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# Tree plantation



A.M.AHAD / DRIKNEWS

The total population of Dhaka city is more than 1.6 crore. Majority of the people are working in different offices, mills, factories, hotels, doing business etc. for their livelihood.

The city has huge numbers of industries, mills, factories etc. Numbers of such different commercial organisations are increasing day by day. Government approved rules are not at all followed in establishing these commercial organisations. Presently, the city is under severe pressure of massive population. Greenhouse gases viz. CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> etc. emission are frequent.

Long term measures must be taken to bring down the temperature to an endurable level.

It is scientifically explained that tree is the only medium through which gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> can be reduced significantly. The more plantations are done, the more CO<sub>2</sub> will be reduced from nature. Therefore, the necessity of tree plantation cannot be overemphasised.

**Dr. Md. Younus Mia**  
Department of Environmental Science & Resource Management  
Mawlana Bhashani Science & Technology University  
Santosh, Tangail

## Biman's last hope

If liveries and logos can turn around a commercial airline-- so be it! It is Biman's last hope, to take off from a financial mess, and fly smoothly.

This hope was the essence of the report in all English dailies on February 7th, heralding Biman's non-stop Dhaka-London flight on 6 February. We can only hope and pray, since no effective change of Biman management has taken place to justify the optimistic view.

The leasing of the Boeing 777 and Boeing 737 aircrafts has raised this hope. The airline is now limping along with the nightmarish record of the poorest flight schedule discipline and on-time flight performance among all the other contemporary commercial airlines, that we know of. Among the airline professionals internationally, Biman is known as "Bangladesh Bungle". Bangladeshis, however frustratingly call it as "Bangladesh Bayaman"; in consideration of its frequent and sudden schedule changes.

Passengers flying on transit, and connecting to other airlines, invariably miss the connection, as Biman is habitually late. They normally avoid Biman and are forced to travel if they have no other option left!

Biman inherits a tradition of poor operational efficiency, poor maintenance and lousy ground service. However, for the bureaucrats related to civil aviation and the communication ministry; it is their real "Home in the Air"! For them, Biman has to provide super discounts. They and their families only pay travel tax, and nothing else to fly anywhere on Biman's routes! After all it is a public airline; and they are the public administrators no less! Given such management where airline

trade professionals are subordinated to civil and military amateur bureaucrats; gaining financial health is possibly a wishful thinking and nothing else! Till these fundamental management issues are sorted out, and real technical professionals are charged with Biman's management, no amount of fresh paint, colour combinations, logo and livery can effectively turn the airline's fortune.

Only luck and professional skills of our pilots, who are as good as any, with FAA qualifications have saved the airline from many potential flying tragedies!  
**S.A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka

## Rude doctors

We usually know and believe that doctors take the patients under their wings to cure them. But last Thursday I was thunderstruck by the strange, unexpected and rather rude behaviour of a doctor in Ctg. Govt Medical College Hospital. I went there with my cousin Parul, an emergency patient who was on the verge of death. I entered into the doctors' room and requested a doctor to check up my cousin. The doctor replied, "The admission file of your patient has not come yet in my hand and so I can't check up your patient." After 10 minutes, when the admission file was in the doctor's hand, I again requested the doctor to check up my cousin. That time the doctor angrily said to me, "Just go outside and I will check up your patient when it will be time." Further the doctor told me, "Don't enter into my room and disturb me." This unexpected behaviour drove me up to the wall, but it was a bitter pill to swallow.

I just want to know when it will be time for a doctor to check up a patient in a gov't hospital-- after the death of a

patient or when the condition becomes worse? We often see the carelessness and irresponsible attitude of the doctors in the gov't hospitals which causes extreme sufferings to the poor patients. On the contrary, in the private hospitals and doctors' chambers the rich patients get better treatment.

Where and how will the poor patients get better treatment?

