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Cleaning Dhaka before the world cup

Dhaka is regarded as one of the dirtiest cities of the world. ICC Cricket World Cup is just around the corner and Bangladesh is to host this great sporting event.

Keeping in view the upcoming tournament, may I request the authorities concerned to import a few sweeping trucks from abroad on an urgent basis for the purpose of cleaning Dhaka, Chittagong and other such places, where this World Cup Cricket is scheduled to take place.

This cleaning effort shall greatly enhance the dignity and status of the country to the millions of viewers throughout the world. As I do not have any excess to the authorities concerned, I have taken the opportunity of conveying the above message to them through these columns.

I think The Daily Star can also take up the cause for enhancing the dignity of the nation.

Saleh Ayub, On e-mail



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

Cricket World Cup 2011

The opening ceremony of the Cricket World Cup 2011 is going to be held in Dhaka on 17th February. This is an opportunity for Bangladesh to expose its culture, natural beauty, and potentiality to the millions of cricket fans throughout the world.

Bangladesh is known as a country of poverty and natural calamity to the foreigners. This image discourages the foreign investors and tourists to visit Bangladesh. Our performance in this ceremony should change our conventional image. The organising committee must have learnt how to arrange such big events from the recent Football World Cup and Asian Games held in South Africa and China respectively. There were many items representing their rich culture and technological development.

I request the authorities to look after every event and not to finish their duty only by hiring some event management firms, considering it as a national image building ceremony. The organisers must protest the decisions, imposed on us by the ICC, that go against our national interest.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Schools in residential areas - a menace

The High Court has asked the authorities of Kings College to relocate the college from Segunbagicha residential area, because it would cause serious traffic jam and noise pollution in that area.

This has once again encouraged me to write in your columns to vent our feelings of extreme anguish and frustration with the establishment of Milestone School in Sector 7 of Uttara Residential Area a few years ago. I have brought this problem to the attention of the authorities but to no avail. I wonder if due approvals were taken from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and the education board.

I hope that your columns would provide

the necessary incentive in solving this menacing problem in our residential area.

Akhlaq Chowdhury
Uttara, Dhaka

Why can't we be more forbearing?

I remember reading a news report, a couple of days ago, about young Turkish women being forced to take off their head covering before they could enter their schools/colleges. Those girls were obviously disgruntled by their country's policy which doesn't respect their choice to dress up like a Muslim woman ideally is supposed to do, by covering every part of her body modestly showing just the hands, face and feet. Turkey is a secular state.

Secularism means separation of religion from state or the state being neutral on matters of religion. When a secular government doesn't mind a woman being scantily clad why does it care if a person wants to dress relatively more? And it is not France and Belgium we are talking about but Turkey, a country where Muslims are in a majority.

Hijab isn't a hindrance to learning; it will not block a girl's mind. One of the purposes of knowledge is to open up our minds and to promote tolerance for people who aren't like us, right? And if tolerance isn't there in an educational institution, then the raison d'être of that educational institution should come under question.

Muhammed Jamil Ather
Karachi, Pakistan

Holding examination for registration

A single mistake or ignorance of a pharmacist can kill many patients. To prove themselves qualified enough to do their job, the Pharmacy graduates must have to appear at a registration examination all over the world.

A few years back, Bangladesh Pharmacy Council started holding the registration examination. The students of Pharmacy realised that they must understand the subject and

getting a good GPA was not enough.

But after the present government came to power, a section of senior pharmacists including some Dhaka University teachers along with some students (mostly with low GPA) started a movement against the registration examination and compelled the Pharmacy Council to stop holding the examination.

Many of us are waiting to go abroad but cannot do so, because the registration examination is not being held. We, the Pharmacy graduates, are very worried about our future.

I request the Honourable Health Minister and the authorities concerned to look into the matter seriously and allow Bangladesh Pharmacy Council to restart holding the registration examination; silence in this matter will bring disaster in health sector.

A sufferer
Dhaka

Celebrating the New Year!

It is indeed unpleasant and ridiculous that a section of people in Bangladesh especially the youth celebrate the New Year in a very idiotic or indecent manner creating serious public nuisance in the locality. It seems instead of celebrating the New Year event we make all sorts of arrangements to tease the event creating serious public troubles.

We became victims of such public nuisance on the 31st night. These ruthless boys started playing high volt music and shouting and dancing almost the whole night on the rooftop of a private house, and my apartment in a 16-storey building was shaking as if an earthquake hit the building. As a result, old people, patients with heart ailment and minor children passed a very unpleasant night.

My question is don't we have any decent way to welcome the New Year? We need better social education and family care towards the youths in order to make them sensible and caring.

