

STAR WEEKEND MAGAZINE
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On "Special and Exceptional"

The fact that a neglected part of the society has a lot to contribute has been proved again through the outstanding and consistent performances of the intellectually disabled sportspersons disclosed in the cover story "Special and Exceptional" (January 18, 2008).

Where the physically and psychologically sound players hardly bring any glory and reputation for our country, these intellectually disabled children have been performing consistently in the Special Olympic Games and securing a good number of medals. This just goes to show that anything can be achieved through training, determination and perseverance.

It is now the society's turn to change its conventional attitude towards disabled people and accept them as individuals with incredible potential which it would cherish so that they can move forward to practice their latent merit. This will bring further achievements for our country in the international arena.

The government along with the authorities concerned must take the responsibility to provide them with all the opportunities they need to get better and materialise their dreams and establish their worth.

Amit Abdullah
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Family Planning

Population is one of the greatest problems of our country and is growing at an alarming rate. The government of Bangladesh has been trying to control the excessive growth of population in anticipation of the grave consequences. Family planning programmes have been introduced and extended up to villages. The prescription of two children per couple aims to reduce the growth rate of the population. At present the rate of growth of the population is at 2.1 percent. It needs to be further reduced. One of the reasons why family planning programmes have not been as effective is because the people of Bangladesh are not accustomed to family planning measures. They are not educated and do not understand the importance of family planning. The superstition under which most people live makes it even difficult to make them understand its importance. Most people think that family planning is against Islamic ideology. There are also a lot of low quality contraceptives which don't work and are a threat to a person's health.

Measures should be taken to effectively implement family planning programmes aimed for different groups. People can be motivated to understand the reality and the best measure of course is the spread of education.

S.M. Najmul Haque Emon
Santahar, Bogra

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

Letters to the Editor, Dhaka Diary and Write to Mita, with the writer's name and address, should be within 200 words. All articles should be within 1,200 words. A cover letter is not necessary, but every write-up should include the writer's name, phone number and email address (if any). While SWM welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. SWM does not return unsolicited articles and photos. Response time for unsolicited write-ups ranges from three weeks to two months. All articles submitted are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

All materials should be sent to: Star Weekend Magazine, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Fax: 880-2-8125155 or emailed to: <starweekendmag@gmail.com>

It is recommended that those submitting work for the first time to the SWM take a look at a sample copy beforehand. Our website is: http://www.thedailystar.net/magazine