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# Drug and young generation

Drug addiction is not only a national but also a global problem. The drug addiction has grasped the young generation of our country. The drugs are very expensive and young boys can't arrange money.

Drug addiction is a curse of modern civilization. Frustration is the cause of this addiction. When there is no hope left for the young people, they take drugs. Drugs have a terrible effect on human body. The addicts feel intensive pain. The treatment of the drug addicts is expensive and difficult.

In Bangladesh the drug problem has become acute. Thousands of families in cities, towns and even rural areas are directly or indirectly affected by it. In the above circumstances, all concerned must create awareness at personal and family levels against the dangerous impact of drug addiction among the youth.

Drug abuse affects the brain and body directly. While high, the drug affects the entire body, from blood pressure to heart rate. Stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine "amp up" the body, increasing blood pressure, metabolism and reducing the ability to sleep. Drugs like opiates and barbiturates slow down the body, reducing blood pressure, breathing and alertness, at times to dangerous levels.

Sadly, drug abuse and addiction affects not only the person abusing drugs. It affects friends, family and entire society.

Parents must be careful about their treatment to children. If each and every individual is sincere about banishing this curse of drug addiction from society, we can get rid of it.

**Md. Nur-e-Alam Siddike**

Faculty of Agriculture  
Hajee Danesh Science & Technology University, Dinajpur



WWW.DRUGADDICTION.ORG.UK

## Cadet colleges

I read with interest the article captioned 'Yes, Cadet Colleges do serve national interest' by Ekram Kabir (DS-24 December). While agreeing with his observations and view points I would like to add a few points. There are pains and gains in the Cadet College education. The pain part is that a very tender boy/girl is removed from household, from natural parental care and love and pressed into a challenging situation. The gain starts from there on. The same boys are more disciplined, confident, hard working, take initiatives, 'doer' and achievers in military, civil services, public sectors, business, industries etc. It is the training and rigorous discipline which make all the difference.

For the growth and development of a nation and country such discipline is required. We wonder if the discipline and the training part of Cadet Colleges could be replicated in other educational institutions.

**Dr. SN Mamoon**  
On e-mail

## New Year, new hope

New things are always fasci-

inating. Everyone thinks anew and with new hope with the commencement of a year. We achieved many things in our personal, family, social, political and national life in 2009. At the same time we lost and missed many things.

The gains which we had are innumerable. Among them the recent verdict on the murder of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the most remarkable. We need to concentrate on everything with a new & updated outlook or view. We should not be smug about the gains.

Happy New Year!  
**Mohamad Zia-ul-Haque**  
English department  
International Islamic University Ctg.

## Late singer

### Mahmudun Nabi

The other night I was watching a touchy live show on desh tv which was participated by son, daughters of late celebrated singer Mahmudun Nabi. Like some previous shows on the mini screen, it reminded us that the late melodious singer Mahmudun Nabi during his lifetime had never been given due recognition of his outstanding talent, and his contributions to Bengali

music. Mahmudun Nabi's songs are very popular among both the young and the old generations.

We will sincerely appeal to the authorities to take the necessary initiative to show due honour to the late singer and to commission a project to collect the discs and audio/video tapes of Mahmudun Nabi's songs to preserve them under the modern digital system.

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Chairman  
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

## G M Quader's article

The article of GM Quader published in The Daily Star on 23 December 2009 drew my attention. I highly appreciate and entirely support his meticulous views. He appropriately depicted that some so-called terrorist organisations in the name of freedom movement try to destabilize the regional peace, even unpopular to their own people. He also rightly gave the indication of Bangladesh's position that the country is

no more a safe heaven for terrorists. Bangladeshis are peace-loving people, they never support any exaggeration in the name of religion or freedom of movement. Mr. Quader rightly mentioned "...It is, therefore, an insult to our War of Independence to compare it with the wanton attacks perpetrated by many of the terrorist groups of our region when innocent people, even women and children, fall prey." I also support his idea how we can take advantage of India's education system and medical facilities. In this regard, we can clearly mention that India has to spend lots of money for countering terrorism activities in its land. And Bangladesh saves its huge expenditure by not harbouring its ULFA and other terrorist organisations.

