



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

"Life is priceless. Even to an ant"
— Xiaobo Liu, June Fourth Elegies

SNAPSHOT

MAILBOX

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

"The Best Day, Everyday"

Last week's spotlight of my favourite - The Star Weekend - was quite different. It described the day to day activity of a worker of an NGO called Teach for Bangladesh. We usually do not find such stories in The Star Weekend. However, the title was so moving that I could not resist myself from reading the whole article in one sitting. The story was really well written. The way the writer depicted the devotion and enthusiasm of a young worker to work for the least privileged people really touched my heart. Thanks to the Star Weekend for publishing such well written articles.

Afsara Amin
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Who Should Pay the VAT?

The private universities are charging exorbitant amounts from students, now that they are required to pay VAT. Groups of private university students should see the Honourable President and Chancellor Abdul Hamid and submit a memorandum demanding withdrawal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on private academic institutions. Although the VAT was intended to be imposed on the university authorities, most of the universities have increased tuition fees to take the money from the students. This is sheer injustice for students. We demand immediate withdrawal of the VAT. Otherwise government should take strict measure against the universities who are forcing the students to pay the VAT for them.

Ashraf Hossain
Sadhur Mor
Rajshahi

"Bangladesh Beats India in Education"

This was such an inspiring story to read. Amidst many negative stories in the media, this kind of positive story really inspired me. The performance of Bangladeshi students in the International Mathematics Olympiad has amazed the world and made us proud. However, Bangladesh is still not able to utilise these brains for national development. Brain drain from Bangladesh is intense. We must create a strong platform so that these brilliant young people get the opportunity to utilise their genius for the development of their own country.