**Md. Ismail**  
Department of English  
Honours Fourth Year  
Govt. City College, Chittagong

## Hillary's remarks

If any one or any group feels that they will achieve a great goal through terrorism, it will be a useless and unproductive effort. Such barbaric inhuman activities will only end in a fiasco. I think, every quarter should perceive the fact that terrorism cannot yield any positive outcome but destruction of lives and properties only contribute to increasing mistrust and hostilities among peoples of different cast and creed. Meanwhile, I would appeal to the Iraqi Muslims to end conflicts within themselves and other communities as Islam strongly pleads for maintaining peace and tranquility. Let the differences between Muslims be resolved and peace established in Iraq. Meanwhile, I join US secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in condemning the recent series of bombing attacks against Shia pilgrims in Iraq:

"The United States condemns the series of bombing attacks against Shi'a pilgrims in Iraq over the past week. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Attacking men, women and children engaged in religious pilgrimage is reprehensible and exposes the cynical immo-

ality of the terrorists who seek to replace Iraq's hard-won progress with violence and intimidation. They will not succeed in breaking the will of the Iraqi people. Iraqis are committed to realizing the promise of their democracy. There is no better rebuke to those who traffic in terror." (Hillary Rodham Clinton, dt. 05/02/2010)

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

## Ganges water and Tipaimukh Dam

On the eve of visit of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India and during her presence in New Delhi our attention was drawn to two news items published in some of our national dailies which are epitomised below:-

i) Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has assured visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during their summit talks that regarding construction of the much-talked-about Tipaimukh Dam India would not do anything that harms Bangladesh's economy, people and environment.

ii) When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was visiting India and seeking fair share of water, Bangladesh was getting less quantity of water through Farakka Barrage than the agreed one in the Ganges water sharing treaty signed in 1996.

Would our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh kindly elaborate and give us the guarantee that India would not do anything harmful to Bangladesh by constructing the much-talked-about Tipaimukh Dam when India for a long time is violating the Ganges water treaty signed in 1996 by supplying less quantity of water through Farakka Barrage and also depriving us of equitable share of Teesta river water, despite our repeated requests.

**O.H.Kabir**  
Wari, Dhaka

## Wasa affairs

Wasa supplies water through one water meter to a building, be it multi-storeyed or single unit and thus consumers are unaware about their individual consumptions. On the other hand, Wasa collects Taka 14 for one cubic meter of water supply for domestic consumers but this rate is Taka 46 in case of commercial consumer for the same one cubic meter water supply and naturally this rate is very, very high comparatively. The Wasa revenue inspectors compel the commercial consumers to induce corruption through underhand dealings.

Should not the govt look into it when corruption elimination is a pledge of the ruling party?

**Mahmud Ali**  
Shiddheswarae  
Dhaka

## Renaming a ministry

According to newspaper report it has been proposed that the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism be renamed in Bengali as the Ministry of Biman & Tourists.

This will imply that the ministry will be for Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Tourism. What about the private airlines, the foreign airlines which come under the jurisdiction of this ministry? This ministry has to deal with foreign governments in respect of Air Services Agreement (ASA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) etc. There should not be two names, one in English and the other in Bengali, for the same ministry.

In Bengali the term 'Beshamarik Biman Paribahan' itself is not suitable. It should be 'Ashamarik Biman Chalachal' as it is called in West Bengal.

In this context, I would like to request Mr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir to give his valuable comments. He is one who does not use a word of English when he gives his speech in Bengali.

**Reza Hussain**  
Former Manager, British Airways & Former Chairman, Parjatan Corporation

## Border killings

Re: Daily Star, Page 3, 10th February 2010/The Main Reasons for Border Killings?

It was with increasing concern that I read about the opinions expressed at the recent dialogue on "Bangladesh-India Relations" held at the DU Department of International Relations. I believe it is an inadequate analysis of border killings to suggest that the main reasons for their occurrence is the smuggling of goods and human trafficking. The main reason there are border killings is that the respective governments have placed heavily armed soldiers and para-military forces on the border with apparent permission to arbitrarily shoot people. The militaristic defence of a border is intended to protect a sovereign nation's geography from usurpation by foreign forces or other forceful invasion of the nation. It is not acceptable for such forces to kill anyone who does not represent a genuine militaristic threat to their nation's security. The summary and often arbitrary shooting of criminal smugglers and simple villagers who regularly farm near the border or who cross the green border to visit family, is neither proportional nor justified. People who are committing criminal offences at the border should be detained and passed to the police for proper consideration and not extra-judicially executed by the military.

