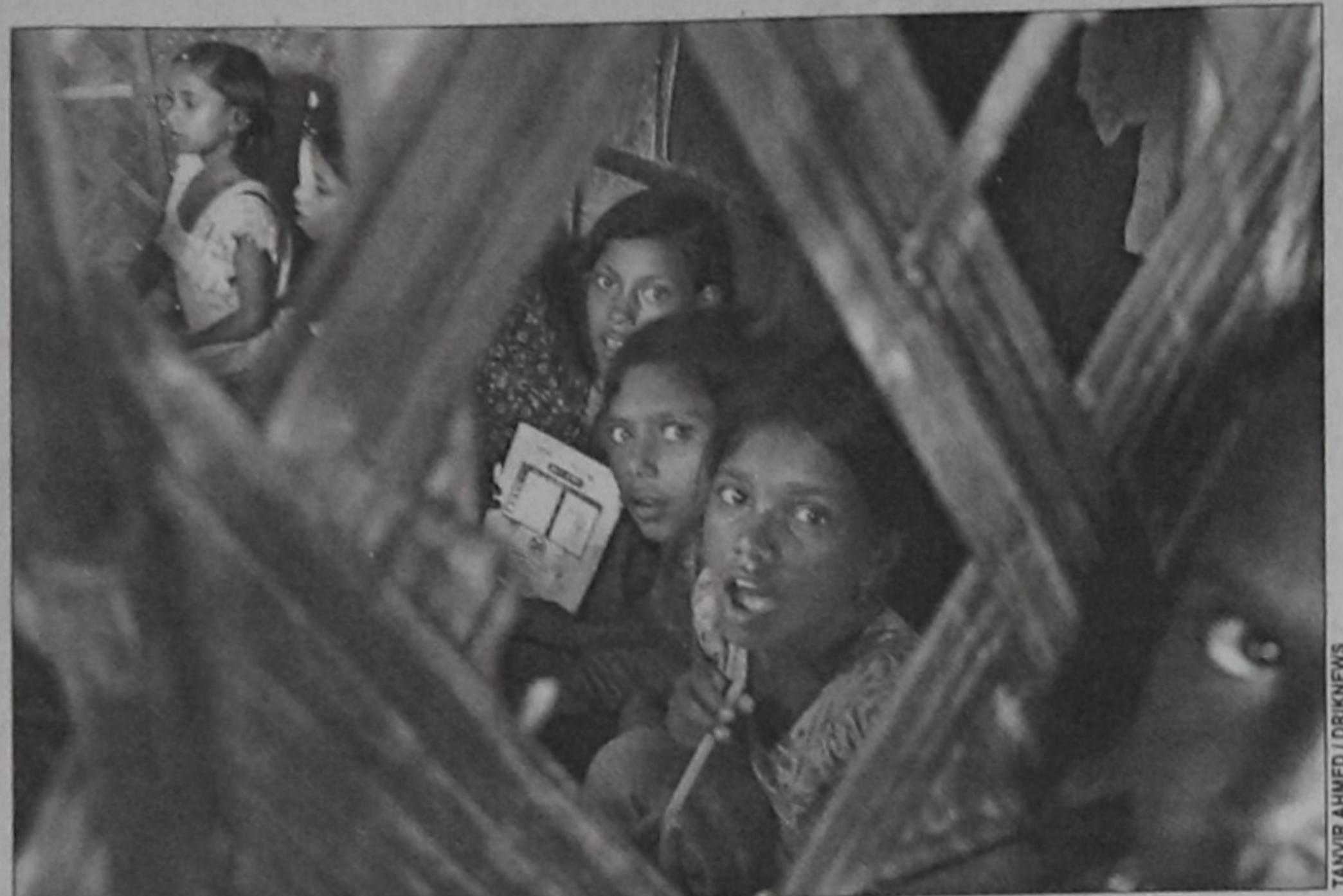


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## Primary education

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in primary education over the last few years. Gross enrolment in primary school has increased to 97.5 percent, whereas net enrolment is 82 percent, and there are equal numbers of boys and girls in primary schools.

But imparting quality education has remained less than satisfactory as yet. As a result, those who pass out from primary school, mostly do not acquire the nationally defined basic competencies.

To ensure quality education, one of the most important requirements is to have quality teachers. But majority of the teachers are not familiar to the modern teaching methods. They lack proper training, skill and motivation.

However, there are some teachers who really know how to boost classroom perfor-

mance of the students and motivate them. But they cannot act accordingly due to weak policy and mechanism of the government and lack of cooperation and coordination among teachers and administrators.

