

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

A Loner Fights for Survival

by Iftikhar A Chowdhury

There was more to Alam's innocent and gloomy pair of eyes than the apparently visible. His father abandoned the family when he was only eight. His mother somehow managed barely enough to keep the family going. In a household where poverty loomed large, there was happiness, rare though, which generated the will to live. But a couple of years back, in the tornado that hit Shaturia in Manikganj, Alam had to part with the only relatives he had—the all-enduring mother and a loving younger brother. He became an orphan, with no orphanage to take him in. No mental or physical refuge was available. But he understood this much that life must go on.

"At first, I was in such a traumatic condition that my feelings and sensations went numb. All that I thought, there was no need for me to outlive the ones I loved so much for so long. Yes, I contemplated suicide. But couldn't bring myself to perform the act. Gradually, as I regained my senses, I realised the hard fact that life must continue, no matter how great the personal loss is." Alam says in such a way that this betrays bitterness rather than happiness.

At the age of 16, with feeble limbs, broken heart, a fighter's will and a very thin purse, Alam came to Dhaka to give life a try. "I didn't come to Dhaka with a lot of dreams. I came here because I thought survival would be easier here."

But when he came to this metropolis, he saw that the money he had with him and spent with a great deal of frugality, began vanishing fast. So, Alam cut down on his daily food expenditures and tried for any job that was available. No one gave him a job, because he didn't have any

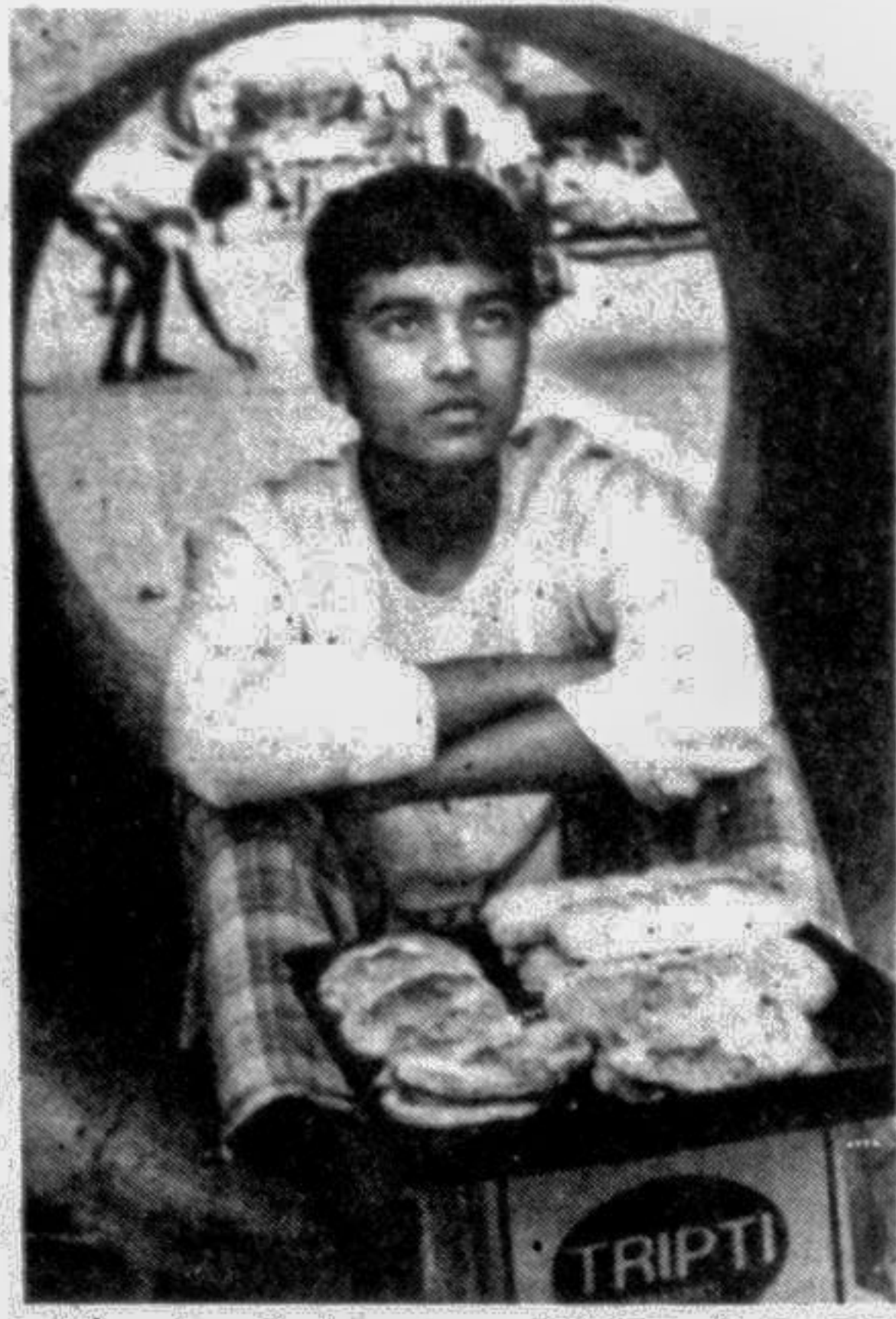
address till then. His abode was a huge unused sewer pipe at the street side of Paikpara, Mirpur. He wandered all day looking for a job, any job, and at night slept inside that pipe.

