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Guests or refugees?



PHOTO: STAR

In the backdrop of the recent news item in DS about the poisoning, netting and sale of guest birds in Hakaluki and presumably in other wetlands as well, it was a pleasant surprise to see on Eid Day, a flock of about 200-300 white egrets suddenly appearing in the Niketon Lake. They fly in every day at 6.45 am exactly and leave at dusk giving Dhakabashis a rare sight in their midst.

However, I greatly fear for their health and safety. Dozens of large pipes continuously discharge

household wastes, detergents, toilet cleaners and other muck from both Gulshan and Niketon sides. The canny birds are perhaps aware of this because they remain congregated on the small area overgrown with hyacinth and reeds near the Niketon bridge and avoid the "clear" water. The bird killers are still unaware of this phenomenon, but they will soon appear with their nefarious designs on these innocent creatures.

Today, I saw some of them roosting on the only large tree overhang-

ing the lake. I pray that it becomes their permanent roosting site while they are with us for the season. But maybe, this is a vain hope because I saw some people in the building beside this tree needlessly throwing all sorts of missiles at them.

What a pity that when so many of our countrymen are guests (or refugees) in other lands, we are unable to show the same courtesy to our guest birds that we expect for ourselves over there.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

We should not forget them



Iqbal Ahmed / DRINKNEWS

Private University Act has opened a new opportunity for higher education in our country. Jamir Uddin Sirkar, the then Honourable Education Minister, amended the bill in the parliament in 1992. To date there are 51 private universities in our country. Millions of students, whose future was gloomy, got admitted there. They are becoming highly qualified and skilled manpower. Today, they have replaced unlettered and unskilled manpower of the country and become the "income ladder" for Bangladesh in the international job market.

Copying in the examinations was a cancer in our education system. It has been eliminated totally. Now our education system has achieved an international standard both qualitatively and quantitatively. A.N.M. Ahsanul Hoque Milon, the then State Minister for Education, did it in the second term of BNP era. He con-

ceived a vision and returned back to Bangladesh with a mission sacrificing his American citizenship. He won his constituency, became the state minister and did the job.

Both the men did excellent job in the field of education, one for quantitative coverage and the other for qualitative finishing touch. Both of them have made our independence really meaningful. Their activities were so sequential, synergistic and complementary that a revolution has occurred in our education sector. Their contributions to the nation should be honoured and remembered by all.

Dr. Delwar Hossain
Professor and Head
Department of Dermatology and Venereology
USTC, Foy's lake, Pahartoli
Chittagong

Living in a polluted world

I am a student of The Aga Khan School, Dhaka, studying in grade-6 and I just want to ask—can't life be fresh and beautiful with clean air? Carbon dioxide, nitrogen, methane and a lot of harmful gases are in the air. The cars, buses and taxis are using petrol and other harmful gases polluting the air. People are smoking everywhere. We have to breathe this polluted air!

Of course, we all crave for change, the world needs change. We have to create awareness because we are the future of the nation. Receive what is good and reject what is bad—should be our slogan.

Monalia Sadia Rahman
The Aga Khan School
Dhaka

A sharp contrast

Is Gulshan / Banani a piece of Europe/USA in Dhaka? A handful of people are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer day by day. When and how will we be able to follow and accept the article 19(2) of our sacred Constitution, which says, "The State shall adopt effective measures to remove social and economic inequality between man and man to ensure the equitable distribution of wealth among citizens and of opportunities in order to attain a uniform level of economic development throughout the republic?" How and when will we be successful in building a Sonar Bangla?

According to the World Almanac 2009, the per capita GDP of Bangladesh is US Dollar 1,300 and the per capita GDP of USA is US Dollar 45,800.
O.H. Kabir
Dhaka

Violence against women

There had been violence against women all over the world in all ages. Bangladesh is a developing country where most of the people are not educated. Moreover, political conflicts, ideological conflicts, poverty, etc. are some of the reasons behind this. Every day we find the sad and shameful news of violence against women in the newspapers. Acid throwing, domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, abduction, etc., are very common incidents. Violence against women has become a never-ending issue. It is our responsibility to make people aware about this social evil.

