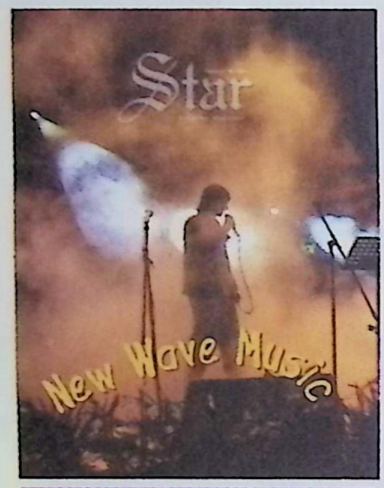


STAR WEEKEND MAGAZINE
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Evicted!

The report by the SWM on eviction (February 2, 2007) is well-written, gives an account of the sufferings of the evicted people but some other related aspects are missing.

Beautification of the city or helping big businessmen can never be the purpose of eviction of the hawkers. Sitting on the footpaths is illegal, collecting *chada* (toll) from these shops is unlawful. Every city has its own design regarding establishments and others, which does not support the mushrooming of whimsical hawkers' markets. In this respect the matter of right to life and right to movement conflicts in a different way and also the right to employment. The hawkers have the right to live but for this sake they cannot claim the right to encroach on the footpaths. Here the direct responsibility lies with the Government. After eviction the right to employment raises the question as to why these villagers are here and how the problem of unemployment could be resolved. Is selling boiled eggs on the street a solution?

Photos of eviction and heart wrenching stories should not just be our output. We should take steps for a state policy. I am with those who dream of a poverty-free Bangladesh. May be the caretaker government does not have any authority to take policy for a durable solution regarding hawkers. If they could initiate something permanent for the hawkers and not just evict them it would be a step in the right direction.

Lubna Zahan
Lecturer of Law,
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Nice Work Chowdhury!

Hats off to Osman Choudhury for his praiseworthy honesty! He has heightened the image of Bangladesh to the world by returning 31 diamond rings to its owner which she left in his cab. Despite not being very solvent he has made an example of honesty in real life. Thanks to this jewel for making us proud abroad.

Shaikhul Akbar
CGC

Another Shameful Event for Us!

Finally Sabina has passed away at the age of 19 after fighting for life for many terrible days. Watching this shocking news on ATN I was dumbfounded. Sabina, an acid victim was attacked on the very first night of her marriage.

Like other incidents the memory of Sabina will be eliminated from us after a few days. There are some protests going on but eventually the miscreants will be left unpunished.

Acid throwing is a crime equal to terrorism. Bold action needs to be taken against this crime and only our government can play the vital role in this. I would like to request our caretaker government to arrange some exemplary punishment for those who belittle the lives of others by throwing acid.

I hope that no other Sabinas have to succumb to such a brutal a fate.

Mahbub
Dhaka

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

Letters to the Editor, Dhaka Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While SWM welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. SWM does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

All materials should be sent to: Star Weekend Magazine, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Fax: 880-2-8125155 or emailed to: <starweekendmag@gmail.com>

It is recommended that those submitting work for the first time to the SWM take a look at a sample copy beforehand. Our website is: http://www.thedailystar.net/magazine