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Control environment pollution



MUNEM WASTE / DRINKNEWS

This refers to your correspondent's report, published on January 26th. example. We hope such actions are taken by the Department of Environment on a regular basis. The fine imposed on Ehsan Steel Mills at Charpathergata, in Chittagong is a good example! However the time frame of only 25 days, given for installing proper pollution prevention equipment is too little and unrealistic.

To set up the required equipment and the regular monitoring facility, which is also needed a very tight and demanding time frame should have been between 100 to 120 days! This factory's exhaust gases should again be checked by surprise inspection and tests, without advance notice, while the factory is running; again sometimes in April 2011. This will ensure that pollution prevention measures are working.

Such tests for oxides of Carbon, Sulphur and Nitrogen should be carried out in all factories exhaust gases, at regular intervals. By establishing this regular inspection regime; the industries will gradually be compelled to ensure regular environment pollution control; which so long they have gone without any let or hindrance!
Engr.S.A.Mansoor
Dhaka

My votes for Musa and Sir Frank

The concept I read about recently of enlisting qualifying foreigners as 'Goodwill Ambassadors' and 'Friends of Bangladesh' is an excellent idea. Sir Frank Peters is an exceptional 'foreigner', no doubt, and deserves what we hope would be interpreted by him as a Bangladeshi honour. He's already proved to be a great Friend of Bangladesh many times over, but especially through his successful campaign to abolish corporal punishment in our schools.

All Bangladeshis are expected to be 'ambassadors' for their country and act accordingly especially overseas, but very few do. Musa Ibrahim, however, has made us proud. Not only has he conquered Mount Everest in great style, but he's behaved throughout in a way only a total gentleman does. My family and I vote for Musa Ibrahim and Sir Frank Peters, if there's to be an honours system as your readers suggest.
Shaminoor Hossa
Sylhet

Pay Salam properly, please!

In the Islamic culture when two Muslims, either known or total strangers to each other meet, they offer greetings by saying "Assalamu alaikum" which in English means "Peace be with you". The one who pay Salam first is said to be in a better position. Answering the Salam by the one who receive it is obligatory. The answer is "Wa alaikum assalam" (And upon you be peace). I have noticed with regrets that some of us while paying or answering one's Salam do not maintain the proper norm, simply say "Wa alaikum". But this should not be done. Salam should be offered and answered in the way as has been asked by the Almighty. Allah orders in the holy Qur'an: "When a greeting is offered to you, answer it with an even better greeting, or (at least) with its like. Allah keeps count of all things." [Surah an-Nur: 4:86]

I sincerely hope that Muslims all over the

world whether white or black, rich or poor will offer and answer Salam in proper manner and from the heart with affection.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Press is powerful in Bangladesh

People are the ultimate judge to give verdict about success or failures of a government. Although a third world country, Bangladesh is far better than many developing countries in case of free access of information. Here the newspapers, private TV, periodicals, weeklies are abundant. The writers of those print media are freely writing their views in those papers without any fear. This situation is good for establishing democracy. As a citizen I am proud of my country. In fact print media in Bangladesh is very powerful. I believe the first pre-requisite of democracy is "free press". The free press has more responsibilities to deliver correct information to the people. Confusing news from media create unnecessary rifts among the friends living abroad and to people at home. So they should play major role in bringing democracy in the country.
Shafiqul Islam, NY

Meherjaan - we need to think

When a female member of a family is raped, she may need solace and some counseling in the beginning. But making her remember the incident now and then will hurt her sentiment again and again; and not let her forget the nightmare, which she is trying hard to do.

Many of our sisters suffered during the Liberation War in 1971. We must not make them remember the nightmares by making film, writing stories or mentioning that in our

speeches. This sort of films and stories may bring some applause to the film makers and writers, but those are just (unintentionally) rubbing salt to the wound of the victims. So, please have some compassion for our sisters who suffered hell for the liberation of the country; and stop making films and writing stories on their nightmare.

