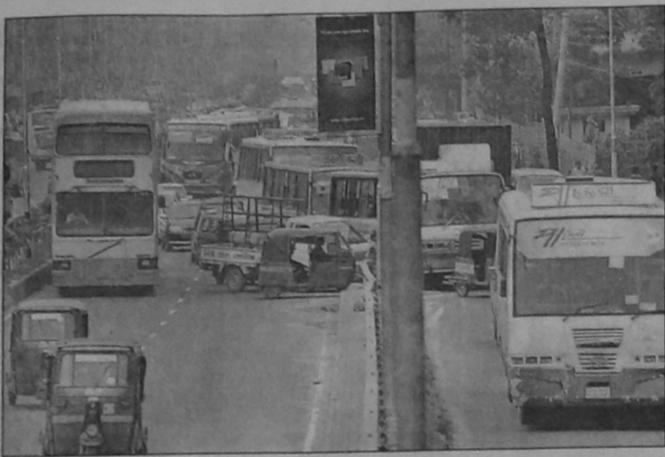


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



## Unbearable traffic jams

Nowadays traffic jam has increased beyond description. From morning to late night, the streets of Dhaka city remain very busy hampering the lives of all citizens living in Dhaka. Lack of new and well-connected roads, good transport services and the influx of people in Dhaka city are the main reasons of traffic jam. On the other hand,

nobody follows the traffic rules and consequently creates traffic jam.

Many students, officials, and the general workers, whose residences are far from their working place, most of the time fail to reach their destinations on time. Many people, especially women and young children, are falling ill staying in the road for a long time due to heavy

traffic jam. Day by day the situation is going from bad to worse.

In my opinion all old buses should be replaced by new ones which can carry more passengers and strict application of traffic rules must be ensured.

**Antar Chowdhury**  
Gopibagh  
Dhaka

### Cleanliness

BBC in its world news of 19th July, 2009 (BDST-0700Hrs) stated that Allan Brigham who dedicated his time for three decades to keep Cambridge city clean had been awarded an honorary degree by the university of Cambridge. Such honour was said to have been only meant for great people like Bill Gates & similar personalities in the past.

Perhaps Rotary International & Lions club operating in Bangladesh for many social-uplifts/ humanitarian services may consider to undertake drives to create awareness among us to clean up Dhaka city and change its current status from being one among a few dirty places on earth. This will be a most significant contribution and likely to cost nothing compared to many high-value projects executed for eradication of dreadful diseases as well as improvement of health/ hygiene throughout the developing countries.

**Z. Rahman**  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka

### One country?

Allah created the world and it is man who has divided it and has been making nation states--one after another. After dividing the world, men have been fighting among themselves. If only one country exists in the world, there will be no need for producing arms. Billions of dollars will be saved which can be used for the welfare of mankind.

Hence our motto should be "One World---One Country".  
**Acitizen**  
Sobhanbag, Dhaka

### Stop building Tipaimukh dam

These days the environment is a great global concern.

After the industrial revolution, the environment of the world is changing very rapidly. Industrialised countries emit polluted substances into the atmosphere, but it is the poor countries which are in danger of being polluted. Bangladesh is one of these countries. The environment of Bangladesh is threatened in many ways.

It is ominous news for us that India is going to construct another dam on the Barak river. If they do so Bangladesh will face a serious environmental disaster in future. The Surma and Kushiara rivers will dry up. Agricultural production will decrease greatly. And the poor people of our country will become poorer. In the greater Sylhet region salinity will increase in the soil and the desertification process will start immediately.

We have to show our concern and make the Indian government understand that "Tipaimukh dam" will be a big hazard for us.  
**Abrar & Muzahid**  
Nawab Abdul Latif Hall  
University of Rajshahi

### International relations

The majority international relations courses focus on cutting edge research, filled with recent articles in the most respected journals. Others will focus on policy questions of the day, replete with deep thoughts from Foreign Affairs and foreign strategy from the statesmen of the day. Such approaches are valuable, but they often assume a familiarity with the classics of international relations that does not exist. Ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more significant than is usually understood.

Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influence, are usually the slaves of some invalid economist. I am sure that the power of vested interests is vastly exaggerated compared to the steady encroachment of ideas. In order to genuinely appreciate current debates about international relations, one has to understand the history of thoughts in international relations.

**Mohammad Rajja**  
Student of Gono  
Bishwabidyalay  
Gsmc, Savar  
Dhaka

### Sohel Taj quits

The nation was in the dark about the resignation of the state minister for home for about two months. We have come to know from newspapers of July 20 that he actually resigned on May 31. From his talking with DS, it is clear that Mr Taj was suffering from frustration as things were not going on as per his plans. He was under pressure from different quarters and thus he had to take this bitter decision so early.

