

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## A Child Facing a Hostile World

by Afifa Raihana

For a girl like Hamida, it is none of her concern if there is a land of opportunities — almost like an El Dorado — on the other side of the Atlantic. But her unconcern may not be equally reciprocated by powerful men like Senator Harkin. The Senator's compassion for the hapless children in the god-forsaken wider swathes of the same planet is well set to deprive the little girl of her only means she has acquired at great pains for her existence. On the fringe of poverty, she has by now learnt how to eke out a living and the Harkin's Bill, when made law and implemented, will knock Hamida out of her known world.

Hamida claims that she is eight but because of malnutrition she looks like a five-year-old child. She is all skin and bones. Her hair is scruffy, never combed or oiled. Hamida lives with her mother and five brothers and sisters, in a slum near Hazaribag. Hamida's father left her mother with six kids and he married again. Her mother works for two houses as a maid but the money she gets there is not enough to feed six children. So she had to let her dear little child work for a living.

Hamida works for a garment factory which is situated on Central Road. She has to walk all the way from Hazaribag to Central Road every day, sometimes it's raining hard and sometimes the sun is so hot that the road feels burning beneath her bare feet. But there is no stopping, somehow or other she must get to work. Hamida works as a cutter, she cuts shirt collars. When asked how she manages to do that, being so small, she replied, "I not only manage but I have to do it very correctly. If I make any small mistake, the supervisor beats me."

Hamida works in the day shift and also in the night shift. The day shift is from 8 am to 10 pm and the night shift starts from eight o'clock at night till ten o'clock in the morning. "I am not afraid of returning home late at night," says

Hamida. Life has forced her to become so independent at this tender age.

After such hard work all month, she gets a salary of Tk 400.

Hamida has never been to school. She can't read, write or count. She just knows what the hundred-taka note looks like, and when they give her four of those, she knows that she has been paid the right amount. Hamida sometimes gets overtime, sometimes not. Since she can't keep account of the extra hours she has worked, she has to believe what the supervisor makes her believe. That's not all, if for some reason she is late even for a minute, they mark her absent but makes her do the whole day's work. Hamida is so poor and so fragile that she never dares protest.

When asked, "What do you do with your salary?" she just stared vacantly as if she didn't know what to say. Then slowly she said that she could not even touch the money. Her mother has to pay a house rent of Tk 650 every month. Hamida provides with Tk 400, which is the whole of her salary — the reward of her spine-breaking work all month and the rest her mother manages somehow.

At her age when all the kids are playing, going to school, leading a relaxed life, knowing that their parents are there for them, Hamida has been burdened with great responsibilities. A kind of responsibility that some kids will never know. Hamida never even considers the idea of quitting the job and going to school. Because she knows that the moment she stops working, her family will be thrown out into the streets.

After such misery and hardship and after being deprived of every step of life, Hamida has no complaints. She does not know how to complain about life. Hamida has no dreams, no hopes, she just lives from day to day. Because she has seen that nothing ever changes. Things get only worse, never better.



## C' wealth team due tomorrow

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf has deputed a specialist/trainer team to Dhaka to improve the system and quality of deaf education in Bangladesh under a project approved by the society, reports BSS.

The group, which will arrive tomorrow consists of British deaf specialists David Harrison, Miss Margaret Glasgow and Mrs Christine Hayfield.

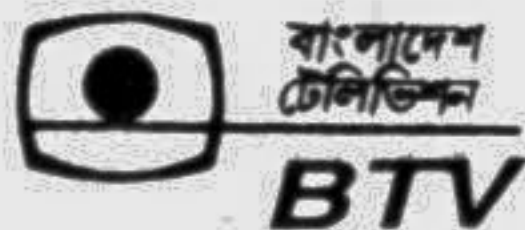
The team will impart training to the teachers of the Dhaka Deaf High School and the teachers of the Deaf Model School in the National Institute of Special Education, Mirpur in auditory system of deaf education for the partially deaf children and the sign language approach for the profound deaf.

## Cultural troupe off to DPRK

By Staff Correspondent  
A 20 member cultural troupe of the country left for South Korea last Thursday to participate in the three month long Expo-1993 festival.

