



vehicle that can be modified to make it safe. It would be an interesting challenge to senior class Mechanical Engineering students of BUET, I am sure; and the problems can be removed!  
Engr. S.A. Mansoor  
Dhaka

### Cyber crimes

My salute to the lady in Chittagong, who had been bold enough to go to the police and complain against Aleem, a cyber criminal, for posting indecent photographs on a fake Facebook account. The Kotwali police had arrested Aleem. And thanks to The Daily Star for giving a good treatment to the news. This is just the beginning. These stories should be published in the front page of the national dailies and covered in the electronic media as well. Both the print and electronic media should immediately launch nationwide awareness campaigns against any kind of harassment, be it physical or mental. Every individual should be aware of his/her rights; how they can get support and be protected under the law if/when anyone is harassed.

On the other hand, the criminals, who are directly involved in these utterly heinous crimes should also know that they cannot get away so easily. Moreover, it is great to know that police is also looking for those who had posted vulgar comments on that fake account. This is indeed a commendable step of our skilled police department.  
Sangeeta Ahmad  
DOHS-Baridhara  
Dhaka

### Sufferings of people

I am an employee of a multinational company. I had to go to my office during hartal. I can't describe how much I had to suffer to get a rickshaw. Moreover, the rickshaw puller demanded a high fare for a short distance. He demanded Tk 50/- to go to my office from my place, whereas the regular fare is Tk. 20/- . I saw a damaged car in front of my office, the driver was also hurt. Begum Khaleida Zia did not come to the streets to see the sufferings of the ordinary people. Why should the ordinary people suffer for the political party's benefit?  
Sharmin  
Uttara, Dhaka

### Conserving the environment

The other day I was watching a documentary film on high speed trains in England on National Geographic Channel with amazement. At one stage of implementing the railway tracks for the high-speed trains, the engineers encountered a huge obstacle. On the path of the intended railway tracks lay woodlands consisting of millions of trees. Had this phenomenon occurred in Bangladesh, the easy solution would have been chopping down the trees giving a damn to the cause for environment. Not to speak of the illiterate people alone, probably many educated people also do not realise the importance of conserving the environment for the well being of the people.

In order to save the environment, the engineers decided to relocate the trees to a different place paving the way for the railway tracks to be built for the high speed trains. Accordingly they selected a place and built a specially designed digging machine and got the job done

## Accidents in DU area

In recent times, several accidents were reported inside the Dhaka University area. And after almost every accident, the vehicle in question, along with many other vehicles, was vandalised by the students. Every time an accident occurs, law enforcers come and charge truncheons, and the university spokesman appears in the scene and utters some well-rehearsed words of assurance and everything goes back to normal, at least until the next accident occurs.

We are trapped inside this wicked cycle of carelessness and violence. These accidents have cost us enough; this cannot be allowed to continue any longer. But in order to avoid these mishaps, everyone has to play an active role. The university authorities should fulfil its assurance of setting up eight check posts and constantly monitor the vehicles entering the university area. Outsiders should also consider refraining from making

detours through the area.

The university campus is meant for the university students who have earned the right to stay there by getting them admitted into the institution. And if after taking all the precautions, accidents still occur, the students should restrain themselves from vandalising vehicles and state property. Protest is indeed necessary. Organising rallies, human chains and other peaceful activities could be efficient ways to express demands without tarnishing the reputation of DU students. The authorities should also show minimum signs of intellect by accepting the demands put forward by peaceful protesters. Practising tolerance at individual level might be the key out of this dangerous pitfall.

Shahriar Kabir  
Student, BUET  
Dhaka



## Making parliament effective

Prime Minister has urged the opposition to abandon its boycott. The speaker reminds the opposition that democracy can be effective only if it plays its role. But why did the two of them, when in the opposition, not prevent the stalling of parliament or the opposition boycott over the caretaker and other issues? It is the ruling party that initiated the tactics of confrontation such as rushing to the well of the House, disrupting zero hour, and slogan-shouting.