Bangladesh may propose India to narrow the trade deficit between the two countries. Lastly, I would also like to say that the people of Bangladesh should decide "...what is more beneficial for Bangladesh: succumbing to the machinations of terrorist organisations such as LeT and Ulfa, which have spilled the blood of many innocent civilians, or living up to the expectations of a friendly neighbouring country and the larger international community."

**Ziaul Haque Howlader**  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

## Illegal fines?

Byron's front-page lead news published in your December 23 issue is a new surprising twist! Were the members of the caretaker government so ignorant that they ignored this very vital legal issue? What has the Adviser then in charge of the Law portfolio, got to say about it?

Any refund by the government has to be cautiously made; and as the Hon. Finance Minister has said that it will not be made, then possibly that may be the end of the story! Or is it? If factually it is "illegally earned income" as stated in the report, then this has to be confirmed through due legal process, and not through any directive or executive order. The whole matter, possibly on a case-by-case basis has to be legally taken up, and let the law decide the issue.

If any fine realised is considered not to be legal, then the government may pay it off in a number of instalments or allow the person or organisation to offset it against taxes and VAT payable yearly, till the outstanding is squared off. This will naturally decrease the pressure on the Exchequer at one go!

The government may even request those who may have to be legally refunded any amount to consider if they agree to forego, say, ten percent of the refund amount as their voluntary contribution for a future "Natural Calamity Fund" which is really needed for our calamity-prone country.  
**S.A Mansoor**  
Dhaka

## Great improvement!

In my sixty years of life, I have joined the city's main Eid congregation at National Eidgah during Eid-ul-Fitr & Eid-ul-Azha many a time. I am well accustomed to the poor arrangement of Dhaka City Corporation at the National Eidgah.

So, on 28 Nov' 09 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, like thousands of other Mussullis, I was taken aback at the lavishness in the arrangement for the general people at the National Eidgah. The leaking Shamiyana of tattered sheets had given way to a huge waterproof cover. In place of adirty & soggy sheets covering one third of the Shamiyana, every inch of the ground was covered with a "farash" prepared with good quality durre of gleaming white sheets of cloth. Except the very poor mike service, the arrangement was excellent.

Later, I learned that the then Chief Justice was shocked to see the plight of the Mussullis due to rain during the last Eid-ul-Fitr at the non-VIP section of the National Eidgah. So, he directed the authorities of the Dhaka City Corporation to erect a waterproof cover over the entire area of the National Eidgah & to lay farash covering every inch of the ground, like the VIP section of the tent during Eid congregations in future.

**Alem Muhammad Azizur Rahman Khan**  
Shegunbagicha, Dhaka

## BNP and Tarique

The BNP was born to oppose the AL. They are doing so and would continue as long as they do not adopt a policy of cooperation in practice, rather than as a rhetoric. With Mr Tarique Rahman taking over the BNP, as it looks like, I am becoming very concerned whether the BNP will ever come out of the most restricted security zone. The issue is now low profile due to the intervention of the court of law. This is an issue one should think about. If Mr Tarique Rahman continues to practise politics living in the same cantonment house, the situation might be different from what it was during Khaleda Zia's days.

I would urge Mr Tarique Rahman not to use the cantonment house if he becomes the BNP chief and the prospective prime minister. He needs to think seriously about the political ramification of a prime minister living in a cantonment house, generation after generation.  
**A reader**  
On e-mail

## The Chevron issue

This is surprising to see that The Daily Star (DS) has apparently decided to remain on the sidelines on the subject which is the talk of the town at the moment the Chevron Scandal (?). For years, we are subscribing DS for authentic news. This is now unfortunate that we have to look for other newspapers on this developing story, which allegedly has the involvement of many stakeholders. This is particularly disappointing because on matters related to energy sector, the DS has been the leading newspaper for more than a decade now. For some reasons, it has now decided to remain quiet. Even if it has some compelling reasons to do so, it can at least inform its readers whether Chevron was awarded the contract in question outside any tender procedure or not. An honest answer to this simple question will answer many other related questions that the DS may decide not to deal with at this stage.

