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## Stop killing animals

Animals are ingredients of environment. But it is a harsh truth that in our country killing animals is a normal matter. In the newspapers we often read how animals are being killed in our forests. People of our country don't understand that it is unacceptable cruelty. And they are never punished for committing such acts. The matter deserves a closer look. Such Farjana Zamin ELLIUC The matter

### BTTB's customer service

Telephone service is an essential service given to the citizens by any government. Our government controlled BTTB is doing a great job (?) in this regard. Here is an experience. I reside at Khilkhet, Khan Para, a suburb of the capital city, Dhaka. We applied for a land phone connection for our house in 2000 under my elder brother's name Hasan Ali. Almost half a decade gone, till now we are not lucky enough to get one. Meanwhile in 2003, my younger brother got the Demand Draft approved with lots of efforts. After that a limeman was at our house and he asked for Taka 2,000/- which my brother refused to pay. For obvious reasons, my brother did not pay the bribe. Subsequently, he has been to the BTTB office Azampur, Uttara so many times but could not get the connection. They say different things at different times and keep asking for money. If this is the customer service of our government controlled organisations, it is no wonder that one by one these are getting shut

It is in the best interest of the Bangladesh government to address the issue of this new Act.  
**Zeenat Z. Syed**  
UPS eDeployment

### Fate of children

It is very simple and clear to all that children are the future of the country. So they should be brought up in a balanced way where no sources of frustration exist. All of them should have destinations in life. They should be brought under the shadow of confidence. They should be taught in such a way that they learn to believe themselves. I think in this case the environment plays a vital role.

Most of the children are mentally weak due to lack of confidence. Their confidence must be increased.

Nothing is impossible. At present most of the schools teach children under unbearable pressure. Now it is a common scene that a child's weight is less than that of its total textbooks.

The situation must change.

not exist. I was shocked to see that as the quantity of my shopping was very small, and while I was complaining many people came beside me and said they had the same experience.

My advice to shoppers 'please check the items while you pay the bill' because you never know, how much extra money you are paying in your carelessness.

**Badal Hasib**  
Dhamondi, Dhaka

### Pseudo-pious

There are few real Islamic scholars in Bangladesh. And the common people are sensitive about religious matters. Some people are taking advantage of it.

Religion has become an occupation for some people these days. There are people around us who speak as if they are experts in religious matters. Like only doctors know about medicine, they speak about religion, as if others are ignorant and blind.

They exploit illiterate people and take advantage of their ignorance.

Such as, I've seen in many families, it is a tradition to arrange

them, you will think they are very innocent and don't know anything about this world.

But the truth is that these people are very much interested in worldly things. Few of them are literate, most of them are clever. They use religion as a mask. Being pious and showing off are not the same thing.

We need to be careful about the "Pseudo Huzurs".

**Ruhi**  
BBA, DU

### Power of words

Words are such a de-constructive vehicle by which varied form of expressions get formulated with sensible meanings and help people correspond with other in a meaningful way. The beauty of words is that it can permeate through the human cells as an abstract medium and so, we can fathom the inner character of the individual from the words he pronounces. A writer who brings forth a piece of writing can perceive-- not understand-- how deep adoration is involved in his effort. It has no equality and comparison as creation or invention can never ever be put on any scale as of mundane reality.

Creation through words is a beauty. Beauty doesn't connote the physical charm as we are familiar with, beauty is an elevated level where sublime beauty instantly reacts to your mind.  
**Sulav Chowdhury**  
London, England

### Tax administration

Recently a casual browse through scattered old issues of magazines on our library-reading table, in between my professional studies, fixed my eyes on an issue of The Economist (April 16-22, 2005). The main title on the cover was "The flat-tax revolution: Towards simpler, fairer and better taxes". I'm sorry; I haven't come across this before, as I'm not a regular reader of the magazine. But I haven't also come across the topic in any media that I browse every day. So, I'd like to draw attention of the readers and our beloved economists, think-tanks like Professor Rehman Sobhan, Professor Muzaffar Ahmad, Professor Wahid Uddin Mahmud, Dr. Atiur Rahman, and Dr. Debopriyo Bhattacharya in order to invite extensive debates on the issue on the national media and ultimately force the government to think seriously about implementing it in our country.

