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Chemical pesticides

In order to protect the vegetables from pests, chemical pesticides are used. But the producers as well as consumers are not aware of the ill effects of the pesticides. Nowadays, we observe some efforts by the law enforcers to ensure formalin-free fish and stop adulteration of restaurants foods. But

they overlook the pesticides used while growing vegetables and other agricultural products.
Md. Obyedul Kalam Azad Pekule
MS student
Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University
Dinajpur



KALOL ISLAM / DRINKNEWS

National security

National security is matter of topmost priority. That BDR Headquarters and other military establishments exist without adequate video surveillance and digital identification is just unthinkable to me. Even before Bangladesh goes digital, our armed forces need to do so immediately. It is sad to read how the investigators have to rely on amateur cell phone videos to look for suspects. Many rosters had been burnt which make it impossible to determine the whereabouts of the personnel. This could easily have been avoided if each personnel were assigned a digital identification card. This would make their whereabouts easier to find and also the information could not be burnt as it would immediately (at the speed of light to be precise) make its way to a central digital information storage hub (say a facility in the cantonment).

I think we ought to seriously consider digitising our armed forces. Such a system would have made it very easy to find who exactly was present during the BDR week.
Ishtiaque Ahmed
One-mail

Misguided elements

The fundamental principle of all religions is to try to be a good human being, though there are different ways to achieve the goal. Our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Pbuh) is the truest human being the world has ever seen. But some people, who claim to be the followers of Islam, engage in activities that violate the basic tenets of the religion.

We saw their heinous activities in 1971, they are still working under different names-- Taliban, al-Qaeda, JMB etc. We must resist them.
Harun-or-Rashid
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

Obama's overture

US President Barack Obama on March 20, 2009 made a historic appeal to the Iranian people, urging an end to decades of animosity and offering a honest engagement with the Islamic Republic. It proves that he is a person of great wisdom who wants to have a peaceful relationship with every country.

We hope that Iran will clasp the extended hand of friendship, ending the hostility forever.
Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Quality of local products

A few days ago I purchased a hot water bottle from a drug store. I wanted to buy a local product but was told that the quality of the local product is not good. Hence I had to buy an imported product at a higher cost.

It is time we all tried to improve the quality of all local products. Quality control of products is a must to earn public confidence.
Nazma Ali
New Eskaton Road
Dhaka

Pak tour cancelled

I would very much welcome the cancellation of Pakistan cricket team's tour of Bangladesh. I think this is a very good decision by the government. There is no denying that terrorists have got no sympathy even for sportsmen who are considered goodwill ambassadors of their country. The recent attack by the terrorists on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Pakistan is an example that even the sportsman are not spared by them. Thank God, the Sri Lankan team members narrowly escaped.

In our context, the recent mutiny by the BDR personnel at Pikhana has definitely put immense pressure on the three months old government & we think that the successful tackling of the situation by our PM must be praised.

But we have to wait for some time before sporting events can be organised safely.
Syed Shahid Hossain
Kakrail
Dhaka

Rohingyas

The rulers of Myanmar are oppressing the Rohingya Muslims. Though they are the legal citizens of Myanmar, but their social and political rights have never been recognised. They can't perform their religious duties, they can't marry without the permission of the govt. They can't move from one town to another without permission. The dictators are trying their best to finish the Rohingya Muslims. The Rohingyas are now foreigners in their own country. There were 3.5 million Rohingyas, and 1.5 million have escaped from Myanmar and they are passing through great uncertainty.

Is it not violation of human rights? The international community should respond to this huge humanitarian crisis.
Taki Mohammad Jubayer
Dept. of Mass Com & Journalism
University of Dhaka

Paramita's patriotism

Recently, Paramita's story in DS drew my attention. I was astonished to see her patriotism and love for the mother tongue. I can visualise my own childhood in the eyes of this little girl. She spent her money which she got as prize for poetry recitation, for building a Shaheed Minar. She did this spontaneously to show her love for the martyrs of the language movement. It was a spontaneous expression of her love for her mother tongue too. Nowadays what our countrymen lack is patriotism. But when I read the story of a school girl's love for the country and our mother tongue, I got back my lost faith.

Let us build a beautiful country. I request all the politicians to be united under the shadow of the umbrella of fair politics for the cause of the country. We have to prove that no one loves his country more than we do. God bless us all, God bless Paramita.
Masudul Alam
Assistant controller
Bangladesh Betar

Rehabilitate street children

Thanks to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for directing the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to arrange special programmes for rehabilitating the hapless street children and ensuring social and economic security of women.