As the two nations involved are both democratic nations that recognise one another's borders, the respective integrity of their lands and as both are members of a regional organisation committed to developing a regional single market, it seems rather bizarre that either should have more than a token military force at their common border. The principal cross border concerns and risks relate to matters that require a policing or law enforcement response not a military reaction. The notion that the artificial political border between the Bengali people can be effectively controlled by the military is misplaced as much as any idea that this border should even be subjected to such a reign of terror. The respective governments can stop arbitrary border killings immediately by largely demilitarising their border, and then addressing cross-border issues relating to criminal activities by policing the border appropriately. I believe there is a legitimate political case for increasingly recognising the porosity of the border between India and Bangladesh by the decriminalisation of the movement of both citizenries within the region if not throughout both the nations. Furthermore, it would be useful to recognise that the border is often not the best place to interdict serious cross border criminal activity.

I conclude by repeating that disproportionate and unjustified paramilitary reactions to events that do not seriously threaten the integrity or security of either Nation are the main reason for the arbitrary border killings. Consequently these executions can and should be stopped by a moratorium on the shoot to kill orders, followed by a review of how this border should be policed and otherwise managed.

**Dr. John Davies**  
Visiting Research Fellow  
University of Witswaterand  
South Africa

## Indigenous peoples

The AL-led grand alliance has come to power with the slogan of "Din Bodoler Sanad". As any other community we, indigenous communities, believe that we need changes in our attitudes, behaviours and in our mentality towards others. There is no denying that 45 indigenous communities have been living in Bangladesh for decades. They had a pioneer role in the Anti-British Movement, 1971 Liberation War and other national building process.

But the Bangladesh government has been trying to ignore the existence of the Indigenous people; they treat them as "Upojati".

**Litus Chiran**  
An indigenous student  
University of Dhaka

# Our day

21st February is a remarkable day for all Bengalis all over the world. The significance of this day is vast. But we must practise more Bengali than we usually do.

We often find many Bengalis speaking in English almost fluently in public places. What do they want to mean? If they know very good English, they can speak in English in their educational premises as much as they want to. But why in a public place?

There are some students of English

medium, who boldly claim that they do not know Bangla. It's regrettable that they along with their guardians feel proud to say so.

Even in West Bengal, the latest generation of Bengalis are more inclined towards Hindi and English because that would help them to get established.

We should know and love our mother tongue from the core of our hearts.

**Pradip Das**  
BHPI, CRP  
Savar, Dhaka



PALASH KHAN / DRIKNEWS

## Save the tigers

As our national and majestic animal, Royal Bengal Tiger has its own charm. And we should be lucky to have them in our Sundarbans. But very few people understand the real value of the tigers. They are killing tigers just for entertainment. As there is scarcity of food in the forest, the great cats are bound to come to nearby villages. It is really uneasy to kill them.

**Sakia Haque**  
Class-XI  
Khulna Govt. Girls' College  
Khulna

## Websites

In present technological world internet performs a great and important role. It is an easy way to get any kind of information about any subject. But at present there are a lot of websites in internet which contain nude photos and videos. The most dangerous matter is that the young generation, especially, the school and college going students, view all these sites.

There are lots of cyber-cafes in cities where students go and watch those nude pictures and videos. For this, the character of young generation is on its way to ruination. Moreover, the guardians restrict their children to get an internet connection as their children may go astray. However, we can see in the countries of the Middle East that those dangerous websites are under restriction. If our govt takes such steps, the young generation will be benefited. Besides, students will be able to understand the real benefit of internet and get information from different websites.

So, I request our govt to ban those websites as well as I want to ask our young generation to be careful in this matter.

**Partha Pratim Das**  
Comilla Zilla School  
Comilla

## People's woes

Dhaka is a mega city. Here, going from one place to another has become a big challenge for us, the ordinary and poor people (not for rich and high ranking people who have their own or official car). Going just only from 'Mohakhali' to 'Farmgate' is a 'long-term process'. Previously, there was a 'Volvo' bus which performed a good service. But now there is no Farmgate going bus except local buses which are always overcrowded and risky.

Our government should introduce some good quality buses on Tongi to Motijheel route (via Farmgate) so that we, the middle class people, could get some relief.

Under the circumstances, I would request the authorities concerned to consider our problems in right earnest.

