



Second Chance

by Adnan R Amin

THE first time I noticed the matter was during the daily class roll-call. The teacher yelled, "Devarish", and I promptly stood up and answered. I still remember I received a mild bashing from my teacher, that day. Though my actual name was Rahman Hassan. The people at my school related to me as "Hashu Baba." But that entire day the name Devarish kept coming back to me. It seemed to me it was my own name. The particular incident left me very bewildered.

The very first vision came



almost two years later. It was a cold winter evening and I was sitting in our garden. Suddenly I had a very vivid vision — I along with a lot of other unknown faces was in the middle of a meal. We were sitting on a mat on the floor. I was seated at one end of the table and appeared to be the head of it. The thing I particularly remember is, that my apparent age was at least forty years more than I actually was — that is to say it was almost as if I were having visions of the future! Gradually the visions began coming repeatedly and soon were pretty much frequent. I would see myself talking to younger children, going to the market, happy family scenes. Yet all would end in a fire, a devastating fire. Sometimes I even saw the house — a very big two storied house. Hefty pillars accentuated its classical air. The thought that the house was mine persisted for a long time.

Slowly as days passed I became familiar to the old women and all the three children of the house, Debu, Shathi and Anand. They were evidently very fond of me. And one other thing that attracted my attention was that the old woman addressed me as Devarish. Devarish ... there was something about the name that disturbed me.

Many years passed after that; and as the visions became less frequent, I gradually forgot all about my childhood visions. Almost seven years later I came back from the States, where I had gone to acquire my Masters degree. As usual a friend had handed me a packet full of chocolates, clothes and cosmetics — which were to be delivered to his family. Within a few days of arriving in Dhaka, I went down to the house, a place in the older part of the city. Tracing down the house

Quotable Quotes

Only the ox is consistent in that it always chews grass.

Bismarck

But that world has gone and another takes its place. Eyes see differently, emotions react to other themes. Men weep at jazz, and violence has become sexual.

Charles Chaplin

The absurd man is he who never changes.

Barthelemy

Thus all things are altered; nothing dies.

Ovid

Change everything except your loves.

Voltaire

All things change, creeds and philosophies and outward system — but God remains.

Mrs Humphry Ward

Every change makes the favourite of fortune anxious.

Schiller

In government change is suspected, though to the better.

Francis Bacon

Starting this week, here is a three part report on: The Plight of the Street Children

by Shaila Huq Mitul

TOP your vehicle on any road in a major city, be it Dhaka, Bombay, Buenos Aires or Nairobi, any where in the developing world, and you will see them ... grimy yet grinning as they thrust a hand bill at you, proclaiming some new shop or service station just opened, or ready to scrub your windscreen while you wait for the traffic lights to change. Walk through the market place or a small cafe and you cannot help but notice them ... shining shoes, selling article of dubious value or just gazing pensively at nothing in particular. They are street children!

In most major cities, particularly in developing countries, there are thousands of street children, visible yet unprotected, uncared for, ignored and even shunned. For many such children the streets have become their home.

Definition of Street Children :

An operational definition of street children supplied by the UNICEF reads :

"Street Children are those for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, i.e. unoccupied dwellings, waste lands, etc) more than their family have become their real home, a situation in which there is no protection, supervision or direction from responsible adults."

The Problem of Street Children :

Although the concept of global Children's Rights was first proposed in 1924, it has taken 5 and a half decades to germinate and grow, for it was in 1979 that the plight of the world's children was brought into sharper focus with the declaration of the International year of the child. Several initiatives were taken by international non-governmental organizations and for its part, UNICEF organised several seminars for field workers on "Children at high risk." The UNICEF Executive Board adopted a resolution fully recognizing the importance of the issue and recommending increased action by UNICEF in this field the world over.

Genesis of the Problem of Street Children in Bangladesh :

The street children in a

city are there due to a number of reasons. In a large city like Dhaka, Street Children can be divided into the following classes :

1. Children of Permanently migrated families :

Dhaka, like most large cities is a big commercial centre presenting people from the suburbs and surrounding villages with the prospect of finding employment. Dhaka

2. Children of temporarily migrated families :

Dhaka is a place expanding restfully daily. Numerous higher buildings, workshops, warehouses and the like, are being regularly constructed. Various types of offices are being opened, garment industries being established. These also attract job-seekers from different areas of the country. They come with their families and live in huts erected by them in open space. Almost all members of their families except the toddlers work as labourers. As they are contract labourers, they go back to their native place after the work is over.

