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Children

It is very simple and clear to all that children are the future of country. So they should be groomed up in a balanced way so that they do not become frustrated. All of them should have a destination in life. They should be taught in such a way that they learn to have confidence in themselves. I think in this case the overall environment plays a vital role. In the environment, parents play the main role, than the teachers and others have to help them grow as worthy citizens.

Most of the children are mentally weak due to lack of confidence. They are always afraid of many things. Their confidence must be increased, otherwise they will never become self-dependent. But how is it possible?

At present most of the schools teach children under unbearable pressure. Now it is a common scene that a child's weight is less than that of the text books he or she has to carry. During the time of going to school the child can't bear its school bag and it is carried by someone else. Under such

pressure, most of the children lose interest in studies. They are afraid of math, English, Bengali, history etc. I think the pressure should be decreased. Quality is better than quantity. So a huge number of text books are not needed if a few books are used to teach children. Teachers have many responsibilities. They should make study interesting and enjoyable to children. In school most of the teachers like to beat children as punishment. This cruel habit must be given up. Children are not criminals. They obey if they are advised nicely. So beating is unwise.

The relation between the parents is very important for both physical and mental health of a child. If the relation is nice, the child grows up with a healthy state of mind. Finally, children must be given the opportunity to take part in different types of contests.

Sadat Shahriar
EEE, RUET,
Rajshahi

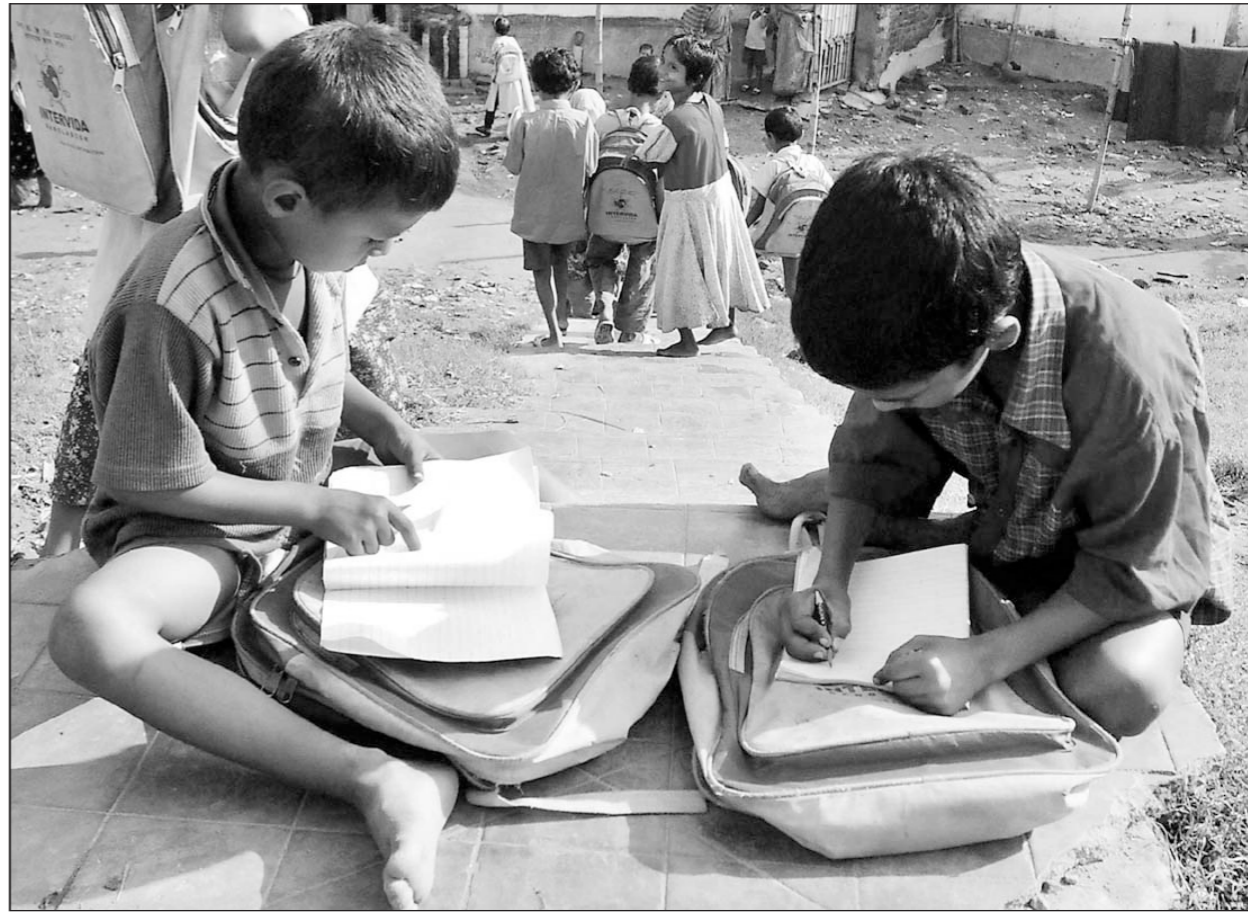


PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: AFP

Silent sigh!

