

A hazardous job

The ship breaking industry of the largest breaking zone of this country has turned out to be a death trap for the helpless workers who work there for a mere pittance. On an average a labourer dies almost every day as the job entails risk--an accidental fire here, an explosion there and so on. Even if they survive they suffer from deadly diseases as a result of their contact with the toxic elements. Sometimes they sustain ugly injuries that force them to retire and join the ranks of the disabled.

In other words, the country has become a kind of dumping ground of

ships carrying harmful chemicals. Another point: no other country is as dependent on scrap for steel as this land. It is time we found other options which may provide a source of raw material of steel. As there has been a construction boom in recent years, the demand of steel is on the rise.

We have already done a great damage to the pristine nature, as the landscape of this part of the world seems to be an image that belongs to surreal nightmare. The tragedy of the ship breakers is just another episode of this bleak saga.

Zabed Wali, Pahartali, Chittagong



SHUBHASH BARUA / DRINKNEWS

Nature's fury

The editorial of The Daily Star of dated 2 October 2009 depicting the nature's fury in large part of Asia is very timely and a call for our government and the people to undertake emergency preparedness plan for a high intensity earthquake here in Bangladesh that is not a remote possibility. The editorial will also promote our image as sympathizers to the suffering survivors of the disasters and bring us all closer to one another in regional and global perspective.

But what the people can really do to guard against these natural disasters and to protect their lives and properties! Emergency preparedness plan with a faultless early warning system and equipped with sophisticated safety gears will go a long way to limit the sufferings of the victims.

But at same time we should also take a pause and think why instances of nature's fury have been so frequent and destructive. If we take the whole thing in its true sense of the term i.e. the Almighty Creator, then that may motivate us to take additional corrective actions to address the fury of the Nature. The Creator has stated in His book the Holy Quran, " When We decide to destroy a population We (first) send a definite order to those among them who are given the good things of this life and yet transgress; so that the word is proved true against them: then (it is) We destroy them utterly. How many generations have We destroyed after Noah? And enough is thy Lord to note and see the sins of His servants." Let us ponder the meaning of these verses and take some parallel actions to correct ourselves and society. Minor schoolgirls are being gang raped, scenes recorded in videos, uploaded in internet, the victims and not the perpetrators are to hide and we are the viewers and onlookers.

The Creator has unlimited patience!

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque

Khalishpur R/A, Khulna

Compared to them the North Korean president is a saint! As Cloughley writes in his article; and I quote, "The whole thing was a farago of baloney; it was tripe, hogwash, codswallop and claptrap from beginning to end!" Can there be harsher words to describe the gang of world murderers that still kill and live?

Small wonder, the Taliban hates the West. Can you blame them?

Compared to these US and UK top scoundrels, they are small fish and their acts are mosquito bites in comparison to what this gang of killers have done in Iraq and Afghanistan! Do they deserve any mercy?

Today the same gang of criminals from the West, and their lackeys are again after Iran's wealth to loot and destroy, on the false pretext that they can make atomic weapons. They are parroting that Iran's nuclear programme is as dangerous as was Iraq's, compounding one lie with another!

Can any sane and rational person believe such nonsense?

Obama should be wary of his advisers, who are from the same clan out to destroy and rob Iran's energy resources and highjack it! Obama should take their advices and suggestions with a "teaspoon of salt" because the proverbial "pinch of salt" will not do! Getting all lies and misinformation all the time may make him feel that probably it is somewhat true and we must do something. These criminals are guiding him in this direction!

Meanwhile, the evildoers have been all along turning a blind eye and ignoring Israel, whose nuclear arsenal is of no consequence to the West! Israel is the only country that "cares a fig" for anything that is said or any resolution, even mild, taken at the UN Security Council regarding its illegal horde of nuclear weapons! It is the "nuclear pariah dog" among all nations, a nuclear pirate, preserved, pampered and protected by the USA, more or less like its "bulldog" to go after Arab Muslim countries.

Where is law and justice, and the quest for peace talked about millions of times in the world forum, while Israel is allowed to do whatever it likes. S.A. Mansoor

Dhaka

Loss of time and energy

It is a tradition that the ministers, chiefs of three forces, high ranking officials and foreign ambassadors will be at the airport at the time of arrival and departure of our head of the government. But so many people's presence at the airport creates many problems and it is a wastage of time.