At last, a kind old man gave him a job as a rickshaw-puller. This job of enormous value to him, because it fetched him enough for the time being. For more than a year now, he has been continuing this job. But his bad health doesn't allow him to do the drudgery of rickshaw-pulling for more than half-a-day. In the other half of the day, Alam now has another job. With the little savings he has, he buys confectionery items

from a nearby bakery and sells them at a place not far from his hole. The delicacies that he sells are especially popular with the slum children. But once in a while he has to pay toll money to the local lads and 'you know who', said Alam.

His aggregate monthly income comes to near about fifteen hundred taka or so. He keeps his savings with his mahajan mamu, the rickshaw owner, who bailed him out in the hours of dire needs — one man Alam trusts. But love? Never. "I know how painful it is to part with the loved ones. So now, I remain at a safe distance from those whom I might like or love," says he.

One rainy day, on returning to his dingy den, after his day's work, Alam was struck down by high fever. At one point when the temperature was on the rise, he cried out for his mother several times. "But as the fever receded, I faced the bitter truth that I had no one. I was destined to be a loner," concluded Alam who has stoically accepted life as it is.



BPMA threatens to go for greater movement

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Plastic Products Manufacturers Association (BPMA) at a press conference recently threatened to go for a greater movement if the government does not withdraw its decision of banning polythene products giving a notice of three months only.

The press conference, addressed by Alamgir Iqbal and Mohammad Mohsin, said the logic of protecting the environment in this case is not acceptable since the polythene products are not being considered as a major reason for environmental pollution.

They termed the government decision result of intrigues by a vested quarter and said that if the polythene industries, were closed down polythene products would be smuggled into the country from the neighbouring countries.

They said that a large number of people would also be unemployed due to the decision of banning the polythene products.

The BPMA leaders also said since the government is unable to create employment opportunities for the people it has no right to make the people unemployed by taking such decision.

Canadian HC meets Shawkat

The Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Jon Scott, paid a courtesy call on the Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

The minister appraised the High Commissioner of the present food situation of the country. They also discussed bilateral relationship and matters of mutual interest.

The High Commissioner said his country would extend all possible assistance in the food sector of Bangladesh.

BUET to introduce M A Rashid Gold Medal

Two scholarships for the students and one gold medal for the teachers will be introduced in the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) named after its first vice-chancellor Dr M A Rashid, reports BSS.

A cheque for Tk two lakh for the scholarships and the gold medal was handed over to the Vice Chancellor of BUET Prof M Shahjahan today by the managing director of Panthor Private Ltd and son of late Dr M A Rashid, Muhammad Badrul Huda on behalf of the family.

The titles of the scholarships and the gold medal are 'Dr M A Rashid Scholarship' and 'Dr M A Rashid Gold Medal' respectively. Deans of different faculties of the university and its registrar were present on the occasion.



Writer Abul Khair Muslehuddin and Selima Sabih, editor of juvenile monthly 'Toi Tombur' are seen with some children of 'Shiri Shishu Sahitya Kendro', a juvenile literary and cultural organisation, at a function held recently. Hasanur Rahman, Director of the organisation is also seen in the picture.

Weather

Dry weather likely

The sky is likely to remain partly cloudy over the coastal regions of the country. The weather may remain mainly dry over the country.

Met Office forecasts night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. Country's highest temperature of 30.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Kutubdia and lowest of 18 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur yesterday.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 5:17 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:08 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and the maximum and minimum relative humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	29.2	19.0	80	77
Chittagong	30.5	20.3	75	75
Rajshahi	28.0	18.6	82	85
Khulna	30.2	20.3	90	85
Barisal	30.2	19.4	79	82
Dinajpur	29.2	18.0	79	87
Cox's Bazar	30.5	20.0	83	77
Sylhet	29.7	19.8	75	69



Visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Ms Robin Lynn Raphael called on Sheikh Hasina, AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, at her Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday. — Star photo

Raphael calls on Matin, Zahiruddin

The visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Lynn Raphael called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his secretariat office in the capital yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed law and order and political situation of Bangladesh. Rohingya repatriation, narcotics trafficking and other related issues, also came up for discussion.