As the prime minister said, "Why will thousands of children have to take the path of begging? Why will they not have a home to live in? When the children are supposed to go to school, why will they have to lead such a life? Make special arrangements and projects. If we can educate the street children properly and build up their lives, they will be our country's asset."

The prime minister also said, "Children are our future, our aim should be building up the new generation as well-educated, ideal, and patriotic citizens." Make sure that no child is employed in risky work which may harm them physically.

According to UN sources, there are up to 150 million street children in the world today. Chased from home by violence, drug and alcohol abuse, the death of a parent, family breakdown, war, natural disaster or simply socio-economic collapse, many destitute children are forced to eke out a living on the streets, scavenging, begging, hawking in the slums and polluted cities of the developing world.

That children are in the streets for many different reasons should not discourage attempts to look at their problems as a global responsibility. If you are an adult and you live on this planet, be aware now

that many of our children are going to sleep hungry tonight, in the streets, with no adult protection or care. Millions of children are living in the streets, and the number is rising.

Small independent agencies work directly to assist street children in limited geographical areas. They have small budgets and they raise the money themselves. There are many similarities in their programmes but each has developed its own way of dealing with the problems of street children in their area. They will welcome your interest and deserve your support and assistance.

Peter C. Rebeiro
Indira Road, Dhaka

ACCA students

The ACCA students, particularly in Chittagong, are facing many problems. Since the course is not so established and familiar in the context of Bangladesh, students cannot determine what is happening during taking tuition. The main problem is created by tuition providers, especially the new ones. They lack experienced and skilled personnel in administration. In fact, their management is too weak to run such a professional course. Furthermore, it is widely complained that, they take the ACCA fees from the students but do not pay to the ACCA in time.

So, more importantly, it is urged that students always keep in mind some crucial factors before taking any offer:

1. Never be convinced by the advertising blitz by any new tuition providers for the ACCA and other foreign professional degrees.

2. Know thoroughly about them, i.e. whether they have an efficient management system, whether they are able to provide tuition by qualified teachers.

3. Check whether their foreign remittance system is efficient and whether the payment is being sent to ACCA in due time.

S.M. Rumun
Naya Bazar, West Nasirabad
Pahartali, Chittagong

Bonus bonanza!

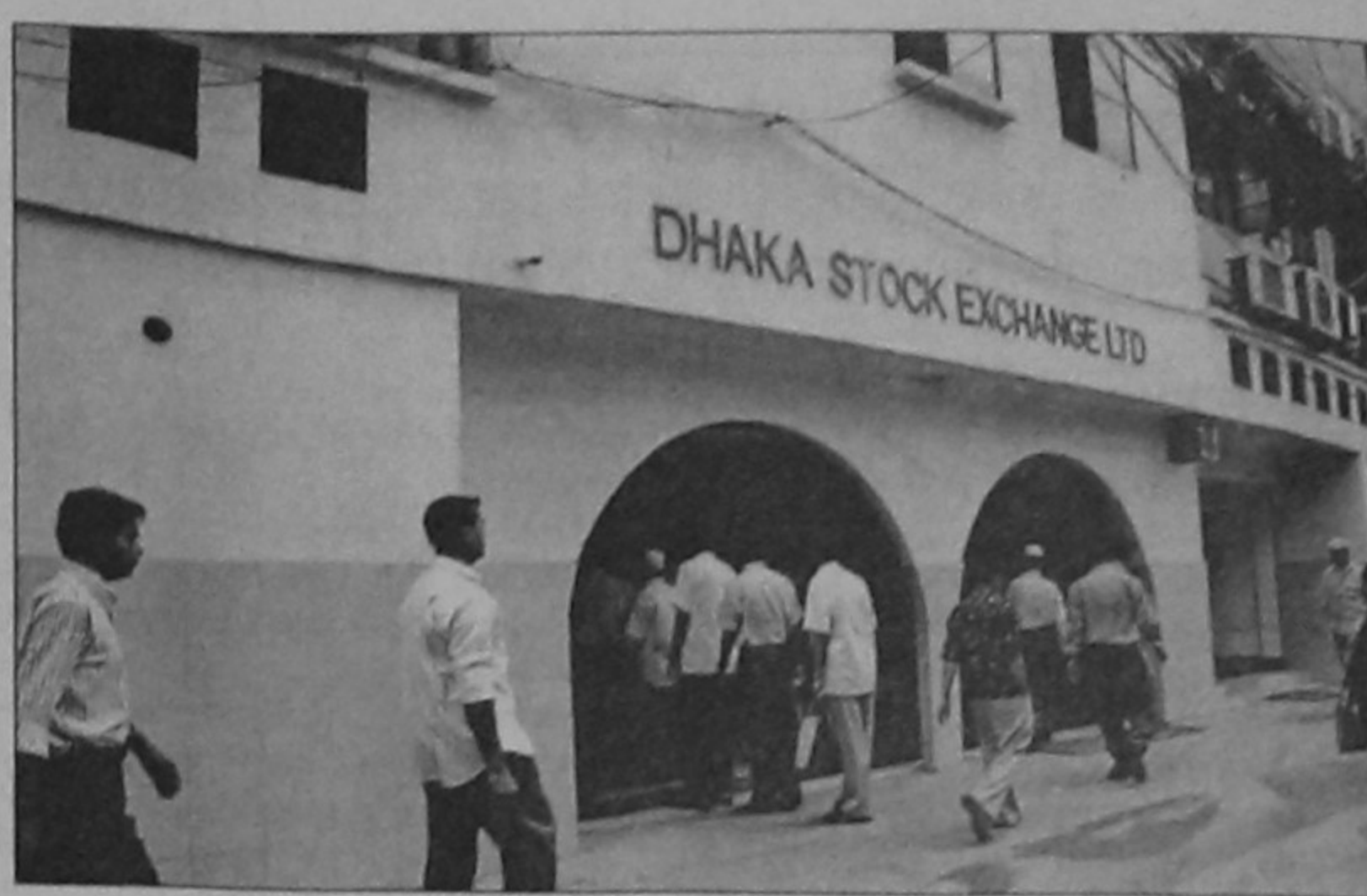
AIG and the other failing banks in the USA have set new and absurd standards for executive privileges. They give guaranteed bonuses; while the organisation reels under astounding losses! Funnily, individual amounts of this bonus are more than the gross income of many US taxpayers! Indeed the USA is the land of milk and honey! These fat salaried executives get the honey of bonuses in these hard days of economic downturn, regardless of losses suffered, conveniently milked from poor taxpayers! This is the refined way of robbing the bank without guns and masks!