Our head of state is not a queen. To show respect we should send one or two minister(s) and a few officials to the airport to receive or see her off. Once a head of state went to India to attend a meeting and returned the same day. Our whole ministry and other people concerned went to the airport twice on that day!

Our politics and the government should be for the welfare of the people. Harun-or-Rashid Sobhanbag, Dhaka

My best teacher

On 5th October, World Teachers' Day was observed. Along with many other countries Bangladesh too observed this day.

Many people have expressed their tributes for their best teacher. I want to pay my heartiest tribute to Abdullah Abu Sayeed, the founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendro. I am not his student who attended his class. But I am the one who followed his interview. In an interview, he advised the young generation not to listen to anyone's advice and to be more confident in taking decisions solely. This advice had a tremendous influence upon me. In fact, decision-making is an essential quality which we all must have. Through his Bishwa Sahitya Kendro, thousands of young people have begun to read more and more.

Like many others, I strongly believe that teaching is always to be regarded as a noble profession. Unfortunately, today the teachers do not enjoy the remuneration and the right they deserve. Pradip Das

A novelist, Dhaka

Gulshan Banani roads

Almost all the secondary roads in Gulshan-Banani area are in dilapidated condition. They are full of potholes, lumps and bumps etc. We have to drive through these roads every day and the broken roads cause damage to our cars and also to the passengers. Bad conditions narrow the road width and add to already existing intolerable traffic jam. Rickshaws, CNG scooters get broken down easily. Rainfall and resultant cesspools smudge the clothes of walkers.

We urge the Dhaka City Corporation to repair the roads urgently.

Dr. SN Mamoon

One-mail

Wildlife, here and there

As I entered the shopping complex, a placard drew me near a table. At the back of the table a gentleman was standing.

Donate for the injured wild animal was the words in the placard. I dropped a two dollar gold coin in the tin. I proceeded but was thinking about wildlife in Bangladesh. The animals are dying in the zoo. If they come to the locality, they are not safe. They are injured or killed by the people. All animals are part of the ecological system. In the twenty-first century the ignorance of environment at this level should be condemned. I took pain in heart when the people injured the black tiger, the brood turtle and the zookeepers put to death the lions and others through starvation.

Here the people raise money to save the injured animals. They look after the sick, treat them, and rescue the trapped.

That's humanity. Humaira Haque

Australia

Review hospital charges

The government enhanced service charges of public hospitals recently. It is true that maintenance costs of public hospital have increased with the increase of the prices of inputs and remunerations of health personnel.

The purchasing power of services of public in general has also increased in recent years. Even then, more than 40% people in Bangladesh are very poor. Considering the ground reality, increase of service charge is inevitable. But the increase should have been rational, considering the poverty and helplessness of common people.

The government should review the whole thing.

Md. Ashraf Hossain

Ramna, Dhaka

Dying zoo animals

I am very shocked to see/hear the death of so many animals in Dhaka Zoo. This place is a great amusement spot for me and my brother but now I

hear that all the animals have fallen sick, they are not getting medicines and good care and they are dying. I feel too sad. I am also very angry and displeased with the zoo officials. It is the callous attitude of these officials which is costing the lives of innocent animals.

Syeda Tasnia Tarannum

Sunnydale School

Dhaka

Aussies win

The 2009 ICC Champions Trophy was a One Day International cricket tournament held in South Africa between 22 September and 5 October, at Wanderers Stadium and Centurion Park. It was the sixth ICC Champions Trophy, and was formerly recognized as the ICC Knock-out. Two teams from two groups of four qualified for the semi-finals, and the final was staged in Centurion on 5 October.

The 2009 ICC Champions Trophy was contested by eight teams that have been seeded and divided into two groups. Every side played every other team in its group once. Points were allocated for each match according to the ICC rules and regulations. Following the group stage, the top two teams from each group progressed to the semi-finals.

Australia won the tournament, defeating New Zealand by six wickets in the final. Congrats!!

Shohag Mostafij

MBA

University of Dhaka

No change of scene!

The famous Italian film director Federico Fellini used to call a change of scene or a turnaround, "Volta". In other words, a new scene was called "Volta" by him. After the two years of the military backed caretaker government rule and after the Dec 29 parliamentary elections, we also expected that we would be entering a new scene. We expected that this time around things would be different and that this time we would see a real "change" in the mindset of our politicians, especially after the two years of lesson they had been through (for all the flaws of the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led government).

