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MONENA JALLI / DRINKNEWS

## Save our environment

The World Environment Day 2009 has been observed on June 5 on the appropriate theme: "Your planet needs you! Unite to combat climate change." May 22 was observed as the International Day for Biological Diversity. The theme for the day was "Invasive Alien species -- one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and to the ecological well-being of society and the planet."

Today we must make ourselves aware about our environment, ecosystem and rich biodiversity which are now facing extinction. We have to fight unitedly against the factors that prompt climate

change and loss of our rich flora and fauna. Developed countries are responsible for global climate change and developing countries like Bangladesh are its worst victims. But to some extent, we ourselves also ruin our environment.

The government has already announced forest master plan. We also have some duties. Combined efforts for maintaining ecological balance will make our country greener, cleaner and liveable.

**Shampa Hasnat**  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

### DMCH food

At long last, the "cat is out of the bag" as reported by Mollah and Arzu in your pages on June 16. For so long, spanning probably a decade, the DMCH management was deaf, dumb and blind; despite many complaints by patients and their visitors. It all took but a walk round the kitchen by the DG of DMCH, to see things for himself. He has done a good job by taking prompt and effective action. Congratulations to him, for doing his duty.

Why was this mess about food supply and preparation remained as it was for so long? Why did not the DG's predecessor take any action despite numerous complaints? Should he not have gone to the kitchen and seen things. It appears that he was glued to his chair, surrounded by files and papers only.

The answers to these and many other questions of grave management neglect and inertia will have to be found. Can we not take exemplary disciplinary action against those found guilty and dereliction of duty?  
**S.A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka

### Vandalism in RMG sector

This practice of vandalism has started a few years back has now become quite common. It has taken away the glory of our RMG sector. The contribution of RMG sector in our economy is well known as it provides a huge range of employment to the jobless. Most people working here are labourers and their livelihood depends on this sector. The latest incident of violence in Ashulia has made every one worried. The evil struck on Saturday, when the workers started demonstrating for pay hike. We know they are low paid, their payment and other facilities can

be raised by mutual understanding among government, owners and the workers. Now we have an elected government, and it is their responsibility to solve this problem. The workers should have submitted

their demands to the government. Instead, they came out to the street and vandalised several factories, vehicles and even burned down some industrial units. There is something behind the vandalism, which misguided the poor workers. It is high time for the government took bold steps to save our glorious RMG sector.  
**M. Seefat**  
University of Dhaka

### Join the space race!

In response to Azad Miah's letter titled "Join the space race", I wish to inform him that I'm a British Bangladeshi aerospace engineer (more specifically with roots from Noakhali) with experience working on rocket engine design and development for a NASA subcontractor as well as consulting experience leading a project for the European Space Agency and a MSc from the International Space University.

In 2001 I completed an "initial market assessment" on a proposed telecommunications satellite and I'm pleased to say I saved the government from a \$300+ million disaster. It turned out that the individuals pushing for this project were only trying to secure their commission from a multi-million dollar deal, irrespective of the expense to the treasury. The country wasn't ready for a telecom satellite then, albeit the terrestrial infrastructure has improved dramatically since 2001 and now is a different story.

In 2005, I visited Bangladesh for three and half months at my own expense to lobby with SPARRO and the

Ministry of Defence to pursue a remote sensing satellite project and although the SPARRO chairman and honourable Secretary of Defence agreed to pursue this project, we could not secure approval. I returned to Bangladesh in 2006 and convinced the new Secretary of Defence to engage in this project. Again he agreed but the last BNP government were about to leave office and thus the project stumbled. We could do nothing during the rule of the caretaker government as they were too busy otherwise.

I've been told by some officials, who incidentally have been really helpful, that now is not the right time. I've also been told that a poor country has other priorities but my initial calculations show that a proposed Bangladesh satellite can generate large amounts of income and retain highly qualified graduates as a result of this investment. In fact, my figures show that an investment would actually pay off and generate profit for the treasury.  
**Abdul M. Ismail**  
Interplanetary Expeditions

### Job crisis

Nowadays getting a job is as difficult as climbing the Himalayas. Jobless people are increasing at an alarming rate. Some private organisations are responsible for this problem. These organisations are not recruiting candidates in a proper way.

For example, I applied for a position in a bank which required a Master's degree in English. But they did not give me the opportunity to appear at the written test because I am from ELT background. It was not mentioned in the advertisement whether the candidates should have Literature or Language background. Hundreds of candi-

dates applied and paid for the bank drafts and were disqualified for that very reason. This is how we are being deprived and cheated.

Moreover, the government announced that four years Honours degree is akin to Master's degree. Having four years Honours degree why are we required to have a Master's degree?

