

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.

JS team and Tipaimukh

The visit to Tipaimukh dam site in India by a parliamentary team is a much talked about issue now. During the six-day visit the team will make a preliminary assessment of the impacts of the proposed dam may have on Bangladesh. The delegation includes six lawmakers, three government officials and one water expert from BUEF. The BNP did not send the names of its lawmakers for the team. According to the water resources minister, if the parliamentary delegation sees any possibility that the dam may have negative impacts on Bangladesh, the government will call a meeting of JRC to solve the issue.

The comments of the water resources minister obviously indicate the viewpoint of the government on this very vital national issue. We all know that there is no question of IF, it is a matter of how much adverse impact Bangladesh will experience on its economy and the environment. There is only one expert in the team. To have some meaningful result from this JS team visit, there should be at least 3-4 water resources experts of known credibility. Prominent citizens who are widely known as

the country for months. Government forces are chasing Maoists. Maoists are also hitting back at the government forces. The bloody war against Maoists has spread to some parts of India as their media informs in news bulletins.

This is an important issue which has come up recently in neighbouring India and is also a threat for a country like Bangladesh.

Mahmud Ali Kabir
Ex-BSS correspondent
Gopalganj

Khulna division
Direct elections involving all citizens over the age of 18 are held every five years here for the unicameral parliament known as Jatiya Sangsad. Bangladesh is divided into six administrative divisions. Khulna is one of the six divisions. It is located in south-west of Bangladesh with total districts of 10 in this division.

Khulna division is lagging behind the rest of the country since its inception as a division. But it has a huge potential for tourism, frozen foods (prawn), newsprint, hardboard mills, jute industry and so on. The world's largest mangrove forests Sundarbans, Shatgombuj Mosque, Khan Jahan Ali's Mazar etc. are located in this division. Mongla Port, the country's second largest port, is just 38 km away from its administrative headquarters.

But this division is facing a set of problems such as fragile road condition, c power and gas shortage, delaying in the construction of Khulna Khan Jahan Ali Air Port, highly politicised Mongla Port and limited budget allocations etc. These are hampering the development of the southern region. Besides, this division is a disaster prone area. Cyclones SIDR and AILA are perfect examples of it that resulted in huge damage of property and human life.

Khulna was once famous for jute and newsprint mills which had generated huge employment opportunities for the people of the southern region. But the recent trend shows that jute mills are being closed down.

Though the demand of jute and jute made goods in world market is now gradually increasing because of its being bio-degradable, the government is not taking proper initiative for the revival of the sector. Apart from this, there is much potential for the tourism sector in this division. If the BPC takes proper initiatives such as proper marketing campaign for the tourist spots and planned development projects, then it will flourish in the near future. Shrimp cultivation is one of the promising sectors in Bangladesh and more than 90% shrimp products come from this division.

Finally, I want to say there is no scarcity of resources in Khulna division. But there is lack of initiative, proper policy support and negligence by the government in regard to the development of this division. So, the government

Primary school dropouts

The dropout rate in primary school has increased. Recently a report about the dropout rate in primary school has been published by Education Watch - a voluntary organisation. Education Watch said the average dropout rate in each class of primary level has increased to 11.5 percent in 2008 which was 5.6 percent in 1998.

It is said average rate of repetition in each class increased to 10.9 percent in 2008 from 8 percent in 1998. The rise in dropout and repetition rates indicates lower promotion rate in different classes of primary educational institutions in the last ten years from 1998 to 2008.

From the report we know the survival rate of primary level students decreased to 58.4 percent in 2008 from that of 80.6 in 1998 while the completion rate also decreased to 50.1 percent from 75.7 percent during this period. The net enrolment rate remained constant at 86.4 percent from 2005, here girls outnumbered boys in net enrolment, which was first documented in 1998 and continued till 2008.

The children of rural areas lagged behind their urban counterparts in net enrolment throughout the decade.

Our primary education is in a mess. The authorities should identify the areas where improvement is necessary and take necessary steps to decrease this dropout rate.

