Stressed Out Children

I appreciate the whole family of The Daily Star for bringing excellent real-life stories of our society, especially the cover story 'Heading Towards Burnout' (January 26, 2007) on the Star Weekend Magazine.

I read the SWM regularly and this week's story portrayed a real problem that we face everyday but do not think about. Parents of school-going children do not realise the psychological and physical damages we bring to our children by putting them under unnecessary stress. Students have such a tight schedule that they even do not get enough sleep. They do not get time to play enough to develop themselves physically and for mental happiness,

I believe this tradition should be changed and parents and school authorities should take initiatives so that their children can get enough time to develop themselves in their own way.

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I would like to share my views about the article 'Heading Towards Burnout' (January 26, 2007). Nader Rahman has only written about O and A level students. He forgot to write about SSC and HSC students.

As an HSC student I have been confronted with so many problems. We hardly get only 18 or 20 months to complete our HSC syllabus. After reaching college by 7.30 in the morning I continue my classes till 1.30PM. After which I reach home by 2.00PM only to leave for private lessons that starts at 3.00PM. There is hardly any day when there are no private classes. Not only that, I also have do a lot of practical homework for math, physics, chemistry and biology. I have to work so hard for these practicals. I don't even get enough time to relax. Most of the time I have to study all through the night. Neither can I have my meals properly nor can I sleep well at night.

The conditions of HSC students cannot be ignored. I hope the writer will realise the matter.

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The cover story "Heading towards Burnout" was very realistic. Children of the 21st century are obsessed with studies. Parents simply don't get that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy".

I can't remember the last time my father told me to go out and play outdoors. I am used to taking private coaching since grade 2. I am going to appear for my O' Levels in May 2007. I have only about four months left and I have to run to five tutors even on weekends and in addition, I have to attend school for my assessment examinations. I start at 7:30 in the morning and go back to bed at 1AM. I just became an insomniac due to the pressure and tension for my O' Level exams. My father is going to react very violently if I don't get at least 6 As. I wish sometimes that a day had 30 hours instead of 24.

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Free Bangladesh from Child Labour

I want to thank Pushpita Laboni for her informative and analytical article 'An Inhuman Practice' in the SWM (January 19, 2007).

She unveiled many facts about child labour to make us realise that children are the assets of a society and they should be properly nurtured. Childhood is the best time to realise ones' talent for a prosperous future. But, in many countries including Bangladesh, children are forced to face harsh realities.

The photo of a child hawker wearing a red T-shirt, which is published along the article, shows the snippet of reality. In his shirt it was written, "we want a child labour free Bangladesh'' and the demand (or prayer whatever one would like to call it) will exist till hazardous child labour is eliminated. But who will listen to their demands? Even the politicians use children in their demonstrations and rallies. Moreover children are forced to do picketing during a political strike.

Poverty is the main reason behind child exploitation. Eradicating poverty is synonymous to diminishing child labour. So to make this world a better living place for all, we along with the government should try hard to eradicate poverty from its root.

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