

# A tribute to the little things in life

We run. We run through life like we are chasing something that'll be lost the minute we stop running. And somehow along the way, that's all we have conditioned ourselves to do. Take a second to appreciate something? Well, who's got time for that! And that leaves us void, cold and wondering why all that running hasn't satisfied us already.

Here's why. Because it's not the running that'll make us happy; it's the forgotten little things along the way that will – the little things that we have become too busy to notice.

Take Dhaka for example. Yes, that same busy city that we constantly complain about. Look at it from any of the skyscrapers that "spoil" the view. It's so breathtakingly beautiful. All the haphazard buildings seem like little colourful paper models and when all

the lights are on at night, it seems like the stars have come down to the city itself. That's especially funny because our polluted sky hardly has stars. So, next time you want to watch the stars, just look below from a skyscraper at night.

Speaking of Dhaka, isn't it amazing when the roads that are usually full of traffic congestion are empty and you can reach your destination faster than you expected? We always whine when the traffic is extreme, but never the other way round. And when you are stuck in traffic (the absolute inevitable), and suddenly your favourite song magically comes up on the radio, it does brighten your day a little, doesn't it?

With the expensive rent and then transport, at the end of the month almost all your hard-earned money is gone! So when you

find a few notes crumpled up in your long-forgotten jacket or trousers, your day just gets better, especially if there is a sale in your favourite store. What's better than getting the thing that you wanted but at only half the price? Here's what – not having to use your money at all! That's right. We all know how satisfying it is when your friend treats you. Good free food! What's not to like?

Speaking of food, isn't it incredible when your fridge is stacked with food you actually like eating, and not a bunch of weird tasting vegetables and frozen fish? Yes, opening the fridge door and finding your favourite food is worth celebrating, especially when those midnight cravings kick in.

And then there are libraries with their wondrous aura. Maybe it's the silence or maybe it's the rows of neatly arranged books

in tall wooden shelves or maybe it's just the fact that the place holds more knowledge than you will ever know. And if you don't like reading, there are always cat videos on YouTube to keep you occupied. See, YouTube will never run out of things for you to watch, and that is remarkable.

Life is made of moments. When we only see things but never truly learn to appreciate anything, we lose out. We lose out on life itself and all we're left with is a wistful wish to be happy. We don't even know where to look for it, because it's actually right there – in the little everyday things that we do. So, as I lay curled up on my bed on the 24th floor of the building with my laptop and a huge cup of coffee and a bar of chocolate, distractedly popping bubble wrap, I'm glad I'm happy.

**By Adiba Mahbub Prama**



## NEWS FLASH

# A Day with Mushfiqur Rahim

Daraz.com.bd, one of the leading online retailers, teamed up with their brand ambassador Mushfiqur Rahim, Test Captain of BD cricket team and implemented an initiative of #DarazCares. This was carried out in association with ActionAid Bangladesh to support their project, the Happy Homes- Centres for the deprived and underprivileged girls of Dhaka city.

As a tribute to International Women's day, ActionAid helped Daraz host a program at their premises with 30 marginalised girls out of 150 of 'Happy Homes', a home supported by ActionAid Bangladesh which works for the improvement of the lives of these girls. Daraz brought MR15 forward for this cause to seek support for these girls, to help ensure that they have a safe shelter, food, education and the chance to have a wholesome life far from living on the streets.

Mushfiqur Rahim delivered a moving message to the girls of Happy Homes. He spent his time getting to know the girls, signing autographs and taking selfies. He then went on to give autographs and even played a friendly match of cricket. The girls put on a special dance performance on the occasion and were thrilled to have Mushfiqur Rahim spend quality time with them. This tribute was jointly coordinated by the Daraz Marketing and PR team, along with Happy Homes and the ActionAid

Bangladesh team including Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh, Kashfia Feroz, Manager of Women Rights, Munawwar Chowdhury, Associate Marketing Manager and Sumit Jasoria, Head of Marketing, Daraz BD.

Naushaba Salahuddin, Head of PR of Daraz BD said, "The main goal for this event was to raise awareness in order for people to come forward and further this cause. We know too many people who want to help but don't know how to go about it. Hopefully, once we boost Mushfiqur Rahim's call-to-action, it will help create a sustainable platform for other organisations and individuals to take similar initiatives."

Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh went on to say that, "We appreciate Daraz's initiative to come and stand by the Happy Home girls, as all our efforts together will make a change. Supporting the 150 girls in Happy Homes is so rewarding that we are sure that many would like to come forward to support them. Not only that, it is also our responsibility to give these girls a better chance. So let us change the lives of 150 girls in Happy Homes and many more."

To support Happy Homes financially please visit <http://www.actionaid.org/bangladesh/where-we-work/happy-homes>.

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