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JSC exams and a few questions



RAJ ANIKAT / DRINKNEWS

I am not writing this to spark a debate on our newly proposed education policy, rather to look at the recently introduced JSC examination system which provides scholarships to students who excel in these exams. A nagging question remains as to how these students are up to the mark on an international standard given the quality of our education assessment system, where memorizing gets the prom-

inence and the chance to explore, nurture and flourish new ideas, learning topics in an interactive way are aspects our policymakers are yet to take account of.

It's a common trend to gulp up notes, and giving away your laboratory notebook to a professional artist who will draw all the diagrams you are supposed to draw and present you with the copy.

I hope the authorities concerned, instead of taking pride over 93% pass rate, should undertake a massive overhaul of the education system; otherwise we are going to lag behind in achieving the dream of a developed nation.

Shetu
Officer's Quarter
RPATC, Rajshahi

Establishing universities in every district

Hon'ble Prime Minister has pledged to establish universities in every district of the country. I have something to say in this regard.

At present there are colleges in almost every district. Besides, there are about eighty universities (public and private) in the country. A lot of madrasas are also there. It is often heard that there are lack of teachers and employees in these institutions. A lot of students graduate from these institutions every year. We know very well the condition of our graduates. There are a large number of educated unemployed young persons who are leading a hopeless life.

In these circumstances, establishing university in every district will not solve the problem. Thus, it would rather be wise for the government to upgrade the condition and capability of the existing institutions and increase the number of seats in them. At the same time, job opportunities should be created for the young jobseekers.

G.M. Mahmudun Nabi
Dept. of Law, IUC

Stop extra judicial killings

As per the study of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 133 persons were killed in 'crossfire' by the law enforcers, while another 128 died in mob beating in the country last year. Mob beating is a dangerous trend. I think it occurs due to lack of public belief in existing law. No civilised society or sane person can accept these killings.

My request to the authorities concerned, please stop extra-judicial killings and also stop defending it.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road

Save our heritage



KHALED HASAN / DRINKNEWS

It is a matter of great regret that heritage sites of our country are not getting due importance. These are left unprotected, and without proper care and maintenance these will become heaps of ruins one day.

There are many archaeological sites in our country. Lalbagh fort,

Muktagachha palace, palace of Bhawal Raja and Mahasthangarh are only a few mentioned here.

If steps are not taken on urgent basis to preserve these sites, they will be razed to the ground and we will lose our precious heritage.

People from all over the world visit India to see the Taj Mahal and

enjoy its breathtaking beauty and marvel at its craftsmanship. If the Taj Mahal was in Bangladesh, I am afraid, by now the precious marble slabs might have vanished!

It is the government's duty to preserve our historical sites.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

A 40-year-old should have no juvenile excuses

I know many people who completely agree with the comments made by Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hussain in a daily recently. My New Year wish is that both leaders and their subordinates act in the better interests of Bangladesh and less for themselves. Listing the achievements of 2010, the writer gives special mention to the Bangladesh cricket team for their inspiring win, Musa Ibrahim for his phenomenal conquest of Mount Everest and Sir Frank Peters for his role in abolishing corporal punishment from our schools.

Now that we are heading into our 40th year as a nation, isn't it time we all grew up and stopped making excuses? Isn't it time we said a decisive 'NO' to poverty, graft and corruption, acid-throwing, eve-teasing, land-grabbing and all the other thousand-and-one disgraceful ailments that hold this nation and its people back? Isn't it time our politicians spent less time feathering their own nests, and served the greater interest of the people as honourable politicians would?

A 40-year-old should have no juvenile excuses.

Doreen Hasana
Chittagong

Facts about the whistling teal

Every so often, we come across articles in your esteemed newspaper on migratory birds. In most cases, the photographs shown with the articles are those of the whistling teal (sharali). However, it should be made absolutely clear that the whistling teal is not a migratory bird, as claimed by most writers, but a local one. It is a bird generally found in the haor areas of Sylhet and other wetlands spread over Bangladesh. It is chestnut coloured and constantly makes shrill whistling notes when in flight. It lives on marshland, is largely vegetarian, but also eats small fish and snails. Nesting time is from June to October, mostly done on trees with twigs and grass. I hope The Daily Star will be a little more careful in the future.

Sajid Choudhury
Dargamahalla, Sylhet

A war that cannot be won!

At a time when things are going from bad to worse in Afghanistan, Nato is preparing its exit strategy from there. Only last month, in his recent interview, former Soviet Union President Gorbachev said that victory in Afghanistan is an uphill task. He warned that due to geographical difficulties and very different cultural values, victory is not possible in Afghanistan.

