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# Stop wastage of power



PHOTO: AMRUL RAUFI

Of late, people's lives have become miserable due to frequent power outage. This menace is increasing day by day. The authorities seem to have turned a deaf ear to public sufferings. Instead of mitigating the sufferings of city dwellers they boastfully announce more power cuts in near future. Earlier, power was cut for one hour at a time at a certain place, but now that timing has been extended to two hours at a time-- to the great sufferings of all in this hot humid summer. Earlier, the government took a suicidal step to increase power generation by suspending gas

supply to the fertilizer factories and diverting the gas to the gas based power-generating plants. For some-time the government adopted the policy of daylight saving. This step did not last long as it brought more sufferings, especially to the tiny tots who were asleep in the transports while going to school one hour earlier in the morning. In this power situation, the government may stop illumination of skyscrapers, high-rise buildings and big establishments to mark national days.

**Md. Lutfar Rahman**  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Dhaka traffic

Dhaka is beset with tons of problems. The most difficult one is commuting. People have to commute from one place to another. It is almost an everyday affair for all the city dwellers. Children have to go to school, folks have to go to office, and shopkeepers have to go to the shops and so on. Likewise at the end of the day all these people have to get back home.

If commuting from one place to another had been a little more comfortable, life would have been easy in Dhaka. May I please request the government to consider this issue as the number one problem of Dhaka and do the needful with a view to mitigating the sufferings of the commuters. Any positive outcome would greatly benefit the city dwellers.

I have one humble suggestion. Impose a ban on movement of all types of non-motorised vehicles except bicycles where motorised vehicles ply. This particular step shall be faced by many a problem do away with the commuters every day in Dhaka.

**Saleh Mohammad Ayub**  
Kalabagan, Dhaka

## Use energy bulbs

Energy bulbs are not only energy savers but also environment friendly. It should be used for roadside lamppost, instead of those backdated sodium lights. Sodium lights make the surroundings hazy.

The government should take steps to replace the sodium lights as early as possible.

**Mehruba Islam**  
Department of Geography & Environment  
University of Dhaka

## Return of Bin!

No, I am not talking about return of the popular comedy series actor, Mr. Bin. It is the DUSTBIN at our varsity gate (College Gate on Mirpur Road) which has returned back to its original abode after a brief stay in the neighbourhood, a few yards away from the present site and has started polluting the environment! If you happen to be around the College Gate, please do not forget to pay a courtesy call to Mr. Dustbin and be entertained with a nasty odour and dirty scene!

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

## Rohingya dilemma

In the editorial piece "The Rohingya dilemma" published on 28 March, the author recognises that Rohingyas are in Bangladesh due to "religious and political persecution", who are "deliberately deprived of their citizenship rights" and who have "escape[d] from forced labour, rape, and religious persecution at the hands of the Myanmar military." And yet it is seen as acceptable to demand their repatriation into such a situation on the basis of a single, local newspaper report that demonstrates nothing more than mishandling of the issue by the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia. The allegation that there they are causing a law and order problem remains precisely that: an allegation. The author fails to provide a single source or piece of evidence to back up any claims of illegal activity, although his inventions do at least afford the Rohingyas some common sense, for who would ever

bother to traffic non-addictive drugs? It is wrong to align the situation of the Rohingyas as sympathy cause (that of a Bangladeshi or foreigner otherwise). It is a situation that appeals directly to the basic principles of one's humanity. The article you printed demonstrates short-sightedness and introspection that aims through disingenuous claims to demonise and blame others for the challenges that Bangladesh is currently facing.

**Max Baldwin, Dhaka**

## Chaotic and confusing

It is very confusing to understand and express the political developments in Bangladesh. We know the finance minister loves to talk humbly and forget the gravity of the situation. So far we have heard about 'food famine' now the finance minister is discovering 'Biddut Durvikkho' and has no clue how to address the issue in a better way. I won't be surprised if one day he puts off his gloves and rest in peace to join the cadre of his immediate predecessors now seen on TV screen.

