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Our forests



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

The letter by Dr Reza Khan with the above title published in your newspaper (DS061209) draws attention to the dire need of Bangladesh. If the government takes responsibility for a quick decision. The political will is the major force to implement such a decision. Dr Reza Khan has been championing this idea of having a separate department for managing the wildlife and other remaining natural forests. If the government and the policy makers take a positive decision the future generation Bangladeshis would remember them with gratitude.

The effort the government is putting behind climate change issues is praiseworthy. But one aspect of climate change issue that is not getting consideration that it deserves is species/biodiversity conservation. Our politicians and policy-makers should not forget that climate change issues and biodiversity conservation are two sides of the same coin.

I would just like to add to Dr Khan's

statement that protected areas & wildlife management and enforcement should be one department. This department will manage protected areas and reserve forests and regulate the nature tourism, commercial wildlife farming & wildlife trade. It may be named as "the Department of Natural Resources Management". Many countries in the world are practicing it successfully. It all depends on the political will, honesty, sincerity and the sense of belonging/ownership of the resources by the managers who are entrusted with the responsibility. Definitely the legal issues related to natural resources management need to be re-visited to suit the institutional changes and regulation.

We talk about good governance, accountability, responsibility, and democracy. The government, the politicians and the government officials have to show it to the citizens what they mean by good governance.

S. M. A. Rashid, PhD
Chief Executive
Centre for Advanced Research in
Natural Resources & Management
(CARINAM)

Unjust accusation

A few days ago more than two thousand trees were cut down from our coastal area near Sitakundu. We are against this deforestation. We tried our best to save those trees as they saved us from many natural calamities, cyclones etc. We gave our comments to electronic and print media against this crime. But it is matter of great regret that some people in Sitakundu area who are opposing deforestation have been accused of cutting trees.

The local administration should look into the matter.
Md. Fazlul Karim (tutul)
Sitakundu, Chittagong

Pinak's diplomacy

Mr Pinak is going to be replaced by Rajeev Mitter currently India's ambassador to Philippines. Mr Pinak's stint in Bangladesh flagrantly displayed the Indian mindset about Bangladesh. India as a regional power should behave responsibly with its nearest neighbours. But what we see is quite disappointing. Its pro-

longed espionage policy prolonged the fighting in Sri Lanka. With Bangladesh India always behaved like a bullyboy. Everyday BSF kill, kidnap and torture Bangladeshi nationals at the border areas. Sheikh Mujib handed over Berubari in 1974 but India is yet to transfer the full control of Tin Bigha to Bangladesh. The newly emerged Talpatti Island is occupied by India and she along with Myanmar tried to mobilize troops with a view to exploring minerals at the disputed maritime boundary.

India always accuses Bangladesh of harbouring jihadists. But it is India that actively patronized and still patronizing Shanti Bahini to fight for the separation of what is the one tenth of the land of Bangladesh.

Mr Pinak antagonized many of us by his undiplomatic comments which border on interfering in our internal affairs. He openly accused the journalists of being nationalists in their protest against Tipaimukh dam which according to the experts will have a more disastrous effect on environment than the Farakka. Explaining the cause of delay in visa processing in the Indian embassy, he said that about 80% of those that queue up for visa in front of Indian embassy are "touts and brokers". His claim that 25,000 of the Bangladeshis who entered India with legal visa each year never returned to Bangladesh proved groundless. To me his coarse remarks seemed more unfriendly and harsher than the barbed wire fence that India is constructing on the border in an effort to leave us in a ghetto.

With the inception of this present government naturally we hoped that our relationship with India will stand on a strong footing but some recent mysterious and gruesome events speak of a clandestine marriage of convenience between the two governments.

India and our government should keep in mind that Bangladeshis are now smart enough to see through everything. And given its huge population Bangladesh is a dormant powerhouse. So India should change its hegemonic attitude towards Bangladesh if it wants to win the hearts and minds of the people here. We hope Rajeev Mitter who is going to replace Pinak will be a welcome change.

Tinku
One-mail

Austerity & benevolence

It came from newspaper reports that a celebrated Indian minister travelled in the economy class of the plane while on official visits. The present congress chairperson also did the same thing. Then came the news of a young MP who travelled in the general class of the train. When fellow passengers discovered him beside them they became overwhelmed & commented, is not he our leader Rahul Gandhi? Yes, he did what is expected from a dedicated true leaders of the people. Let us see what gain is achieved from this deed of austerity. Those doing this earned admiration, confidence and trust of the people. The government got money that has been saved which can be spent for other beneficial purposes.

