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TANVIR AHMED/DRINKNEWS

# Approach to development

What should be the right approach to the development projects in the public sector by the succeeding elected regimes, especially in the developing countries? In Bangladesh, is the approach in the right direction, and the right attitude? There is a tendency to go for mega projects, and mega publicity. In the LDCs, political governance is conducted on the front stage, not in the background, and it is noisy and loudspeaker based.

The routine level activities in the government offices are neglected, or not properly monitored, for the tuning. The civil service is not allowed to run the show according to the government regulations, under political pressure.

Development activities will

succeed only if, firstly, the routine works are properly carried out. Frequently it is noticed that the human resources in an office cannot cope with the additional loads from time to time. Then the coordination mechanisms work inefficiently. One example is the shortage of inspection and monitoring personnel. The second reason is the prevalence of corrupt practices, which appear to be entrenched, due to lack of internal democratic practices within the ruling political parties. Recent media reports on the neglect of the railways and IWT sectors point to the wrong priorities attached while undertaking development planning.

Now the campus environment is in chaos. Due to concentration of

power in Dhaka metropolis, the city is dying, slowly but surely. There are no incentives for decentralisation of power to the divisional and district HQs. In a country with one of the highest density of population in the world, local One-Stop Centres are a dire necessity. Similarly, the MPs dominate the upazilas and union councils.

The base or foundation has to be solid, and strong and wide enough to bear the load of additional superstructures later on. Development projects are a continuous process, which need careful fine-tuning all the time.

The greatest hurdle is the lack of political consensus at the top national level.

**A Mawaz, Dhaka**

## Water scarcity in Gulshan

WASA had undertaken three months ago a project to set up a deep tube-well at a place on Gulshan West Lake side following demand of the local residents and Gulshan Society. The deep tube-well was supposed to be commissioned within, at best, 45 days. Former President and local MP H.M. Ershad laid the foundation of the project on July 1 in the presence of local residents, and the concerned WASA officials assured that the sufferings of the Gulshan people due to shortage of water supply would be over as soon as the deep tube-well was put into commission. The concerned engineers were of the view that the pump could hopefully be able to supply water before Ramadan (11 August). That didn't happen even after three months. Rather the situation has worsened with time.

Residents of the affected areas are to depend on supply of water that costs Taka 400/ per tank plus tips. The charge for each tank of water was doubled during the time of Caretaker Government.

It may be mentioned that for digging the deep tube-well a plot of land, originally earmarked for walkway and later, allegedly, illegally occupied, was used. The boundary wall of the plot that was demolished for the purpose has been hastily rebuilt before the

commissioning of the deep tube-well.

It is alleged that some highly connected persons, in connivance with the WASA contractor, wanted to frustrate the project from the very outset on the plea that water would not be available at this particular water point. It is not known whether or not this deep tube-well project will ever be put into service.

The water-starved people of Gulshan had appreciated the gesture of the WASA who had undertaken such a venture with help of RAJUK to mitigate the suffering of the people. The venture has now turned out to be eyewash. The question is: has the project been abandoned? If so, who is that powerful person to foil a good work of WASA?

**Abdur Rahim**  
Former Executive Editor  
Bangladesh Observer

## Human rights violation

Your staff correspondent's report published on 3rd October of alleged maltreatment by Russian officials of a Bangladeshi is a very serious matter. As the concerned officials responsible for the alleged cruelty and torture have been named, it is a very direct accusation, and our authorities cannot ignore the matter. However, one part of the report is not clear. The victim states that he failed to lodge a police complaint in

Moscow, as the police stations there did not accept it! Nothing was said about his effort to contact our embassy in Moscow. This is an important part which was not provided in the report.

Secondly, after returning to Dhaka, did Dr. Gupta report the matter to our Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Russian Embassy in Dhaka?

These two issues are closely related to the ugly event of his confinement and torture. Also what happened to his writ, filed with the civil court? Is it still pending, or did he withdraw it after meeting the Russian officials in April this year? All these are important questions related to his illegal maltreatment by Russian officials.

If the things as stated happened, then it is entirely unbecoming of a civilised state. I would request your reporter to please follow up and report on the matter as and when further developments take place, as well as the progress of the GD filed, also what steps are being taken by our Foreign Office to claim redress and compensation from Russia. The follow up on this report will be of interest to the readers.

**S.A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka

## Managing the traffic

I completely agree with Mr. Nokib-E-Kibria (Toronto,

Canada, 29th September) that the traffic condition in our country is deplorable. It takes laborious hours for students just to reach the schools, colleges and universities, and when it comes to facing quizzes and exams, the situation gets worse as no one can make it on time. The office employees who cannot afford any other expensive means of transportation end up going for the cheaper commutation means such as public buses. Hour after hour commuters have to stand in a long queue at the bus stand in the anticipation that their desired buses would come to pick them up. But those buses, too, get stuck in the jam en route.