How long will we remain silent? Perhaps silence is our favorite thing during crisis. When will our mind be jolted again? After another sad incident occurs? Perhaps the day is certain to come. Some days back another Simi with a new name "Beauty Begum (17)" committed suicide by hanging herself due to frequent teasing by local youths. Those who used to tease her are our brothers. So we remain silent. We are afraid of raising our voice because silence is our favorite play.

Md. Abu Boker Siddique Bakul
Dept. of Law, C.U

Hardinge Bridge

In 1915, the British built the Hardinge Bridge across the mighty Padma river with pilings going 160 feet below the water level. Almost a hundred years later we in Bangladesh neither have the confidence, the vision, or perhaps the competence to construct bridges across even smaller rivers, like the Kamaphuli, or take on ourselves engineering projects of any complexity. We depend on foreign consultants, foreign construction

infrastructure, governance, or law and order.

The populace seems resigned to the current calibre of leadership, be it the one in power or in the opposition. From the look of things, the populace may be subjected to accept more of this mediocrity in the future.

In my opinion, instead of begging for more donor funds, what the country needs is an appeal for a visionary leader to lead it out of the morass. Much like corporate world, where a competent CEO is brought

from among those in the field now.
Anis Mrigal
12901 Euclid Street
Gardn Grove, CA 02840

Jhakanaka and some questions

Grameen Phone is now trying to promote its new package djuice and that's why it is arranging concerts to attract young mobile subscribers. They have already arranged two concerts in Dhaka and Chittagong titled "Dfusion Jhakanaka" featuring

able to join the concerts. Grameen Phone should realise there are many people in this country who are using their services. Even the subscribers of Grameen Phone will miss these concerts, other than djuice subscribers. I think such concerts should be open to all subscribers.

Nazmus Saquib
Notre Dame College
Dhaka

Utter nuisance

Especially when people consider them to be mature and sensible adults who should be morally responsible for his/her actions. The alarming issue is, sometimes outsiders come in the university campus and create unwanted problems for the students. All I would like to say is, people should stop creating such scenes and please, it's time you start behaving like mature and sophisticated individuals.

It's never too late to become a better person.
Noor-E-Sabah

days).
2. His article sparked interest in the top cricket website www.cricinfo.com and has been in the website's headline (June 1).

3. The two key points in the interview which were hit at the "bull's eye": whether Whatmore is actually willing to co-operate with people in lower ranks or is he too egoistic about his position, and that if enough time and money are not invested in domestic structure how can we expect to improve?

Reader
On e-mail

Foreigners only!

When did we as a nation start hero worshipping foreigners and discrediting the talent of fellow Bangladeshis? I have recently returned to Bangladesh after 15 years and have started a training centre. Much to my dismay, everyone I approach wants my service, but wants a "foreigner" to train them, despite knowing about my qualifications. I scream out, "I am a Chartered Financial Analyst, a Columbia University Graduate, have trained for big banks in the US, have worked for almost 10 years in Corporate America!"

But all in vain, all these skills only make me good at picking foreign trainers. Just about anybody but a Bangladeshi would do, even someone from a neighboring country - India, Sri Lanka, Nepal. Anybody! Anybody! Just come up with a foreigner, and then you have the go ahead! We are even willing to pay more, just whip up a foreign trainer! Sad! Please don't send me death threats.

Naureen Khan
Dhaka

Resisting dacoits

From the June 4, 2005 issue of The Daily Star we learnt that at Purba Shamshedpura under Nhandgaon police station in Chittagong district, Monsoor Alam, aged 25, was shot dead by robbers when he caught one of them who were snatching ornaments from his mother. What a sad happening, to save his mother's ornaments, Monsoor Alam made his mother lose something which is priceless and she will have to bear the agony of losing a son. Often we hear about incidents of people being killed or seriously injured when they resist dacoits or hijackers. I think it is very unwise, your life is more precious than anything, so why not let them have the booties and save yourself?

