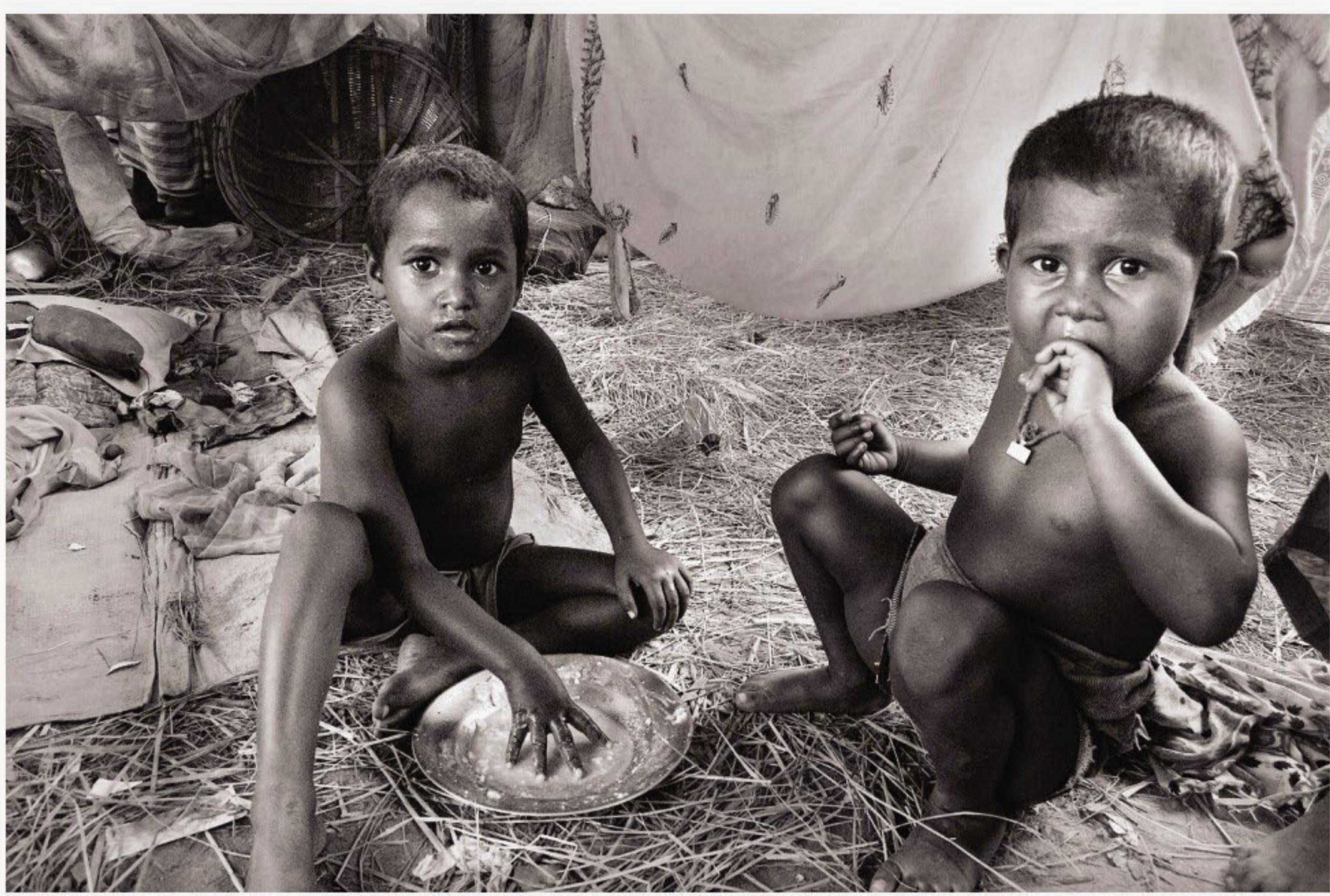


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 250 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Let's learn to give



MONIRUL ALAM / DRIKNEWS

Recently I had an occasion to read a book, "Giving" written by Bill Clinton, one of the most successful presidents in political history of the United States of America.

While presenting numerous self-fulfilling acts of giving the writer seeks to convey the message that "how each of us can change the world save lives both down the street and around the world...regardless of income, available time, age and skills, can do to help to give people a chance to live out their dreams".

I would like to churn out only two instances here:

A six-year-old California girl named McKenzie Steiner who organised and supervised drives to clean up the beach in her community.

Oseola McCarty, who after seventy-five years of eking out a living by washing and ironing, gave \$1,50,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi to endow a scholarship fund for African-American students.