Md. Shahjahan Mia
Kha Satmasjid Road
Dhaka

Results of PTE & JSC exams

Recently, both the results of Primary Terminal Examination and JSC examination were published. Although the overall outcome is pretty good, statistics have again proved that students have found it difficult to excel in Mathematics and English.

Presently, many students rely on memorisation skill to answer the questions of English. They try to memorise the 'important' chapters of 'English for Today' as well as suggested paragraphs and compositions. This situation has arisen because the evaluation process in our country is totally reading and writing oriented. But as English is a language, it is essential that the listening and speaking skills of the students are also evaluated. 10-20 marks can be reserved for testing the

listening and speaking skills of a student, and this small test can be taken just after the written test in about one hour.

If this evaluation system is properly installed, it can bring about a lot of good changes. Firstly, it will ensure that the students learn English as a language, not as an average subject. Secondly, it will encourage the students to be efficient in the two skills most needed in everyday life. Thirdly, it will ensure that even the teachers of English are proficient in all the skills of the language. This process should also lessen the gap between the standards of urban and rural students.

Shahriar Kabir
Dept. of EEE
BUET, Dhaka



SHAFTUQL ISLAM KAJOL / DRINKNEWS

Two years of the government

The present Awami League government has completed its two years in office on January 6, 2011. It is time to review the AL's election pledges which helped them to achieve absolute majority in the last general election. Some glorious events of 2010 are -- Musa Ibrahim has become the first Bangladeshi to reach the summit of Mount Everest, a group of scientists led by Maqsudul Alam have discovered the genome sequencing of jute, we have got a good education policy, trial of war criminals has started, etc.

But unfortunately, we did not see any sign of improvement in our political culture. Khaleda Zia's eviction from the cantonment house, where she had been living since 1972, made the relation between the government and the opposition bitter. How will we build a digital Bangladesh if this politics of retaliation, clash and chaos exists in our country?



Although the government was able to control militancy, but the custodial deaths and extra judicial killings are going on unabated in the country.

The government could not reduce power and gas crisis. The Anti Corruption Commission could not work as an independent body. Human Rights Commission is not functioning well. Prices of essentials have gone beyond the reach of common people.

We hope the government would be more cautious and active to fulfill their election pledges.

Lutfur Rahman
Ghoraghat, Dinajpur



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PM lists successes, pledges to keep up

January 7, 2011

Excellent performance of the present government! The challenge of the government is to keep due pace to achieve the objectives they set for the comprehensive development mentioned in their election pledges and Vision 2021.

Let us be optimistic and stay with the good initiatives taken by the government.

Dr. Didarul Alam

We appreciate the sincerity of our PM in her effort to develop the nation. She urged all to 'rise above all petty interest and work together.'

In this regard we would urge the PM to control every single incident of tender manipulation by the AL activists which is tarnishing the

image of the government.

'Putting aside all differences and working together'-- this initiative will have to be taken by the ruling party itself and success in that issue will reflect its competence.

Dr. Islam

Very little success in 2 years other than filing cases against the opposition and withdrawing cases against the AL people.

Tajul Islam

With due respect for the prime minister I would say it is inappropriate to set a standard based on opposition's performance.

Zerosopher

We, the commoners, know that most of her claims are not based on reality.

Md. Shafique

I was dismayed and speechless when I first read this.

Manhal Ali

Our PM and her party have not fulfilled any of their election pledges.

Manzoor Ashraf

We hope not to see the armed Chhatra League cadres fighting for tenders, intolerance of the government when being criticised, and politicisation of everything. We do not want to face electricity and gas crisis, traffic jam, and price hike.

Nodi

It's time to move forward.

Sultan M

PM should have admitted failures in some areas while listing successes in many areas. Failure to arrest price hike of essentials and deteriorating gas -power crisis are among those. She should have also admitted her government's failure to rein in the Chhatra League cadres.

It can be guaranteed that 2361 MW power can not be added to national grid by the end of 2011.

Khondkar A Saleque

We appreciate the government's initiative in different sectors. Thanks to the Honourable PM. Ministers and MPs should enjoy less; instead devote themselves in their respective duties. We are looking forward to seeing more progress in 2011. Our success would depend on minimizing corruption at all levels.

Shahadat

The success story as referred to by the PM is worth recognition by the nation. The infrastructure sector needs more result oriented exercise rather than only finishing the procedural steps for awarding contracts.

The agriculture sector has faced the impact of slow progress of the power sector. The minister is above any controversy; she is sincere and understands her job well.

The education sector is definitely progressing well. The respected minister needs time to complete his plan of action.

Faqrul