The troupe led by Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs A K Fazul Ahad will portray the cultural heritage of Bangladesh in the festival in which a large number of countries would participate.

The troupe comprises of singer Baby Nazim, Fatematu Zahra, Mina Barua, Shamim Ara Nipa, Kiran Chandra Roy, Shibli Mohammad, Farhana Chowdhury, and others. Singer Firoze Shah will act as the troupe manager and Emran Saleh as the coordinator.



Tuesday

5:00	Opening announcement
5:10	Al-Quran
5:20	Programme summary
5:25	News in Bangla
5:30	Recitation from the Gita
5:35	Esho Para Shikhi: Mass education programme
5:40	TV debate competition
5:45	Open University
5:50	Sangeeta: Modern songs
5:55	News in Bangla
6:00	Drama serial: Janmabhum
6:05	News in English
6:10	Film show: ENO
6:15	Khabar/The News
6:20	Tomorrow's programme summary
6:25	Closing

## নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মোকাম-সাব জজ অর্থ ঋণ আদালত, ফরিদপুর।  
টাকা জারী নং-৪/৯৩  
বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক পক্ষে- ব্যবস্থাপক।

বনাম

- ১। এস.এম. আমিরুল আমান, পিতা-মৃতঃ মোঃ আবদুল্লাহ
- ২। কামরুজ্জোহর, জং- এস.এম. আমিরুল আমান

সং- কামলাপুর, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, জেলা-ফরিদপুর।

১। এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, নিম্ন তপশীল বর্ণিত ভূমি/সম্পত্তি উপরিস্থিত মোকামদ্বারা ডিক্রীদ্বারা অনাদায়ী ২৪,০৫,০০/- (চল্লিশ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার সত্তর) টাকা ও জারীর খরচ আদায়ার্থে নিলাম বিক্রয় করা হইবে।

২। নিলামের তারিখ ৫/১০/৯৩ ইং তারিখে দুপুর ১২.০০ টায় ফরিদপুর জজ কোর্টে ধার্য হইয়াছে।

৩। ৫/১০/৯৩ ইং তারিখে নিলাম ডাক প্রদত্ত হইতে উক্ত মূল্যের ৫০% টাকা ৫ দিনের মধ্যে এবং অবশিষ্ট টাকা নিলাম হওয়ার ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় নিলাম ডাক বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

৪। উপরোক্ত নিলাম বিক্রয় প্রচলিত ও প্রযোজ্য আইনের নিয়মাবলী সাপেক্ষে।

৫। আদালত ডাক অনুমোদন করিবেন। আদালত যথাযথ বিবেচনায় ডাক গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিতে পারিবেন।

## তপশীল

জেলা- ফরিদপুর, থানা-কোতোয়ালী, মৌজা-কামলাপুর।

এস.এ. জমিদার ১২০২/২, দাগ নং-২৭৩১, জমি- ০.০৬ শতাংশ

এস.এ. জমিদার ১২০২/২ দাগ নং-২৭৩১, জমি- ০.০৭ শতাংশ  
০.১৩ শতাংশ।

উক্ত সম্পত্তির উপর নির্দিষ্ট বিতরণ আবাদিক ইমারত।

আদালতের আদেশক্রমে (সেহেতাদার)  
সাব-জজ অর্থ ঋণ আদালত, ফরিদপুর।

Past president of the Rotary Club of Shahbagh speaking at the club's 5th installation ceremony of the board of directors for '93-94 at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. Masud Reza Bhuiyan, vice-president, Magfuruddin Ahmed, district governor Zillur Rahman, president and Prof Shamsul Haq are seen seated (from L to R).

World Tourism Day observed  
Tourism sector fetches \$ 1800m last fiscal

Bangladesh observed 'World Tourism Day' yesterday with a pledge to develop tourism industry in foreign amity and friendship among nations, reports BSS.

Different organisations observed the day through various programmes to project the importance of tourism. UNB adds: State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday urged the private sector entrepreneurs to invest in tourism alongside government efforts to develop it as an industry.

Earnings from the tourism sector will shoot up if it is developed as an industry, he said. At present it contributes only 0.3 per cent to GNP, he told a discussion on the occasion of the World Tourism Day.

