MAILBOX

thestarmagazine@gmail.com

The Visionary

I do not have words to express my respect and gratitude for Professor Diba Hussain who has dedicated her entire life to help those who cannot see pursue higher studies at the university level. There is no reason blind students should not be able to study the subjects they like and qualify to study. Admission into the universities should be based on merit only. Those who are physically or mentally challenged should be given a fair competition. The society must treat them with kindness and compassion. Kindness is the language even the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Thank you, *Star*, for such an inspiring story.

Raihan Rohan
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Blind Spot

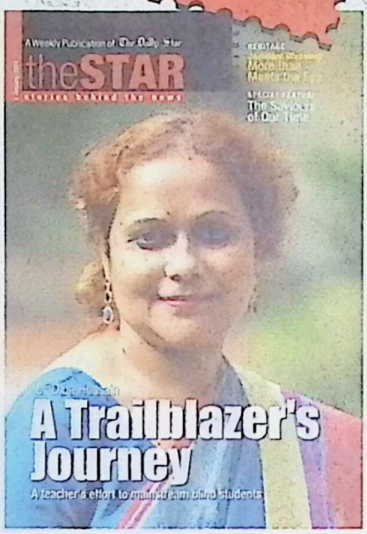
Last week's cover has prompted me to share with the readers what I saw in Singapore where education is made easier and inclusive for the visually impaired and students with disabilities. They have conducted studies that show that blind children grow, flourish, and achieve greater self and social fulfilment by being nurtured in the least restrictive environment. With proper technical assistance and consultation given to regular classroom teachers, and a broad educational environment, blind children are able to show their true worth; they are then more readily accepted socially by their sighted counterparts.

Statistics reveal that not even 10% of blind children in most of the developing countries are receiving any kind of education. I want to congratulate the visually impaired students in DU other educational institutions for their extraordinary achievements despite facing so many obstacles as mentioned in the story.

Urmila Paul
Uttara-3, Dhaka



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



The Saviours of Our Time

Bangladesh has reached a new low with the recent arson attacks on innocent citizens in the name of political activism. Amid all the mindless violence, however, emerged a beacon of hope in the form of the doctors at the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. These lion-hearted doctors have proved that everything has not gone rotten; there are still people in the society who care about others and serve their fellow humans, forgetting their own comfort. It is an inspiring story of hope and compassion. Our country needs more people like these doctors.

Abdullah Matin
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

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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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