Some days ago our finance minister described that politics is an art of compromise. But this young politician perhaps does not know this art!

**Harun-or-Rashid**  
Sobhanbag  
Dhaka

### Global warming and Bangladesh

Global warming can be defined simply as a rise in the average land temperature around the earth. Currently, average temperature of the earth is roughly 57 degrees Fahrenheit. Since the late 1800's, the average temperature has increased about 0.5 to 1.5 Fahrenheit degree (UNEP-2004). Warming of the earth atmosphere is a serious problem and in twenty-first century it is already a problem of global concern.

There is a clear indication that the temperature of the earth has increased slightly during the past two decades. This increase in temperature of atmosphere is very dangerous for living organisms. Though there are numerous causes or factors related to global warming such as burning of an immense quantity of coal, oil, natural gases in factories, power stations, automobiles, agriculture etc, unplanned urbanization and overpopulation have increased the concentration of Co2 in the air and these are mainly responsible for the global warming process.

Global warming temperatures have many negative effects on Earth, which also affects.

Global warming is a matter of great concern for Bangladesh. Bangladesh is much cited in the global warming discussions as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. In the IPCC report, it was estimated that one-meter sea level rise could displace nearly 15 million people in Bangladesh.

So it is high time to take steps to curb global warming.  
**Md. Abdus Sabur (Hasan)**  
MS student  
Dept. of Geography and  
Environmental Studies  
University of Chittagong

### The General

Former army chief General Moeen U Ahmed, who was once an influential man in the post 1/11 political scene, is now again at the centre of parley since he has retired. As his term is over, disgruntled politicians both from the ruling party and opposition are challenging his activities during the two years of the army backed interim govt. During those two critical years, he appeared as a rescuer and reformer. Now it is time to evaluate his work.

People by nature are always against autocratic rule and they always cherish democracy. They know it very well that an un-elected government cannot run the country for an indefinite period of time.

Moeen made wholesale comments against politicians following 1/11 which was unwanted. However, his and his institution took some praiseworthy steps in respect of national interest.

Politicians should learn from 1/11. Democracy loving people in this country are always vigilant.  
**Astudent**  
Dept. of political science  
University of Dhaka

### Hajj guidebook

I performed Hajj in December 2008. Like many other organisations, Dhaka Ahsania Mission published a guidebook on Hajj and Umrah. This guidebook has been extremely useful for the intending Hajjis. However, the guidebook has sketch maps of Zannatul Al' Muala at Makkah and Zannatul Al' Baqi at Madinah which are not accu-

## RMG unrest

I am a 'social engineer' working for twelve years with various rights based NGOs. I mentioned here 'social engineer' because like an engineer we the NGO workers work for resolving social problems applying social engineering tools. As part of the social work, a social engineer can work for finding out a solution to different social problems for building a violence free healthy society.

As a social engineer, I have been observing workers' unrest and violence in the garment sector. I think that it is not impossible to resolve such frequent problems. While studying towards my MBA degree at BRAC University, I and some of my fellow-mates discussed about the garment unrest and I shared with them that the

problem of garment unrest takes place due to lack of proper HR management system that ignores the grievances of hundreds of workers working in this sector. My thinking got support after a few days when some experts at a roundtable discussion pointed out the same thing that the garment owners do not accept good suggestions seriously as a problem-solving tool to avert unrest in their business establishments.

Against the backdrop, the garment owners should set up a 'Grievance Sharing Centre' to resolve the workers unrest prevailing for years. It means that workers will have a centre/place where they can share their grievances with trust and reliability and can

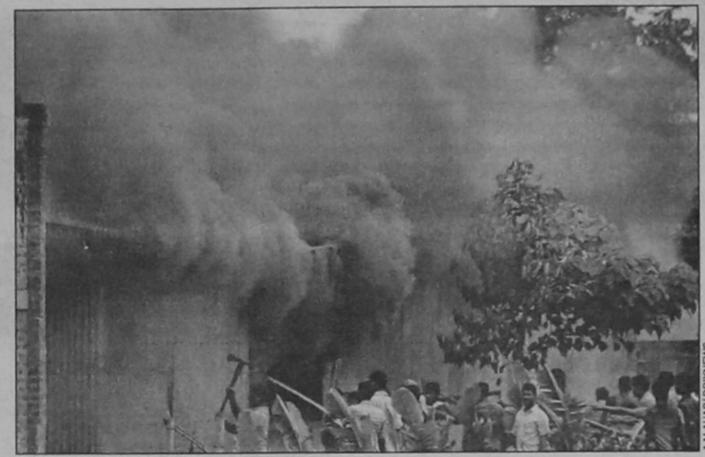
depend on it for a reasonable solution.

