The Paily Star

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Is student politics needed?



TO THE

We owe a great debt to our students for their leading role in 1952 and 1971, but what about their present role? Whenever something goes wrong people tend to believe that students are responsible. Terrorism in the educational institutions increased with their easy access to money and to the arms supplied by the politicians. Parents, teachers and students should try to avoid the traps set by the politicians. Fatamatuz Zuhura Shine Pukur, Dhaka

EDITOR

We know that students are the future of any country. But we see nowadays that the students are used by the political leaders for their selfish gains. They are often equipped with arms. They engage themselves in serious clashes. Moreover, the political activities of the students badly destroy their academic career. Student politics is nowadays a dangerous and very harmful thing like a septic boil and an obstacle to improvement of socio-economic life. It is a serious problem for a third world country like Bangladesh. Student politics causes economic backwardness and throws the peaceful society into turmoil. Rubia Khatun

Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT)

the city dwellers. A huge number of vehicles and weak traffic control systems are largely responsible for it. The suffering of the inhabitants during the sultry summer knows no bounds

We, the general people, informed the authorities many times of the problems that we are facing. But they took no steps to

eliminate this problem. So, I draw the attention of the authorities concerned and urge them to take necessary steps in the interest of the citizens. SM Arif Rahman

A city of mosquitoes

Mirpur, Dhaka

The population of Dhaka has increased a lot and along with it has increased the mosquito populace in the city. It is now a common joke that Dhaka is not only a city of mosques but also of mosquitoes. It is impossible to sit at the reading table or talk to friends in the drawing room owing to the painful stings of mosquitoes. The situation has become so bad that even during daytime, one cannot avoid the

Food processing is not done scientifically in our country. We prepare foods in our house and

> If they need fruits they will use rotten or half-rotten fruits. Fruit sellers also use chemicals in fruits. Restaurants and bakeries prepare their foods in unhygienic places. For example, some icecream manufacturers use dirty water to make icecream. Bottled mineral water is also not safe.

The authorities concerned should look into the matter Sharmin Sultana Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216

Third world

business culture It is highly unpleasant and unfortunate that "third world"

business culture is yet to disappear

from the telecommunications sector

in Bangladesh. The booming

addiction. So we should remain faithful to the pledge "We want a

In our country many young people take to this dreadful course. We know heroine, afim, morphine, cocaine and phensidyl are used by the addicts. These drugs are smuggled into the country and many young people take these for pleasure. They do not understand that these drugs are leading them to death.

So it is time to take steps to control drug addiction. I hope that people will come forward to organise a social movement against drug



to answer my questions. I wish the

teletalk authorities will come

forward and make an immediate

public announcement about the

acute 'interconnectivity problems'.

The teletalk people should tell

us when we would be connected

with other major networks like

New SSC education system

The education ministry recently introduced a uni-track education system for SSC examinations. I think it is a good decision, as all the students will have the same subjects as well as all will have to go through basic subjects of all disciplines.

This will curb memorisation and note-dependent education. Moreover, this will encourage the students to learn different topics and go deep into them.

However, I am not quite optimistic about another new idea-- School Based Assessment (SBA). Though the education ministry has good intention, the ground reality tells us that it will be very difficult to implement. There is widespread apprehension that teachers will misuse this to give high numbers to the students who take private tuition.

The education ministry should look into the SBA system carefully before its implementation and take appropriate measures to ensure that the SBA system is used

have negative effects on the Russia imposed a 13 percent flat agricultural sector because it will be rate. Flat rate system is now adopted by nine European hard for the poor farmers to bite the countries. Germany, Poland and bullets [in the form of higher fuel Greece are planning to introduce price]. I am not an advocate of providing subsidy but I feel the government can do something to mitigate the sufferings of those poor

farmers. Providing subsidy in a particular sector is the precursor to creation of a black market and it will lead to loss of revenue for the government. So, what can the government do? The government can ensure fare market price of agricultural output during the harvest season among other measures. In the long run, the

government has no choice but to raise the prices of fuel to keep up with the prices in the global market. Prodip Saha Dallas. Texas

tax

income tax.

In the United Kingdom a debate is brewing over adopting "flat rate" for The Conservative Party is planning to include this in their next they are losing their interests in studies and schools have become a be continued.

flat rate revolution now sweeping over eastern and central Europe. Now, after 14 years, Mr. Laar is hailed as the prophet of a revolution and "father of the flat tax".