However, our expectations have not been met. The same old culture of the politics of the bureaucracy, public universities, police and what have you has been going on unabated, despite promise of a different picture in the electoral manifesto. The front organisations' indiscriminate grabbing of halls, tender snatching, extortion, feuds, etc have also not changed. Law and order has also been deteriorating. To make matters worse, parliament has remained dysfunctional as the role of the opposition has remained as before i.e. a repetition of the traditional boycotts that we have seen in the past. We expected that this time the opposition would actively participate in parliament and thereby hold the government accountable.

For all the oppression they are facing from the government, this opposition should not deter them from participating in parliament and rather they must voice their grievances in parliament and raise debates on important national issues.

We are thus caught in this vicious circle of the old political culture. The beginning of a "new scene" or "Volta," that we had expected is still a hope not a reality.

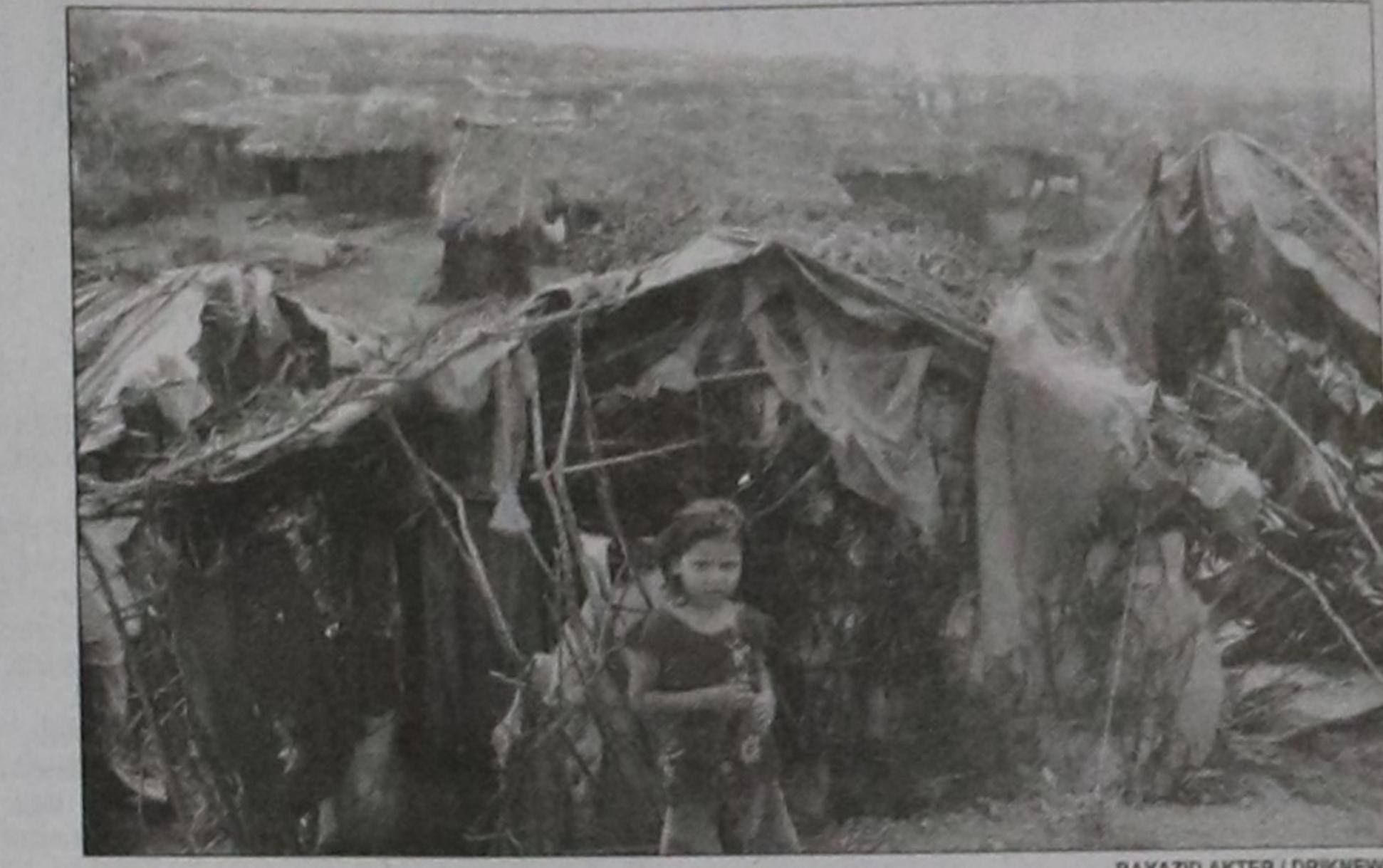
Wasif Wahed

One-mail

Traffic imbroglio

When Dhaka is writhing under vicious traffic turmoil, the words of the prime minister in parliament gave us a sort of relief. On Oct 7 she said before the assembly in a question-answer hour that elevated expressway, underground railway and monorail for Dhaka city and a four-lane highway for Dhaka-Chittagong route were very

