

Polluted Buriganga

The river Buriganga is used for river transportation, fishing and maintaining links with southern river ports of Bangladesh.

Now the river has some problems of navigation from Babu Bazar, Mitford area to Munshiganj ghat as the water in between these two points has become polluted due to filthy water carried by WASA drains. So the vessels plying from

Sadarghat to the southern districts are affected by the highly polluted water. Passengers who travel by launch, steamer, country boat, barge etc inhale the polluted air.

So, immediate measures must be taken for stopping pollution of Buriganga water.

HRMeah
Bakerganj
Barisal



AMADOU HOU/DRNEWS

Sound pollution

We, the city dwellers, are highly conscious of the necessity of providing the required education to the children of our country and appreciate the establishment of big, medium and small schools, colleges and universities all over our cities. These institutions are functioning, due to lack of any alternative, in the residential areas.

The establishment of such institutions is taking a heavy toll on our already congested, disorganized and highly unruly traffic system. This results in huge traffic standstills and jams during the opening and closing hours of such schools, as a matter of routine with no remedy in sight. The dwellers in these areas quietly undergo the extreme daily inconveniences without any complaint.

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A.Mawaz
Dhaka

Education

In view of the recent horrendous massacre at BDR headquarters, repeated attacks by JMB, excesses by Jamaat et al, killing of SAMS Kibria, Ahsanullah Master, grenade attack of 21st August etc, it has become absolutely necessary to impart certain education to the students. They are our future. The idea is to catch them young when they can form opinions.

This kind of education is called personal development. It should include chapters on patriotism, terrorism, violence, religious extremism, religious tolerance etc. and the devastating effects of certain phenomena on the economy, agriculture, industries, trade and commerce, reputation of our country etc. It should be started from class one and continued up to class 12 and will include all schools, all types of madrassas etc. Personal development education will have far reaching positive effects on our future generations.

Personal development education is imparted in Australia and many other countries.

We request the Education Minister and policy makers to give serious thoughts to the matter and it can be included in the curriculum from next year.

Dr.SN Mamoon
One-mail

First session

Having just watched the proceedings of the first session of the national assembly as a veteran citizen, many hopes and dreams arise, as with millions of my fellow countrymen and women, on the expected changes we were starved of during the preceding decades.

How to play the game when the players [politicians] also umpire the games, leaving the citizens in the no-man's land. Change of heart has to be imbibed internally first, before offering the new wares and goodies to the 140m patrons.

The new elected regime has three basic priorities: (a) Make up for the last time; (b) Create a congenial environment during the current life of parliament; and, (c) Create a national consensus on the future national goals. We are beating about the bush; and we have to get out of the vicious circle (of unacceptable political culture) without external pressures.

The initial motivations are cheery enough; but the proof of the pudding lies in the eating. You can't have the cake and eat it too. Here, in Dhaka, the winner takes it all. The political parties have to

Save innocent Sri Lankans

It is a matter of great concern that thousands of civilian in the northern part of Sri Lanka especially in the Tamil inhabited areas have been suffering in the wake of a civil war between the Lankan govt. forces and the LTTE. Every day we are hearing the news of people's sufferings in terms of death, loss of houses and properties and in lot many ways. Whenever there is a war, there will be immeasurable sufferings for the peace loving general civilians who are innocent and always like peace and abhor violence.

Recent research has shown that 80 percent of the population will not suffer from high blood pressure if the people consume less salt.

Get rid of it, we should use minimum salt while cooking foods, avoid extra salt in diet and remove salt from the dining table.

So, reduce salt intake to have a sound health!

Zaki Uddin Ahmed
Department of Pharmacy
Jahangirnagar University
Savar, Dhaka

Rural secondary schools

The 306 non-government rural secondary schools in 64 districts across the country will be model schools under a project. It is undoubtedly a good and timely initiative when the standard of education in the rural secondary schools has deteriorated. In 2007, no one could pass the SSC exams from 248 secondary schools and all are rural schools.

Under this project, infrastructure, teacher recruitment, modern laboratory, ICT facility and teachers' training would be provided.

My opinion is that something more has to be done to ensure quality education in schools.

Teacher's accountability should be ensured (at least 70% students will have to pass in the first year and the next year it should 80% ... 90%).

That is how the teachers will be responsible for their students' performance.

Md.Tofazzel Hossain
Kushtha

Violence against women

It is really sad that violence against women is taking place on a regular basis.

When a girl comes out of home, she hardly feels secure.

We have liberated our country, but we could not still make ourselves civil.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Jamea Rahmania Fadil
Madrasa

Choityenarhat, Chittagong

PM's decision

Prime minister in her question hour informed the House that the government in implementing one of her election pledges will rehabilitate the

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Unacceptable!

This is unacceptable! As if our country does not already have enough problems. And who has created these problems? The very people who are supposed to protect us and our country. How are we to trust them with guns again? If they had issues, then there are ways to handle this. Killing people, looting valuables are the work of professional criminals, not border guards. I always thought no matter how poor we are as a nation, we were still better off than those living in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia etc, but now I am beginning to wonder.