Economist and politicians now seek him out across the globe for his counsel though he was a student of history and a historian by profession.

The system is very simple. You just pay, say for example, 13 percent for whatever amount you earn over the free allowances. The form is very simple, calculations easy and takes little time to file. This will greatly eliminate corruption in the country's tax departments, increase revenue many-fold, and save taxpayers from harassment.

Flat rate for income It is about time the National Board

of Revenue, the Ministry of Finance as well as the business circles make an in-depth study of the success of the new flat rate tax system and introduce the same in Bangladesh. Ziauddin Ahmed

panic for them. But this should not Mr. Ahmed also mentioned about

the code of teaching primary level students. Hope a proper code will be implemented to lessen the overload of studies from the students' shoulders

Iffat Tarannum

Dhaka City College

River bank protection

Bangladesh territorial boundaries with India are facing threats of erosion by seven transboundary rivers due to stoppage of riverbank protection work for over a year now. thanks to objections from India. In Bangladesh territory, the government made numerous efforts for 'revetment work' at 15 points on seven cross-border rivers over the last one year. But it failed to do so as the Indian authorities opposed that "revetment work" involving at least Tk 70 crore and it remained unfinished. Concrete blocks meant for protection of river erosion were pilfered frequently by local thieves,

August 17 The bomb blasts of 17 August are

not only a threat to the nation but also a direct challenge to the government and the administration. If the government fails to find out the source of power behind this crime the future of the country will be endangered.

The bombing started from Udichi meeting in 1999. Still now it is continuing because no proper investigation has been done on the incidents. The previous government (Awami League) could not do anything. Now the ruling party also appears to be unconcerned about the matter and is not active to catch the criminals. Such behaviour of governments is really mysterious. Here some questions arise. Are they really not capable of arresting the criminals or is there any foreign

hand in the matter? The news of serial bomb blasts was covered by the international press. The pattern of the coverage suggests that Islamic fundamentalism has already reached a critical stage in Bangladesh. So the government and all concerned

those are safe for our health but we think that foods bought from the markets are also good and safe. That is wrong. Because food producers are not using good raw materials. They use toxic chemicals in foods.

GrameenPhone, AKTEL or Banglalink. I would urge the authorities concerned to put temporary restrictions on expansion of network of all mobile phone companies unless they can ensure proper 'interconnectivity'. According to ITU, UNESCO and other communications related

bodies of the United Nations 'interconnectivity of the networks' is a basic right of the subscribers and it is not mere a privilege **Choudhury Zubayer Pasha** Lalmatia, Dhaka

Adulterated food

I do highly appreciate measures undertaken by the government against adulterated food and other consumer items. It is again proved

Drug addiction

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2005



Drug addiction has become a serious problem in our social life. drug-free world." Sajia Sajmin Shewra Para Dhaka

properly.	
Mohibul	
Dhaka	

Fuel price hike

I do appreciate your editorial titled "Fuel price hike-Couldn't it have been handled better?" However, vou have failed to mention any alternative method that the government could have taken to minimise its effect on the economy.

I think the price increase decision is in compliance with the free market economy but the government could have done better if the increases were done in multiple phases over a period of time

Higher fuel price is never good for any economy. Higher rate of inflation is looming at the horizon across the industries. In short run, the significant rise in inflation will

On e-mai general election manifesto. The whole idea originated from

Estonia, a newly independent country that broke away from In 1994 the young prime Russia. minister of Estonia, Mr. Mart Laar, then aged only 32, pioneered and introduced the "flat rate" income tax, even defying the wishes of IMF.

Within a year Estonia had become the first European country to introduce a single rate for income Critics and economist in Europe were surprised to see the stunning success of flat rate tax. Inflation in Estonia dropped from 1000 percent to 2.5 percent in line with Western Europe. Unemployment fell from 30 percent to 6 percent.

Seeing the overwhelming success. Latvia and Lithuania adopted flat rate system. In 2001

Too much homework I would like to echo with Mr. Alfa

Ahmed that now the students of primary level face too much pressure of studying which is at times unbearable for them. It seems so ridiculous as well as painful to me that most of the parents are trying their best to make their children extra ordinary by forcing them to read a lot of text books. Now most of the schools give the young children so much home tasks that they get no time for playing.

