

RISING STARS

TODAY was a special day. It was his father's birthday and in honor of this his father had called a hartal. He was probably hoping that the Lord would give him a gift, and topple the government. He had never understood politics, at least not the kind his father seemed to play. Intrigued, he had decided he would talk to his father about politics. Walking up to his dad, who was dressed in a white panjabi and was reading the papers; his pipe resting on the table beside the telephone, was slowly burning out. He quietly sat down and waited. As if sensing his curiosity, his dad looked up.

A Clear Perception

nitely opposition or they wouldn't be there, right? All we want is some peace, so we use peaceful methods to get our point across."

"But today, your party has burnt three private cars, two motorcycles, eight rickshaws and four buses!" he gasped.

"Yes, it has been a successful day!" his dad replied with a smile. "If only the government wasn't this stupid. I don't know why they can't see that all the people support my party."

by Sayed Talat Kamal

ing his hands as if in prayer. "The government is stupid because they know that it costs the country millions in lost revenues whenever a hartal is called, yet they do not do the right thing and step down. They are completely unresponsive to the fact that my rickshaw puller brother, who earns on a day to day basis may starve all day. Also the fact that they choose to ignore the last

prosperous."

"What happened?"

"I'll tell you what happened!" His anger rose and his eyes started to quiver. "A group of so called 'people liberators' demanded our resignation."

"What did they do?"

"They had a series of hartals, the hartals weakened our government. You see our government couldn't afford to lose so much revenue, and foreign exchange. They were running our economy into the ground."

"Foreign exchange? why did

Time for a Change

by Sanjida Shaheed
Class-X

EDUCATION is one of the birth rights of a human being and to fulfill this right, parents who can afford to send their children to schools, colleges, universities etc. But what do we get from these educational institutions— education? I doubt that very much. I don't know about colleges or universities because I haven't finished school yet. But I'm very depressed at the poor condition of education at school level. As a school going student I'm stating with regret that we are not getting what we ought to get from schools.

Because of the huge number of students, 'one kind of teachers' are unable to teach his/her pupils properly. But what about 'the other kind'?

school teachers. If a tutor is kept he has to be paid highly and if the young ones are sent to centres or homes, a large quantity of money has to be spent on them.

The other kind of teachers do not even try to give the class a lesson. Teachers of this category don't care about students much when students are in classrooms.

Moreover, parents have to wait in the centre or home as long as their children get education because their home is too far away to be journeying to and from twice. Parents of female students have to wait, because it's too dangerous and risky for a young girl to come home all alone.

They dream of earning bundles of 'paper' called money by teaching the pupil comfortably at his/her own residence, but do they give the students proper education even in that way? No, they don't. They teach a student only selected chapters which are so-called 'important'.

It's true that some students are quite happy to go to such centres and homes and maybe they do well in the exams by learning the 'notes'. But to speak the truth, learning 'notes' and doing well in the exams spoils the spirit of education.

As a result a student remains ignorant about the book. They just learn every word of their 'precious notes' by heart and then sit for the exams.

Moreover, it is not always the case that the result turns out to be good. Sometimes, the result is embarrassing when questions, the answers of which are not learnt, are asked in the exams. So, such students cannot do well in the exams. I do know several students who couldn't do well in some exams just because questions were not 'common'.

These 'experienced' teachers are very careful about money. Their minimum fee varies from Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500. And I know a teacher whose minimum fee is Tk 8,000 for two subjects (Science and Maths) each month. And he teaches a student one hour a day and three days a week, which means, this 'obhigo' teacher earns approximately 666 Tk for each hour. Imagine that!

Can this situation go on forever? No, it can't surely. It is time for a change. We all know that education is the key to the development of a country. It is time to think seriously about the development of Bangladesh.

Most of the teachers of large schools, either belong to the first category or to the second category. So, education cannot be achieved from schools. But to pass the exams, a student has to achieve education in some way or other.

Parents have to keep tutors or send their young ones to coaching centres or homes of



"Abba, why is there a hartal today?" he inquired.

"In honor of my birthday, didn't you know that?" he said, looking back at his paper.

"Well, yes but why today?"

"The people wanted to honor me, and make a political statement, you see they love me very much." He replied with a content look on his face.

"But you were the one who called the hartal?"

"Just leave will you! I just want some peace." Slamming the paper down in disgust, his finger pointed to the door began to twitch.

"Okay! Okay! what does this hartal do?" he continued unwilling to quit since he now had his father's attention.

"Well, it will weaken the government into resigning."

"But why? What's wrong with it?"

