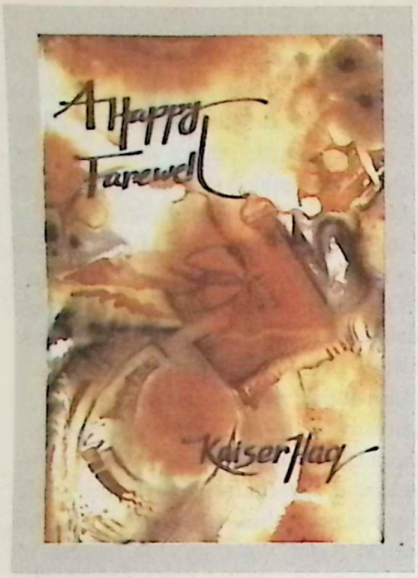


most when he let Eros lead him away from almost all formal restraints in the poems of the *Black Orchid* volume.

Kaiser Haq chooses to conclude Published in the Streets of Dhaka: Collected Poems 1966-2006 with an appendix that consists of a prose "Apology for Bangladeshi Poetry in English." This is a useful inclusion for it indicates why and how he chose to write poems immersed in the landscape and cityscape of Bangladesh/Dhaka in English: an English-medium education in a postcolonial country; an American missionary who showed to him in school how "writing was a process of playing with words"; the example of other sub-continental poets who opted to versify in English and showed that irony and satire if not lyric grace were attainable goals for Indians writing poetry in the language; intimacy with leading contemporary poets of Bangladesh that he has consolidated through translating them; and a commitment to unifying the sensibility of Bengalis split between a "logic-chopping" side and an emotional one. Surely, Haq's volume of collected poems is a testament to a major Bangladeshi poet writing in English who deserves to be much better known now not only in his own county but in the wider world.

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Drowning is the greatest danger for small children in Bangladesh

THE biggest killer of children aged one to four in Bangladesh is drowning, according to newly published data by ICDDR,B. The current figures show that up to 17,000 Bangladeshi children die of drowning a year -- on average, 46 children a day.

The recently conducted Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey (BHIS) found that injuries of all kinds are the biggest killer of Bangladeshi children under eighteen today, with an estimated 30,000 deaths every year caused by childhood injuries.


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However, in a country with the world's highest density of rivers, and approximately two-thirds of the land frequently flooded, the greatest danger comes from drowning. Although rates of drowning have remained stable since the 1980s, drowning as a proportion of all deaths in children aged one to four has increased from nine per cent in 1983 to 59 per cent in 2003.

Over the past decade, ICDDR,B has found that most drownings actually occur in ponds or ditches, in the monsoon season, in children between one and two years of age, and between 9 am and noon when the mother is busy with household work. The current BHIS data also shows that more than 75 per cent of drownings take place in bodies of water less than 20 metres from the house, with children unable to or too young to know how to swim.

Great progress in reducing child mortality from infectious diseases in Bangladesh during the last two decades has meant that injuries and accidents, such as drowning, are now emerging as a greater threat to child survival. But as this has yet to be recognised widely, there are no parental awareness raising campaigns, no programs teaching adults how to respond to life-threatening accidents and injuries. However, ongoing research by ICDDR,B and Johns Hopkins University is being conducted to develop and test ways of preventing children from drowning in rural Bangladesh.

- Forum Desk