## A minister indeed!

The tragic death of Abu Bakar has touched the whole nation. His parents sent him to the university to supplement their income being enlightened with education. But instead, he returned to his parents dead. How could Home Minister Sahara Khatun term the death as an "isolated one"? If the death of a university student is a normal incident to her, then who is there in the country to save the brilliant students?

Her unsympathetic comment goes in favour of the miscreants and also disheartens the general people.

**Akash Mahmood**  
Dept. of English  
Chittagong University

## Death of a boy

The heartbreaking death of Hamim Sheikh, the latest victim of reckless driving in the city, has apparently brought out the grim picture of road-hazards that we encounter every day. The distressing demise of the five years old boy of Willes Little Flower School has explicitly underscored the "cheapness" of human life in a country like Bangladesh. It's a country where in all sectors we have sheer lack of legal standards and effective implementation of law. Astounding facts are now coming out regarding unfit vehicles, fake driving licenses and unbelievable statistics of road accidents in the city. It appears that the relevant authorities that were supposed to take vital steps regarding these irregularities, have been sleeping in seclusion for long. I really don't know what initiatives (if any) our current and previous governments have taken so far to rectify this trend of mismanagement in public transport. I think we certainly have the right to be served well by our elected representatives.

These tragic accidents might seem like isolated incidents that are not related to broader political issues. However, if we carefully look into these sad incidents we will discover the fact that from our sycophant ministers to the inept law enforcers, everyone is more or less responsible for this naked "culture of irresponsibility". I think there must be strict laws to punish the owners of the unfit buses and the employers of untrained drivers as these greedy businessmen do not hesitate to make extra profit by risking people's lives. We must make them realize that they cannot always get away with their repeated violation of law. The unfit vehicles, reckless driving and an utterly disordered transport sector are nothing but some of the natural consequences of the perpetual trend of corruption, administrative inefficiency and absence of proper implementation of law in Bangladesh.

Under the circumstances, I would request the authorities concerned to consider our problems in right earnest.

**Md. Rabiussani**  
Mohakhali DOHS  
Dhaka

## Residents of

### Dhanmondi

I fully agree with the suggestions expressed by Mr. Saleh Mohammed Ayub in your column. Construction of more bridges can be taken on the Dhanmondi lake at Road # 3A, 4/A which will help a number of vehicles to spill out from the heavy congestions during the school timing. As a matter of fact two years back, we saw a move in this direction and stones and sands were accumulated at the Road # 4/A point of the lake. For some unknown reasons, those stones and bricks were removed presumably at the instruction of some VIPs who did not bother about the convenience of common public. May be their own interest was hampered. One wonders who decided at first to have a bridge on that point and then who decided against it. Shouldn't there be a coordinated effort and planning which is of much public interest? We should also know which are these long hands who can stop such an important public work. Alas! Poor Bangladesh.

**A resident of Dhanmondi**  
One-mail

## Attack on

### indigenous leaders

We are really anxious! Around 45 indigenous communities in Bangladesh are really in an endangered situation for the last few decades. The recent attack on topmost indigenous leaders of Bangladesh shows their endangered position.

It is alleged that the attack on Santu Larma and Debashish Roy was conducted by the armed cadres of anti-peace treaty organization United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF). Proper investigation is needed to know and take action to see whether UPDF cadres have done it as a few eyewitnesses (who were in the convoy) confirmed it.

Now, it is the duty of the government and law enforcing agencies to take proper steps to form a judicial investigation committee and arrest the miscreants. Please do something!

**Bablu Larma**  
An anxious indigenous student  
DU

## Italian visa

The visa seekers, especially those having sponsorship from Italy, are being harassed through inordinate delay or even by refusal on various pleas, though the visa seekers have genuine relevant papers.

We would like to draw the attention of the Italian Embassy in Dhaka to the matter.

