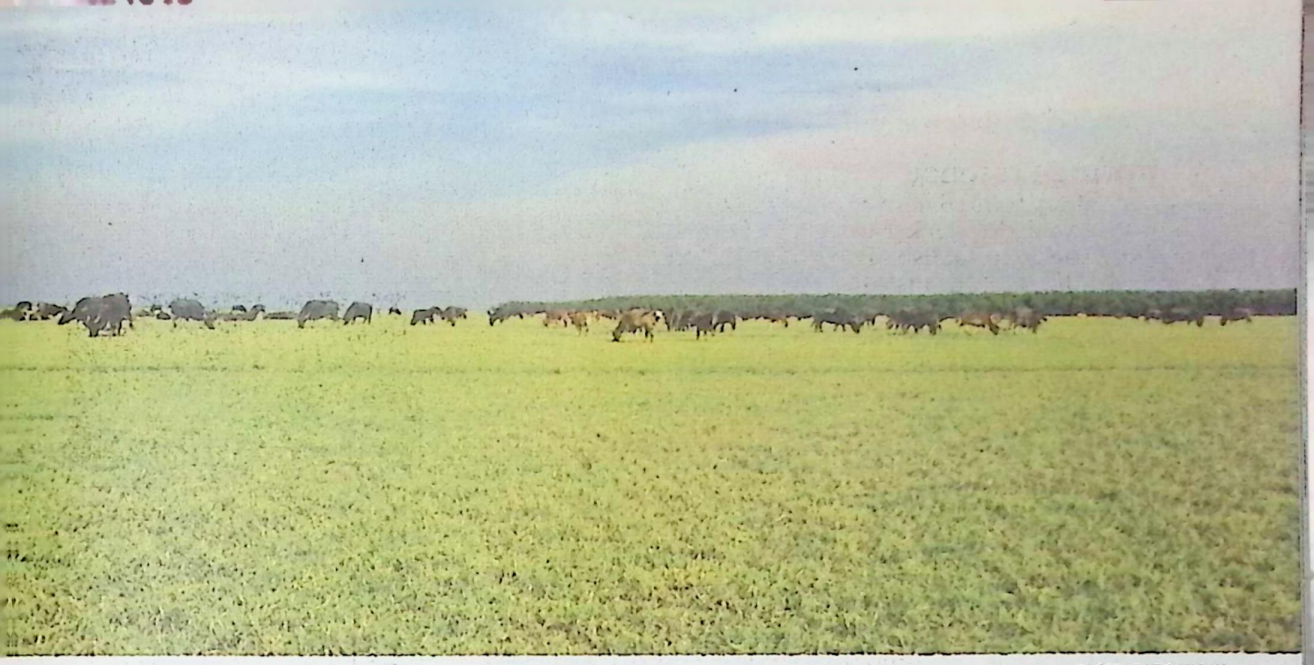


PHOTO: RAFIQ HASAN

Bricklane to Bangladesh

Men like Luke Barton and Tom Smith of UK prove that people still care about others. I wonder what men like them are made of---cycling through rain, snow, heat---on rough terrain, mountains, plain land---and trying to help children make a better future half a world across. A banker, I read this article with the excitement of a schoolboy because of the way it was written---crisp and fluid. I am sure a lot of readers will like this story.

Mohammad Abdul Mannan
Lalbagh, Dhaka

The Power to Reform

We have much to learn from China's move to curb corruption by government officials. We need greater accountability of officials---both public and elected. Every government that comes to power in Bangladesh leaves behind traces of massive corruption and irregularities. The current government has mishandled the Padma Bridge Project and failed to take actions against the perpetrators of the Share Market Scam. The previous government also had their share of misdeeds. It seems that when a party wins election in Bangladesh, it considers the entire country as its business enterprise. It also politicizes and manipulates the civil administration to further its own interests. The civil administration is the body that carries out the development work and maintains law and order in the country. If they are demoralized, the entire country suffers setbacks.

Mizanur Rehman
Gulshan, Dhaka

A new piece of paradise

Looking at the breathtaking pictures of the remote sea beach in Hatya and reading about it, I wondered how proper planning could turn a spot like this into a top tourist destination in the region. I was shocked to learn that local officials are not even aware of its very existence. There are many more hidden treasures like this beach scattered all over the country. The government needs to come up with a well designed plan to maintain and develop tourist spots. Tourism is good for the economy.

Jamila Khan
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

The King's Endgame

I found last week's feature on Magnus Carlsen both entertaining and educational. Chess is a wonderful game and it has many benefits especially when it is played at an early age. According to research, Test scores improve by about 17.3 percent for students regularly engaged in chess games. That is why, in approximately 30 nations across the globe, chess is incorporated into the curriculum of schools. Various studies show that chess helps develop analytical, synthetic and decision-making skills, which students can transfer to real life. When youngsters play chess they must call upon higher-order thinking skills, analyze actions and consequences, and visualize future possibilities. Policymakers would do well to include chess in the curriculum of schools and colleges in this country. All said, if the feature included the moves of at least one game of the championship match between Anand and Carlsen, a lot of chess lovers would have appreciated it even more.

Mohammad Raisuddin
Via Email

Soul of a nation

The Constitution of 1972 is indeed the soul of our nation. We feel ashamed when we compare today's politicians with those during the liberation war and before. Thanks to *the Star* team for reminding us of our glorious past.

Mrinmoy Ahsan
Mirpur, Dhaka