MA Alim
Ex Banker
Indira Road
Dhaka

Cheats at work

Dhaka is the capital of our country and its present population is over 1.5 millions. Every day several thousands of people visit the local markets like Karwan Bazar, New Market, Moulvibazar, Gulshan Market, Uttara Market, Shyambazar, Narinda Market etc to buy their daily necessities. It has been observed that most of the shopkeepers give "less quantity" for each purchase of products. On an average for "each purchase" a minimum of 100 grams to 150 grams is given "less" to purchasers. Hence the purchasers are losing something for their purchases. They have no mechanism to "check the weight" at every point of purchase and challenge the shopkeepers.

With increase in prices of all essential items for daily living it is necessary that consumers get what they have paid for. Unfortunately, the government or NGOs have not looked into this aspect of cheating by sellers. Consequently, the "consumers" are silent sufferers.

It has been reported that the West Bengal govt has taken some concrete measures to protect the consumers from such fraudulent practices by shopkeepers.

We request our government to look into the matter and save the consumers from the hands of dishonest traders.
Z Alam
Eskaton Road, Dhaka

Psychoanalytic therapy

Psychoanalytic Therapy is a form of treatment, which aims to cure mental disorders by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind. It is a special method of any standard medical centre to cure disorder of human mind through using a kind of technique. The classic method of doing this is to get the patient to talk freely, in such a way that the repressed fears and conflicts, which are causing the problems, are brought into the conscious mind and openly faced, rather than remaining "buried" in the unconscious. This practice is based upon specific theories of how mind, the instincts, and sexuality work. Through this Psychoanalysis Therapy one-third portion of mental patient may be able to come back to normal life.

Because they can open up their burdened mind easily through this process, they overcome their mental suffering.

Mohammad Hanif said
Dept. of English Language
and Literature
International Islamic
University Chittagong

Stock market

Only recently the prime minister referred to our stock market index in several of her meetings in the USA and felt complacent.

Unfortunately, none got punished for the stock market scandal of 1996, though many a small investor lost their capital, while some became paupers.

One may refer to USA stock market manipulations while Bernard Madoff, President of NASDAQ stock exchange, got 150 years jail sentence and many others got jail terms too.
Mahfuzur Rahman
Shiddheswari, Dhaka

Merry Christmas!

There are two different opinions regarding the emergence of this world, some people think this world is a tiny part of the logical causal chain which started with the big bang, the others are convinced that it is finally the fault of Adam and Eve because they did not observe the one holy law of God: "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her..."

If the big bang could have happened without God, practically everything could have emerged out of this, but this universe was built exactly so that the suppositions for life are given, for example without voltage no brainwaves could flow, without radiation this world would be dark and ice-cold, without atoms and the possibility to build molecules life would be impossible.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year 2010!
SR
One-mail

Nuclear power plants

Our brotherly and friendly neighbouring country India recently announced that they had decided to set up five nuclear power plants (a huge scheme) simultaneously. Whether India, the rich country where the poorest people live, should or shouldn't set up five nuclear power plants is not the point I would like to emphasize. Would they be able to keep things under control? This is a great concern for this part of the world. This is a question of balance of power and peaceful co-existence in South Asia.

Setting up of five nuclear power plants by India would not only cause imbalance amongst countries, but also destroy our natural facilities as well as environmental stability.

Mahmud Ali Kabir
Ex-BSS correspondent
Gopalganj

We are pleased

After what I have read through the daily Prothom Alo's column dated 09/12/09 regarding Copenhagen conference, and their unflinching support to Bangladesh's cause, I can only offer my gratitude to them for not failing the duties and responsibilities to be discharged for the cause of Humanity.

Hats off to you, the people of Denmark.
Tayab-ul-Huq
Director
Bengal Indigo Ltd

BNP's posturing

Recently, the BNP held its national council after 16 long years and it is doubtful whether it would have been held at all had it not been a requirement for registration with the Election Commission. But the result is far from a manifestation of its claim to be a democratic party. At the end of fiery speeches by loyal leaders who were trying to outdo one another in showing their allegiance to the chairperson, they ended up surrendering all powers of electing office bearers of different levels to Begum Zia, thereby making the party an autocratic one. What can people expect from such a party!

A few days ago, Begum Zia met the media people and read out a prepared speech on climate change when PM Sheikh Hasina was attending a world summit on climate change in Copenhagen and seeking financial and technical help from developed nations to mitigate the sufferings of our people, which the former equated with begging, as if, during her rule she had never asked for foreign aid for rendering help to the victims of cyclones, floods etc. Apparently, she could not take gracefully the fact that while Hasina was holding talks with world leaders in Copenhagen, she had to be content with being the leader of the opposition party with mere 29+2 MPs!

Abul Mohsin
Siddheswari Circular Road
Dhaka

One-child family

I think this will be a positive move towards population control. However, I don't think it will be easy to control the population because both rickshaw pullers and the women who roam around town begging for money can produce children like vending machines.