It is more thrilling to hear the decree of the chairman of the Energy Regulatory Commission. He has only identified where the air coolers remain off from 6-11 pm every day. Surprisingly, he has totally forgotten to mention the special places where every electric appliance including air coolers will remain switched on. I think he is still in his dream and totally failed to see the comprehensiveness of the problem of applying technical regulation and the logistic implications to apply his decree. How can he order to stop the air coolers in the

hospitals and clinics? Regulation of energy is one thing and understanding of the human suffering is another. Moreover, he has forgotten the case of the examinees in April.

Now the question of the team management of the energy ministry. The ministry has one full time state minister, two full time advisers and above all the prime minister is in charge of the ministry as per rules. I have considerable reservations about the performance of the team. I hope they are ready to share the agony and sufferings of the common people, that is how an elected government govern and not by decree.

I am happy to note that Mr A.B.M Musa, the senior most journalist, was on the air to describe the situation of darker governance in his language of a reputed and respected journalist of the country. The energy team, the finance minister and chairman of the ERC, are requested to kindly listen to the episode aired on channel 1. Because the alternatives are worse than the present one, listen to the right people and not the lobbyists, political internees, and flatterers around the prime minister. I think one sentence of Mr Musa elaborates the whole situation "WHO IS IN CHARGE"?

**A reader**  
California, USA

## Playing with Biman!

I am surprised to read in DS 31/3 that Biman has been ordered to change its new livery on aircrafts on its fleet to old livery and logo.

Least I mention what funds would be wasted to change the new livery and logo to old ones but one matter I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation is that changing livery and logo of airlines is nothing new in the aviation industry. During my long association with the travel industry, I have seen British Airways change its logo and livery three times. So has Thai International, United Airlines, Northwest, Japan Airlines, Air India, PIA and many other international air carriers. Airlines do change their logo and livery every decade or so to create a new image to attract clients.

Coming back to Biman, I would like to point out that the original logo of the crane designed by late artist Qamrul Hasan underwent slight changes a long time ago. The original name, Bangladesh Biman, given by Bangabandhu was also changed in the eighties. First it was changed to Bangladesh Biman Airlines, then it was changed to Biman Bangladesh Airlines. I guess sentiments are playing a big role in the creation of new logo and livery of Biman. If sentiments are pulled into businesses like aviation, then God help Biman!

**Zia Gulshan I**  
Dhaka

## Home minister's job

We regularly listen to the hard voice of the Honourable Home Minister in all media claiming improved and very normal law and order situation in the capital as well as the country. The Home Minister denies any incident of crossfire and terms the killing of a Dhaka university student an isolated incident. But if she has the time to have a look into the news item entitled "Criminals grip Dhaka" in The Daily Star of 31st March-2010, then that may help to open her eyes to realize the extent of deterioration of law and order. The news reporter wrote, "From roadside tea-stall owners to members of parliament, successful entrepreneurs, and home and land owners --- none are spared by the killer gangs."

During the last one week there took place some killings and stabbings that made news headlines in the national dailies. In all these cases, parents and near ones were killed and or seriously injured by the fiancés of their school or college going offspring over their refusal to let in their affairs. This has revealed the very dark side of our society and the modern idea and way of life. These incidents also tell us how the widespread drug addiction is ruining the lives of the youngsters.

All these matters fall within the scope of the responsibilities of the Honourable Home Minister and the time is running out for her and her forces to become doer and not only the talkers like most of us. Propaganda may be a strategy of political game but in reality it needs relentless and sincere efforts and actions to win over the diehard criminals and bring the desired result that ultimately is counted.

**Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque**  
Khalishpur R/A, Khulna

## Our teachers

Teachers are the torchbearers, mentors and leaders of a nation. Frankly & honestly speaking, teachers are not well-treated in our country. The condition of private school, college teachers is really inexpressible. They have no stable remuneration system, although our present govt. ensures a fixed or standard package for the private school and college teachers.

To sum up, I would like to request our present govt. and the authorities concerned to address the issue.

**Md. Zahidul Islam Zibon**  
Dept. of English  
International Islamic University Chittagong

## Marijuana

According to an American Cancer Society article, marijuana impairs the immune system. Smoking marijuana regularly (a joint a day) can damage the cells in the bronchial passages which protect the body against inhaled microorganisms and decrease the ability of the immune cells in the lungs to fight off fungi, bacteria, and tumour cells. For patients with already weakened immune systems

# Luxury vehicle!

Nowadays, one of the most luxury vehicles is CNG three wheeler. No fare less than Tk 100! Getting a CNG is like winning a lottery!!