**Md. Sekender Ali**  
Research Officer  
Bangladesh OSHE  
Foundation

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The recent vicious and frightening violence resorted to by the garment workers and outsiders together when they set fire to a garment factory at Ashulia is just what anybody should expect from such elements whose sole purpose was to provoke people to break the law. However genuine grievances of the workers were, such anarchical behaviour cannot be condoned on any count.

Is it not ironic that just as our people fought and sacrificed for democracy, some rowdy elements in society are busy throwing it out of the window?  
**Syed Badrul Haque**  
Lalmatia  
Dhaka



rate. It was my privilege to visit these graveyards of utmost importance. In these two graveyards lie our prophets, religious scholars as well as the family members of the greatest Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh).

Ahsania Mission should immediately scrap the sketch maps of Zannatul Al' Muala and Zannatul Al' Baqi from the guidebook.  
**Shamim Ahmed**  
Gulshan 2  
Dhaka

### A/C bus service

Premium Bus Service --Uttara to Motijheel--taught us to stand in queue to get on the bus. This service got popularity in terms of quality service. Following their footsteps, two or three more companies started air conditioned bus service and finally all of them gradually stopped their services one by

one.

After introduction of A/C bus service most of the high officials stopped using their own cars to go to their workplaces. Now there is no A/C bus service on any route inside Dhaka city. Consequently, high officials are using their own cars which are creating traffic jam. During office hours we see the menace of private cars on the road. In the traffic jams the number of private cars is higher than buses and in most of the private cars there is one passenger, other than the driver and some cars run without passengers! Some people bring their cars to Motijheel, Gulshan, Uttara, Dhanmondi and other areas just to attend office and keep the car on the road for the whole day.

In my opinion, the government should encourage the private sector to introduce

A/C bus service on different routes of Dhaka city.  
**Nirmal Singha Chowdhury**  
Dhaka

### Pollution

Of course everyone knows little or much about pollution. But the question is how much conscious we are about this problem? Maybe, people think that only mills and factories cause pollution but in fact we also contribute greatly to pollution. Of course the government has to take a tough and rapid decision to terminate this forever, especially water pollution.

Otherwise, the situation will worsen to the point where our survival will be at stake. The issue should not be ignored anymore.

**Mahbubur Rahman**  
Student of a government  
university  
Old town, Dhaka

## Tree plantation

This year the rainy season has not arrived with its typical pomp and pleasure, and when it should be showering, and village ponds, tanks, and rivers are full to the brim, we see the hide and seek of clouds and the sun in the sky. The amount of rainfall is not adequate enough for the farmers to get to business. However, we expect there

will be heavy downpour very soon and we should start tree plantation on a very large scale. In fact, there are a lot of fallow lands in different parts of the country. There should be more campaign, canvassing, and seminars on the importance of tree plantation. Moreover, we can encourage students and young people explain-

ing its environmental, medicinal, and financial benefits. By planting different types of trees, we can minimize the detrimental effects of green house and climate change and thereby make our country more habitable and beautiful.

**G.S. Hossain**  
Rahmatganj  
Chittagong



### Higher education

Education is the backbone of a nation. A country cannot make progress without educated and knowledgeable citizens. Knowledge is the most important capital of any society and hence the success of any society lies in harnessing it. At present there are 27 public universities, 54 private universities, 14 public medical colleges and 1 public medical university in Bangladesh. But the quality of higher education of these institutions is below standard compared to our neighbouring countries like India. Even it is observed that some private universities of our country are actually selling certificates to the students because their main motive is to earn money, rather than imparting proper education. However, a couple of leading private universities of our country are imparting world class education.

On the other hand, public universities though imparting standard education, but it is not up to the standard we need to compete at the global level. But it is a matter of great regret that these public universities had a great reputation for excellence in education. Dhaka University, for example, was regarded as 'the Oxford of the East' for world class education. The main causes behind degradation of education standards in public universities are corrupt student politics, unwillingness of the teachers to do research work, meagre amount of budgetary allocation for research work, part-time lecturing by public university faculties, especially DU faculties in private universities, no partnership between universities and industries etc.