Introducing new buses will not solve the problem, and the overpopulation can also not be overlooked. Everybody needs to get to his desired destination on time and the buses are always crammed with passengers. The best solution is to earmark a few roads only for private cars and CNGs during peak hours.

Car parking on certain areas needs to be banned too. Relocation of schools and colleges from commercial areas should also be done. The three-lane system is not an efficient method because the width of main roads is not enough. In the near future, the government can construct multiple flyovers one on top of another, reducing the width but increasing the height.

Industries and offices

should be shifted to adjacent areas of Dhaka, which are less congested such as Savar and Gazipur. Attractive incentives should be provided so that people would reconsider moving to those places.

I would request the government to do something quickly to solve this problem; otherwise living in Dhaka will become impossible for the city dwellers like us.

**Naome Syed**  
Mohammadpur  
Dhaka

## Child labour

The working children of Bangladesh perform in many different capacities - as domestic workers, garage helpers, and factory workers, porters in railway stations and markets in hazardous conditions. Many boys and girls do not have access to education and they are doing low-pay works that further binds them into the cycle of poverty. The picture is especially miserable for children living in urban slums.

Children with no access to education have little alternative but to enter the labour market and are often forced to perform dangerous or exploitative work.

The government must do something immediately about this.

**Tanha Kashfia Kate**  
Uttara Model Town  
Dhaka

## Good teacher needed

A good teacher should not only have good academic qualifications but also a good teaching style. Nowadays, teachers are not sincere, dutiful and punctual. Not only that, they don't even have good academic qualification. At the university level, most of the teachers are being appointed on the basis of political consideration. Seeing this immoral recruitment process, many of the meritorious students are leaving the country.

**Md. Al-Helal**  
Hajee Mohammad Danesh  
Science & Technology  
University  
Dinajpur

## Road safety

A lot of time has been wasted in planning and arranging funds to develop city roads. Strict action should be taken against the drivers who drive recklessly. The best way to stop reckless driving is to set up speed-breakers on all city roads. It will not cost much. And the govt. should also set up RAB/police check posts to check suspicious movement of vehicles. The authorities concerned should immediately set up speed-breakers especially at four-way roads. These areas are prone to fatal accidents due to speedy movement of buses. We don't want to lose our lives in road accidents. We want to return home alive, and not as dead bodies.

**College and school going kids**  
**Motijheel**  
Dhaka

## Child Parliament Session

Different forums work in our country on child rights. Recently a Child Parliament Session entitled "Education and Good Governance" was arranged by Save the Children, Australia, which brought to light some impor-

# The gentleman's game

From its origin cricket has been tagged as the game of the kings. The aristocrats have enjoyed it for centuries. But as time passed it has been adopted by the wider society. The gradual rise in popularity has transformed cricket from a royal pastime to a highly professional sport. What makes cricket such a distinguished sport is its very nature.

To cherish every thread of a match for a course of five days requires a very focused mind. It's not only about flow of 'fours' and 'sixes' but it's about batting responsibly, finding the weakness of the batsman and baffle him with variation, fielding with enthusiasm and agility, declaring innings by rationally judging the situation of the match, playing mind game with the opponent, taking bold decisions, and most of all showing respect to the game by playing in its true spirit.

Cricket has been struck by various controversies for generations, starting

from bodyline bowling to match fixing allegations. Some say that it is no longer a gentleman's game because of all these scandals. But I disagree with this idea because I believe that cricket is a separate entity from cricketers and a handful of them occasionally bring disgrace to the game by involving in activities which in cricketing term would be best described as "Not Cricket".

To save cricket from further controversies it should be made clear to the aspiring cricketers about what kind of behaviour is expected and not expected in competitive cricket. Players, especially who come from underprivileged background, should be given proper guidance about ethical conduct. Most importantly, the respective cricket boards should take more responsibility in preventing any unwanted situations.

**Md. Shafat Imtiaz**  
Cardiff, South Wales  
UK



AFF

tant issues. Child parliamentarians from 64 districts took part in the session. Local children came out with various proposals on different issues like facilities at schools, transport problem, private tuition, and so on. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid was present at the session and listened to the children. It is good news for us that our children can raise their voices to establish their own rights.

**Jannatul Islam Rahad**  
Jagannath University  
Dhaka

## Divulging the truth

Sometimes what a news item cannot say, a cartoon can depict it more completely (DS: 22.09.10). We should be thankful to the Health Adviser for telling the truth, what some other ministers or advisors prefer to hide. So, why do we blame our health adviser? He should be thanked for his honesty instead!

**Ahmed Munir**  
Purana Paltan  
Dhaka

## Sufferings on the road

The Daily Star carried a front-page news on 30 Sept captioned "Reception at airport, sufferings on road." This is not new in our country. The leaders of the third world countries never learn from history. As soon as they assume power, they forget the past, they

forget what happened to their immediate predecessors.

