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*The oak fought the wind and was broken,
the willow bent when it must and survived.* — Robert Jordan, *The Fires of Heaven.*

SNAPSHOT
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Pulling the weight of the world

The story "Pulling the weight of the world" in *Star Weekend* tells us what we all know—once a rickshaw puller, always a rickshaw puller. There is no hope, no dreams and no betterment because they are powerless and disregarded by society. Nevertheless, they pull the weight of our life in the city but we cannot bear the weight of their lives which will remain churning in the three wheels until the end of their journey.

Nasrin Akhter
Ahmednagar, Dhaka

Reliable diagnostic labs?

There are numerous diagnostic centers that have been established in the country which use the latest lab equipment and employ lab technicians. Doctors depend on test results to treat and monitor patients but there is a lack of standard quality lab practices in most of these facilities and hence reliable reports cannot be ensured. This is a serious drawback to patient treatment in Bangladesh.

Proper quality must be ensured. Quality assurance is a broad spectrum of plans, policies and procedures that together provide an administrative structure for a laboratory's effort to achieve quality goals. There are several essential elements of a quality assurance program (a) commitment to quality service (b) facilities and resources (c) technical competence—high quality personnel are essential for high quality services.

Our health policies should have a specific international standard guideline for diagnostic labs. Government initiatives to strictly regulate quality, proper planning, and awareness of professionals can lead to a much better healthcare system in Bangladesh that we all rightfully deserve.

Md. Mahbubur Rahman
Praava Health

Role of a Mother Language



I have been using an app for the last couple of months to have a conversation in English with people living abroad. As I am not so fluent in speaking English, it is a way for me to practice the language. I also found that many people in various countries are aware of Bangladeshis' dedication behind establishing their mother tongue. I am proud of my language as we are the only nation who gave blood to speak our mother language and honoured that this is acknowledged on virtual platforms across the globe for this reason.

Due to multiple reasons, we now tend to prefer speaking in English and ignoring our native language. We express our love for Bangla only during February which is a betrayal of everything our martyrs sacrificed. We need to love our mother language as well as respect all other languages. To broaden our horizons, we need to be multilingual but respect for our mother language should get priority.

Md. Azam Khan
Uttara Bank Limited, Laxmipur

Border killing conundrum



Recently, border killings have been on the rise by the BSF while from our side, BGB has done little to condemn such acts. India and Bangladesh share one of the most porous borders, with smuggling of cattle and other items from both sides. While for decades BSF has been aware of the cattle smuggling, why did they not fire warning shots, why shoot directly at unarmed villagers earning their living? BSF is seemingly following the shoot first policy while BGB continues to keep mum on this issue. There should be an effective solution to these trivial matters along the border which otherwise prove fatal and will deteriorate bilateral ties irrevocably.

Rafid Alam