Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

system.

# Parenting skills



both poor parenting and schooling. So many people, not everyand there is no respect in the household.

I see teachers who either let kids do anything they want or they don't know how to get kids' respect. I think there should be a psychology class required on "how to get respect of others" for anyone who is going to be a teacher.

Effective adult role models, especially two parents, help a youth learn social feelings of love,

Dhaka University's

with poor parenting persist down is, therefore, necessary to punish one, but a lot seem to let their kids the generations and are a problem the parents who fail in their duty get away with anything they want for society as well as individuals. to mould better citizens of tomorto do, just so they can be friends While on the subject of irresponsi- row. ble parents, I find there is a steady decline in our culture and values. Good parenting is the need of the

Much of our children's bad behaviour is due to irresponsible parenting. Parents take pride in their minor sons and daughters driving at high speeds. It is a major cause of serious road accidents that result in the death of pedestrians. Influential parents shield their children from the justice

I believe it may be a problem with compassion, and sympathy. The system, which results in their adverse consequences associated becoming more irresponsible. It

> Children do not need to be treated poorly. Punishment only teaches children what not to do, rather than teaching them what to do. While it's true that children trigger poor parenting behaviour, they can only bring out in us what is already there. This is our cue to stop the cycle of abuse and create change in our family by working on our parenting skills.

Gopal Sengupta

### Canada

The other day, I was going through the Satmasjid road and suddenly a Dhaka University students' bus Dhaka caught my attention. Dhaka University is the highest educational institution in Bangladesh. The main purpose of the university is to create new areas of knowledge and disseminate this knowl-

edge to the society through its students. I'm proud to have studied here in the early 90s. Millions of students like me, who came from village, had their horizon widened, because of studying here, for

Anyway, I was shocked to see the condition of the bus. There was no number plate on it. Instead there was a handwritten registration number. The whole body of the bus was rundown and the window-

panes were cracked. I don't believe the university authorities don't have the fund to have the bus repainted. Wherever this bus goes, it carries the flag of Dhaka University. It simply

cannot be left in such a poor condition. Hope, DU authorities would look into the mat-

Khandaker Zia Hasan Mohammadpur

## Saving vultures

The vulture is a large bird of prey. Once upon a time, it was a well-known bird in our country. But nowadays, it is not visible usually, except for in our national zoo and some parts of the country. And people don't have any idea about this bird, especially about the benefits we get from it.

Vultures are vanishing from our country for many reasons. Some reasons are:

- -- Damaged living places
- -- Lack of foods -- Unsuitable atmosphere, etc.

There are five types of vultures. These are: Turkey vulture, Black vulture, King vulture, California condor and South American condor. All vultures feed on dead animals, which is why most people don't like them. They mainly eat eggs, sea birds and young

Footpath or death trap?

Just opposite the Ramna Model School & College. Walking on this

Police Station, adjacent to the footpath is extremely risky. To add

Ramna Shopping Complex, there is insult to injury, this small puddle is

a death trap on the footpath. Half of used as a dumping ground by the

nearby shops. The water accumu-

lated here is as black as tar and acts

as nothing but the breeding ground

to take immediate steps to clear up

this water-puddle and rebuild the

encroached portion of the foot-

path, thus relieve the nearby resi-

dents and pedestrians of this

inconvenience.

Shahriar Kabir

Eskaton

I urge the authorities concerned

of mosquitoes and other insects.

the footpath was dug up in order to

build one or two shops two months

ago. A local said that a disagree-

ment between DCC and Dhaka

WASA caused this situation.

However, he added that the matter

was solved and the construction

Every day this half destroyed

footpath causes immense suffer-

ings to the pedestrians, many of

whom are school going children, as

there are several schools in the area

including Viqarunnisa Noon Dhaka

works would begin soon.

mammals. Vultures help us to keep our environment clean and save our crops.

The relevant authorities should make a plan for increasing their number. For they help to maintain our ecological balance. Md.Yeasin khan On e-mail

## Complaints must be investigated

We believe, the government and the law enforcing agencies are aware of the various specific complaints, lodged by the individuals or organizations, which were published or reported in the print or electronic media. People have the right to know what action the govt. or the relevant agencies have taken on those particular issues. Otherwise, what's the use of publishing the complaints against various irregularities and corruption at different levels? Sometimes, specific complaints are published against different persons'/organizations' irregularities and corruption, drawing the kind attention of the head of the government,

on priority basis by the law enforcing agencies, and the steps taken by the authorities should be made public.

Act has already been passed and people are now very hopenation. And I request the govt. authorities to protect human rights at all levels.

Md Zahidul Islam (Milton)

## Education for all

Every child has a right to get proper education, yet most of the children do not have access to it in Bangladesh. The govt. and the NGOs are working in this sector. But we should also involve ourselves in these programmes. If each of us teaches one child at least, it won't take a long time to get an educated nation. It is one of the Millennium Development Goals, which needs to be accomplished.