The organisation makes loss but the executives get bonus! If next year they survive to break even, they will get

Crafty game?

Thanks to our Dhaka Stock Exchange new President for his powerful strides to bail out our capital market from the vicious cycle around Z category shares wrought about by some crafty wrong doers. Z category shares transaction in percentage of our total turnover may not be that high. But the damage caused by it goes much deeper down the spine of our capital market system. It has produced such satire in our capital market that sounds as it were: Invest in bad shares and be rewarded. Invest in good shares and be punished. This hints at decaying of intrinsic value in our capital market system.

Let's search where the roots of this problem stem from. Ours is a market with lot of low paid-up capital based shares. Z category shares are among them. And our regulation allows any investor to hold upto 10% shares of any listed company both high and low capital based. So a limited number of investors can thus join together to make an inner circle of their own to buy the vastly major chunk of free-float shares of any of these low capital based companies with their limited buying power added together. And then the fabulous game of price fixing bonanza they embark on within their inner circle thereby raising prices of these low capital based shares to any height they deem fit with complete disregard to their perfor-



AMODDUL HUG / DRINKNEWS

mance/fundamentals. This is the craft! And this is the foul game that our capital market is riddled with today!

They have now targeted low capital based companies other than Z category for the same game.

It stands to reason: Our regulatory body and bourses need to strike at the root cause. And the root cause is: Our low capital based companies get into fold of a limited number of hands. Our vast majority of investors evaluate this as a problem which can be tamed with steps such as: Lower the percentage of free float shares up to which any investor can hold in any low capital based company. It will spread shares of these low capital based companies among larger number of investors whereby guarding

against their concentration in limited hands. I want to underscore that our present system allows any investor to hold up to 10% share of any company both high and low capital based.

Surveillance is touted as a tool of control for such foul games in our capital market. But let's be honest about it: what result surveillance is delivering in real terms? It is in everybody's knowledge. A pragmatic approach to the subject, please allow me to say, is: it is the system that should control. Surveillance will compliment the system.

May the authorities, regulatory body and bourses, come forward to crack down on these foul games.

Syeduzzaman
Banani, Dhaka

Rickshaws, again

I am really sympathetic towards Md. Lutfar Rahman (Letter to DS on March 20, 2009), as I too am feeling the pain and suffering each and every day caused by the careless behaviour of the rickshaw-pullers on Dhaka streets.

I have written several letters on this subject before and haven't seen any serious and effective measure by the authorities to bring an end to the rickshaw menace in our city. Dhaka has become a heaven for illegal rickshaw-pullers. It seems as though motorized vehicles have made a mistake to come out on the streets by not letting the rickshaws take up each and every inch of the roads. Rickshaw-pullers ride like kings as they do not fear anyone.