Initiated by Estonia in 1994, so far nine countries including Russia have joined the revolution. It's so simple that we only need to decide on a single rate of income tax (both personal and corporate, I suggest it the same rate as VAT) and a thresh-

"mild" off and on and invite the religious people(?) with or without any reason.

While as far as I know, there is no certain rule in our religion to arrange "mild" or this kind of religious parties.

There is no meaning of serving packets of mouth watering sweets and snacks and make some particular people(?) happy. I've been watching it since my childhood. Preachers themselves don't do what they preach. But if you talk to

## CRICKET

Our players are doing better, though the rate of progress is slow. However, I cannot agree with those who think that cricket has no future in Bangladesh. We will certainly prove them wrong one day.  
**Mansoor Raja**  
Dhaka



down. First it was the industries and now banks and other institutions. Thanks to the government for not putting Teletalk under BTTB and its vicious cycle. Hopefully, Teletalk will live up to people's dream (proper customer service is sure still a dream for us here). I believe BTTB is gangrened and its not curable. So, the only possible solution left for it is to amputate itself, the sooner the better.  
**A sufferer**  
on e-mail

### Assam illegal alien law

The Indian Supreme Court has recently overturned the Illegal Migrants Determination through Tribunal or IMDT Act that was introduced in 1983. This law has been used to identify and deport illegal migrant workers or in most cases the Bengali speaking migrants. The new law will be referred to the Foreigners Act.

As this law is put into effect Bengali speaking migrant workers who have been living in Assam since after 1971 will be deported. This will not only cause many individuals and families to lose their homes, it will also cause minorities to be persecuted who were before protected under the IMDT Act. Bengali speaking migrants who live in Assam for decades since 1971 will be found as illegal immigrants and deported causing an influx of migrant workers. The burden will fall on Bangladesh who will have no choice but to accept these workers.

### Fake bills in shopping malls

I would like to draw the attention of many buyers who go for shopping in the famous malls of the city quite frequently. There are many occasions where extra items' cost is added with the customer's bill, when you are too busy with shopping. I found once while shopping that an ice-cream cake's bill had been added with my bill which actually did



# "Like it or not"

Bangladesh is one of the smallest South Asian countries. It has a high population density, probably second to no other country in the world. Two thirds of its population are living below poverty line. The entire country has become a big slum.. We have corruption in every imaginable way that has taken a permanent root within our own population and society. You just have to forget principles, moral values, honesty and hard work to become a hero in our country. It is a total disintegration of social values and its institutions.

I, as a citizen of Bangladesh, must ask about this grim reality of our present situation to the people of all walks of life in our country. How long we should disguise ourselves and pretend to be a good man, a

powerful man, an influential man, a respectable man, a rich man or anything else we usually perceive ourselves to be? Can't we see that we have been wearing a nice and most beautiful suit with a stinking smell on it? Anywhere we go and any place

that we visit in the world or even at our own home, we should see how people react to us. It's all terribly stinking smell, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We shouldn't look back; we must move on.  
**Liaquat, Uttara, Dhaka**



## Rainfall Outlook -2005

The International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI) has prepared this experimental Climate Outlook for Asia for July - December 2005. Of relevance in the preparation of this outlook is likelihood that the presently neutral El Nino- Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions will remain neutral during the forecast periods. Such neutral, but above average, tropical Pacific conditions are indicated in the Sea Surface Temperature (SST) predictions on which these

climate forecasts are based. Slightly to somewhat warmer than average SSTs are now observed in the western and central tropical Pacific. Much of the Indian Ocean, and particularly the north tropical Atlantic Ocean, continue to show above-average SSTs. These are predicted to continue, but gradually weaken, during the next six months.

Based on IRI's probability forecast of precipitation for the period of July- September 2005, there is a 25% probability that the

precipitation will be in the wettest third of the years, a 35% chance it will be in the near-normal third of the years, and a 40% chance that the precipitation will be in the driest third of the years in Bangladesh. This is, otherwise, a clear indication that Bangladesh may experience a normal to slightly deficient rainfall in the monsoon of 2005.