Mahfuzur Rahman Manik
Student, IER, Dhaka University



ADNAN / DRINKNEWS



BAVAZO AKTER / DRINKNEWS

Trains

Very recently I travelled by a Bangladesh Railway Intercity train from Dhaka to Chittagong and back. I was much pleased to find a neat and clean atmosphere in the cabin and praiseworthy services offered during the journey. But I was rather shocked to experience serious difficulties in entering the new railway station in Chittagong as the entrance from the main road was jam-packed with vehicles. There was no railway or traffic police to handle the situation. We had to leave our vehicle out of the station and carry our luggage from a long distance to the compartment on the platform. We almost missed the train. So, it is essential that the railway authorities take appropriate measures to keep the entrance free from traffic jam.

Another thing greatly offended us, that is, an announcement inside the cabin. As the train left the Airport Station, an announcement was heard on the microphone "Within a short time we will pass through the Cantonment Station and the passengers are requested to close the window shutters for the sake of security." The question is, does not it undermine our national prestige? If we cannot provide security in the heart of our capital, what we can conclude about our law and order situation?

I would strongly suggest that the BR delete the above message from their audio tape and take appropriate measures to strengthen security in the said area.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
SAU, Dhaka

It would not be possible without people's cooperation. Verily, our government's efforts to build a digital country are continuing without a break. Law abiding citizens would undoubtedly comply with all decisions taken by the government.

Let's co-operate with our government to build a digital country.

M. Faisal Saleh
Chunati Hakimia Kamil (MA)
Madrasa
Lohagara, Chittagong

Elusive goal?

From the beginning of the AL government, they have been shouting "Digital Bangladesh". The world is becoming a Digital Planet. Bangladesh cannot remain out of it. We must build a Digital Bangladesh and establish a knowledge-based society within 50 years of our independence in 2021. Let's work for achieving this target. Let's build a Digital Bangladesh.

Have a look at the DU halls. As far as I know the monthly charge was Tk 300 for a student. Now it has gone up to Tk 400 because of the extortion by some political elements. The Internet connection was cut off for a while in the halls because of this outrageous issue. How can we go digital?

Rashat Rahman
One e-mail

New fleet for Biman

We all know that Bangladesh Biman is facing acute shortage of new planes & is looking for a partner to regain its image and keep the flight schedule. But despite lot of adds they couldn't find any suitable partner for forming an alliance. Biman is using outdated planes.

With the introduction of Anglo-French "AIRBUS" there was lot of demand for the last two decades for this aircraft in most of the developed countries due to low cost of maintenance. The "AIRBUS" then became the first choice for most of the airlines in the world & developed & developing countries have ordered in lots for their own airlines. This Anglo-French company has proved its worth in international commercial aviation market & has been able to make very good profit & fame in the commercial aviation market. Boeing though a very old & renowned commercial aircraft manufacturer of the USA was lagging a bit behind when this Anglo-French company came as their competitor.

However Boeing company of the USA has again regained their market due to its safety, stability & less fuel consumption. Biman has opted for Boeing in rebuilding its fleet.

Let's co-operate with our government to build a digital country.

M. Faisal Saleh
Chunati Hakimia Kamil (MA)
Madrasa
Lohagara, Chittagong

A digital country

A few days ago, our government took a decision to advance clocks by one hour all over Bangladesh with an eye to saving electricity. As per that decision the government ordered all countrymen to reset their respective clocks.

All bona fide countrymen reset their clocks as per the government order. But some people paid no attention to the government decision and didn't reset their clocks.

Even in some educational institutes, mosques, non-government offices and so on clocks were not reset.

In these circumstances, how can the government build a digital country?

To the best of our knowledge, our government is committed to converting Bangladesh into a digital country. The dream of a digital country is achievable. But,

If everything goes smoothly & the present government gives nod to this deal, we are going to receive at least 2/3 Boeing-777-3R by the end of 2012 & another 2/3 by 2015. When these aircrafts are added to Biman they will expand their services to New York & other destinations which presently they are unable to reach due to shortage of aircrafts.

