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# Sea level rise and land loss

Sea level rise (SLR) has various impacts on Bangladesh. It will have its impacts on Bangladesh in the coastal areas. About 2,500, 8,000 and 14,000 sq. km of land (with a corresponding percentage of 2%, 5% and 10% with respect to the total land area of the country) will be lost due to SLR of 0.1m, 0.3m and 1.0m respectively.

The potential land loss estimated by IPCC (2001) is even worse. It reports that 29,846 sq. km area of land will be lost and 14.8 million people will be landless by 1m SLR.

The forecasted land erosion will cause displacement of coastal population.

Adaptation and mitigation are two options for Bangladesh. Of which, the first one is country specific, or even local specific, but mitigation demands collective efforts of global communities. Development of adaptation policies for different sectors will help Bangladesh face the hazards of sea level rise. Lobbying in the international communities will be helpful to mitigate CO2 emissions by developing countries, which is responsible for global warming and sea level rise.

Proper mitigation plan and formulation of adaptation policies are the need of the hour.

**Md. Lokman Hossain**

MS student

Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences  
University of Chittagong



SHAKH MOHR UD DIN / DRINKNEWS

## Price hike

Day by day, price has been increasing without any kind of reason and exceeding the limits of tolerance. Poor people are suffering so much because they do not earn much. The prices of rice, soybean oil, sugar, pulses, onion etc are increasing day by day.

Therefore, the government must find out the syndicates and try to keep things under control.

**Mohammed Jamal Uddin**

Dept. of English  
International Islamic  
University Ctg.

## Renaming ZIA

It is with deep resentment that I am writing this. I am not sure what kind of development ideology lies in renaming everything that was named by the earlier administration. If the AL believes in real development and empowerment of the masses, they should rather focus on more urgent issues than renaming the international airport. In defence, they may say that they did not name it as Bangabandhu Airport or something like that. But that's not the point. The point is when there are so many issues the government has to deal with, their efforts in renaming the establishments indicate that they are not using their time very wisely.

After all, if they believe that they came to power with more than 75% of the votes and that they will stay forever, these are the moves that will hinder their plan.

**Dr. Shahriar Hasan**  
Thompson Rivers University  
Kamloops, British Columbia

## Useless safety measures

The report on the devastating fire on the tenth floor of an apartment in the Japan Garden city housing project, published in most dailies on 13 February; depicts the criminal callousness on the part of the housing complex management. In order of priority, the main reasons that caused this disaster, and the loss of six lives as reported can be

summed up in the following points.

a) The door of the roof was locked, and the residents could not go to the roof! They would not have died by inhalation of CO2 and other combustion gases, if they could reach the open roof, which they wanted to!

b) There were no functioning fire extinguishers, or sand or water buckets available for stopping the fire when it started.

c) It appears that the pump meant for fire fighting could not be operated.

Finally, and most criminal is ignoring the fire service department's concerns about the fire safety measures of the buildings by the project authorities as reported in some dailies. The management of the housing complex should be prosecuted for criminal negligence and involuntary manslaughter. This will make all building authorities sit up and take notice!

As a curiosity, did the housing complex authorities take permission from the Japanese Embassy for using the word 'Japan' in naming the housing complex?

**S.A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka

## Better than before?

Home Minister Sahara Khatun surprised us by her words--her claim that law and order situation in the country is better than any other time!

Every day news of crimes like murder, robbery, kidnapping, rape, hijacking is being published in the newspapers. How could it be possible that Home Minister Sahara Khatun does not know about all this? Is she living in a cocoon where news of these happenings is not reaching her?

When people are cringing with fear and anxiety, watching the situation with hopelessness, the Home Minister's comments have made them indignant. Instead of combating the crimes, she is trying to downplay it.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Felicitations to Shishu Hospital

Hearty congratulations to Prof. Dr. A R Khan, Director and Head of Surgery Department and his colleagues at Dhaka Shishu Hospital on their successful surgery separating a pair of conjoined female infants recently. We are happy to learn through the press that the separated Siamese twin Moni and Mukta are now well and already left for their home.

