



I was the last day in school. After school, there will be a meeting at the students' club where all the boys will act together. Dashed also had a desire to take part in our play. He tried to convince us through others, to take him in, but we all together said that was absolutely impossible.

Last time, Dashed took part in the play as a commander; it was a total blunder. When the spy of Trichur challenged the commander to a duel saying, "If you have courage, then open your sword!" Dashed was supposed to open his sword and say, "Then come face to face." But Dashed failed to open his sword due to lack of experience and forgot his dialogues. When the spy again roared, "Open your sword!" Dashed screamed back, "Can't you see, the button holding the sword pocket is jammed!" Luckily I hopped in the stage and helped him open his sword or else it would have been the end of the drama.

Near the end of the play, when the king asked, "Tell me, Commander, what do you want as a reward?" Dashed was supposed to say, "Long live the King!" But Dashed blew something else and quickly bit his tongue saying, "Oh no!" He began laughing saying, "I forgot." He quickly controlled himself and began the correct dialogue.

So this time, on hearing his name we unanimously said, "No, he can't take part." Bishu said, "Will Dashed act?" Tapa said, "Our school gardener will do better!" Dashed initially requested, then became angry and sat down with a round, dejected face.

Dashed used to sit down at the corner of the hall, and watch us perform. A few days before the school holidays began, Dashed developed a deep friendship with Gansha of Class four. Gansha was young but could recite poems very well and so he was given the role of Debdut — or angel — in the play. Dashed used to bring him food, coloured pencil, books everyday and promised to buy him a football too. We couldn't understand why Gansha and Dashed suddenly were great friends. We could only see, Gansha was becoming a great fan of Dashed.

When we were getting ready for the play it was only then we understood the whole matter. No sooner the clock struck two-thirty, Dashed entered the costume room and started to change. We asked him, "What are you doing here?" He replied, "Won't I change my

Crazy Dashed

by Sukumar Ray
Translated by Rabeth Khan

clothes?" I said, "Why will you change clothes? You are not taking part in the play?" He said, "You don't know the news, who will impersonate the angel?" Something struck my mind on hearing the news. I said, "Why, what happened to Gansha?" Dashed answered, "You can ask Gansha what happened." Then I noticed that everybody came except Gansha. Rampada, Bishu and myself hurried off in search of Gansha. After searching the whole school, we found the unfortunate in the tiffin-room. He was trying to flee on seeing us, but

was decided that Dashed would act Debdut; there was no point talking to him. Dashed became very happy and authoritatively said, "If any one of you disturbs again, then like the last time I will foil everything."

The play started. In the first scene Dashed did not create any nuisance. He only spited once. But in the third scene he started to do too much. At one point he was supposed to deliver, "If God turns his face away, what will happen to man?" But, he added four to five lines before this dialogue entirely from his imagination. I

Dashed jumped in giggling, saying, "Oh no! He's back again." Suddenly facing the disruption, the minister lost his line of speech. We were also stunned. And the act nearly came to a halt. Seeing this, Dashed commanded the minister, "Proceed, what you were saying!" The minister sweated, becoming more nervous. Rakhal was acting as the imperial guard. He came forward to stop Dashed. Dashed screamed, "Thou art imbecile, thou tried to stop me from this play," and hit the turban off Rakhal's head. On dropping the turban he began delivering the last speech of the king — "In this kingdom, there will be no hatred, no anarchy; neither will there be poverty nor pain." We stood there dumbfounded. The bell rang and the screen dropped.

We all angrily charged Dashed.



we grabbed him by the neck. Gansha cried, "No, I will never act, and if I do, Dashed will not give me the football." Suddenly, the mathematics teacher Habibur came in. "Why, you three bullies, what are you doing to Gansha?" He scolded us, pulling our ears right and left.

Gansha Chandra took this chance and escaped. We swallowed the insult and came back. On returning, we saw Dashed having a row with Rakhal. He was saying, "I won't let you impersonate the angel, no way." Dashed said, "Fine, let someone else be the angel. I will be the king or a minister. I know their dialogues."

At this point we announced the news; we could not get Gansha to agree at all. After some arguments and rows, it

protested, but Dashed complained, "when you give a long speech do I protest? This could have been tolerable, but in the last scene he was not at all supposed to appear. But he was determined to appear on the stage. After prolonged exhaustion we convinced him that in the last scene the angel could not appear as he left for heaven in the previous scene. In the last scene the minister informs the king that Debdut has rewarded the king his blessings. At last Dashed cooled off. But he was not at all happy."

The last scene began. The minister appeared at the King's court room. He informed the king, "Blessing the king again and again, the angel returned towards heaven." Suddenly at that moment,

"You imbecile, what have you done? Half of the speech has remained undelivered!"

