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Dhaka Stock Exchange

While viewing the red against almost all the stocks for the last few weeks, one can easily understand it is nothing but manipulation done by certain vested quarters. GP entered into the stock market and changed the conventional monotonous slow growth share market to a vibrant fast growing one. New investors invested in the share market purchasing shares of different companies with a hope to get an expected return from a share market which got a new lease of life after the arrival of GP. But the situation did not last long. The vested quarters in the name of correcting the share market imposed many conditions like limitation of bank loan, use of cash payment, instead of using

instant sale proceeds for buying a particular share etc. damaged the upward trend of the share market. For a few days a total of Tk 1500 crore worth of shares were transacted every day just after the entry of GP. Now the quantum has been reduced to 50%. Why? This is just because of the manipulation of share market by the monsters, who are always out to meet their selfish ends.

My question is, why are they not pulling out the market from a severe nosedive?

Md. Lutfar Rahman
Faculty, College of Business Administration
IUBAT
Dhaka



actions taken.

I hope the suggestion will be taken up so that we can stay informed about the progress.

Ali Hamid Khan
Utara, Dhaka

PM and BCL

We are very happy to read editorials of three major English dailies on the same day (April 5, 2010) about the concern of the prime minister regarding the point that the student wing belonging to the ruling party would not be allowed to nullify her government's achievements. Now she has again spoken out over the activities of an associate body of the ruling party. Months ago, she publicly dissociated herself from the student organisation perhaps in the hope that it would send the right message to the student body to rectify itself. Unfortunately, it did not have the desired impact on the student wing. The student organisation has continued to defy appeals made to it to shun violence, tender snatching, extortion and pursuance of illegal ways for making money. In fact, it has made blaring headlines for its misdeeds on a regular basis with no sign of abatement. Her assertion that the student wing cannot be led by individuals who cannot be called students any more is a hint at how student politics may have become captive in the hands of what she calls 'adu bhai'. The statement is in itself a warning that unless such bodies as the student wing are led back to the old idealism which marked their coming into existence, student politics will continue to be on a slide. And that will mean the sort of unruly behaviour citizens have seen coming from BCL activists in these past many months. One does not have to tolerate such behaviour, as the prime minister has explicitly stated, or expect that it will end through a mere sounding of warnings. Only an application of the law can have a salutary effect on such behaviour. It is clear the blame must lie with the party leadership.

If the prime minister is serious about reining in the student wing, she needs to ensure that the offenders are not only disciplined organisationally but punished legally as well. We've to wait for the better outcome. Time is a companion that goes with us on a journey. It reminds us to cherish each moment, because it will never come again. What we leave behind is not as important as how we have lived. Time and tide wait for no human. A pompous and self-satisfied proverb, and was true for a billion years; but in our day of electric wires and water-ballet we turn it around: Humans wait not for time, nortide.

Gopal Sengupta
McGill University
Canada

Good news
It is heartening to hear that some Bangladeshi bus companies are introducing the digital ticketing system. It was reported in your daily that a Japanese company has been issuing prepaid tickets for the bus passengers (The Star Business: 05.04.10). We experienced the benefits of this sort of ticketing system abroad. But for some fishy backdrop or reasons unknown, we never could enjoy such advantages before

in Bangladesh. The prepaid ticketing system benefits both the operators and the passengers. If the companies consider giving incentives like, some concessions for weekly or monthly tickets, people will be encouraged more to have those tickets in advance. In other countries, for the day tickets, weekly tickets and monthly tickets there are some lucrative concessions for the passengers. The bus companies may also think of this sort of daily, weekly and monthly tickets. It will ensure their profits and stop pilferage of cash money.

I would like to thank both the software company and the bus services operators who are going to introduce this system and elevate us to the digital arena. The government should extend all sorts of support to the introducers of the digital ticketing system.

