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*I'll take a quiet life
A handshake of carbon monoxide
With no alarms and no surprises, please* - No Surprises, Radiohead

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When teens of the world unite for Planet Earth

It was a pleasure, and not quite a surprise, to read *Star Weekend's* piece on the worldwide climate strikes. The teens of Bangladesh, even those studying in top private schools and universities and/or from affluent families who could easily enjoy their lifestyles, which so affect Mother Earth, are now consciously choosing to study environmental science. This, despite the stigma attached to taking up such a field of studies in our traditional education system where science, engineering, and business rule. In our university, even students from CSE are shifting their major or minor to environmental studies and most are not doing this to obtain a higher CGPA easily. Students and practitioners in the field are also receiving accolades from abroad indicating that environmental science students are not lightweights.

Syed Raiyan Zafar
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Preventing violence against women

Violence against women and children is on the rise to such an extent that it makes the headlines of national dailies almost every day. It is astounding to notice that all women, from young girls to elderly women are 'teased', violated, raped, and killed in a country where the premier, the leader of the opposition, and the speaker of Parliament are all females. School and college-going girls are harassed on their way to and from classes.

There is hardly any woman who

hasn't been teased at least once in her life. Groups of men are often seen standing by the intersection of busy roads and in the markets. When they see a young girl alone, they make fun or try to provoke them, embarrassing them in public. If anybody raises their voice against this, the men abuse him/her too. Young girls and even older college students fear or stop going to school altogether to avoid this situation.

An all-out effort is necessary to address the problem—including

implementing existing laws strictly, creating awareness among the general public via mass media, empowering women through education and income generating activities. Equally, instilling socio-religious values and norms in youngsters can minimise eve-teasing and disrespect towards women and children to some extent.

Mardia Khan & Jahin Afrin Ahona
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Children's voice against global climate change

"When teens of the world unite for Planet Earth" published in *Star Weekend* last week was an engaging story. It was surprising yet pleasing to hear that Bangladeshi students also gathered at Manik Mia Avenue, in solidarity with the global climate strike in response to the call of 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg. The strike was held in 150 countries around the world, making history as one of the largest environmental protests to have taken place so far. The campaign is currently intensifying and creating waves even at the policy level of donor countries as well as countries most vulnerable to climate change. The protesters say that the world

belongs to children, who will be taking care of it in the future. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2019, South Asian countries are among the most vulnerable globally to the impacts of climate change. Massive rainfall led to floods across Nepal, Bangladesh and India, affecting more than 40 million people. In the foothills of the Himalayas, this led to landslides, destroying tens of thousands of homes, vast areas of farmland, and roads. More than 526,000 people died worldwide and the losses amounted to USD 3.47 trillion as a result of more than 11,500 extreme weather events between 1998 and 2017. It is to be mentioned here that

many developed countries including the US are willfully avoiding the Kyoto Protocol 1997 since long and these countries are also the most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, developing countries around the world at or near sea level are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The children are sending a clear message to world leaders who are responsible for greenhouse gas emissions. It is time for all of us to voice, alongside the children, our concerns regarding climate change.

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