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What is important is to spread confusion, not eliminate it.

- SALVADOR DALÍ

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Stop air pollution and changing environmental degradation

Bangladesh has been struggling with air pollution for a long time and Dhaka continues to rank among the most polluted cities in the world. Brick kilns and unfit old vehicles as well as construction work have been identified as major sources of air pollution. The air quality further declines during the dry months from October to April. Experts point out that five of the top 10 causes of deaths in Bangladesh are related to air pollution. Both indoor and outdoor air pollution are causing significant health problems, especially for children. A number of acts, legislations, constitutional amendments and pollution control measures have failed to check this threat. The factors responsible for air pollution must be addressed to clear the environment and we should try to bring into the limelight the sources of pollution and its effects on human health. We can only hope this will awaken the concerned authorities to their role in making the environment clean and liveable as a matter of urgency.

Zubair Khaled Huq



If music be the food of love, play on

It was a privilege for me to attend the Dhaka International Folk Festival, popularly known as Folk Fest, this year. I only made up my mind to attend on the last night of the festival. Following three layers of security, I was able to get in to enjoy the fascinating performance of the folk band Nakshikatha. After that, it was Arnob with some of his popular songs. Last but not least was one of the best attractions of the Folk Fest, Shafqat Amanat Ali whose performance was enthralling, making the audience sing and dance with him. His rhythm of

music left me transfixed. Such is the appeal of music and such universal is the language of music! It will not be wrong if I conclude that music has no border, it knows no nationality, no hatred and it is beyond any sort of politics. The quotation of Shakespeare from Twelfth Night "If music be the food of love, play on" reverberates when I think of the impression the Folk Fest has left on me.

Mithun Kumar Koch
University of Dhaka



Social status dilemma

Our social mindset is such that we are taught to be very competitive. We are taught to attain higher education and excel in every field and if one cannot, they're treated as social outcasts. Many parents want their children under the "DELL" philosophy (doctors, engineers, lawyers, or else a loser). This puts immense pressure on young people trying to live up to parental expectations while sacrificing their own dreams. Parents and relatives

tend to compare with other people all the time, leading to a culture of competition. However, nowadays young people are opting for, and exploring, new sectors each day. Everyone must strive to break free from this archaic culture of analogy in our society.

Rafid Alam
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