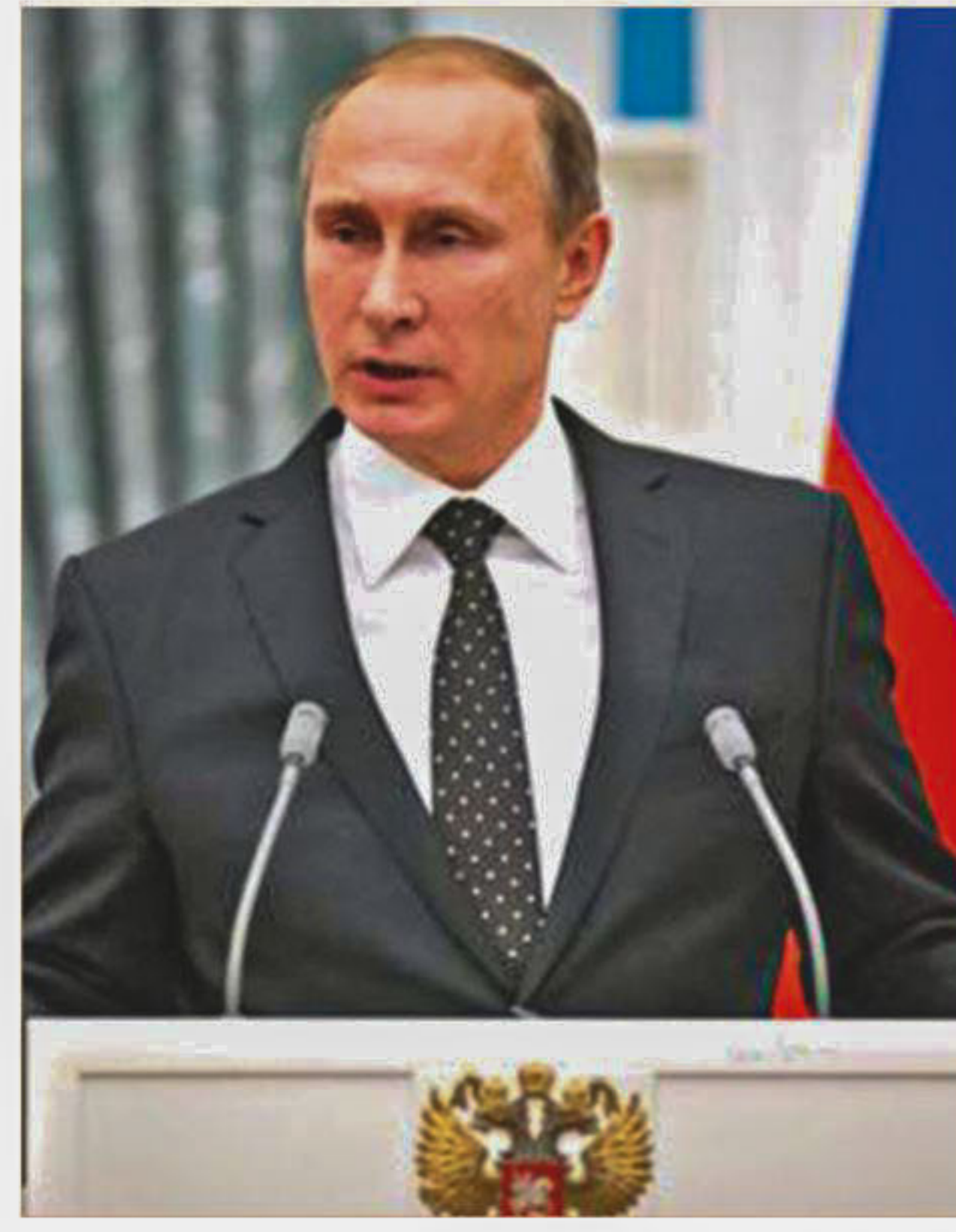


# Why Turkey is so important

FRESH OMAR JAMAL

Many mistakenly believe that the war against Assad started in 2011 with the Arab Spring. But actually, it started at least as early as 2000 when Qatar proposed to construct a USD10 billion, 1,500 kilometre pipeline through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey, connecting Qatar directly to the European energy market and reducing the EU's energy dependence on Russia. Assad, being a close ally of Russia, refused to allow the pipeline to run through Syria and, instead, approved another running from Iran's gas field through Syria to the ports of Lebanon. In a 2007 interview with Amy Goodman on Democracy Now, General Wesley Clark, former Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO, said that soon after the 9/11 attacks, he had received a memo from the then US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld. This memo, according to him, in fact, described "how the US government was going to take down seven countries in five years" — one of which was Syria.



