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## Land grabbers and environment

One of the local English dailies has recently published reports which lucidly depict how our public lands are being illegally occupied in different parts of the country by groups of unscrupulous land grabbers. This competition of gobbling up national assets has been a very common practice. Regardless of the environmental imbal-

ance and other adverse effects, avaricious and unscrupulous land grabbers are stopping at nothing to satisfy their insatiable minds, even by burning forests and occupying riverbanks illegally, or denuding the hills that cause landslides claiming lots of lives every year.

A country should have at least 25% its total landmass under forest, whereas

our country has only 9%. Yet unscrupulous people are burning forests and cutting down excessive trees on a large scale. Besides these, during rainy season the city is water-logged owing to illegal occupation of riverbanks. Undoubtedly, they are care very little about environment balancing factors like trees, rivers, hills, fertile cultivable lands and so on.

A report reveals secret of burning some parts of Sundarbans. Local people have said that very often a group of people set fire to trees to create some empty lands in order to use them for person benefits.

And these illegal activities are being done with the knowledge of the authorities concerned who seem to be weak and lenient. The continued illegal activities prove it very well. Such reports just keep coming in the media. Most of the criminals are going unpunished. It is high time the authorities concerned intervened in order to protect our country from severe environmental degradation.

**Hasnat**  
AIUB  
Banani, Dhaka



AMJADUL HAQ / DRIKNEWS



PHOTO STAR

## Laptop at Tk. 15000/-!

It is encouraging to learn that the cabinet has approved a proposal to manufacturing laptop and notebook computers in Bangladesh.

The laptop or notebook, which will be manufactured by the Telephone Shilpa Shangstha (TSS), Bangladesh in collaboration with 2M Corporation Ltd., Dhaka and TFT Technology, Penang, Malaysia, will reportedly cost Tk.15000/- only! Congratulations to the government

for its pragmatic initiative towards digitalizing Bangladesh. The low price laptop or notebook will tremendously increase common Bangladeshis' access to the digital world.

We are eagerly looking forward to having the locally produced laptop and notebook computers in our local market.  
**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

## Awareness is needed

The pedestrians cannot walk on the footpath comfortably because the motorcyclists use the footpaths to avoid traffic jam. They do not wear helmets. Drivers drive their unfit vehicles recklessly without caring about the passengers and the pedestrians. Many road accidents occur every day in different parts of the country for not following traffic rules.

We should not allow unfit vehicles to ply on the roads and pollute the environment, or cause accidents because of technical problems. The drivers who drive recklessly should be caught and punished. The authorities should not provide licence without proper examination. Many of the drivers do not have genuine licence.

We, the general people, have some responsibilities too. If a launch does not get overcrowded, it is unlikely that it would capsize. Being aware of the speed is essential while we drive. We all should follow the traffic rules. Everybody

ought to realise the value of life. We have to be patient, tolerant, careful and responsible. Safety should come first because life is very precious.

**Shohag Mostafij**  
MBA (Strategic & International Management)  
University of Dhaka

## Transit facility for India

What a gross mistake! Earlier our authorities concerned and some political leaders had claimed that if India is granted transit Bangladesh would earn huge revenue. But now India is bluntly refusing to pay transshipment fee/custom duty for carrying Indian goods to her eastern provinces through Bangladesh territory.

Bangladesh, as a sovereign and independent state, has the right to collect transshipment fee/custom duty. It is practiced all over the world. Would the foreign, finance and commerce ministers kindly clarify the matter in the greater interest of the country?

**O.H. Kabir**  
Wari, Dhaka

## Meddling with tender process?

The news published in The Daily Star on November 10, 2010, disclosing the uncertainty gripping Ghorashal power project as the communications minister is meddling with the tender process, has made us deeply outraged and very upset. According to the report, the minister has said that the company selected as the lowest bidder had fabricated documents, a view that PDB does not share.

It has been disclosed that between September and October this year, PDB sought the cabinet purchase committee's approval thrice to award the contract to Chinese Sinohydro Corporation, but every time the communications minister, who is a member of the committee, opposed PDB's choice.

It is so unfortunate that now a minister is also becoming involved in the tender process, which was previously limited to the activists of Awami League. When people are passing

their days in great misery due to scarcity of electricity, instead of trying to alleviate it, how could the minister act in such a way that delayed the project?

There is limit to people's patience. People will not tolerate this sort of behaviour from the high-ups of the government. So, the government must act prudently, otherwise it will have to pay a heavy price.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Mugging

Everyday news of mugging is published in our local dailies. Common people are afraid to go out. They not only snatch away valuables, but also use harmful ointments in the victims' eyes, which can cause blindness. They do not even hesitate to kill their victims. I would like to request the authorities concerned to ponder over this issue seriously.

**Md. Ukil Ahmed**  
English teacher  
Kulshi Cheery Grammar School

## Our capital market

Rumours are rife in all the capital markets of the world, more or less. But crossing the limit has always been a matter of concern. Today, most of the new investors come into the market motivated by their friends, classmates, relatives or colleagues. Even college students are getting involved in the capital market, which is harmful for their studies. Very few of them have the basic idea about capital market. They purchase shares basing only on the rumours.

