

# Listen, mankind

I am the only planet created by God for safe habitation of all creatures. He made me. But you mankind started behaving cruelly with me, the only planet you are living in. Your cruelty started right from the day you were put to live here. All creatures that I am harbouring have equal right to live & share me. But only you started damaging me all around my body to satisfy your greed for wealth and comfort, totally forgetting what your religion preaches: "To live in peace with all". But you started cutting trees without planting saplings for future. With the help of these trees, I am giving shelter to the world of wild animals, birds & many other creatures who have also equal right to share me. Greed made you so blind that you never bothered about your own laws banning indiscriminate cutting of trees hills, killing of birds & other animals.

You established millions of industries emitting smokes containing carbon dioxide, causing serious damage to the ozone layer, which protects us against bad effects of sunrays.

Mankind, God created you as

superior to all creatures with the hope that you will love all & live in peace with all others. But in reality what is seen is an entirely different attitude full of cruelty.

I now put some of the miseries caused by you to me. You defaced me by cutting hills, obstructing natural flow of rivers & canals, polluting them by throwing all wastes including chemicals, thus making them toxic which kills aquatic beings. Remember what you did in the world wars, bombing me using

nuclear weapons.

Now my appeal to mankind, the superior creature: show kindness towards me & stop all kinds of torture/ cruelty for your own sake & live in peace with all other creatures having equal rights like you. Try to follow what the Chinese proverb said: "Kindness is a language, which the deaf man can hear and blind man can read."

M.A.Alim  
Ex. Banker (Janata Bank)  
Indira Road, Dhaka



MOENA JALU / DRINKNEWS

## Hartal call and govt's response

Continuous threat of pursuance of court cases and new prosecutions against her two sons and their friends are really disturbing. How can a national leader live peacefully with all these threats and persuasions by her rivals? There is no convincing reason behind her hartal call, but she is undone. She is desperate, because the situation compelled her to resort to such actions.

It was reported in the media that most of her senior leaders were astonished to hear the declaration. This means, she did not discuss the issue with her senior leaders before. Now no one, including her own men, accepted the hartal.

The government has declared that it will face the challenge politically. What will the government gain facing the hartal politically? I believe nothing. The people will not venture to the streets on the hartal day and the city will remain paralysed from sunrise

to sunset. The government will have nothing to cheer about. At the end of the day, Begum Zia will heave a sigh of relief and declare a grand success. In this case, the government will be the ultimate loser.

I suggest the government negotiate with the leader of the opposition to withdraw the hartal call. I believe this will be a face saving exercise for both.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

## Unsafe concrete jungle!

It is true that the real estate sector is contributing a lot to our economy. At the same time it is true that they are violating the BNBC code. The incident takes place a few months ago at Japan Garden City. Rajuk is the authority to investigate this core issue for ensuring better management. To speak the truth, the whole city has now turned into a concrete jungle where people are living in extremely unsafe conditions. Reports published in the

newspapers say this city is going to be unsuitable for living in the days ahead. Because the city has not been expanded according to a proper plan in the past few years. The past governments have not addressed the issue. There are many buildings in the city which were built without any plan.

The authorities concerned should look into the matter to prevent any humanitarian disaster in the near future.

Eng. Md. Meheub Haque  
BUET

## Who will bring change?

The catch-word "BODLEY JAO, BODLIADAO" of the most circulated daily 'Prothom Alo' knocked upon the conscious part of my mind as my eyes took a flash on its billboard. I started thinking over this issue again and again but to no conclusion. Some questions crowded my brain: how much change the slogan has brought, can mere slogan

bring the desired change until the determinant factors associated with the changes are changed?

The slogan is nothing but a provocation. Where will the change start from? It should be started from the top. For example: if the practice of yellow journalism is to come to an end, it should be initiated by the leading newspapers.

Enam  
Azimpur

## Smoking, everywhere!

Laws are enacted but not implemented in our country. We all know smoking is forbidden in public places. But what do we see? Smoking takes place in all public places, even in front of the police. Are our law enforcement agencies too weak to take action against the smokers? Our neighbouring country Bhutan is free from smoking. But we can't stop smoking in public places.

