

Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 250 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

No playground, no children park

Due to inefficiencies of RAJUK and DCC, Dhaka has turned into a concrete jungle. Except for a few commercial amusements parks situated in different places, there is no playground or children's park in Dhaka. Our children have started playing football and cricket earmarking portions of various roads and streets obstructing movement of pedestrians as well as vehicles and also causing accidents.

Ninety-nine per cent of our govt. and private schools and colleges have no playground, but the authorities take a large amount of tuition fees from the students. Would our Education Minister and Health Minister kindly do something for sports, recreation, physical exercise and mental development of our children?

We suggest that in whichever schools/colleges playground is available, children from other schools/colleges may be allowed to use the premises at least once in a week by rotation. Something is better than nothing.

O. H. Kabir
Hare Street
Wari, Dhaka



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

Wikileaks and capitalism

The Wikileaks disclosures appear to be a blessing in disguise; exposing the menacing tentacles of hidden ways of controlling capitalistic wealth. This is a very sensitive issue for the economically backward people in the third world countries (four billions out of six billions on this Earth). After probing the diplomatic services, it is now said to be concentrating on corporate corrupt practices.

Bangladesh became famous as the most corrupt nation in the world for four years running. Now mega Indian corrupt practices are hogging the headlines. The Regional cooperative agencies appear only in paper (SAARC, ASEAN, OIC, etc).

Hidden political corruption is the mother of all evils. In the emerging countries, there are no democratic practices inside the ruling party or in the opposition. Chanting of departed leaders' names is the name of the game. The dynastic rule provide the umbrella effect for sycophants. Academic life of the students is ruined as field workers. The irony is that they would be groomed as future leaders of the country.

Wikileaks has provided digital freedom to the downtrodden masses. The founder of Wikileaks has suddenly become famous- like Obama, from nowhere. Political concepts, like life, do not progress in a straight line. These are like changing river courses, dynamic rather than static. The rapid development of young Bangladesh has been retarded due to dynasty rule. Why? Perhaps we are not yet ready for clean administration, to enjoy the fruits of mental liberation, (which has to be established first as base or foundation before outward display).
AZ, Dhaka

Shameful police corruption

Transparency International Bangladesh has stated what we knew all along. The evidence is everywhere. Many policemen seem to think corruption is in their job description and show no remorse.

Awhile ago, Sir Frank Peters wrote an interesting article of great concern to all parents about the teenage schoolboy Aaquib Tanveer's getting mugged at gunpoint on his way to school. Aaquib wouldn't go to the police because they would demand baksheesh for their 'secretarial services' to record the complaint. Since then, four more pupils from the same school, including my son, were mugged. I told my son, who was very distressed at the time, not to even waste the rickshaw fare going to the police.

Our children are mugged by one set of crooks while another group in uniform shamefully adds insult to injury.

Concerned and distressed mum
Dhanmondi
Dhaka

Extortionists in uniform!

A report on extortion by law enforcers in uniform was published in a local English daily on 4th December. It is indeed sad when law protectors themselves become law breakers. Imagine the law enforcers forcing truck drivers to pay

distrust the police. Now, they too have become a party to "Chanda-Baji"! Only God can help us.

Which way is the police department going? What has the IG Police got to say about it? The response will be that it is a false and exaggerated report without basis. If only this could be true, then we can relax! But realities are bitter and ugly.

One solution could be that police can collect 'on the spot' fines for traffic law

do this, then the chance of extortion by policemen can be eliminated.
S.A.Mansoor
Dhaka

JSC examination

The Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinations for the students of class Eight, the first of its kind in the country, were held in November 2010. The students got less than a year to take preparation for the

successfully taken our examinations by the grace of Allah.

But, some unpleasant incidents that took place in the examination hall shocked us very much. Some of the invigilators in our room did not perform their duties properly. We also had problems in answering some of the questions. The questions should have been a bit easier considering the new system.

Md. Fuad Hasan
Mujib Sarak
BL Govt. High School
Sirajganj

Women empowerment

These days women empowerment is the most discussed issue around the world. But some of us seem to have misconception about this. It is not about wearing smart and western cloths, which most of the girls in the city think. It is more important than that. It is about making their own decisions, giving importance to their own choices and thoughts in the family, and many more things.

