

Second Chance

by Adnan R Amin

THE first time I noticed the matter was during the daily class roll-call. The teacher yelled, "Devashish", 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 Devashish kept coming back to me. It seemed to me it was my own name. The particular incident left me very bewildered.



was pretty tough. After hours of search and at least a million vows of never again agreeing to such a task, I found the house. I will never forget that minute, that particular moment. I was absolutely flabbergasted, totally spellbound and completely mesmerized. It was the same house that I had earlier seen in my visions.

What lay behind those gates, was not known to me. But I knew I had to learn — for this time I had come face to face with destiny. Slowly I progressed and on the lawn I met an old man — who, I assumed,

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 Devashish. Devashish... 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. Tracking 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

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

provides thousands of them with jobs and they somehow manage to make a moderately decent living. But there are many who fall in the wayside and are forced to lead a most precarious existence. With no means of existence and no place to live, they are forced to take to the streets and live on the meagre earnings they make by doing various odd jobs.

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 excepting 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 hawk-ing their wares from one place to another. After they sell off

whatever they have brought they go back to their homes. These children constitute a floating population of street children and their number too is notably significant.

4. Children of very poor families:

The fourth group of children belong to destitute families who are almost permanent residents of the city, living in the street often for generations. These children are in dire need for care and protection, many of them do not even have a memory of their past.

They do not know of their roots with nothing to look back to. Many of them are born in the street and brought up there. They are half-fed and ill-clad. Begging and picking garbage are their main occupations. They are the most vulnerable group of children who are often victims of all sorts of exploitation and abuse. Many of them often take to anti-social activities and criminal behaviour to support themselves and their families.

5. Working Children:

Many of the street children are working children. Compelled by their needs to support themselves and often their families, these children take up many different types of work ranging from casual rag-pickers to regular helpers in garages or roadside tea stalls or shops. Many children are forced to spend the most part of their day in the streets because of the nature of the work undertaken by them.

6. Abandoned, Delinquent, Orphan and Maladjusted Children:

In the last category came the delinquents, orphans, deserted, maladjusted and other high-risk children who are usually victims of hostile circumstances. Many of the children are orphans or deserted, mostly by their fathers. Due to those unnatural family conditions often these children have no place or shelter and are compelled to live in the streets. Juvenile delinquents are used often by unscrupulous adults for smuggling and running the trade of illicit liquor, rice, even drugs or pick pocketing and many of them are found to end up as criminals without any chance to come back to normal life.



Working to make a living



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

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

Indian Cricket Heading for a Crash

by Ishrak Ahmed Siddiky

ONCE again Indian cricket is in a great dilemma. It is in political turmoil. And a few weeks back when Sidhu retired, India lost one of their master batsmen. They have no good batsmen except Tendulkar and Manjrekar, and they are completely dependent on Srinath and Kumble. India lost the one day series to England 2-0 and also lost the first cricket test

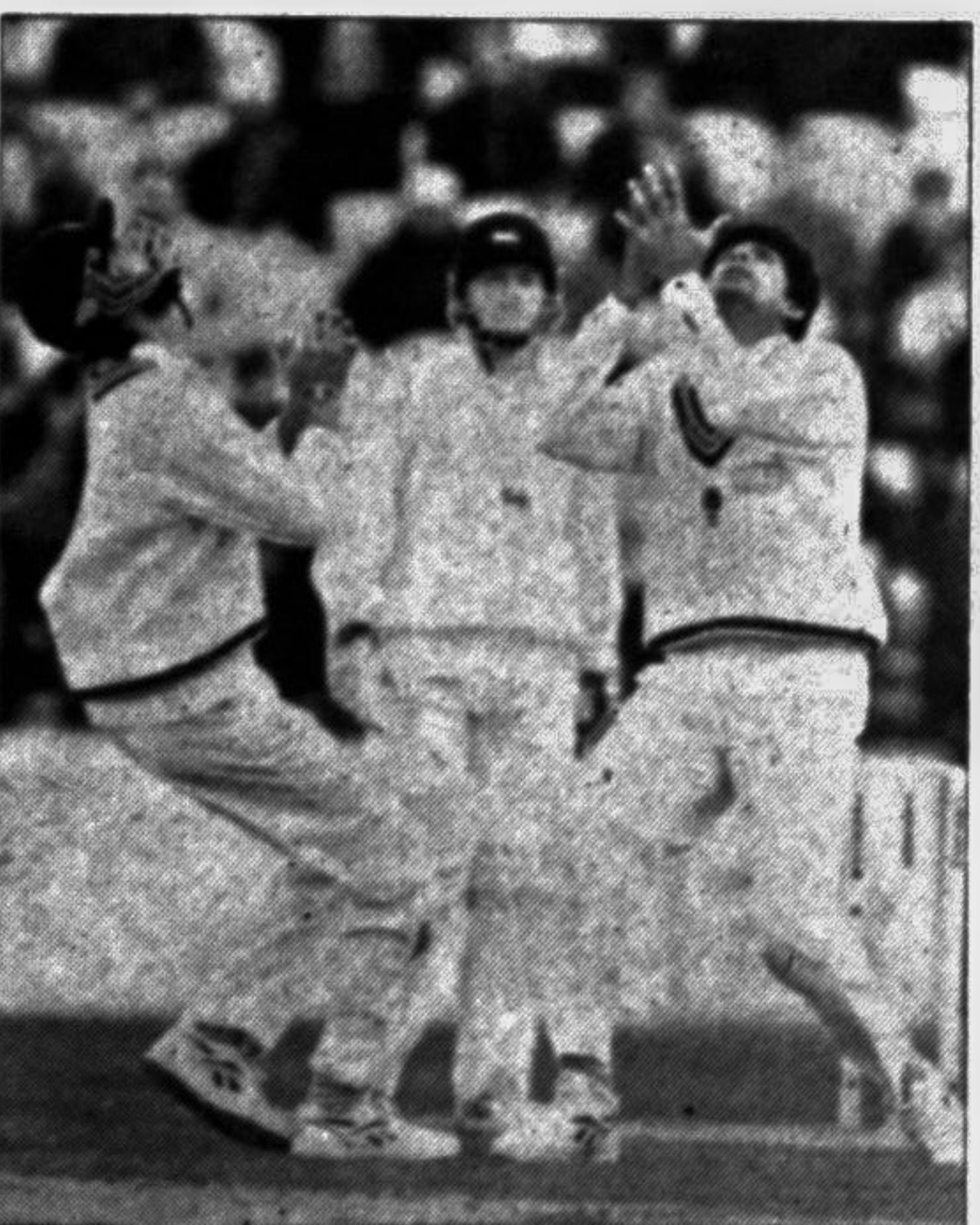
can't cope up with the English climate. It's too rough for them. They couldn't get them selves together and play properly. Another problem that is arising is that Azhar is not getting back his momentum with the bat. The Indian skipper who once scored the fastest hundred and 4,000 Test runs and over 5,000 one day runs is no longer in this glorious form. Also the fielding of India has

