

# Magical powers for a housewife



Rokeya Mahbub enthralls the audience with her magical gifts.

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

"The man seemed very enthusiastic when he leaped up from his seat and rushed to the stage. But when he was laid down and told he would be chopped into 21 pieces, his face was instantly pale in fear."

Rokeya Mahbub, a housewife in the city was sharing experiences she gathered through her unabated passion for the art of magic.

Rokeya got hooked to magic eversince she was a student of class eight. The world of magic offered her not only the pleasure of creative work, but also a fair means to earn a decent amount even while sitting at home. Today, when unemployment is most common problem to every household of the city, Rokeya's hobby enabled her to earn a handsome living.

A good number of youngsters turn up to learn magic from Rokeya these days. Bringing out a pigeon from an empty box or slashing down a living man's neck---she teaches them all with immense dexterity.

"They are very eager to learn it all, Rokeya said. She recalled her initial days when she acquired the skill from noted magicians like Jewel Aich, Shah Moni, Akter Hossain, Afzal Hossain and George D'Cruse. "It is a complete science

that needs spontaneity as well as smartness to learn," she said. She is now passing her skills to 22 disciples who come thrice a week to her place.

However, Rokeya mentioned there is a lack of interest among female children for this genre of art. "I hardly get any female student," she said. "I wonder whether they are scared of it or entangled into a social taboo," she added.

She herself never suffered from any social pressure either from parent's family or her husband's family. Now her fourteen years old son Mahbub Mosabir Saikat assists her to perform magic on stage. Clad in colorful gaudy outfits, both the mother and son mesmerise the audience through their enigmatic performance.

Among her numerous shows on television and on stage, Rokeya still remembers her performance at Rabindra Hall in Chandannagar in West Bengal. "The applause from such a vast audience is unforgettable," she said.

Bangladesh lacks proper institutionalisation for the art of magic, Rokeya said. A magic school or assistance from the government for magician will help the industry to thrive, she added.

# Cyber help for students



CITY CORRESPONDENT

Finally the Teachers Students' Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University is able to

keep pace with modern information technology by introducing a cyber centre for students. Vice Chancellor of the university Professor S.M.Fayez inaugurated the centre last Saturday.

"The students will be a misfit in the competition of twenty-first century if they are not related to global information flow," Fayez said during his speech of chief guest at the inauguration ceremony.

The centre has 25 computers where the students can use Internet using pre-paid billing system. One can

use the Internet for 300 minutes through buying pre-paid scratch card that costs Tk 60 only. This card will be valid for three months. Pre-paid cards will be available at TSC branch of Janata Bank and at the centre itself.

The centre is expected to provide fast speed internet facility since it has broadband line and Pentium-4 computers. It will remain open from two at the afternoon till ten at night. "It would be a great convenience for us if we can use the cyber centre," said Sultana Begum, a student residing in Rokeya Hall. "Most of us residing in dormitories have to roam around to find a convenient cyber café," she added.

# Hail halim!

As halim gained popularity as snacks over the last two decades, number of people associated with the business started gaining popularity too

SYED TASHFIN

Halim has steadily become one of the most popular food items for Dhaka dwellers over the last two decades.

In the beginning, the mouth-watering mixture of meat and dal

was sold only from makeshift shops by the road or street-side vans. However, within a few years halim became such a public favourite that it changed the fortunes of a number of people associated with the business. The hugely successful Mama Halim and Gausia Halim can testify to that.

Kalabagan's Mama Halim originally started its journey from Mohammadpur bus stand in 1973. Eight years later, it shifted to Kalabagan. Halim was sold from a street-side van but business was gradually flourishing.

Soon, the owner managed to

rent an outlet and the rest is history. At present, it has 20 employees and can cater to 60 customers at a time. The Mama Halim is open from 3pm to 11pm seven days a week and the place is always packed with customers.

"We are fortunate to have so many regular and satisfied customers," said Tajul Islam, one of the two managers Mama Halim.

Mama's beef halim is the cheapest at Tk 15 a bowl. Chicken and mutton goes for Tk 20. There is takeaway provision also.