Women must have the power to make their own decisions. This is not an easy thing to do. At the same time, they have to achieve bargaining power in the family and society. Educated women are also not able to make their own decisions in our country, let alone the illiterate women. The educated women must come forward to help the poor women achieve their rights.
Md. Taherul Islam
MSS
Institute of Social Welfare & Research (ISWR)
University of Dhaka

Chariots of fire

While drafting the mail on the topic, I feared a backlash from none other than Mr. Sikander Ahmed, and it happened exactly the way I thought. Since we cannot communicate with one another on a personal level, I hope the esteemed daily shall allow me the privilege to express my response in



PHOTO: STAR

Missing youths of Rupganj

Three poor youths of different villages under Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj have been missing since Oct 23, after a bloody violence erupted between the villagers and members of law-enforcing agencies over purchase of land for an army housing project in Rupganj. According to a front-page report published in your daily on Nov 21, parents and relatives of the missing youths-Shamsher, Masud and Saidul- looked for them in all the nearby hospitals and clinics of Dhaka, but in vain.

It was alleged that Shamsher was bullet-hit and members of the security forces flew him away in a

helicopter. But his whereabouts is still unknown. The other two youths simply vanished, leaving no trace whatsoever. Imagine the agony the family members of the missing are going through. Strangely enough, the law-enforcing agencies are keeping mum regarding their whereabouts. Are those unfortunate youths still alive? If they are dead, who have abducted and killed them? Where are their dead bodies? The aggrieved families have the right to know all these from the authorities concerned.

Md. Mohsin Ali
Nuton Courtpara
Kushtia

toll on cargo of food, vegetables and edibles, or else! This could be a reason for the rise in food prices, since ultimately the consumers indirectly pay the toll to the police. Little wonder people in general

violation and other traffic related offences; then the highway police could share a part of this. They can be rotated at regular intervals, so that all highway police personnel can get a share of some extra income. If we can

examinations; the syllabus was different from that of the junior scholarship examination, and new subjects were included in the syllabus. We did even not get some books. In spite of all these hurdles, we, the students have

On November 25, 2010, my friend and I went to the Prothom Alo office at Karwan Bazar. At 6pm we came out of the office and as we entered the underpass to cross the road, suddenly the electricity went off. A few girls and women were also there in the underpass. Some boys were obscene comments at the girls. We were astonished to hear the comments. I felt guilty as I could not do anything at that moment.

The Karwan Bazar underpass is a horrible place. Load shedding is very common here. The teasers take the advantage of the dark. In a place like underpass, uninterrupted electricity supply is required. I request the authorities concerned to do something about this.

Rowshan Ali
Barrister Masudur Rahman & Associates
Dhaka

Duck family shaken!

A recent news item on 'Today' msnbc.com attracted my attention. It was a video by YouTube depicting a family of ducks tossed and shaken by high winds in Toronto, Canada. The mother duck was seen with her young ducklings struggling to rescue herself and the ducklings from the destructive effects of the high stormy winds. The poor ducklings were almost swept away by the high wind but miraculously none was hurt and they finally succeeded in saving their lives!

Although painful but still lovely, the video really touched my feelings and I posted it on my Facebook wall.
Professor M Zahidul Haque
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Victory Day celebrations!

People around the country have celebrated the Victory Day with much festivity. In Dhaka the young boys were celebrating the day like any other day, such as Valentine's Day, scaring the

girls around them.

I was embarrassed seeing the nature of celebrations on the streets. The government has spent a huge amount of money in decoration. It has been 40 years since our independence. What have we achieved in all these years? Corruption, inflation, law and order slide has crippled the nation. We could not achieve economic solvency; most of our people still live below the poverty line. In addition, human rights violation, especially by the law enforcing agencies, is a common scene here. General people feel unsafe while outside their home. Even inside their homes they do not feel safe, because robbery often takes place in many areas. Besides, the nation is faced with power and gas crisis, water scarcity and many more problems. The list is too long to tell.

In such a situation, should we celebrate our Victory Day in this manner? Is it not shameful for the nation? I think we should celebrate our Victory Day with such enthusiasm only after we become an economically solvent nation.
A disgusted citizen
One-mail



PHOTO: STAR

SME loan definition

I was really taken aback reading the news, "Banks cash in on SME loan definition" written by Sajjadur Rahman and published in your daily on 3rd Dec 2010. It contained so many information on SME lending in which I found huge rooms to respond. The core part of the writing was SME definition and its implications on pan banking loan portfolio size. Bangladesh Bank (BB) has defined SME in May 2008 exactly in line with the same available in the then Industrial Policy 2005.

