

**READERS**  
respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's Daily Star report titled "AL surprised at BNP's gain" in the municipal polls.

**MO Gani**  
Any midterm election and gains of the opposition BNP (abstention in parliament) can be dented for their failure to respect the parliament.

**Maleeha**  
If the Awami League is surprised at BNP's success in municipal polls, they will be surprised 'big time' during the next parliamentary elections.

**Iqbal**  
The election result shows the present government's failure to rule the country.

**Sheikh Monirul Islam**  
It is a very positive sign. Participation of our women has been extremely encouraging, and it is definitely the healthiest sign of all.

BNP has regained its ground much better than anyone could expect and this alone could be reason enough for Awami League (AL) to worry a lot.

I hope AL high command should do some soul searching. If we really talk about democracy, AL should immediately do a cabinet reshuffle and must bring some dynamism by installing younger leadership. The home ministry is definitely one area that must be looked into without any further delay. This may bring devastation in any future election results alone.

**Sajjad Hossain**  
This is democracy. People observed AL government.

**Faqrul Quadir, from California**  
The result is perhaps not totally surprising considering the voters based in the small towns where visible development activities are difficult to project compared to the rural areas where bulk of the farmers and poor live.

BNP is getting the advantage of three factors: (a) public memory is short, (b) the performance of the AL government in small towns has been less than required, (c) it is more the failure of the AL than the success of the BNP to gain over the semi-urban voters.

There is nothing to be upset and joyous for either of the parties. They should pay more attention to internal party democracy and realise that the development need of the urban people is completely different from those in rural area.

Do not make any adverse comment or take action against the rebel winners. Wait and see where they go and get political shelter.

**Manobots Ahmed**  
This election result does not mean that people started liking BNP. This happened because AL has failed to satisfy their expectations, and people don't have any other choices.

**SM Mahmudul Hasan**  
It is not the win of BNP; it is the fault of AL. People expected more from this government, which is very important factor to the voter. AL only said they will do many things, but did a little.

**Zerosopher**  
People have spoken! Loud and clear against the things like law and order situation.

**AKK Ali Reza**  
Rather than any survey, this election brought a clear picture about AL government's performance, though they have preached different development programmes through state-owned media. They should concentrate more particularly on rural people's demand from now on.

# Planned housing needed to save arable land

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts yesterday suggested comprehensive planning of housing system to save arable land, which is decreasing fast and threatening food security.

Plans also need to keep in mind climate change, likely to result in frequent and erratic rainfalls, flooding and cyclones, they said.

The observations came at a conference titled "Empowerment of Communities for Adaptation to Climate Change in Bangladesh" organised by Knowledge Frontiers for Development (KfD) and Rotary Club of Ramna at The Westin Hotel in the city.

Compact townships could be considered to accommodate more people in a planned area instead of people building houses on small pieces of

land, said eminent civil engineer Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury.

"Once you can raise the level of the houses, you can also save them from floods and cyclones. We are used to traditional houses, but these are not going to work in disasters," he said.

On use of agricultural land for other purposes indiscriminately, Prof Jamilur, former vice chancellor of Brac University, said, "Soon we will run out of places to produce food."

Rotary Club could take pilot projects with a village and raise the house levels to protect from disasters, he said, adding that it could also help in negotiating with developed countries for transfer of people affected by climate change.

Economics Prof QK Ahmad said rising population and decrease of

arable land by one percent a year are posing serious threat.

He suggested that the government works intensively so that funds for adaptation are used effectively.

Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS) Research Director M Asaduzzaman said local governmental institutions have to be made strong to help communities tackle effects of climate change.

Water expert Dr Ainun Nishat said climate change is going to seriously affect food security and livelihood. Traditional knowledge of communities has to be gathered to tackle these impacts, he said.

Fkd Director Abu YM Selim and Rotarian Dr Rezaul Karim also presented papers in the conference.

# Three killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 41 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka city and Manikganj yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports: A rickshaw puller was killed and an unidentified bicycle rider injured as a bus hit their vehicles on Babu Bazar Bridge in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Sadek Fakir, 45, of South Keraniganj was declared dead at Mitford Hospital where the injured was under treatment.

Police said Dhaka-bound bus of Mahanagar Paribahan crashed into two vehicles after losing control. The bus driver Babul Khalashi, 38, was arrested.