Gorbachev's recent prediction came at a time when the number of casualties of NATO forces has raised to six hundred which has crossed the total number of NATO casualties in 2009. Now, attacks at NATO bases, incidents of road side bombing and suicide bombing have become daily routine in the country. According to NATO high command, after nine years of war Taliban is still controlling seventy two percent area of Afghanistan. Only last month's militant attacks burn down more than 150 NATO supply containers in different parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Allies are still paying millions of dollars to secure NATO supply route from possible attacks. After huge military spending and high war casualties, allies are facilitating negotiations between militant groups and US-backed Karzai government. Killing of innocent people by the US force is creating more militants in the region.

Khawaja Umer Farooq, Jeddah

Kudos to Education Minister

Distribution of free textbooks to school students is a significant accomplishment of the government. This will obviously encourage the parents to send their wards to school and the students to pursue education with more devotion and concentration to studies.

Credit goes to Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid who has confidently and efficiently managed the huge project of preparing and distributing free textbooks. Congratulations to the Education Minister. It is sincerely hoped that he would take more appropriate initiatives to modernise our education system.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

No cars, only buses for schools...

The main cause behind traffic jam in front of almost every school in Dhaka is the large number of private vehicles dropping down and picking students.

The number of cars waiting outside the school or dropping off and picking up the students during the school hours is around 150 for a specific school having an arrangement of around 500 students. It is enough to block the street in front of the school. Saint Joseph School of Dhaka is a burning example; the scenario is almost the same for schools having the same standard in Dhaka. The whole of Asad Avenue remains blocked due to these cars.

But if the authorities concerned can provide with their own school buses, it can benefit us in many ways besides resolving the traffic jam. To send 500 students to a school, apparently 5 double-decker buses or 10 normal buses are needed which will occupy much less space than 150 private cars do. The government can allow every school to import buses without tax. The govt. can also buy buses through BRTC and give them to the schools on installment basis or monthly fare basis.

The education ministry and the communications ministry need to sit together to take things up immediately.

Mir Farida Siddika
Jurain, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR



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AL surprised at BNP's gain (January 15, 2011)

If the AL is surprised at BNP's success in mayoral polls then they are in for BIGGER surprise during the next parliamentary polls.

Maleeha

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

Iqbal

It is overall a very positive sign. The election has been fair and there were no violence other than some minor ones. Participation of our ladies has been extremely encouraging and it is definitely the healthiest sign of all. CEC must be congratulated although BNP tried to make some customary reaction which is basically rhetoric.

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

I hope AL high command should do some soul searching. AL should immediately do a cabinet reshuffle and must bring some dynamism by installing younger leadership. Home ministry is definitely one area to be looked into without further delay. This may bring devastation in any future election results alone.

Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee

Why is AL so scared of BNP?

Hossain

This is democracy. People observed AL govt.

Sajjad Hossain

The result is perhaps not totally surprising considering the voters base in the small township where visible development activities are difficult to project compared to the rural areas where bulk

of the farmers and poor lives. The BNP is getting the advantage of three factors

- Public memory is short
- The performance of the AL government in two years in Small Township has been less than required.
- It is more the failure of the AL than the success of the BNP to gain over the semi urban voters.

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

Faqrul Quadir

This is not that people started liking BNP. This is because AL has failed to satisfy their expectations, and people don't have any other choice.

Manobots Ahmed

This is the beginning of the end.

Sujon

AL does not have to be surprised at BNP gains. First of all it should analyze its own conduct and activities during the last two years.

Anonymous

AL has fared poor because of internal party feud, not because they are loosing ground with the people? A self-defeating analysis!

Mohammed Anwer

It is not the win of BNP; it is the fault of AL. People expected more from this government. But AL said many things, but did a little.

S.M. Mahmudul Hasan

BNP has always votes from the Islamic parties. There are many Islamic parties and they all vote for BNP. Even Jamaat-e-Islami vote for BNP.

Even they overlook the way BNP ruled and the amount of corruption, specially the corruption by two sons of Begum Zia, and do not consider Awam League.

Fida Likhon

People have spoken loud and clear against law and order situation, and those which have gone against their will in recent years.

Zerosopher

EC has done a good job. Elections were more or less free and fair. Rather than any survey this election brought a clear picture about AL government's performances though they have beaten their own drum by state owned BTV. They should concentrate more on rural people's demand.

A.K.K.Ali Reza

This is not people's love for BNP but disliking the activities of AL. They don't have minimum respect for the people.

Jalal

Nothing to be surprised about! It was supposed to happen. To AL, better change your policy and attitude; otherwise you are going to have a real big shock in next election.

Mitun Roy