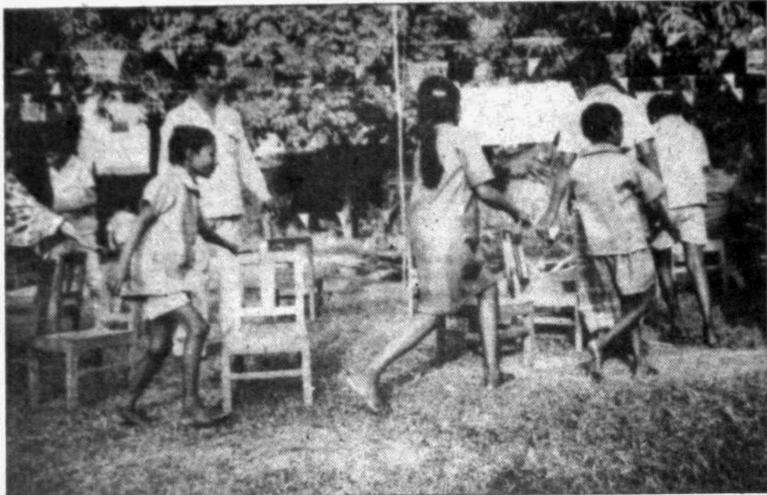


# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'A Home Away from Home'

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



The children at DCRC enjoy a game of musical chairs during a function.

Shapan is a little boy of about seven, whose cherubic face and easy smile tells very little of the handicap he is stuck with, probably for the rest of his life. Like many of his companions at DCRC (Disabled Children's Residential Clinic) he is a victim of polio and walks with a pronounced limp. Originally from Brahmanbaria, Shapan has been living in this clinic for the last three years.

Shapan is just one of the 600 children, who have so far been treated at DCRC. The clinic offers free room and board for children from poor families who come from out of Dhaka and do not have any other place to stay in the city. Children who are at a curable stage are usually referred by the 'Pangu' hospital to this clinic where they can stay and undergo prolonged physiotherapy. In addition, the clinic takes the responsibility of taking the children to the Pangu hospital for check ups, rays, operations fittings for braces etc.

A project of WVA (Women's Voluntary Association), this clinic was started in 1975 in a small house in Muhammadpur with only five patients. At present DCRC is located in a bigger house at road 27, Dhanmondi, and has 30 beds. The annual budget for the clinic is two lakh takas taken from WVA's fund. Previously, DCRC received eight thousand taka per month from World Vision. Now this amount is donated by BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee). Moreover the clinic receives personal donations from WVA members in the form of food, clothes, books, cash etc.

The general atmosphere of the place is warm and relaxed which makes it more of a home than clinic. The two or three rooms that serve as dormitories have cute little bunk beds with clean floral printed sheets. Two little girls sit in a corner whispering conspiratorially and muffle their giggles as the others listen with rapt attention to the matron who is telling them a story. Further down in the verandah is

the dining area which consists of a long low table with small chairs all around. The occupants of the chairs who are all below nine years, smile and greet visitors with a well practised 'salaam' as they eat their lunch. The other rooms include a TV room where the children assemble on Friday mornings and sometimes in the afternoon or evening on weekdays to watch their favourite shows. The 'physiotherapy room' is really a room with a few upholstered divans which are used for exercise. At other times this room is used for afternoon stasias and as a playground for the kids with a carrom board in the far corner.

These may seem like small pleasures but for these children DCRC is a place where they are loved and taken care of and enjoy luxuries they may not always get at home. For 15 year old Mujibur, who has no family, it is the only place he can call home. He has been living at the clinic for many years. Although confined to a wheelchair he is clearly regarded by the other children as their leader. According to him the daily routine includes, two hours of studying after breakfast, followed by an hour of exercise, an hour of play, lunch and rest between 2 and 3.30 in the afternoon, then more exercise and watching TV later on. In addition, 'matron apa' teaches them how to sing. Parents came visit regularly although for some it is too far and too expensive.

The children at this clinic cum hostel, seem happy and relaxed. With a resilience that perhaps only children are capable of, they take their handicap without bitterness or anger and accept it as matter of fact. To little Shapan a limping leg is hardly a deterrent to his enthusiasm and zeal for life. His eyes gleam mischievously as he imparts a bit of gossip, "we're not allowed to go out in the garden because once a boy ran away because he was new and kept crying for his mom."

