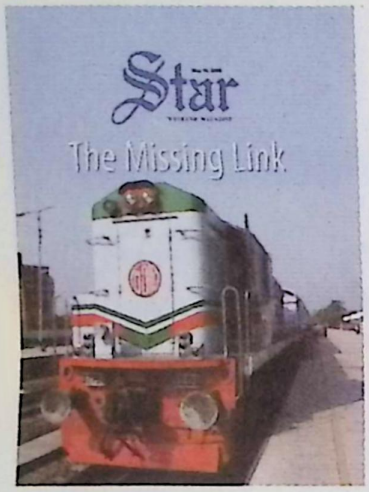



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## The Rising Cost of Living

I would like to give profuse thanks to the author for the cover story 'The Impossible Cost of Living' (May 9, 2008). It is crucial to highlight such an important topic when the prices of indispensable commodities are soaring sky-high. It is impossible to predict the direction the country's economy is heading towards at this point. What will be the fate of the people who live on fixed incomes? How will the low-income groups survive? There are many students who survive simply by providing private tuition. If our so--called monitoring cells are carrying out their jobs properly then how were the markets allowed to go in this direction? This is not only my question but a question that is being asked by 14 crore Bangalis today. I wish the government and the concerned authorities would investigate it sincerely and take proper steps to mitigate such a critical problem of our country.

*Osman Goni Tamim*
*Department of EEE*
*American International University Bangladesh*



## The Poor Children around Us

With a silent famine being experienced now in the country, the number of street children is rising at a geometric progression. They are left on the streets to fend for themselves. What a miserable life they lead with little food and at times without any food!

Although they should rightfully be attending a government-funded school to receive basic education, in reality that is a luxury for them. They don't even get to eat properly and because of the circumstances many end up getting involved in criminal activities. It is our duty to look after the children of our country but are we able to do so?

Our policy makers give preference to political issues and are often reluctant to think deeply of these children who will shape the future of our country. Development in any country will never gain momentum until its children, irrespective of their socio-economic position, are given equal opportunities.

We can never expect a better Bangladesh if we deprive most of our children of their fundamental rights. They lack of a congenial atmosphere for their proper physical and psychological growth. The government and the NGOs seem unable to handle the problem. We all should come forward to give them a helping hand to give them the opportunities they need to participate in building the nation.

*Sarwar Hussain*
*CSE, CU*

**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