So, let us unite and make cating poverty. Hossain, Hasnat Shafat

The Aga Khan School Dhaka

## Unusual dropouts

Our country is lucky to have two consecutive pro-active education ministers: the first one eradicated copying in the examination in the SSC and HSC levels, the present one presented us an education policy, however disputed it

which should be investigated

The Right to Information ful. As a student of law, I firmly believe that if we can't be able to establish the rule of law, we will be lagging behind as a as well as the respective etc.

LL.B Final Year (English Medium) Bangabandhu Law College

the difference. If all of us do something, then it will surely make a big difference. And education is the key for eradi-

may be, and introduced for the first time the public exams for class five and eight. But now the unusual dropouts in the first ever JSC and JDC examinations speak volume of a major fault in the novel

Taking this year's JSC examination, my son told me about the sorry state in the examination halls. Invigilators vitiated the serene environment of the examination halls by correcting the scripts of the students they privately tutored. Worse still, the brighter students were made to help the weaker students with a view to raising the percentage of passing. A secret arrangement among the invigilators may have been behind all these anomalies. The result is sure to be disastrous, because this kind of unfair means is introducing a bad ethics to the delicate minds of the junior students.

However, what is happening beyond the examination halls is quite alarming. Thousands of examinees succumbed to the pressure incidental to the public exams, the fear of failure and the costly hazard of travelling to the examination centres as far away as 15 miles in some areas. Hence 1 lakh dropouts out of 1.5 million examinees!

I wonder what these novel examinations in the initial levels were for. Was it merely to stop the easy access to class five and class eight certificates? The nation wants a clarification from the education ministry.

Abdus Subhan Lalpur, Natore

## Medical tourism

Medical tourism or medical travel is a term primarily coined by travel agencies and the mass media to express the rapidly growing practice of travelling across international borders to obtain health care. Services naturally sought by travellers include elective procedures as well as intricate specialized surgeries, such as joint replacement (knee/hip), cardiac surgery, dental surgery, and cosmetic surgeries,

The concept of medical tourism is not a new one. The first recorded instance of medical tourism dates back thousands of years to when Greek pilgrims travelled from all over the Mediterranean to the small territory in the Saronic Gulf called Epidauria. This territory was the refuge of the medicinal idol Asklepios. Epidauria became the original travel destination for medical tourists. Our neighbouring country

India's medical tourism sector is expected to experience an annual growth rate of 30%, making it a Rs. 9,500crore industry by 2015. Estimates of the value of medical tourism in India will go as high as \$2 billion a year by 2012. Because they are providing advantages for medical tourists, which include reduced costs, availability of latest medical technologies, etc. The Indian government is taking steps to address infrastructure issues that hinder the country's growth in medical tourism. The most admired treatments sought in India by medical tourists are alternative medicine, bone-marrow transplant, cardiac bypass surgery, eye surgery and orthopaedic surgery.

Every year many Bangladeshi medical tourists travel around India, Thailand,

## **Treatment of severe malaria**

Control of malaria in recent years has got renewed momentum due to availability of effective interventions and increased financial support by Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Some malaria endemic countries are now considering even elimination of malaria. An expert group for guiding malaria elimination has been formed and their views are published in the Lancet in 6 November, 2010. Examples of such interventions are: vector control by effective insecticide, insecticide impregnated long lasting nets (LLN), rapid diagnostic tests (RDT), combination antimalarial treatments (ACT), pre referral treatment by rectal artesunate in the community and artesunate injection for the treatment of severe malaria.

In contemporary period the control and management of any illness has been advocated based on evidence. For malaria control and treatment the recent WHO Guidelines 2010 recommends vector control, use of LLN, ACT,

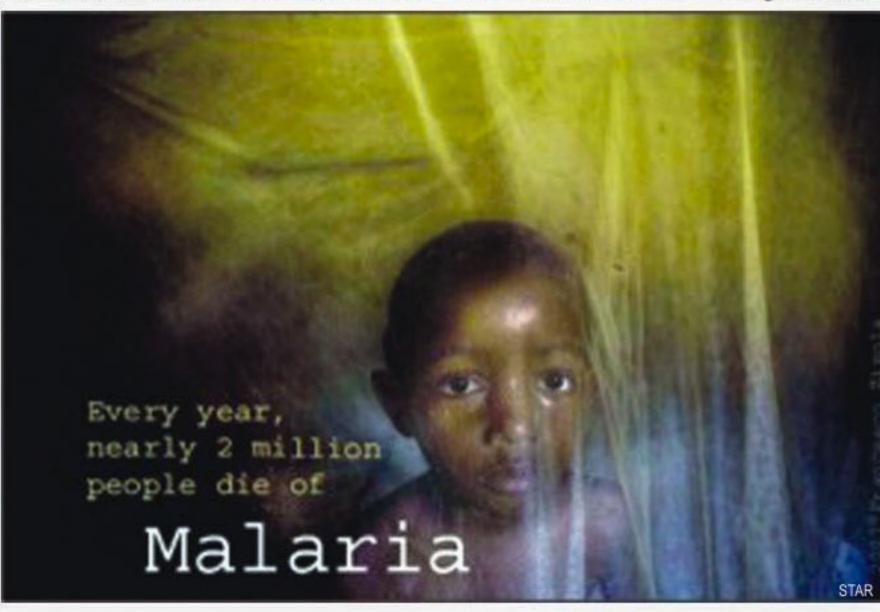
pre referral treatment of rectal artesunate and injection artesunate for severe malaria in adults. All these interventions have been found to reduce the malaria incidence and death with the expectation to achieve the malaria related millennium development goal (MDG) -- 50% reduction of malaria death by 2015. The pivotal trials were conducted in several countries in Asia and Africa, and Bangladesh is a proud participant of such evidence genera-