Sabbir Hossain  
Tangail

## Donors' interference

The govt. of Bangladesh has its own 'vision' & 'mission'. These visions are to be implemented by the govt. servants of various cadres. These cadres include civil servants from police, finance, administration, engineering, medical services, agricultural services etc. including those servants who work in the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). In achieving the mission & vision, there are lots of hindrances which are overcome by the civil servants. The character & nature of the servants is always transparent to the ministry of the govt. The good or bad of an employee is definitely known to his boss. So, any action against the civil servants must be under the control of the government. The ACC is not an institution located outside Bangladesh. So, any action required by them need to be approved by the government. It is not an illogical proposal. Otherwise, there remains the scope of exploitation of civil servants by the ACC people.

I believe the government decision as regards the empowerment of ACC is all right. Interference by the donors in this matter is of course not fair.

Engr. Abdul Jalil  
Paribag, Dhaka

## Terrorism

The cinema Avatar didn't get the Oscar just because it showed what terrible destruction the marines do to innocent people.

It is a good movie. You can't help but give credit to the director, producer and writer, James Cameron for showing the world the true picture of the devastation not only to people but also to the environment, they cause, in the name of peace!

Dr. Sabrina  
Dhaka Cantt.  
Dhaka

## AIE crash

Failing to have an online ticket in Bangladesh Biman that does not care about our government's dream of digital Bangladesh, I have been flying the small aircraft of Air India Express (AIE) for about two years, flying from Singapore to Dhaka and the return journey. The first advantage AIE provides me is the fact that I can book reservation and on confirmation I can print the ticket sitting on my study table and thus can avert the time consuming running after travel agents.

But all is not well with AIE. World people know AIE's last episode that is an unfortunate air crash in Mangalore, killing most people (numbering about 160) on board. The aircraft, a Boeing 737, came from Dubai and crashed while landing at the airport in Mangalore on Saturday, May 22. The aircraft is said to have skidded off the runway that was 'smaller' than standard. The cause shown as 'smaller runway' is not tenable because this is an international airport and even the same aircraft might have landed here many times before! I guess another cause and think AIE authorities can consider that.

I was flying from Singapore on May 15 by an AIE aircraft. While landing in Kolkata

Netaji Subhash Bose international airport, it landed so hard that every passenger understood the pilot did not do a good job. My point is: every passenger deserves a smooth and safe landing. I think one of the causes of air crash on May 22 was such a hard landing.

Abdus Sattar Molla, PhD  
Researcher at NIE, Singapore

## Political legitimacy

The BNP is now going to set up a national commission of enquiry (Gono Commission) to determine the political and financial damage caused by their caretaker government during 2007-8.

Interestingly, there would be a branch unit of the same commission in every district. The plan has just been unveiled by the former law minister of the BNP.

Few very relevant and related issues shall be asked: Why this Gono Commission?

The purpose is only to salvage the BNP and help them to regain unquestionable political legitimacy.

Is it not an established fact the people of Bangladesh welcomed the 1/11 caretaker government? Are the people happy now with the declining political image and will they extend their unqualified support to the activities of the Gono Commission?

Will it be unfair to guess that the commission is purely a fresh political move to achieve success in a few distinct areas.

- To challenge the trial of war criminals.

- To enlist more public support to destabilize the government leading to civil disorder.

- The proposed Gono Commission will just be the shadow of the defamed Jamaat and assume their political role in disguise.

Any way, we will have to wait and see who become the judges and whether they conform to any legal standard. Hopefully, Mr Fakhruddin Ahmed and General Moeen U Ahmed will get the floor to tell the people what are all these about.

Finally, why Mr Iajuddin Ahmed who was the head of caretaker government is not mentioned by the BNP? Is he going to support the plaintiff and help salvage the political legitimacy of the BNP to take part in the national politics?

Before I finish, I would like to thank Mr Mizanur Rahman Khan of the Prothom Alo for his very good analysis of political double standard in facing any corruption notice.

