



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.

## Global warming and development

With China bankrolling the U.S. budget deficits, it can provide \$100 billion to other countries.

I am writing with reference to Op-Ed: "Need for a clearer post-Copenhagen roadmap," by Muhammad Zamir (Dec. 20).

The Copenhagen climate change conference could not produce a binding legal framework to comply

and as such global warming will have devastating affects on their economies. Most of India enjoys warm weather for ten months and any global warming will lead to more evaporation in arid areas, resulting in widespread drought. Other areas will witness more rainfall, leading to devastating floods. The same applies to China. A

tion of these two cities will have serious implications for their economies. This year, both India and China have witnessed devastating floods in some areas and droughts in others. If the global warming continues unabated, China will face catastrophic floods and droughts and its economic growth will inevitably suffer. With a billion people to feed, China cannot depend entirely on the manufacturing sector to ensure economic prosperity. It may be pointed out the heavily industrialised Soviet Union faced economic collapse when it became totally dependent on the West for food supplies because of agricultural shortages due to inefficient collective farming.

Professor Stephen Schneider, an eminent climate scientist at Stanford University, told the whole truth when he wrote in his recent study *Science As A Contact Sport*: 'Developing nations unless we set up strong cooperative ventures with them to leapfrog over the old technologies will elevate the planet's concentration levels to much more dangerous heights. But with cooperation we can bring that down substantially too given political will and joint solutions.' With its trillion dollar surplus, China should be in a position to help other developing nations.

Mahmood Elahi  
Ottawa, Canada

deltaic nation like Bangladesh will face catastrophic consequences if sea level rises due to global warming. For island nations like Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia, it will be even more catastrophic.

Moreover, coastal cities like Mumbai and Shanghai will be threatened by rising sea level. These two cities are economic hubs of India and China and any disloca-

tion of these two cities will have serious implications for their economies. This year, both India and China have witnessed devastating floods in some areas and droughts in others. If the global warming continues unabated, China will face catastrophic floods and droughts and its economic growth will inevitably suffer. With a billion people to feed, China cannot depend entirely on the manufacturing sector to ensure economic prosperity. It may be pointed out the heavily industrialised Soviet Union faced economic collapse when it became totally dependent on the West for food supplies because of agricultural shortages due to inefficient collective farming.

Joy Bangla was the slogan Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman began to utter at the conclusion of his speeches he made during the election campaign of 1970 across the country, from Teknaf to Tetulia and the people all over the country took the slogan by their hearts, as if it carried in their blood the eternal sense of belonging to their motherland, and they used that slogan, adding to it, Joy Bangabandhu to win the election as well as to win the ultimate victory.

Mohammad Zia-ul-Haque  
Eng. department  
International Islamic  
University Ctg.

### Deforestation

Deforestation is now an issue of major concern. Deforestation has become so indiscriminate that it will not be surprising if Bangladesh turns into a desert very soon. It is like cutting the branch of a tree on which we are sitting. This is happening when everybody is worried about climate change and we know deforestation is one of the reasons behind further warming.

The fast increasing population is a constant threat to the forests as they need food & shelter to meet their demand. Therefore, we need to find out the solution like enforcing the law strictly, launching a vigorous tree plantation campaign etc. Above all, the government should be conscious & sincere in this regard.

Mohammad Zia-ul-Haque  
Eng. department  
International Islamic  
University Ctg.

**Brickfields**

Nine illegal brickfields have been set up in and around Gopalganj municipality and these are producing bricks by using firewood. These brickfields are violating the rules and regulations and have been set up on government Khasland.

I came to learn while collecting information that a brickfield could be set up only in place at least 500 metre away from populated areas. But no brickfield of Gopalganj district follows the rules and regulations as the owners have political clout.

The authorities concerned should look into the matter.

Mahmud Ali Kabir  
Ex-BSS correspondent  
Gopalganj

### Reopening of closed mills

The prime minister has indicated that the closed jute mills might be reopened when Sramik League stalwarts called on her on the occasion of foundation day of the Sramik League. Similar declaration of opening of closed mills was given by the industries minister, just after taking charge of the ministry. Unfortunately, nothing tangible could be perceived till date regarding restart of Chittagong Steel Mills, though this lone mill in the steel sector was closed between 1996-2001 and the industries minister of the present government hails from Chittagong. It is needless to describe the importance of steel, and reopening the lone steel mills should be a priority for the government, I believe.

It appears that the govt is bent upon reopening partially Adamjee Jute Mills closed during BNP rule, but there are around 78 jute mills in the country. However, whatever may be the policy of the govt, attempts should be made to restart steel mills soon because steel mills can never be restarted again without arranging training abroad, if delayed.

Let us hope for something positive in this regard.