I urge the government to ponder over this issue seriously so that we can prove our talent in the job field.  
**Md. Zahid Hossain Mollik**  
One-mail

### Lesser tax on cars!

Needless to say, Dhaka is overburdened with many things, and of them two are increasing alarmingly - cars and housing complexes.

It is very unusual for a sub-committee to recommend to lessen tax on automobiles up to 2000 cc. On the contrary, I think the government, taking into account the existing road networks and the number of cars that are hitting the roads every day, should put a ban on importing automobiles which are more than 1500 cc.

I have a simple question for the so-called wealthy class of people who very proudly buy expensive cars such as Pajero and Prado and other SUVs. Have they ever thought about the road network before buying these expensive cars? Would they be able to drive even one kilometre without getting trapped in traffic jam? So why this tendency of buying fancy cars if you can't even drive them? One more thing, these cars are not only considered as gas guzzlers, they also occupy too much space on our narrow and creaky roads.

It is, therefore, my earnest request to the government to stick to small cars and save our roads from further congestions.

**Humayun Hyder**  
Zigatola, Dhaka

### Who is to take care?

Cars are running recklessly, drivers parking the cars everywhere, creating chaos in the roads. Where is the controlling authority and who is to take care of the situation?

**Citizen**  
Dhaka

### Gopalganj Hospital

The sadar hospital of Gopalganj is facing shortage of many things like equipments, medicines, beds, water supply, electricity, staff, ambulances, etc. The hospital has several vacant posts for specialised professors, doctors, nurses, staff and cleaners.

Patients are often advised to go to other clinics and diagnostic centres from this hospital. They are not treated in a right way and ignored. Several operations take place without electricity.

Touts are always around and some of them are living in the dormitory. They work as intermediaries between doctors and patients. They earn money by helping clients to get medical certificates, referral to doctors in clinic etc.

The hospital's requirements should be fulfilled and it should have 250 beds as it was supposed to. Many patients from neighbouring districts come to receive treatment at this hospital.

So, people of Gopalganj urge the government to look into the matter seriously.  
**Mahmud Ali Kabir**  
Ex-BSS district correspondent  
Gopalganj

### Daylight saving time

There are many ideas floating around the much talked about launching of daylight saving time in the country. Responsible government sources are claiming that there would be about 250 - 300 MW electricity saved leading to a curtailment in load shedding. But the enthusiasm may turn into despair. The following factors will stand in the way of fulfilling the desired goal.

- In most of the offices and business establishments, there is no provision for using daylight as those are designed and constructed in a way that only artificial i.e. electric lights can be used. And many of buildings are normally centrally air-conditioned and consume more electricity during daytime because of higher ambient temperature.

- Many establishments like garment factories and other production industries, petrol stations etc. that work round the clock, will contribute minimally to DST.

- In urban areas all social programmes normally take place during night time and this DST will not change this custom.

In rural areas, people normally follow the sun to know the time. So, DST will fail to dictate them to change their habits.

- Amount of electricity consumed by all the mosques throughout the country is not negligible and that will remain unaffected as prayer timings also follow the sun rising and setting times.

The targeted goal of electricity saving can, at least partly, be achieved just by following different office timings in summer and winter. It is difficult to understand why the government is not choosing this simple way.  
**Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque**  
Khalishpur, Khulna

### Israel sets terms for Palestinian state

It is absurd and objectionable that Israeli Prime Minister sets terms for the creation of a Palestinian state. Israel has occupied Palestine for so many years. The Palestinian sufferings know no bounds as they live the life of the refugees.

Unlike his predecessors, US President Barack Obama is sincerely trying to bring peace in these two countries. But it seems that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is not interested in the peace process, he ruled out a halt to all Jewish settlement activities which is demanded by the United States. He demanded that Palestine will have to be demilitarised and it can not control airspace etc.

But we have full faith in US President Barack Obama. We have got the feeling that he will be able to settle the dispute and he will not rest until the goal is achieved.  
**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

### Age limit

Recently we have been informed through newspaper and TV news that govt is thinking of increasing age limit in govt service. This is a suicidal decision for service holders as well as the new job seekers.

# Tipaimukh dam

At present Tipaimukh dam is a burning issue in our national politics.

Despite the support in our liberation war India played the role of a big brother against us. India constructed Farakka amid protests on our part. The then Indian government assured us that it would not be harmful for Bangladesh. But later its adverse effect was proved.

Now India is saying that Tipaimukh dam would not be harmful for Bangladesh. It is not difficult to understand even for a layman that a huge sized dam upstream can create an adverse situation for a country in the downstream. So, we should stop them.

At this moment unity between the ruling party and the opposition is essential. All of us should remember that this is a national issue.

Newspapers and television channels can play a vital role by increasing awareness about the adverse effect of the dam.