Bangladesh earned 1,800 million dollars from this sector in the last fiscal year while India earned 1,53,500 million dollars, Sri Lanka 7,600 million dollars, the Maldives 6500 million dollars, Nepal 6,800 million dollars and Pakistan 15,300 million dollars.

The discussion on 'The Role of Tourism in Economic Development of Bangladesh' was organised by International Pen-Pals Club in cooperation with Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) at a local hotel.

Establishment Secretary Habibur Rahman, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury, Major

Action against Maulana Habibur demanded

By Staff Correspondent  
Leaders of 15 students organisations yesterday demanded the government take immediate action against Maulana Habibur Rahman for his announcement to award anyone who would kill noted writer Taslima Nasrin.

In a joint statement, the leaders also called upon the patriotic democratic forces to resist the communal and fundamentalists in the country.

## 20 pc patients suffer from asthma

By Staff Correspondent

A pilot study, conducted in Dhaka, finds 20 per cent of the patients, admitted in any hospital, have been suffering from asthma.

This was revealed at a seminar on 'Bronchial Asthma and its Management' held at the Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

Organised by the Asthma Society of Bangladesh and chaired by Prof Muniruddin Ahmed the seminar also disclosed that 6 per cent of school going children in the city were asthmatics.

Shameem A Raihanud-Din, secretary of the society announced that the Asthma Society of Bangladesh has launched a nationwide asthma education programme through this seminar.

A nationwide study to determine the magnitude of the problem will be undertaken soon, he added.

Prof M Tahir, Dr Siddiqui, Dr Atiqul Haq, and Dr Hannan of the IPGMR spoke on recent thinking on asthma management, childhood asthma, and aetiological factors of asthma. Prof M R Khan, the renowned child specialist, Prof N Islam, Paediatric Medicine, IPGMR and Prof SK Nesaruddin Ahmed of the Dhaka Medical College also contributed in the lively discussion.

About 300 physicians and specialists attended the seminar.

## Terrorist arrested

Police arrested Mohammad Alam, an alleged terrorist and extortionist, from Diabari area of Mirpur thana yesterday, reports UNB.

Alam, an absconding accused, was wanted in connection with a case under the Anti-Terrorism Act, police said.

In another drive, Mirpur police arrested Mohammad Ali Akkas, member of a burglars gang, and recovered three 14" colour television sets following his statement.

## French award for Sayeed Ahmed

M Sayeed Ahmed, a renowned cultural personality, has been nominated as "Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters" by the French government, reports UNB.

The award is one of the highest distinctions in the Republic of France, said a press release Saturday.

This insignia of "Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters" (Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) is awarded to the eminent personalities who make valuable contributions by means of their creations or actions in the fields of art and literature in France or elsewhere in the world.

## Weather

## Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

The sky will remain partly cloudy over the country during the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday).

Temporary light to moderate rain or showers accompanied by gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions, at one or two places over Dhaka and Barisal divisions and the weather is likely to remain mainly dry over Khulna division during this period.

Moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions.

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessore while the lowest 21.7 degrees was recorded in Rangpur.

The sun sets today at 5.49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.49 am. The maximum and the minimum temperatures and maximum and minimum relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Major cities and towns of the country		Humidity in percentage	
Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius	9 am	6 pm
	Max		
Dhaka	32.3	82	83
Chittagong	31.4	87	89
Rajshahi	31.4	88	95
Khulna	33.0	79	85
Barisal	31.8	92	96
Cox's Bazar	31.5	75	84



Lions district governor Ataul Karim speaking as chief guest at the lions executives schooling and training workshop organised by Lions International District 315 B-1 recently at Kurmi Tola Golf Club.

## Rotary Club of Shahbagh's installation ceremony held

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth installation ceremony of the board of directors for 1993-94 of the Rotary Club of Shahbagh, Dhaka, was held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday afternoon.

National Professor and former foreign minister M Shamsul Haq attended the function as chief guest. Professor Haq, addressing the function, said that the problems in the developing countries were complicated and intense.

