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DEE and metro rail



PRITO REZA / DRINKNEWS

Amid the negative news in the front page of The Daily Star of 14th December, the best positive news appeared in the back page. It read, 'Italian-Thai venture gets expressway job.' We heartily congratulate the present government for the decision and we hope that the construction work will start soon. When completed, the 26 kilometer project will ease traffic congestions to a great extent. However, the Dhaka Elevated Expressway (DEE) will not solve all our traffic problems. The DEE will be mostly used

by the motorised vehicles- cars, buses, etc. Then what options are offered to the non-motorised vehicles? The government should address the needs of all sections of people. Mass Rapid Transit system in the form of metro rail will be the best solution for the common mass. Metro rails have been constructed in Kolkata, Delhi, Bangkok, Tehran, and many other cities of the world. I, along with many others, have written many times about the necessity of metro rail and its obvi-

ous advantages. Somebody needs to bell the cat and start negotiations about metro rail project. While we are enthralled at the news of DEE, we will be doubly happy when the metro rail project receives the green signal from the government. We hope the present government will seriously consider metro rail as a priority project, accord due importance and act towards its implementation. Only then will Dhaka be a liveable city again. **Dr. SN Mamoon**
On e-mail

dismayed to witness the disparity in reception accorded to them. Whatever we may say and do, disparity shall prevail in one form or the other at all times. Thanks to Channel i for according the reception to Prosenjit, who did the lead role in "Moner Manush." I look forward to watching the movie soon when it is released in DVD format. **Saleh Ayub**
On e-mail

International service clubs
An article on the subject was published in a local English daily on December 11th, where a pertinent question about service clubs was raised. The writer mentioned about Rotary and Lions clubs, and their aim towards service. He stated, 'Are they (service clubs) really and effectively promoting ethics in private life, business and profession of members in the community?'

As a Rotarian for over 25 years I would like to state what Rotarians do. Each Rotary Club does what it can for the needy in their community from their own resources. Our club provides medical consultation and medicines as needed, in our weekly medical clinic, by a registered medical practitioner. If needed we also help them out in getting specialised medical or surgical attention, including hospitalization where needed. This facility is provided to 'bustee' dwellers.

We also have primary schools for educating their children. Where needed, we also provide books and stationery for the students. Promising students, after passing from school, are also given financial assistance to be trained as technicians like skilled medical attendants, electricians, and motor mechanics and in other such trades.

In the rural areas we provide inputs for farming, tube wells, and similar infrastructure support for their house building etc.

However, regarding ethics, I wonder if these service clubs (Lions and Rotary) can mould a person's moral character! Ethics and moral values are embedded in the formative years of one's childhood. **S.A. Mansoor**
Gulshan, Dhaka

International Migrants Day
The United Nations declared December 18 as the International Migrants Day through a resolution (No. 55/93) adopted on December 4, 2000. However, the convention came to effect on July 1, 2003 with the ratification by 20 state parties. The number of ratifying states is now 44. Bangladesh has signed the convention back in 1998. Good news is that the present government has decided

Empowering HRC

National Human Rights Commission (HRC) law was passed on July 9, 2009. But it is a matter of great regret that the government is not taking the necessary measures to make the commission effective. Only seven members have been recruited so far. The commission is now unable to investigate any case as the government has not recruited any investigation officer yet. Establishing an effective HRC was one of the main election commitments of the present government. Though the commission has the power to investigate any case of human rights violation, it is not been given the power to file a case or take any legal step. The commission does not have the

power to investigate complaints of human rights violation by the law enforcers. It only can ask for report from the government and recommend it, but the government is not obliged to obey the commission's recommendation. For legislative complications, the HRC cannot take any step in spite of having clear evidences of some human rights violation cases. We hope the government will take urgent steps to make the HRC effective for the sake of democracy, good governance and the rule of law. An effective Human Rights Commission has no alternative. **Lutfur Rahman**
Ghoraghat, Dinajpur



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to ratify the convention. Unless the provisions of the convention are adopted in the form of national legal framework and implemented effectively, it would bring no result. We need to make a policy and take administrative measures to streamline migration sector. Though the convention is a human rights instrument, it prescribes procedures for management of migration and protection of migrants' rights.

Despite of having a great potential, the migration sector in Bangladesh is apparently left neglected and is facing many hurdles.

