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Treatment in hospitals



The word 'Hospital' might have originated from the word 'Hospitality' which means as per dictionary friendly generous reception to strangers. But unfortunately in hospitals nowadays the hospitality is totally absent, rather they have become money making centres. In the context of present situation the hospitals should better be termed business centre for health care. A grim picture of hospitals was depicted in the news published in The Daily Star on 26-08-10 under the title "ICU too costly for poor". Dhaka Medical College Hospital is always under huge pressure and it is good luck for any patient to get admitted there. Obviously, patients are forced to go to private hospitals where many of them receive treatments but come out penniless. Different private hospitals are charging differently for the same facility as there is no government regulation or monitoring. The amount of expenditure in a private hospital is very high for the middle income group and beyond the reach of the low earners. Some private hospitals have agents to refer patients to them where the agents get commission for sending a patient to a selected hospital. It is reported that the government has little or almost no monitoring of the private hos-

pitals. If there were sufficient services available at all public hospitals at district level, poor patients might get medicare. The result is that less privileged people have to either go without treatment or sell all their properties if they are to have treatment in a private hospital. The medical service has been gradually going into the hands of people whose ultimate motive is to make business out of the hapless patients' woes. The high costs have been preventing villagers to seek treatment from qualified doctors. A study reveals that 85% people seek quick remedies. Though the right to medical service is one of the basic human rights, the poor and middle income people are being deprived of the service. The capacities of public hospitals are in need of drastic improvement. They need more equipment, wards, ICU, doctors and nurses. The government should also take guarantee from the private hospitals to earmark some of their wards and ICUs for treating the poor patients. In the interest of the poor and middle income people, the situation calls for the government's regulation and strong monitoring of the hospital service sector.
Md. Delwar Hossain
East Rampura, Dhaka

What a pity!

Some people spend their money to live better lives while others expend their lives for money. Those who fall in the latter category don't know the difference between right and wrong. They cross a line and enter a different world, a world where money is above everything. One of the biggest mass murderers of present time, Tony Blair, visited Bangladesh a few days ago and both Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia treated him like a royal guest. They can no longer distinguish between right and wrong. What a pity!
Azad Miah
Oldham
UK

the last one year, this road was gradually getting damaged. Now the situation is so bad that no rickshaw, CNG auto rickshaw or private car can ply this road. Almost every day some sort of accident occurs. The other day I witnessed a rickshaw carrying children of Monipur High School turned turtle and the kids were injured.

Several times we have approached Zone -7 and Zone -8 office but no steps have been taken so far.

Therefore, we are appealing to the authorities concerned to repair the road immediately.
S.M. Khaleque Zaman
Barabagh, Mirpur-2
Dhaka

Historic verdict

We welcome the historic verdict on the 7th amendment of the constitution.

The observations of the Hon'ble High Court, in particular, are nothing but the stark truth about our polity, delineated so vividly that even politicians from Awami League or any other pro-liberation party could hardly be heard uttering those in public. The harsh reality is that the Awami League got to power, not with the muscle

power of Chatra League and Jubo League, but with the votes of the millions of people (whom we call the silent majority) who believe in the sacred values of our Liberation War and they never like to compromise. "Ziaur Rahman had rehabilitated the local collaborators of Pakistan's auxiliary forces, including Shah Azizur Rahman, Col Mustafizur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Mannan and ASM Solaiman and many others", the High Court said.

It's a pity that AL government made a 'jote' (unity) with such a person (Ershad) who is responsible for "maintaining the continuity of Ziaur Rahman's deeds by protecting the collaborators and the killers of Bangladesh".

If the AL leadership does not have enough confidence to run the country, we would urge them to please step down immediately (before it's too late) and hand over power to those Awami Leaguers and pro-liberation forces who has 100% commitment to building a secular and progressive nation based on the ideals of our Liberation War, and nothing else.

Hafeezul Alam
A former civil servant

Biman

The news item captioned 'Biman boss hits back at Quader' published in the front page of your esteemed daily on Thursday, 19th August has caught my attention.

