

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



Using technology in cricket

In recent years, umpire's 'wrong' decisions on the field are seen to be determining a game's fate to a certain extent and sometimes creating misunderstanding among the rival countries. Technology has paved the way for watching things much more closely and clearly. Umpire's wrong decision makes them unpopular and controversial. A few years ago, the use of technology in cricket became a controversial issue. But what the cricket world has seen since then is more shocking and embarrassing. Watching your favourite team losing terribly

because of umpire's 'wrong decision' is painful. My question to those who are against the use of technology is, if technology can be used in certain cases such as detecting the ball whether it crossed the boundary or not or confirming a doubtful catch or run out etc, why can't it be used for deciding LBW or an edge of the bat or such other questionable/confusing matters?

Mehedi Hasan
Uttara, Dhaka

Judges

It is mentioned in Article 96 of the constitution that a judge cannot be removed by the president without the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council. But, by means of interpretation of Article 97, the president has the power to remove the Chief Justice without any recommendation of the council. According to Article 97, if the president is satisfied that the Chief Justice is, on account of absence, illness, or any other cause, unable to perform the functions of his office then the president shall appoint a new Chief Justice. In this provision, by the term "any other cause" there is the reservation of power of the president to remove the Chief Justice.

That's why Article 97 should be amended.

Mohammad Rayhan Uddin
Lalchand Road
Chaukhazar, Chittagong

Accidents

The main cause of the high rates of road accidents leading to huge loss of lives and properties is the violation of traffic rules and lack of enforcement of speed limits. Some of the drivers are crazy about overtaking one another at high speed. Bigger vehicles dominate the roads, while smaller ones are compelled to yield to their whims.

To overcome the existing anarchy, the highway police must be

developed as a strong and efficient organisation with unified leadership and a strong chain of command. To achieve the requisite qualities, the highway police must keep their ranks clean and refrain from indulging in corruption and negligence of duty.

Ayan Gupta
Department of Business Administration
East West University

Our rights

In the past, we had to select a candidate whom we didn't want to select. They were nominated by those corrupt political parties. There was no option to refuse those candidates.

Now we have the chance to reject their appeal for serving the country!

As we have not seen any sign of change or effective political reform, we (the ordinary people) have the right to reject the wrong candidates to serve us.

Anonymous
One-mail

Bangladeshis in Bahrain

Refer to the letter "Save Bangladeshis in Bahrain" by Mohd Mafiz dated 4th June. It is heart breaking to hear such news from a Middle Eastern country where most of the hard working expatriate Bangladeshis live. I have seen

how Bangladeshis are treated by the Bahrainis-- 95-98% of the Bangladeshis population in Bahrain are labourers. Most of the Bangladeshis are inhumanly treated by Bahrainis. They treat them like slaves. But we Bangladeshis just keep ourselves quiet thinking about the families.

But I have seen how some Bahrainis got beaten by some white people in a club. But they cannot do anything against the "superior people". Why this double standards? Is it fair to attack the weakest?

Forget about the religion, these Bangladeshis are hard working people. Without them there is no Middle East. If they do not want Bangladeshis, then we would like to see how long they can keep us away. There is no alternative to them, other than taking all the Bangladeshis back. No other country will work under 50 degree Celsius, building their luxurious apartments and offices. No one would be cleaning their plates in the shopping centres.

I am a frequent visitor to Bahrain and the Middle East. Bahrain is one of the best places I have ever visited. Nothing can go wrong here except the attitude of Bahraini authorities. Here is a comment by a Bahraini on the issue--

"This shameful decision by the authorities is against the Islamic laws. They are punishing the entire country for an individual's action." Nabeel Rajab, vice president of the

defunct Bahrain Centre for Human Rights.

"If a Bahraini commits crime in the UK and they decide to deport all Bahrainis, how would our authorities feel?" said Al Derazi. "There are criminal elements in every society but collective punishment for a country is against human rights principles. This is the second largest community here and such discriminatory actions are not acceptable."