**Din Mohammed**  
Nirmal Bowmik  
Kholamara, Keraniganj  
Dhaka

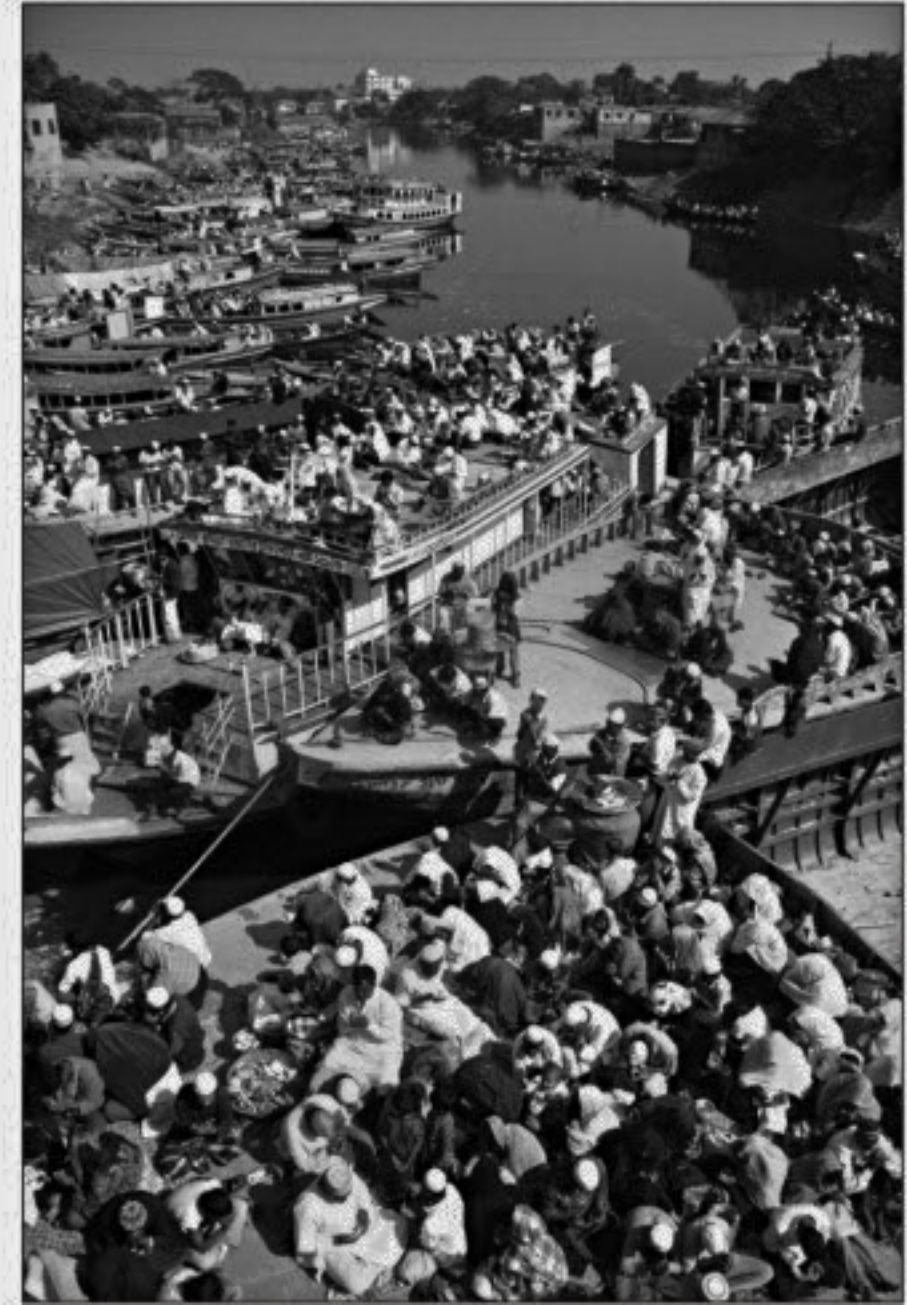
# Relocate Bishwa Ijtema site

During the days of Biswa Ijtema, the traffic jams become unbearable. The entire Airport Road and Uttara area remain blocked, causing immense sufferings to commuters and also air passengers returning to or leaving Dhaka. There is also no arrangement for emergency vehicles like Fire Brigades or Ambulances in case of an emergency.

So, the Biswa Ijtema site must be relocated to another city which has an international airport like Chittagong or Sylhet. This will also give domestic airlines the opportunities like transporting Ijtema passengers to and from Dhaka.

I really hope the government will take this seriously and act upon it, because this pilgrimage is growing and increasing vastly every year.

**Aminur Rahim**  
New DOHS, Dhaka



SHAFQUE ISLAM KALOL / DRIKNEWS