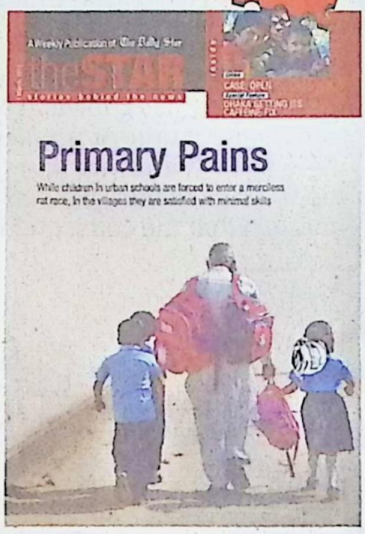
letters

The Learning Curve

The last issue's cover story brought out the stark difference in primary level education for rural and urban societies of Bangladesh. It portrays how inequality is ingrained at the very beginning of our development process, which ultimately creates a huge gap between the two societies. A child coming from a village school does not have the same reading, writing and computing skills as one from an urban school. The difference is not due to intellectual capability but rather because of the quality of education. Though the article says that the results of village schools are better now and teachers are more serious, whether there has been any significant change in quality still remains unknown. Personally I believe that an examination system can bring very little change to the quality of education delivered. Quality rather depends on the teachers, their sincerity in conducting this noble profession and the teaching materials they can use to facilitate the process. Besides text books, children and teachers should have access to extra and general knowledge through libraries and the internet. Intellectual development cannot take place only through assessment of aptitudes. Rather the thirst for knowledge should be instilled in young minds, which would in turn find its own avenue to develop.

Fahmida Akhter
Malibagh, Dhaka



Caffeine Fix

Café culture is certainly becoming a feature of our social lives, as *the Star* points at in its last issue. However I think there is a clear distinction between café and coffee culture – the former of which is more prevalent in our capital.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

There are so many cafés with no real drive to be the best in the business. Their menus are too broad with Italian and Japanese dishes – this does not make them good at it either.

I agree that this 'café culture' is a result of a gap in the market for middle and upper middle class people with few ways to spend their free time outside of their homes. But the quality available is so low in some places that they are forced to settle for cafés that know nothing about what they are or supposed to be. While cafés are a huge part of our social scene, they will never garner any respectable reputation like the cafés of Turkey or France as decent coffee is as hard to find as a street without traffic.

Anik Rahman Shumon
Dhaka

The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views held by *the Star*.

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.

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