Gausia Halim at Dhaka's busy shopping destination of Gausia Market, have been in business for fifteen years now and are not lagging too far behind Mama in terms of reputation. Their specialty is they sell only mutton halim at Tk 15 a bowl.

Gausia have a pragmatic attitude towards business. They cook halim according to the previous week's sales record. Mama in contrast, cooks 2 dekkhis (large pots) of halim every day.

During the month of Ramadan, demand for halim reaches fever pitch. Cashing on their popularity, Mama Halim sell their product to the different iftaar outlets and food shops who in their turn, sell that halim for a higher price.

Gausia however deplore this idea, as they believe the goodwill developed over the years might suffer for that.



The famous Mama Halim restaurant prepares the latest batch for their eager clients.

As many as 250 students from 17 schools of the city participated in the discussion.

# Provide children with basic rights

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government and the industrialists of the country to come forward and provide decent housing facilities for children, as housing is one of their basic rights.

They also said if they could not provide proper accommodation to children then their talent will not flourish properly.

Habitat for Humanity International, Bangladesh (HHIB) and Working for Better Life (WBL) two non-government organisations organised a children's summit on "Our housing rights will give life" at the British Council Auditorium.

As many as 250 students from 17 schools of the city participated in the discussion.

Executive Director of the HHIB Mostafa Shiblee, Country Director of WBL Edward Fernando, Assistant Director of British Council Hither Forbes, Benedict Poresh Sardar, teachers and three students spoke in the discussion.

The HHIB has operations in 89 countries across the world and built houses for eight lakh people. Country Director of WBL, Edward Fernando said,



These slum children face an uncertain future: can we improve their prospects?

"In Bangladesh, we began operation in 1999 and built 270 houses in three districts."

Poresh Sardar said that the government could not solve the housing problems alone and therefore private conglomerates should come forward to solve the problem.

Sanjida Rahman Lata, a student of Ashraf Textile Mills High School said, "The potential of a child flourishes when she can have a beautiful house. Without a decent house, it is not possible for us to show our talents."

Jahangir Hasan Roni of Uttara Model High School narrated the miseries of the

children of Middle East, especially Iraqi children and expressed his sympathy for many of them who have lost their houses in the recent war.

Schoolchildren recited poems, performed comedies and sang all focusing on housing problems of this country.

# Health,CourierServices&Library

## HEALTH

### Hospitals

**Heart**  
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 912560-59

**Burn**  
Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

**Cancer**  
National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

**Diabetes**  
Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

**Mother & Child Care**  
Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62  
Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

### Eye

Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315  
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

### Dental

Dental College -9002035

### Orthopaedics

National Orthopaedics (Pangu)

Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

### General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6

Rushmoni General Hospital- 8317819

### Holy Family Hospital

83111731-25

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9

Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, 7318166,

Shamari Hospital- 9131901

Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

### Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

### Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

### Ambulances For Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail)

9336611, Gandaria 7319808,

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

## MARKET CLOSED

### COURIER SERVICES

### International

Airborne Express- 9561371, 9561372, 9550724

Air Couriers Int'l (BD) Ltd.- 8815970 (BD)

Aramax International Courier- 9558003, 9559582, 9565075

Airspeed Express- 9563494

Asian Courier Services Ltd.- 8313543

Baishakhi Courier Service- 9558606

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.- 9565114

Bangladesh Manzil-Thursday.

New Market-Tuesday

Gausia Market-Tuesday

Mouchak Market-Sunday

Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday

Eastern Plaza-Sunday

Farmview Super Market-Sunday

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

### National

Asian courier Service Ltd- 8313543

BAE- 9884851

Central Courier Service- 9881118

Confidence Courier Service Ltd.

9567036

Chisty Courier- 7110177-9,

7100842-4

Fedex Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd-

9565114

Modhuban Courier Service-

9557975

Dhaka Courier Services- 7236222

Dolphin Courier- 9558802

Dreamland Courier Service-

9550326, 9566975

Pioneer Courier Services-

9561727, 9569759

Probashi Courier Services-

9346359

Rainbow Express Parcel Services

Ltd.- 8322773, 8315703

Reliance Express Services-

9558515, 7110249

Sundarban Courier Services-