The readers who are loyal to the DS for years have the right to know something from the newspaper that they read.  
**Javed Rahman**  
Elephant Road, Dhaka

## Our reply

From February 2009, The Daily Star has published at least 10 stories along with in-depth information on the gas compressor issue - from cancellation of the tender for installation of gas compressors by Petrobangla's ex-chairman to awarding a contract to Chevron questionably. The last story in this regard came out on October 27.

## Pakistan scene

Today the citizens in Pakistan are getting the taste of what happened in the then East Pakistan in 1971. The Muslim fanatics are killing fellow Muslims.

In Bangladesh today, there is lack of genuine political leadership; and the leaders of the society are unable to channelise the political leadership into the right 'democratic' paths. One of the reasons could be the mere 9-month active struggle for independence. Are we paying all these decades in compound interest?

If the foundation were not solid, wide and not strong enough, then the infrastructure would be weak. This we could judge from the interruptions in democratic rules from time to time, in Dhaka. The latest stop-gap arrangement was the invention of the non-political, interim caretaker government, to conduct the general elections. We are ruled by the heart and cannot use our good brains in public interest.

Now the political parties' councils are being held after decades--the political regimes never bothered about the issue (internal democracy within the parties vs. the dynasty rules.) We are the victims of wrong institutions, or absence of the same. The compensation has to be paid cosically--there is a timing for it. There are no short cuts in divine justice (regardless boycotting), the national issues are not being debated in public interest, and metropolitan Dhaka capital is dying due to too much centralization. Power is not being transferred to the elected Union Council Chairperson; the bureaucracy is throttled and the divisions and its headquarters are not developing or proving attractive for investment. The elected politicians consider themselves to be above the law, and encourage the breaking of law and order by the field workers.

We have to wait till Nature takes its toll of the human evils. Climate change is a global issue; separate from the local political climate non-change.  
**Alfa Ahmad**  
Dhaka

## FF certificate

Our independence was achieved by the blood of millions of people. Our brave boys didn't show any kind of stinginess in sacrificing their lives to save our motherland. We don't have any accurate statistical data that tell us exactly how many people lost their lives during the liberation war. The most regrettable issue is, till now, we are not able to identify the number of original freedom fighters who directly participated in the liberation war. Many of them are now working as rickshaw-pullers or beggars. On the other hand, some people who were convicted as "Rajakar" at that time are now claiming themselves to be freedom fighters by collecting fake freedom fighter certificates.

For a nation, nothing could be more disgraceful.

Many of us know that there is a special quota for the freedom fighters' offspring in the BCS exams. But how would we believe that all the candidates are real? We don't have any concrete evidence regarding this because fake certificates were easily manageable in those days.

I believe, every conscious reader has understood what I really want to say.

Hope our government will be able to place the issue in right perspective.

**Md. Shahadat Hossain Rajib**  
MBA, Dhaka  
University

## India and we

Every government which came to power in Bangladesh tried its best to maintain a cordial and friendly relation with India.

But for one reason or the other, India has always played the big brotherly role, influenced and put pressure on Bangladesh to uphold, fulfil and honour New Delhi's interest first and treated the interest, problems and difficulties of Dhaka less seriously.

Today India is insisting on Bangladesh for a transit treaty allowing the Indians, Indian goods and commodities, arms and ammunition an easy and quick passage from one part of India to another part of India.

through Bangladesh territory in the name and disguise of Asian Highway.

Is it permissible, applicable or possible under international law, rules and regulations, and our constitution?

Which countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and America have granted such transit facilities like India seeking from Bangladesh?