Dashed replied, "Come on, neither the king nor the minister was saying anything, so I filled up the blank. Otherwise everything would have been even worse." I growled, "Why did you come and messed everything up?" He replied, "Why did Rakhal say that he would lock me up? And again why did all of you try to drop me from the very beginning and make fun of me? Why Rampada kept on looking at me?" Dashed replied angrily, Rampada said, "Let's catch him and teach him a lesson."

Dashed very boldly said, "OK. Try it and I will gather everyone by shouting and screaming."

A Book Review

No One is Born a Woman

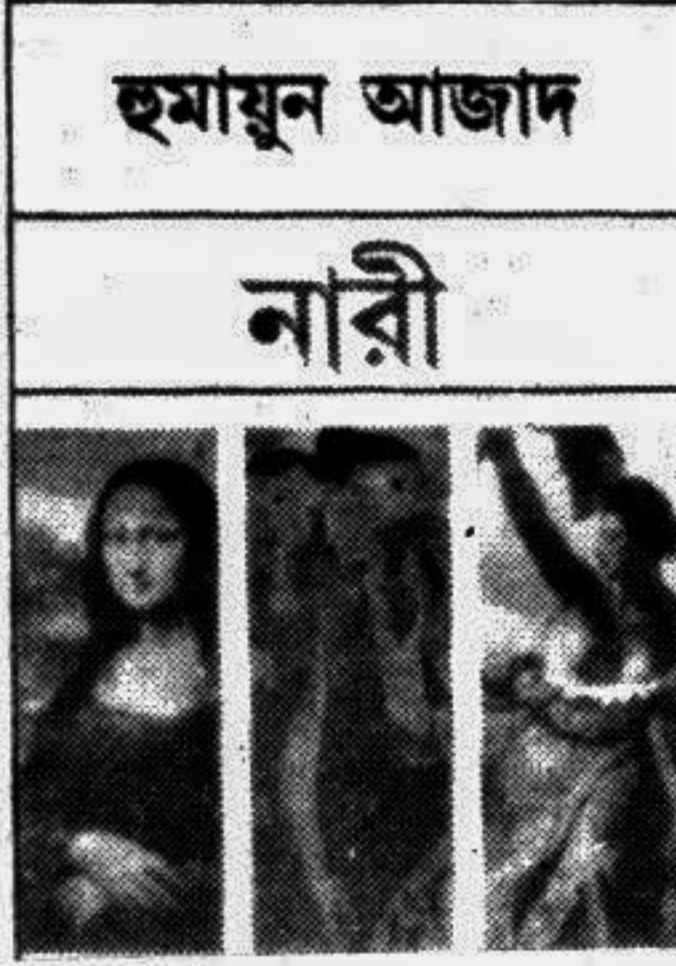
by Trishna

No one is born a woman, they gradually become one. The ones who were supposed to lead their lives as they wish today are, caged up in the rules and restrictions of men which have been made in the name of motherhood, religion and culture.

One of the male chauvinist had said: lord hasn't created you females, men have given you evanescent beauty. Today this society still worships men as their superior, wives still endure pains without protest and men still blame everything on women, intending to prove themselves innocent. This society lacks in men who know how to respect a woman or who are ready to speak for their females or wish to progress women's liberation in this country.

In this situation when a woman finds a man supporting

most talked about topic nowadays. But the introduction touched me. This was something different, I realized. He



Shishu Academy Awards. In this book of his, Humayun Azad has brought out all the injustice done towards women, starting from religion to the possible future of women. He began with Adam and Eve's story.

One will be astonished to discover the real incident of woman being formed from a man, which Humayun has boldly revealed in his book. The book is not in story form but consists of several parts. Each part deals with different things which bring out a picture of how women were and are being treated unfairly. First there is a four page introduction which if read will highly impress the reader, but of course if he is not a male chauvinist. The contents consists of the following topics,

ish the reader now and then as he/she will discover how cruelly society, culture, religion, laws and of course males have treated women. The book will help gain knowledge and also entertain. The writer has written the book in such a manner that there are few statements which he himself made and more facts and quotations by historic people, prophets and politicians. I enjoyed reading it because it is different but what amazed me most is the way Humayun insulted his own sex. Before listing the names of the books at the end, he has ended the writing mentioning a sentence which should be all women's guide-line now — 'women's future is to become a human, not to remain as a woman'.

