

STAR WEEKEND

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*Even amidst tragedy there is laughter, sometimes farce.
The degree of farce depends on who is running the tragedy.*

—DANIEL PROKOP

SNAPSHOT

BY RAIHAN HASAN

MAILBOX

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The story of Teesta

The river Teesta is now a political battleground. Originating through Tibet and India, the Teesta flows through to Bangladesh which has been seeking a treaty to share the waters of the Teesta for three decades now with no success.

On the Indian side, the Teesta is a bounty for their people. It is crucial for their economy, agriculture, business and their lives. They do not suffer from frequent floods every year like people on this side. They do not have to extract underground water. On the other hand, in Bangladesh the Teesta is a river of misery. The lifestyle, economy and agriculture of the people in the northern parts of Bangladesh have come to more or less a standstill in the monsoon season, year after year, due to flash floods. And in the dry season, Bangladesh is deprived of its fair share of the water. The ecosystem and biodiversity surrounding the river is also in peril.

The Gazoldoba barrage of Siliguri mostly hinders the Teesta's water flow in Bangladesh. Age-old negotiations between Bangladesh and India continues but the countries are unable to sign a Teesta water-sharing treaty.

Water sharing agreements between the countries of the world is going to be the most important issue of the coming decades. So, it is high time to sign the Teesta water-sharing agreement. The two countries should address the matter apolitically, thinking of the people on both sides of the border whose lives and livelihoods depend on the river.

Samia Jahan
Rajbari Govt. College, Rajbari

Global warming is not a minor threat

Our unchecked steps towards a "better" future has led to devastating consequences with the most important being global warming. The impacts of climate change can already be seen in Bangladesh and the worse is yet to come. The time has arrived for us to all stand united and fight for our future and that of the next generation. Politicians, citizens, industrialists, celebrities, and entrepreneurs, must all come forward to raise awareness and take strict measures to bring back our world from the brink of unsustainability.

Inshirah Manzoor

Changing perceptions to encourage working habits

Young people in the cities who are currently pursuing their education have little scope for working part-time. Tuitions, or tutoring younger children and students, seems to be the most reliable job for school and university students. Though there are quite a few other part-time jobs out there—such as working in sales—many don't take up these job as they fear social perceptions and how their family and relatives would view them for taking up such "lowbrow" jobs, especially if they come from an upper middle class or affluent background. However, these same people do such odd jobs abroad without any hesitation. Considering such issues, young people stay away from taking up jobs when they are young and end up dependent on their parents for longer. To encourage the youth to take part in different employment activities, a revamp is needed in how we perceive all kinds of work in order to encourage them to do different types of work.

Rafid Alam

Illegal occupation on the footpath should be stopped

Farmgate is the most important place in Dhaka city—it can be called the nerve center of Dhaka. One of the busiest places in this city, it is crowded with coaching centres, shopping centres, and other commercial establishments. It is also a transportation hub of Dhaka, thick with thousands of cars, rickshaws, buses, and trucks. While footpaths are there so that pedestrians can have a safe and hassle-free walk, almost all the footpaths alongside the major thoroughfares in Farmgate are taken up by hawkers. Who is responsible for this issue? In my opinion, it is the two city corporations—and not just for those in and around Farmgate but across the city, where a majority of the footpaths are illegally occupied, obstructing free pedestrian movement. Hopefully, the government and city authorities will take effective steps against this illegal occupation as soon as possible.

Azmira Jahan Rima
Bangladesh University

CORRIGENDUM

In *Star Weekend's* last issue, that had come out on October 4, 2019, we inadvertently left out the name of the photographer in the credit for the snapshot on page 2. The photograph was taken by **Aananda Antahleen**. We deeply regret the error.