The Home Minister informed that Bangladesh had given comprehensive cooperation to Rohingya refugees in spite of limitations of wealth and was very much eager for their safe and honourable repatriation.

Raphael appreciated the humanitarian attitude of Bangladesh towards the Rohingya refugees.

Robin L Raphael also called on the Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan at his office yesterday.

They discussed matters of bilateral and mutual interest. The Industries Minister informed the US Assistant Secretary that with the stabilisation of macro-economy by the present government an environment for positive growth in the industrial sector had been created in the country. He also brief Raphael about the steps undertaken by the government for local and foreign private investments which are beginning to show definite dynamism. He mentioned that there was a rising trend showing industrial growth at the rate of 12.7 per cent of GDP wherein private sector is now dominant.

The visiting US assistant secretary expressed her government's support for strengthening democratic institutions, human resource and environmental development of Bangladesh. She also showed keen interest in learning Bangladesh government's policy in diversified use of jute in large scale which would contribute socio-economically on the one hand and would be environment supportive on the other.

Nat'l Congress on Forensic Medicine opens Help govt ensure better life for all: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas inaugurated the 1st National Congress on Forensic Medicine and Sciences in the capital yesterday, calling upon doctors and lawyers in the country to serve the people and help the government in ensuring better and peaceful life for all, reports UNB.

He said that doctors, lawyers and scientists have a common goal to ensure justice to the society.

The President called 'timely and relevant' the theme of the congress; Forensic Medicine and Sciences for Protection of the Society. The government also aims at providing protection to the members of the society through enforcement of rule of law in the country," he said.

Organised by Medicolegal Society of Bangladesh, the inaugural session of the congress was held at the auditorium of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Mohakhali. Gazi Shamsur Rahman, an eminent lawyer and chief advisor of the society, presided.

President Biswas termed the forensic medicine one of the advancing branches of medical sciences. "Its role in the administration of justice and judgement, and its importance in the society could hardly be over-emphasised," he observed.

The President hoped that setting up of an Institute of Forensic Medicine and Science with all advanced technical and laboratory facilities would serve the present day need of the country.

President Biswas expressed his satisfaction that the congress is being actively participated by the representatives of all three professions — doctors, lawyers and scientists.

"Our judiciary along with scientists, lawyers and police personnel will be immensely benefitted out of all the deliberations and discussions," he said.

14,940 brought under food for edn programme

A total of 14,940 children of 88 primary schools under nine unions in nine thanas of the district of Rajshahi have been brought under food for education programme, reports BSS.

The total number of students in these primary schools is 28,677.

Under the programme, each of the children who attends the classes over 85 per cent of the days is being provided 15 kilograms of wheat per month.

'NGOs building a begging culture'

Prof Ahmed Sharif yesterday said Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were making people dependent on aid and building a "begging culture," reports UNB.

"NGOs are really foes of the people in disguise of friends," the noted educationist observed.

Addressing a seminar on NGO, organised by Swadesh Chinta Sangha at the TSC auditorium this afternoon, Prof Sharif blamed an "imperialist" power for patronising the NGOs.

"Our old imperialist masters are organising and patronising NGOs, taking advantage of our poverty and hunger," he said.

Prof Sharif termed the slogan, 'Health for all by the year 2000,' as hypocrisy. Health is meaningless to those who does not have food!

Ranjit Das read the keynote paper of the seminar while Prof Anu Mohammad, Prof M M Akash, Dr Nazmul Hasan Kalimullah, Ishaq Mohammad and M Mannan took part in the discussion.

Prof Akash said in 1990-91 just 10 to 12 NGOs received Tk 19 crore from the foreign donors of which 60 per cent was spent as establishment expenditure and only 40 per cent reached the target groups.

Referring to credit programme of the NGOs, Prof Akash said they (NGOs) charged high interest on loans, repressed people to realise the loan alongwith interest and made huge profit out of it.

He demanded publication of detailed accounts of NGOs and government supervision of their activities.

Prof Anu Mohammad said the slogan of "poverty alleviation" is a sheer farce. Many factors are related with poverty. It cannot be alleviated isolatedly, he said.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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Future national economic growth to depend on urban centres: Rafiq

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia has emphasised the need for sustained growth and social development of the cities in the developing countries like Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Speaking at the Ministerial Conference of Urbanisation in Asia and Pacific in Bangkok on Tuesday the Bangladesh minister said the cities in the developing countries, with their economies of scale and agglomeration were important hubs of production, employment and innovation.

Hosted by Thailand the conference was organised with the financial support of France, Japan and Netherlands and the technical support ESCAP, according to a message received here yesterday.

