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A.MAHMUD / DRINKNEWS

National Human Rights Commission

It is encouraging that the Commission is empowered to investigate violation of human rights by any person, organisation, public servant or statutory body and even defence services. It can conduct investigation on its own or after receiving a complaint. In case of investigation and inquiry, the Commission shall have the same power as a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, according to Section 16 of the Act, passed recently with a view to establish Human Rights Commission.

As per section 19 of the same Act, if after investigation the Commission finds that the accusation is true, it can either suggest to the government to take action or file suit in the court or writ petition before the High Court Division under Article 102 of the Constitution.

My opinion is that, if after investigation the Commission finds that the charge is true, why shall not it be able to give redress to the aggrieved? Of course the commission should not be a mere monitoring body.

And yes, the commission is also empowered under Section 12(Ga) to supervise the living standard in jails, correction centres etc. and suggest to the government to take necessary steps to improve their condition. Our aspiration is that the commission will start this task immediately. May the Human Rights Commission be a place of hope for those who are aggrieved by the violation of their rights!

G.M. Mahmudun Nabi
Student of Dept. of Law
International Islamic University
Chittagong

Power sector road map!

The road to power sector's objective of providing 7X24 power for all is very bumpy, though mapping the road is easier. Getting the road finished is easier said than done! On the matter an essay was published in a local English daily on October 9. Road maps were drawn with pious wishes, backed by popular and much welcomed pre-election speeches. Now in the real world, we see only a yawning gap 'between the cup and the lips'. Between the promises and reality in this case.

Awami League was elected, but where is the power production of 7000MW by December 2010, now just three months away? "Gone with the wind", as we see now! With a few rental power plants, on a good day,

when our old (past retirement age) power plants give their all, the plateau we sometimes reach, on weekends, when demand is low, is 4000MW, if we are lucky! Today the AL government harps on 11000MW by the end of 2015, another dream, that will also never see the light of the day.

However, the writer's proposal that the 24 existing unreliable and malfunctioning power plants can be renovated, is nothing but wishful thinking and dreams only. Firstly, we have to change the fuel, from natural gas to coal or oil. Next, the whole boiler plant or gas turbine has to be re-designed and built from scratch! Pragmatically, it is easier, cheaper and faster to build a green field power plant than rebuilding the existing set-up with many limitations to the fuel and combustion control and boiler tube and bed layout

along with redesigned air and fuel circuits, among other auxiliary equipments. The undersigned had hands-on experience in converting a coal fired small (only 10MW) power plant, and from re-design to commissioning, it took over two years, back in 1967.

The reality is that if we plan to provide 11000MW power on 24x7 basis continuously, then we must have, ready to run, power plants totalling 13,200MW. This is the fact, as we must have at least 20% ready available reserve plant capacity, so that the running plants have their scheduled boiler cleaning, repairs, replacement and maintenance; otherwise plant reliability will suffer! This need for reserve power has not been stated by any of our power experts till date! Further, lest we forget, by 2015, at least another 800 to

1000MW of the now running power plants will be inoperable and will have to be taken offline!

Engr.S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Arson attack on train

The government came down heavily on opposition leader's remarks that the government had deliberately orchestrated the train accident at Sirajganj. Such remark from a person who was an elected prime minister for two times is totally frustrating for the nation. It is a sign of negative politics. Main opposition and its supporters are yet to come out of the culture of destructive politics. The incident of setting fire to the train, which is a state property, is a highly condemnable act.

The leader of the opposition needs to understand that

a train runs at its own speed and it is hard to control a running train abruptly. We express deep shock over the deaths of some people in the incident. There cannot be any motive other than creating anarchy behind the train burning incident.

We assume that none was killed under the wheels of the train at first. Rather three or four people died while they tried to stop the running train by attacking it. Hence, all the parties would do better to refrain from making such absurd claims and instead focus on combating crime. They need to realise that denial will not make crimes go away, decisive action will. The ruling party, the main opposition and the other forces have become increasingly intolerant of dissent or difference.

Gopal Sengupta
Canada



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Bravo, Tigers!

This time they fought like tigers with their symmetric and graceful performance and clean swept the formidable 'Kiwi feathers'. A feeling of 'we can' coursed through our veins. Every drop of our blood bubbled inside us in joy. Four consecutive wins against a top opposition is no fluke. It is our cricketers that have at last redeemed our image of being a weakling. Our cricketers have torn the shackles of failure. They are no more paper tigers.

They are real tigers. Let us rejoice and resolve to bring success in every sector through the same determination, dream and team spirit bowling out the corrupt and criminals from the country.