Kavi Zaman
Sydney, Australia

Traffic congestion-free Dhaka

Just as I was getting ready to rebut your editorial entitled "Regulate the Number of Rickshaws" DS 22/5/08, I was overjoyed to read Prof Nasreen Khundker's excellent letter in DS 30/5/08. Prof Nasreen has totally dismantled the arguments in your editorial with cold logic, practical information, pragmatic points and solutions practiced in other developed countries. All this was written in impeccable English that was a joy to read. Her letter deserves to be weighed in gold and were it up to me, I would make it diamonds. She has said it all and it would be impertinent for me to add anything to it.

I will therefore confine myself to some comments on the article "Traffic Congestion-Free Dhaka, A Dream" by Mr M Showkat Ali, in DS 29/05/08. Mr Showkat starts his article by rightly describing the various mega projects dreamt by the big-wigs of the previous governments, that can only belong to the realm of fantasy. He continues by prescribing some good and long overdue reforms like equitable distribution of Khas lands to local landless, setting up of industries in rural areas to benefit local employment and using local raw materials and de-centralizing administrative decision making that only adds to the congestion of people from all over Bangladesh in Dhaka. All these will certainly provide incentives for those who come to Dhaka to seek employment or redress and will discourage urban migration and the sprouting of slums AND RICKSHAWS.

Mr Showkat, has then sadly allowed himself to get entrapped in the anti-rickshaw lobby by calling for their "elimination" without paying any heed to the consequences. In this, the 18th letter written by me on the subject, I have already stated the immediate effect that would happen to nearly half the population of Dhaka whose livelihood either depends on the rickshaws or those who use them every day. He does not spare a thought to the millions of old, infirm, disabled, men, women, children, students, small traders who would become pedestrians on footpath-less, dark & pot-holed roads of Dhaka.

So please call a spade, a spade and try to bring forth worthwhile immediate solutions to rid Dhaka of its worst nightmare, the traffic jams. In most of my previous 17 letters, I have asserted that there is an easy solution for both mechanized and non-mechanized vehicles co-existing side by side, on the basis of existing laws and it only requires that they be implemented fairly and squarely without fear and favour.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan 1, Dhaka

Bangladesh Journal of Agriculture

The 17th meeting of the Editorial Board of the Bangladesh Journal of Agriculture (BJA) was held on June 05, 2008 at BARC conference room. The meeting was presided over by Dr. M A Razzaque, Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) who is also the Chairman of the Editorial Board and Editor-in-Chief of the BJA. The meeting reviewed the scientific papers to be published in the BJA Volume 33(1)2008.

It has been decided in the meeting that fresh invitation for scientific articles will be sent to all the agriculture and related organizations with a view to updating the journal with latest research findings on different disciplines of agricultural science. The BJA is a prestigious internationally reputed agricultural science journal published regularly by BARC, Dhaka. Agricultural researchers/scientists may submit their research articles, scientific papers etc. to The Managing Editor, Bangladesh Journal of Agriculture, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Airport Road, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University & Member, Editorial Board, BJA

National unity govt

It was widely reported in the tv news reports and print media on June 3, that Dr. Kamal Hussain, an eminent jurist and chief of the Gono Forum, while participating in the dialogue with the govt. has demanded, among other things, a National Unity Government after the national election. He is a man of international repute, a former minister and a veteran politician.

However, as a commoner, but a bit conscious about our political future, some questions crop up in our minds the answers to which are not known to us. We therefore request Dr. Kamal to please explain how the National Unity Government will work if it is really formed?

01. In the free, fair & credible election, if one single party emerges with absolute majority, why that party will opt for a unity govt?

02. Even if it does, will it not dishonour the people's verdict/mandate and will it not be a betrayal to the people on the part of that party?

03. Dr. Kamal has configured the unity govt drawing some members of Shushil Shamaj along with politicians. What is this Shushil Shamaj, who are the members of that Shamaj, what are their backgrounds, where did they come from, what contribution do they have in politics and nation building?