## Sircar informs Sangsad No plan to cancel objective type question system in SSC exams

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar Wednesday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the first college level computer science course in the country had been introduced in Syed Abul Hossain College of Madaripur from 1992-93 session, reports BSS.

The minister was replying to a question from Advocate Fazle Rabbi (Gaibandha) of Jatiya Party.

In reply to a supplementary question the minister told the Sangsad that the introduction of any course in any educational institution largely depended upon the initiative of the authorities of the respective institution.

Replying to a question from Hajj Rashed Mosharrif (AL-Jamalpur), the minister said the government had no plans to cancel the present objective type question-system in the SSC examinations. But the system would be more broad-based, he added.

The education minister, in reply to a question from Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul (BNP

Narsingdi) said that the matter of nationalisation of some high schools and colleges was under the process of the government.

In reply to a question from Maulana Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain (Jamaat-Jessore), the Education Minister informed the House that 178 Bangladeshi students have been studying abroad under government stipends during 1990-91 and 1991-92 sessions. Of them, 102 are studying in India, 88 in Japan, 28 in China, 20 in Austria, 19 in Canada, 12 in Pakistan, four each in the UK and Hungary and one in Poland.

Besides, the minister said 970 students are studying abroad at their own cost after taking permission from the Ministry of Education. However, the minister said taking permission from the ministry for studying abroad at own cost is not compulsory.

The minister told the same questioner that 568 foreign students have been studying in different educational institutions in Bangladesh.

## German President named Nansen winner

German President Richard von Weizsacker was named Tuesday as the 1992 Nansen Medal winner for his unwavering stand against all forms of intolerance and xenophobia and his support for the cause of refugees, says a press release of UNHCR.

In announcing the award, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, Chairman of the Nansen Committee, commended Dr. Von Weizsacker for his political leadership and readiness to speak out against the dangers of xenophobia and intolerance in the post-Cold War era.

Mrs. Ogata is scheduled to present the Nansen Medal to Dr. Von Weizsacker at a ceremony in Bonn on October 26.

The Nansen Medal, awarded 33 times since 1954, is named for Norwegian diplomat and explorer Fridtjof Nansen, the first High Commissioner for Refugees under the League of Nations. The award is aimed at focusing attention on the plight of refugees and giving new impetus to international support for the uprooted.

Happy Birthday  
to  
Rumana Akhter Saifi  
From  
Abbu, Ammu & Ronny

Happy Birthday  
to  
  
ZEESHAN  
Abbu, Ammu, Aaqib

## Chhatra Moitri, GCU merge tomorrow

By DU Correspondent  
Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri and Ganatantrik Chhatra Union will merge through holding a joint council on October 23-24.

Dr. Strajul Islam Choudhury will inaugurate the Unity Council at the Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University at 10:00 am.

### Wanted

A well-groomed young lady with pleasant personality to work for an English daily newspaper on attractive retainer-cum-commission basis. Minimum qualification: 'O' level or equivalent. Must be fluent in English & Bangla. Apply with complete Bio-Data and a recent passport size photograph to: The Advertiser, GPO Box No: 3257, Dhaka, by 31 October, 1992. Envelopes must be marked "Collection Executive". D-582

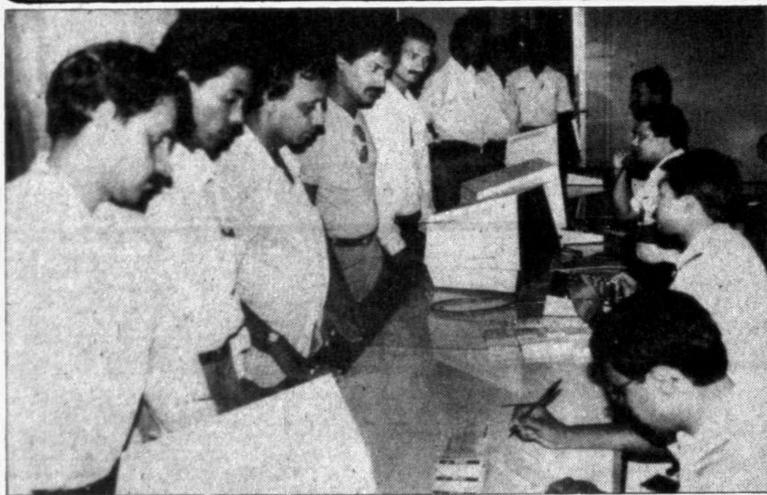
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Rush for tickets yesterday at the Bangladesh Biman counter as the travel agencies go on strike. —Star photo