## Laxmipur Bar Assoc team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday emphasised the role of lawyers in institutionalising democracy and upholding the rule of law in the country, reports BSS.

The lawyers are the natural leaders of the society and friends of the people, he said.

President Biswas was exchanging views with a 16-member delegation of advocates of Laxmipur Bar Association as it called on him at Bangabhaban. The delegation was led by Syed MS Alam, President of the Bar Association.

## Vacancy

An NGO working for children's rights has a vacancy for the post of Programme Assistant. The candidate must have Master's degree in Social Science with at least three years working experience in an NGO. Preference will be given to those working with disadvantaged children. S/he must be fluent in both written & spoken Bangla and English.

Only those candidates meeting the above requirement may apply, with CV and one passport size photograph by October 07, 1993 to Box No S-315, C/o The Daily Star, House-11, Road-3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.

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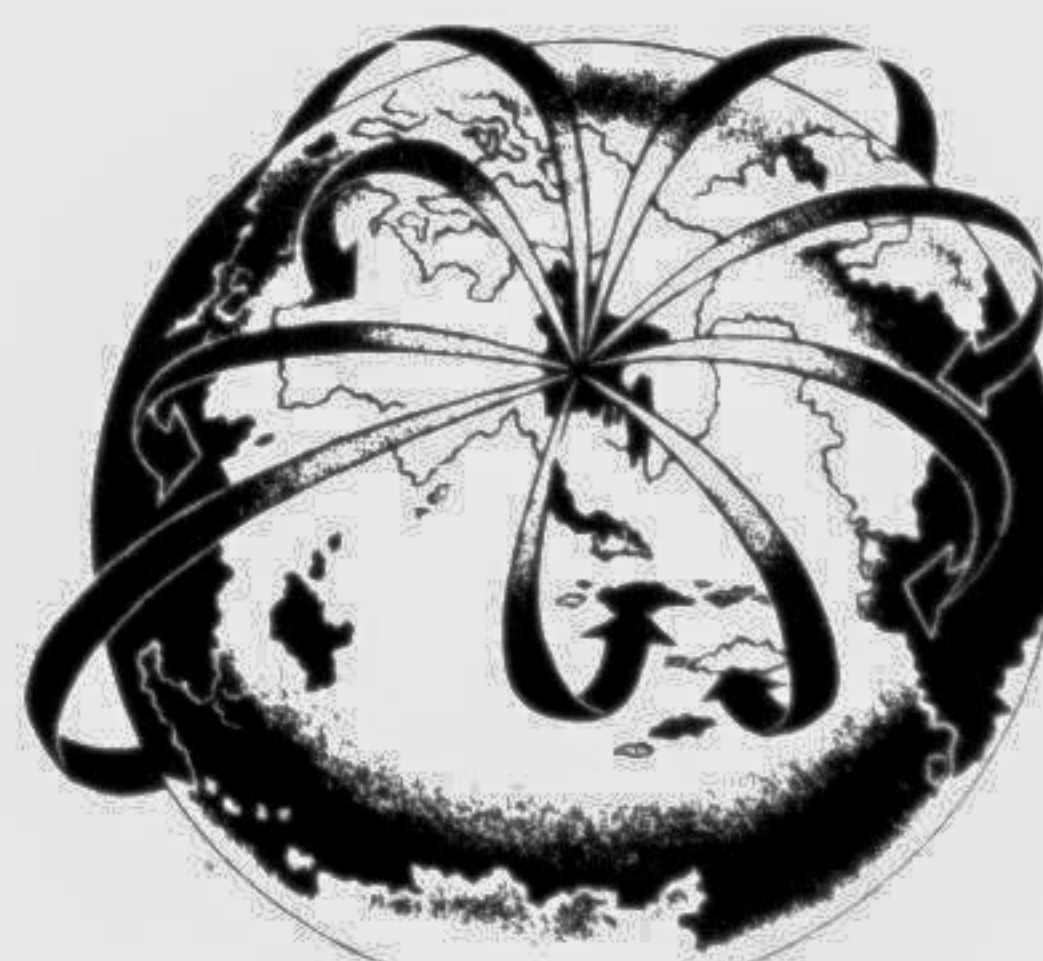
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