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*Somewhere in the ruins above them,
the cats are howling.*

— Anthony Doerr,
All the Light We Cannot See

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Cancer treatment: A bleak scenario

I read the article "A Fatal Diagnosis: Cancer treatment in Bangladesh" published on January 11. My mother died from breast cancer in 2008. She took treatment from NICRH (National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital) as well as from several private hospitals in Dhaka. The environment of these hospitals was really disappointing. It is very unfortunate that proper treatment for a cancer patient is not available in most hospitals. On the other hand, as treatment costs are very high, it is impossible for the poor and middle class to afford treatment. Serious patients don't get palliative care. Unfortunately, we still barely see few signs of development in cancer treatment here.

Marshia Afrin
Mirpur, Dhaka



DUCSU election: Make it happen

As per the High Court directive and steps taken by the Dhaka University administration, the much-anticipated Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and the hall union elections have been scheduled for March 11. For 28 years now, since 1991, the DUCSU elections have been postponed without any valid reason. Once, DUCSU was noted for producing great leaders of the country, many of who spearheaded the glorious

language movement and played a pivotal role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh. It was the mouthpiece of the common students and we, as well as civil society, are eagerly waiting for this historic moment.

The university authorities have been taking necessary measures to arrange a successful election and it has formulated some electoral code of conducts, which seem sensible and relevant. The DUCSU elections place a

huge duty on the incumbent to ensure an exemplary free and fair election in a festive ambience in which all student organisations in the campus can participate. Hopefully, other universities will follow this instance in arranging student and hall union elections and pave the way for generating the country's future leaders.

Mithun Kumar Koch
University of Dhaka



Ekushey Boi Mela

The highlight of February, a month of devotion to the Bangla language, is experiencing the annual 'Ekushey Boi Mela' at Bangla Academy and around Suhrawardy Uddan. It's a place where writers, readers, and publishers interact in a celebration of the Bangla language and culture.

Nowadays, young people are so fond of the book fair that they go there in groups simply to hang out or buy books and meet writers to take a selfie. Children also come to the fair along with parents and family members to see picture books, storybooks and comics. The fair

particularly promotes literature adhering to our culture and history—the liberation war and our struggle to speak our own language and win independence.

Habib Islam Pranto
Dhaka College