## 3 Rly officers, 29 employess dismissed

Bangladesh Railway authorities have dismissed three officers and 29 employees from service after their involvement in stealing goods from Syedpur Railway Workshop and Parbatipur Diesel Shade, reports BSS.

A railway press release said, the dismissed personnel are one officer and 25 employees of the railway security force and two officers and four employees of the store department.

Besides, six employees of the railway security force were given force retirement and departmental action has been initiated against one officer of the force.

## Women's higher education rate 0.7

The higher education rate is 0.7 among female of the country, reports UNB.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar informed parliament yesterday, replying to Azizur Rahman Chowdhury of Awami League.

## FUNSA to observe UN Day

By Staff Correspondent  
The Federation of United Nations Staff Association (FUNSA) in collaboration with the UNDP and the UNICEF Staff Associations in Bangladesh will observe United Nations Day in a befitting manner on October 24.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda, the UN Coordinator in Bangladesh and other heads of the UN agencies will attend and participate in the discussion on "The Role of UN in Bangladesh".

বাংলাদেশ টেলিভিশন  
**BTV**

Thursday

5-00	Opening announcement
5-00	Al-Quran
5-10	Programme summary
5-10	News in Bangla
5-20	Recitation from The Geeta
5-25	School debate
6-20	Cartoon: Peter, Pan and the Pirates
6-50	Campus
7-20	Jiboner Alo
8-00	News in Bangla
8-40	Drama of the week
10-00	News in English
10-30	Parliament round up
10-35	Film show: China Beach
11-30	Khobar /The News
11-40	Friday's programme summary
11-45	Closing

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent  
Moderately heavy or heavy shower is likely to occur over the coastal districts of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Noakhali, Barisal and Patuakhali while moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over the Chittagong division, many places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi division during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday (Wednesday) were: Teknaf 82 mm, Cox's Bazar 29 mm, Khulna 10 mm, Jessore 9 mm, Tangail 6 mm, Bhola 5 mm, Satkhira and Dhaka 4 mm each.

The maximum temperature of 30 degree Celsius was reported from Dinajpur and the minimum of 21.5 degree was reported from Sylhet and Srimangal yesterday.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.26 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.00 am.

## Children's Art Competition.

**Dear Children**

Milco the producer of your favourite milk powder DANO are celebrating their 40th Anniversary in the world market and 30 years of DANO in Bangladesh. On this happy occasion, an Art Competition has been arranged for you.

For your convenience we have divided the competition in two age limits:

**Group A** Age: 5 years to 9 years  
Subject: Anything you like.

**Group B** Age: 9 years to 13 years  
Subject: Festival like Eid, Puja, New Year, Birthday etc.

**Venue:** Fine Arts Faculty  
**Date:** Friday, 30th October  
**Time:** 8.30 a.m.

For further details, you may contact:  
**bindoo**  
60/1, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka-1217, Phone: 832534

## 'দি ডেইলী স্টার' পত্রিকার সম্মানিত এজেন্টদের প্রতি আবেদন

আমরা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সঙ্গে লক্ষ্য করছি যে, উপর্যুপরি তাপাদা দেয়ার পরও আমাদের কোন কোন সম্মানিত এজেন্ট অদ্যাবধি বকেয়া বিল পরিশোধ করেননি।

এমতাবস্থায় পুনরায় তাদের সকলকে আগামী ৩১ শে অক্টোবর, '৯২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বকেয়া বিল পরিশোধের শেষ সুযোগ দেয়া হচ্ছে। অন্যথায় ১লা নভেম্বর, '৯২ হতে সেইসব এজেন্টের পত্রিকা সরবরাহ করতে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নয়।

এক্ষেত্রে আপনাদের সকলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা আমাদের একান্ত কাম্য।

—কর্তৃপক্ষ  
দি ডেইলী স্টার