

Editor and Publisher
Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Star Weekend)
Sushmita S Preetha

Staff Writers
Naimul Karim
Md Shahnawaz Khan
Chandan
Zyma Islam
Nilima Jahan
Maliha Khan
Abida Rahman Chowdhury
Sarah Anjum Bari

Staff Photographer
Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo

Graphics
Debashis Kumar Day

Production
Shamim Chowdhury

Published by the Editor from
Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon
Industrial Area, Dhaka on behalf
of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel
C.A., Dhaka-1000.



*To witness that calm rhythm of life revives our worn souls
and recaptures a feeling of belonging to the natural world.* – GEORGE SCHALLER

SNAPSHOT
AFTAB UZZAMAN

MAILBOX

starweekendtds@gmail.com

Waste management is not a child's responsibility

It was very moving to read the piece on child waste collectors in last week's issue of *Star Weekend*. It was frustrating, on one hand, to learn about the inefficient process of waste collection in our city—the way that the city corporation seems to have overlooked the employment of children for the work even though it's clearly visible all over the city, and moreover the way that a city of 180 million people relies on young children to handle its waste disposal. It was heartbreaking to read about children as young as 12 years old rummaging through mountains of toxic waste and going without food, and earning just a few thousand takas a month for it.

However, the article does a good job of highlighting how simply putting a stop to these practices isn't a solution. Taking these jobs away from them would probably just heighten their financial struggles; and regardless, they would continue to be mistreated by other employers, in restaurants, offices, and other menial jobs. In addition to educating these workers about their basic rights, the organisations must be held accountable for their employment and exploitation of unskilled and underage workers.

Anika Islam
Rampura, Dhaka



Elephants used at a political rally!

That street animals in Dhaka live in appalling conditions is no secret. Everyday, as I make my way home, I find animals that have been beaten up, that are limping or rummaging through the garbage for their daily meal. But I was doubly appalled to come across the use of animals for a show, to create a statement. During the ruling party's Victory Rally last Saturday, I came across an image of some AL supporters using elephants for the rally. The elephant was tied with ropes and had to navigate the suffocating Dhaka crowds. It felt truly upsetting to see this majestic beast of the jungle being used for such petty purposes. That too, when around the world this species is under so many threats.

An animal lover
Dhaka

Heinous rape in Subarnachar not election violence?

There are detailed testimonies of the rape survivor and her husband about the men who threatened her for voting for 'sheaf of paddy' in the election and that the same men came to her house and gang-raped her that night. Family members of the other alleged rapists have spoken, one admitted in front of locals and the media

that his son is guilty, and another, that his son was involved with the ruling party. All this is not enough for the NHRC to declare that the rape was connected to the election?

Nurul Amin
Noakhali