Wise words:

Compiled by Ismat Hasen

1. Avoid popularity; it has many snares, and no real benefit — Penn.
2. music is the medicine of breaking heart — A Hunt.
3. We rarely like the virtues we have not — Shakespeare.
4. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed; and some few to be chewed and digested — Bacon.
5. One should eat to live, not live to eat — Franklin.
6. Success makes success, as money makes money — Chamfort.
7. Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things — H W Beecher.
8. This strange but true: for truth is always stranger — stranger than fiction — Lord Byron.
9. Labour is the divine law of our existence; repose is desertion and suicide — Mazzini.
10. Paradise is open to all kind of hearts — Beranger.



her and her rights she is impressed. There have been writer, of course male ones, writing against women, writing against other female writers but little did I know that there existed a writer in our country who wrote a book in support of females.

When I first got the book, I was least interested. The name of the book — 'Nari', and that too written by a male writer did not tempt me. So I guessed that it is another male chauvinist, who has written inane things just to earn popularity since women are the

has dedicated his book to Mary Gustorecraft and Begum Rokeya. The first sentence of the introduction is — women are probably the most talked about animal in this world. I was glad to find out that all this were not coming from an illiterate and senseless man but Humayun Azad, a man who is a poet, writer, reviewer, and a scholar in Bengali language and literature. He stood first in his M A and did got doctorate from Edinburgh University. Almost thirty of his books have been published so far. He has won the Bangla Academy and

women and her lord: men, gender politics, the historic failures of women, laws and rules, friends and foes of women: Rusho, Raskin, Rabindranath and John Stewart Mill, Froedy's Superstitions, women, her gender and body, girls, love and lust, marriage and family, Mary Qlestonecraft, Ram Mohan and Vidya Sagar, Rokeya's Women's Lib, the cultivation of ladies, women's future, and at last a list of books written for and against women. Reading the details under all the above topics will aston-

Concerts! Concerts! A Right Place for Entertainment

by Mahbub Ershad

HAVE you ever been to a any of the concerts in Bangladesh? If not then you have made a blunder. Finding yourself over there would have been both memorable and enjoyable for you.

In Bangladesh band musics have gained great popularity. These bands are introducing us with new types of modern songs. Some well known bands in our country are: Miles, LRB, Feedback, Winning, Warfaze and some others. Mostly teenagers are the fans of these bands and are easily lured to the concerts.

Bands usually advertise their concerts in papers and by posters on walls and shops. Most concerts are for charity. Business is also another purpose for organizing concerts.

These days many people go to concerts despite the high price of the tickets. Prices of tickets vary according to the venue and of course the bands performing. The usual range of the prices of bands concert's tickets are from 100 taka to 500 taka.

People stand in lines to enter, you will find boys as well as girls wearing peculiar dresses. They wear torn jeans or torn shirts and sometimes

multicoloured scarves on their heads. This is probably because they try to prove themselves rough and tough giving a macho image. You will also see some girls wearing alluring dresses to make themselves attractive. It is sometimes quite unsafe for girls in open air concerts as boys pass comments on them or throw cans of coke on them which in turn leads to clashes. Most of the boys try to prove themselves as heroes out there.

Non of the concerts starts according to the scheduled time as a result the audience feel bored at the beginning. Whenever the music starts they do crazy things like throwing cans on band members, on pretty girls and even on the police on duty.

On the other hand the bands encourage the audience with their famous songs and with sweet convincing words. Environment in indoor concerts is somehow different than the open air concerts. It is safe for girls as well as for couples. You may also find girls dancing there.

Anyway concert is a right place for entertainment and for music lover. Now a days we desire more attractive concerts in future.



Pahela Baishakh

by Rabeth Khan

Welcome! Welcome!
A beginning of a new century.
A new era is to commence
It comes every year with promises,
But this time it is of more significance
Splendour is to reign,
With the encouragement of love and harmony.

The red and yellow sarees of the women
Waves the morning a delirium and festivity.
Hopes of new discoveries and inventions
Are deeply imbedded in our mind
Nature itself tries to alter its usual habit
For at least a day, as a gift to the mankind.

The melody of the songs at the Ramna Batamul
Gives the morning a distinctive look,
Every inch of the city is wedded with
an unique hymn.

The Baishakhi fair gives us something more
to envision for
Let the Baishakh of this new century,
Shows the way for us to follow.

A century of love, friendship and serenity
is all we want, shunning of the pains of
yesteryears.
Hooray for 1401! Hooray for the new century!

Just For You

* Dear Adeb Z Mahmood,
Why has your telephone been cross
connected with Scholastica's? Please call me
as early as possible. I have something to tell
you.
Mursel

* Dear Fahim,
I know that you are very upset for your
neighbour Arif is moving to somewhere else
in the next month. Don't worry, Saad, I shall
bring you their new address.
Mursel

* Dearest Wahidu?? aman (Tamim),
A heartily congratulation for your brilliant
result. Keep it up.
With love,
Shinsu
(hope you remember me)

* Dear Joy,
Where did you and Z Mahmood go last
Friday. Saad was very angry with you because
you were supposed to help him to go to the
ammonia plant.
Your Chashu.

