

STAR WEEKEND

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*I'm like some king in whose corrupted veins/ Flows aged blood;
who rules a land of rains/ Who, young in years, is old in all
distress/ Who flees good counsel to find weariness*

— Charles Baudelaire, *Spleen*

SNAPSHOT
BY ENAMUR REZA

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Rohingya repatriation crisis



Of late, the Rohingya's repatriation has become a matter of frustration. Myanmar is playing a double game with both Bangladesh as well as with the refugees. First, the Myanmar army destroyed the Rohingyas' homes and drove them out of the region where they and their ancestors have lived for decades—subjecting them to rape, physical torture, and genocide. The Myanmar government then turned the repatriation effort into a political game—when Bangladesh did their part in making arrangements for the refugees' return, Myanmar did not do theirs and instead blamed our government and its efforts. The Rohingya fear going back to Rakhine where they may be forced to live in internment camps. Meanwhile, here in Bangladesh, Rohingya children are deprived of a proper life and education, and thus, of a future.

Myanmar should prove to the Rohingya leaders that they have made a safe land for the Rohingyas in order to convince them to return. Without this, no repatriation effort will be successful.

Faysal Arshad Dip
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Save Kalurghat bridge

Built over a century ago, this fine rail-cum-road bridge has weathered many storms, remaining unruffled for years, only to be bludgeoned by the excess load of motor vehicles. For people living in Boalkhali, it should take just over 30 minutes to reach the city using the bridge, but some days it takes three or four hours. Its wooden deck is in ruins, the railing has become shaky. The road is dense with potholes.

Vehicles coming from both sides cannot

cross the narrow bridge at the same time—one group of vehicles waits at the bank while the other passes, causing the delay. The people working on the other side of bridge are the worst sufferers. The possibility of a serious accident is on the horizon. Will the authorities care only then?

Zunayed Zayn
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Girls' education should be a priority

Half of our population is female. As a developing nation, women's contribution to our economy is vital—for example, garments workers, a majority of whom are female, are a big force behind our thriving economy. But even today, girls who are studying or who try to study beyond high school face barriers. Many struggle to get financial and mental support from their families in order to continue their studies, with their guardians instead rushing to marry them off after they complete their higher secondary education.

This is a big hindrance in the way of our becoming a developed country. The government and some organisations are trying to provide financial support, but that's not enough. I urge the government to increase facilities for female students so that they can complete their undergraduate studies properly, at the very least,



and contribute to our economy. Awareness and a positive mentality towards girls' education should be cultivated as well.

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