

A Pearl in the Indian Ocean

Last week's article on the success of Mauritian economy offers valuable lessons for many countries. It teaches us that a country can only prosper when true democracy has taken root in the country, its institutions give voices to the less advantaged groups of the society and most importantly, there is rule of law. I visited this beautiful Island in 2012 and was very impressed by its people and culture. Although modern and cosmopolitan in nature, the Mauritian people have not forgotten their roots. They still practice customs and traditions that are centuries old. In my humble opinion, Mauritius is an example of what a country without any oil or natural resources can become if they choose to take the right path of democracy, transparency and rule of law.

Sara Tulip Khan
Gulshan, Dhaka

Best New Year Gifts

Last week's photo feature gave me a lot of hope for a new year. I looked at the happy faces of the children and thought about how little it takes to put a smile on their faces. The recent burning of schools will make sure that many of these children will no longer have the only place that offers solace for them in an increasingly violent country. Those who are destroying schools in the name of opposing the power-hungry ruling party are actually trying to take the country back to the stone ages. While the government deserves credit for distributing free books to crores of school children, their failure to save many schools from these mad men is equally disturbing.

Raisuddin Sarkar
Tongi, Dhaka

How to Appear Smarter Than You Really Are

This hilarious but poignant article [published on January 10, 2014] made for a very interesting reading. Our society is full of people who are busy looking smart than actually becoming smart. Think about all the energy and time they spend on appearing smart. If they gave so much effort to actually becoming smart, we all would benefit greatly. We must remember that we can fool someone once but not all the time. A person's true worth becomes evident over time. The writer of this article is a keen observer of the human comedy. This is one of the first columns I read after getting the *Star* every Friday.

Kuheli Sharmin
Banani, Dhaka

The Visionary

I am deeply impressed by this article and special thanks to Dr Diba Hossain, the professor who has dedicated her life for such a noble work. In our country, a significant number of people are visually impaired and facing various kinds of obstacles including difficulties to receive proper education. As a former student of University of Dhaka I met some of these students and it is really true that they have the potential and talent to do even better than any sighted student. University authorities should introduce more technology based education and the Government should assist the people who are working for them.

NAkter
Dhaka City College, Dhaka

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

Central Hospital
Green Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Tel: 9660015-19, 8619321

ICDDRB
Mohakhali, Dhaka
Tel: 8811751-60

BIRDEM
Shahbagh, Dhaka
Tel: 9661551-60, 8616641

Ibn Sina Hospital
Sankar, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Tel: 8119513, 8113709, 01817144609, 01817144612

National Heart Foundation Hospital
Mirpur, Dhaka
Tel: 8010491, 8014914

Square Hospital Ltd
West Panthapath, Dhaka
Tel: 8144466-77-88, 01713377773-5

Apollo Hospitals
Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka
Tel:10678 (hotline), Ambulance: 01714090000

Dhaka Community Hospital
Baro Moghbazaar, Dhaka
Tel: 9351190-1, 8314887

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Anjuman E Mofidul Islam
Tel: 9336611, 7411660, 7410786

Red Crescent Society
Tel: 9330188-9, 9358799

Al-Markazul Islam
Tel: 9127867, 8114980

Fire Service (Ambulance)
Tel: 955666-7, 9553333-7

BLOOD BANKS

Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Tel : 8626812-26

Sandhani
Tel: 9668690, 7319123

Red Crescent Society
7/5 Aurongzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.
Tel: 9116563

POLICE AND RAB OFFICES

RAB HQ
Tel: 8961105, 8963419, 8963420

Dhaka Metropolitan Police
Emergency Helpline: 999-2222, 9514400, 01713398311

BANGLADESH FIRE SERVICE AND CIVIL DEFENCE

Central Operation Room
Tel: 9555555, 01713038181, 01713038182

TRANSPORT

Hanif Enterprise
Panthopath: 01713402670, Gabtoli: 9012902, 8011750

Shyamoli Paribahan
Fakirapul: 01733804041 Gabtoli: 8014538, 01711987028

United Airways
Tel: 8901328, 01713486660