"I'll tell you why! Because the Government is corrupt and has abused its privileges and has fouled everything up! That's why! Besides, their leader is morally bankrupt! We must liberate the people." He said raising his voice, a spittle flying out the corner of his mouth.

Knowing fully well that this was the time to stop, because his father was getting overzealous, as he always did when the subject turned to politics, he still probed on.

"So what do your people do?"

"They stop all the vehicles on the streets, and burn them." "Burn the vehicles! but what good does that do?" he asked, surprised "You're too young to understand politics, but I'll tell you why anyway. The cars on the streets are cars brought out by my opponents, so they deserve to burn. As for the buses the government brings out, why should they run when we have called a hartal? Since the government doesn't listen, they pay the consequences. We don't burn all the buses, we break some of them too. We beat the people on the streets, who are defi-

"How will the government know?"

"Look, when you were out in the car today, you saw for yourself that the people didn't bring out their cars and supported my call for the removal of government."

"But you'll burn their cars, if they do. How do you know that they support you?"

"It is obvious. You are just too young to understand." He replied slightly annoyed at the preposterous question.

"Alright, but why do you call the government stupid?"

"Questions, questions. When will you stop?" he gasped, rais-

sixteen hartals this year, says it all.

"Why don't you stop calling hartals and try something else?"

"No, that would only give this totalitarian dictatorship more time to steal all the riches of my land." He was getting excited again. "It is so sad that only during my father's rule there was peace. Before him was also a dictator."

"How was it during Dada's time of rule?" he asked, curious now.

"Aaah! There was peace." He answered in a long breath "all was beautiful the country was

you lose foreign exchange?" he asked, perplexed.

"Because those unscrupulous rascals would burn all the buses, so we had to spend valuable foreign exchange to replace them."

"So why didn't you just resign?"

"What! and hand over the power to an unruly bunch of hooligans? Who knew that hartals make the country and the people suffer, yet did not care? These people had a total disregard for both private and public property! I tell you such people do not deserve government. That's why we fight

"Why are you so happy?" he meekly asked.

"All is set, tomorrow there will be a huge public meeting at Gullistan Chatter (Square). From there we will lead a procession to the Press Club to lay down our demands."

"Do you expect a lot of people?"

"Of course! we are the people's government! There will be hundreds of thousands attending."

"Do you realize that some of those who attend, might not be supporting you and just might come to hear what you have to say, just like some of the people who go to the president's meetings probably don't support him and have gone to hear him out?"

"What nonsense! Nobody supports this leader! The racial pays all who attend. Do you think anybody would go otherwise? Besides what could that idiot have to say worth hearing?" His eyes had started bulging out of their sockets and he was beginning to twist his lips. "Enough! Just leave! I've had enough of this conversation!" His head began shaking.

As he began to leave, he heard his father say on a more delicate note "When I become president, and my party rules, all the people will look up to you to take over when I can no longer."

"What is this a Monarchy! First Dada, you want to succeed him, then you want me to lead after you!" he shouted, raising his voice, completely bewildered.

"Of course not." His father answered with a sly grin and a wink. "This is a democracy."



Bet You Didn't Know

- The most common first name in the world is Mohammed.
- King Henry III became the king of England at the age of 10 months.
- Queen Elizabeth I had over 3,000 dresses, so many that they had to be kept in a separate house.
- No matter what size the paper you use, when you fold it up, the seventh time is always the last time.
- The last words of Sir Winston Churchill were, "Oh, I'm so bored with it all!"
- In this last will and testament the famous writer and comic satirist Rabelais wrote: "I have nothing, I owe much. The rest I leave to the poor."
- The American Indians used to name their babies after the first thing they saw when they left the tepees after birth, thus names like "Sitting bull" and "Running Water."

SO WHAT'S NEW IN BEAUTY?

by Saiga Qader

Hi girls! So what's new in beauty? Having any problems with your make-up? Speaking of make-up, have you any idea what the most wanted make-up items are? Women all over the world agree, that if they could have only three cosmetics, they would prefer: a lipstick, a blush and a mascara. Here's a special indispensable make-up guide from my collection; which I can guarantee that you will use again and again.

LIPSTICK: 74 per cent of women depends on lipstick to enhance their looks. Lipstick not only vary in colour, but in formation as well.

LONG-WEARING: If you're looking for a product that needs minimum retouching, choose this formula. Be sure to pick a rich colour like rose or red, that leaves a colour imprint. Try long lasting colour like red tulip.

ANTIFETURING: Does your lipstick travel into the tiny lines around your mouth? Then here's a special formula just for you! Try use a primer or a lip liner first to help lips hold colour.

