

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Overcoming Challenges of Life

by Tulip Chowdhury

Md Aminuddin, who hails from the district of Sharatpur has been blind for the past 28 years. A victim of small-pox, he lost his sight when the deadly disease struck him at the age of 14. He now runs a small make-shift shop inside the government New Market. To Aminuddin life has been a challenge and he has learnt to live through the trial of life.

After his bout with smallpox Aminuddin found that his world was a dark and menacing one. He approached a doctor. But he learned that his eye-sight could not be restored. Accepting the cruel truth, he came to Dhaka in search of a living. In the busy streets of the metropolitan city Aminuddin found himself begging. As he learnt to move about in Dhaka, he became determined to do something respectable. With the help of some kind people he collected a small amount of capital and started to sell 'pocket paryikas' (small books of the yearly lunar calendar in Bangla). Soon he gathered his small income together and started a make-shift shop in one of the most crowded shopping centres of the city. And in the Government New Market he has been selling books on Islam and 'tasbih' for the past eight years. 'Tasbih' are strings of beads used by Muslims in keeping a count during prayers.

When you ask the price of a 'tasbih', how does the man know which one it is? "May I hold it please?" Aminuddin says extending his hands. You give it to him and feels around the string with his hands. "This one is Tk 15 and the one which has larger

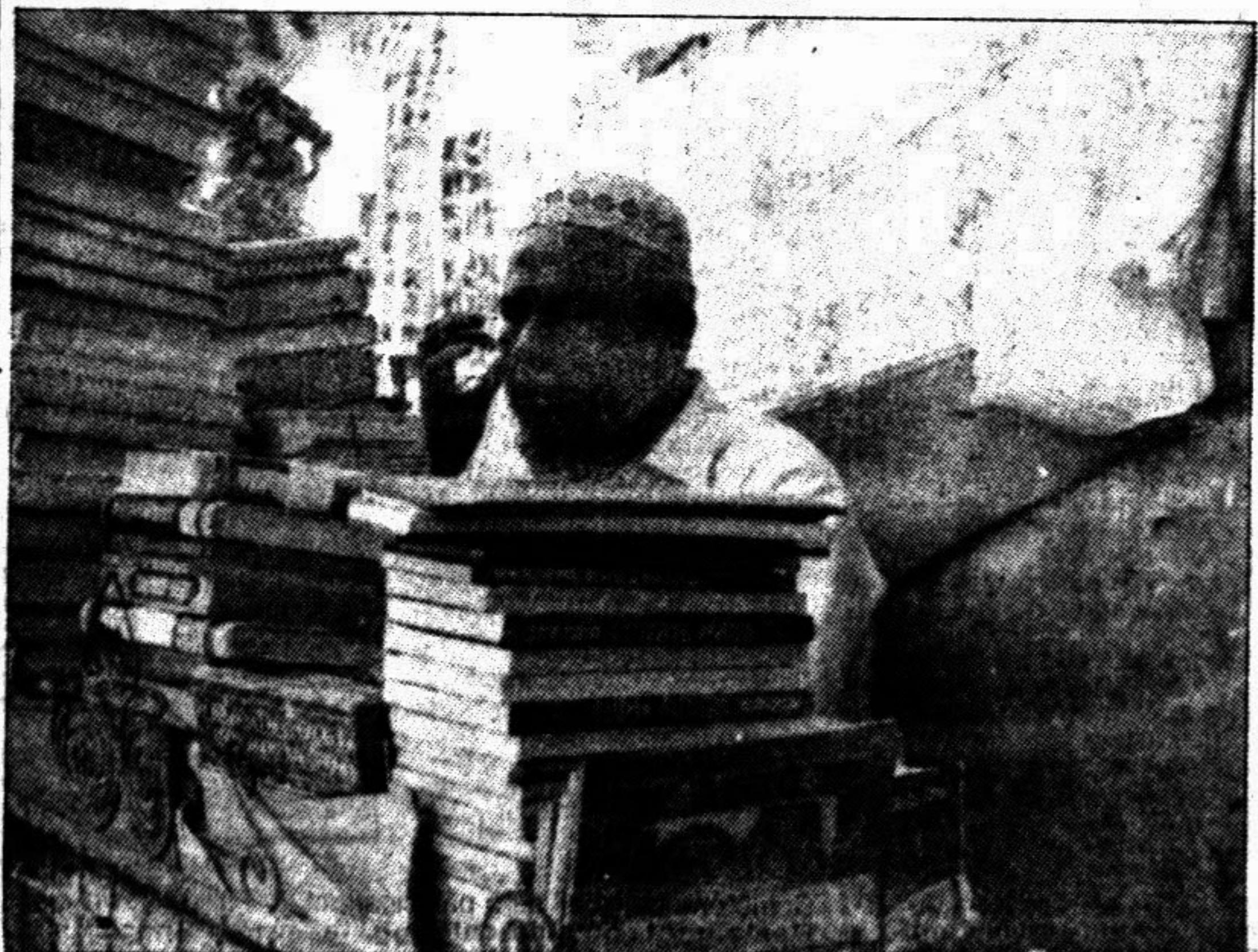
beads is Tk 25."