They know that if a vehicle touches his rickshaw, chances are it will be the vehicle not his rickshaw that will get some bruise marks. Besides, if by chance the rickshaw gets damaged (Mostly due to the negligence and unsafe riding by the rickshaw-puller), there will be many street thugs who will come to the rescue of the "poor", "helpless" "innocent" puller. Subsequently, the owner/driver of the vehicle hitting the rickshaw will have to pay money to get out of the

situation 'safely'. This simply needs to stop. Long ago, there was a plan to ban rickshaws on many of the city's busy roads. I wonder how and more importantly why that decision has not been implemented. As a civilized society, we cannot simply sit idle and let this problem get out of our hands. It seems that every day hundreds (if not thousands) of additional rickshaws are entering our roads.

At this time, for the sake of allowing time for the present rickshaw-pullers to find alternative means of living, we must only let them on local lanes and certainly not on busy, overcrowded main roads. Gradually ALL rickshaws need to be pulled off all Dhaka Metropolitan City roads if we want to maintain a civilized, sensible transport network in Dhaka.

I can understand that initially many of us may disagree to withdraw rickshaws as we have become so used to this outdated and extremely dangerous form of transport that is a hazard to everyone on the road. But I am absolutely certain that once they are out and gone, we will all be thankful to the government that takes the bold and courageous step to end the nuisance created by rickshaws on our city streets and takes us out of our misery.

As we are now under a democratically elected popular government, I pray and hope that we will see some immediate steps towards bringing this city closer to a world class capital by banning rickshaws on ALL main roads of Dhaka.
Rahat
Malibag, Dhaka

Co-ordination in human body

In the human body, all the systems simultaneously work in a co-ordinated way and in full harmony for a definite purpose, namely, to keep the body alive. Even the smallest movements we do everyday, such as breathing or smiling, are outcomes of perfect co-ordination in the human body.

Inside us is an incredibly complicated and comprehensively co-ordinated network that operates without stopping at all. The purpose is the continuance of living. This co-ordination is particularly visible in the locomotive system of the body, because, for even the smallest movement, skeletal system, muscles and nervous system must work in perfect collaboration.

In order to perform a co-ordinated act, first, the organs involved in this act and their inter-relations should be known. This information comes from the eyes, the balance mechanism in the internal ear, muscles, joints

and skin. Every second, billions of pieces of information are processed, evaluated and new decisions are taken accordingly. Man is not even aware of the processes accomplished in his body at dizzying speed.

He just moves, laughs, cries, runs, eats and thinks. He spends no effort in performing these acts. Even for a faint smile, seventeen muscles have to work together at the same time. In order to be able to walk, fifty-four different muscles in the feet, legs, hips and back must work in co-operation.

The perfection of the co-ordination of the body will be better understood with the following example. In order just to lift the hand, the shoulder has to be bent, the front and rear arm muscles - called "triceps" and "biceps" - should be contracted and relaxed, and the muscles between elbow and wrist have to twist the wrist. In every part of the act, millions of receptors in the muscles pass on information immediately to the central nervous system about the position of the muscles. In return, the central nervous system tells the muscles what to do in the next step. Of course one is not aware of any of these processes, but just wishes to lift one's hand, and does it right away.

What happens in case of a problem in this co-ordination? Different expressions might appear on our faces when we want to smile, or we might not manage to talk or walk when we want to. However, we can smile, talk, walk anytime we want and no problems occur, because everything mentioned here is accomplished as a result of the fact of Creation which logically requires "infinite intelligence and power".

For this reason, man should always remember that he owes his being and life to his Creator, God.
Md Nazmul Haque
Rajshahi

Performance of ministers

I am very sceptical about the selection of the AL cabinet. Most of them do not have any technical knowledge or experience in their respective fields. It takes knowledge, vision and administrative skill to run a ministry. As a supporter of the AL, I wish the situation will be rectified very soon, before further damage is done to the economy.

We may also think of adopting the US mechanism for selection of ministers through confirmation hearings by a special committee of parliament.
Feroz
MBA
Asian University

Tourism potential



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

No doubt Bangladesh has immense potential in tourism. But still it is not developed due to the lack of interest and proper policy of the government. The recent announcement on establishing a national tourism board is a ray of hope for the development of tourism industry in Bangladesh. But it is not enough,

because tourism industry is an amalgam of other industries like transportation, accommodation, international technology etc.

To promote wildlife tourism, the government should think about those forest guards who have been protecting our national parks and sanctuaries from poachers with outdated

arms and without proper clothes and shoes. They are struggling to survive with their families with a meagre salary in lieu of their valuable service. Then how can we think of developing our tourism sector?

Mohammad Shahidul Islam
Tourism Worker