This definition does not say anything about SME loan sizes. According to that definition, many SME loans rather became non SME loans. For application of this, many existing SME loans were upgraded from SME loan to corporate loan portfolio. As a result, disbursed fund is supposed to be reduced. Moreover, SMEs are not (and were never in the past) defined in terms of loan size/limit. Even from day one, for example, an 80 crore taka loan may fall in SME segment (or may not) depending on the characters of the borrowing enterprise. On the contrary, a loan of taka 2 crore may not even fall in SME. Even there is no regulatory loan limit set for small or medium enterprises. Regarding provisioning rate for SME loans it is exactly the same that applies to corporate loans.

Badrudduza Choudhury
One-mail

Karwan Bazar underpass

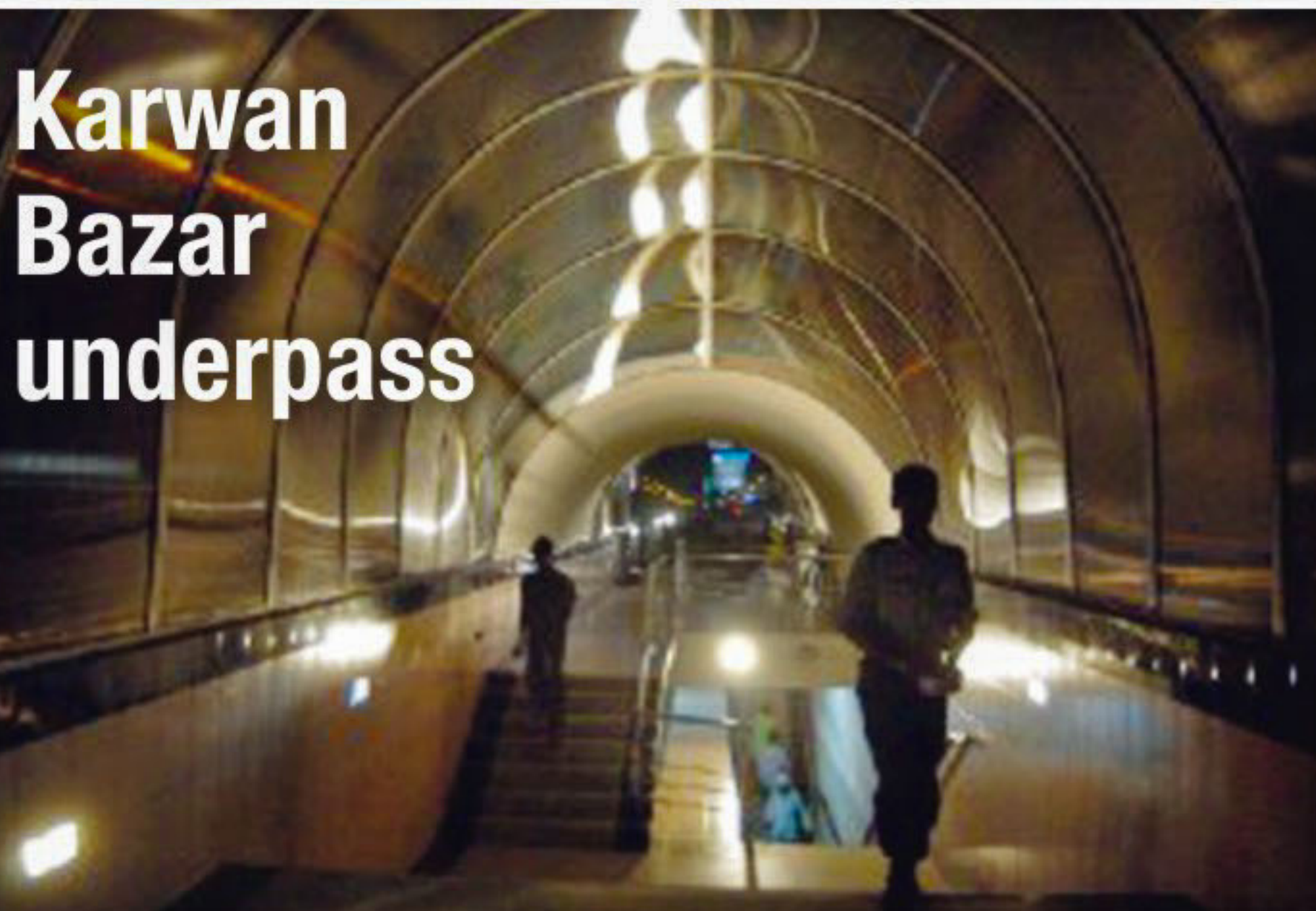


PHOTO: STAR