When one asks him the prices of some of his books, he takes them in his hands and after hearing the names of the books he asks the price.

It is evident that Aminuddin's life now depends to a great extent on his ability to hear and feel. Blindness has not deprived him from family life either. With his two children he is very much of a family man too. His wife and his teenage son earn some money by helping out in a shop. He himself earns around Tk 45 to Tk 50 per day. Together they are able to earn enough to support themselves among the struggling millions of the less fortunate of Dhakaites. Aminuddin hopes to gather enough money to set up a larger bookshop in the future.

"Some people are lame, some are dumb and because a deadly disease I'm now blind. Still I am thankful to Allah for how much He has helped me to do for a living". Aminuddin said in answer to a question as to what he thinks of life.

Aminuddin has proven that disability of any kind should be taken as a challenge to life. For the disabled, the strength of willpower is an essentiality to refrain from becoming a burden to the family and society. Smallpox is claimed to have been eradicated from the world. But the deadly disease has still living witnesses. Like Aminuddin there are many other people who are blind. But will all the people be able to hold on to life and fight for a decent survival as he has been able to do?



Blindness is no handicap for a living.

— Photo: The writer

Call to wage campaign against child labour

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday called for waging a campaign against child labour in the country as it was destroying new generations, reports BSS.

They identified poverty as the main reason which was forcing children to earn money in various fields including agriculture, industries, domestic houses, small shops and trades on the open streets in cities.

The speakers drawn from different professions also said some unscrupulous employers taking advantage of their poverty and helplessness, were engaging poor children in their mills, factories and other areas with low salaries, compelling them to do work hard.

The discussion was organised by the International Liai-

son Committee for a workers International on the occasion of the next 'international tribunal against child labour and forced labour' to be held in Mexico in April this year.

Prof. Kabir Chowdhury was in the chair while Gani Shamsur Rahman, Santosh Gupta, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Prof. Abu Bakar Siddiq, Kamal Lohani, Abu Bashir, Iqbal Majumder, Dr. Ahmed Rafiq, Sanaullah Noori, Shirin Akhter, Prof. Ahmedullah Miah, SM Imamul Haq, Rafiqunnabi, Prof. Khaleda Salauddin and Advocate Abdus Salam spoke.

They called upon all humanitarian and social welfare organisations alongwith trade union bodies to work for stopping child labour in the country.

Prof Sharif honoured

By Staff Correspondent
Professor Mohammad Sharif Hossain was honoured at a function organised by the Biswa Sahitya Kendra, for his outstanding social service

yesterday. Prof. Shamsher Ali, VC, Bangladesh Open University and Prof. Moniruzzaman, head of Bangla Department of the Dhaka University, spoke on the occasion. Abdullah Abu Sayed, Director of Biswa Sahitya Kendra presided.

Born in 1934 in a pious family of Jessor, Sharif Hossain was establish a family library in 1948, while he was 14 years old.

He was actively involved with various political movements of the country. In 1956 he became the Office Secretary of Awami League, Jessor district unit. In 1957 he joint the National Awami Party. In 1967 he was arrested under Pakistan Secu-

rety Act.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and hu-

midity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	max	min
Dhaka	26.5	12.6
Chittagong	26.4	14.8
Rajshahi	25.6	12.0
Khulna	27.2	13.5
Barisal	26.5	12.6
Sylhet	26.8	14.8
Cox's Bazar	27.0	16.5

The sun sets today at 5:28 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

The country's lowest temperature was recorded 9.8 degrees Celsius at Srimangal and the highest 27.6 degrees at Teknaf.

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