Monzur Rahman
Dhaka

Price of gas

It was revealed from your news report on 05.04.10 that the secretary of gas and mineral resources division has recommended enhancing the gas price. He mentioned in his statement that nowhere in the present world the price is so low as Bangladesh. Perhaps, he has forgotten that the average income of the people is not comparable with the countries he mentioned.

I worked in Petrobangla for quite a long time. From my experience I can say if the authorities simply check pilferage and thievery of the staff of the gas companies, there would be no need to enhance the price. If anybody just looks into the lifestyle of the staff of the companies, from the top to the bottom, without any sort of envy or grudge he can find out the reasons behind the so called losses of the companies.

I am not against any reasonable price hike. But before taking any such initiative, please, for God's sake, look into the matter and find out where things are going wrong.

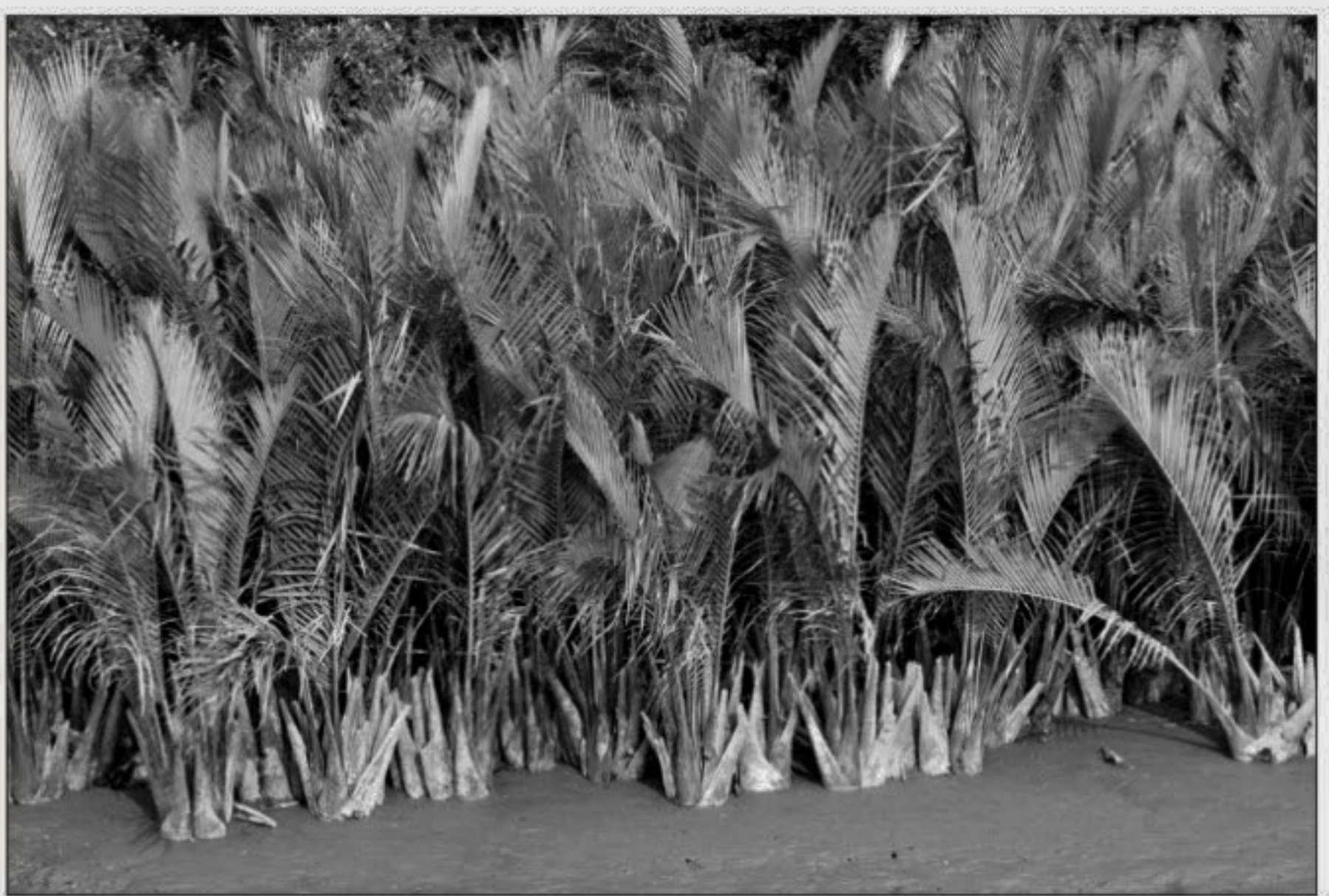
Nabila Raisa
Dhaka

Traffic issue

This seems to be the slogan of the authorities who come up with one absurd idea after another in the name of traffic control. The ban on rickshaws on main roads, especially Mohakhali Road is one such example. This main road lies between the residential areas of Gulshan 1 & 2, Niketan, Badda, DOHS etc and the working and educational districts of Banani and Gulshan and vice versa. Thousands of people used rickshaws every day to reach their short destinations in Gulshan cheaply, safely and much more swiftly than it is possible by car.

This is now history, squads of traffic cops are deployed at every entry point in Mohakhali and Gulshan Avenue to stop rickshaws. As a consequence with the advent of the hot season and later on the monsoons, no thought has been given for the inconvenience of a vast majority of the travelling public - school going children, university students, patients, women, disabled, elderly and those carrying small goods to/from bazaars. For them the only place to walk is the main

The Sundarbans



The Sundarbans in the southwestern part of Bangladesh has an important buffer function, protecting the densely settled agriculture areas from the full force of periodic cyclones storms and tidal waves. It lies in the west of the Brahmaputra-Meghna delta covering an area of 587,380 ha of natural mangroves and further 100,000 ha of planted mangroves. It is the largest in the world as a compact single block of mangrove resources.

The Sundarbans mangrove forests is a hotspot of biological diversity and support a unique ecological community which includes a number of terrestrial, aquatic, amphibian and avifauna population. It is an important staging and wintering area for migratory shore birds, gulls and terns.