Queen's visit to Sheikh Zayed Mosque

The recent visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Muslim costume to Sheikh Zayed grand mosque in Abu Dhabi has added a new dimension to multi-faith dialogue and religious tolerance. While deeply appreciating the Queen's noble gesture and goodwill, I would also laud the dynamic role of the UAE President, His Highness

Sheikh Khakifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his sincere efforts towards expanding the great values of Islam throughout the world.

At the same time, I would like to pay rich tributes to the founder of the modern UAE, Late President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Meanwhile, I sincerely hope that the Queen would extend her good office to further bridging the Arab-Europe-USA gap and help Palestinians to get their just right established.

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

JU incident
On November 22, a report was published on The Daily Star that said 40 trees were razed on JU campus; the authorities said they had cleared the view of university Shaheed Minar. We are keen to know the fact behind the razing of the trees. If the university authorities act like this, what would others do?

When our government has demanded compensation from the international community for climate change mitigation, we are committing such offences! The involved persons must be punished.
Roshan Ali
One-mail



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DU boys go berserk

2 cars set ablaze, 25 others vandalised as learner driver critically injures student on campus (November 26, 2010)

The fault lies with the DU administration, DCC Mayor and the government. Car accidents and the senseless destruction of cars by the students of DU is nothing new.

A training car should at least have dual brakes. If a driver/instructor was sitting next to the trainee, then what was he or she doing? If the car in question is not equipped with dual brakes, it should never be used for training purposes.
Abdus Samad

Vandalism can not be condoned under any circumstances. If these very students become our future leaders then it's a nightmare scenario for our nation. When the govt. subsidizes their education, at least a responsible

and rational behaviour is expected from them.
Aziz Hasan

First of all, how was it possible with all the senses that a trainee driver be allowed to take her driving lessons inside DU campus? Police on duty had a responsibility and I think we always learn after something serious happens. This is a national problem. With all the prevailing conditions in our national life, nothing is going right and in this hot situation sparking something serious like this one is not unusual.
Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opeo

They are the students of the best university of the country, yet they behave like barbarians. We, Bengalis, have a tendency to blame the

A personal matter!

It is shocking to read The Daily Star's view on Begum Khaleda Zia's eviction. It says Khaleda Zia's eviction from her cantonment residence is a personal matter and she should have returned the house by herself.

Question arises why was she not allowed to contact her lawyers during the eviction process? Any of us can be evicted from our house on flimsy grounds, as The Daily Star implies that state can take back what it gives. If houses inside the cantonment area cannot be allocated to civilians, then how come the same house will be allocated to the widows of BDR mutiny? Many civilians do live in the cantonment area. What will be done to them?

A shocked citizen
Pallabi, Mirpur
Dhaka

Sufferings of commuters

There are mainly two types of public buses plying on city streets, these are: seating service buses and local buses. During office time the driver and the helper of local bus raise the fare declaring their buses as seating service buses. The seated passengers also support them. As a result, most of the commuters cannot get on the buses. Generally the bus starts with no vacant seat from the first stoppage in rush hours. The helplessness of people who wait for the bus at different stoppages is beyond description.

Mobarak Ali
Gopibag, Dhaka

Juice packs

The other day my grandmother offered me to have a glass of mango juice. The juice was purely blended. Just as I was about to sip it in, something caught my eyes. The glass was an ordinary small sized one and it contained a whole mango which only filled one-fourth of it.

Now I wonder, if only a mango costs Tk. 30-35/- and if it only fills the quarter of a glass, how come our renowned juice companies sell 500 ml bottles, covering all their costs, at this cheap price? Obviously, not all the companies are here to do charity but instead to earn the maximum profit. I really don't know what is there inside the juice packs in the name of mangoes.

Mahbuba Sharmeen Preema
Penfield School, Dhaka

Hostile remarks

It has come to my attention that a few atheists' remarks about religion are very hostile. I do not want to argue with these "intellectuals" on either the scientific compatibility of the Qur'an or the fallacy of evolution. Instead, I wish to take a different approach. If they are not concerned about religion, why are they the first ones to talk about it and spend time on it? Sometimes, it seems like they need people to agree with them so that they feel a little less guilty (and more confident) about their assertions. There is so much hostility in their remarks directed to the Muslims. Their remarks are just creating greater division among people.
Monica Islam
Dhaka

Bravo, Bangladeshis!