Mahfuzar Rahman  
Dhaka

### In memoriam

Quite a few people manage to occupy a permanent position in the hearts of the people by virtue of their good deeds. My father Late Md Nabiruzzaman was one of them. His life is an instance of plain-living and high-thinking.

He was only eight when his mother died and twelve when his father breathed his last. In the environs, where he grew up, a young boy was more likely to be carried away by impulses. But to the surprise of everyone, he proved to be a tenacious boy with firmness of purpose. He passed his school final examination with flying colours. He was attracted to literary pursuits from his early days. He took to writing poems and short stories when he was at school. He passed his I.A and B.A examinations from Faridpur Rajendra College. Having passed his M.A final examination he worked first as an assistant teacher then as Head Master at Alokdia High School. He joined the Education Department as thana education officer and served several districts of the country in his capacity as sub-divisional education officer, district Inspector of school (D.I.S) as District Education Officer (D.E.O.).

He was at the vanguard of the Language Movement in 1952 and ardently espoused the cause of the liberation war in 1971, mobilizing opinion among the officers and staff in his department.

MA Alim  
Ex-Banker  
Indira Road, Dhaka

A devout-Muslim, an eminent scholar having extensive knowledge in all branches of language and literature, a seasoned critic and above all a kind-hearted man, he breathed his last on 26 November 1994.

Shaheen Bin-Zaman  
Agargaon, Dhaka

### Cheating by shopkeepers

Every day a large number of people go to Dhaka city markets to buy essential food items to meet their household needs. Invariably, each shopkeeper gives less quantity for each purchase to every buyer. Hence, for every purchase the buyer is cheated at least by 100 grams or more.

Now the prices of all essential items have gone up. Therefore it has become very difficult for the housewives to meet the family expenses from limited income. Hence the govt should take a firm stand against the "shopkeepers" who give less quantity to consumers.

I would draw the attention of NGOs and other social organisations to look into this problem and find a suitable solution.

The govt has the duty to save the people from dishonest traders. People are suffering a lot and something should be done to save them.

Mrs Jamil  
Azimpur, Dhaka

### Give me a job

December 29, 2008 was a great victory day for the AL and the people. The majority of people supported the AL. As a first time voter, I also dreamt of a better life. But it is to be remembered that a huge number of people are unemployed. They have no job. So, the government should recruit every unemployed capable person as pledged by the ruling party's election manifesto. It is difficult to give everyone a job, but not impossible.

So, I urge upon the prime minister to take the initiative for giving us jobs that we need to survive.

Md Jahid Hasan Ripon  
Department of Political  
Science, Government KC  
College, Jhenaidah

### Transport system

A few years back a good transport system was seen in the streets connecting all most all the corners of the city. Buses like Premium, Nirapad & Volvo along with other buses used to serve to the satisfaction of the commuters. But to our utter surprise, Premium & Nirapad buses discontinued & the last blow for the people came from withdrawal of Volvo buses to Uttara point.

More & more comfortable buses have to be put into service. Yes, the authorities should do it on a priority basis to mitigate the present intolerable sufferings of the people.

MA Alim  
Ex-Banker  
Indira Road, Dhaka



## Muharram and Karbala

Muharram is here once again. It is the first month of the Islamic calendar.

Unlike other calendars the Islamic year starts not with celebrations but with prayers and sermons remembering the martyrs of Karbala. Karbala in Iraq was the place where the followers of Islam, very small in number, in 61 Hijri/680 A.D., led by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of the Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), confronted Yazid's force which was opposed to the Islamic teachings.

His army was huge in number, well-equipped soldiers, cavalry and archers, personifying evil and tyranny, gathered on the banks of River Euphrates. But the Imam's handful of men were not deterred. On 10

Muharram the decisive battle took place and these brave men, one by one, laid down their lives bravely and boldly embracing martyrdom. Their sacrifice was to uphold and protect Islam from the inimical and perverse force which was contriving against it,

bent upon distorting and obfuscating the teachings of Islam and replacing it with their brand of teachings which served their personal interests and solidified kingship and dynasty rule.

So, we commemorate the martyrdom of those brave men who were killed mercilessly and those women and children taken prisoners and brutally treated. Even 1400 years have not been able to obscure and warp the significance of Karbala. Rather, time has strengthened it and highlighted the message of this sublime sacrifice. Humanity revisits this tragedy each year this day and absorbs and gleans the message and teachings so that they can brighten the paths and continue to guide. Karbala will for eternity show us the light and strengthen our resolve and conviction to stand up for truth, justice, equality and honour and fight all evils that scourge society.