**Dr. M Rashed Chowdhury**  
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old of taxable earning. Leave the rest to the individuals to declare all their earnings and to pay the decided percentage to the national exchequer. We don't need any complex schedules of rates, deductions, breaks, allowances, concessions, relieves, expenses, exceptions etc. This would make the tax collection least costly and least corrupt. This would also mean least hassle for the taxpayers. That in turn

would encourage more people to pay tax. Carefully chosen two variables - the single rate and the threshold - would make the tax regime somewhat fairer and progressive as the experience in Eastern Europe shows - incentives to avoid taxes (legally or otherwise) make the rich usually pay about as much tax under flat-tax regime as they do under an orthodox system. I suggest the threshold to be Tk

200,000 and the rate 15%. That would save the lower middle class and encourage the rich to earn more and pay more. I also suggest unlisted companies pay tax on their operating profit and public Ltd. companies pay tax only on dividends. That would encourage the companies to list in the stock market on the one hand, and encourage the listed companies to grow bigger by reinvesting on the other.

In the opinion of The Economist - an old idea that for decades elicited the response, "Fine in theory, just not practical in the real world," seems to be working as well in practice as it does on the black-board.  
**Jawad R Zahid**  
IBA, DU

### Acknowledgement of corruption

I am in full agreement with the views expressed in the editorial of the Daily Star on July 07, 2005, regarding acknowledgement of corruption in all ministries by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman. You are absolutely right that the acknowledgement is a bit too late. Corruption has seeped into all segments of the government and society.

The acknowledgement by Saifur Rahman is more startling in light of the allegations made against members of the Finance Minister's own family by international organisations in Bangladesh. Incidentally, Saifur Rahman has recently defended the role of consultancy agencies in

financial aid as reported in The Daily Star. The acknowledgement is the height of hypocrisy! The Finance Minister should know better that admitting the all pervasive character of corruption will not shield or prevent scrutiny of the Finance Ministry itself.

**Sabina Karim**  
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### RU completes 52 years

Rajshahi University has completed 52 years of its foundation and stepped into a new era of its long history of ups and down. The varsity opened its door for the students with a solemn promise to provide quality education on July 6, 1953 as an aftermath of a series of struggles. Situated at the green square of Motihar, the main campus of the varsity is about five kilometres east from Rajshahi city. It is the second largest university in the country and the highest seat of learning in the neglected northern part. During the British rule, the 'Sadlar Commission' proposed to set up a university in Rajshahi alongside DU but the British Government did not materialise the proposal for political and economic reasons. After the creation of India and Pakistan in 1947, a series of movements continued in East Pakistan demanding a university in Rajshahi. Madar Baksh, a reputed lawyer and member of the then Pakistan Legislative Assembly, Abdul Hamid, a noted educationist and Sheikh Ansar Ali, a retired Judge, led the movement at that time. On February 6 and 13, 1953 a couple of huge demonstrations rocked the city and new fuel was added to the movement. Two huge demonstrative gatherings- one at the Rajshahi College- and the other at the city's Bhuvanmahan Park were held amid interception by police and arrest of some 15 people. Later, in the wake of consecutive movements the then Pakistan government conducted a feasibility survey report and Rajshahi was found suitable for establishing a university. At last Rajshahi University Act- 1953 (East Bengal Act XV of 1953) was passed by the East Pakistan

Provincial Assembly on March 31. The university celebrated its golden jubilee through a three-day programme from December 21 to 23 in 2003 but this year it has not taken any special programme to mark the day.

**Emdadul Haque**  
Rahshshi University

### Outlasting Ershad

One of my British colleagues predicted Ershad to be the next president of Bangladesh at that point of time when the Sattar government was about to be active in taking measures to maintain law and order (a notorious criminal was arrested from one of the ministers' residence, if I am not wrong). Not long after that Lt Gen. Ershad proved my colleague's prediction (to be) true by overthrowing the elected Sattar government. Ershad in reply to a question in a press conference said he took over to save the country from utter ruin. As a civilian president, he titled his wife 'First Lady' officially.

Instead of following the principle of "Enough is enough" and instead of becoming another John Major, Nelson Mandela, or Bill Clinton, Ershad became over-ambitious.

Now the ex-president aspires to go to power again. He is certainly day-dreaming.  
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