04. We know some Shushil Shamaj members are former bureaucrats and intellectuals. Some of them were heading important government departments, what are their track records in their respective departments, were their departments made corruption free during their tenures?

Shafiqul Islam
One-mail

Oil supplies and payments

A report from Chittagong on Kuwait's oil deal with Bangladesh was published on May 31 in a local English daily. It is an ominous sign, confirming the failure of our price negotiation with them.

Elsewhere in the report however, there are indications of a deal being made with a UAE based company for future oil purchase.

The real crunch are the prices involved, and our sky-rocketing oil bill!

From US\$ 3.2 billion in 2006-07, this year the bill will go up to US\$4.5 billion-- nearly a fifty percent hike! How long can we afford the import of oil at this rate?

All this points to the urgency for exploiting our coal. This can no longer be delayed while we debate unnecessarily over open-pit or shaft mining!

Both types of mines will have soil subsidence problems, given the nature of our soil crust. Soil subsidence is already spreading over our deep shaft mine areas, and it will go on increasing. We cannot have our cake and cream too, much as we desire. There is no free lunch!

Already gas shortages have enhanced the misery of load shedding, with no addition to our power generating capacity under way. May be we will be back to candle lit days! Hurricane lantern will be a luxury, given the price of kerosene. Meanwhile, the CTG will merrily dump the gigantic energy problems on the lap of the next government!

This government has done nothing in the power and energy sector, contrary to their big talks when they took power in their hands. They have only shown their authority by curtailing power supplies-- left, right and centre. After all, they have all the authority with no responsibility!

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Political leadership

It is surprising that your staff writer could make such a blunder by stating that Mujahedul Islam Salim (General Secretary, CPB) was GS of DUCSU; actually he was the VP of DUCSU. In fact, Selim got elected as VP of DUCSU immediately after the liberation taking advantage of the split in the Chhatra League on the issue of Mujibbad Vs Scientific Socialism.

Any way, I cannot agree with him that: "the old guards must make room for young talented leadership to emerge...." as no one makes room for others in politics. Emergence of leadership is a natural process and those with talent and ability will make room for themselves. Bangabandhu, a relatively young leader, emerged in the late sixties, bypassing many reputed old guards at that time.

The tragedy of Bangladesh is that since independence, the political set-up has undergone so much upheavals that the ground is yet to settle for emergence of a legendary figure.

K. Gyasuddin
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

The unstable subcontinent

Why Pakistan and Bangladesh (former East Pakistan) are unstable politically, even after decades of experimentation? The backgrounds are different.

Today's Pakistan is controlled by the Punjab, which also controls the army and the economy. In independent Bangladesh, it is the high density of the population (about 1,000 per sq Km)--the scramble for openings (economically and socially). Without India's military assistance in the nine-month war of liberation, it is difficult to estimate how much longer the struggle would have been, relying only on our brave Mukti Bahini. Another reason was too much fervour in hero-worshipping; which led to dynasty rules. The latter lacked bold initiatives--the defensive posture was enough or sustainability.

The new Pakistan cabinet has splintered--for obvious reasons. In Dhaka, the two leading parties dominate over others, restricting entry points for basic changes in approach.

The general elections, scheduled for December this year, should be a turning point in our state politics. The vicious cycles have to be nullified. Change is the demand, both in the US and Bangladesh (what a coincidence!)

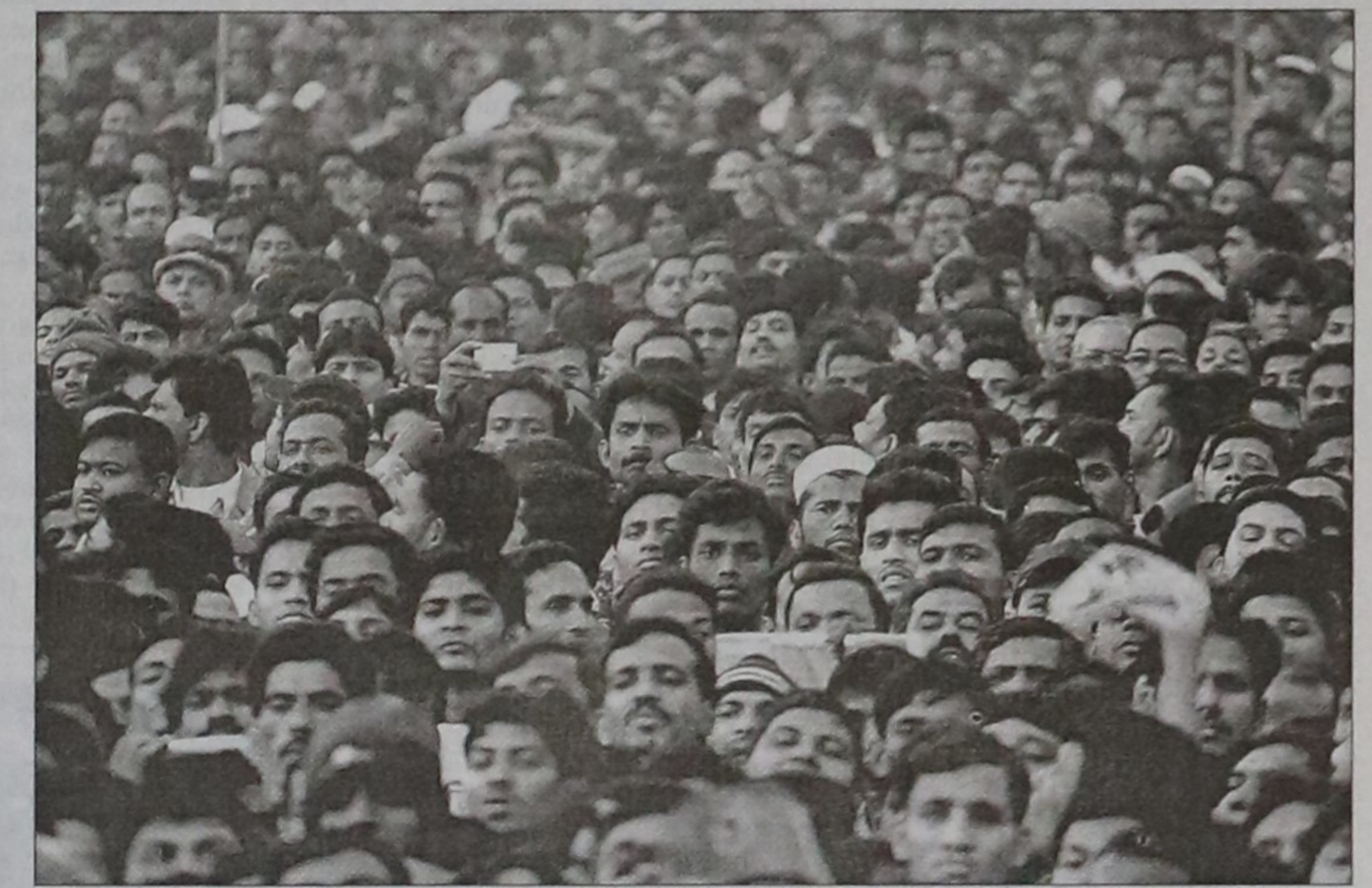
It is not enough to be motivated emotionally. We have to use our head also--to be practical

and realistic. Notice how we are passionate about observing so many anniversaries each month of the year--the remaining 363 days pass in proxy. All credit to our chashi bhais and sisters; they earn their bread by the sweat of the brow. Oratory has severe limitations; transient passions cannot sustain development projects.

We need a new brand of leadership; with a single-minded focus on national development. At present, the party comes first--an insecurity syndrome. Multi-focus approaches dissipate the national energy--the lead has to come from the top. The role of the opposition is misplaced (the winner takes all).

We have the right type of talented and dedicated potential leaders, but the platforms are lacking (monopolisation). The role of black wealth has to be curbed. The political parties are rather shy in announcing reforms--first internal, then national. In subjective approaches, the focus is inwards. The sun radiates light and heat--our politics is akin to black holes. The political orbits have to be nationalised for universal acceptance. Wait for the tug of war between the enlightened voters and the new candidates.

A Mawaz
Dhaka



MUNEM WASIF / DRINKNEWS

Reforms

After 1/11 the most talked about word across the country is "reform". It spread mostly because the big two political parties experienced inner conflicts on the issue. A number of reforms have taken place we have got ACC, PSC, EC with new faces. The Supreme Judicial Council is in place which will ensure a more efficient judiciary system, it is pleasant news for the nation.

The institutions are now looking reliable because they are manned by good fellows. What if the next government wants to change the fellows? That is the main concern of people.

Can anything be done to ensure Institutional Independence so that they can always function properly?

Imtiaz
Uttara, Dhaka

Tourism

Many countries in the world are earning a huge amount of foreign exchange from tourism but we are lagging behind. Bangladesh has a great opportunity to earn a lot from this unexplored sector. Because we are rich in the context of ingredients of tourism.

I must say as a country Bangladesh has all types of spots that may be treated as tourism spots. It has religious places, historical places, hilly areas and the world's longest sea beach.

The decision makers in the tourism sector should think in terms of developing it into a big foreign exchange earner.

Md. Humayun Kabir
Deputy Manager
Palli Karma-Sahayak
Foundation

Global report

The Global Competitiveness Report has evolved over the last three decades into the world's most comprehensive and respected assessment of the countries' competitiveness, offering insight into the policies, institutions and factors driving productivity and then enabling sustained economic growth and long term prosperity.

This year's edition features a record 131 economies, accounting for more than 98% of the world GDP.

In this report we can see the rank of Bangladesh being very poor compared to other Saarc countries. India is 48, Sri Lanka 70, Pakistan 92 but we are ranked 107. When will we wake up?

Md. Nazmul Ahmed
BBA
State University of Bangladesh

Eco-management



Eco-management means the development and exploitation of natural resources in a sustainable way which is environment friendly. Change and development are essential to human progress, and exploiting nature in this process is not a new phenomenon. In this march of progress, we have overexploited nature and caused harm to its environmental quality. However, we actually realized the problem only during the last fifty years when it started to be grave and there was a hue and cry throughout the globe. That there is a link between development and environmental issues was first raised in Stockholm Congress

in 1972 and then at Rio Conference in 1992 and Rio+10 in 2002 as a global forum and it has been realized that development is also possible by making peace with nature. This has been termed as sustainable development. It needs a point of balance whereby the present need may be met without jeopardizing the environmental quality of nature for future generation.

Then what should be the strategy to achieve the goal of simultaneous balance? For this, we need to develop a plan of survival.

Neelufar Yasmin
Dept. of Environmental Science and Resource Management, MBSTU

Stranded Pakistanis

ABMS Zahur is factually behind the times when he writes (5 June, Point Counterpoint): "However, even now a majority of the stranded Biharis would like to be repatriated to Pakistan because of cultural affinity with Pakistanis, separated families, and lack of educational facilities, employment and civic amenities that are available to regular citizens in Bangladesh."

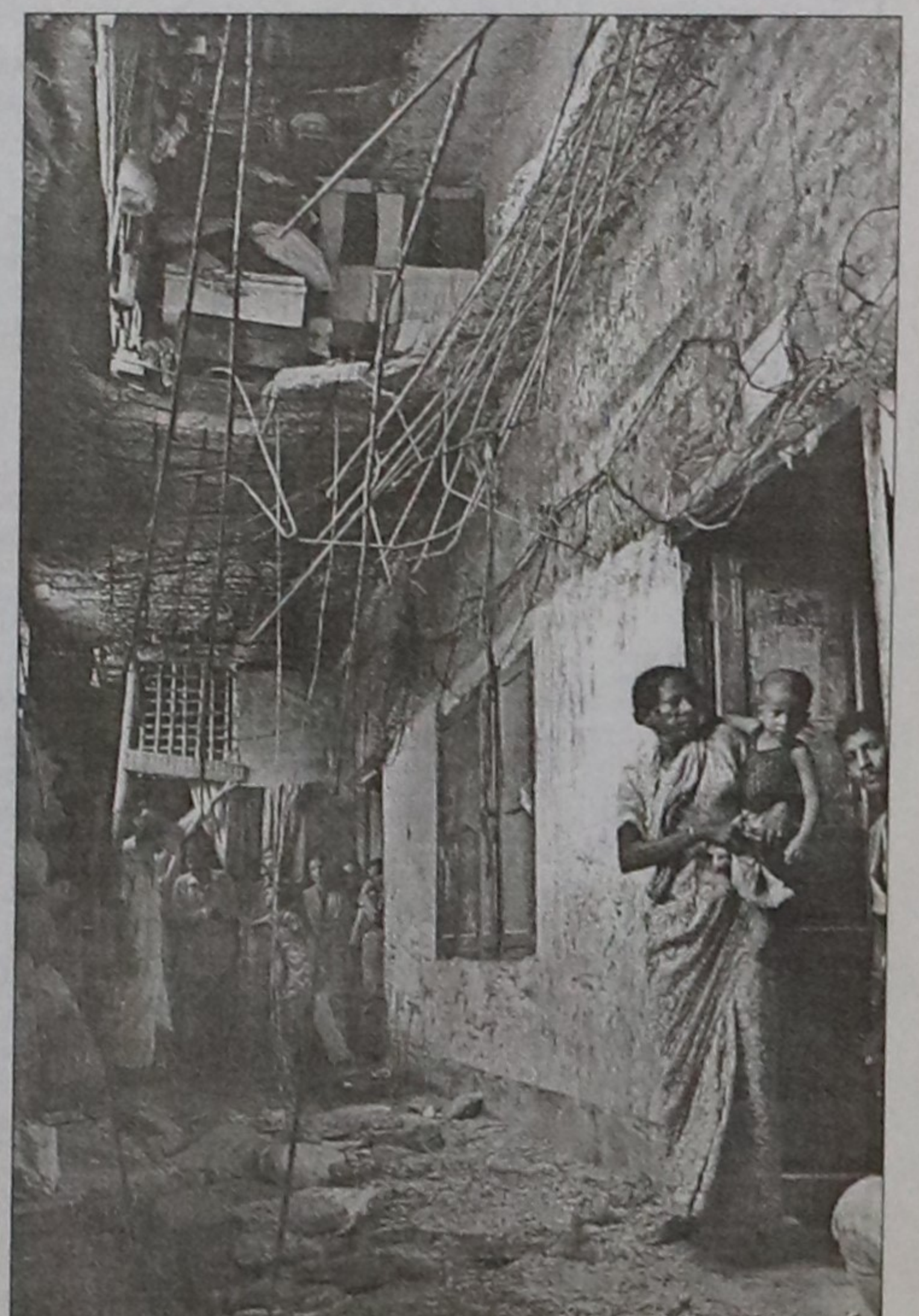
In a 1999 survey by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, 86.4 percent said they would opt for Bangladeshi citizenship. In a 2005 Survey by Al-Falah, 85 percent preferred to live in Bangladesh. Moreover, 82 percent perceived themselves as Bangladeshis. The ongoing "Dhaka Initiative" survey suggests that more than 90 percent of the "Biharis" favour Bangladeshi reintegration. In a 2005 consultation meeting on the "Urdu speaking community's own perception about their future in Bangladesh" most of the speakers from 11 Bihar organisations said that large or overwhelming majority of the settlement occupants considered themselves to be Bangladeshis and wanted rehabilitation with dignity.

So the bottom line is that repatriation is not the

priority list - if indeed it is on the list at all. The fact of the matter is that the insecurity, discrimination and the helplessness of camp life are

some of the motives for harking back to this "idyll" called Pakistan.

Shafiqur Rahman
One-mail



MUNEM WASIF / DRINKNEWS