Ali Hamid Khan  
Gausul Azam Av.  
Uttara, Dhaka

### Road safety

On 6 December, I was shocked to see a picture in your newspaper, showing how a mother with her child were crossing the road near a speeding CNG auto-rickshaw. That time they were on the Zebra Crossing. There are thousands of school going children who attempt to cross the road in a most hazardous situation. Children are our national assets. If we cannot give them safety and provide congenial atmosphere, how do we expect to leave good citizens for future? The developed and many other underdeveloped countries strictly follow the traffic rules, especially for children. It is most unfortunate that there is no such law in this country for children where they are exposed to traffic hazards.

The Zebra Crossing plays a very important role for public safety. I wish all parents/guardians of children will come forward to display their resentment over the prevailing situation. I appeal to all human rights organisations to come forward to save our children from accidents which they are exposed to. Really, it will be a good effort to raise public awareness through TV jingles, posters, organising seminars etc. Even the traffic department should hold seminars in different schools from time to time for creating awareness among the school-going children.

Abu Mohammad Muzaffar  
Vice Principal  
Al-Arafah English Medium  
Madrasah & School  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

### Irrigation

Dr Roy's informative and very appropriate write-up, published in your Science & Life page on 8th December, should be followed up vigorously at the farming level; mobilising all resources of the government, so that it is put into practice as early as possible. All methods of publicising this technique should be mobilised in all our audio-visual media.

Unfortunately, through Dr. Roy's article this writer came to know about it for the first time. I do not recollect having seen or heard about it in the TV.

I am not aware if the matter was broadcast over radio, as we no longer listen to it. The government must go for wide publicity of this important breakthrough in farming. This valuable, high yield and effective method of watering, should reach our cultivators the soonest!

Not only the process saves water required for traditional irrigation; but it also significantly increases crop yield. Yield was found to be 38% more as reported in the article! Further the requirement of fertiliser is reduced to two-fifths of the quantity normally used! This huge cost benefit advantage in irrigation and fertiliser usage should reach the farmer with all possible dispatch!

It will provide the country more crop, decrease the cost of irrigation and fertilisation, resulting in lower price of rice and related food crops!

Yet it will bring better return on investment to the farmer; who have only marginal standard of living today. Any extra income for him, will be a national gain in improving the country's living standard!

S.A. Mansoor  
Dhaka

area is recognized for the eponymous Royal Bengal Tiger. On top of that, various fauna including species of birds, spotted deer, snakes and crocodiles are found here.

The Sundarbans serves a crucial role as a defensive flood-blockade for the thousands of people in Bangladesh and around Kolkata. So, there is no denying that The Sundarbans is a great natural asset.

Shohag Mostafij  
MBA  
University of Dhaka

### Savar bus-stand

The condition of the road at Savar is deteriorating day by day. Road accident is very common in this city. Traffic police have no control at all. Often the vehicles run on the wrong side at good speed. It is unimaginable that even the buses too run in the wrong side. How long can it continue? The situation of Savar Bazar is horrible. Rickshaw-puller to car driver, nobody pays any heed to traffic rules.

Though every day a huge number of people go to Dhaka, yet there is no bus-stand. The situation worsens in the rainy season. While entering into the bus, people often try to defeat each other. Can't the bus operators form a queue? Because of CRP, a huge number of foreigners come to Savar. Their experience on the road is not good at all.

There is no well designed footpath too. The authorities must look into it.

Pradip Das  
Dhaka

### Stop harassment

Most people of Dhaka city move by bus, rickshaw, CNG auto-rickshaw and taxicab. But it is painful that like other people women, patients and aged are being harassed by the drivers of the above mentioned vehicles. The drivers demand exorbitant fares from the commuters.

So, people are in trouble. The authorities must look into the matter and save the commuters from harassment.