Indians. The first half of the summer is not the best time for the bowlers. The ball is hard to grip and the pitches are extremely slow, and also the wicket is flat. Balls also don't move around which is unfavourable for players like Srinath and Prasad's calibre. To make things worse the Indian managements are also making some mistakes, for which they will have to pay dearly. There's a phrase "two many cooks spoil the broth." Every member in the Indian management has his own opinions and is usually quite rigid. Now like Pakistan, Politics has also entered in Indian cricket. This will have an adverse effect on the game. There are many talented players in India. Why wasn't Kamble selected, where as Rahul Dravid and Vikram Rathore are chosen? It is good, but in a war, you can't win only with foot soldiers, you also need the infantry which the management does not understand. Now let's talk a little bit about England. England is now quite an improved and strong team and now they can put up a good fight against any team. After the disappointing world cup, England is now being coached by a new man named David Lloyd. He completely changed the whole set up of the England team. England recently has taken many talented players like Maculay and others. They are very enterprising. There is also Nasir Hussain who played brilliantly

on the 1st Test match. To support them there are class players like Doming Cork and Graeme 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 discuss 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.

Highest individual scores in a chronological order:

India	England
134 N S Sidhu.	137 D L Amies
105 D B Vengsarkar.	129 R A Smith
102 R J Shastri	115 M W Gatting
101 C Sharma	105 G A Gooch
160 V G Kamble.	103 R A Smith
	115 G A Hick



which the two countries played.

Azharuddin is not sure what he will do and the young master batsmen Tendulkar is also confused. He doesn't know what to do. We already saw that, though Tendulkar made a polished 122 India still went down to England. Without Sidhu the star batsman, Indian team would find it difficult to live up to their reputations. This year nothing went right for the Indians. They bowed out of the World Cup Semifinal, secondly they lost in the Pepsi Cup Final and thirdly they are being white washed by the Englishmen. Another problem for the Indians is, that they

not improved that much. Some of the matches they played against Sussex, Kent and Middle sex weren't too impressive either. Many people say that the relationship between Azhar and Tendulkar is not good. But since one is a matured cricketer and the other is a budding hero, problems might arise, however they should be able to settle their difference. India now needs batsmen like Srikanth, and D B Vengsarkar and bowlers like Kapil Dev and Chetan Sharma. They are now in a terrible state straits. India now badly needs talented players. The weather of England is really playing havoc with the

Story Writing Competition Entry-I

Life-boring?

Don't be ridiculous!

by Sadaf Mustafiz



OH! I sighed. "Life is so boring I think I can fall asleep standing." Getting no response, I turned towards my friend. She was already sleeping... in a restaurant... I shook her arm. Sleepily, Sholly lifted her head 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 Sholly 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 ticked 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 Sholly 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..."

