

Ramadan in the 21st Century

I was glad to read about the writer's pleasant experience about observing the Holy Ramadan in the UK and Germany. This is an example of how western societies have assimilated influx of immigrants, many of whom are Muslims. I am a practicing Muslim from Pakistan. In the past 12 years I have lived in the US and UK. I have never faced any obstacle in practicing my religion in these countries. I find it a bit strange that we go to these countries and enjoy all the freedom and rights and back in our home countries we deny the basic rights to people of other religions and treat them as second class citizens.

Lalarukh Khan
Dubai, UAE

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

It is encouraging to see students of our engineering universities come up with innovative designs and models despite a serious lack of funding and access to modern laboratories. These brilliant students are the future of the country. Universities should be a place where they can realise their potentials and engage in research and development activities. The private sector has a huge role to play in this matter. Companies must realise that helping these students is the best investment they will ever make. A lot of engineering graduates go to other countries to work. If conditions are created at home, a majority of them would like to stay and work for the development of our country.

Shadidul Islam
Sacramento, California

Eateries of Dacca

It is fascinating to learn that Dhaka has such a glorious history as long as food is concerned. It is often said that eat the street food and you will know a lot about a city. By that measure, there is no doubt Dhaka was a great city.

However I do not understand where things started to go wrong. Nowadays one cannot eat anything outside home without worrying about the formalin and many other toxic chemicals in food items. I hope restaurateurs will read this article and be encouraged to offer fresh food to their clients.

Munir Hossain
Lalbagh, Dhaka

Goose Bumps from Abroad

I was shocked to read about the hundreds of beggars from India, Pakistan and African countries travelling to the Gulf before Eid to take up begging. At the same time I could not help feeling a little proud of the fact that Bangladeshis do not engage in such shameful activities. I have travelled to many Arab countries in the past 15 years. I have seen Bangladeshis doing menial work as labourers, cleaners, drivers and guards. But I have never seen any Bangladeshi begging on the street abroad. We may be a poor nation but we have self-respect.

Mohammad Motiur Rahman
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

In the Name of fashion

I was utterly shocked to read this article. It seems that sickness in our society is mutating into a fatal contagion. What was the editor of the said fashion magazine trying to achieve by publishing this horrible issue? Was she trying to copy the satanic/cult haute couture that is gaining popularity in many western countries? Whatever it is she showed a serious lack of original ideas and disregard for our social values.

RH, Gulshan, Dhaka