Besides, unfair recruitment of teachers by the political governments, their non-academic activities, and shortage of educational materials and tools, are the constraints hindering quality improvement of our primary education.

It is time we addressed the issue and took effective and sustainable measures to improve our standards at the primary education level.

Md. Faisal  
Sholokhabor, Panchlaish  
Chittagong

exposed the true corruption and violence taking place at the airport.

Anonymous  
One-mail

The environment was anything but academic. When shall we change ourselves and be dynamic and modern in our outlook?

Fedora  
IBA  
Dhaka University

### Paheba Baishakh and Hindi songs

In response to my letter published in DS on April 21 regarding James' rendition of Hindi song at a concert on Paheba Baishakh, Mr. Nazmus Saquib, in his letter in DS on April 27, 2008, tried to enlighten me and I apologetically appreciate his kind effort. But I'm sorry to say that he misconstrued the message I intended to pass. So I feel I should make my point unambiguous.

Mr. Saquib said that we all should respect our language from our hearts. I do agree. He also said that what James did was not at all something for which we should blame him. I can't but disagree! No doubt it's a matter of great pride when we see our own singers making their powerful presence felt in the international arena. But that doesn't mean that a singer of that high stature can act irresponsibly by singing a Hindi song at a concert celebrating an occasion that signifies the identity, culture and tradition of our Bengali nation. Personally, I enjoy melodious Hindi songs. Nowhere in my letter did I "shout at Hindi songs" as he claimed. I simply expressed my opinion that it was inadmissibly inopportune and irresponsible to sing a Hindi song on Paheba Baishakh and James should have been careful about this. That's it.

"To refrain from singing in Hindi for just one particular day would not prove our true love for our mother tongue", he says. Does that justify stage performance of Hindi songs on Paheba Baishakh either? Ridiculous!

Respect and love for our own

country and mother tongue are something that need not be flaunted, rather are felt in the way we act. Irresponsible behaviour on the part of a popular celebrity can mislead his ardent fans in their realisation of the spirit of Paheba Baishakh.

Ahmad Ferdous Bin Alam

Department of CSE, DU

### Letters page

I refer to the letter of Mr. Harun-ur-Rashid published on 24 April, 2008 with the caption - "Full Page Daily", Please.

I fully agree with his views. Your "Letters to the Editor" page is very interesting. Your readers regularly write to you expressing their viewpoints on important issues of our daily life. We can learn many things from these letters. Many of your regular readers from home and abroad also send you e-mail letters on important topics.

I therefore, request you to consider the proposal of publishing one full page "Letters to the Editor" every day. This will be appreciated by all readers of your daily.

A reader  
One-mail

### Role of universities

The universities have a major responsibility in nation building through enriching science, engineering, technology, humanities and arts by providing value based education to students to make them moral leaders. The extent of the research work undertaken by a university becomes a measure of judgment and representation for that university. Experience of research leads to quality teaching, and quality teaching imparted to the young in turn enriches the research and higher learning. Research brings transformation and development and also enhances the quality of education. This sets in a regenerative cycle of excellence. The second point is the standing and excellence of the universities to build moral leadership. Hence, quality of research and teaching will attract students from many parts of the country, creating a new environment and base for development of the nation.

The information technology and communication technology have already converged, leading to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Information Technology combined with biotechnology has led to bioinformatics. Now, Nanotechnology is knocking at our doors. It is the field of the future that will replace microelectronics and many fields with tremendous application potential in the areas of medicine, electronics and material science. When Nano technology and ICT meet, integrated silicon electronics, photonics are born and it can be said that material convergence will happen. With material convergence and biotechnology linked, a new science called Intelligent Bioscience will be born which would lead to a disease free, happy and more intelligent human habitat with longevity and high human capabilities. Nano robots when they are injected into a patient, my expert friends say, will diagnose and deliver the treatment exclusively in the affected area and then the nano-robot will get digested as it is a DNA based product.

The universities in the country produce lots of graduates every year and they need employment. University syllabi have to be integrated with entrepreneurship courses.

Jewel Rana  
Student, Dept. of Biotechnology  
Bangladesh Agricultural University  
Mymensingh

I understand IPL has created a sensation around the cricketing world with its grandeur beginning and swashbuckling play by some of the well-known cricketers of this generation.

It is not untrue that Indian young players, especially the under-19s, will be benefited by plying their trade alongside the Warne, the Chanderpauls, the Pollocks and current Indian national players, and many others.

IPL is attracting a lot of crowd, who can watch a complete match within three hours without sacrificing their working time at all. Unlike the 50 over matches or the Test matches, this new version of T20 format will not keep you seated in the stadium for 8 long hours, or on television viewers' part, it saves them time to do other important errands before sitting in front of the television for these matches.

