

State of Education : The Erosion Must be Checked

by Md. Asadullah Khan

In a bid to stem the outward tide of the best and the brightest by providing educational opportunities at home, the government objective of encouraging the growth of private universities in the country is a laudable move.

EDUCATION in schools and colleges has turned out to be a wasteful exercise leaving the young learners handicapped and ill-suited to face the grueling test of life...

Statistics taken from either in the city or even other urban areas reveal that parents are spending too much on improving their offspring's prospects. The result however is dismal. Few of those who manage to get the certificates and degrees land good jobs.

Opinion poll reveals that many people in the country are opposed to private tutoring, especially at the primary stage. Bad tutoring or faulty lessons dished out at this stage saps the mental vigour, intelligence, merit and awareness of a child about his surroundings.

awaits a parent who does not have adequate means to send his son or daughter to such good school as may take care of his ward in exchange of money he should invest?

Some private universities have been established in the country, all of them in the Dhaka city, to cater education in the western style and quality with teachers hired from abroad.

People expect that, report carried by the media last June about the objective of the government in taking up a project for 'improvement of English language teaching' at a cost of Tk. 25 crore, will not remain only a pious wish of the government.

Further, the new education policy that proposes to create three tiers of schooling from the primary to higher stages, the need for 'teacher training centres' in the subjects of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry in the secondary and higher secondary stages can hardly be ignored.

Bangladesh Has an Image Problem

I spent the month of July on holiday at my home in America. While I was there, I showed some of my friends the best of the photographs that I have taken in Bangladesh since I joined the faculty at NSU last October. Their reactions were fascinating.

But what does the 'real' Bangladesh look like? One of my friends said to me I have a rare ability to find beauty even in the midst of a disaster. He argued that I should be pleased to photograph and show that beauty whenever I can, and that people who insist on emphasizing the squalor of Bangladesh are voyeuristic and perverted.

But another friend argued that a collection of beautiful photographs taken at the site of a disaster is so misleading as to be evil. From her perspective, my failure to photograph beggars, cripples, filth and squalor simply invalidates my photography in Bangladesh. She feels that a disaster photograph is so awful and so true that I must follow their lead whether I want to or not.

As I was flying back here at the beginning of August, the beauty of the countryside between Calcutta and Dhaka as viewed through the window of the Emirates Airbus was extraordinary, especially the networks of villages sitting on endless strings of interconnected islands in the vast inland monsoonal sea. And then I reached Kamal Ataturk Avenue and saw a chaotic crush of vehicles parked three abreast in ankle-deep water in front of the University, heard beggars and cripples demanding bakshesh from one and all, ran from screaming filthy buses to avoid being killed by them, and smelled piles of decomposing garbage and rotting bodies on the street.

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ARSENIC IN GROUND WATER A Serious Health-hazard