regime... the CIA also armed Jihadists with anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and other weapons from Libyan armouries that the agency smuggled by rail to Syria via Turkey." Russian and Syrian governments too have constantly made similar allegations. But when speaking of allies, one must remember that Washington does not really have any; it only has junior partners (its European partners). And although the Gulf monarchs allied with Washington probably had quite a bit to gain from the overthrow of Assad, none would have tried to do so without Washington's directives. But why would Washington be so desperate to overthrow Assad you ask? Well, there are, of course, many reasons. The most important, however, is to weaken Russia. To overthrow a pro-Russian leader in Syria and replace him with one more

willing to do Washington's bidding. The equation is very simple. Washington wants Full Spectrum Dominance, an euphemism for hegemony, as the US military's doctrine defines it. As Dr Paul Craig Roberts the former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury for Economic Policy wrote on May 5, "Washington's position shows that Washington is a firm believer that only Washington's interests are important. If other people wish to retain national sovereignty, they are simply being selfish. Moreover, they are out of compliance with Washington, which means they can be declared a 'threat to American national security'." Thus, for US hegemony to succeed there must be no independent sovereign nations left to pursue their own interests. It needs to have its puppets in place everywhere so that all countries follow the Washington

directive. By refusing Qatar's offer, Assad has already proved inadequate for that job. And for a long time, it was Turkey that played the major role in helping Washington try to achieve the overthrow of Assad. In December 2015, German newspaper Deutsche Welle reported that "Military and logistic support from Turkey was the key factor in extremists' takeover of Idlib, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has said." The Iranian Press TV in June 2016 reported that "Turkey and Saudi Arabia have widely been blamed for the deadly militancy in Syria through supporting militants with funds, training and weapons." The Russian Foreign Minister has also stressed the need for "stopping the flow of terrorists and weapons to Syria via Turkey." Such support to jihadists from

Turkey at the bidding of Washington may well be ending, given the recent coup attempt in Turkey, alleged by some to have been masterminded by the West. As RT reported on August 11, "In an interview with Turkey's NTV television on Wednesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Ankara 'will again, in an active manner, with its planes take part in operations' against Islamic State targets.... Ankara has called on Moscow to carry out joint operations against the 'common enemy'." And that is why Turkey is so important. As RT reported on August 12, "Putin has, for some time now, been trying to promote the idea of an alternative bloc to curb American domination of the global political order. With cooperation with China steadily increasing, bringing Turkey into the mix would be the icing on the cake."

Because for both Putin and Assad, this may be the most decisive step yet towards ending the proxy war in Syria. Thus, as Eric Draitser, pointed out, "The failed coup in Turkey last week was a political and geopolitical earthquake as it has the potential to fundamentally alter the Middle East, NATO, and potentially the balance of power globally.... Despite his commendable service to US imperialism in Syria, including hosting both terrorist and Syrian expatriate proxies of the US, Erdogan has clearly upset the apple cart with Washington. Perhaps his most egregious crime came just recently when he issued an apology for the November 2015 downing of a Russian jet. But, of course, it wasn't the apology itself that set off official Washington, it was the reorientation of Turkish foreign policy away from the US, NATO, and Europe, and towards Russia, China, and the emerging non-western power bloc." Something that Washington, to its horror, may only have quickened with the failed coup attempt, if it was, indeed, behind it.

The writer is a member of Editorial Team.

According to WikiLeaks, soon after Bashar Assad rejected the Qatar pipeline, the CIA began funding opposition groups in Syria.... intelligence documents, published by WikiLeaks, show that by 2012, some US allies "were arming, training and funding radical Jihadist Sunni fighters from Syria, Iraq and elsewhere to overthrow the Assad's Shia allied regime."

## Female education in Bangladesh State of foreign aid

SAKIB B. AMIN & MAAESHA NUZHAT

In today's fast growing world, most nations are fighting to leave a mark of their existence. While some countries like the United States and the United Kingdom have been the front runners for as long as the history books allow us to remember, other countries like Germany and Japan have surprised the world by becoming some of the largest economies in spite of being nearly demolished during the Second World War. The fact of the matter remains, however, that none of these developed countries achieved the status or right to be called "developed" overnight. These countries along with the welfare organisations now provide assistance to the developing countries. This assistance is what is known as foreign aid. While the allocation of foreign aid is decided by the respective governments of each individual country, developing nations tend to make inputs into sectors they believe will help their economy prosper.