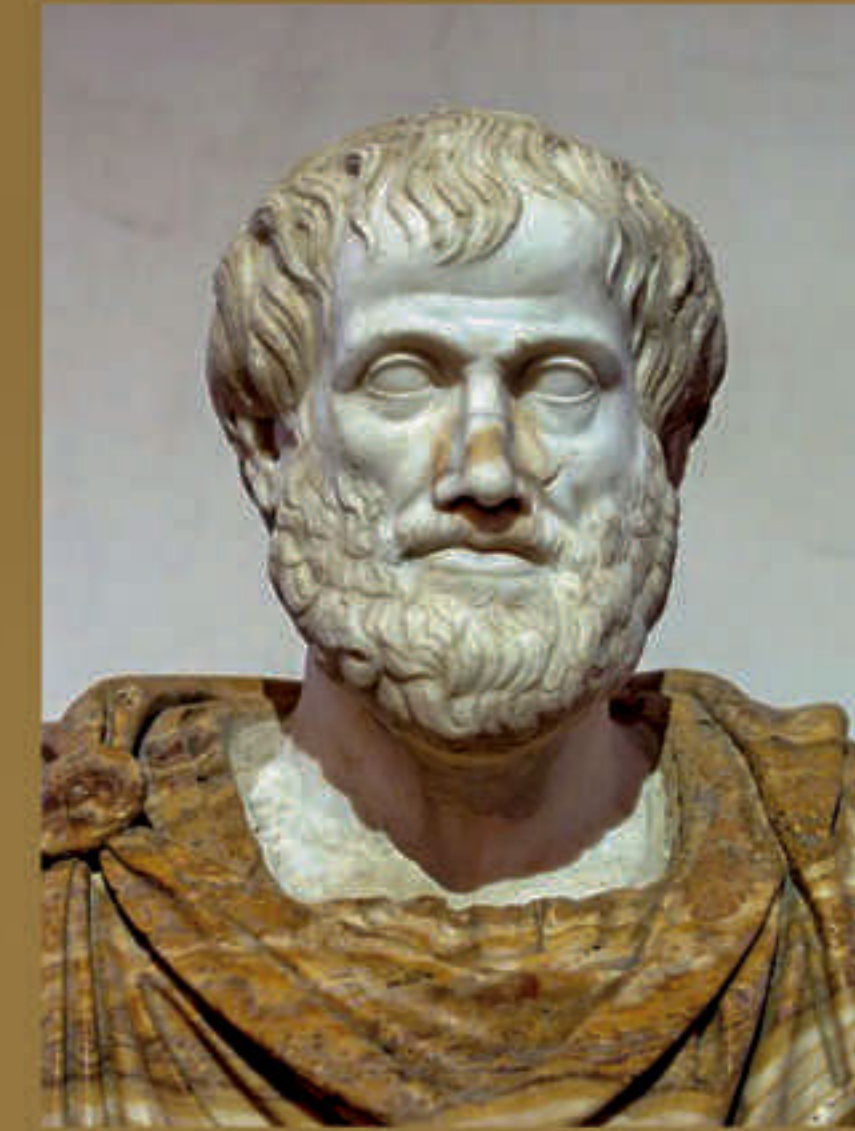
Pantho Chakrabarti
Banasree, Dhaka



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The opinions expressed in these letters do not necessarily represent the views of the Star Weekend.

PEARLS OF WISDOM



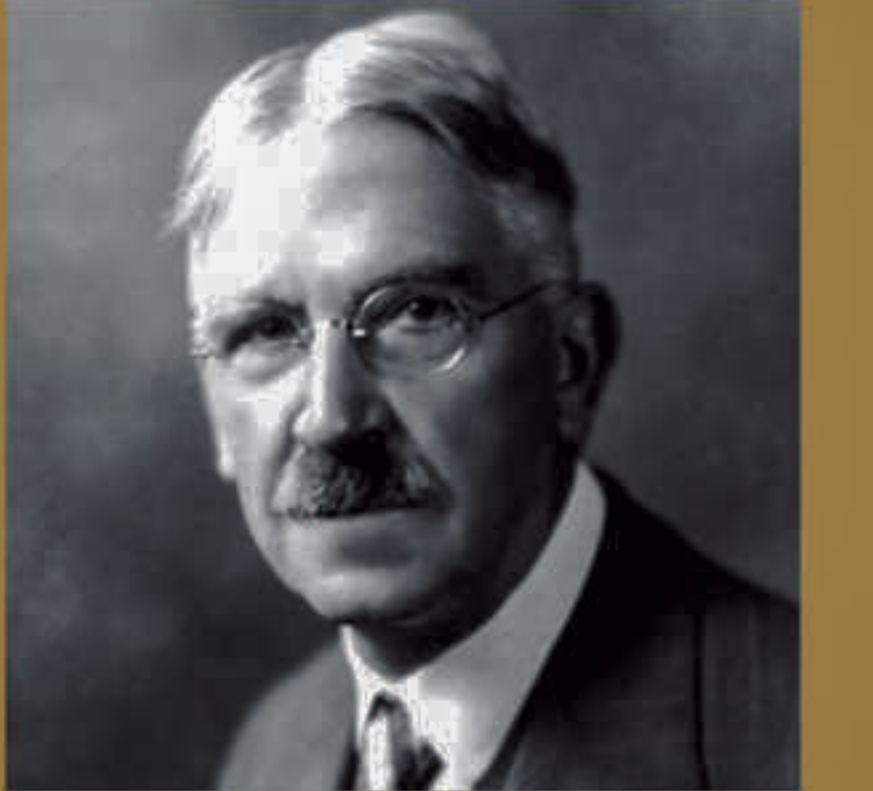
"EDUCATING THE MIND WITHOUT EDUCATING THE HEART IS NO EDUCATION AT ALL."

ARISTOTLE
Greek philosopher



"THE FUNCTION OF EDUCATION IS TO TEACH ONE TO THINK INTENSIVELY AND TO THINK CRITICALLY. INTELLIGENCE PLUS CHARACTER – THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
American human rights activist and social leader



"EDUCATION IS NOT PREPARATION FOR LIFE; EDUCATION IS LIFE ITSELF."

JOHN DEWEY
American philosopher and educational reformer

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