Mangrove forest also yields a large quantity of honey and wax from the wild beehives. Mollusk shells are gathered for burning to produce lime. A big portion of people from near and far from the wetland do fishing in and around Sundarbans round the year. Around 160,000 people are engaged in fishing activities. It provides livelihoods to about 300,000 people at certain seasons of the year working in different trades.

Approximately 1 million hectares of

land in southern coastal areas of Bangladesh is at risk of salinity. In the recent years the hydrological conditions have undergone a change in the southwestern part of the country following the commissioning of the Farakka barrage by India.

At least three reasons are contributing to saline water intrusion:

1. Diversion of Ganges River flow by Farakka barrage.
2. Overdrafting of freshwater aquifers.
3. Upstream withdrawal for irrigation of rice and others crops.

High salinity affects the growth of mangrove vegetation bringing about changes in species composition. The recent increase in water and soil salinity has upset the natural equilibrium of the delicate ecological balance required for the healthy growth and existence of the rich flora and fauna. Sundori, the dominant tree species, is severely affected by 'top dying'. The forest resources have suffered the cruel onslaught by man for centuries but it is only the last half a century which saw the disastrous effect on the mangrove forests.

Md. Saidul Islam
Dept. of Geography and Environmental studies
University of Chittagong

Sea level rise

Climate change will significantly affect migration in three distinct ways. First, the effects of warming and drying in some regions will reduce agriculture potential and undermine ecosystem services such as clean water and fertile soil. Second, the increase in extreme weather events in particular, heavy precipitation and resulting flash or river floods in tropical regions. Finally, sea level rise will permanently destroy extensive and highly productive low-lying coastal areas that are home to millions of people who will have to relocate permanently. Along with other extreme weather events like flooding and tropical cyclone, sea level rise is an impending threat to the coastal areas in Bangladesh which has long and densely populated coastlines with many low-lying remote islands. In the severe climate change scenario, sea level rise poses an existential threat that would inundate 18 percent of Bangladesh's total land, directly impacting 11 percent of the country's population.

