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PHOTO: FATEHA NAZNEEN

"Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult."

— Charlotte Whitton

SNAPSHOT

BULLETIN

World Water Day

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.
— Thomas Fuller

Along with the world, Bangladesh will be observing World Water Day on March 22, as declared by the United Nations. This year, World Water Day will be celebrated under the theme of 'Water & Sustainable Development'.

Since 2009, Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD), along with Coca-Cola has been observing this day in Bangladesh. The concern has always been about creating awareness on safe water consumption throughout the year.

This year JAAGO will organise awareness programmes in Rayer Bazar and Banani slums to promote the importance of safe water. Volunteers from 10 other districts will also join the campaign. More than 400 volunteers will participate in a door to door activation programme where they will discuss the problems of unsafe water and will talk about how to prevent life threatening diseases. The volunteers will also show posters on how to create prevention against waterborne diseases and ways to secure safe, water. This activation will take place today. JAAGO will also arrange a press conference on March 22 at the VIP Hall, National Press Club, Dhaka.

Compiled by SEGUFTA MAHJABIN SEJUTI

SATIRE |

Apiti Snoboni has moved back to Dhaka after 4 years of studying in the United States, because she believes in our development sector and wants to devote her life to helping the poor, empowering the powerless etc. Unfortunately, she has failed to convince her friends that under all her Prada clothes and D&G perfumes lies the heart of a humanitarian who can identify strongly with her tattered sari wearing, overworked bua.

She has obtained a job through her father's best friend at a local NGO -Khudharthoder Khawan, which is located in a poor, remote part of the city called Dhanmondi (she is super proud of this!). She has also purchased a new "inexpensive" wardrobe (all 365 kameezes are from boutiques on Gulshan Avenue) and has decided to go to work via public transportation. No, no not a CNG- a BUS, where she can become one with her underprivileged soul mates.

She waits at the Kakoli bus stop on her first day of work covering her head conservatively, with her dupatta. A few feet behind her stands her devoted chauffer (at her father's insistence), determined to follow her to work. After having mistaken several buses for her own (her Bangla isn't the best after all those years abroad), her bus arrives, and to her extreme confusion the mile long line of people waiting for it try to get inside all at once! She is rudely pushed and shoved aside as people climb in and she wonders how there is space enough for everyone! Her chauffer finally elbows people to help her in and she suddenly finds herself sandwiched between two lungi clad passengers who she is sure, have never heard of deodorant.

She looks expectantly around at the young men sitting, waiting to be offered one of their seats, but chivalry, it seems, has died in this battle field. Suddenly she feels an anonymous pinch on her side as she is jerked around during the bumpy never-ending ride. Nevermind, she will be dignified and will set an example for them all, she thinks, as people scream at her to move, from all directions.

As the bus driver swings around a corner like he's driving a sports car, a woman next to Apiti, to her horror, leans over to the window and starts vomiting. Shockingly, everyone seems quite nonchalant about this- her brain screams "Remain calm, DON'T PANIC!" Her resolution, however, is tested beyond all limits as the men sandwiching her discard phlegmy spit millimetres away from her new kolapuris (disgusting!).

TRIALS OF A DO-GOODER

ANIKA HOSSAIN

By now her polite façade has crumbled as she aggressively pushes into a newly vacated seat yelling loudly at a chubby lady who is also trying to knee her way in. After two and half excruciating hours, she finally arrives at her destination her make-up running and hair matted --the bus is not air-conditioned though it sports a sign that says it is. Almost in tears now, she is informed by her chauffer that she needs to jump out as the bus nears her stop. "If it stops, too many people will try to get in," he informs her as though this is a perfectly acceptable explanation. As she lands on all fours, she sheds her sweat soaked dupatta along with her desire to become the ultimate do-gooder, and grabs the next air-conditioned taxi to the nearest spa.



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PHOTO: STAR FILE

Another Step to Glory

We're very glad that Bangladesh has qualified for quarter final for the first time by beating the English. It's a great achievement for Bangladeshi cricket. The century by Mahmudullah will be evergreen in our memory. Contributions of other players were also remarkable including Rubel, Mushfiqur Rahim etc. We want tigers continue their performance. I think they are now one of the greatest teams in the world. Go ahead tigers. We are with you.

Md Noman Hossan Khandker
Student of BBA
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

A Day in the Life of a Dhakaite

The satire by Anika Hossain nicely depicted the plight of the Dhakaites in these days of uncertainty. Hartals and blockades have been ruining our economy, education system, and daily lives from the very beginning of this year. But still we can't see any peaceful solution for the near future. We have become so desensitized that burning property, people and the rising death toll don't affect our minds the way they used to. I would like to thank Anika for her amazing satire piece.

Tartila Khan
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



Star Weekend's Re-vamp

I am pleased to see the Star Weekend in its new format. I find it very exciting to see the new content and colourful illustrations. I think it is really a great idea and nice surprise for the young and new readers. Thanks to the editor and the publisher of the Star for this remarkable new supplement. Shafiq Shibli
Sitakunda, Chittagong

Star Weekend's New Look

I thought I would hate the new format, but I think I am getting used to it now! However, I think the colours of the overall Star Weekend was very dull and also the spotlight looked like something out of a brochure! Last week's Straight Talk was a very timely piece. I do liked the snippets on Wes Anderson, who happens to be my favourite filmmaker. Suraiya Kazi
Chittagong Grammar School
Chittagong

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