The heart and soul of our foreign policy is "Friendship with all and malice to none". It is imperative that our government and opposition leaders pursue and foster good relations with India as independent and sovereign countries. What is sauce for the gander is not sauce for the goose!

**OH Kabir**  
Dhaka

## Laudable step

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has instructed the authorities to draft a new law and include a non-bailable section there for the plunderers of trees. We hope this upcoming law (If passed in parliament) will have enough power to protect trees and the green environment from the sinful activities.

It will be a great act because it will contain a provision for awarding punishment not only to the offenders but also the buyers or users of those trees. In light of the climate change music, at least our prime minister has realized the significance of this act. People in coastal areas should feel good.

The United Kingdom (UK) is saving trees by implementing 'Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)'. Bangladesh can also introduce such kinds of provisions. It is (the law) essential for our country to reduce carbon emission as well.

Nevertheless, the Honourable Prime Minister has taken a vital step to save the green environment of Bangladesh.

So, she deserves thanks from all concerned.  
**Kazi Rafew Hossain**  
BBA student  
American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

# Climate change

Now we need not be an astrologer or quote a reference from a holy scripture to predict a doomsday when the earth will permanently collapse and all living beings will become extinct. Today science forecasts a doomsday that might come in a few years because of global warming and climate change. There is no doubt that human existence will be threatened if the earth gets warmer at present rate.

The IPCC report of 2007 estimated that accelerated melting of the Himalayan ice caps and the resulting rise in sea levels would likely increase the severity of flooding in the short-term during the rainy season and greatly magnify the impact of tidal storm surges during the cyclone season. A sea-level rise of just 40 cm in the Bay of Bengal would put 11 percent of the Bangladesh's coastal land underwater, creating 7 to 10 million climate refugees.

According to a UN climate report, the Himalayan glaciers that are the sources of Asia's biggest rivers - Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, Mekong, Salween and Yellow - could disappear by 2035 as

temperatures rise. Approximately 2.4 billion people live in the drainage basin of the Himalayan rivers. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar and China could experience floods followed by droughts in coming decades. In India alone, the Ganges provides water for drinking and farming for more than 500 million people.

Approximately, 40% of the world's agricultural land is seriously degraded.

In Africa, if the current trends of soil degradation continue, the continent might be able to feed just 25% of its population by 2025, according to United Nations University's Ghana-based Institute for Natural Resources in Africa.

Recently, world leaders in Copenhagen recognized that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of the day and actions should be taken to keep any temperature increases below 2°C. But they have failed to agree on a plan to cool the earth. Now we are waiting for Mexico!

**Ali Haider Chowdhury**  
Mirboxtula  
Sylhet

# Powerless city!



S. R. SOHAIL / DRANKENS

Load shedding has been a common scene in Dhaka city as far back as I can remember. With passage of time it went from bad to worse. And the government keeps making promise of reducing it. But the more they promise, the worse it gets. Ever since I learned to read the newspaper, every other day I would see talks of new power plants, ways to reduce power consumption and increase production. The government allocates more and more money each year to the power sector, but to no use. And during the elections, every party makes pledges of improvement in the power sector. But clearly, somebody has been sleeping on the job.

What I would really like to know is, how much did they actually improve matters? Reading about new power-plants in the morning newspaper, and then going through a hot summer day of five to eight hours of load-shedding is very frustrating. A very

effective way to measure each government's contribution to the power sector would be tables/charts showing average peak consumption against production, through the years they were in office. That way, we would truly understand how much each government has helped to improve the situation. Instead of telling us what you are doing for us, show us how it is helping us.

To the people running this country, I would like to say : we are tired of listening and reading about some tenders that will be floated in late 2010, and how by 2015 load-shedding is going to stop. Show us the results so far, so that we may know where we stand. Instead of going on and on about how you are going to make this a better place for us. How about showing us what you have done?  
**Fuad Abdul Quader**  
North South University