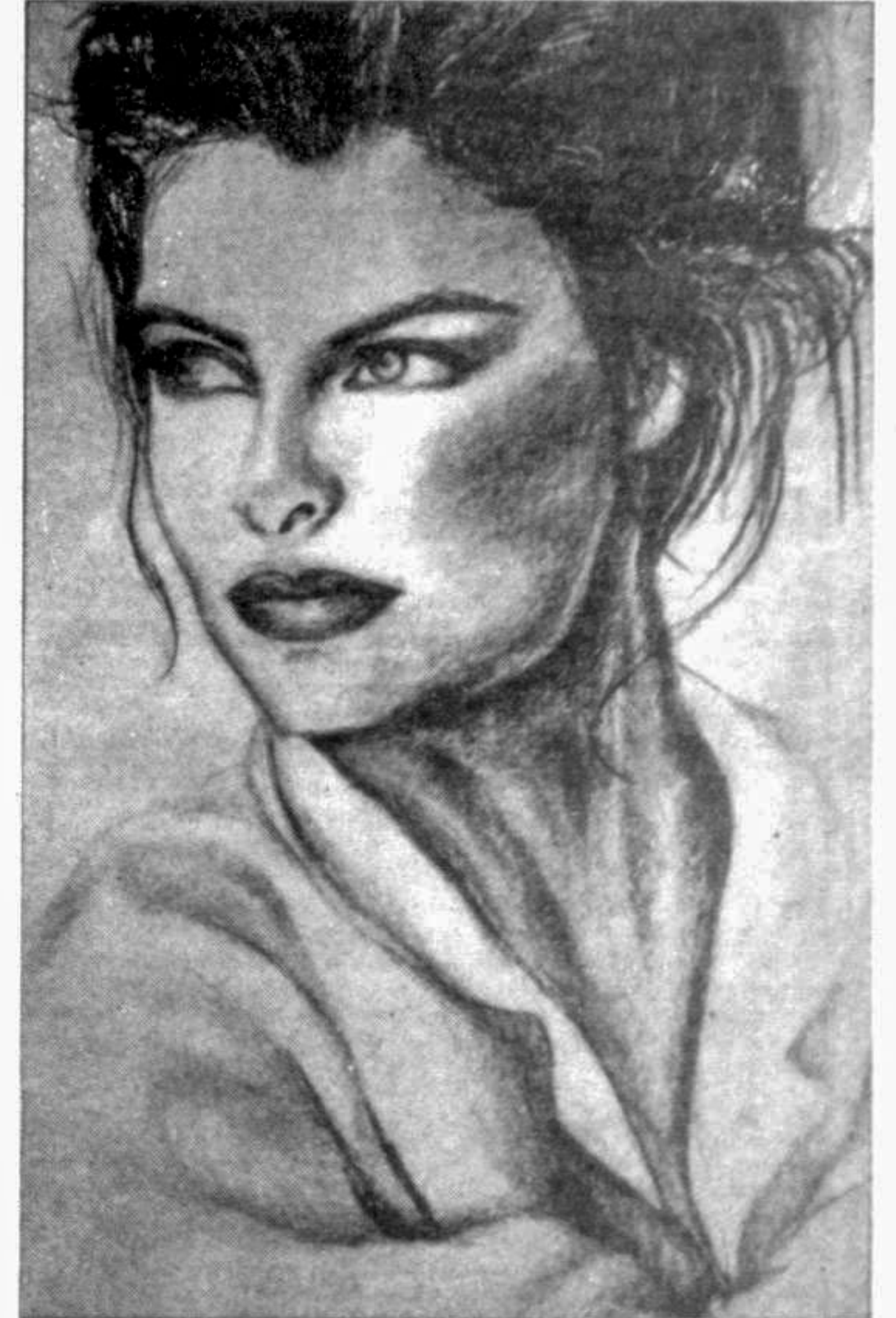
To get yourself up and about and get rid of that lethargy from your system, its necessary to approach summer exercising the right way. First, choose the right time, avoid the glare of the midday sun when it is at its hottest and when tempers fray and friends flare up at each other.

At the risk of sounding cliched, exercise early in the morning when everything is still cool. I personally favour dusk — the time when everything and everyone seems to cool off.

Start with some simple stretches just to get the blood flowing and when you are ready. Start out slowly and pace yourself. If you feel dizzy or light headed — stop!

It is also important to dress comfortably when exercising. Avoid the tight-fitting leotard, wear a big T-shirt and loose pants or baggy shorts instead. Dab your pulse points — the neck, wrists and inner elbows

Bananas also help to avoid muscular cramps during exercise. Work-out in a well-ventilated room, with a cool, wet towel at hand. Vary your exercise routine to avoid boredom which will bring back the lethargic feeling. Those of you who go for swimming. Summer is the time to be sensible and enjoy oneself — and exercising can be fun.