Once again Bangladesh cricket team has followed their dreams to win the first ever gold for the country in any Asian Games. Every good news boosts our confidence and light a candle in the otherwise dismal milieu marked by traffic jam, poverty stricken faces and the highway of success choked with dirt, filth and corruption. On the financial front, Bangladesh's leading ship building company, Western Marine Shipyard, raised us from our image of ship breaker to ship builder by delivering two ocean-going vessels to its German owner, Grona Shipping GmbH Co KG.

Despite the bad politics of personal gratification and aggrandizement on the part of both the ruling and opposition parties, people have kept their morale and dream alive to push forward our country to an honourable

position in the committee of nations. Against the backdrop of general people's vision and action, the political parties are getting grotesquely outdated. Bravo, Bangladeshis! Go ahead in your march towards replacing the narrow with the wide, the dirty with the clean and the begging hands with the helping ones.

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur, Natore

Our heartiest congratulations to our cricketers for winning gold medal in the Asian Games! We are proud of them; our best wishes are with them. We rarely hear any good news now-a-days, this news has made us extremely happy, and it is a breath of fresh air in the suffocating atmosphere.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong



AFP

Provocation and persecution!

Provocation and persecution, seems to occupy the major time and effort of our two major political parties, AL and BNP; both headed by women at loggerheads with a "tit for tat" performance, based more on personal rather than political reasons. Engulfed in this environment, they do not hesitate to ignore the rule of law, whenever in opposition. Now one of the top BNP leaders, a lawyer of repute has advised and suggested to sort out all issues in street battles!

Once again, no thanks to BNP, to get back the 'Netri's' illegally obtained state property; we the ordinary citizens are to suffer, while bombs, batons and even bullets are used, putting the lives of innocent citizens going about their daily work, unnecessarily at risk! Does the concerned 'Netri' care? Not the least! This is our high level politics in

Bangladesh! Whims and greed is the core issue, and law, logic and level headed behaviour is ignored. For them, the more violence the better, as they (the so-called activists) are well paid for carrying out lawless activities!

If this is our destiny, as an independent country, then possibly the good old 'British Raj' days were a better bargain! Factually, since independence in 14th August 1947, we have been going downhill, as far as peaceful life is concerned. Will we ever see a turn-around? One can only hope and pray, but our destiny is very 'grey'! Meanwhile the two "Ladies at Loggerheads" keep us all only in suspense of impending violence and lawlessness, one-way or another!

A Fed-up citizen
Dhaka



AMDADUL HUQ / DRINKNEWS

govt. for all the problems, but the reality is that the govt. is merely a reflection of its people. We need to correct ourselves before pointing our fingers at the government and its officials.
Mehdi Sheikh

This is a regular phenomenon of DU campus when any untoward incident takes place. What are they learning in the apex institution?
Nasirullah Mridha

A peaceful protest can be more successful than burning those cars and indulging in violence.
Shuvo

As an academic of the University of Dhaka, I consider the action taken by the students is inhumane and it goes against the norms of student-kind, or for that matter any civilised society's behaviour. I certainly sympathise with the injured student and strongly believe that he should be given all the necessary treatment. But I do not understand why the students should be engaged in vandalism! Why do they need to burn cars? Does it solve the problems?
Not to be identified

Really pathetic!
Ferdous Jalil

We know very well that every month someone is crushed under the wheels of a car or a bus in DU campus. Why should the students set fire to the cars? The answer is- they do it because the authorities do not take any punitive action against the drivers responsible for the accidents.

Dhaka University campus is now for the outsiders, not for the students, teachers or employees. One month ago, an employee died due to a car accident. One year ago, a teacher's wife was killed in a car accident and the car was also being driven by a trainee driver.

The administration did not take any action so far. So, I think there was no other alternative for the students except for whatever they did.
Bishnu Kumar Adhikary

The only way to control such violence is to punish the wrongdoers.
Jalal

What Rubaiya Haque and her peers did was a punishable offence, as also the destruction and vandalism by the DU students. These are happening because generally such drivers are not punished by the law enforcing agencies.
S.R. Bhuiyan

To be honest, the BRTA is responsible for this, as they issue driving license to all on payment.
Md. Shafique

The general people respect Dhaka University students. Therefore, such action by the students of a reputed university is not acceptable.
Nasarullah

The student was not at all critically injured, only minor cuts. The reaction of the students was way overblown.
Shahenjob Antik