Let us all hope that with the addition of the new fleet Biman will fly with new vigour, hospitality & dedicated service in line with the premier commercial airlines like Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Thai International, Jet Airways who have already have the latest version of "BOEING" & "AIRBUS" in their fleets.

Syed Shahid Hossain
HR Bhaban, Kakrail
Dhaka

Maoists

Well, first Nepal and now in India. War against Maoists has become the burning issue. In India the news remains talk of

Volleying back....

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

Girl assaulted for refusing to go out with BCL activist (July 24, 2009)

Each university should have a disciplinary committee which should have the power to oust those who violate discipline on the campus. Then the number of such incidents will go down.

Dr. Sadeq Khan

Assault on a female student at Rajshahi University by Chhatra League activists has added a black chapter in the history of our student politics. BCL activists engaged themselves in the same kind of heinous activities at CU. Exemplary punishment should be meted out to the offenders.

Shajid

The culprit should be given exemplary punishment, then other corrupt student leaders will understand the enormity of his offence.

Abdullah

Why doesn't the prime minister have any control over the BCL? Why on earth the incident goes unnoticed?

Linda

Time and again, we have been witnessing what a section of the BCL is doing. We fail to understand what prevents the AL leadership from banning the present type of student politics.

Shawkat Ali

The BCL cadres should get exemplary punishment and should be expelled from the varsity.

Hossain

This is the reason why the Awami League will not come to power next time, they always go over their boundaries of civil life, and never learn anything.

Anonymous

The Awami League should control its student wing for the betterment of the party and to gain public support.

Nasar

Actions like these should result in automatic suspension from the university and the political party.

Talat Islam

What's Rab doing? Can't they deal with the Chhatra League gangsters?

Chitra

Not just university students, all ordinary citizens are unsafe under the AL government. All citizens need SSF protection to stay safe from Chhatra, Jubo and Awami League!

Maleeha

The main culprit should be given the right and maximum punishment. The police administration, university authorities and the

government should not consider his political identity at all to let him go free.

The government's image will enhance if it addresses the issue in right earnest.

Abdul Moyeen

First of all, those policemen should be terminated for failing to perform their job. RU authorities should be held accountable for their inability to take any action.

What a shame to the AL government!

Sawgat Chowdhury

We all know that nothing is going to happen. If you are with the ruling party or have political links, nothing happens. A slap on the wrist --that would be the end result. Legal action, exemplary punishment - all these are just shows until things cool down. We all know the end result, but still we expect something! What an irony!!

AM Khan

Is it anything new? The senior citizens still remember the days between 1973 and 1975 when the same things occurred.

We will not change. I bet no disciplinary action would be taken against him. Just watch and see.

Rashid Ahmed

1 more kid dies of paracetamol intake (July 24, 2009)

Are we human beings? Has humanity left us in every aspect? We are betraying our country every day for politics, business, and for quick bucks; now we have started killing babies with poisonous medicine!

How low can we stoop?

M Karim

It is astonishing that nobody has been arrested, but 25 lives have been lost! For a drug company's product development, first develop the formula then it gets approval from the Drug Administration. It is easy to find out the guilty.

Asad Bulbul

Isn't it a repetitive incident? I have been observing similar incidents since my childhood.

We are morons that can't produce a simple product like Tylenol/ Advil (a generic form).

What are our pharmaceuticals doing then? Stupidity should have a limit!

SNH

Why is that syrup not being withdrawn from the market yet? Why a nationwide call is not

made to alert people in the rural areas?

Farid Ahmed

It has happened again because a similar crime committed in 1992 went unpunished. If we cannot hang the killers of children, how can we claim ourselves to be a civilized nation?

Mohammad Uddin

The minister in charge of healthcare should resign or be sacked because they don't even know when they should pack up and leave office.

Anonymous

Will this incident bring any change to our policy or repeat itself in another form?

Tanjeel

It is surprising that even after so many children have died, the govt. is not taking any action! The owner and the senior people of RID Pharma should be immediately arrested. Only stopping production of the plant will not help.

Also, the health minister should start doing something on re-organising the Drug Administration.

This is not the time for him to suggest things. It is time for action!

Wahidur Rahman