It is not correct that since Biman has been turned into a company it is no longer accountable to the govt.

Whether it is called a company or a corporation the fact remains that it is fully owned by the govt. and as such it is accountable to the minister and his secretary to the govt.

As regards corruption less said is better. There is an ex-Air Force coterie in Biman which is allegedly siphoning off crores of taka and millions of dollars. Only one fictitious agent reputedly has siphoned off more than Taka 700 crores in the past 7 years.

A commercial airline like Biman should be run by commercial people. At one time there was a proposal that Biman's 67 percent shares should be sold to a reputed airline and an evaluation of its assets were carried out with financial help from the World Bank. Biman should seriously look for a strategic partner selling out at least 67 percent shares to a reputed airline.

Thai Airways was initially formed with 98 percent shares of SAS. Over the years Thai Airways bought back the shares and it is now an independent airline, one of the best in the industry.
Reza Hussain
Baridhara, Dhaka

Penalty for no reason!

In the first day of Ramadan I went to a super shop near Gulshan circle-1 to buy some necessities. As I heard from my relatives that their cars were fined by the police while parking before the shop, so I told my driver to go by the lane next to the shopping area where he could park the car. After completion of my shopping when I got off I found my car before the shop. I asked my driver why he put the car here. He informed me that while he was heading towards the lane as directed, all of a sudden a sergeant came and stopped

him and asked for the car's related documents, checked his license and filed a case as the driver could not show legal license and took my car's insurance paper instead of taking his license.

I didn't park illegally and there was no problem with my papers but still I was penalised.

Rubab Abdullah
Residential Area
Dhaka Cantonment
Dhaka

Anthrax prevention

The number of anthrax infected people is increasing day by day. The outbreak of the disease is seen in an area which is known to be a milk pocket of our country. People got infected by consuming or processing the meat of infected animals.

Bangladesh is producing anthrax vaccine for cattle but it is insufficient. On the other hand, service-providing capacity of livestock department is very limited because of lack of manpower and logistic support to combat the disease.

Md. Abdul Mannan
Collegeroad
Gouripur, Mymensingh

Good governance

In Bangladesh good governance has become the most talked about issue. Every day we find news in the electronic and print media about how lack of good governance is obstructing our progress. There are some key factors that are considered to be the elements of good governance such as reform of judiciary, reform of administration, anti-corruption measures, decentralisation, accountability and transparency. Good governance plays the most important role in establishing rule of law in a country. It upholds the supremacy of the constitution that is vital to establishing democracy in a country. It also ensures fundamental rights and human rights.

Obstructions on the way to good governance are as follows:

- 1) Poor relation between public and govt
- 2) Corruption and terrorism

- 3) Interference on judiciary
- 4) Crisis of leadership
- 5) Political instability
- 6) Lack of accountability and transparency
- 7) Failures of law enforcers

I think the present govt. should look into the matter with due attention.

Eng. Md. Meheub Haque
BUET

Unkind comments

The other day while scanning through TV channels, I saw a gentleman, claiming himself to be a freedom fighter, depicted late President Ziaur Rahman as an ISI agent. I am sorry I do not remember his name, he went on saying that the vanquished Pakistani army could foresee the potential in the late President and decided to deploy him as their agent when he went to the vessel MV Swat anchored at Chittagong Port to accept delivery of arms and ammunition intended for the massacre of the Bengali nation.

What a shame for the nation that went into Liberation War hearing the words of an ISI agent on the broadcast from Kalurghat Radio Station, "I, Major Zia, do hereby declare the independence of Bangladesh on behalf of our great national leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

How did the late President maintain his contacts with the ISI during the nine months war of liberation? Was he not detected by his comrades or by the agents of the RAW?

What a shame for the nation that bid farewell to the assassinated President, allegedly an ISI agent, in millions, and that he is resting in eternal peace in a lush green garden in the vicinity of the national parliament!