Faruque Hasan
Alaol Avenue, Uttara, Dhaka

More computers for DU Cyber Centre

Dhaka University is traditionally known as 'The Oxford of East'. There is a Cyber Centre at TSC in the campus. But it has only 40 computers. The computers are not enough for 30,000 students. Moreover, about 10-15 computers always remain out of order. While the world is aiming to provide Internet connectivity to all, we are still deprived of basic technologies. I would like to draw the attention of Dhaka University Cyber Centre authority to take proper steps for installing huge number of computers for better service.

Bellal Ahmed (Anik)
Dept. of Philosophy
Muhsin Hall, DU

Glory of SUST

It is nice to see that, the first science and technology university is getting back its golden era flavor. Now there is no session jam in this university from 2006-07 batches and another semester's session jam is going to be minimized. This university has taken the first step toward digital Bangladesh by introducing digital admission system. If all the department of the university work properly it will be number one university of Bangladesh.

MD. Hasanuzzaman
MBA (Finance)
Department of Business Administration

It's a great sight!

The 5 column photograph of cattle egrets (A dash of white in a concrete city) published in the front page of The Daily Star were quite interesting. I live by the side of Gulshan-Banani lake on its southern side in south Gulshan. I have been watching with lot of interests that a big flock of the white birds flying up and down the length of the longish lake for the last couple of weeks. Sometimes they descend on the thick carpet of green hyacinths for food. The lake is terribly polluted, particularly during winter when

the water-table falls. Good that the birds don't mind the pollution and search for food in the water hyacinths! It is a beautiful sight when the flock of white cattle egrets flies along the lake. Even in this bustling and overpopulated city with its myriads of problems it is a wonder and we are lucky to get a glimpse of nature! One good thing- when the birds descend children don't throw stones but quietly watch.

Abdullah Haroon Pasha
Gulshan, Dhaka



STAR



Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

New airport not required

Aviation experts say, upgraded Shahjalal airport to meet demand for next 25 years. One fifth of estimated Tk 50,000cr for airport at Arial Beel is enough to cover the upgrade cost. (February 2, 2011)

We have been telling for long that a new airport is not needed for Bangladesh. The reasons are the following:

1. Shahjalal Airport will serve purpose for several years. If upgraded, will cater to the needs for many years.
2. Land in Bangladesh should be used wisely and carefully. Bangladesh should think that it has huge population- 160 million people are living in an area of 54,000 square miles. Food production should be given priority. Use the land for food production.
3. If Bangladesh can spend Taka 50,000 now, it can spend that money to reduce poverty in the country. Why another airport?

Anonymous

Why on earth govt. has become so proactive about an airport when energy crisis is far more important issue for the entire nation?

Shawkat Haider

How govt becomes unpopular, this is one example, airport not required anymore in our country, why this initiative? PM

not realizing? Please stop political jealousy, our country is going backward only for this reason.

Hussain

There are 3 different stories on Arial Beel proposed airport. The most damaging reports for the government are

1. Not allowed to discuss the mega incident in the JS by the ruling party
2. The continuous police action in the areas without any effort to find out the reasons of such a popular opposition to the mega project and the heavy handed politics and prejudiced legacy in mind.

Faqrul

Main case for a new airport should be based on the fact that the current airport is far too close to Dhaka that is not good for safety and noise. And removal of this airport would release much needed land for homes, parks and playing fields for the people of Dhaka.

Manzoor Ashraf

Why all these news now? And who proposed for a new airport?

TH

I would like to echo the question of Mr. Saidur Rahman -- why these experts opinion came so late? I personally tried to investigate these from different sources, but could not. If this is the reality then the government must forget about the new airport particularly in Arial beel. They should consider upgrading the Shahjalal Int'l Airport and utilize its full capacity.

Md. Sirajul Islam Molla

Talk to anyone in the street and almost everyone will say that this airport is not required. But do our politicians care about this?

Saif

The Govt. should forget the construction of a new Airport and divert the fund towards increasing facilities to fulfill other basic needs of the country like electricity, gas, drinking water roads and highways etc.

Kamal Rashid

If we could upgrade Windows 95, we didn't have to go for Windows 7.

Nasim

Incredible! A country with so many other needs and very limited land proposes to build a new airport without exploring the expansion of the underutilized airport they have. I am not an economist but is this 'development,' most urgently needed? Also, who will pay for it?