In a developing country like Bangladesh, which is one of the most promising emerging economies, it is absolutely crucial that investment is being made in order to groom the labour force of tomorrow. Achieving universal primary education is the second United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG). However, research reveal that the enrolment rate in education for both male and female will lead one to believe that Bangladesh is far behind its contemporaries. For example, the literacy rate of Sri Lanka in 2016 is 92 percent, the highest literacy rate in South Asia. The literacy rate of India is 74 percent. Bangladesh has a literacy rate of 70 percent as of 2016, and while the number itself is close to that of India's, the vast difference in economic factors such as population for instance, needs to be taken into account. This is why the trend of the percentage of Official Development Assistance (ODA) going into the education sector in Bangladesh can be concerning.

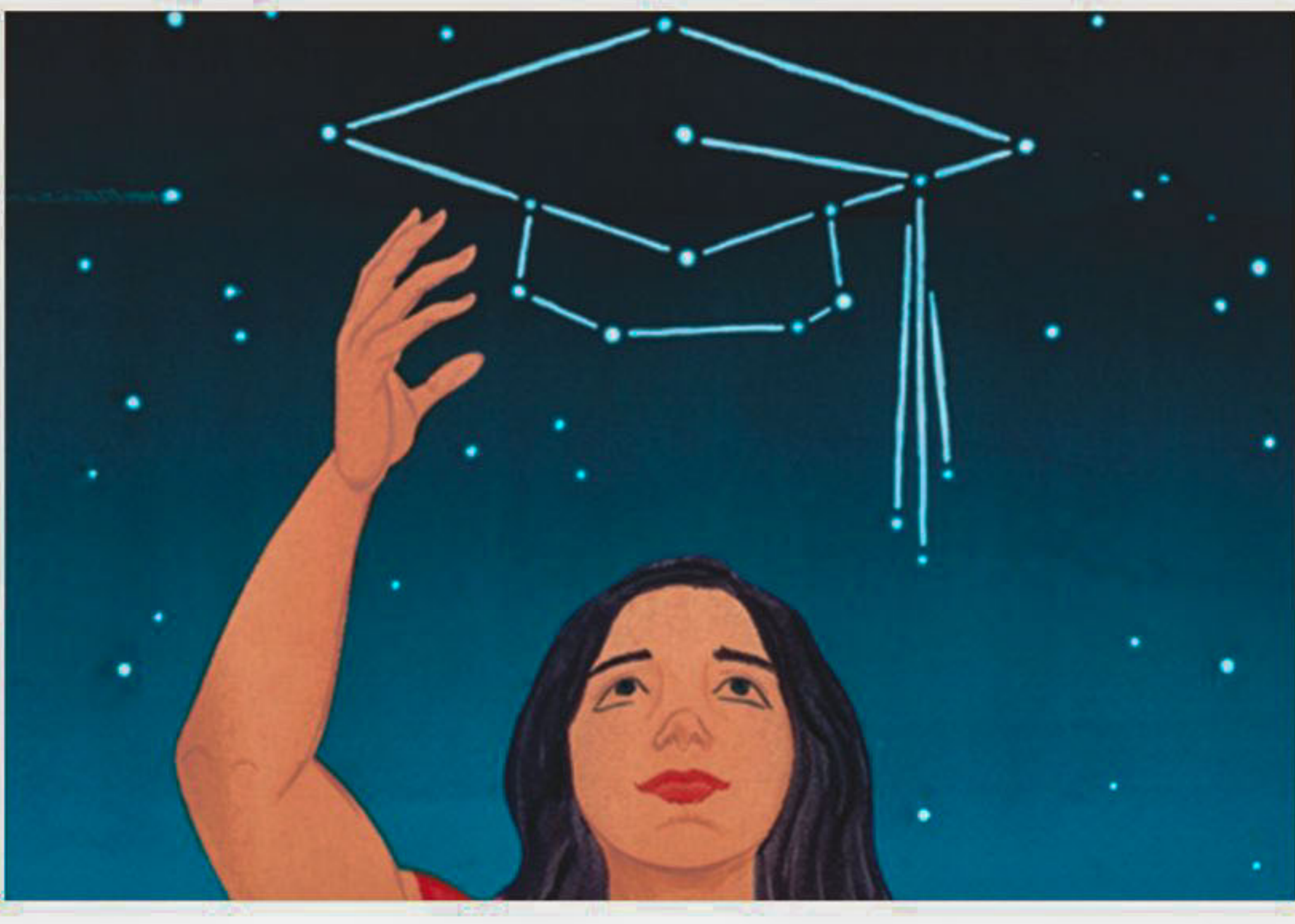


ILLUSTRATION BY: ALEX NABAUM

This will give a clearer perspective as to why more attention needs to be paid to our education sector. Of course, education is a basic human right, but for a developing nation like Bangladesh, attention needs to be paid to female education in particular. It is a common practice in rural households to not send their young daughters to schools as they believe females are born to solely run households. To have such a belief in the year 2016 is alarming and that is why the education system in our country is in dire need of certain reforms. It is highly important to bring up young girls in our country as educated women. If a cost-benefit analysis is done, the benefits will certainly outweigh the costs. First and foremost, the