Sometimes I have noticed that some mothers are taking their children to private coaching after their school time while they are guite reluctant or too tired to read. But what is the result of this kind of pressure? From very childhood,

as we could not accomplish the tasks at any of the 15 points on the banks of seven rivers.

According to a source in the water resources ministry and JRC due to Indian objections and occasional exchanges of fire between the BDR and BSF at various points, Bangladesh is now at risk of losing its bordering lands on the banks of seven out of 54 common rivers with India.

It has been said that due to lack of clarity of the critical cross-border river management issues at local levels and due to differences of opinion over exact 'Zero lines' at the porous Indo-Bangladesh border, tension prompts the border guards to go for unnecessary exchange of

S M Oahiduzzaman Mirpur, Dhaka

should remain alert as terrorism is not only a threat to our security but it also tarnishes our image abroad.

Feroja Goni Mirpur 1, Dhaka

Traffic jam

Traffic jam is a problem in all towns and cities in Bangladesh. Actually it occurs where a mass of vehicles remain huddled together and movement becomes impossible for some time. Nowadays traffic jam is common in Dhaka city. Day by day it is becoming more and more acute. When we are caught in a traffic jam, we cannot move backward either. We can only wait. We arrive late

for an appointment. The bad effects of traffic jam are beyond description. We lose our most valuable time for it. It is a curse for

painful stings. The efforts so far made by the authorities to wipe out the tiny

beings are only half-hearted and they have all gone in vain. They cannot keep the drains clear and remove the garbage regularly. As a result. heaps of rubbish have accumulated drains are full of dirty water in different parts of the city. The breeding of mosquitoes goes on unhindered in the damp environment. So, the mosquitoes have multiplied making the life of the citizens unbearable

We should, therefore, request the DCC bosses to take effective steps immediately so that the citizens may get some relief

Md Rashed Minhaz

Food processing

telecommunication sector needs that within the framework of the immediate reform and legal review. existing rules and regulation, it is All business practice in the nossible to take corrective mobile telephony sector ought to be measures and what is necessary is "user [subscriber] friendly" and the authorities should take strong steps a durable initiative. We are to uphold the rights of the subscribconsuming adulterated and date expired foods and giving them to I am afraid that many mobile

phone subscribers are reluctant to register their complaints as there seems no one to address the issues. Where should they go when they don't get the needed service from the mobile phone companies? Recently I have become

subscriber of the state-owned company "Teletalk". In my workplace I am mostly dependent on telephonic communications. The 'Teletalk' subscribers' face severe 'inter-connectivity' related problem. The emergency help line is unable

children. I would propose formation of a separate body under the commerce ministry in collaboration with law enforcing agencies which can work full time to prevent adulteration of foods. Moreover, the existing law needs to be enforced strictly and necessary amendment should be made to punish the corrupt businessmen

and their allies. Jagannath Dutta Azimpur, Dhaka



Thousands of Bangladeshi young boys worked as camel jockeys in the UAE, and they have been brought back to the country in recent times. It's nice that our unfortunate children are brought back from the horrifying job that they're cruelly assigned to. One wonders, how come this sort of barbaric amusement exists in the twenty first century. The dreadful story that the boys related is simply barbaric. The other day while discussing the matter I came to learn a more horrifying fact about it that the cry of the tender aged boys (minor-4-6 aged) makes the camels run faster. We wonder how many of our boys are still left

there in the desert to entertain the insane people there

There are many culprits in society who conduct the heinous act of human trafficking. We welcome our boys back home and strongly urge the concerned authorities to rehabilitate them in a befitting way so that they can start their lives anew with the privileges of education and other rights that they are entitled to as human beings. The government should look into the matter and ensure that this sort of trafficking is stopped once and for all. It also has to bring the criminals to justice. Rafiqul Islam Rime, Agrabad, Chittagong

Everybody has some idea about the street children in Bangladesh. The real picture of these street children is very pathetic. They have no place to live in. They sleep on the streets. Sometimes they move aimlessly. Some of them are engaged in difficult jobs for earning their livelihood. They are also found begging on the streets. They may have parents. But their parents do not take care of them. They do not get the opportunity to go to school. They are completely illiterate. Sometimes they are subjected to physical punishment. In fact, they are deprived

of all sorts of child rights. It is a matter of great regret. Today's child is tomorrow's future. So all of us, including the government, should take necessary steps so that they can enjoy their legal rights. Nahid Mirpur-1, Dhaka-1216

