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# Democracy



NOOR ALAM/DRINKNEWS

Democracy is a system of government in which people choose their rulers by voting them to power. Although we have passed thirty-nine years after our independence, still we don't see real democracy. According to Abraham Lincoln, Democracy is a government, of the people, by the people, for the people. We believe this statement is true. Bangladesh has been struggling to be

a developed country but it has to overcome many major problems for that to happen. Without political commitment this is not possible. It is my humble request to the political parties that they learn and establish real democracy.

**Mohammed Jamal Uddin**  
Dept. of English Language and Literature  
International Islamic University Ctg.

## Volatile share market

It gives me immense pleasure to go every morning through the financial pages of The Daily Star where the trading of shares are printed in detail. Almost every day some write-ups concerning the various issues on share are coming up. Lately, a lot has been written about Grameen Phone shares. Both SEC and DSE are airing their news and views about the share of Grameen Phone and numerous mechanisms are being tried to contain the upward trend of the issue.

Insurance companies are the major ones that are dominating the market like crazy horses. I really fail to understand that nobody says anything about these insurance companies, which are almost galloping with the upward pricing every day and going further and further without any check. Can SEC/DSE explain the reason behind this mad race of these insurance companies and why nothing is being done yet to check their unbridled pricing?

## Charity

Charity is a noble human quality. It makes a man or woman to think for others. It makes a person generous as well.

Charity should not be

measured in terms of money; rather it should be measured by the sacrifice that one makes. It should be extended to all, particularly to those who really deserve it. It should not be given only for show, name and fame. Because, charity is one of the noble qualities of human beings.

Our dearest Nabi and Rasul Hazrat Muhammad (Pbuh) says, "Charity is not merely limited to sacrificing one's wealth or money; rather giving any person a good advice is also one kind of charity."

**Habibur Rashid Ismail**  
Jamea Rahmania Madrasa  
Chittagong

## "Din bodol?"

With utmost dismay we observe once again that the same service extension has been given to a secretary to the government. We fail to understand the reasons behind the preferential decision while a lot of other competent officers are not getting any posting at all. Any extraordinary achievement, any great performance, any distinct contribution, what? Endowment for political tilt?

Does democracy empower any government to do whatever it likes? What is the difference, then, between an autocratic government and a democratic one?

**Ahmed Munir**  
Purana Paltan  
Dhaka

## Mockery of mock test

In July, 2008 a renowned English medium school suddenly changed their curriculum from EDEXCEL system to Cambridge System without discussing their decision with the parents/guardians of the concerned students. The school administration first signed the contract with the University of Cambridge for the GCE O Level then informed the parents/guardians. A few of the renowned English medium schools in Dhaka city have also switched to the Cambridge system but they had trained their teachers through a series of training programmes organised by the CIE prior to switching to the new system. They also discussed the pros and cons of the Cambridge system with the parents/guardians a number of times before taking the final decision. Unfortunately, the school mentioned above did neither. They never sought the opinions of the concerned parents/guardians treating their students as guinea pigs while they threw the innocent students into a new system of which the school authority had no clue. The school administration warned their first batch of students (appearing the CIE GCE O Level in May 2010) that their Mock Test questions and answer scripts

would be sent to the UK to be examined by the Cambridge authorities and only the successful candidates would be allowed to appear in the GCE O Level examinations to be held in May 2010. To our utter surprise, we discovered that the questions of every subject of the Mock Test, which commenced in mid February 2010, were exactly the same as those of the GCE O Level Examination held in November 2009. In fact, the school authorities merely "photocopied" the questions downloaded from the Internet. The school authorities didn't even bother to remove the date printed on the footnote of the original examination. Now the students are just memorising the answers of the questions of November, 2009 overnight and spewing them out on the very next day. This has become an absolute mockery.

The education authorities should look into all such matters.

**A concerned guardian**  
Dhaka

**Renaming ZIA**  
Name sometime matters, if not always. Especially, while naming important state organisations, no government is expected to go for controversial names, let alone those of the erstwhile military dictators. Again, when the apex court of the country declares the regime of a particular military dictator as illegal, it becomes incumbent upon the government to follow the verdict in letter and spirit.

It is a matter of great regret that a section of the columnists are very brazenly making a fuss about the change of name of important establishment including that of the airport. I find no reason for writing special commentary on this account either. For a genuinely elected government, it may be just a routine matter to change the name of any government establishment, taking into consideration the sentiment of the people at large. So far I remember, no protest was made when the name of the airport at Chittagong was changed during the former 4-party alliance rule. Why so much commotion now?

Some people are even trying to quantify the matter by quoting from the politically motivated trash reports that "renaming of Zia International Airport alone is going to cost Taka 1,400 crores." My question to them is how much cost was involved when the 4-party alliance changed the name of the international airport at Chittagong? Would they care to give the break-up of the cost from any authentic source? It is really sad that some of our renowned newspapers appear highly indifferent to edit such unacceptable data.