The opposition leaders know well what they can achieve through active participation in debates and discussions, they cannot achieve through confrontation. True, the entry of tainted persons into the parliament is undesirable but there should be a clear distinction between those convicted of a crime and those facing trial. Stalling parliamentary proceedings does not augur well for democracy. It is the taxpayers' money that is going down the drain. But the ruling

alliance is no less to blame because when it was in the opposition, it created pandemonium resulting in frequent adjournments.

The only way to stop this menace is to deny votes to those who indulge in unruly behaviour in the House. The opposition alliance's decision of disrupting parliament's functioning is only maligning its political image. The parliamentarians have a moral responsibility to allow parliament to function smoothly. The nation cannot afford to lose the momentum on the economic front. In his days as a war correspondent, Winston Churchill described his experience of being under poor opposition firing thus: "There is nothing more exhilarating than being fired at with no result."

Gopal Sengupta  
Canada



### Killing 'Nasim' and 'Karim'!

The Home Ministry, based on the ill advice of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, has promptly banned these two popular diesel engine three-wheeler! It is sad, to ignore this interesting development built by rural talent that is a very useful transport hauler.

The only weakness in the design of these vehicles that I could see during my short stay in a village in Satkhira during this Eid, is a high centre of gravity and inadequate braking device. Instead of banning it, it would have been prudent to advise BUET to help in modifying the vehicle and incorporate these improvements; which are quite possible. Alongside this, measures could be taken to have these vehicles registered, install simple front and rear lights based on a bicycle type dynamo. Further drivers of these vehicles could be properly trained and licensed to prevent all and sundry, often young kids, from operating these vehicles! By simply banning it, we have only created a hindrance, without trying to help the rural people who have improvised the vehicle by modifying and powering the village flat bed tricycle that was very popular earlier, and has now been replaced by these engine driven three-wheelers.

Poor 'Nasim' and 'Karim' who perhaps built these ingenious vehicles, instead of being helped, have been discouraged no end! As an engineer (ex BUET), I would appeal to our "Powers that Be" to please look at the positive contribution of this useful

## Environment pollution

A picture, taken by Anisur Rahman, was published in the front page of The Daily Star on 29th November 2010. It was a horrifying picture! Toxic wastes from factories have been posing severe environmental hazards in the land and waterways at Godnail in Narayanganj for years. The residents of that area have complained about this many times to the authorities, but it all went in vain. The caption stated that the land was once arable; but now, due to our acts, it has dried up and has become contaminated with hazardous substances. The toxic effluents still keep flowing through a canal into the Shitalakkhya.

Bangladesh is one of the few countries that face extreme hazards due to environmental pollution. Once there was a time when one would go out to hear the soft whispers of the trees, the mild wind circulating around, and colourful flowers surrounded everywhere and the beauty of nature would keep one captive. But now that is nothing but a dream! Dumping of industrial wastes on land and in water has destroyed the nature. The bad odour cannot be tolerated. We never stop and think if we are doing the right thing!

Tanha Kashfia Kate  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka

## Surrender to system

Justice, honour and talent seem to be the main victims of the vitiated society of ours. The officers grab public money and validate it by bogus vouchers while the lower class employees live in abject poverty.

The frown in the officer's face remind me of Shelley's famous poem 'Ozymandias' in which he describes the cruel visage on the face of the broken sculpture of an ancient powerful king. In our society almost every official wears an appearance of a cruel haughty king.

The people have seen how the humanity was humiliated prior to and during the hartal hours. The innocent passers-by were dragged and pushed

onto the police vans; the peaceful workers holding onto their leaders were beaten. Opposition offices were barricaded and were not protected from police raid and arrest.

However, this is not to sympathise with a party which was once in power and equally misused their power. Actually, what we want is a good system. If you are so vocal against hartal, why are you not banning it? What is the use of those phoney diatribes against hartal? You have absolute majority in the parliament, please ban it taking other parties into confidence.

Abdus Subhan  
On e-mail



earlier than the stipulated time thereby saving money as well.