Sketch by Sabah Moyeen

## The 'One' Who Was 'Four'

by Samia Israt Ronee

Class-X, Agrani Balika Bidyalaya

The police in a big city were looking for a thief. At last they caught him. But while they were taking photographs of him — from the front, from the left, from the right, with a hat, without a hat — he suddenly attacked the policemen and ran off. They tried to catch him, but he got away.

Then a week later the telephone rang in the police station, and somebody said, "You are looking for Bill Cross, aren't you?"

"Yes." "Well, he left here for Waterbridge an hour ago." Waterbridge was a small town 150 kms away from the city. The city police at once sent four different photographs of the thief to the police in Waterbridge.

Less than twelve hours later they got a telephone call from the police in Waterbridge.

"We have caught three of the men," they said very happily. "And we will catch the fourth this evening we think."



## Mystery at Mandrake Mansion

by Munazah Alam

Our heroes have finally solved the mystery. But there seems to be one problem — the police do not believe them! What happens next? Find out... at Mandrake...

he promised that he would give us a ring in the morning. The telephone rang. We rushed to it and Chris picked up the receiver. A few minutes later she finally replaced the receiver in the cradle. We

were all ears. "Well," Chris said teasingly, "that's that." "What's what? Come on, tell us; you know we're all dying to hear what happened last night."



"Okay, okay, don't get so excited, I'm telling you." As we walked back into the living room Chris passed on Chief Kinnane's news.

Assisted by another one at Working Chief Kinnane's force had surrounded Humphrey's Cottage. Apparently Carridine and his men had not discovered that the twins and Billy had escaped. They were taken completely by surprise. The men who had got off the helicopter turned out to be drug-dealers who had serious police records like Carridine. They were all so astonished that they had not even put up a flight when the police entered and arrested them.

"Well, that's over," I said, stretching my limbs, "and I hope another mystery does not turn up — ever again — while I'm around, that is. One was quite enough!"

"I can still remember the expression on Chief Kinnane's face when the realized we hadn't been lying." Jean chuckled as we came to the end of our story and we pealed with laughter. After Billy had telephoned his parents we related our story to the Chief, and when Billy's parents arrived they confirmed their part in it. Things became hectic from then onwards. Chief Kinnane began to organize his men to go to Working. He also phoned the police-station at Working for reinforcements. Before they left

## QUIZ CLUB

- Here are this week's brain teasers. Remember to send in your answers no later than this coming Thursday.
- Which city had the old name Edo?
  - Who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1991?
  - Who is the head of state of Iran?
  - What is the capital of Nigeria?
  - What is the world's longest artificial waterway separating Africa and Asia?
  - Where is the Thar Desert?
  - Who wrote Ivanhoe?
  - Who was Omar Khayyam?
  - Who was known as the 'Lady with the Lamp'?
  - Who assassinated President Abraham Lincoln?

Answers to Friday, May 1st's Quiz Club

- Long thin rowboat used as a taxi in the canals of Venice, Italy.
- About 5 billion years old.
- Earth — mother of humans.
- Los Angeles in USA.
- Lok Sabha (Lower House) and Rajya Sabha (Upper House).
- J R D Tata, Netaji Subhas Bose and Maulana Azad (posthumous).
- Swadeshi Movement.
- Rossetti.
- Switzerland.
- Golf.

## On the Receiving End

by Md Atique Ullah

The robbers have collected their loot while the poor maid servant thinks that only her salary will be taken. She is more than a little bewildered at the turn of events. Now what...

"N" O but listen, your employer will never pay you your salary. Infact, he is going to keep it away from you. I think you even don't know how much has accumulated so far." She nodded her head. "And I know," he continued, "I will just take your share from the safe and we will live



## Registration

Here is our list of new Rising Star Club members.

We are looking forward to your articles, sketches, poems, puzzles, jokes or anything else you can think of, so send them in real soon eh!