Even if it is accepted for argument's sake that a few "crores" of taka would be spent for this renaming purpose, should we go on to depict and even glorify a dictator's name which is associated with wilful accommodation of the anti-liberation collaborators?

It is widely believed that the new name of Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport, after the name of the great saint of the subcontinent Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA), has been a landmark decision on the part of the present government and the cross-section of people welcomed this renaming, except a few who might have their own reasons.

**Hafeezul Alam**  
A former civil servant  
Chand Residential Area  
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

## Erratic power supply

Over the last one decade the sufferings of the people of our country are going from bad to worse due to erratic electricity supply and load shedding.

Our socio-economic, financial and banking activities, children's education, works and services in govt and private offices, establishments, hospitals, production in mills and factories, agricultural output, hotel and restaurant business, trade and commerce, tour and travel communication, information and technology, foreign investment have been relegated to a state of aversion and apathy due to the power crisis.

We strongly observe and feel that there cannot be any progress and development in our country without adequate supply of electricity.

Our authorities concerned always come out with plans and programmes, promises and assurances for sufficient electricity supply but nothing happens.

When there is erratic electricity supply and load shedding, our rich and affluent use electric generators, IPS etc, etc but most of the time at night when it is dark all over the country, millions of men, women and children who are poor use kerosene oil lamp or candlesticks for various works.

We wonder where is the accountability and transparency in distribution and consumption of electricity?

**OH Kabir**  
Wari, Dhaka

## Turkey turns East

It appears that Turkey is passing through a silent revolution; after the great Kemal Ataturk set the country on the course of development. Centuries earlier the Ottoman Empire contributed to the development of Europe; and now Turkey finds it necessary to turn East, as the EU has now turned into the slow lane.

Capitalism in the rich west has burnt itself out, and the sine wave peak is once again shifting to Asia (to be followed by Africa next).

For Dhaka, it is an encouraging sign that Turkey could read the future potentiality of Bangladesh. The future Asian Highway would cement the bond further with the modern Turkey.

**AMawaz**  
Dhaka

## HSC exams

The exam schedule which has been published by the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education is not suitable for the candidates. For instance, the routine of the science group can be cited. There is no gap before Biology 2nd Paper (Zoology) exam. The students will come under tremendous pressure.

The education authorities should look into the matter.

**Tashrif Billah**  
An HSC examinee  
Notre Dame College

## Challenge ahead

The government is always busy lambasting the role of the previous government. They are always beating about the bush, instead of accomplishing important tasks. We are about to finish our gas resources.

So, the government should get ready to face the problems that will arise in the near future.

**Ismat Ara Runa**  
Hiroshima University  
International House  
Higashihiroshima city  
Japan

## Tarique vs. Joy

In Bangladesh political arena cheap propaganda, cheap controversy and exchange of cheap diatribes are very much common. People here not only enjoy such debates, they create tempest in the tea pot. The on-going debates could be heard and feuds could be seen between the two groups everywhere, at least for some time, as and when such interesting issues run in the field. The new interesting subject is Tarique vs. Joy. Everyone knows who are they. Both of them are our future leaders and they are being groomed to be our loving and people friendly leaders in future.

We cherish they lead us and make us a respectable member of the league of

**Ahsan Uddin Tobel**  
Department of English  
SUST, Sylhet

# Alarming development

In the last two decades, there has been an alarming deterioration in the cultures within medicine. Prescription of unnecessary and expensive drugs, insistence on irrelevant tests and unnecessary hospitalisation have become common. Costly scanning procedures are used more for extracting money than for diagnostic purposes. It is time doctors restored the glory and nobility of their profession.

The lack of respect for patients and their right to make decisions is often

evident, leading one to believe that doctors put their own interests before those of their patients. It is shocking that many diagnostic tests and screening strategies are unnecessary. What we need is a change in the existing culture. There should be an appropriate integration of physician-acquired information with diagnostic testing in a way that is evidence-based and takes both absolute and relative costs into consideration.

**Gopal Sengupta**  
Canada



PHOTO: STAR

nations with their new ideas and quality leadership.

But I am sceptical about their success because their mentors themselves engaged in confrontational debates before knowing what the future leaders feel about each other and what their agendas are. Their ideas and hopes may be different from the mentors' but they are not being allowed to express their own views. In fact, they are being taught to be enemies of each other before being propelled into the political field. It is the people who should judge their qualities. Look at Rahul, he is travelling in the rural areas without security, mixing with people. Here in Bangladesh, a poor country, our future leaders are being taught to be sons of kings.