I have been told by a friend that the GDP of Bangladesh was higher than that of its neighbouring giant only once in history, and that happened during the tenure of that late President being branded as an ISI agent. Please correct me if I am wrong. Perhaps the speaker was trying to get the blessings of the party in power.
Saleh Ayub
One-mail

Saving certificates

A lot has been said about saving certificates in different newspapers. In those write-ups the writers explained how it is affecting the lives of pensioners, widows and senior citizens and they also discussed the anomalies of Bangladesh Bank regarding the deduction of 10 per cent tax on certificates that matured prior to July 01, 2010. But none of our problems have been addressed despite the assurances given by the Honourable Finance Minister.

I have the following suggestions to the government in the interest of general public:

1. In view of the inflation and enhanced cost of living the income tax ceiling should be raised to Tk 3 lakh from Tk. 1.65 lakh.
2. The interest rate of saving certificates for pensioners, widows and senior citizens should be enhanced to 20 percent without any tax deduction.
3. Provisions should be there to refund the excess amount of tax, if any, that is being deducted from the citizens in the form of income tax, VAT or AIT. Such provisions are prevalent in many developed countries.

I do hope the policymakers find some spare time to go through these columns where our genuine problems are being highlighted and address the issues in the greater interest of those whose survival is at risk.
Asufferer
One-mail

The expressway

This is a very ill thought out project which is only for motorised vehicles. And in a few years the whole expressway will be choked up like the recent 60 mile and 10 day long trunk road jam in China. The expressway exit branches cannot be guaranteed to be free and this will cause the jam on the expressway in the same manner as it is causing now on the present surface roads. Traffic is like water flow and any blockage anywhere will be felt in the whole system including the expressways. Also if there is no clear lane

(i.e. 'a hard shoulder' as in motorways in western countries) imagine the problems of rescue in case of accidents on such a long expressway. Such building of expressways will also take away the sky space for any future mass transit sky train system for the city.

I would therefore request the authorities again to think the matter over long term and provide mass transit system for people rather than vehicles, notwithstanding that some vested quarters will always want to go for the building of such expressways.
Engineer Shafi Ahmed
London, UK

Road accidents

Every day we hear about accidents in which many people are killed and some become maimed and the families become devastated.

Our country is topping the list regarding road accidents. It is essential that authorities concerned take necessary steps to minimise road accidents. Every aspect must be scrutinised- vehicles' roadworthiness, drivers' skills, and roads and bridges where accidents occur frequently must be examined thoroughly.

Nur Jahan
One-mail

Village vs. city

Our Palli Kabi Jasimuddin in his well-known poem "Nimontron" invited his city friends to come and enjoy different things in his village. (Tumi jabe bhai, jabe mor sathe, amader chhoto gay....) But do city people go to villages? Rather, village people are rushing towards towns leaving their roots.

Rabindranath Tagore depicted many villages in his poems, but he wrote them residing in Kolkata, or by glancing at villages from his boat. Even our Palli Kabi built his house in Kamalapur of Dhaka.

Although there are many problems in the city, people come here in search of work and for having a better life.
Rashid Harun
Dhaka

Harmful iftar items



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

A variety of iftar items -- peaju, beguni, jilapi, aloor chop, etc are available in hotels and restaurants during Ramadan.

In almost every hotel and restaurant, these iftar items are getting coloured with various toxic chemicals so that they can have a splendid look and easily attract the consumers.

According to the health experts, these iftar items are very unhealthy and may cause many health hazards.

We should avoid eating such harmful iftar items.

M Faisal Saleh
Chunati Hakimia Kamil Madrasa
Lohagara, Chittagong

Insensible students

A picture was published in the DS of a student hitting a private car the way a teacher punishes a student for any mistake committed by him (DS: 27.08.10). The report says that a rickshaw carrying a professor of Dhaka University was hit by a car leaving the professor slightly injured. I understand the sentiments of the disciples of the teacher, but truly failed to understand why the students attacked other transports.

