

Dhaka Day by Day

The Odyssey of a Bihari Girl

by Nikesh Das

Shamima Akter, 16, lives at Central Relief Organization (CRO) Camp on Shahjahan Road, Mohammadpur, in the western part of Dhaka City. This pretty refugee girl is presently striving for higher education and notwithstanding a number of obstacles has passed the S.S.C examination in the first division this year from Lalmatia Girls High School. As education is rare in the refugee community, this is a special achievement and honour for Shamima.

The Bihari refugees living at Mohammadpur and elsewhere in the country find themselves in a pretty bad patch.

Though they claim themselves to be Pakistani citizens, they don't know what future really holds for them and what they should do!

Due to Pakistan's political crisis and the consequent halt to the process of repatriation, they are really at a loss.

Most of them are living in grinding poverty in a sub-human condition.

Shamima is the fourth child of her parents' nine children. Shamima's father, a vendor, died last year leaving the family to suffer worse economic hardship. The monthly income of the family is 750 (US \$ 18.75) from a shop which they let on rent. They live in (15 X 6) sq feet shack. Water, sanitation and sewerage system of the camp is very poor. Like Shamima's family the economic condition of most of the refugees living in different camps is miserable. Their only support from Bangladesh government, except camp facility, is a monthly allowance of three K.G. wheat per head for the adults and one kg for the children. But this even is not regular.

Against this backdrop Shamima's is a sterling success. She is the only student to cross

the S.S.C barrier in her camp. In her classroom too she was the only Bihari refugee girl. In replying to the question how does she feel in the classroom, she says, "When friends ask me about my where about it makes me shy and sad."

Shamima is one of the 600 sponsored Bihari children who get educational assistance from World Vision, an international humanitarian organization. This assistance includes books, uniforms, tuition fees, exercise books as well as free medical service to sponsored families.

Presently pursuing her H.S.C in Lalmatia Women's College she wants to carry on her study as long as she gets assistance.

Shamima and most other Bihari refugee children like her do not clearly know the cause of their tragedy. And they are not readily eager to go to Pakistan either. Those who were born after 1971 are clearly passing through a cultural amalgamation. They have almost adopted themselves into the Bangladeshi culture. Although they use 'Urdu' at home, most of the time they use Bangla in their daily interaction outside.

M.A Karim, Chairman of the relief committee of the C.P.O camp says, "We are observing how our children are increasingly merging themselves with Bangladeshi culture." But as we are not sure about our fate, so we can't discourage them from taking education and having a cultural fusion.

Shamima is some what lucky to get education in this chaotic situation. But what about the future of those children who have been wasting their future on the sacrificial block of politics.



Shamima Akter, first to pass SSC from CRO Camp.

'We have lost a man of rare courage'

By Staff Correspondent

More individuals and organisations condoled the demise of S M Ali, Founding Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star.

Many of them came to the newspaper office to sympathise with bereaved colleagues of Ali and to put comments in the condolence book.

Saifur Rahman

Finance Minister Md Saifur Rahman in a condolence message extended his grief and sorrow, saying, "In him we have not only lost an outstanding journalist and unparalleled columnist of our part of the world but also a man of rare courage, forthrightness and insight who was a proponent of development journalism."

The minister felt that the Bangladesh media will be more poorer as a result of the death of this illustrious journalist who was born in his district Moulavibazar.

Dhaka Stock Exchange

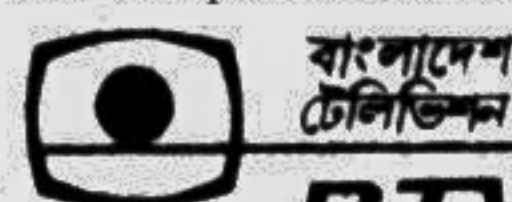
Condoled the death of S M Ali, Chairman of the Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd termed S M Ali a journalist of an international stature.

"With the publication of 'The Daily Star', Ali has given a new dimension to journalism in this country."

Particularly, Alam noted, "economic reporting has assumed a new look under his fostering care and capable guidance."

UNESCO

In a cabled message from Kuala Lumpur Martin Hadlow,



BTV

Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 National Television: School debate competition
- Jiboner Alo'
- 6.45 Nazrul songs
- 7.15 News in Bangla
- 8.00 Drama of the week: Jibon Jiboner Jannya
- 8.30 News in English
- 10.00 Film show: The Grass is Always Greener
- 10.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.30 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

UNESCO, Regional Communication Adviser for Asia said that his commitment to the development of the media will be remembered.

He extended plaudits to the late doyen of journalism for his tireless efforts in fostering young journalists and advancing the cause of press freedom.

Martin shows tribute to his 'personal friend' S M Ali saying, "he truly was a legend in his own lifetime."

Citibank

"The power of his (S M Ali) pen and the warmth of his smile will be missed by one and all", felt the Vice President of the Citibank Mahesh K Rao.

The Citibank condolence message said that it felt honoured to have S M Ali as a member of the panel of judges for Citibank's journalism award.

National Republican Party

Chairman of the National Republican Party in a condolence message recalled the contribution of S M Ali in the realm of journalism.

Dr. M. Zahir Khan prayed for the eternal peace of Ali's departed soul.

Khan Sarwar Murshid

Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, former Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University, paid tribute to his favourite student, and friend — S M Ali.

"The only consolation I find is to see that a part of your dream has been materialised through 'The Daily Star', the shocked professor said in his tribute.

Happy Birthday to Aaqib & Abbu



from Aamer Zeeshan

Preliminary list of DCC wards Oct 31

Preliminary list of all the 90 wards of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will be published on October 31 in preparation of elections early next year, reports UNB.

Primary list of wards will be published on October 31. Objections to delimitation of wards may be submitted by November 15. The final list of the wards will be published on December 4 after bearing the objections by November 30.

The schedule was announced after cancellation of decisions of election officials relating to delimitation of 75 wards published earlier on August 1.

The final list of wards of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi City Corporations will be published on November 5 by the respective delimitation officials.

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Rotterdam New York	Laura Maersk Achever	0435 356C	Eponyma	13N	837/93	23-10-93
Daresalaam Karachi, Bombay	Susak	05	Larika Mahapala	7Z5	831/93	21-10-93
Jeddah, Southampton Algeiras New York	Oriental Bay Lindoe Maersk Amengo Vespucci	0437 0439 319E	Optima	850	861/93	29-10-93

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BPATC meeting held

The 28th meeting of the Board of Governors of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) was held yesterday at BPATC with State Minister for Establishment Barister Aminul Hoque in the chair, reports BSS.

Painting show at French envoy's residence

An exhibition of paintings of three contemporary Bangladeshi artists was held yesterday evening at the Gulshan residence of the Ambassador of France, reports BSS.

52 arrested in city

Police yesterday arrested 52 people from different parts of the city on the 16th day of a month-long special drive against criminals, reports UNB.

They were arrested on charge of serious offences, including murder, dacoity and kidnapping.

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