They want complete and full independence of the ACC, but they refuse to reply to a simple letter of the ACC and are now challenging its authority by a writ in the HC. What a paradoxical picture in politics!

Quadir  
California, USA

## Second stimulus package

The first press release issued by the Ministry of Finance on November 25, 2009 contained some points which required further clarifications for implementation. Small & medium garment factories have been included in this package for receipt of benefits.

The package, definitely has been declared after assessing the eligibility of those who have suffered during the period of worldwide economic recession. In spite of that, the package still remains unpaid. Six months have gone already since the press release was issued.

However, after meeting the BGMEA & the BKMEA representatives on April 07, 2010, the government formed a committee under the leadership of the Director General, Monitoring Cell, Finance Division for formulating policies for implementation of the decisions of the meeting.

The recommendations forwarded by this committee were very specific. The following are the recommendations which are about the same as the first press release issued by government but properly clarified:

Renewal Fees for captive generators for the period from November 01, 2009 to June 30, 2010 will be paid from stimulus package.

Garment factories exporting up to 3.50 million US Dollars will be entitled to receive 5% on the export made by them in the year 2008-2009.

Over and above that, any garment factory which has exported any amount to countries other than U.S.A., Canada & European Union will be entitled to receive 5% on the export made by them in the 2008-2009 & 4% & 2% in the year 2009-2010 & 2010-2011 respectively.

Similar facilities will be

available to BTMA members directly exporting yarns to any country.

Factories which do not use captive generators will be given subsidy of 10% of their electricity bills for the period from July 01, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Bangladesh Bank may consider reducing the rate of interest to 10% on the loan rescheduled by factories in the textile sector.

The circular dated May 03, 2010 was forwarded to all relevant departments for implementation. Still the banks and other relevant authorities are yet to get necessary instruction for disbursement of funds to RMG units whom the government thought should be given support as early as six months back. I request the authorities concerned to save the small factories in the industry by arranging payment to them without any further delay. "A stitch in time saves nine."

Karibul Mowla Chowdhury  
Managing Director  
Niponika Garments Limited  
Badda, Dhaka

## Foot bridge at Banani

I refer to the letter of Mr. Abu Imran on the subject published in your daily on 24.5.2010. I fully agree with his views suggesting a foot bridge at Banani. It may be mentioned that in Banani there are two such bridges -- one located at Mahakhali (around the flyover) and the other towards North at Kakuli. In between there is none, although the distance between the two bridges is nearly three to four kilometres. The mid-point is around Chairman Bari bus stop where there is also a zebra crossing. This is therefore a suitable place where a foot

bridge can be erected.

The other point worth mentioning is that though there is the bus stop with the added facility of zebra crossing, some buses do not stop there. This causes immense inconvenience to the passengers. It is therefore also requested that the authorities take necessary steps and force the drivers of the buses to stop there and help the passengers to disembark at that point.

Abdullah  
Banani, Dhaka

## Eve teasing

Eve teasing is a euphemism used in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan for public sexual harassment, street harassment or molestation of women by men.

With this given definition, in this technology based era, one new thing should be added to the definition of eve teasing, that is teasing by mobile phone and mobile tracking. The government should pay attention to these types of teasing as well. Eve teasing is widespread in every form in our society. I guess every woman for sure in her lifetime has come across some form of eve teasing. No villages in Bangladesh are barred from this social evil, let alone capital city Dhaka. It would not be an exaggeration if I say each and every time when you step out of your home, you can see one or two such incidents around you, maybe on roads or buses.

The question is, will the girls ever be able to roam around alone without any fear at heart? I have two suggestions. One for the girls, PLEASE be brave and face the stalkers. And last one for Rab, beat the stalkers mercilessly in broad daylight so that the would-be stalkers don't even dare to think of doing it.

Khandaker Zia Hasan  
Communication Trainer  
Dhaka

# Education for all



AZZUR RAHIM PEU / DRINKNEWS

Education plays a vital role in everyone's life. It is a basic human right. Education has many functions. It helps us in forming opinions, gaining knowledge, using our own skills, achieving skills, and attaining higher economic standards and so on.

