letters

A Role Model for Teachers

Teachers sometimes have more of an influence on people than parents. But things have been changing, possibly for the worse.

I'm not trying to blame all the teachers of course. I also don't want to go the general way of always searching for problems, not solutions. There are many who still remain idols for others. Such a man is Jalal Uddin, who is neither a teacher belonging to any institution nor is he an employee. He is a man who acquired his M.Sc in two different subjects from Rajshahi University and since 1977 is serving the people in the remote areas of Rajshahi.

This man took the responsibility from his own accord, and never asks for payment. He not only teaches the students in their institutional course, but also does many other things such as giving singing lessons and fighting for social problems such as child marriage and women's education.

Kamol Krishna Roy
Khulna University, Khulna

Breast cancer

We know that breast cancer is a silent killer of women. But only some of the educated women are interested to learn about this disease and how to prevent it. It is a matter of sorrow that our health policy makers have not yet set up a nationwide screening programme. There are no definite statistics or population based studies that can estimate Bangladeshi patients suffering from breast cancer, or how many women are affected each year. We urge the government to begin studying this issue.

Pradip Gope Rony
Department of Business Administration
Shahjalal University, Sylhet

Dowry and Marriage

Though Charles Dickens and PB Shelley consider winter the season of despair and sorrow, for us it appears to be the season of weddings and festivity due to the tropical climate. It is my firm belief that hardly anyone can deny the importance of marriage. Indeed, it is the ancient norm of mankind through which civilisation was established.

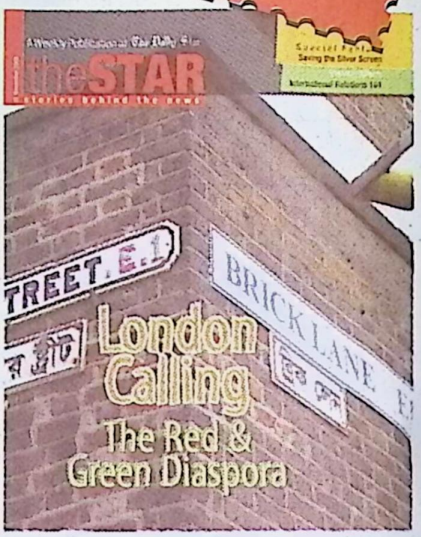
As the native of the sub-continent, we usually celebrate our wedding ceremony in keeping with our age-old traditions, religious norms and clinical codes. But sadly we often fail to uphold the solemnity and significance of it during the ceremonies. Instead of these things we usually prefer some ill norms and traditions.

For example we give priority to wealth and social class rather than education, morality and religious pathos. Moreover, the poor have to organise a colourful and expensive event in order to satisfy their neighbours and relatives. Dowry has become an important issue. My opinion is that marriage cannot be a matter of stress, conceit and charity. Rather, it is a matter of faith, co-operation and commitment.

Aiman Bin Shaofiqul Hamid (Jasim)
International Islamic University Chittagong

Announcement

We wish our readers and contributors a very happy 'Eid Mubarak'. Because the offices of The Daily Star will remain closed over the Eid Holidays we will be unable to bring out an issue of The Star magazine on December 12, 2008. We regret any inconvenience caused to our readers.



'Londonis' in Sylhet

It can't be denied that the Sylhetis living in London are very enthusiastic about investing their money in their hometown and country. Moreover there are a good number of talented young people who want to contribute to their country. Unfortunately they are not getting enough help from the Bangladesh government. There are no large industries or other commercial institutions in this city where the poor can find jobs. If the government takes the initiative and creates an environment for investment for these people it will be a blessing for the poor of this area as well as the unemployed from other parts of the country. Because of these lack of opportunities, the Sylhetis from London are investing their money in unproductive sectors. They are competing with one another to build luxury houses and buy expensive cars.

Surya Kanta
Bagbari, Sylhet

SUBMISSION GUIDELINE:

Letters to the Editor, Star 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 The Star welcomes unsolicited articles and photographs, it cannot accept the responsibility of their loss or damage. The Star 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: The Star magazine, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Fax: 880-2-8125155 or emailed to: <thestarmagazine@gmail.com>

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