CNG drivers are always in their mood, they don't even bother to answer the passengers. Being a university student, I need to take CNG to reach my university, every day I have to face this tough war of

getting a CNG scooter. Even sometimes, the CNG drivers slow down, give their option of areas where they want to go and don't even bother to listen to the commuters.

I would request our higher authorities to please look into the matter.

**Shamrin Afia Adiba**  
Student, BBA  
American International University- Bangladesh (AIUB)



PHOTO: STAR

which often proves fatal in AIDS patients.

People who have learned from hard experience with drugs will tell you that it's a steppingstone to drugs that are much more powerful and harmful, and that if you want to be safe and not go down that road of sorrow, you will not even take the first step.

**Ted Rudow III, MA**  
One-mail

## Pope's stand

I commend Pope Benedict XVI for not being intimidated by the petty gossip of the media and other false critics seeking to smear the pope and bring down the Catholic Church.

The Pope is completely innocent and is doing everything in his power to weed out those priests guilty of sexual abuse and to justly compensate victims for their suffering. In fact he is the one above all else in society who has tackled these things head on.

Contrary to his critics the most comprehensive statistics to date indicate: 1) Priestly celibacy is not the issue - married men are more likely to abuse children than unmarried. 2) Child abuse is prevalent in all areas of society. Most child abuse takes place within the home. 3) Many religious groups have paedophile scandals, and the Catholics (while the largest religious group) are at the bottom of the list statistically. 4) Catholic cases of paedophilia make more headlines because of anti Catholic prejudice and because the Catholic Church is bigger and more lucrative to sue. When lawsuits are looming people smell money. We must be wary of false accusations. 5) Most cases branded 'paedophilia' are actually homosexual in nature, however the politically correct do not want this problem to be associated with

homosexuality. 6) What we now call 'cover up' was often done in a different cultural context, when the problem was not fully understood and when all establishment organizations hushed scandals. They did so for what seemed good reasons at the time: protection of the victims and their families, opportunity for rehabilitation of the offender, the avoidance of scandal to others. It is unfair to judge events thirty years ago by today's standards.

I am in no way wishing to be soft of paedophiles and those who covered for them, however justice and truth demand an objective analysis of the facts.

**Paul Kokoski**  
Hamilton, Ontario  
Canada

## Canvassers

We know the existing rule of the country permits neither a person nor any institute to canvas and sell nostrums, amulets, finger rings, medicinal plants or any type of remedy in public places like footpath, bus, launch, ferry-ghat etc. This job being done unobstructed is really a matter of deep regret.

They swindle a large group of audience by their indecent body language, prurient description of the disease concerned and also by delivering sex-related bizarre and fictitious concepts.

When we, along with our kith and kin, notably minor ones, travel by a bus or train we often have to face an embarrassing and shameful situation.

The matter deserves a closer look.

**Dr A K Fafiqul Islam**  
Eye Specialist  
Faridpur Medical College Hospital

## Deep seaport

I am a seaman and as a seaman feel that just a deep seaport is not going to benefit us very much if we do not have a developed hinterland. The Chinese have helped Pakistan to build a deep seaport at Gwadar in Baluchistan coast.

So if we do not have a vibrant hinterland our deep seaport will be an exercise in futility.

With careful planning we can make Cox's Bazar the main commercial, industrial and tracking hub of the region.

**Salahuddin Ahmad**  
One-mail

## Digital Bangladesh

Many thanks to Shajib Wazed Joy for shedding light on the present Awami League (AL) government's vision of "Digital Bangladesh". Mr Joy was absolutely right about his perception that many of us were wondering what it implied. After his deliberation on this topic we have learned what the AL means when its leaders coin a phrase, "Digital Bangladesh" by 2021. It is a philosophy for a modern poverty free country with equal opportunity for all. Based on this the struggle to free Bangladesh from economic and political domination of West Pakistan began. Here, for "Digital Bangladesh", special emphasis is given on applying modern technology based on IT sector development and its accessibility to broader population.

