letters

An Unhappy Homecoming

Thanks to the Star for telling a completely different story about migrant workers in its last issue. We usually read about the inhumane working condition they face abroad, the harassment and deception they are subjected to by unscrupulous agents at home and abroad. We know how in many countries they do not get their promised pay or even employment. But what awaits them in their own homeland after their struggles to survive in a foreign country remains behind the scene. 'An Unhappy Homecoming' highlighted a totally different facet of unskilled migration that brings Bangladesh millions of foreign currency every year. Mamun, Mahmuda and Maksuda's stories portray how the migrant workers become alienated in their own country, unwanted in their own homes and a burden to everyone; how their youthful years, the time they were supposed to spend with their families are stolen, how dreams are shattered. If we really want to turn the 16 billion pairs of hands into an indomitable economic strength, we need to analyse the stories of migrant workers further and take necessary steps to prevent the recurring of such heart wrenching tales.

Mitali Mohsin
Mirpur, Dhaka



As Good As It Gets

It was nice to know that the Social Welfare ministry is running such a day-care service at the Dhaka Central Jail. Reading about it in 'As Good As It Gets', I was wondering whether all the jails in the country have such an absolutely necessary facility. I also want to know if there is a way for private donors to contribute in these facilities or provide voluntary service. The article could have mentioned what happens to young children of detainees in foreign countries. What is the best practice followed? Seeing the pictures, it was difficult to imagine that most of these children have never run in an open field or felt the warm summer breeze on their cheeks. Their smiles overshadow the fact that they spent a considerable amount of their lives in the cells along with their detained mothers. One of the sub-titles in the article says: 'A child's smile brings joy to all'. It does, but with it brings the pain that we, despite living in a modern, civilised society, could offer them so little.

Nipa Raihan
Gulshan



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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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