I have read an article in the Reader's Digest which advised people, if they become aware of thieves entering their house, to feign sleeping and not to encounter them because the intruders most probably have guns with them, and they will not hesitate to use it.
Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Better democracy

We have crossed 34 years of our independence! Democracy is maturing and slowly gaining ground in our country. At present, people at large want peace, security and development. The human qualities like patience and tolerance must be cultivated and nurtured by our political, economic, social and religious leaders for overall progress and prosperity of our Nation. No matter whether the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) remains in session or prorogued, in general the countrymen desire completion of the five-year term of the government. We would see 'better democracy' in the days ahead when all the major political parties would field honest and qualified candidates in the general elections for the legislative branch of the government.

The responsible role of any qualified administration would call for independence of the judicial branch of the government and consequently the executive branch comprising the civil and military officials (usually intelligence and

law enforcement departments) could perform their duties as per the hopes and aspirations of the citizens.

Golam Ashraf
DOHS Baridhara, Dhaka 1206

AL politics

The Awami League, the so called people's party and the sole agent of our spirit of independence, is again at its anti people and anti personal liberty work. Within hours of the killing of one of their leaders, the AL declared *hartal* without even making sure what had happened. Hundreds of thousands of HSC examinees suddenly faced uncertainty about their examinations. My son, a student of A-level, was appearing in his practical examinations at 1:30 in the morning. Some students of A-level had to sit for an examination at 8:00 clock in the morning after finishing their practical examination at 3:30 in the morning. The leaders of the AL congratulated us for making the *hartal* a success!! The private TV news clips have shown the extent of public support for AL agenda. Few agitated and violent female workers were the mainstay of their picketing. More leaders were present in the evening news conference than in the street in the morning. I am sure all of your readers are aware of the tensions and hard work of public examinations like HSC and A-level. I do not expect the AL leaders to know about this, as academic performance was never a strong

point of our politicians. The son of our leader of the opposition has completed his studies abroad and only graces us with his presence during his holidays. I wonder if the AL leaders have thought about the effects of the present day (and more in coming days, I am sure) *hartals* in the minds of those thousands of examinees. After all, they are the future vote banks of our politicians.

On the day the AL leader was killed, hundreds died in a tragic launch capsizing. I do not hear our politicians calling a strike to implement safety measures in the rivers. Nor do they take to the street to make our sons and daughters safe in the streets. The callousness of the AL leaders and other politicians towards the plight of the people has reached a new height. Unless we take steps to free our education from the menace of *hartals*, we will surely witness the complete destruction of our education system and further flight of our young people to foreign lands.

A very worried, sad and tired father,
Anisur Rahman
Professor
Bangladesh Medical College

Bangladeshi bands

Mr. Arafat Kazi is involved with underground bands and is unhappy with the performance of some specific bands and performers. In the letter published on April 27, he said what is melodious to one may seem noisy to other. Mr. Mahfuzul Haque on April 22 said, "They are distorting and destroying the Bangla language." To him pronunciation of Bangla of underground performers is in the English accent, so he advised them to sing in English. Mr. Mahfuz seems not so aware of the accent of the world famous English rock bands like Iron Maiden and Linkin Park. Listening to them, you will find a new idea as to how to create one's own accent. This different accent is doing no harm to language, though it may seem odd to some people. "Black's greatest hit is a song about a rape victim", Arafat said. Don't know where he found this information as I didn't find anything like this. Mr. Arafat, 'Mon shudhu mon Cchuweche' and 'guti' or 'path chola' can't be measured by the same scale as they are sung in a completely different background and time. Some bands are composing music which can compete with other sub-continent bands like Jonoon, String, Jal, Silk Route etc. Actually, there is no contradiction between traditional and alternative bands. Both streams have their own listeners to keep them up.

Istiaque uddin Rifat
Dept. of EEE, RUET



PHOTO: FAZLUL KHAN TANIM

Filthy student politics

A few months back I wrote a letter on the condition of our student politics. I tried to present the actual condition of my university, my letter was published and it would be nothing but stupidity if I surmise that such a letter of mine will bring a radical change in our political ambience. It is arguable whether there is need for student politics. Once our honourable president said that students should not be active in politics leaving their study, but they must be conscious about politics. I am a student of Dhaka University and swearing by God I can say more than ninety five percent of our such pretty student politicians do not know the exact definition of the term and they will not be able to answer why they are doing this business and what is their ultimate goal. So far as I see living very closely with them in the same dormitory, it is nothing but bossing about sits which is not their business at all. In my approximately five years university life I inquired about this topic, I can't be surprised when I see a university student spend down to dusk at "madhur canteen" leaving his study, when he accepts all kinds of orders and fight for that without judging its rationality and acceptability, when he pressurizes a regular student to attend their political demonstration leaving his class, when he tries to contain forcibly general students' legal movement etc. They are only vilating the atmosphere at the university.

