

STAR WEEKEND

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Human nature is like water. It takes the shape of its container.



-WALLACE STEVENS

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A migrant's journey

Helal left his motherland to change his ill fate but ended up suffering cruel realities on his journey. While he found happiness and built a life with his wife and son, his life was never stable and now he is imprisoned and his family is also suffering. I appeal to the government to at least do something for Helal's wife and son.

Badsha Wazed Ali
Syed Abul Hossain College, Madaripur

A right to privacy

This is the digital era and we all have personal information online. But is this safe? Different companies are allegedly using personal information to boost their businesses without taking people's consent. It is important to counter this misuse of our information by third parties.

It is high time to take action against those who breach stores of personal information online and use them without consent. Laws should be imposed strictly and people should also be careful about protecting their personal information online.

Mohib Billah
Islamic University

Modern day slavery

Last week's Shutterstories "Shumi" has stuck with me. What a miserable life she has! 24 hours a day, seven days a week, she goes on working with no holidays or free time of her own. Trapped in a building, children like her don't have even a bed to sleep in, don't get proper sanitation facilities, and are vulnerable to being physically and sexually harassed. Just giving them some money at the end of the month does not justify all this. We are stealing their childhood and the practice is a 21st century form of slavery. It has to be stopped.

Papon Paul
University of Asia Pacific

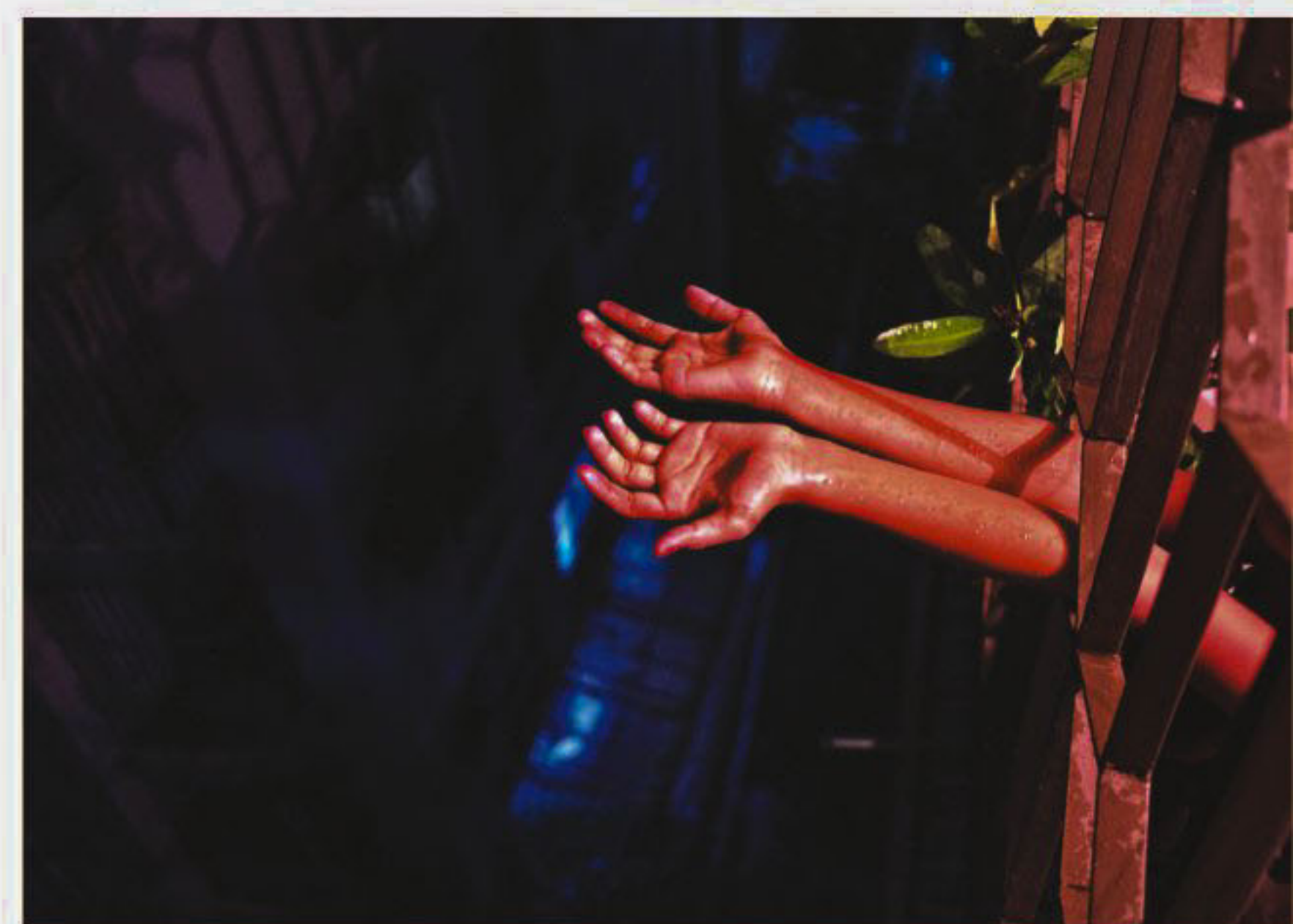


PHOTO: MOSFIQUR RAHMAN JOHAN



A Tale of Two Languages

I wanted to reach out in response to your well written essay illustrating the influence of Persian on the Bengali language. As a literary scholar, I am always fascinated by the pre-colonial cultural exchanges in South Asia, and I hope you are pursuing a much larger project dealing with early modern South Asia.

I would think the language of the *Mangalkavyas* are also Persian-ised or may have been influenced by Musalmani Bangla. To my knowledge, I have not seen any major scholarship dealing with the Persian influence on Bengal. Scholars do agree though that the influence has been massive.

Asif Iqbal
Michigan State University