number of child brides in Bangladesh will take a dive. The national average age of conceiving children will rise as a result, and this means the health of both the new born and the mother will not be compromised. Due to receiving primary education, these individuals will have some set of skills which can act as a base of attaining specialised skills in future. When women finally decide to start a family, they are more likely to recognise the importance of education and ensure education for their children as well. And most importantly, these women will not discriminate between their sons and daughters, if they had grown up being treated the same as their brothers. Education availed by women will not only lead

to increased household incomes and contribute towards building a more skilled labour force, but it will also make these individuals more socially mobile. Positive Vertical Social Mobility means that they have experienced an upgrade in their social class. If the education sector can provide proper education to both sexes equally, men are expected to not turn to domestic violence, and women to be more likely to overcome the situation of domestic violence at home, should there be one. This will give women a sense of pride a boost, enhance their prestige and make them happier and confident in the long run.

Falling out of the poverty cycle is a dream of every underprivileged individual and education is the medium that can turn this dream into something else. And yet, foreign aid to the education sector of Bangladesh has declined. Aid to education in Bangladesh was USD 148 million in 2002-2003 and stood at USD 528 million in 2013. In the year 2014, this figure fell to USD 449 million. Aid to basic education in Bangladesh was USD19/child in 2013, but it came down to USD13/child in 2014. This is significantly lower than Afghanistan (USD50/child) and Sri Lanka (USD25/child) in 2014.

It is obvious that foreign aid to education can bring robust changes and, yet, in spite of the expected fruition, aid to education is lower now compared to the year before. It cannot be stressed enough how important education is for our country: it is the backbone of a nation after all. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the government look at this issue and take all the necessary steps for the proper utilisation of foreign aid in the education sector.

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Education availed by women will not only lead to increased household incomes and contribute towards building a more skilled labour force, but it will also make these individuals more socially mobile.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

*It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- Temporary currency
- Watch parts
- Eat away
- Lusitania sinker
- Ticked off
- "Keen!"
- Like marquetry
- Gen --
- Before today
- Reddish-brown
- Writer Deighton
- Anxious
- Baseball's Sizemore
- Spring break city, for short
- Like go-go boots
- Gratifies
- Yale rooster
- Crater part
- Soviet tyrant
- Tell target
- Animated
- Cart pullers
- Cruise vessel
- Cushes forth

**DOWN**

- Continuing story
- Cover
- Deodorant type
- Creative germ
- Salon treatments
- Amusement
- Japanese prime minister
- Sweet-talks
- Place for a meal
- Account
- Gives
- Bust holders
- Settle the bill
- Transcript no.
- Goof
- Place of worship
- Mercouri of "Never on Sunday"
- Twist of fiction
- Places for a meal
- Baby carriages
- Stepped down
- Detective Archer
- Slalom shape

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

N	O	B	L	E	S	A	D	A	T
A	R	R	A	Y	A	L	O	N	E
P	E	A	C	E	D	A	M	O	N
B	A	L	D	I	V	A	N		
A	W	E	S	T	A	M	I	N	A
J	O	Y	C	H	E	M	R	A	C
A	L	C	H	E	M	Y	C	A	T
O	A	K	S	L	O	T	S		
P	L	O	T	T	R	I	O		
R	U	P	E	E	A	M	P	E	D
O	N	E	A	L	P	I	E	T	A
S	E	R	U	M	S	T	R	A	Y

**BEETLE BAILEY** by Mort Walker

I HAVE A THEORY ABOUT LIFE... PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE FIRST FLOOR HAVE A SMALLER VIEW ON LIFE. THOSE WHO LIVE ON A HIGHER FLOOR HAVE A BROADER VIEW OF THINGS AND A BRIGHTER LIFE! THOSE WHO LIVE BEHIND DRAPES AND SHADES MISS A LOT AND SHOULDN'T WRITE BOOKS AND TELL OTHER PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE

**BABY BLUES** by Kirkman & Scott

MOM, CAN WE GET A REAL BABY CHICK FOR EASTER? SUPE, I LOVE CHICKEN POOP. SHE SAID "YES!!" HAMMIE, SHE WAS BEING SARCASTIC. I KNEW THAT! NOW, WHAT SHOULD I NAME MY CHICK? HOW ABOUT "CLEVELAND"? HOW ABOUT "CLEVELAND"?