However, it is really unfortunate that everyone is not getting equal opportunities to have education. The UNESCO is trying to ensure that by 2015 every child will get education. "At least primary education must be completed,"

they said. So they are trying their best to make a difference. If you educate women you educate a whole generation. So let's join hands and make a difference, let's educate people-- not only women but also men.

Finally, I draw your attention by quoting these few words, "Education is not the preparation for life but it is life itself!"

Nipuni Rajapaksa  
The Aga Khan School  
Dhaka

## Boosting energy resources!

The "Star Business Report" of May 23rd. on this important and very relevant matter, dealt only with solar energy; although for Bangladesh, we should exploit biomass, wind and other sources of energy and electricity!

Solar energy, and wind turbines need many imported components, like solar panels, inverters, batteries for solar energy and the whole wind turbines set-up for wind power; to make it compatible with domestic electrical distribution network. The investment is also comparatively large. In fact, per MW cost of electricity generated, is highest for these two sources of power! In stark contrast, freely available biomass can provide methane gas-- a highly valuable energy source with practically no imported components, except for gas storage tanks, that can be locally fabricated, and pumps or

compressors to put the gas into the distribution system! The investment for biomass digesters is comparatively very small, and only local materials are needed for it!

Biomass source of generating methane gas from 'animal and human solid waste' deserves topmost attention and priority in our national interest for all urban areas! High density housing areas, like apartment complexes, public or private residential projects, housing estates, school, college and university hostels, prisons, police and armed forces barracks and cantonments are potential sources from where we can get methane from solid waste.

Today we spend money to remove it by sewage lines, then treat it and

neutralise it in "sewage treatment plants" and then pump it out to the rivers! This human waste can provide us much needed methane gas, and the solid residue, left behind after gas extraction,

which has no smell, can be compressed and sold as agricultural fertilizer and recycled back to the soil for farming.

It is therefore essential that we are fully aware of this rich potential source of fuel gas, from the 'un-mentionable' human waste not discussed in polite society! We should go all out to develop this simple source of fuel gas, for which very little investment is needed. All these are local materials-- cement, sand and bricks to build the digesters. The per unit cost of energy, for methane is far cheaper than the foreign exchange cost of exploring and developing gas wells! We cannot afford to ignore this readily available free raw material for producing much needed methane; geological sources for which are finite and rapidly drying up! In contrast, methane from solid waste will be available so long as we exist!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor  
Dhaka

# Solar power industry

Good news----solar power assembly plant is being established in Bangladesh (news item). It is a Western high-tech industry, and there is an apprehension that the rich industrialised countries are rather reluctant to pass on the technology secrets to the third world----for obvious reasons.

Now that capitalism is on the decline in the West, there is a tendency to relocate the factories in the countries where the labour and operational costs are cheaper. Even China today is relocating the shoe and garment factories to Bangladesh.

Solar renewable electricity is badly needed in the developing countries in all the five continents. The production in Bangladesh could be exportable ---- The UN agencies have to create the congenial environment for global trading.

Some mountainous countries in the Saarc region have the potential to produce hydro-electricity for use by the neighbouring countries: but connectivity is a taboo issue in this region. Some experts suspect it is the due to the attitude of the Big Brother India. The