I sincerely hope the authorities will take stern action and ensure that this does not happen again.

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS
Mohakhal, Dhaka

illegally forced retired officers. This is a most welcome move. The PM specified that dues would be given to the deprived officers. But is that enough? As we know most of such officers winning the court cases are already eligible for such benefits. Perhaps now the payments and post facto promotions will expedite. To rehabilitate and also to derive benefit from this move the government may utilize their services; they may be re-posted to sensitive positions where the government needs honest, sincere and committed officers. As we know the present bureaucracy was highly politicised by the past BNP-Jamaat alliance government for which they resorted to "ethnic cleansing" forcing exit of brilliant non partisan officers.

It is time again for all of us to think about the needs of wildlife protection and pull up our socks to perform the onerous task of conservation on the ground.

Mohammad Rajja
Gonoshasthaya Samajvittik
Medical College
Savar, Dhaka

Reduce salt intake

Human body needs salt but that is a very little amount less than a tea spoon or 5gm every day. Salt is used mostly in the processed foods. Fast foods and Chinese foods also contain excessive salt. Excessive intake of salt increases the risk of high blood pressure.

High blood pressure again leads to heart disease, heart attack, stroke, heart and kidney failure, paralysis, blindness. Recent research has shown that 80 percent of the population will not suffer from high blood pressure if the people consume less salt. Get rid of it, we should use minimum salt while cooking foods, avoid extra salt in diet and remove salt from the dining table.

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Question

We could not co-exist with the British, the Hindus, the

Muslims and now we cannot co-exist with the Bengalis that we ourselves are!

What is next? Are not the most ferocious of wild animals living deep in the most inaccessible jungles less fierce than most of us, the Bengalis?

Nazma Yeasmeen Haque
Radiant International School
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

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how poor we are as a nation, we were still better off than those living in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia etc, but now I am

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Aminur Rahim
New DOHS
Mohakhal, Dhaka

Wildlife conservation

Our forests and wild landscapes face fresh and bigger threats. Most of us might not have given a serious thought to wildlife conservation. This should be a serious issue, the touchable and intangible profits we receive from wildlife conservation directly concerns over 70 percent of our country's population who depend upon the traditional occupation rain-fed agriculture.

It is time again for all of us to think about the needs of wildlife protection and pull up our socks to perform the onerous task of conservation on the ground.

Mohammad Rajja
Gonoshasthaya Samajvittik
Medical College
Savar, Dhaka

Polybags

The use and production of polybags do a great deal of harm to our environment and drainage system and to air, water and soil. In our country, thousands of pieces of polythene are being used everyday. This huge amount of polythene is neither being reused nor being decomposed in a natural way. Most of the bags are just thrown out after its first use.

They find their way into the drains. Then the polybags block our drainage system, barricade regular flow of water, obstruct the rainwater flowing into the drains etc. As a result low-lying areas in the cities frequently go under water. Flood occurs every now and then. Whenever, these polybags go inside the cultivable land, it loses fertility and crops do not grow in such lands. Polybags remain unchanged like a curtain through which nothing can pass.

Polybags are burnt to get rid of their direct effect but smoke emitting from poly-fire pollutes our air in a massive way. Such pollution is very harmful for human health. Because of large-scale use of polythene our traditional jute and cloth bags have lost their market. Jute and cloth bags can be used several times whereas polybags are used only once. So polybags are a waste of money.

So, the government should make sure that polybags are not used in any form.

Shahina Akter
Kallyanpur
Dhaka

JNU dorms

The fresh protest of Jagannath University students to recover the illegally occupied halls exhibits the awareness of getting their rights established.

University students today are being used mostly for political gains. In the midst of various political activities, typically harmful for their academic studies, JNU students' show of courage deserves admiration of the students, teachers and the government. If recovered, the dormitories will accommodate a huge number of students and it can be one of the university's most notable achievements since it has been transformed to a public university.

Mir Fazia Rabby
Dept of Mass Communication & Journalism
University of Dhaka

MRP programme

A few days ago, there was a news report published in almost every major daily of the country regarding the machine readable passport programme (MRP) taken up by the Bangladesh government. With vision of the modern days it is a must for countries like Bangladesh which are LDCs to have MRP as it was learnt that from April 2010 most of the developed countries will not allow the present manual passport which is issued by the government for visa/travel and immigration clearance purpose.

From the past experience of our different Bangladeshi governments, we have seen that whatever they do, they do it at the pace of a snail and they fail to meet the target on 95% of the time and many excuses are given by the concerned authorities and departments. Compared

Israel's atrocities

to the total population of the

country, the users of

Bangladesh international

passports are probably 8-10%

at the most (It's a guess as we

do not have any data available

of the passport holders of

Bangladesh).

By number this

may sound small but it is very

important that the present

government prioritise this

issue and keep our different

foreign offices up to date so