At present the student leaders (actually uncles) are pursuing student politics not for the benefit of the general students but for their own personal gains. They do not care for the interest of the general students and hence they call strike on any lame excuse which results in huge session jams. For this reason, students take 5-6 years to complete the normal Four Year Graduation Program. With due respect to our honourable teachers, I want to say that a section of public university faculties are now busy with politics by splitting into red, white, blue and green panels, rather than focusing on academic activities. Moreover, a group of teachers are more interested in taking part-time classes in private universities with a view to earning a lump sum amount of money.

Finally, according to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam "The twenty-first century university has to be the incubator of world knowledge powerhouse." So it is my earnest request to my honourable faculty members to give more emphasis on research and other academic work. We, the general students, hope that our teachers will take the initiative to bring out the best from us and enable us to meet

the challenges of the twenty first century.  
**Suman Saha**  
MBA (Strategic and  
International Management)  
University of Dhaka

### Help the family

Road accident has become part of our life. I already have written a novel regarding road accident. Still I have more things to add to this context. My pen would go on until the term "road traffic accident" is removed from the dictionary of Bangladesh. Today I want to highlight one person named Tanzila Akhter and also provide more information.

Tanzila Akhter is the wife of Baset Talukder, a dedicated traffic sergeant who lost his life while performing his duty. His brother was also a traffic sergeant and a victim of road accident. Undoubtedly, both of them are heroes. It would not be an exaggeration to call Baset's family "One of the noblest families of Bangladesh". But do we know what is the situation of Baset's family now? I learned the miserable situation of Tanzila by reading Prothom Alo on 15th July. How would she survive with two children? Baset Talukder was an honest officer and led a very simple life. Probably, that's why Tanzila has no good bank balance. She urgently needs a job. It is the responsibility of the nation to think about Tanzila Akhter and her two children.

In this context, I have a few more things to add. In Netherlands, there is a reputed organisation called IRSA which means International Road Safety Academy. It has taken many steps to fight road accidents. It has been quite successful in its mission of reducing the number of road accidents. It also has branches in eleven countries. Like IRSA, we too should establish an institution in our country, where we can equip ourselves with better training to fight against road accident. Of course, that institution should be named after Baset Talukder.

**Pradip Das**  
A novelist  
Dhaka

### Our journalists

Nowadays we have a lot of national dailies as well as private TV and fm radio stations where a good number of journalists are working and performing their professional duties. It's true that journalism is a kind of profession where honesty, integrity, patience, courage are the top most priority and journalists need to exercise their professional duty without fear or favour. It's encouraging to note that most of the journalists of our country are honest with their profession and it's because of their sheer hard work and dedication that our leaders feel at least some degree of accountability while dealing with them.

Nevertheless some of the journalists also compromise with their ethics and morality

while working for some media which are regarded as the mouthpieces of a particular party or a group. But overall the standard of journalism has developed by the time and these days almost all the newspapers try to present the authentic and accurate information.

Our journalists are extremely dedicated and they never bow down to any pressure. The role they played to reinstate democracy after the 1/11 changeover of power is still vivid to our memory. As far as patience is concerned, our journalists are indeed very patient in their approach. Perhaps that's the reason why they never protest violently like Iraqi Journalist Al-Zaidi, when an identified enemy of the liberation war claims himself to be a freedom fighter.

They never protest when corrupt politicians raise their voice against the actions of the previous caretaker government. Instead, all they do is to present the daily news items to the mass people in an authentic way. And at the end of the day, the general people are the ultimate decision makers and journalists are playing a pivotal role and helping the people in this regard to take the correct decisions against the offenders. So, credit must be given to our journalist community who are working relentlessly, despite all the odds and outside pressure.  
**Nazmus Saquib**  
Dept. of English  
Stamford University  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

### Medical service at school

Schools in Bangladesh lack adequate medical infrastructure/facilities, which can lead to loss of life. The increasing competition in class has led to high stress levels, and consequently students are falling prey to physical ailments such as vertigo and asthma. The concern is whether schools are prepared to handle such cases and provide first aid till the time the child is taken to a hospital.

Every teacher should be equipped with first aid techniques so that he/she can handle basic emergencies in the classroom. We need to look at health holistically, not ignoring the fact that one can also be a victim of psychological emergency. Every school should have standard operating procedures based on the school's requirements and teachers should be trained well in First Aid Response. Besides, it is the presence of mind that helps most and if one equips oneself with the basic first aid techniques, one can probably save a life. First aid protects life, assists in recovery, and prevents further deterioration.

One of the principles present reiterated that alert minds save lives. If an ambulance cannot be managed in time, one should make use of any vehicle available to take the child to hospital and not necessarily wait for an ambulance.  
**Avik Sengupta**  
Biochemistry, McGill  
University, Canada