The Works Minister said the economic importance of cities and towns was soaring in the most developing countries and it was anticipated that future national economic growth would depend heavily on the urban centres to perform crucial service and production functions.

He said the rapid pace of urbanisation might lead to economic, social and physical problems along with rising urban poverty which should be the major concern for national development planning, public policies and programmes.

The minister said only 40 per cent urban people had access to public water supplies and only Dhaka and Chittagong

had an extensive pipe water distribution net works. Similarly only 25 per cent of the urban population had access to hygienic sanitation.

He said several slum projects were under implementation in 35 towns and four metropolitan cities with assistance from UNICEF and UNDP and Dhaka City Corporation was implementing a pilot project on income generation for women from its own funds.

Referring to the national housing policy adopted by the government the minister said it provides for strategy and government's support for essential inputs, such as land, finance, building materials, technology and infrastructure.

Pointing to the colossal impact of floods on the urban areas he said protection of the urban areas from flooding should be incorporated while dealing with climate change under global and regional programmes.

He said the regional action plan on urbanisation which was going to be developed for the Asia-Pacific region should also include protection of drinking water sources, drainage problems, treatment and disposal of wastes including toxic and hazardous substances.

He said Bangladesh along with many other developing countries was a victim of global environmental problems like climate change caused by greenhouse, deforestation and desertification.

BNP programmes for Nov 7

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has planned elaborate programmes for observing National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7, reports BSS.

The programmes include hoisting of national and party flags at central and branch offices of BNP throughout the country at 6 am, offering of munaajat and laying of wreaths at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at 9 am, holding of public meeting at Democracy Square of Gulistan at 3 pm, processions, discussions and public meetings at thana and district levels and prayers at mosques, mandirs and churches for preservation of independence and sovereignty of the country.

Post office holiday

All post offices of the country will remain closed on November 7 on account of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, reports BSS.

The post offices which provide GEP and EMS services will, however, function.

Netherlands HC calls on Hasina

Netherlands Ambassador Ho Gajentaan called on Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina at 29 Minto Road yesterday, reports UNB.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual interests of the two countries.

In Celebration Of "TOURISM MONTH '93"

Sonargaon Hotel and Nakshi Present

Fashion And Cultural Show with Solo Performance By **Shakila Ja far**

Followed By **DINNER AND DANCE**

On November 11, 1993

Venue : Sonargaon Hotel Grand Ballroom
Time : 7:00 PM, Price: Tk. 2000.00 per couple
Tickets are available at The Hotel Lobby

LIMITED CAPACITY

BTV Friday

Morning session

8.00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary

8.10 News in Bangla

8.15 Alor Dishari

8.40 Puppet show

10.00 News in English

10.15 Moner Mukurey : Ayomoy (1st episode)

11.15 Film show : Tarzan

11.55 Shikkah Dikkah

12.30 Closing

Afternoon session

3.00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary

3.10 Recitation from the Triptatik

3.15 Cartoon : Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

3.45 Movie of the week : The Promise

5.10 News in Bangla

5.35 Sports programme

6.50 Open University

7.15 Modern songs : Malancha

8.00 News in Bangla

8.30 Comedy series : Perfect Strangers

9.00 Magazine : Antorango

10.00 News in English

10.30 Drama serial : L A Law

11.30 Khabar / The News

11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary

11.45 Closing

Writer Abul Khair Muslehuddin and Selima Sabih, editor of juvenile monthly 'Toi Tombur' are seen with some children of 'Shiri Shishu Sahitya Kendro', a juvenile literary and cultural organisation, at a function held recently. Hasanur Rahman, Director of the organisation is also seen in the picture.

KAFCO

PROJECT MANAGER — HOUSING COLONY

Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO), a multinational joint venture company, is executing the construction of an approximately Tk 30 crore integrated Housing Colony Complex at Rangadia, Chittagong in order to provide housing for its employees and their families.

With the implementation of the Housing Colony project about to commence, KAFCO is seeking to recruit a Senior Project/Construction Manager, who will have the responsibility of overseeing the contractor's execution of the turnkey lumpsum design and construction of the Housing Colony.

A Civil Engineer of high calibre with at least 15-20 years of construction supervision experience with a thorough knowledge of on-site construction management would be ideal. Job responsibilities include enforcing quality control and strict compliance with specifications, assisting the contractor in adhering to the schedule of completion and certifying progress payments. Besides being given an attractive compensation package, the successful applicant will have the exciting and challenging opportunity of overseeing the implementation of a cutting-edge construction project. The position demands utmost integrity, strong interpersonal ability and excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.

Applicants are requested to send applications with their curriculum vitae and a recent photograph, preferably by courier, to the Manager HRD and Personnel, KAFCO, 90/91 Motijheel C/A (15th Floor), Dhaka-1000 by November 10, 1993.