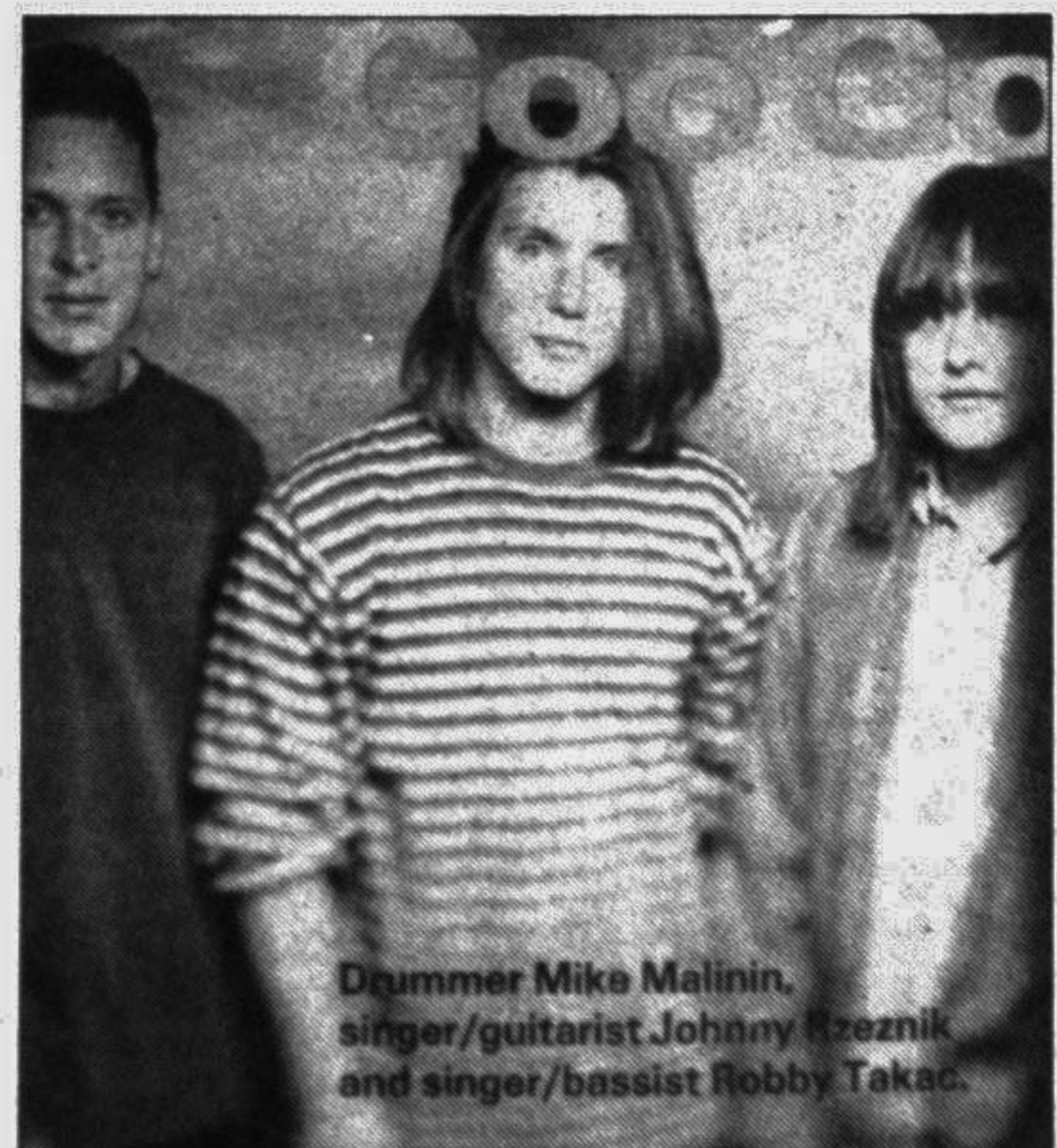
My enthusiasm dimmed a little when I saw the piles of dishes waiting for us in the kitchen. I got down to washing them and gave the easy task of drying to my friend. After two hours (which seemed like 2 years) of washing and drying, I sat down. Most probably they had taken out most all their cutlery.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

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 and saw her standing in the middle of it all with one single plate in her hands and a sheepish smile on her face. "Youuuu..." I screamed. I ran towards Sholly, my hands outstretched, ready to strangle her. She took off from there and I ran after her in circles around the table, throwing, pushing away and breaking dozens of glassware and other dishes in the process. Hearing a sudden thump, we stopped. The hotel manager had fainted. After a few minutes, when he finally regained consciousness he first looked around the room with dazed eyes and then turned and stared at us. Then, in a swift motion, he was up on his feet and he shouted to the others, "Call the police, now!" POLICE! I had never thought of that. After the shock had dimmed, we made a dive for the window and jumped out, unfortunately landing on the dirt and mud outside. By the time we managed to get up, the police were already there. I pulled my dupatta over my face in shame, while being led to the police car, hoping that nobody would see me. I could just imagine my parents, red with rage...

"Life is so boring that we can fall asleep standing, right?" Sholly 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



Drummer 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 worthy. 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.

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
- Zelinkhan
- Japan