By successfully separating the Siamese twin, the Dhaka Shishu Hospital surgeons have proved that doctors in Bangladesh can perform any complicated surgery keeping international standard even with limited financial support.

I sincerely hope that all medical professional in Bangladesh will apply their professional skills as applied by the team of surgeons under the true leadership of Prof. A R Khan at Dhaka Shishu Hospital. I heartily wish further success and progress of Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Department of Agricultural  
Extension & Information  
System

Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural  
University  
Dhaka

## Media

There was a time, when BTB was everything in our country. But now there are many private TV channels. There are many newspapers also. The development of the media in Bangladesh has been remarkable.

**Fahim Ibne Sarwar**  
Department of International  
Relations  
Jahangirnagar University

## Shahjalal or Shah Jalal?

This refers to a news item in your daily with a photograph of Dhaka Airport (DS, Feb 24) where the new name of the airport is written Shahjalal. But what is the actual name?

As we know the name of the saint (buried at Sylhet) was

Makhdum Jalal ad-Deen bin Muhammad and he was later known as Shaikh-ul-Mashaikh Hazrat Shah Jalal ad-Din al-Mujarrad.

Those who so quickly changed the name should have used their intellectual capability to write the name correctly. The name change was a silly decision and writing the name wrongly was the utmost proof of these peoples' thinking power.

**Tayeb Husain**  
Lund, Sweden

## Trip to Puthia

Let me get you acquainted with the towering palace of Rani Bhuvan Mohini Devi, guarded by a tall lion gate, with the great Pancharatna Radha Govinda Temple inside, terracotta plaques engraved on the walls, obviously, those involved in adorning this temple, must have been real genius.

The caretaker, Mr. Bishwanath's, role in guiding me to the cluster of temples lying on other side of the pond, next to a madrasa must be praised as I have never seen a man, so strong in his fifties, speaking in broken English that I tried hard to stop but to no avail. I was not a foreigner there, was I? Standing side by side, as if in a square shaped pattern stood the Anhik and Govinda temples with terracotta designs in various forms on all of the structures. And to my last destination, the Shiva temple surrounded by a wide ditch; protected inside, is the black basalt Shiva lingam, unharmed despite the futile efforts of the Pakistani army carried out to break it, as they had done to the other statues in the temples, now Mr. Bishwanath and his family are the sentinels guarding the Shiva lingam at their own cost.

With a little photo shooting, I was back to Rajshahi, in a 45-minute journey that had surely been rewarding.

**Shatabdi Biswas**  
Student of O level  
Paramount School & College  
Rajshahi

## People's security at stake

The deaths of six people in a single day (February 10) may be one example of deteriorating law and order situation in Bangladesh. Now, around ten people are being killed in the country every day. From the capital city to remote villages, all over the country, the people are under threat of outlaws. Especially, criminals are targeting the businessmen for monthly extortion. People beat a Shechcha Shebok League activist to death on February 13.

In fact, the law and order situation has fallen apart. In a democratic country, such a situation is certainly unexpected.

We the general people simply expect security in every sphere of our lives and it is the government that holds the responsibility to protect us. They cannot avoid it.

**Muhammad Sharif Hosen**  
Ex-student of DU  
Shonirakhra, Dhaka

## Cycling fiasco

A director of the National Sports Council was entrusted with the task of investigating the ignominy the women's 50-kilometre cycling road race brought to the entire nation during the recent South Asian Games. A disgraceful action of officials that not only cost host country a medal, but brought humiliation and dishonour to sports officials of Bangladesh and tarnished the country's image.

When a medal is won by a sports person in such international games their country's national anthem is played and its flag proudly raised high. In unison it raises the head of the entire nation with pride, and fills their hearts with gratitude to the achievers who bring such honour to the nation.

This was not the case for Bangladesh in the women's 50-kilometre cycling road race. Bangladesh was unceremoniously disqualified despite finishing first in the event. The cyclist was spotted on the video receiving an undue push from a dishonest official. The Bangladeshi cyclist did not also take the compulsory U-turn in the presence of venue officials, umpires and match commissioners.