UNB from Manikganj adds: A bus driver and a passenger were killed and 40 others injured as the bus plunged into the roadside ditch due to dense fog at Baniajuri bus stand in Ghor of the district yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately. The injured were taken to Manikganj sadar hospital and Munnu General Hospital.



Artistes perform a dance at Shilpakala Auditorium in the city's Segunbagicha last night as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of The Daily Star.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

# New law to stop human trafficking soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human trafficking under the guise of manpower recruitment will be harshly punished under the recently drafted Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act 2011, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed.

The minister speaking at a workshop yesterday said recruitment agencies defrauding and manipulating migrant workers will be dealt with stern action.

Rights of the legal migrant workers are also being grossly violated in many different ways, he said while speaking at National Academy for Planning and Development auditorium in the capital.

The workshop was organised by

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on 'The role of NHRC in formulating comprehensive legal framework for addressing human trafficking'.

The impending law would have provisions for special speedy tribunal, witness protection and compensation for victims and cases under the law will not be bailable, said the speakers.

The law will also have provision for punishing agencies responsible for forced labour, harbouring a person with the intent of trafficking women and children in sex trade, repatriation and rescue of victims among many others.

Dr. Mizanur Rahman, chairman of NHRC said safe and regulated migra-

tion is the best way to deal with cross-border trafficking and suggested finding the actual number of victims.

In terms of preventing and combating human trafficking, Bangladesh is facing falling standards in the international context as certain NGOs are 'playing a number game' by submitting incorrect statistics, he added.

According to the Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) 2009 the US State Department downgraded Bangladesh to Tier 2 Watch List from Tier 2.

Advocate Md Kamrul Islam, Stefan Priesner, country director of UNDP, Kazi Reazul Hoque, permanent member of NHRC, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary (political) to the home ministry, also spoke in the workshop.

# Learn from retired navy officers

Naval chief asks young personnel at reunion

METRO DESK

A two-day long reunion of Bangladesh Navy Retired Officers and Sailors concluded at sports complex of BNS Issa Khan in the port city yesterday, says an ISPR release.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Z U Ahmed was present as the chief guest on the concluding day of the programme.

Z U Ahmed thanked the retired naval personnel and urged the young naval personnel to learn from their experiences.

The retired naval personnel visited BN Flotilla ship. During visit they expressed their experiences.

On the occasion, a cultural programme and charity games were arranged.

Freedom fighter naval commandos, former chiefs of naval staff, commanders of Chittagong naval command, and high level naval officers from Naval Headquarters were present at the programme.

# Trial of Manik Saha's killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rule of law will not be established if the killers of journalist Manik Chandra Saha are not punished, said speakers at a human chain in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers.

'Amra Manik Sahar Shuridra' organised the event in front of the National Press Club marking the seventh death anniversary of Manik Saha.

Manik Saha, the then Khulna bureau chief of Daily Sangbad and New Age, was bombed to death near the Khulna Press Club on January 15, 2004.

Speakers at the human chain also said the governments has shown failure and irresponsibility as they could not bring the killers of Manik Saha to book in last seven years.

General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Muzahidul Islam Selim, General Secretary of Ganotantri Party Nurur Rahman Selim, former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince, among others, spoke.

Meanwhile, the CPB placed wreath at the portrait of Manik Saha in front of the central office of the party at 12:00pm yesterday.

The leaders and workers of the party observed one-minute silence to commemorate journalist Manik Saha.



PHOTO: STAR

Well-wishers of journalist Manik Saha form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday on his 7th death anniversary, demanding trial of his killers.

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Bashundhara <b>Emerald</b> Up coming	Bashundhara <b>Mullah Azelia</b> Up coming	West Malibagh <b>Azzaro</b> 1247~1269sft	Moghbarar <b>ANZ Husne</b> <b>Heights</b> 1494 & 1569 sft	Mirpur <b>Peonanza</b> READY APARTMENT 1164 & 1266 sft	Nazimuddin Rd. <b>Crystal Plaza</b> Shops & Commercial	Nazimuddin Rd. <b>Park Valley</b> 1259 sft	Bokshibazar <b>ANZ Murshed</b> <b>Winter Park</b> 1193~1225 sft	Middle Badda <b>Penzance</b> 1180~1630 sft	Shahidbagh <b>Spring Dale</b> Up coming

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1 sft = 0.092 sqm (approx.)  
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