

Editor and Publisher
Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Star Weekend)
Sushmita S Preetha

Staff Writers
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Chandan
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Abida Rahman Chowdhury
Sarah Anjum Bari

Staff Photographer
Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo

Graphics
Debashis Kumar Day

Production
Shamim Chowdhury

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“Color is my daylong obsession, joy, and torment.”

— Claude Monet

SNAPSHOT
NAVID NOOREN

MAILBOX

starweekendtds@gmail.com



PHOTO: SHEHZAD NOORANI

Call them “differently abled”, not “disabled”

We make the common mistake of calling a person with disabilities a “disabled person”. When we call someone “disabled”, we focus on their impairments rather than their abilities. They may not be completely disabled, and yet we imply that they are unable to do anything at all. We thus marginalise them.

People with disabilities are as much a part of our society as anyone else. They have the right to live with dignity. They should not be discriminated against. The government and other non-governmental authorities should invest in proper training and management for them to be able to use their talents for a living. But the first step is to not call them by a derogatory name.

Ariful Islam Anu
University of Barishal

My memory from a time in the past

I am writing in reference to the above-mentioned article published in your esteemed magazine on March 15. Literature, as the writer points out, can play an important role in shaping the minds of children. Unfortunately, we see very little of this genre being produced in

our country these days. The country, as a whole, should think about what kind of citizens it is developing.

A. Kar
Toronto, Canada

Air pollution is a silent killer

Most air pollution comes from energy use and production. Carbon dioxide and methane raise the earth's temperature. Burning fossil fuels releases gases and chemicals into the air, contributing to climate change, which in turn increases the production of

allergenic air pollutants including mold and pollen. Smog, meanwhile, can irritate the eyes and throat and also damage the lungs—especially for people who work or exercise outside. It's even worse for people who have asthma or allergies.

Greenpeace and AirVisual, who monitor global air quality, recently released the World Air Quality Report 2018. It pinpoints brick kilns and vehicles emitting sulphur as the main cause of pollution.

The report also recognised Dhaka as the second most polluted capital city. The most polluted countries in the world are Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan, and the city ranking shows Asian locations dominating the highest 100 average PM 2.5 during 2018, with cities in India, China, Pakistan and Bangladesh occupying the top 50 spots.

According to the report, air pollution will cause around seven million premature deaths globally next year and have major economic impacts. We hope that the government will take sufficient measures to fight air pollution, so that we can all breathe fresh air.



PHOTO: STAR

Md. Zillur Rahaman
Lalmohan, Bhola