Technological advancement of the last century has added a new dimension to human lives. Satellites, computers and mobile phones with its almost daily upgrading with the aid of improved microchips, the word limitless becomes inadequate to describe its future. Almost anything and everything is possible. Regrettably, we in the 'still' developing world cannot share the credit for such inventions, but we surely can boast to have attracted attention of the traders as a viable market of these hi-tech products. Thanks to globalisation, famous brands of IT industry are household names in Bangladesh.

The government's efforts to work towards "Digital Bangladesh", deserves to be admired. It is a forward thinking approach though it would be even more palatable if it were to address the issues of more basic nature at the same time. We still have not been able to reclaim the footpaths, develop drainage & sewerage system, ensure clean and regular supply of drinking water, adequate public health facilities and acceptable buss service within the city, and decent railway travel. These are the mere basic amenities for the populace. Electricity, gas, education and human resource development are frequently talked about subjects and the government is on-toes about those because, these issues are of concern for interested parties at home and abroad who have voice and access to administration, media and seminars.

Ideally the IT industry should develop itself without government's direct assistance. It should automatically develop itself once a country's primary and secondary economic sectors are fully developed.

**Nurur Rahman**  
Banani, Dhaka

## ONLINE VOICES

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

### Power, gas crises

#### PM puts blame on past govts (April 1, 2010)

Good! Our PM seems very prudent! If she can shift the responsibility to others, then why not use this technique? But alas! If those two governments shift their responsibility to Sheikh Hasina's last government, then what's the answer?

**Thontkata**

If the past governments are responsible for the power crisis, then PM Hasina, you should take a part of the pie (1996-2001). No governments in the past had enjoyed so much free hand in all branches of the state machinery than yours. If you could not work taking advantage of the overwhelming parliamentary majority, the

friendly media, the obedient police, the disciplined armed forces and the inactive opposition (No hartals being called) then you better step down!

**Jumana Sarwar**

There is no use blaming the past government or administration. This government in its 25% tenure did not show any encouraging action to turn around. It always claimed that it had the required home work. It pledged to add 1500MW power to the national grid by end 2010. Will that happen?

**Khondkar Abdus Saleque**

No, don't blame the past governments. The blame goes to everyone involved. Blame the unplanned growth of Dhaka. Blame all the high rises, apartment complexes, shopping malls. Where do you think the natural resources will come from?

**Shan**

Seems like a very old line. Our politicians blame previous governments for their own failures and mismanagement of the country.

**Alam**

Each ruling party blames the opposition for their lack of performance. People are tired of hearing this kind of rhetoric. How can you reduce public suffering, think over it please. The other day Khaleda Zia claimed that her government had installed adequate electricity in the national grid!

**Nasirullah Mridha**

I agree with the PM on negligence of the looming crisis by earlier governments including her own of '96-'01.

**Haq**

Enough is enough! You promised to give 1000MW of power during the first year of your rule. But what's happening now? We implore you to avoid

she is still blaming past govts!

**Nadeem Mohammad**

Dear PM, please try a new excuse ... the old one is getting very boring.

**Shabbir Bashar**

Nice to blame someone else for every problem the country faces.

**Karim Khan**

The present govt is in power. They should solve the problem, instead of blaming others who are not in power now.

**Hasib Ullah Bukhari**



everything on past governments, including the AL government which was in power for 5 years from 1996 to 2001.

It is not the job of the PM or the politicians of the current government to fix anything. That's because it is not their fault. All the blame should be put on everyone else except the government currently in power!

**Madam PM, I fully support you on this matter.**  
**Syed Sobhan**

The AL knew the problem when they came to power, thus they should have thought of a temporary solution. Every problem has a solution and Bangladeshis are not unreasonable people. We understand that things can't change overnight, but there has to be light at the end of the tunnel.

**Talat Islam**

Honourable Prime Minister, all these we know. Please do something positive for power generation. We want to see action.

**Faruk**

Her government is entirely responsible for the present power crisis. It was busy cutting ribbons for more than 1000MW power plants approved by the caretaker government. This government failed to add a single megawatt of power through their own efforts in 15

months of office. Someone should set the facts right.

**Shahena Ferdous**

This blame game must stop. The PM must accept the responsibility of the failure of her government.

**Shilpi Akhter**

I appreciate the plans and efforts made by Sheikh Hasina's government. But she should not lose time by engaging in the 'blame-game'.

**Kazi Abul Firoz**

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