Most malaria deaths happen in children. The result of the biggest study in the treatment of severe malaria should be utilized, the sooner the better. Bangladesh has achieved significant progress in malaria control by using global fund through public-private partnership. Cases of death have reduced significantly.

Professor Md. Abul Faiz Professor of Medicine (Post Retirement

Leave)

Sir Salimullah Medical College, Dhaka



and Singapore for better treatment. But there is enormous capability of our country to develop medical tourism and earn foreign currency. Md. Shahriar Parvez

Lecturer (Fin Dept.) School of Business City University

## Bangladesh should have an Athens Council

In the never-ending quarrel between the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the leader of the opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, it is becoming increasingly clear that this dispute stems from the fact that there is no check on whoever becomes the prime minister. Without an Upper House, there is no check on the ruling party and its leaders.

As the inventors of democracy -- the ancient Athenians -- tell us without any check, democracy can degenerate into a tyranny of the majority. Democracy was invented by the ancient Athenians who believed that aristocrats and oligarchs didn't have any divine right to rule and ordinary citizens must have a say in the governing. So they invented a system of government involving all citizens and called it Demokratia -- the government by the people.

But the Athenians found out that democracy had also some inherent contradictions and the most seductive one was the majority rule. To stem the rich and poor conflict, they created the Athens Council, composed of 500 people chosen through lottery, to

provide a check on the majority. The Athens Council had the power to override any decision that ignored the legitimate concerns of the minority. The purpose of the Athens Council was to protect the rich from the envy of the poor and protect the poor from the arrogance of the rich.

To provide a check on the governing party and its powerful leaders, Bangladesh should have a non-partisan Upper House or Senate as its own Athens Council. The Senators can be elected on a non-partisan basis or they can be appointed by an allparty committee. Like the Athens Council, the Senators will have the power to override any decision of the governing party that ignores the legitimate concerns of others. Only a non-partisan Senate can do this. Democracy is about public participation in the governing and not the privilege of any party winning a larger number of seats.

Mahmood Elahi Ottawa, Canada

## Good traffic management!

On 20th November, my wife and I were returning from Satkhira to Dhaka by road across the Daulatdia - Aricha Ferry Service. Friends and relatives advised us to avoid travelling by this route, on the last day of Eid holiday. They felt that there would be terrible traffic rush, confusion and mismanagement at the ferry ghat and we would invariably be stuck up for a long time at the ghat for boarding the ferry!

The actual experience, after all the negative inputs, was an unexpected and pleasant surprise, as we boarded the ferry without any hassle or confusion in any way. It was all done in a very orderly manner! The access to the ferry was well organized and disembarking of vehicles from the ferry and boarding of vehicles was systematically done. Also there were plenty of ferries,

along while! It may be that trucks were given very low priority for boarding, and cars and passenger buses were loaded; since in any case the unloading of the trucks reaching in and around Dhaka, late in the evening during holidays was also a problem!

and we did not need to wait for

The Ansars who were managing the traffic flow, were doing an admirable job, and so were the BIWTA personnel at the ferry ghat; unloading and loading the ferries in a systematic manner! The only fly in the ointment was a police official, possibly from the local police post, who was unnecessarily throwing his weight around, to ensure that some joint secretary from possibly the Home department could board the first available ferry on reaching the ferry ghat! Apart from this, every thing was very well organized.

The Ansars and BIWTA personnel deserve appreciation, for a thankless and dedicated job of managing the disembarkation and embarkation of a large number of vehicles in a smooth and orderly manner. Engr. S.A. Mansoor Dhaka

# Lungs of our city

As a tree lover, I greatly appreciate your concern on the dying of trees in Dhaka (Nov. 12). While the experts and academia are welcome to find out the reasons, I would like to point out one aspect. In Gulshan area, pavements for pedestrians' use have been constructed of late. The trees that happened to be in the pavement area were literally killed.

In a western capital (Vienna), where I had the benefit of living for a long time, an area is left vacant around a tree (about four inches wide and covered with a iron grill) so as to allow further growth of the tree trunk, and more importantly, for rainwater to seep through to recharge the ground around the tree. Water is life.

Let us not deprive the lungs of our city from its nourishment. Hope that DCC will take remedial action.

Engr. ABM Nurul Islam Gulshan-2, Dhaka