The number of trees relocated totalled some millions and none of the trees suffered fatality in the process. Bangladesh has a lot to learn from this conservation effort made by the engineers for implementing the railway tracks for high speed trains in England.  
Saleh Ayub  
On e-mail

### A Tailorbird!

The other night while I was watching the picture of a Goldfinch (a beautiful coloured bird) on the Internet edition of London's daily "The Telegraph," suddenly I heard some noise coming from the corridor adjacent to my room. I guessed it was a bird's scream. Quickly I opened the door and discovered to my surprise a tiny Tailorbird got trapped inside the corridor. The Tailorbird is known as Tuntuni in Bangladesh which is lovely coloured singing bird. The Tuntuni was screaming perhaps out of fear! I tried to assure the bird that she's safe and secure and I was not going to hurt or catch her. I immediately put off the light so that the Tuntuni could get herself settled. It wasn't possible to drive her out in the midnight!

After I left the corridor making it dark, the Tuntuni stopped screaming.

In the morning the first thing I did was to get the Tuntuni out with the help of a long stick. In fact the bird was afraid to come down to leave the place. Meanwhile, after much persuasion I made the Tuntuni to fly out and leave. As she flew to a nearby tree, the lovely Tuntuni began to sing,

perhaps in appreciation of her freedom.

It was an interesting experience for me. In fact, birds are a part of the nature which enhance natural beauty and ensure ecological balance. Now that many guest birds are coming to our country, it's our duty to ensure their protection and happy stay!  
Professor M Zahidul Haque  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka

### Love of a mother

Women have gone to either of the two extremes with regards to family and work. Some women have sacrificed everything for their families when their education and work could have contributed greatly to the society. On the other hand, some women are ready to compromise rearing of the children for developing their career. Many women, including celebrities, have taken a break from their work to remain with their kids during their formative years when they learn how to walk, talk and behave. These women have successfully returned to higher studies and works after a certain time. Some women chose to do home-orientated or part-time jobs for rearing their kids during the first few years.

Governments and day care centres cannot provide the love of a mother, let alone moral education to the children. It is far better to leave the children with trustworthy relatives, friends or neighbours.

Monica Islam  
Dhaka

### Justice will hide its face in shame

The main reason behind Khaleida Zia's eviction has been clearly said by Awami League MP Mohammed Golam Mousa Rony on the talk show GrameenPhone Tritio Matra, what people were suspecting all along.

When asked by the host why Awami League government did not take this step in their last tenure, he said that BNP government took away Gonobhaban which was allotted to Sheikh Hasina, and another house that was allotted to Sheikh Rehana when they came into power in 2001.

There is a limit to audacity, how can these two incidents be compared? Sheikh Hasina took the Gonobhaban for Taka one, she was not a widow with two small children. Sheikh Hasina was not evicted from her house in the most abominable way and did not have to suffer this humiliation.

Begum Khaleida Zia did not cry for the house; the humiliation must have been unbearable which made her to break down. People from all walks of life have become very angry by the detestable act.  
Nur Jahan  
Chittagong

### Death of a friend

When Mr. Bakhtiar Nur Siddiqui, an eminent social worker and a politician of the city, gave me the news of Prof. Dr. Abu Yousuf Alam's death, I was suddenly plunged into a state of grief. Abu Yousuf Alam was such a great friend and so many interactions between us crossed my mind that I could hardly get out of those past memories.

He belonged to the progressive generation of Freedom Movement era, always in the forefront with wholeheartedness, with utmost sincerity and transparency; democratic but strongly anti-communist -- we could still be friends and indulged in a long, laborious and alluring intellectual chat more often in my medical chamber at Jamalkhan, Ctg. He took medical advice from me for himself for almost one and a half decade, but not this time, and because of his very busy life for the last one year we really lost contact.

Life is so short, some near and dear ones leave, rest of us stay to endure the pain; it is natural but very painful. He left in front of us a burning example of what best can be done with a short life and we can learn from this noble teacher even after his eternal departure.  
Dr. Dilip DE  
On e-mail

### When will we be civilised?

In a recent visit to Dhaka, I was in a restaurant in Banani. The sight that caught my attention was that of a maid standing next to a table while a young well-to-do, apparently educated couple and their child eating. For the entire time, the maid just stood there while the family enjoyed their food.

When will we stop treating these people as slaves? When will we realise these are real people, just like you and me, with feelings and needs? How do we expect the rest of the world to treat us with dignity when we do not treat our own as equal human beings?  
Reza Islam  
USA