Ahmed Badruzzaman

Excellent report and I fully agree with the comments made by experts. Of course our Ministers are better experts than the persons in the news. Finally it's a matter of a work of 10 Trillion Taka! Who can forget?

Md. Shafiqul I Bhuiyan

Absolutely! Fully agreed.

Socrates

Thanks to the reporter. If this is the case, then why the wastage of peoples' money and land? Why the government is so lured to build a new airport ignoring all these negative sides of viabilities, and valid reasons not to proceed with this huge wastage? The people behind the plot, who advise the authority to go for this unreasonable project, can not be considered as well wishers of the government.

Abul Kashem

Please construct roads rather than this kind of project. Think the reality, feel the poor peoples suffering. It is unthinkable in this civilized world.

Anno

I agree with what the aviation experts said.

Rakib Ahmed

Shahjalal Airport is staggering with the present airlines and passengers, even though Dhaka is not an important hub like Dubai Airport or Heathrow, building a second airport is meaningless, thus wasting precious foreign exchange, we immediately need a solution to the relentless power outages, water supply problem, energy crisis, and building roads, flyovers etc.

Stanford Pereira

Are we able to understand why a new airport costing over Tk.50, 000 crore has been planned while not even 30-40% capacity of the existing airports is utilized?

Ashley

No doubt that Shahjalal Airport should be improved! Arial beel should be used if it has any economical impact or after

Governments' double standards

Are we ready for a major earthquake mentally and logistically? I'm sure most of the people will die a sinner, if earthquake strike them off guard. The moment a man visits an erotic site, give full play of his libido and become all engrossed in the rat race of materialism, he negates the omnipresence of God. Today's earthquake that I felt while sitting with my friends in the drawing room will remain the reminder of the Almighty Allah from whom comes everything. I was wondering what will happen to those who wants to destroy a huge bread basket to make room for a huge unnecessary high cost airport at a time when the black clouds of price hike is looming in the horizon. What will happen to those who feel no compunction about indicting a person like Sirajuzul Islam Chowdhury for the unrest on Arial beel. When it is the government that should be indicted for a stupid airport plan on Arial beel and the resultant unrest and deaths, now it is the government itself that is playing the role of a double villain by victimizing the victims.
AS, On e-mail

Moscow bombing, not the first time

Moscow's Domodedovo airport had been rocked by a bomb explosion that killed 35 people on January 24. More than 100 people were injured by a suicide bomber. Such Bomb attacks are not new for Russia rather it is a continuing process because there were 6 massive bomb attack in past 7 years which killed more than 500 people. The question is when the world will be safe for us?
Fahim Ibne Sarwar, JU

Raise the BSF issue at UN

We are nonplus and horrified to see a photograph and news of our innocent child Felani. Earlier Indian BSF has killed hundreds of Bangladeshis on trifle matter. Later they promised and assured us that such inhuman acts would never be repeated but all in vain. We wonder how and where from Indian Border Guards get such power and courage to shoot Bangladeshis like shooting of birds? We request our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to raise the issue in UNO on humanitarian ground.

We also demand of Indian Government to pay a compensation of taka one crore to the parents of killed girl Felani. We also fail to understand what type of friendship and cooperation New Delhi seeks from us while killing and oppressing us.

O. H. Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

Elevated railway tracks

One of the reasons for severe traffic congestion in Dhaka is railway gates. It seems that trains leave and arrive Dhaka station almost every few minutes. Once a railway gate is closed, traffic backs up quite a bit, before a backlog is cleared, it is time for another train to pass.

I wonder why there is no plan for building elevated railway tracks between Dhaka and Tongi. It does not need any new land acquisition, should be easy technology, can be done by Bangladeshi expertise, should be able to complete very quickly.

Mahmud Hassan
New Jersey, USA

Stop the dowry

Through the columns of your esteemed daily I venture to voice my views about dowry system. During marriage ceremony a type of greedy people claim much wealth or money from the guardians of the brides. If the guardians fail to fulfill the demand of their bridegrooms, they misbehave with their wives and torture them. As a result many of them get divorced or commit suicide.

Sometimes the victims are killed by their husbands. Dowry system has spread out to our whole society. To abolish this system, merely laws are not enough. Not only the government but educated people also should come forward to solve this problem

Lima Rahman
On e-mail