LIGHT: Light lipstick combine the use of traditional formulas with the appealing sheen of a gloss and a light texture. Colours like light brown, light orange and light pink are the best three shades for summer wear.

BLUSH: Blusher sure is some amazing make-up! About 60 per cent of women rely on blusher to brighten their complexion (it's a more popular choice than foundation) and powder blush is the one to pick. No wonder we love it — blush shades to-day are more natural-looking and lighter textured than ever before. Want to know what's best for you? Read on...

A healthy look is made in the shade: Select blush as you would in a lipstick — find a colour that suits your skin.

Want a natural look? Select a few shades darker than skin tone. By day: brush on a spot blush and by night; intensify the colour to complete with evening lights. For example: peach to apricot or soft pink to bright pink or rose, elevate mauve plum. If you like strong eye make up, use more blush for balance, play down eyes.

MASCARA: Mascara is an eye opening statistic. About 56 percent of women count on mascara to dramatize their eyes (many more than ever before) and most wear it everyday. Black is the best — It's sophisticated dramatic and a must for evenings. What's the new? Rainbow hues and blue makes tired eyes an a minimally make up face. Dust lashes with an ordinary face powder with a brush. Then chin up, holding wand horizontally close to lash base, make a zig zag movement with hand and roll from roots to tip. Start at inner corner, work out. For bottom lashes, hold wand (the stick of the mascara) vertically and coat each lash. Tuck a tissue underneath to catch smudges.



QUIZ CLUB

Here are this week's quiz questions. Don't forget — answers must be sent to our office by this Thursday.

1. What is the national anthem of the US?
2. What orchestra has given more concerts than any other in the world?
3. Who was the great music composer who later became deaf?
4. What was Mark Twain's real name?
5. From which country did steel drums originate?
6. What is the name of Michael Jackson's latest tour?
7. What is the most famous train in history?
8. Where is the 'Bridge of Sighs'?
9. Which is the highest city in the world?
10. Which is the most expensive city in the world.

Answers to the Friday June 19th's Quiz Club:

1. John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney.
2. Elvis Presley.
3. Homer.
4. Edgar Allan Poe.
5. The Earl of Sandwich.
6. Bob Marley's back up group.
7. James Joyce.
8. Julius Caesar in Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar'.
9. The Great Wall of China.
10. Lot's wife, Sarah.

Registration

Here is our list of new Rising Star Club members we are looking forward to your articles, sketches poems, puzzles, jokes or anything you can think of so send them fast OK?

Najia Masud Khan Lalbag, Dhaka RS: 0135	Gulshan Dhaka RS: 0144
Farhana Karim (Tumpa) Tejgan, Dhaka. RS: 0136	Khan Md Farabi (Shuvo) Lalmatia, Dhaka RS: 0145
Tauseef Chowdhury Purana Paltan Lines, Dhaka RS: 0137	Shahria Mostafin Gulbandha RS: 0146
Sajit Mahmud Gulbandha RS: 0138	Aneek Intesar Ahmed Gulshan RS: 0147
Masruja Ayesha Nusrat Ishakha Road, Dhaka RS: 0139	Hastul Haque (Ashim) Dhanmondi, Dhaka RS: 0148
Mushfeq Khan Lalmatia, Dhaka RS: 0140	M Zubor Hossain Mohammad Pur Dhaka RS: 0149
Heron Holloway Dhanmondi, Dhaka RS: 0141	Zulfqar Hossain Mohammad Pur, Dhaka RS: 00150
Taseen Mahtab Dhaka University, Dhaka RS: 0142	Samir Alim Khan Azampur, Dhaka RS: 00151
Mahmud Abdullah Zahid Khilgon Dhaka RS: 0143	Sami Islam Chowdhury Agrabad, Chittagong RS: 00152
A B M Shoatim (Rana)	

Jokes

- "Why did the bald man buy another wig?"
"He thought the change of air would do him good."
- "Why couldn't the bike stand up?"
"Because it was tired."
- "I have six eyes, two mouths and three ears. What am I?"
"Ugly."
- "What is JR's favourite sweet?"
"Ewing gum."
- "What do you say when an elephant sits on your sofa?"
"It's time to get a new sofa!"
- "Doctor, doctor, I feel like a spoon."
"Sit there and don't stir."

Fill out this form and send it to us, and you will be a member of the Rising Star Club. Send in your writings, illustrations, and cartoons. It is an ideal opportunity to express yourself through the print media.

Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

School: _____

Class: _____

Full Address: _____

Telephone No. _____