Unfortunately, as a community our record of giving is not very encouraging. In fact, we are more apt to preach than act in our own lives. Here we see a section of people amassed enormous volume of wealth, scores of

costliest luxury items and live a grandiose life whereas vast majority of people live in abysmal poverty and deprivation.

We should never forget that each one of us is destined to depart sooner or later from this mundane world dispossessed of everything so jealously guarded during life.

S. A. Samad
General Manager (Retd.)
Janata Bank
Dhaka

Shifting Bishwa Ijtema ground



A.M.AHAD / DRIKNEWS

For the first time the authorities have decided to hold Bishwa Ijtema in two phases at Tongi for various problems, difficulties and cogent reasons. Dhaka City is congested and over populated. It can no longer bear the weight and burden of additional 40 to 50 lakh devotees from home and abroad who attend the Ijtema. Further, the sufferings and hardships of millions of people in a small space on the bank of the river Turag for lack of proper civic amenities- sanitary arrangement, accommodation, food and medicare know no bound during this religious congregation.

May we request our authorities concerned to kindly consider if it is possible and feasible to hold Bishwa Ijtema in future after making necessary infrastructure at Solakia, Kishoreganj?

We understand that there is no hard and fast rule that Bishwa Ijtema should always be held at Tongi, Dhaka. We know vast tracts of land are available at Solakia to hold Bishwa Ijtema with provisions for building new roads and highways, accommodation units, rest houses, hotels, restaurants and dormitories for millions of domestic and foreign devotees.

We believe if Bishwa Ijtema ground is shifted from Tongi to Solakia consistent with our requirement and time, more and more devotees from home and foreign countries would attend Bishwa Ijtema.

O H Kabir
Dhaka

It's not a myth

A teacher, teaching in a remote area, passionate for imparting education amongst his students and working hard to earn his own livelihood is about to become a myth of the ancient age. But it is not a myth yet. Thanks to the reporter of The Daily Star who took initiative to reveal the irony of fate of a nation builder in Nilphamary district.

Mr. Ranjit, a graduate, started his teaching career in English at a local madrasa with no pay. He tried to do some private tuition but all his efforts went in vain since students in his locality were impoverished. He took up the task of a day labourer since he had no land. According to his colleagues, he worked before and after his classes.

I wish we had several others like him in our country! This is the condition of teachers living in the remote areas. They are impoverished, underpaid and even unpaid, but still they are unwilling to give up their passion for education.

I urge the government to pay a respectable salary to these dedicated nation builders. We salute Mr. Ranjit.

Tashrif Billah
Dept. of EEE
BUET

TIB report - an eye opener

The government's reaction and negative attitude towards the TIB reports, first on the corruption among the members of the police and lately of the judiciary, was unfortunate as people of the country, not the concerned ministers, feel the pinch while seeking services. The minister and the IG refuted the report and retorted that there may be a few corrupt members in the whole set-up but that cannot call for wholesale blame.

The police use their leverage to extort money from both the sufferers and the offenders; the former pay them (police) to do the needful and the latter are forced to pay them (police) to remain inactive against them. On the streets the police are always seen to collect tolls from

trucks, buses and other transports. The minister and the IG must take it for cognizance that in reality the whole organ is rotten to the core.

The precincts of Judiciary are no exception. Litigants are broke by paying money in many stages to get their cases tabled and settled. And the Law Minister should have known it best if he would have started from the lower court where allegation of receiving kickbacks by the judges is a common whisper.

I do not find any rationale for the government's getting indignant and refuting the TIB report point-blank. It is more deplorable that cases have been instituted against the TIB men. The report based on the public opinion showed how badly people are becoming victims to the menace of corruption.

Ahmed Niaz
Mohammadpur
Dhaka

Raise your voice against BSF

It is not understandable why our minister had shown no concern regarding killing of Bangladeshi nationals at Bangladesh-India border. Aren't they human beings?

A report published in different national dailies regarding a statement of one of the state ministers was a matter of surprise and sorrow for the hapless people living in border regions.

He reportedly said border killing was to intimidate people and it would have no impact on the bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

As per Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) right to life is inalienable right of every human being. Why human rights activists are silent about the border killings by BSF?

We expect human rights activists shall raise their voice against killing of Bangladeshi nationals living in border regions by BSF of India. We also expect their voice will be louder than opposing extra-judicial killings by RAB.

G.M. Mahmudun Nabi
Student
Dept. of Law

International Islamic University Chittagong

The Chatra League now

Factions within a party hierarchy originate from ideological differences among its members. But factions within Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL), are nothing but groups of vested interests, engaged in internecine squabbles- one group trying to oust other to gain dominance on the campus for fulfilling their only motto of illegal money-making.

