

Editor and Publisher
Mahfuz Anam

Editor (Star Weekend)
Sushmita S Preetha

Staff Writers
Md Shahnawaz Khan
Chandan
Zyma Islam
Nilima Jahan
Maliha Khan
Abida Rahman Chowdhury
Sarah Anjum Bari

Staff Photographer
Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo

Graphics
Debashis Kumar Day

Production
Shamim Chowdhury

Published by the Editor from
Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon
Industrial Area, Dhaka on
behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,
52 Motijheel C.A.,
Dhaka-1000.



Asks the Possible to the Impossible, 'Where is your dwelling place?' In the dreams of the impotent, comes the answer.

— RABINDRANATH TAGORE.

SNAPSHOT
BY MESHKAT HOSSAIN

MAILBOX

starweekendtds@gmail.com



Jamdani: Bengalis' Pride

Jamdani is a heritage fabric for Bengal, an ancient textile that was made popular by Mughal emperors. It is unique for its artistic and proportionately weaved motifs. It isn't just a piece of cloth—it is a canvas upon which the weavers depict the stories of their creativity, struggle and labour, and also the story of countless Bengali women who wear the fabric. Jamdani symbolises protest, the lifestyle of countrymen and their traditions and culture. Jamdani motifs have changed with time but in them, they record that time and history.

However, the fabric is now losing its past grandeur. The trade struggles as weavers lose interest as they do not earn

enough to survive and support their families. Moreover, these artisans are not even fully aware of the recognition that their work deserves.

The government should work to revive the ancient glory of Jamdani. They should invest more, supply sufficient and quality materials, provide subsidies for aged weavers, help reduce child labour at the looms, and help develop markets for the fabric. Last but not the least, weavers should be made aware of the value of their work through electronic and print media.

Samia Jahan
Rajbari Govt College, Rajbari

Student politics holds minimal appeal for regular students

This is in reference to a news item "A Ban on student politics - Cutting the head to cure a headache?" published on October 18, 2019. The ex-student leaders said that student politics cannot be stopped and that the students should be allowed to do politics independently and freely.

It is true that different opinions and views are instrumental to the democratic process. Freedom of expression and free movement enrich social values and ensure justice. This is why a university is called a hub of knowledge and information; it is also the best place for the practice of freethought and exchange of cultural values.

But, sadly, student politics is a big threat to our freedom of expression—it is used to suppress the voices of students frequently. The way student politics is practiced in the country is a matter of shame. The parties are now a haven of criminal activities. Teachers are now also labelling themselves with different political colours just to retain their

positions in the universities.

However, it is true what the ex-leaders have said—that once upon a time, student activism was the pride of politics and instrumental to our independence. Student politics as it is practiced presently is no less than a tumour in our educational institutions. Private universities have no politics and all are functioning well without any interruption. BUET authorities have already banned student and teacher politics but opinion is split when it comes to other public universities. It is a matter of serious debate whether student politics has any positive impact on our knowledge and freethought.

Student politics hold very little appeal for common students these days, so our government should be cognisant of the current scenario and make a clear decision about the next course of action regarding student politics.

Md Zillur Rahaman
Gandaria, Dhaka.