Anis Rahman
Zahurul Haq Hall
University of Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

companies and engineers, donor money, and greased palms to implement even smaller engineering projects like flyovers, etc. What are the country's institutions producing? Why can't we implement projects with indigenous resources? Why do we have to be so dependent? Why are we so skeptical of our own talents, or are the institutions failing to produce any? Heretical as it may sound, and the preceding was by way of illustration, sometimes one feels like handing over the country back to the British (shudder) to get leadership and progress in many aspects of our national life, be

in to deliver results, we should request the world bodies/donor countries to donate a CEO for the country to deliver stated results for the next 5, 10 years-- a Mahathir, or a Bill Clinton, or even a corporate leader like a Jack Welch, by way of an example. That is, they can be persuaded to take on such a task for a limited term to take the country forward and groom future native leaders and institutions that nurture and deliver such leaders at all levels of governance. It may sound like wishful thinking and utopian, but it is difficult to discern any credible, selfless leader of any competence

Indian idol finalists Amit Sana and Rahul Saxena.

Both the concerts have drawn huge crowds. Yet again they are planning to arrange three more concerts under the same title in Dhaka featuring some prominent local bands and Indian idol Abhijeet Sawant and one of the idol finalists Rahul Biddya. However, it has also been reported that the concerts were postponed for some unavoidable reasons.

It's disappointing for millions of mobile subscribers like me to miss these great concerts. Because only djuice extra card holders will be

As you know besides doing classes and hanging around with friends, university is also a place where you'll find hundreds of girls and boys who actually go around hunting for a good partner. However, should this really be an intention? Being, a university student, I have come across a great many incidents as such where guys tend to annoy and, to be more precise, harass some girls of their university unnecessarily. Sometimes the disturbance goes beyond tolerance and students have no choice but to lodge complaints against them. Is this how university students should behave?

Mohakhali, Dhaka

"A superstitious mind"

My sincere thanks to Mohammad Badrul Ahsan for his excellent article "A superstitious mind" (Post Editorial, Cross Talk) June 10, 2005. I enjoyed reading the article. It seemed to me as if I was reading a poem or a novel. However, the writer did not make it clear what was the main theme of the article.

Any way, I would like to read more articles like this.
M Hussain
Tower Hamlets College

France and EU

France, being one of the founder-members of the EU and the dreamer of the United Europe, has rejected the daft EU constitutional treaty through Sunday's stunning referendum. The French 'non-vote' would further weaken the 25-nation bloc. The EU constitution, signed in Rome last October, notably proposes creating a long-term presidency to replace the current musical-chairs leadership and an EU foreign minister to give the bloc a single voice to the outside world. But the French rejection might plunge the bloc into a prolonged period of introspection on its future direction, threatening to thwart the decision-making gridlock in the expanding bloc. The 'non' vote testifies the French reservation of a Europe based more on social justice rather than just euro-economy.

Therefore, the EU's road would be bumpy without the ratification of its constitution.
Dr Nasima Zaman
Department of Political Science
University of Rajshahi

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate The Daily Star and its sports correspondent, Rabed Imam, for the interview he took of our Under 19 cricket coach.

1. He asked some brilliant questions, which were very relevant and also specific (something we rarely see among the journalists nowa-

English media and Bangladesh cricket

Bangladesh cricket team lost the first Test against England at Lord's by a big margin. It was a shameful performance, indeed. We expected some show of fight from our boys but things were completely different. We all know Bangladesh has been struggling since entering the Test arena. We beat Zimbabwe and that is our only mentionable success. But what the English print media is writing about us and our cricket is not expected at all. They reportedly wrote that Bangladesh cricket team should not have been allowed to come anywhere near the Lord's. Besides throwing light on Bangladesh's inability to play good cricket, some dailies brought irrelevant issues such as extreme poverty of Bangladesh.

They said that Bangladesh is a country where on an average people do not earn even one dollar per day. So how can they play cricket? The approach of the English media thus does not uphold the standard of journalism. They just poured out their heart's bitterness against Bangladesh.

But English journalists must reckon that England itself won only one ODI tournament (if I am not wrong) in the history of one day cricket and that the World Cup still eludes them. And just a few months back, they were the number six Test playing nation in ICC ranking table. So, English people! you should not be proud of your cricket at least!

Wajahat Anwar
IBA, DU



PHOTO: AFP