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS, Dhaka

Green brick kiln

Thousands of brickfields around Dhaka emit a huge quantity of black smoke every day and night and the polluted air just remains there above our head. According to the Department of Environment (DoE), about 30 percent air pollution is caused by brick kilns. This is an important cause behind the rising rate of lethal lung cancer.

In recent past we heard the good news that Bangladesh has started making bricks using a new technology, which cuts carbon emission almost by half and creates scope for earning huge foreign currencies. Entrepreneurs and financiers said Bangladesh would be able to sell per tonne of saved carbon at \$15 after June 2010.

Diamond Auto Bricks at in Narayanganj has set up such a brick kiln. The new technology being used by Diamond Auto and the likes is Hybrid Hoffman Kiln (HHK) technology imported from Germany.

A single kiln that runs on

US policy

Instead of withdrawing armed forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, the USA has committed yet another mistake with the deployment of 35,000 additional troops in Afghanistan.

Despatching more and more US and NATO troops either to Iraq or Afghanistan would not help solve any problem. Rather, it would escalate terrorism and bloodshed all over the globe.

Afghanistan, Iraq and Israel-Palestine conflicts are not separate issues. All are linked with each other.

The US policy of double standard the doctrine of 'two state' i) existence of Israel as an independent state and ii) the non-existence of Palestine as an independent state for over last six decades is the root cause of all evils.

This has led to several Arab-Israeli wars, the Iraqi nuclear reactor in Baghdad was destroyed by Israeli air force in 1981, Iran-Iraq war 1980-1988, Iraq's attack on Kuwait in 1990, the Gulf War 1991, the great nightmare of 9.11.2001, US invasion of



Afghanistan in 2001, US occupation of Iraq in 2003, US bombing on Pakistan-Afghanistan border in 2007, the al-Qaeda, Taliban bogey and world terrorism and what not?

We strongly feel and believe that for various cogent reasons, historical political and religious, the USA can not win the war in Afghanistan. The first and foremost requirement of Washington is to help solve the Israel-Palestinian conflict and ensure peace and stability in the region.

Charity begins at home. We would request the leaders of USA, UK, Russia, China, France, Germany, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, India, Egypt, Belgium, Turkey and Bangladesh to realise the gravity of the situation and hold a meeting like World Climate Change in Copenhagen and save the world from a great disaster.

OH Kabir
Hare Street, Wari
Dhaka

HHK technology will produce 15 million bricks and cut carbon emission by 5,000 tonnes a year. A double unit kiln will produce 30 million bricks and cut carbon dioxide (CO2) emission by 10,000 tonnes every year.

Bangladesh has about 6,000 authorised brickfields and numerous illegal ones. Various sources say that the brickfields in Bangladesh emit around 875 lakh tonnes of CO2 every year. But HHK kilns will reduce carbon emission almost by half. Most of the works at Diamond Auto are done without human intervention.

Coal and clay are mixed automatically and then poured into a machine. In every piece of brick about 2-3 percent coal is mixed. Bricks are prepared automatically and taken to a silo and smoke

of the kiln, which others use for burning bricks, is used for drying the raw bricks. The management council on the UN Conference on Climate Change and a representative of Denmark has already visited the HHK brickfields and ensured 50 percent less emission of carbon by the units. HHK brickfields also drew attention in UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

Bangladesh also can earn foreign currency through cutting carbon emission by the brickfields.

Now it is necessary to increase the popularity of such environment-friendly initiatives in the country.

Md. Rana Abbas
Student
Dept. of Geography &
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University of Chittagong

Stop name game



TANVIR AHMED / DRINKNEWS

In the context of proposed name change of Dhaka International Airport, and other measures like portrait removal, signboard removal etc that happens every time a different party comes to power sadly reminds me of the English proverb: "Little things please little minds".

I do not know whether an equivalent saying exists in the Bengali language, but if not perhaps it should be invented by the literati and the media.

Engineer Shafi Ahmed
London
UK

A few days back, I read a news report that the government was going to change the name of "Zia International Airport" to Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA) Airport. This is not quite unexpected news for me since Sheikh Hasina plays the name game when she is in power. The perfect example is "PG Hospital" is changed into "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Hospital".

My question is why is she playing with these names?

Md. Abdul Wahab
East Jurain
Dhaka

Recently, I came to know that the cabinet agreed to rename the Zia International Airport (ZIA), I am sure this was not at all surprising for anyone in Bangladesh, as this name changing game is a common practice of the political parties in Bangladesh. In the past we saw the changing of name of Dhaka National Stadium and numerous other establishments such as Hospital, Medical College, and more recently the name of Bhashani Novo Theatre, Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. I believe if the trend goes on like this then the name of every single place in Bangladesh will be changed in the foreseeable future, for example Dhaka Mirpur zoo, Dhaka Central Jail might also face the same fate.