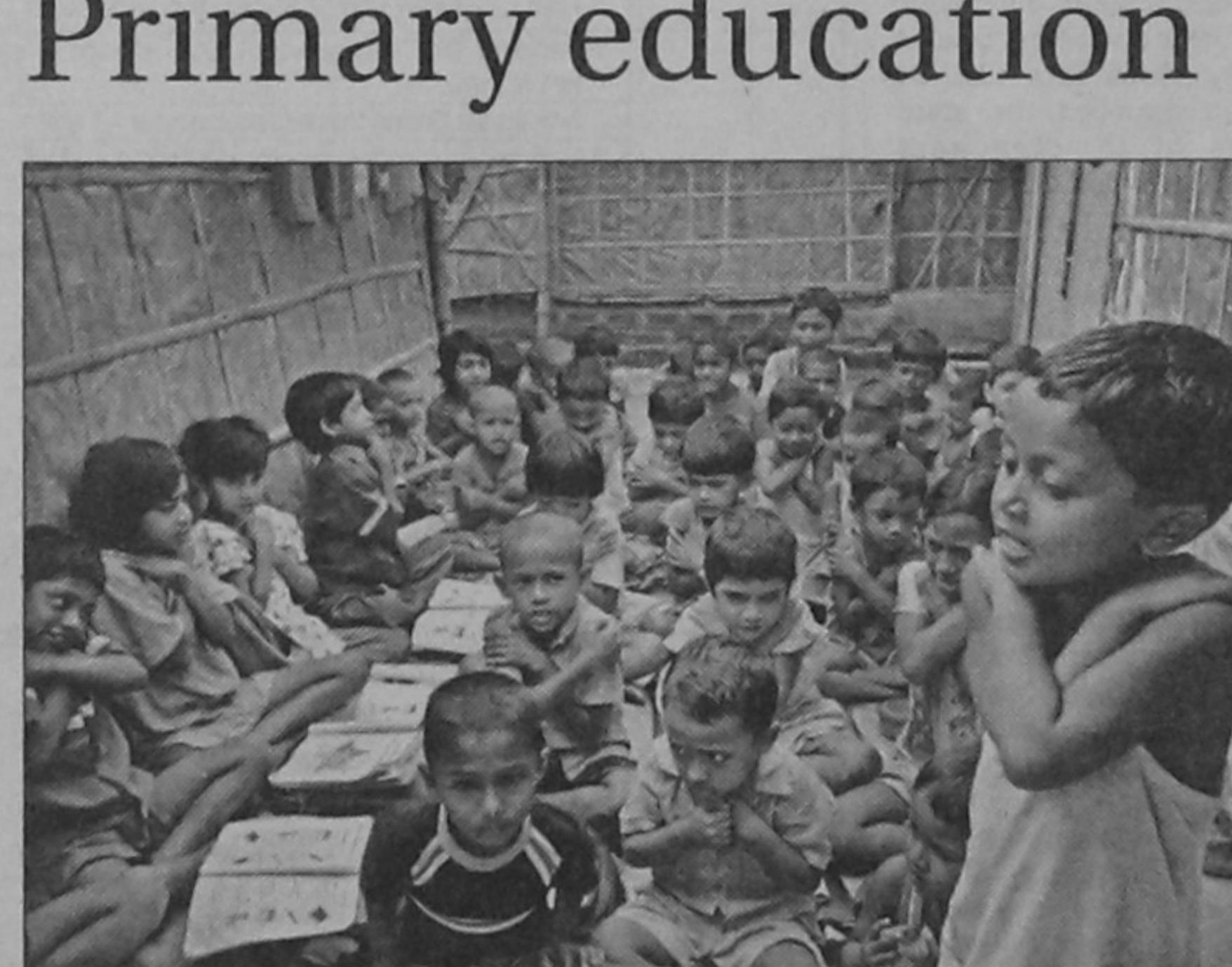
Acitizen  
Dhaka

### Good intention

Our dearest Prophet Muhammad (SM) says, "Each task of believers depends on their intention. One will, therefore, get a result of work according to one's intention." It implies that if a person does a work with a good intention, s/he will get the result accordingly, and vice versa. So, all of us should do any work with good intention.

Habibur Rashid Ismail  
Jamea Rahmania Madrasa  
Chittagong

## Primary education



A.MAHAD / DRINKNEWS

Still now, many children have no access to education. There are more than 18 million children of primary school age (6-10 years) in Bangladesh out of a total population of 137 million. Almost half of them are girls.

We know that Education is the

Backbone of a Nation. No nation can progress without literate people.

Therefore, along with others the administration must take the necessary steps to bring all the children in the country within the purview of primary education.

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

Backbone of a Nation. No nation can progress without literate people.

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Backbone of a Nation. No nation can progress without literate people.

### House rent

About 60% people of Dhaka city live in rented houses. Most of them are service holders whose monthly income is very limited. More than half their salary is given as house rent. With the rest they manage somehow their domestic affairs. But the house-owners increase the house rents once or twice a year without any genuine reason. As a result, the people with fixed income suffer.

There is none to see their helplessness. We know the city corporation used to fix up the house rent within its areas. But it is not followed anywhere. Because of their lenient attitude, the house owners are increasing house rents whimsically.

So, I would request the authorities to fix up the house rent, considering the present situation. The authorities should weigh everything carefully and come to the rescue of common people who are now at the mercy of house owners.

Iqbal Hossain  
Sankar, Dhaka

### The mangrove forests

It is well known to all of us that The Sundarbans is the leading mangrove forest in the planet. The term Sundarbans can be literally translated as: "Beautiful forest." There is a myth that the name might have originated from the Sundari trees that are available in Sundarbans in great numbers.

On the other hand, it has been anticipated that the name is a corruption of Samudraban ("Sea Forest") or Chandraband