I do not want to comment on any one, but common experience speaks about one who has already earned a mixed reputation. While his parent party was in power he became known for his new 'bhaban', his companions, his financial dealings and straitening of state admin although he was not a member of any state organ.

About the other one, he is completely new. He is reportedly a western educated man. But people do not know much about him. Let us allow them to go to the people and earn their support. The one who would be able to master more public support will be our welcome leader in future. No interferences from any quarter, please!

**Shafiqul Islam, NY**

**SAU Avenue**  
One of our respectable senior graduates, Krishibid Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, Chief Instructor, ATI, Dhaka recently put forward a proposal to name the road linking College Gate on Mirpur road to Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) as "Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Avenue".

As the college gate was originally named after the Agricultural College (Bengal, East Pakistan and after independence, Bangladesh Agricultural Institute) and now Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (upgraded to university by the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2001) and as it is the oldest higher agricultural education institution not only of this country but also of the undivided Bengal and as most of the land around was within the campus of the BAI, the link road under reference deserves to be named as "Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Avenue". It may be mentioned here that the then Bengal Agricultural Institute (now SAU) was established in 1938 by then Chief Minister of Bengal Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq.

While extending total support to Krishibid Islam's proposal, we would sincerely call upon the competent authorities to name the above mentioned link road as 'Sher-e-

Bangla Agricultural University Avenue' or simply 'Shekribi Avenue' as soon as possible.

At the same time, I would once again request the relevant authorities to please include/display the name of SAU in the city guide billboards.

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

## Wasa affairs

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the LGRD ministry expressed great dissatisfaction regarding service to consumers of water. As a consumer, I am sorry to point out that Wasa compels the consumers to practice unfair means relating to Wasa bill payment. The revenue inspector is the sole authority to dictate Wasa bill tariff since domestic consumers are to pay Tk. 141 for one cubic meter of water against Tk 461 for the same one cubic meter of water for commercial consumers. Wasa supplies water through one water meter to a building whatever may be the number of consumers of different categories. The consumers are unaware of their individual consumption while the rates are too high comparatively for commercial consumers. When the government is determined to curb corruption, the LGRD ministry may devise some means so that consumers are not victimised in any manner. Further, self billing like Titas gas may be practised.

**Mahmud Ali**  
Siddheswara Road  
Dhaka

## Callous guardians

Very recently, yet another innocent life was taken away by road accident in Dhaka city. The incident is even more tragic as it occurred right in front of the deceased Hamim Sheikh's School. But we are stunned to see the indifference of the guardians of the students of the same school to the risks posed by violation of traffic rules.

The photo published in The Daily Star on 8 February shows several guardians dragging their children through the traffic in a desperate bid to cross the busy road. The same event was captured on frame from a different angle and published in the Prothom Alo on the same day. It was also reported that while these guardians were ignoring the rules to save some time, the other guardians and students were protesting against such acts by forming a Human Chain in front of the school. It just so happens that a foot over bridge has been built just beside the school gate to ensure the safety of the pedestrians while crossing roads.

I hope from now on, all of us will value life over time by showing proper respect to traffic rules.

**Shahriar Kabir**  
Notre Dame College  
Dhaka

## HBFC

Even in the late seventies, houses in many places of capital Dhaka were mostly made of CI sheet, wood and thatches, seldom brick constructed buildings were viewed other than office buildings.

At that time, Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHFBC) enriched by a Tk.100.00 crore fund from the government, initiated a multi storied building loans programme for public at relatively low rate of interest (initially 5% per annum plain interest) for constructing residential houses in cities. Availing that government's multi loan facility from HBFC, hundreds of residential houses were constructed in different cities and towns within a decade by general public. The cities in Bangladesh got a modern look and the middle class people started to live in brick-made houses.

With the passage of time the demand of house building loans has increased manifold. Owing to limited houses in cities, rents of flats have become too high. In different cities there are land plots owned by people inheriting those from their ancestors. Such plots could be developed if HBFC comes forward with soft, long term and low interest loans.

Owing to limited funds, the HBFC is only financing a very insignificant, small number of clients now. It has manpower to handle more loans but fund is the main constraint.

The issue should be addressed by the government in right earnest.

**Mohammad Ashad Hossain**  
West Bashabo, Dhaka

## Enemy of the people

We are really worried with the current political developments. Parliament is dysfunctional. The nation is being insulted deliberately. The language movement, war of liberation etc are facing open disrespect and challenge from a major political party. The Jamaat is coming out victorious in the mèle.

Are we heading for a serious social disorder and recurrence of 1/11? Bangladesh is the most unfortunate country in the world where the people and fully democratic, non-communal and hard working, but are facing a political experiment every five years or so.

The people must now be mobilized to deal with political adventurists and the desperate religious groups out to destroy our social order and democracy. They are enemy of the people and the state.

**Areader**  
On e-mail



A. M. AHAD/DRINKNEWS