The news stunned the whole nation with disbelief and horror. Heads were made to hang low with embarrassment and the pride, name and reputation of its people brought to incalculable shame.

Submitting his report to the 'proper authorities' at the 'appropriate time' by the director of the National Sports Council will not be sufficient for a nation shamed and disgraced internationally by the act of a culprit.

**Md. Mahmoodul Haque**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

## Hilary Clinton's speech

I fortunately had a chance to watch United states foreign secretary Hilary Clinton's powerful speech live in the TV (Al Jazeera channel), which she gave at U.S. Islamic forum, lately in Doha. Once again, she deliberately announced that respect for women should be ensured.

I thank and congratulate her for the speech.

**Mahmud Ali Kabir**  
Ex-BSS correspondent  
Gopalganj

## Road safety

A man works hard. But for what? He wants to pass a secure life. Would we ever get that? Once we go out of the house, it seems we are walking on the death trap. In the foot-path muggers wait for us and in the road, motor vehicles wait for us. If we enter into our house remaining alive, we do not find a jolly mood. Like air pollution, sound pollution is also a serious problem now. Did we ever try to find out any solution?

Every day we meet with traffic-jam. It kills our time mercilessly. A huge number of students from different corners of the country come here to study. After passing a long time in the road, a student finds no energy to study at his hostel. Moreover, huge numbers of students earn some money by tuition. It is not an easy job. Due to traffic jam, he cannot reach more than one or two students' house. Like the students, other professionals too are passing the same torrid life. Many have given up the hope of continuing evening-course due to this traffic-jam.

Are we realistic? I do not think so. That's why we never raise our voice for safety and security. Due to this lack of security thousands of brilliant students escape to foreign countries. They have lost faith upon the system of this country. We had lost a lecturer of North South University who had been mercilessly killed by muggers. Why should a brilliant student stay in this country? Very soon, brain drain would gain a new awesome dimension.

But still we are sleeping. We love to sleep. We love to dream too.

The issue of road-safety has strong affinity with our country's economy as well as its culture. Why do we not understand this very simple truth?

If the students, teachers, professors, doctors, businessmen, engineers, all classes of people get united to fight for road safety, would we not be successful? Let us all unite and march forward, raising the slogan - "Mission-Road Safety". It is the high time to open our eyes and also our mouth. Only seminars, conventions and meetings would give us nothing.

**Pradip Das**  
Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP

## "Enough is enough"

This refers to the article of Feb. 12 with the above title by Zafar Sobhan.

This was the best and the bravest article from the author to date. It would have been even more effective if it was an actual editorial rather than an 'editorial article'. However, I am hopeful that readers will one day get an editorial that is as no-nonsense and straight-to-the-point as this particular article was.

I have written many times about the need for a total ban on student politics. I totally agree with the writer when he says "The political parties'

student fronts are nothing more than criminal organisations". Bangladesh is now an independent country and it is no longer fighting a foreign invader. There should be no place for such entities in a parliamentary democracy, and certainly not in this day and age.

The proponents of student politics argue that we have to allow student politics in our country because of the crucial role played by students back in 1952 and 1971. But if we were to follow this twisted logic we will have to legalise toll collection, hostage taking, murder and vandalism in our country! This is ludicrous.

Remember our glorious film industry? Look what has happened to it now. It is dead. This is exactly what has happened to our education sector too. From primary education to post-graduation the classrooms have been taken over by the parties' student fronts and the books have been taken over by the parties themselves. It is an absolute disgrace.

Promises of "reforms" and "stern actions" are nothing but shameless attempts to buy more time. A complete ban on student politics is the only option that would work in practice.

**Azad Miah**  
Oldham, UK

## Nasty politics

Our political game is slowly but steadily entering into the confrontation phase like end October 2006. The fallout of that is already known to us.

From the perspectives of two major political parties and our national commitments, I can see no loss for the BNP-Jamaat alliance because they want the AL to get out of office by any means even at the cost of our marginal democracy.

