MAILBOX

A Growing Presence

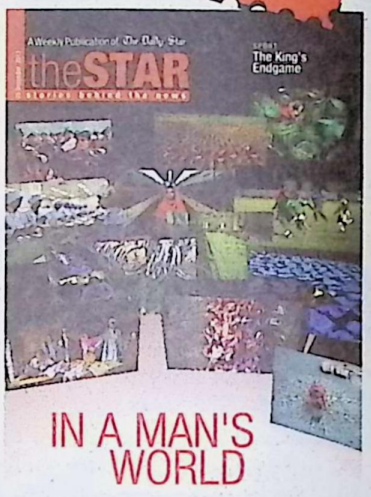
I was a bit disappointed to read the cover story of this week. The writer has tried to establish the fact that the conditions of women in Bangladesh has improved significantly over the years. While it is true, he has failed to present relevant statistics. The harsh reality is the overall status of women in Bangladesh remains considerably inferior to that of men. Women still have limited access to market, productive services, education, health care and government. Wages of women workers are still way lower than those of men. Despite these limitations, more women have joined the workforce than in the eighties. So let us not be complacent. Let us acknowledge the reality and work toward empowering women even further.

Fahmida Khatun Shiuli
Uttara, Dhaka

★★★

Amid all the bad news, I found last week's story about Celebrating Life, 2013 very encouraging. It is indeed a great effort to acknowledge the people who are working relentlessly to portray the advancement of women in this country through photographs. Throughout history women in this country have always fought against social injustices alongside men. But some of us often deny them their rights to live life as equal human beings. Stories like this can have a positive impact in the mind of many readers.

Obaidur Rahman
Savar, Dhaka.



A Show of Strength

When I looked at the human sea at the Surhawardy Udyan on December 16, I felt the strength the writer of this well written article talks about. People wanted to show that they will no longer live in fear and that they are united against anti-liberation forces. They also demanded a free and democratic country as envisioned by the freedom fighters in 1971. The writer asks a very important question: 'We are not at war as we were in '71. Or are we?' I did not have to look elsewhere to find an answer to this question. I found it in the previous paragraph of the article: 'We are also very clear in our demand for a Bangladesh that is free from anti-liberation forces that are conspiring to bring this nation to its knees.' The *Star* and the writer deserve my heartfelt gratitude for such an inspiring article.

Ali Ahmed Babu
Shegun Bagicha, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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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