The Prime Minister returned home from New York after attending the 65th UNGA. She did not conquer the world, and so did not deserve to get such a BIG reception at the airport at the cost of people's sufferings. The patients whose ambulance was stuck, the person who could not have his lunch, the person who could not reach his distant destination in time, due to blockade created by the PM's supporters, have reasons to be upset. All those who were stuck in the traffic jams were not her supporters.

I believe the nightmare that the people of Dhaka had from noon to 9 pm did not increase her popularity. Apart from the sufferings of the people, the state incurred heavy financial loss during that period by burning the imported fuels of the vehicles. The PM could have stopped this by advising her supporters not to bring so many people to receive her.

**Shafiqul Islam**  
NY

## Extortion

Extortion means compelling someone to pay a particular amount of money, or taking away a particular amount of money forcefully from someone. Extortion is a crime and we the city people face this in several forms.

One familiar form is extortion from CNG and taxi cab

drivers. CNG and taxicabs have been introduced in the city for a safe and comfortable journey for the commuters, especially for the middle. But from the very beginning we are facing extortion from CNG and taxi cab drivers in the form of paying 10-20 Taka more than the meter fare.

No one paid attention to this matter and as a result now the drivers directly demand fare according to their sweet will, totally ignoring the fare meter. If we protest, the drivers start quarrelling and drive away. This is not seen in foreign countries, where people have easy access to public vehicles like taxicab without facing problems. People complain to the police but to no avail.

The question is why we should pay extra fare, which is not legal. The law is made for the betterment of general people but we hardly find law protecting us. It's high time for the govt. to make a new law for taxi cab or CNG fare considering the variables that influence the fare such as gas price, deposit to owners, distance etc. the govt. should monitor the situation and the Police should take some exemplary action against the drivers or the owners who violate the law. Implementing rules will be able to make our journey safe, comfortable, extortion free. All we need is to just respect and follow the law.

**M. Seefat**  
University of Dhaka

**ONLINE VOICES**

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

## DU students face BCL wrath for not joining PM's reception (September 30, 2010)

If it is true, the said Hall Unit President should be arrested first, expelled from the University and BCL for good with punishment. Who has given him this kind of authority to impose on the innocent students?

**Kazi Salim**

Shame on the student leaders and hall authority who forget their duty and humiliate general students. As a former student I can tell that nothing has changed in the last 15 years; it's only getting worse.

**Nazim Uddin**

Is this the direction towards a Digital Bangladesh the PM dreams of and promises?

**Basir**

Does the PM want students to join welcoming processions instead of studying?

**Shahriar Kabir**

We always like to make history but never try to learn from it. I wish we would raise our voice against all oddities. I strongly condemn these activities.

**Habibul Abri Shozib**

Dear PM, can you imagine the situation of the public when your party men torture top brilliant students of the country?

**Jalal**

I did not see any change in the character

of our people whatever party they belong to.

**Kazi Firoz**

Did the proctor of Shahidullah Hall dispense his duty in a professional manner?

**Nasirullah Mridha**

Thank you, Prime Minister.

**Sawgat Chowdhury**

Let us hope and pray that we will see the end of such activities soon.

**Anonymous**

Who rules in Bangladesh? BCL? AL? Ministers? MPs? Who?

**Anonymous**

Why on earth everyone has to attend the reception of a leader?

**Jumana Sarwar**

The bullying by ruling party student leaders at the University, that is in the premier university of the country, located at the heart of the city, shows the trend of law and order in the country. The picture depicts a lamentable midnight tale of a summer night at DU.

**Reaz Hassan**

Such a manner of student politics espe-

cially in DU cannot be accepted at all, as all over the country student take lesson from the DU.

**Saiful Islam Khan**

This is digital Bangladesh.

**Sujit Sen**

When will these so-called students learn that the university is the highest seat of learning? You make or break your career depending on how much you spend in studying. From when have joining procession, welcoming the PM, or breaking hartal become part of University curriculum?

**Good Guy**

What is wrong with BCL? I would have been ashamed to be a part of the group during my BCL days at DMC.

**Talat Islam**

Where are they taking us? How much do we have to tolerate? Who will take the responsibility? Where was the proctorial body? Who will answer these questions?

**Laila**

I wonder what will happen to these leaders after the next general election.

**Shawan**

# Chemicals in fruits



AMADUL HUQ / DRINKNEWS

Some news reports published recently in the leading dailies of our country shows that a very large group of wholesale fruits traders all over the country are using dangerous chemicals to ripen local fruits like -- bananas, mangoes, litchis, guavas, pineapples, oranges, etc. People are buying and eating these fruits daily without being aware of the problems it would cause them. It is feared that a very large number of our population have already been badly affected.

It can be mentioned that Bangladesh imports a large quantity of apples, oranges and grapes, etc. Dangerous chemicals are also being used in ripening these fruits.

Our health minister should immediately take prompt action to stop this unethical practice and punish the offenders with heavy fines and imprisonment. The police, RAB and other intelligence agencies should be advised to look into this matter and catch the culprits immediately.

**A concerned citizen, Dhaka**