Government should take a firm stance to protect the legitimate interests of Bangladesh.

**Md. Khayrul Alam Ababeel**  
Executive IT  
Sylhet Office  
Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd.  
Chowhatta, Sylhet



A.M. AHAD / DRINKNEWS

This is also contradictory

policy as the govt wanted to ensure job for every family. Only some secretaries of the govt are trying to increase the age limit in their own interest. If govt increase the age limit up to 60 years, it will create more jobless in the society. New job seekers will be frustrated. Promotion will be blocked. As a result out put of the employees will be decreased from frustration.

Better, age limit of the service should be decrease to 55 years from 57. It will create huge employment in the market as the govt is the main job provider. It will also create promotion facilities, that increase

output. New job seekers are more qualified with new outlook, technology, IT based knowledge. To make Bangladesh digital, new blood to be injected.  
**S.M. Anisuzzaman**  
Purana Paltan, Dhaka

### Bring back our ICL stars

The recent inclusion of (former ICL player) Abdul Razzaq in the Pakistan T20 team had salutary effect and ultimately helped them win the 2009 T20 World Cup. Both Abdul Razzaq and Mohammed Yusuf (another former ICL player)

have been named in the Pakistan squad for the Sri Lanka tour.

Why can't we enrol the services of our former ICL players like Shahriar Nafees, Aftab Ahmad, Alok Kapali and Musharraf Hossain Jr. for the upcoming West Indies tour? Must the BCB act in the shadow of the BCCI and wait for a so-called cooling-off period?

We, the fans of Bangladesh cricket, do not want to undergo any more humiliation while our star players are lying idle.  
**ABM Nurul Islam**  
Vienna, Austria

# Iranian election

The theocratic regime in Iran must learn from the pages of history that there is a lot that a government can do but it cannot silence the voices of general people for long.

The Iranian people have every right to yearn for change as the horrendous policies taken by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have resulted in unemployment, inflation and the isolation for the country from the rest of the world.

The fact that Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has lost his neutrality and supported the current President has harmed his credibility. The Guardian Council has also given out mixed signals regarding the election. At first, they said that no vote rigging took place but later they said that it happened in some places.

By kicking out reporters of BBC, Newsweek and The Washington Times they cannot hide the truth. If the regime does not change its atti-

tude then it will collapse just like the Russian Empire and the Iranian Monarchy.

**Nabil Ahmad Siddiqui**  
An A-level candidate  
Dhaka Cantonment



# Pakistan scene



PHOTO AFP

It is a fact that evil can only thrive in an environment suitable for its growth. The current Pakistan predicament further validates this axiom. To some extent, Pakistan's misfortune might be attributed to the inauspicious geographical location of the country. However, there are graver socio-economic, cultural and political factors that are apparently responsible for this grim scenario.

Time and again, Pakistan directly and indirectly endorsed Islamic militancy that destabilised peace and harmony around the globe. Moreover, Pakistan harboured such infamous terrorists like Daud Ibrahim. The supportive outlook towards international terrorism sent affirmative messages to terrorist organisations and simultaneously ruined the image of the

nation. For instance, Pakistan didn't hesitate to release Hafeez Saeed, who is one of the prime suspects of the Mumbai carnage. Despite having adequate information about the masterminds of the Mumbai attack, Pakistan has been reluctant to take effective actions against them. Over and over again, Pakistani intelligence agencies covertly aided terrorist groups in different regions with logistics, weapons and technical know-how.

Pakistan didn't only support terrorist organisations politically, but many key figures of the country also gave indulgence to politically-motivated ideologies that Islamic terrorists uphold. It is interesting to see that their blindness has backfired on them.

**Kh. Asef Safa Kabir**  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

### Power crisis

As per the directive of the government we have moved the hands of our clocks one hour ahead. The rationale behind the initiative is that people will use less power as they will finish their activities within the confines of daytime. Well, one may or may not support this line of thinking.

So far we have not seen any conspicuous change in the power situation. According to most of the observers, load shedding has rather taken a turn for the worse following the introduction of the new system of timing. The school going children are facing a tough time as they have to start their daily routine an hour earlier.

We cannot but admit that we have to increase power generation. The authority may

encourage the consumers to try other modes of energy. Solar power could be a possible alternative.  
**Zabed Wali**  
Pahartali, Chittagong

### Village schools

The government mainly concentrates on developing the cities, while many of our villages are poverty-stricken.

Most of the govt schools are in the main part of the city. In the village schools we can not learn anything properly because of many problems. The school laboratories are lacking necessary equipments like microscopes, etc. Besides, there is corruption. So the government should look into this matter.

**Sakia Haque**  
Govt. Coronation Girls' School  
Khulna