* Dear All Rising Stars readers,
Please pray for us the Josephites, and
hope that we can make a good result in the S
SC.
Mursel Anam

Lice nuisance

by Tarannum Laila

You try to catch them with your hand.
You scratch here and there.
But all you get is tried fingers,
With a head full of messy hair.

Seeking medicine to clean
You go to the chemists' shop.
But you come home and plop, down in your chair,
after looking at the 'closed' sign on the shop.

Next day you are to go to a party at school.
Now what can you do?
If a lice is seen on your hair,
Can you bear the humiliation too?

No, No, of course not.
You can't bear the rumors around the school.
In this situation one thing will be wise to do.
Cancel your visit and relax by swimming in a pool.

This sounds too much,
ruining a perfect chance to a party like this.
But sorry, that is the best advice I can give,
in a situation like this.

15th Century

What is Everyone Thinking!

Compiled by Zinnia Ahmad

Mr Rafiqul Islam (management consultant) — On this Bangla new year day, I wish for another step towards the prosperity of our nation. This can be achieved only when our youths are fully aware of the socio-economic conditions of the country, as they are the contributors to a better future. But an honest contribution requires love for one's country. Therefore, I hope everybody, rich and poor old and young are looking forward to this new century with a feeling of true patriotism.

Mukit Ahmad (Class-VII) — The Bangla new year day seems to me like any other day, except that school is closed. Despite all those cultural functions and special supplements in the newspapers no one seems to be in the new year mood. Whereas on the 1st January, new year cards and greetings are exchanged and we all feel the arrival of a new year.

Mr Abdul Awal (Ex-secretary of the Bangladesh Government) — A new year brings with itself new hopes and expectations for all. Unpleasant memories are forgotten and forgiven, as everybody looks forward to a better life. Each year different organizations and political parties make new year resolutions on different topics. I hope this year the people of this country concentrate on children as the prime target for discussion. We

should all work towards offering the children in Bangladesh, especially the helpless ones, a better quality of life with greater security, sincere affection and love, and a chance to gain new experiences.

Alamgir (rickshawallah) — All days are same to me. I wake up early, carry my passengers to their destinations, buy food for the family with the day's earning and return home late. I hope this new year brings good fortune for me and my family, and for this country as well.

Nurmeen Shams (A'levels) — I don't even celebrate the Bangla new year. It's always the English calendar that I follow. Even the Bangla-medium students don't keep track of the Bangla year. And, an honest confession is that sometimes I even forget when the Bangla year starts.

Dr Aktaruzzaman (general physician) — The year 1401 signifies the advent of a new century. I hope that Bangladesh tackles this new year with a promising plan for the betterment of its economy. This way we can prosper rapidly in the future.

Didar (driver) — I usually have fun on Pohela Baishakh. If I have free time I go to the 'Baishakhi' mela. My wife also cooks special dishes on the first day of the Bangla year.

Last time my friend and I went outside Dhaka to celebrate the new year. We might do the same this year.

Mrs Zeba Ali (Principal) — Before the new year begins, we should look at the past year in retrospect and try to analyze our pitfalls and achievements. Then with a fresh vow, we should start our activities for the next year with renewed energy and vigour.

Dr Md Abdul Matin (Professor of Dhaka University) — Besides celebrating the Bangla New Year with personal hopes and resolutions, one should also celebrate it in the real sense. Gradually, our traditions, and customs seem to fade as westernization creeps into the country. But the Bangla New Year should be celebrated in such a way so that each of us are reminded of our duties and promises to our country.

Mrs Nasreen Akter (Entrepreneur) — The advent of a new year means the renewal of wishes and hopes for everybody. One of my fervent wishes that I would like to voice out loud is the reform of the young generation. It would be a great benefit for our nation, both politically and socially, if the whole of the young generation would give up their involvement in political affairs and devote themselves to education. Dedication to the

country through social commitment and modesty will make the path towards prosperity easier to carve out. I sincerely hope that this special dream of mine comes out true one of these days.

Dalia Farzana (Student of Dhaka University) — Pahela Baishakh is celebrated with much enthusiasm and excitement among university students. Dance, song and poetry programmes are held all the foot of the historical oak in the university campus. The girls usually wear white sari with red 'paar'. The students enjoy having 'paantha bhat' (rice cooked overnight and steeped under water), which is somehow traditionally related to the Bangla New Year. Actually, this will be the first time I shall be celebrating the Bangla New Year in a very traditional and cultural way as I am only a first year honours student. Despite my final exams coming up, I shall attend the functions in order to see the deep contrast between celebration of Bangla New Year and the English New Year.