Students should be more sensible in regard to what is right and what is wrong.
Monzur Rahman
Muhammadpur
Dhaka

Our inferiority complex

Mr Khan's write-up on the subject, published in your paper on 26th August, very rightly describes Tony Blair as a war criminal with the blood of many thousands of Iraqi

Muslims on his hands! He is in that respect, no worse than Saddam Hossain or even Bin Laden, put together. He is the British version of Hitler for the Muslims, the world over.

One wonders how and why was he invited by a politically ignorant entity, whose sense of proportion needs to be critically evaluated. They reflect the 'black's' inferiority complex of licking the 'White's' boots at every opportunity. It will take us another half a century for the so-called educated to give up our 'Salam Saheb' attitude!

He and Bush, the unholly and blood thirsty 'B&B criminal gang' let loose killing and mayhem of thousands of innocent people of Afghanistan and Iraq in their so called hunt for terrorists, created by them in the first place, by their illegal attack on Iraq - world's biggest act of terrorism, flouting all norms of the UN, based on proven lies and falsehood. They should be tried for international war crimes before anyone else!

The so-called civilised West, though fully aware of these crimes, are protecting and encouraging their fellow 'Whites' in propagating their continued war crimes against the Muslims!
S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Eve teasing

When a girl became a victim of eve-teasing we can't imagine how much she was hurt as she killed herself. The authorities concerned always say that they are trying to stop that. But we don't see anything tangible. How many lives do the authorities need to realize that eve teasing must be stopped?
Abir Ahmed Niloy
Dhaka City College

Experts

A wise view was expressed by the wise and honourable court that, "Little learning is a dangerous thing" (olpo bidda voinkori) which reminds me of the village barber who wanted to be a surgeon. This observation was passed by the honourable court referring to a case against a bureaucrat-turned-columnist. The court was very much right to pass the comment.

We always see in the late night talk shows all these people expressing their views on all topics as if they are masters of all subjects, be it Tipai mukh, BDR incident, traffic jam, electricity shortage, gas field, international dealings. They are experts!
Dr Shameem Hassan
Mohakhali, Dhaka

Use overbridge

A picture appeared in The Daily Star on Tuesday, August 24, which shows some daring women braving the speeding vehicles of the busy road climbing the grilled road divider and crossing the road in a dangerous manner when the foot overbridge is just a few yards away. This practice is not only uncivilised but it can also cause severe accident. As a concerned citizen I will request these people not to cross the road in such a life-threatening manner, and use the foot overbridge instead, for their own safety.
Humayun Hyder
Zigatola, Dhaka

See for yourself

The communications minister and the mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation in their four-wheel-drive vehicle provided by the government must inspect all the roads across the Dhaka city and find out why many of these turned into dilapidated condition early.

The chief engineer of the Roads & Highways Division as well of the Dhaka City Corporation must submit written report so that the authorities can sanction funds for the repair works after the monsoon.
Golam Ashraf
Gulshan, Dhaka

Traffic rules



Dhaka is an over populated city with 8% area allocated for roads, whereas an ideal city should have 25%. Official figures put the population of Dhaka at around 9.3 million (but we all know how wrong it is), which makes it the fourth most populated city in the world. And the end result is the endless tailbacks at the traffic signals, which we have all fallen victims to.

In the past the DMP had realised that their age old methods of handling traffic were not going to work in our beloved city. So, they welcomed the new age of traffic control, where mystical automatic traffic lights were dictating the flow of traffic. And the traffic police only made sure that people obeyed these strange lights. Well, it was going smooth, people started liking it. Then, something happened around the first or second week of last December.

People were not following the automatic traffic lights anymore. And the enforcers were not doing anything about it. And once again, everything went out of control. After that came the lane system. The DMP decided to allocate different lanes for different kinds of vehicles. They fined any violators, and in fact, if my memory serves right, they handed out fines of more than Tk. 1 lakh in just one day.

I think it is good that DMP has decided to do something about the traffic. But I suggest they stop playing with our lives. Sometimes I feel like a mouse in some kind of a weird experiment. It is time to get some real experts who will provide proper solutions to our problems and make sure that the plan is put to use in every last detail.
Fuad Abdul Quader
North South University