It is widely complained that the student leaders are involved in hunting fortunes by bungling tenders, trading in admissions and dormitory seats, extortion, mugging etc. What a shame!

It is widely complained that the student leaders are involved in hunting fortunes by bungling tenders, trading in admissions and dormitory seats, extortion, mugging etc. What a shame!

Money is like honey to which all flies flock to have a taste of it. But bigger the number of co-sharers, the smaller the individual share! Here lies the root cause of creation of factions not only within BCL, but also within JCD, the student front of BNP.

Being vexed with sinister activities of BCL, the PM relinquished her role as its organisational chief. But this has made no difference. Infighting within BCL is going on unabated, often resulting in bloodshed on different campuses. If harsh actions against the wayward BCL leaders and activists are not taken immediately, the AL leadership will have to pay a heavy price for its inaction.

Md Mohsin Ali

Why hurt others?



Nuton Courtpara
Kushtia

Our politics is rotting

Why corruption today is entrenched in the society? It is a political weakness (in the emerging countries). This is due to sycophancy; especially in the entrenched regimes (for example: dynasty rules).

The internal discipline within the political parties is weak (intentionally) it is to offer scope for some baksheesh (reward) to the "most obedient servants", serving under the umbrella effect. Remember the term used in official letters during the British Raj era: "Your most obedient servant". Now these servants are loyal to those offering bribes. The evil practices have infiltrated into the civil service also.

There is huge misuse of political position and power. The latest example is the luxurious flats allotted to the MPs in Manik Mia Ave: in many flats the MPs are not staying, and outsiders are allowed to stay. The MPs are the law makers; but, strangely enough, they consider themselves to be above the law!

The fish gets rotten first in the head. The same with our politics, the head is rotting. Note the effects of the autocratic rules in some of the African and other third world countries. In some of our neighbouring countries, these effects cannot be hidden. WikiLeaks has exposed the hidden agendas of the developed countries.

Of course the quality of governance depends on the power of the voters; but there are economic weaknesses coupled with illiteracy and living in the rural areas. The evil syndicates rule the country (indirectly).

A Mahasen
Dhaka

Not airport but hospital

Government's decision to build another International Airport after Bangabandhu does not seem to be a well-thought out scheme as a pauper country like Bangladesh cannot have the luxury of having another airport at the colossal expense of thousands of crores of taka when the existing one can well serve the purpose with some extension and renovation. The area of Arial Beel chosen for the site yields both food and fish and besides, millions of people will be affected in various ways.

Instead, the government could build a 500 bed medical college hospital in Mirpur area of Dhaka City where nearly one-fourth of city's population lives. All the big government hospitals, except Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital, are located in old part of the city. Suhrawardi hospital can barely cater to the needs of the patients because of lack of both manpower and facilities. The seriously ill or injured patients cannot get the services from DMCH/SSMCH because of their location, being far off from Mirpur. The cost of building a hospital will be a fraction of the cost of proposed airport; the hospital could be named after Bangabandhu and that would be a great service to the people done by the AL government.

A. H. Dewan
South Kafrel, Dhaka Cantt., Dhaka

Demand for engineering degree

Food Technology and Nutritional Science (FTNS) is an important and time-befitting department of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU). We, the students of this department, have been carrying out a movement for getting a B.Sc (engineering) degree instead of existing B.Sc (honours) degree for the last six months. Our syllabus is almost similar to many public universities in Bangladesh and abroad where engineering degree is given. On 5th January the authorities expelled 9 students without any logical reason.

We request the authorities to consider our request, withdraw false cases against us and let us go to our classes again.

Md. Sakibul Hasan Sajeeb
On behalf of the students
FTNS department
MBSTU

Pollution goes unabated

There are so many industries in Gazipur, only a few of them have installed Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The factories are discharging untreated chemicals into water bodies which are destroying fish and other aquatic lives. And fertile agricultural land is becoming infertile. The villagers are compelled to sell their agricultural land to these industrialists. The industrialists are erecting signboards by buying wetlands (Uzan Beel, Boaly).

I was very furious when I saw people kept on breaking and smashing vehicles when the Stock Market crashed a few days back. I do feel sorry for these people who invested their money into the stock market. But they just do not have any right to damage others' properties. When the market started falling, these people came up to the streets and started smashing the vehicles.

They could have shown their "baseless" anger against the people who are responsible for this crash. I believe it is a lesson for these investors to learn from the mistakes. They should think twice before they invest their money in stock market.

Minhaj Ahmed
Uttara
Dhaka

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