

The week in re(ar)view

We don't need no education



FIGHT FOR EDUCATION

"We don't need no education because we ain't gonna get a god one," so said a very infamous person whose name we forgot. Look at the condition of state run educational institutions. June 23 report shows about 400 Dhaka University faculty out of 1492 are busy with off campus jobs. They moonlight at other universities, schools and

garage based educational institutions. We can't blame them for looking elsewhere considering their wages. It is usually in four figures.

Government primary school teachers have started fasting unto death do them apart (from this mortal world) because they feel discriminated by their wages. At 2600 taka per month it is a disgrace when these days even

muggers would consider such an amount a pittance. Even the HSC exams have been deferred because there are no teachers available to educate the mass.

On the other hand fund allocation for mosque based education has gone up by 130 percent. Now do we really need more places where kids basically sit all day rocking back and forth memorizing the Quran? Most of them do not even understand what they are learning as we have found out asking some of these so called scholars. Eventually they end up becoming bigoted fellas but hey, don't just take our bigoted opinions but see for yourself. Frankly mosques just end up releasing more people into the country with no job skills whatsoever.

More EC news

On 27 June Election Commission has decided to make minor amends to its farcical idea of sitting in their fort while people come to them for voter registration (ref. Sharier Khan's excellent cartoon on June 26). Now they have sent staff to the villages who go there, sit in an office of some sort and EXPECT PEOPLE TO COME TO THEM. It's same stale wine in a different bottle.

Radical RAB choppers

RAB have a new present coming their way in their gift box. Authorities plan to purchase choppers so that the men in black can spy on us from up above. That will be in addition to the ridiculous 12armoured vehicles most of which do not even work. If the choppers suffer the same fate we suggest putting on wheels so that at least it can be pulled to different locations. And we cannot help but take a dig at their favourite phrase used when fugitives die mysteriously. Maybe they can think of a new one when the choppers arrived. The convict jumped out of it and an upward draft sent him into the rotor blades. No wonder we were so good at coming up with excuses back in school.

By Gokhra and Mood Dude

Life during a typical World cup football match

1.Father: "Wow! What a splendid mesh of cultures where people all over the globe unite with the same hope in their hearts, same passion in their souls, same colors on their jerseys... (and blah blah blah)"

2.Mother: "Awww... I wish that poor boy can get a goal... he looks so bechara... by the way, which team is he in?"

3.Grandpa: "Hah! These kids know nothing about football! In my time, it was a game of nobility and honor and...(yada yada yada)"

4.Grandma: "All those stupid boys running after one single football... why



don't they just throw a few more footballs on the field!"

5.Brother: "The best excuse stalling the exam I didn't study for."

6.Sister: "A bunch of hot guys running around in shorts... Oooohhh!"

7.My two year old pichi cousin: "Messi... Messi... opsy I think I made myself a bit messy (sound of water dripping)!"

8.Best Friend (Reggie): "Interesting... the velocity of the ball is proportional to the length of the shorts and the size of the hair (on their legs)."

9.Girlfriend: "An exciting game that makes me wonder why I am still going out with a fat Bholbol like you!"

10.Sabrina Ahmad: "Wow! They actually play the game with their feet!"

11.Zulquarnain and Ronny: "Yes Sabrina, it's called 'F-O-O-T' ball!"

12.Me: "Let's just watch the God-damn game okay!"

My favourites from the anime world

FROM CENTRE

which aired them) went digital, and our Dhaka cable providers could not give us that channel anymore. Now what we watch is AXN-India, and sadly, that does not show anime at all.

Thankfully, though now into our late teens and early twenty's, we (meaning such hardcore anime fans like us), are blessed with Animax, the one channel in the world devoted fully to anime. Though the channel has been in circulation for some time, it was unavailable in Dhaka until recently. Finally, it's here, and boy, does it show good anime or what. Even if most of them have been made after 2000. Names worthy of mentioning are Get Backers, Cowboy Bebop, Ranma 1/2, Journey to the West, Ghost-In-The-Shell: Stand-Alone Complex and more. Some lesser-known anime are also shown, such as UFO Baby, Princess Sarah, Little Women. All of them are great anime, in terms of what they show. I have come to love Get Backers, where the men are as handsome as the plot. Don't take that as the only reason! Other things notable about this anime are cinematography, voice acting, screenplay and general presentation, which get a 10/10. The same can be said for Cowboy Bebop, which is in a league of its own. Among the other great anime is definitely Ranma 1/2, where a boy turns into a girl, and GITS: Stand-Alone Complex, which is the TV-series version of the movie and is equally good. Though this is the first time I am watching an anime like Journey To The West, which is very action-based and deals with four friends on a journey, trying to stop a demon from coming into this world, it has appealed to me like anything. Each episode is neat and story-based and will attract any viewer. Wolf's Rain is another anime I like. I guarantee that it will gain more



of popularity as the days go by, seeing that it is such a DAMN-GOOD anime. The story revolves around people turning into wolves and the different ordeals they go through, sprinkled with love and romance here and there. One major factor behind its awesome quality is its music, both background and soundtrack, which I tell you, is by far the most melodious of any anime I have ever heard.

We are reaching the end of this article, although I forgot to mention those anime aired solely for the purpose of marketing. Probably, the two best examples of this genre are Pokemon and Beyblade, both of which sold

more merchandise than the actual number of episodes it had. Though Beyblade is pretty good, Pokemon kind of ran out of steam towards the final seasons, and lacks the sheer brilliancy of the first seasons, where each episode drew a lot of fans.

I have not seen too many anime movies, though I would not like to forget Spirited Away. When I saw the movie, I cried. Not out of boredom or irritability, but out of appreciation for genius. The concluding scene where Chihiro and Haku separate, and the final scene where they show Chihiro going away in her car, and the tunnel behind, gives us a sense of awareness of what both sides gained and lost. True love, and eternal friendship.

Well, that's about it. As days go by, we will hopefully be watching more brilliant anime. Animax has started showing the promotional ads for Alice Academy and Angel Tales, and Cartoon Network has started One-Piece.

Whether we deny it or not, anime, or cartoons you can say, has been a part of our lives and will remain a part of our lives even when we are not watching it, through the memory in our minds, through the eyes of our children, their children and so on. Let us hope that the legacy of anime never ends. Because one day, when we will be old and sinewy and forgotten by everyone, we will be able to tell our grandchildren tales of what we had seen when of their age, and they will look up at us, their eyes full of curiosity and question. We will not be dull then, not boring but interesting people, having knowledge of the first season of Robotech, of which they would be seeing the 28th. There would be no generation gap, no age barrier, no barrier at all. And time inscrutable will not hesitate to prove how a simple form of art can bring two generations together. Therefore, here's to anime!

The story "Shadow of death" published last issue was written by Humaira Taz. We missed the name because the mail did not contain her byline. We request all contributors to make sure the name is written along with the title of their work.

News flash

A university student is run over by a train. Fellow students are in a rampage and have gone on protest (actual news headline 6/6/06).....Any one else find this piece of news disturbing? It isn't exactly possible for the train to move off-track and onto the student, so it must've been the student who came in front of the speeding train. So, whose fault is it exactly that the guy was run over by a train...the government, the university authorities, RAB...? And what exactly are these 'fellow students' protesting against...trains, tracks or drunken train drivers? Finally how is it that a protest is going to help anything?

Well, I guess these are just a few things that you can get away with in this country. By midnite maiden