There is lack of political will supplemented by lack of administrative and legal measures. At the same time, the existing legal frameworks have proved to be outdated to regulate and it is not taken to implement effectively. The government should also focus all its activities to promote safe-migration. The so-called anti-human trafficking initiatives and drives should be modified to curb human trafficking. **Dr. Uttam Kumar Das**
Advocate Supreme Court of Bangladesh Dhaka

Tuition fee hike protest
What happened recently in London is unexpected and unfortunate. The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were trapped in

their car while passing through demonstrators protesting hike in tuition fee. A section of the protesters damaged their car. The mob torched wooden benches in Parliament Square to protest the move to raise tuition fees. Meanwhile, in my opinion all countries, rich or poor, should provide subsidies to the education sector, because education is not only an integral part of human rights but a country's wellbeing factor as well. **Professor M Zahidul Haque**
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University Dhaka

When will we change?
We are on the threshold of a new year but the experiences of the last two years have made us so disheartened that we are afraid even to hope for a better future. The year 2009 started with a most shocking incident - Pilkhana tragedy. What happened on February 24 at the Darbar Hall is so gruesome that we still shudder remembering it. Nothing is going well, deaths from roads and rail accidents are increasing, fires are taking tolls of lives and properties, dacoits and muggers are killing people routinely, acid throwing has increased, many young girls took their own lives because of unbearable harassment they went through. The list will go on and on, it

seems that everything has gone haywire. It is the government's duty to see to it that people live in peace and security, there is adequate supply of water, gas and electricity, prices of essentials are in the reach of common people and people do not get stuck in traffic jams for hours together. But alas! It seems that the woes of the people have become secondary to the government, their first priority is to experiment how to widen the distance between the AL and BNP. **Nur Jahan Chittagong**

BSF atrocities
The death of a Bangladeshi cattle trader in Nilphamari reported in your internet edition on December 18 is yet another blow for the nation. This particular killing took place when the nation was celebrating the Victory Day and honouring the Indian war heroes who took part in our War of Independence. The killings by the BSF are nothing less than the war crimes committed by the war criminals during the nine months of our Liberation War. The Bangladeshis are mere spectators, having no right to protest such killings. Probably, it is a price Bangladeshis are paying for the help and assistance they got from India in 1971. As it is said - nothing is free in this world. **Nigar Chowdhury**
On e-mail

Ragging in BUET

Classes of the newly admitted honours students of BUET are scheduled to commence from January next. It is good news for the freshers, yet their mind is troubled with fear, because the senior students will make fun of them in various ways in the campus. Students fall victims to ragging almost in all the universities. Ragging include doing unbearable physical drills, using abusive slang and many more obscene activities. Newcomers are even subjected to sexual harassment. Unfortunately, a student has to face quite a hostile environment during the first days of his university life. Although the government has planned to put an end to this inhuman practice, it has not been implemented. Moreover, the university authorities are often found unwilling to note any complaint in this regard. Everybody should realise the detrimental psychological effects ragging causes to the victims. The university authorities should be strict in punishing the culprits who practice this for ensuring congenial atmosphere in the higher educational institutions. **Anonymous**
Senior Student BUET

Shahrukh Khan's visit to Bangladesh

There's been a lot of hullabaloo over Shahrukh Khan's trip to Bangladesh. There was something that annoyed me. Why did those Indian dancers wear such dresses that are considered improper in our country? Also, some of the gestures of the performers were indecent. To me, this show only reveals our one-sided cultural relationship with India. I bet there is no one in our country who can get this much attention if s/he performs in our neighbouring country. I was incensed at how we could spend the huge amount of money to see this show, when our own artists do not have money to go abroad for better treatment! We should change our mindset. Up until now, we admired foreign artists more than our own. Now, we should admire our own artists and culture. **Nurus Sakib**
Segunbagicha Dhaka

Recognition of Palestinian state

We congratulate Brazilian President Lula da Silva from the core of our heart for according recognition to Palestinian state based on borders at the time of Israel's conquest of the West Bank in 1967. We were rather shocked and

Disparity prevails

All of us are well aware of the presence of Bollywood Super Star Shahrukh Khan in Dhaka on December 10, 2010. Million of viewers watched him perform with his troupe at the Army Stadium in Dhaka. On the other hand, probably a very few of us are aware of the presence of another Indian film star in Dhaka at the same time, who briefly appeared on Channel i. To me personally, Prosenjit is no less an important actor than Shahrukh Khan. I was rather shocked and

Cricket World Cup 2011

ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 will be held in Bangladesh in Feb. A spectacular opening ceremony as well as eight matches will be held here. The authorities concerned are working hard to make the event a success. In the 11th South Asian Games that was held in Dhaka recently there were accommodation and transportation problems, and a little bit of mismanagement. Most of the institutions that were involved with the SA Games were commercial-minded. So, they prioritized profit rather than the fame of the country. Some foreign athletes had to wait at the airport for few hours due to unavailability of transport. They also had problems in getting rooms in the hotel. The liaison officers eventually managed a nearby hotel with the help of volunteers, for the exhausted athletes. We do not want a repetition of these kinds of unexpected incidents during the World Cup 2011. **Akter Hossain**
Bangshal, Dhaka



Narsingdi tragedy
The recent train accident in Narsingdi snatched away at least twenty lives leaving another two hundreds injured. I would rather call it tragedy than accident considering its fatality. The government declared a small amount of money to the deceased's family as compensation. But the authorities haven't taken any prudent or concrete measures to avoid such occurrences in the future. The government, especially the communications minister, should not have shirked his responsibility. He should have set a rare example by resigning from his position. **ABM Enamul Hassan**
SM Hall University of Dhaka



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