On the other hand, the AL is likely to fall in the same political trap the BNP fell on 1/11. I am sure the AL policy makers are pursuing the plan "A" currently visible with their plan "B" option. Otherwise, all achievements made so far including the progress for trial of war criminals, an environment of non-communalism and socio-cultural freedom in line with "Bangali" samaj will just vanish with the uprising of fundamentalist power carrying the flag of religion to mislead the fatalist and god fearing millions. The main stream opposition is basically banking on them for a "revolution". These people have been let loose by the government actions in the affected educational institutions (perhaps strategic planning is not well thought out) and by the renaming process.

How much confidence does the government have to handle the looming political clash and crisis? What about the needed support from within the AL and from the relevant organs of the government? They just need popular support to pursue their plan "A" or plan "B".

The minority communities need special protection in the foreseeable crisis period.

**Faqrul**  
USA

## Trial of war criminals



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

The government has taken a hard line in order to implement one of their most talked about election pledges, namely the trial of war criminals. They seem to be very definitive and focused on what they are doing. A road had to be taken, and in my view this is the right one, regardless of what a section of people is saying against it. The trial of the people who committed crimes against humanity is close at hand. It is time we closed all our old and open wounds and moved forward. Each and everyone, despite his/her differences in ideology, should keep a safe distance from the people who committed crimes like killing, rape, looting and arson during 1971.

We should guide ourselves only by our conscience in this matter.

**Durdana Matin**  
Associate Professor  
Department of English  
University of Chittagong



Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

## Curfew slapped on Khagrachhari

1 Bengalee settler killed as violence flared up again; 50 hurt, 60 houses burnt; journalists assaulted (February 24, 2010)

Shame on those who demand pullout of the army.  
**Hajid**

The govt will find BNP--Jamaat hands in this tragedy as well... just wait and see!  
**Lal Krishna**

It's regrettable that the administration failed to anticipate such incidents in advance. What happened during the last

two days here is pure barbarism. This kind of things should not have happened at all. I feel ashamed as a Bengalee.  
**Emon Ahmad**

By failing to protect the rights of its own minority citizens, Bangladesh has lost its right to complain about the human rights abuses of Bangladeshi workers in foreign countries, esp. in the Middle East.  
**Jeeves**

The Bengali settlers with the help of law enforcement agencies burned several indigenous people's homes and shops. The situation is becoming very tense. Now I would urge the government and international community to work hard to bring life back to normalcy.  
**Tribal voice**

I can't imagine how in today's world and age we can still abuse indigenous people and take away their rights.  
**S Khan**

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**Telecoms plan unveiled**  
Fibre-optic network to connect unions; hospitals, schools to get computers, net facilities (March 3, 2010)

We truly appreciate this plan and will be happy if it really happens. Simultaneously, we need uninterrupted power supply to make it a practical

approach.  
**Ashraf Siddiquee Bitu**

This is what I am waiting for. It is still a plan. I wish all the best for its completion. Once our villages are connected to the world via Internet, the villagers will change Bangladesh. Current progress of China and India is due to similar connectivity. I will extend my life long support to the Awami League, if this government can initiate such connectivity.  
**Sayed Rushd**

There is nothing in this world called a computer scientist.  
**Ehtesham**

Since when is the Prime Minister's son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, an eminent computer scientist? Any publication, work record?  
**A Mujib fan**

Digital Bangladesh, without electricity? How exactly does that work? All that the Fibre

Optic Network will create is handsome contract and money. How does that serve the need of more power generation and the need for productivity increase?  
**Sunny**

I think it's more important to take steps for proper education first before we try to become a digital country. Only by educating people we can teach them why becoming digital is necessary not just forcing them to use something they are not yet familiar with. Because these boxes will start taking jobs, instead of giving hope.  
**M Fazle Taher**

More than anything else we need an end to the power crisis and acute water shortage. We receive water two days a week, and have to keep awake till late night to fetch water. Trust the government will at least try to resolve the nagging problems.  
**Stanford Pereira**