At first, like all others, IPL created a great excitement within me. As the days are passing by, and the more I am watching these matches, I am losing that zeal which had induced me to remain glued onto the television set in the first few matches. It is because, IPL matches are being held everyday.

That is my personal opinion. I may not be wrong to say that there might be some other viewers bored by too much of cricket.

The IPL organisers should think about it.

Nasrin Ul Wadud Alam (Paolo)

Mohammed Ali Housing Society  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

### Flight safety assessment

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is the regulating agency for all the civil aviation activities in our airspace. It issues licence to pilots, flight engineers, navigators, aircraft maintenance engineers (AME), flight operation officers (FOO), aircraft maintenance organizations (AMO), aviation training organisations, ground handling, tech handling agencies, certification of air transport operations (ATOL), aircraft leasing, route station etc.

CAAB also issues certificate of airworthiness (C of A) to civil aircrafts which allows the concerned aircraft to fly for one year provided it is kept airworthy by licensed aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs) of different operators.

Oversight on all activities of the officials mentioned above are handled by officials of the flight safety directorate of CAAB. As flight safety itself is a high tech subject, officials looking after such important aspects are required to be selected properly, trained and kept up to date with the change of modern aviation trends. CAAB at present has only a handful of officials entrusted with such enormous responsibility.

In the last 10 years, the attitude of the government towards the aviation industry has changed. This obviously is a good sign for development of civil aviation in the country. But we should also keep in mind that unprofessional money mongers do not come in the market who can only cause disaster to the sector.

At present, the airworthiness division which is (like one of the main landing gears of an airplane, the other two being Flight Inspection and Air Transport) is suffering from acute shortage of inspectors. Out of 7 (seven) approved positions it only has 2(two) inspectors, the other five positions are yet to be filled in. To address the above issues I would like to humbly suggest a few steps for the authorities to consider, so that the existing problems can be overcome in near future:

a) Immediately all 5 (five) positions of AELO should be filled in.

b) New entrants should be adequately qualified having relevant aircraft maintenance experience as mentioned in CAAB's Service Rules.

c) They should have hand on experience on transport category aircraft and its documentation procedure.

d) Auditing the aircraft and facilities should be taught hand on by qualified and experienced safety auditors.

e) They should undergo classroom lectures on airworthiness audits by existing and former flight safety officials.

I wish this letter will draw the attention of the authorities concerned.

Jalal Uddin Ahmed  
Director Engineering  
Best Air

The issue should be addressed by the education authorities. Even in a free market, education should have a special place.

Parent  
One-mail

### Exorbitant fees

Some English Medium Schools in Dhaka are charging too much as school fees and the parents are suffering.

The issue should be addressed by the education authorities. Even in a free market, education should have a special place.

Parent  
One-mail

### ICT sector

From a recent news report related to ICT sector published in The Daily Star on 23 April, we came to know that different agencies are taking up a number of major projects, ranging from installation of private sector submarine cable to launching of a national communication satellite. Apart from these, BRTC has already undertaken a couple of steps i.e. a massive drive against the illegal VoIP business, fining mobile phone companies for illegal VoIP business and awarding Call Centre licence at a cheap rate etc. with a view to developing the ICT sector in Bangladesh.

It is a good news that BRTC has also agreed to cut the Internet bandwidth charge costs in line with the charges in the neighbouring countries within two months.

The measures adopted by the CTG to promote the ICT sector are very positive, as these will generate more employment opportunities for young bright boys and girls of the country. But these measures should have been taken a decade ago!

Suman Saha  
BBA  
University of Dhaka

### VIPs!

Is everyone living in Tangail a VIP? Let us come to the point. There is only one CNG refilling station in Tangail, though there should be many, on the road to Sirajganj. So every time I go home and come back to Dhaka I cannot help stopping by the CNG station to have my car's gas cylinder replenished.

My experience has taught me that it does not guarantee the gas cylinder being replenished, despite waiting for a long time in a queue, thanks to the VIPs of Tangail who have to be served before all others!

The IPL organisers should think about it.

Nasrin Ul Wadud Alam (Paolo)

Mohammed Ali Housing Society  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

A country needs 25 per cent forests on its total landmass. But due to unplanned industrialization and urbanization, our planet is losing huge forest areas which has triggered numerous natural calamities. The flora and fauna in the ocean are facing extinction. Aquatic animals are reportedly dying under the propellers of fishing trawlers and ships.

However, plantation of more trees is a sure way of keeping the environment cool. So, I would appeal to the learned readers of The Daily Star to support the "Plant more trees" campaign.

MAH Nazim  
Dept. of Political Science  
Dhaka University

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