The power sector will never so bad before.

Ranjan Chowdhury
Distillery Road, Dhaka

DS campaign
Your campaign against various social and political issues plaguing the country and destroying our social and economic fabric is really laudable. We are very pleased with the way the national daily is trying to highlight the problems and evoke the people's interest in them by enlightening them about the state of affairs and goading the government to act to stop and check the degradation of the social, economic and environ-

mental sectors.

These are impacting our country in a very disturbing and threatening way. The country is beset with myriad problems, which will eventually drag it further down, and life as it already is, will become increasingly hard and difficult. Those issues which are vital for the country's well being have been brought to the full view and notice of the readers and the authorities in order to nudge the government to act and bring legislations to save the nation from the disappearing rivers encroached and gobbled up by miscreants and powerful and influential people for personal gains threatening navigability, flow of water, agriculture etc. Water is essential for survival of man as well as animals. Rivers are the lifeline of a country and its people. We can't afford to sideline the problem anymore, lest the environment becomes seriously polluted and our city unliveable.

Forests are being destroyed wantonly and blatantly. We haven't stopped there. Even public properties have been encroached with impunity. Traffic congestion has reached horrendous proportions. The city is grinding to a standstill and work is seriously hampered. Load shedding can't get any worse affecting deeply every section of the society.

We appreciate the paper's concern and fight against the malevolence eating away at the country. We will be further benefited if the paper can update the readers and give constant follow ups so that we can know where we are heading and how seriously and consistently the government is taking up the matter and what steps has it taken and the subsequent results of the

not a country for girls like you.

S. Ali

The government, Chhatra League & media are always active against the Jamaat-Shibir. Why not against stalkers?

Sabina Syeed

Violence against girls must be stopped if a nation wants to be civilized. In a civilized country violence against women cannot exist. We all should stand against the perpetrators of such crimes.

Faridul Alam

How many innocent children have to die to awaken the government and society?

Simon Abraham

What is the answer? Do not like to see & hear this type of occurrences in the country any more. Why will our daughters & sisters be killed in this manner? For God's sake, please come forward to give a solution to this problem. The criminals should be hanged in an open place & it should be telecast, so that nobody in future tries to commit such crimes any more.

Faruk

Well, this is a painful incident indeed. Living in a civilized society we just indulge in barbarism. As always, it is surprising

people of Bangladesh, want justice.

Engr. Zakir

I don't believe police need to find out the real criminals and arrest them. The faces are known. It's not a normal suicide.

Mahfuz

I hate the way our government is handling this kind of brutality. I even sometimes get worried when I look at my younger sister.

God help us.

Tonmoy

Daily Star, would you follow up on this until justice is served?

SC

Instead of taking systematic and effective steps to solve this problem, the police were ordered to monitor schools temporarily! Anyway, people don't trust the police, in the first place!

Ezajur Rahman

Unless the police are alert and go after the stalkers and eve teasers in their areas, many such tragedies will continue to occur. Alas!

Ziauddin Ahmed

Pinky, we have no word to say sorry. We again failed to protect one of our sisters.

Advocate Mustafizur Rahman



ONLINE VOICES

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

Schoolgirl burnt to death by stalker

Police strangely claim she committed suicide (April 7, 2010)

Pinky, forgive us. We failed to look after you. I have two sisters. Both of them in university. But when they go to university we (including my parents) feel worried about their security. It is not possible for the govt alone to control it or remove eve teasing forever. Actually, our social norms are responsible for this. We have to teach our children properly.

Md. Raseduzzaman

The murderer must be brought to justice.

Borhan

It is time for the nation to really see what measures are taken by the government and for The

we were caught red-handed. This is