3. Children travelling daily to the city :

Another group of children come to the city regularly by train or bus to hawk their wares which are mostly rice and green vegetables. They come early in the morning and take place near the station or in the open space that all markets have and sell their goods. Some also go on hawking their wares from one place to another. After they sell off

Working to make a living

Children on the street — surely they deserve a better life?

on the 1st Test match. To support them there are class players like Dominc Cork and Grame Hick. David Lloyd said that "I can live with defeat" as long as we have played to our maximum, if I think the players let me down I will tell them." And he also wished that there isn't any trouble, inside or outside the field. So everything is going fine for England. India still has a lot of time to improve themselves, and if they can dislodge their problems among themselves they can do better. Indian bowling attack should consist of 4 pacers and 2 spinners. Another important point: the youngsters must take every opportunity given to them, and try to gather experience. Indian cricket still has a lot of miles to cover, and when they do cover, perhaps it will be worth the waiting.

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Highest Individual scores in a chronological order:

India
134 N S Sidhu.
105 D B Vengsarkar.
102 R J Shastri.
101 C Sharma.
160 V G Kamli.

England

137 D L Amis.
129 R A Smith.
115 M W Gatting.
105 G A Gooch.
103 R A Smith.
115 G A Hick.

Quiz Club

HERE are ten quizzes of the week. Crack them, send your answer and right away collect your prize.

- Who is the Prime Minister elect of Israel?
- Who is the Chief of the army staff of the nation?
- Which device is used to measure current in a circuit?
- What is the atomic number of Iodine?
- What does the title Czar represent?
- The capital of Paraguay?
- In which year Argentina annexed Falkland Islands?
- Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese navigator, was killed by natives in
- Who wrote the book, "The Pickwick Papers"?
- Who are known as Magyars?

Answers (07-06-96)

- 2
- Jet of electrons
- Lack of white cells in the blood
- Accra
- Arabic
- 14,300,000 sq km
- Zainab Al-Gazali
- 35
- Zelimkhan
- Japan

Story Writing Competition Entry-I

Life-boring?

Don't be ridiculous!

by Sadaf Mustafiz



CRASH!!! I looked up and almost fainted. The shattering sound of glasses and plates filled the room. Pieces of plates flew across the kitchen and after all the noise had settled down, I turned my stunned face to Shoily and saw her standing in the middle of it all with one single plate in her hands and a sheepish smile on her face. "Youuu.....!!!" I screamed. I ran towards Shoily; my hands outstretched, ready to strangle her. She took from the table and rubbed her eyes. I pushed my plate aside and pulled her arm, ready to leave. But a little while later all her sleepiness flew away when I realised that I had forgotten to bring any money and Shoily had come empty-handed as usual. O Lord! I have never gotten to such an embarrassing situation before. These people didn't even know us, since this was the first time we had come here.

Suddenly something tickled in my mind. Maybe this would turn out to be interesting. Washing dishes ... The manager just rolled his eyes when I gave my excuses. It was as if this was happening every day. He said with a mock smile that there was, of course, other terms of payment. I am sure, I thought inwardly. He led us to the kitchen and Shoily just stared at him eyes popping out. "Are you crazy?" She whispered to me. Oh, her highness could never think of using her delicate fingers, for such acts as washing dishes. "There is always a first time for everything," I laughed out loudly. "And what fun too..."

My enthusiasm dimmed a little when I saw the piles of dishes waiting for us in the kitchen. I got down to washing them and gave the easy task of drying to my friend. After two hours (which seemed like 2 years) of washing and drying, I sat down. Most probably they had taken out most all their cutlery. Shoily took the pile of plates over to the table.

"Life is so boring that we can fall asleep standing, right?" Shoily repeated my words in a highly sarcastic tone.

That night, back at home, I smiled at my teddy bear, saying, "Life — boring? Don't be ridiculous!"

Goo Goo Dolls



Dummer Mike Malinin,
singer/guitarist Johnny Rzeznik
and singer/bassist Robby Takac.

DON'T let the name fool you — the Goo Goo Dolls have taken more than baby steps in the music biz. In the 10 years that these three guys from Buffalo, New York, have been together, they've put out five records, and with their latest, "A Boy Named Goo" (Warner Bros.), they've taken giant steps up the charts. You've probably gotten an earful of their wistful hit single, "Name," which brings to mind the quieter songs of former Goo tourmates Soul Asylum. The rest of the tunes on the CD are a lot different — though no less wacky. Listen to "Slave Girl," "Naked," and "Ain't That Unusual," and you'll hear hints of Green Day and The Ramones, sweetened with a little Sugar. After a decade of hard work, the Goo Goo Dolls are finally getting the "Name" recognition they deserve.

— Courtesy : Seventeen

Due to unavoidable reasons, we couldn't print the cartoon series Bill Howladar this week. Any inconvenience to the readers is regretted.