Refugees are humans too



BAYAZID AKTER / DRINKNEWS

After reading the newspapers I am saddened to know that 100 unregistered Rohingya refugees' houses have been demolished by the authorities. Is this not against humanity because they are staying now under the open sky in rainy season which is a pathetic scene because they are human beings too. As far as I know about 12,000 unregistered Rohingya refugees illegally intruded into Bangladesh a few years ago.

Actually they are political refugees because they were deprived of their fundamental rights in Myanmar and had severe restrictions imposed upon them. They have been compelled to leave their native Arakan in search of livelihood and justice or a political solution.

They do not have any means of daily earning. They are passing their days in polythene sheds without ade-

quate food and other essentials. As far as I know, they are expecting a permanent solution to their issues and then they will be back to their homeland under UN guarantee.

I feel that we, the Bangladesh people and the government, should sympathise with them and request UNHCR to register them as refugees. In Thailand there are more than two million registered and unregistered Myanmar refugees. But the Thai government is not pushing them back because the Thai government knows that they are victims.

So, finally I would like to appeal to the authorities concerned to deal sympathetically with the refugees in Bangladesh. After all, during our Liberation War we too were refugees!

Nurul Islam

One-mail

allowed to enter the heaven. Habibur Rashid Ismail Chittagong

Mobile menace!

Parents are caught between a rock and a hard place with mobile phones. They are a great source of comfort and security, because they allow parents to find out where their children are and keep in touch with them. At the same time they make young people targets of crime. Obviously, mobiles need to be used with great caution in public. Parents need to be aware of the dangers, and should make them clear to their children.

It is appropriate for parents to buy teenagers mobile phones but they do have a responsibility to give some advice about their use because owning a mobile phone can put their son or daughter at the risk of becoming a victim of street crime and theft. Mobile phone should be handled with the same care that we handle cash in the street. And sometimes there is a huge pressure on children to own mobile phone and this pressure is transferred to their parents.

We should use our mobile phone safely. Nabila Ahmed Khan Shantinagar, Dhaka

Relatives

All of us have some relatives who are unfortunately poor. These poor relatives usually feel uneasy to meet their rich relatives. Some rich relatives also do not want to recognise their poor relatives. But this should not be the case. Relatives are relatives. This relation cannot be judged by money or status. We must remember that our poor relatives suffer mentally for being poor. We should not add more pain to their sufferings by being rude to them. Our greatest and dearest Prophet (SM) warned us that those who cut off relations with their relatives will not be

Football

At first I would like to congratulate Bangladesh Football Federation's president Kazi Salahuddin for becoming the president of South Asian Football Federation (SAFF). Once upon a time, Bangladeshi people would like football very much, but people almost forgot it when cricket became very popular. When Salahuddin took up its presidency, football got a new lease of life.

Mohammed Jamal Uddin Dept. of English International Islamic University Ctg.

Although Bangladesh is primarily considered an agrarian economy, industry now makes a significant contribution to GDP of the country. There are industrial zones pivoting around principal urban centres of Bangladesh. Besides, various small and medium scale industries are scattered all over the country. A recent survey conducted by the DoE (Department of Environment) notes that more than 1200 industries discharge about 35,000 cubic meter wastes that leads to environmental degradation. In my view to save the environment from industrial pollution, the government should adopt the following pollution control strategies:

1) Making policies concerning the control of industrial pollution.

2) Emission from industries must be controlled using better, more effective & efficient technology.

3) Brick-fields should use clean fuels and be located away from human settlements.

4) Industries should not be established near agriculture land.

5) Industries should be decentralized from industrial areas of Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong.

6) Modern effluent treatment plants should be established in all industrial units.

Md. Nazmus Sakib

Dept. of Geography & Environmental Studies University of Chittagong

Industrial pollution



A. MAHMUD / DRINKNEWS