Some people know in advance which company is going to offer rights or bonus. They spread rumours and take advantage of it. As our capital market is growing rapidly, the authorities should take some preventive measures to handle the situation.

At present many well-written and easy books are available in the market. So, the new investors should make their decision based on analysis, and not rumours.

**Md. Rezaya Rabbi**  
MBA (Major in finance)  
Dhaka University

## National cricket team's outfit

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has invited drawings from dress designers to design our national team's outfit. I am not a fashion designer and do not dare to tread on their domain. But I have a small proposal to make on the team's shirt.

At present, on the backside of the jersey the country's name is written along with the name and the allotted number of a player. While on the field, the lower portion of the back of a player cannot

often be seen on the television screen. I suggest that the name of the player be written on the top followed by his allotted number. The word 'Bangladesh' need not be displayed on the jersey, as both the spectators in the gallery and the television viewers are aware of the teams participating in a particular match.

**Quazi Arifur Rahman**  
On e-mail

## 7000 MW power by 2013!

It is the best news of the year, published in almost all dailies on 8th November. Although the news has come at the end of the year, it is sweet music to our ears! I am sure all of us in Bangladesh are waiting eagerly for December 2013 to come, when Bangladesh nights will be bathed in electric lights all over the land!

Even if we can get 70 percent of what the Honourable PM promises, it will be 4900 MW! Even that too will usher in happiness

for us all, now starved for power day in and day out. I am sure that, despite the poor state of law and order, AL will win the next election hands down, if the power situation improves.

**S.A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka

## Midnight load shedding

The Prime Minister reportedly blamed the opposition for midnight load shedding in Dhaka. She made the comment while addressing a discussion meeting on "Jail Killing Day" on 3rd November, at the Bangabandhu Conference Centre.

People have not taken it nicely because they have voted her to power to serve them better than her predecessors. If the present government fails to perform its duties efficiently, the blame will fall squarely on the government and not on the opposition. People do not ask for services from the opposition. It is the duty of

the govt. to keep the essential services running smooth. Any sort of hindrance should be taken care of by the govt. It is also the duty of the govt. to ensure delivery of trouble-free services to the public. No blame game will satisfy them.

I think the PM should be very careful while making statements. This sort of comments will be treated as a ploy to avoid responsibilities.

**Shafiqul Islam**  
NY

## Digital Bangladesh

The present government is trying to build a digital Bangladesh. It is possible only when we can make sure that our students get modern education. There is discrimination between the rural and urban students. If we cannot eliminate this inequality, we will not be able to reach our goal. If we can provide proper education to the rural students, naturally our country will develop.

An English medium school, named Zia Hasan International School, started its journey from January

2010. It is situated at Karatia in Tangail. This is the first English medium school at the union level in Bangladesh. I think it's a courageous and time befitting step. The govt. should establish more English medium schools in the districts. The government should also take initiatives to modernise all existing schools at union level all over the country.

**Sabbir Hossain**  
Karatia  
Tangail

## A great teacher

Everybody has his or her favourite teacher. My favourite teacher is Prof. Sukanta Bhattacharjee. He is the professor of English Department in Chittagong University. He has many great qualities. He teaches very well and we become spellbound when he delivers his lecture. These teachers are the torchbearers of the nation.

It is a matter of great regret that teachers often become the victims of student politics nowadays.

**Mohammad Hasan Tareq**  
Chittagong

## Environment pollution

Environmental pollution has reached epic proportions. With the advent of winter, the situation has further worsened as it has stopped raining. It is unlikely that overnight millions of people will die because of this hazard, but it may drastically reduce people's life span. Small children and new born babies are the worst victims of pollution. Trash of all kinds is littered all over the city, and sewage is spilling all over the town polluting the environment. Interestingly, the general people seem to be indifferent to this highly dangerous situation.

I may cite one such example of sewage spillage in front of Green Super Market, which has been flowing onto Green Road for years. Thousands of people tread over this particular spillage every day without

being concerned for a minute. Once in a blue moon I happen to pass by this area, and the sight of the spillage almost knocks me out every time. I wonder how the people are so indifferent towards these inhuman living conditions.

It seems Dhaka has become an abandoned child, left to its fortune. In any civilised country, had this happened, they would have declared a state of emergency to sort out this life threatening menace. I am sorry to say even farm animals are treated better in many parts of the world. It is true that the per capita income and the standard of living have gone up since Independence but at the expense of life.

**Saleh Ayub**  
One-mail



PALASH KHAN / DRIKNEWS



WAHID ADNAN / DRIKNEWS

## Population explosion

According to UNFPA report, the total population of this country is 16 crore and 44 lac. With the limited resources that we have, it is a very bad news for us.

The Food minister has termed it as another reason for price hike of essentials. Is there any problem in this country which is not related to population increase? Problem of housing, environment pollution, lack

of good governance, low standard of living each of the problems is linked with population.

About eleven hundred people are living in a square kilometre area. 38 per cent are living below poverty line. Unabated increase in population and decrease of cultivable land are the main obstacles for achieving food security. The government should take effective measures to control population.

Development of the country will be hampered if this problem is not addressed immediately. Population control programme should be given top priority among the government's other development programmes. Besides, the NGOs should come forward to help the govt. They can play an important role in this regard.

**Lutfur Rahman**  
Ghoraghat  
Dinajpur