We should stop this game right now and focus on more important things for the improvement of our country and people. If not then any other party coming to power next time will not refrain from doing such things. We voted the AL to power to change for betterment and not to change names.

Onirban
Sunway College
Malaysia

Rivers

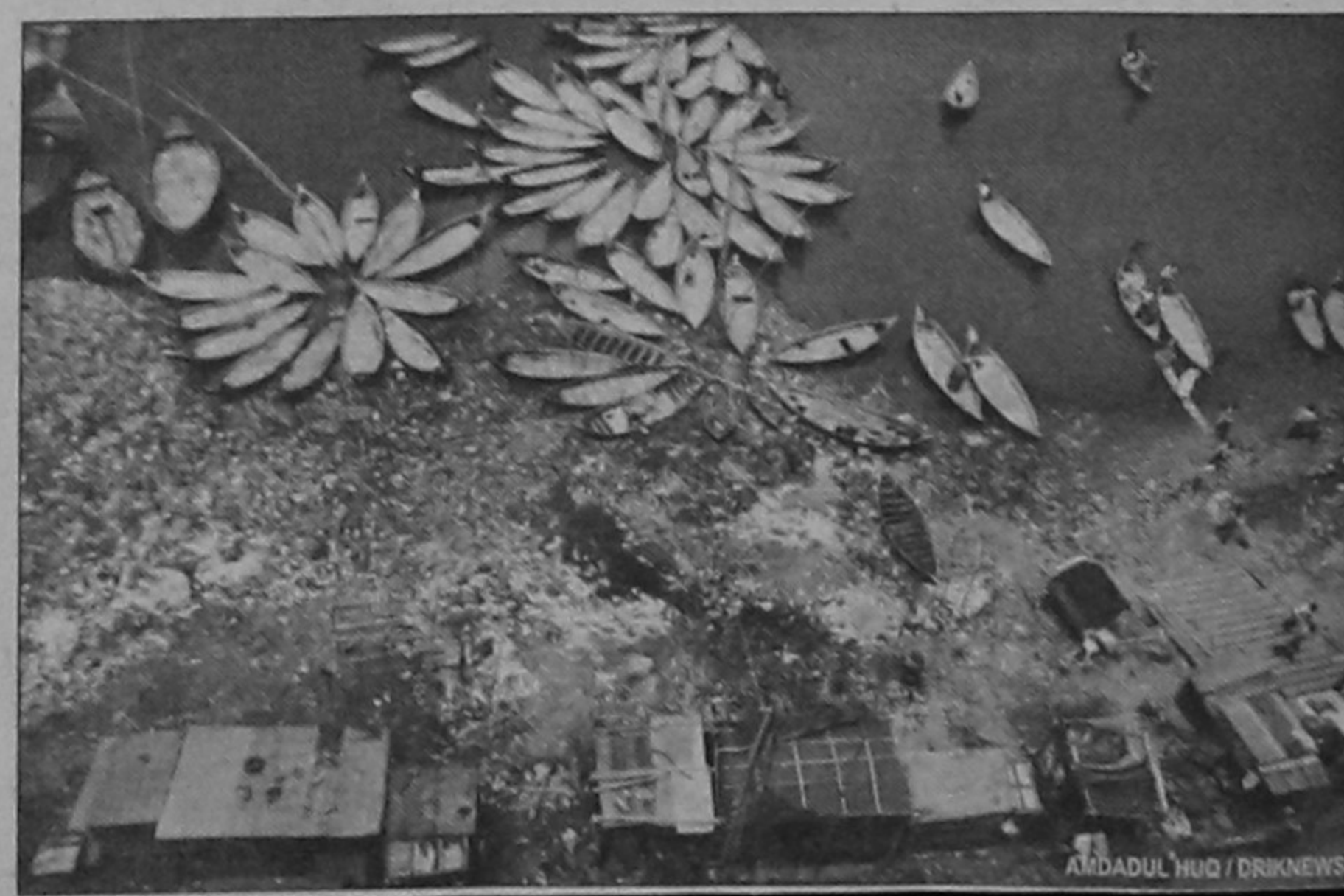
Many rivers flow into various parts of our countryside in a zigzag way and these rivers are the main source of livelihood for most of the people here. Those who live in the coastal areas have to depend more on the bay.

But what is horrifying to see is that these rivers are being taken away by local land grabbers. For their vested interest, they are building infrastructures filling up the riversides. Sometimes their mills and industries in these areas cause huge pollution. On the banks of Buriganga,

Shitalakhyia, Meghna, in order to grab those, the land-grabbers fence off the grabbed places and gradually go ahead to implement their plans.

The government should take stern steps to foil this sinister plan and bring those perpetrators to book. Otherwise, our future generation won't know that Bangladesh had been a land of many rivers.

Bipra Kanungo
Momin Road
Chittagong



ABDUL MUJIB / DRINKNEWS