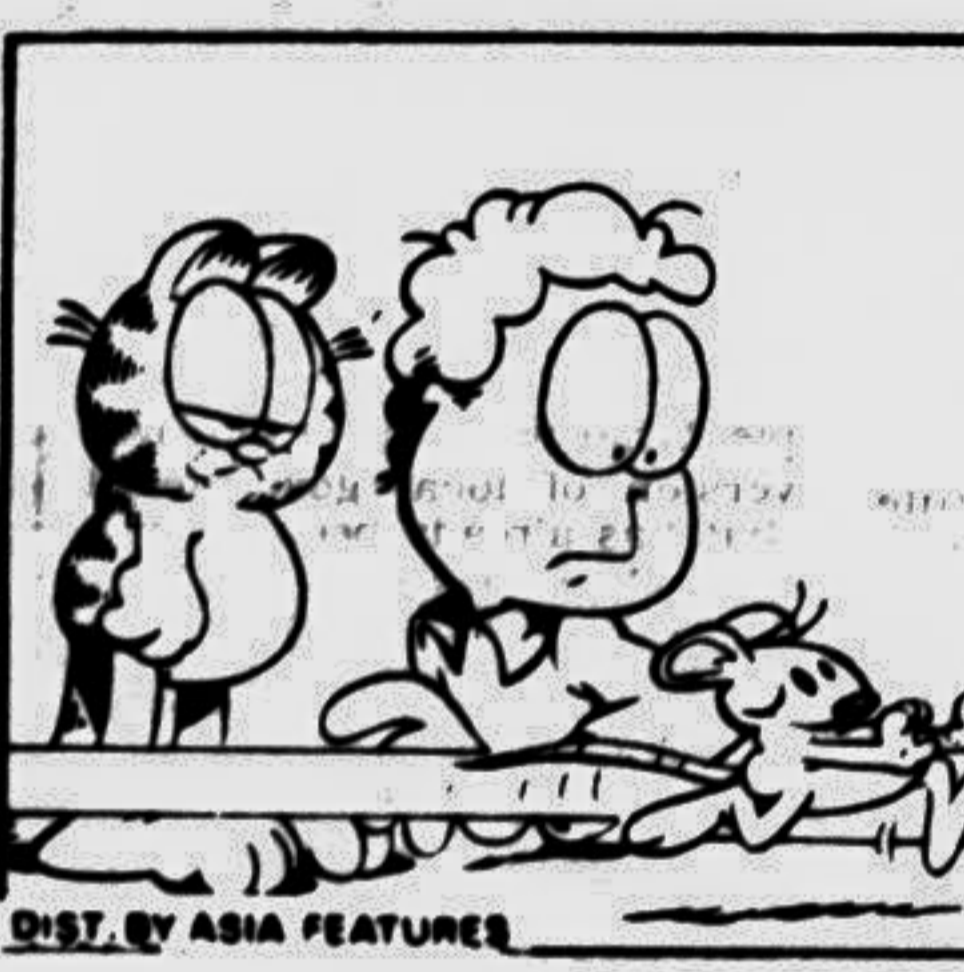
by Peter Revenscroft

IN the last two years, it has become widely recognised that there is a problem of arsenic in tubewell water in many parts of Bangladesh and adjoining areas of West Bengal in India.

Various agencies in the health and water sectors such as NIPSON, DPHE, BWDB and others began sampling well-water and looking for medical symptoms. Evidence of arsenic contamination. It became clear that there was a significant problem in Bangladesh.

In different countries, arsenic contamination in water supplies is known to have been caused by dissolving naturally occurring geological deposits from industrial discharges and from application of pesticides.

Garfield



James Bond



Metropolitan

DCC drive to contain mosquito menace from Sept 1

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has taken up an extensive programme to contain mosquito menace in the coming breeding season, reports BSS. The DCC has allocated Tk 15 crore and 15 lakh for the programme, said a press release.

Need for trained industrial managers stressed

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed stressed the need for trained industrial managers both in public and private sectors to cope with the constant changes in technologies throughout the fast-moving world, reports UNB.

Certificate-awarding ceremony of courses on 'travel document abuse' held

The certificate-awarding ceremony of the courses on 'passports, visas and travel document abuse' was held at Bangladesh Airlines training centre Wednesday evening, reports BSS.



British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David C Walker addressing the certificate-awarding ceremony of the courses on 'Passports, Visas and Travel Document Abuse' Wednesday evening at Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre.

9th special meeting of Railway held

Bangladesh Railway authority in its 9th special meeting, held yesterday, decided to provide more power to the rail administration to help it carry on necessary commercial activities, reports BSS.

HERE and THERE

Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday said nobody in the world has become successful in suppressing the truth, reports BSS. Dhaka Little Theatre: Dhaka Little Theatre at its annual general meeting on Monday decided to open a Little Theatre School with an aim to get the children and juvenile involved in the theatre movement.

Weather

Moderately heavy fall is likely at places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

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