- Dewan Ahmed Shakeel, Class-V, RS 0099
- Syeda Sayma Khanam Jolly, Class-VII, RS 0100
- Syeda Nayma Khanam Polly, Class-IX, RS 0101
- Adnan Shujaiddin Millwala, Class-V, RS 0102
- Srabonti Narmeen Ali, Class-VI, RS 0103
- Zaheen Jamil, Class-III, RS 0104
- Shahed Jaufiqur Rahman (Shaon), S S C, RS 0105
- Md Rathan, Class-IX, RS 0106
- Sadra Nishwar Siddiky, Class-VIII, RS 0107
- Janina Hossain, Class-V, RS 0108
- Janfiah Dilshad Chowdhury, Class-VIII, RS 0109
- Mohammad Asifur Rahim, Class-VIII, RS 0110
- Evangel Moshed, RS 0111
- Sumiya Fauzia Imam, Class-X, RS 0112
- Lutfae Afnoor Afnoor, Class-II, RS 0113
- Irina Ahmed, Class-IV, RS 0114
- Farhan Rasheed, Class-X, RS 0115
- Sabrina Afroze Sadique, Class-V, RS 0116
- Syed Rezwanul Huq (Rimon), Class-V, RS 0117
- Syed Azra Karim, Class-V, RS 0118
- Zilul Mia, Class-VIII, RS 0119
- Rubaba Afreen, Class-XI, RS 0120

## Realization

Here I am, alone in this place Far away from my mother's embrace At last, independent I stand; Yet, I long for my father's helping hand.

Such fear I have never known The rules of life are carved in stone, They are not as forgiving as they once seemed, My cry for help drowned in a thousand screams!

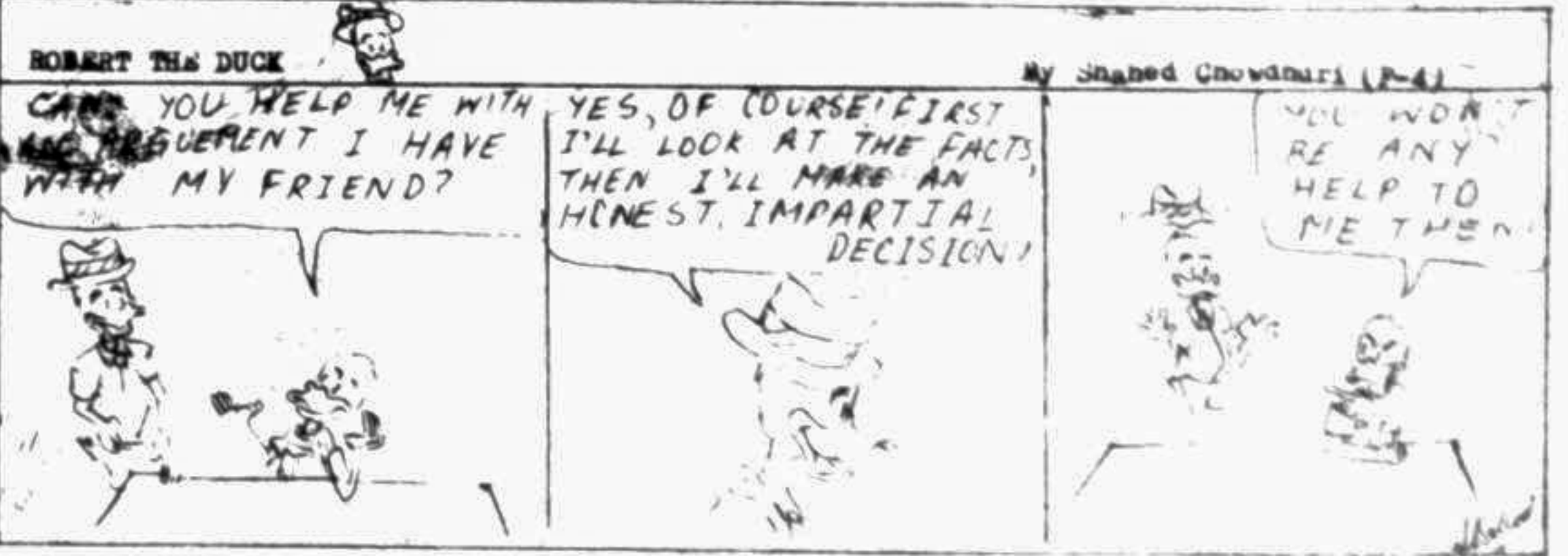
I stand tall, bold and full of cheer It's only a facade, I fear, Deep down I crumble.

As time passes, black turns white I finally see the light It's a war I fight, but a war worth winning No matter what happens, I'll go on fighting.

Life is what but a battle of the heart, Independence is when that battle starts, Doing the right thing, it's importance seems to grow The choices I make, are the seeds that I sow.

I have opened my eyes, perhaps for the first time.

Sayed Talat Kamal University of Wisconsin



Fill out this form and send it to us, and you will be a member of the Rising Star Club. Send in your writings, illustrations, and cartoons. It is an ideal opportunity to express yourself through the print media.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_