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur, Natore

The 4-0 win against New Zealand was indeed a great achievement and a mile-

stone for Bangladesh cricket. The umpiring was also excellent. Hats off to Aleem Dar. He really is a world-class umpire and I hope he will come back to Bangladesh for future matches. I, however, did not agree with the third umpire's decision in the case of Shakib Al-Hassan in the final ODI. If umpires are not capable of making the correct decision even after a TV replay, then he is not fit to be an umpire.

At that point Shakib looked like he would make a big score and take the Bangladesh total to beyond 200 runs, but he was denied this opportunity. I hope the Tigers will keep up this momentum till the next world cup and at least reach the semi-finals this time. Congratulations!

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS, Dhaka

Hand wash and health



I am glad to come across the message of "Global Handwashing Day", four days prior to its celebration (on 15th October). I have realised the importance of Hand Wash by personally witnessing its ignorance among illiterate village people. Illiterate parents do not prohibit their children to use dirty hands, while taking food. As our government has taken strong measures to expand education throughout the country, it is possible to propagate the message among the children of primary classes.

My logic says, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education can take a measure to disseminate the message throughout the nation. The Ministry can delegate the responsibility to Division level authorities, which in turn take care of the educational institutions, under their respective area, to disseminate the message. Simple hanging of an attractive and clearly written board near the tube wells of each and every school would be effective. The board should contain a message describing the importance of using hand wash in Bangla with a photo, like the one published in The Daily Star. A simple strategy like this would be highly effective in preventing water-borne diseases throughout the country.

Dr. Lailun Nahar, Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

ONLINE VOICES

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Kiwis Tiger-washed

Bangladesh cricket moves one notch up on world ranking (October 18, 2010)

We want to see consistency in your games. Am I expecting too much? Anyway, congratulations this time for a well deserved win.

Reaz Hassan

Congratulations! Go ahead and keep it up.
Prince

What a glorious day for our nation! All I can say is - thank you, Tigers.
A Choudhury

Shabash, Bangladesh!
Atiqur Rahman

It shows the hidden potentiality of our

people, it needs to be explored only by the proper leadership.
Dr Islam

We are so proud of Bengal Tigers!
Disha

Well done, boys! Keep it up.
Md. Shafiqul Bhuiyan

Our Tigers have made us proud, but they must not lose the tempo until the next cricket world cup.
Dr. Reza Khan

Bravo, Tigers! We are proud of you. Every school should have its own playground. Talents require nursing in the right direction.
Md. Mujibul Alam Khan

Tigers have now developed the habit of winning and will definitely act as a team to reckon with in the ensuing World Cup for all its opposition.

The Tigers white washing Black Caps will make Bangladeshis around the world start dreaming for greater glories. Congratulations, Tigers!
Khondkar A Saleque

This is just the beginning of a new era.
Masud Abdulllah

Way to go Tigers! Just keep your feet firmly on ground!
Virendra

Well done, Tigers! We expect you to retain the excellence.
Sirajul Islam

We are very proud of Bangladesh cricket, as they have proved themselves in the last ODI of Micromax series bravely. I want to congratulate the Bangladesh coach for his good conduct and coaching method. He said, "Work hard and be patient, success will follow you."
Saidul Islam

Bashabo roads

Bashabo is a large residential area under Sabujbag police station at the southeast part of Dhaka metropolis. Hundreds of thousands of people live here. It is a planned residential area built by the then Railway Diversion Division to rehabilitate the people who had been affected by the shifting of Dhaka rail station from Fulbaria to Kamalapur in the sixties. In the 70s, all the roads were carpeted by the then Dhaka Municipality to meet the demand of local people. Thereafter, repair works were done at different times on different roads. But at present the condition of most of the roads is not suitable for traffic movement or pedestrians' use. Re-carpeting of all the roads is necessary.

I would like to urge the Dhaka City Corporation to re-carpet the roads of Central Bashabo, North Bashabo, South Bashabo and West Bashabo.
Mohammad Ashraf Hosain
Central Bashabo, Dhaka

Management of traffic signals

As I have witnessed, traffic signals are not operated properly in the city, which contributes to the increase in the frequency of traffic jams. The time management is not rational. Most traffic signals, operated manually, block traffic flow on one side of the crossing for a long time, while on the other side it is allowed to flow in short intervals. This creates a long queue of vehicles on the road.

Nowadays, green light is no more meant for vehicular movement, while the red and the yellow signals are seldom maintained. Considering the pressure of traffic, duration of traffic signals should be distributed rationally for ensuring smooth movement of vehicles.

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