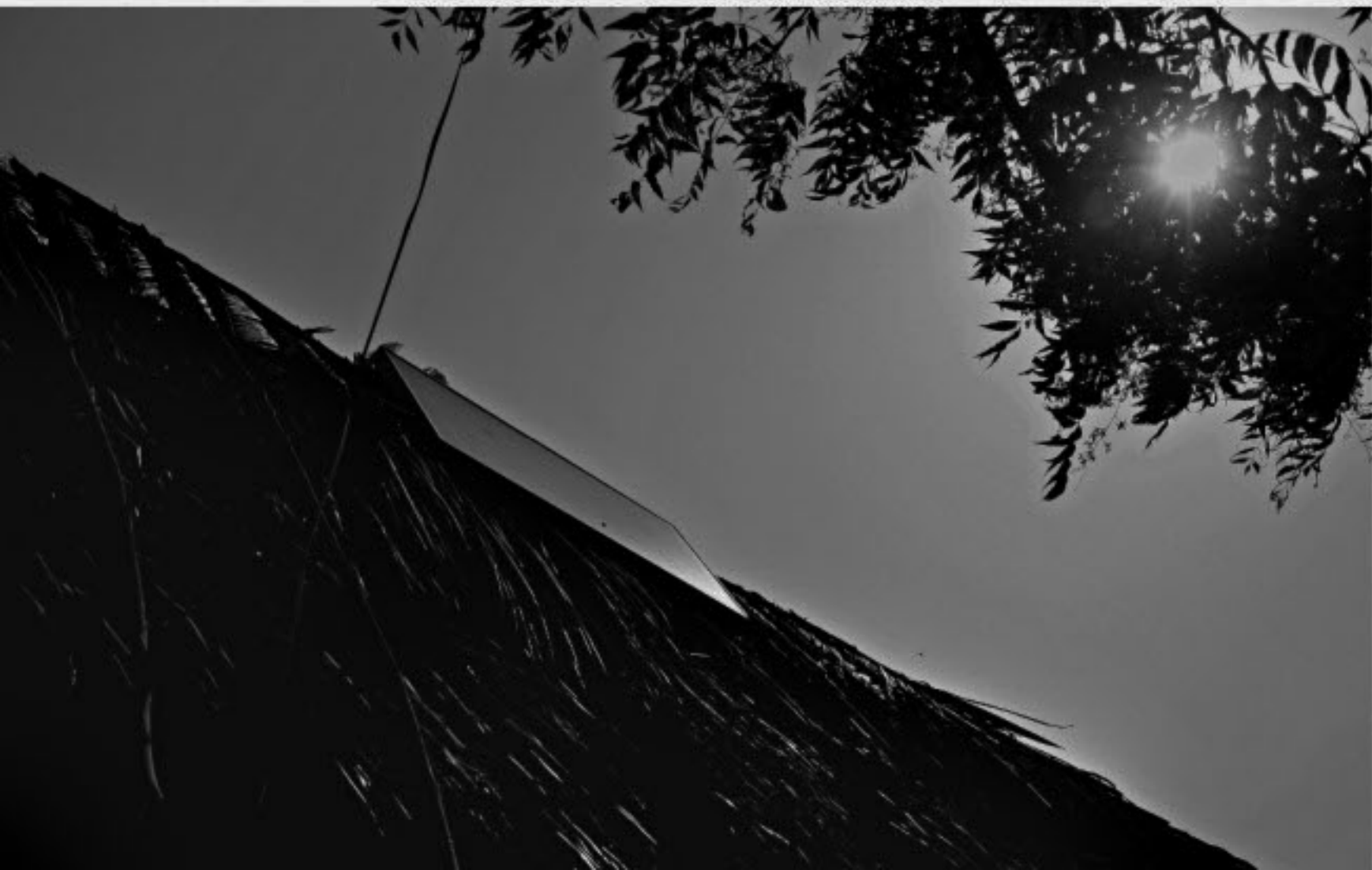
artificial partition of British India in 1947 had a lingering disastrous effect on the region's economic development. The present political leadership seems to be incapable of solving this urgent issue due to political instability and lack of national consensus in their own countries.

In a deltaic region, the state of the economy depends on the farmers looking after the rich soils, surrounded by natural waters. But they have no social status in Bangladesh (as also the women workers). Urban migration has become a trend (Dhaka city is dying slowly but surely). Decentralisation is the need of the hour; but the dynasty rules are hampering it.

We get the government we deserve (support). A change in the mindset is required (not depending on the microphones and loudspeaker). But the majority of the voters have no sustaining power. The rich are acting like dictators (why the plying of cycle rickshaws is discouraged in the capital city?).

Democracy is on paper only. Is it visible on the roads and footpaths?

A Husnain, Dhaka



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS