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Why is authority silent?



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Dhaka is now known as the city of traffic jam. Among the various problems of this city, traffic jam is the most discussed which we face every day from the very dawn to late night. One has to spend two and a half hours to reach Dhanmondi from airport only for traffic jam. We often see vehicles parked on the roads defying legislation and common sense. One of the main causes of this traffic jam is illegal parking of vehicles on the roads.

Most of the shopping malls in Dhaka city have no parking place. The administration seems to keep silent and don't take action against illegal parking and shopping mall authorities. Can we ask the authority why does it not take action against them?

Md Abu Syed & others
Dhaka

Theft of OMS rice

Being concerned with the increased price of rice and other commodities, the govt. has been trying to meet that demand with Open Market Sales (OMS). Though the supply is not enough at OMS, but it acts like a circuit breaker against the dire need of rice across the country. Now, we get news of commercial sale of the OMS rice! Moreover, irregularities in management of sales schedule, corruption of the local dealers of OMS have made the fruition of OMS a far cry for the rural people. The govt. must take effective and proactive initiatives in ensuring the proper management of the open market sale before it becomes another tale of agony!

Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet

It's the cars not rickshaws

Mr Rahat of Malibagh (DS 18 April) continues to pour vitriol on rickshaws whose 'crime' is to provide Dhakabashis with cheap, convenient and pollution free transportation that the Gas Guzzling Monstrosities can never do. Astonishingly, he has still not realized what causes traffic jams. In any rickshaw-free road (Picture, DS 19/04/11) it is the 5 lacs cars, parked or speeding that are to blame for the jams. If the rickshaw - van pullers turn violent sometimes, it is to protest against the repression of police, who otherwise fawn over the blatant violation of traffic laws by the GGMs. Further, is this deprivation not a flagrant violation of the constitutional rights of rickshawalas to access public roads for their livelihood?

I wish it were possible to have a week of roads free of cars with only rickshaws plying then Mr Rahat may change his tunes.

Sikander Ahmed, Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Jihad and Fatwa: Some misconceptions

The meaning of the Arabic word "Jihad" is "to strive/to struggle". For example, if anybody earns his livelihood by staying in the right path then it too is one kind of Jihad. Out of various categories of Jihad, one category is "to struggle against oppression or injustice". In our country many organizations in the name of Islam or jihad, are killing innocent human beings which is strictly prohibited in Islam. These people are extremist or terrorist. Another burning question is, whether Fatwa is harmful and should it be banned? Actually, if anybody abuse fatwa should be given severe punishment. But that doesn't mean that Fatwa should be banned. For example, if anybody kills an innocent human being by using a pistol then surely it will not be logical to ban pistol.

Md Nazrul Islam
University of Chittagong

We should have nuclear power plant

In response to the letter of Nur Jahan published on April 01, 2011 in The Daily Star, I am writing this letter since I personally disagree with her point that we should forget the idea of nuclear power plant. In my opinion her solemn suggestion is lame, when it comes to greater benefit for the nation. To be logical I have to pose some questions like- if we think of merely setting up coal and gas based power plants instead of nuclear ones, then how long do we expect these natural resources to be lasting to serve this very purpose? And when they are depleted indicating alternative sources being employed, what will happen then? Bangladesh government should go on with its primary nuclear deal with Russia to help build its first nuclear power plant, which should be in operation in 2014-2015.

Hasnata, AIUB, Banani, Dhaka

What a beginning of Baishakh!

In the morning of the first day of Bangla year 1418, we were greeted by a power failure at 5.10 a.m. Electricity got back an hour later at 6.10 a.m.

I sat in front of the television to watch the 9 o' clock news. As ill luck would have it, disaster struck at 9.15 a.m. I got plunged into darkness; power was restored at 10.15 a.m. We were again greeted by power failure at 12.30 p.m. Thereafter we went out to visit our elder brother at Uttara. It took us almost 2 hours to go from Kalabagan.

We were again greeted by a power failure at 10pm which was restored back at 11pm. What a wonderful way of New Year's greetings! The day began with a power failure and ended with power failure. I wonder what awaits us in the coming days.

Motijheel
Dhaka

Hindi songs on Pahela Baishakh

I went to Ramna Park to celebrate Pahela Baishakh. On my entrance to the park I noticed an ongoing concert on the premises of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh sponsored by Royal Tiger Energy Drink. None can overlook the huge round of applause by a group of youngsters when a female artist dancingly sang out "Shila ki jawani..." on stage. I was quite embarrassed to witness such activities. It was a 'hindinized' Pahela Baishakh, insulting to our very culture and language.

Tashrif Billah
Dept. of EEE
BUET

Defending illegal actions

I am confused about the new policy concerning rivers. It seems that the concept of 'river-narrowing' is a new way of excusing the authorities from prosecuting those who grab land beside rivers because all they are doing is 'narrowing' a river.

This way of re-defining illegal, indeed sinful, actions, has a long history and even more interesting potential. Will 'beating your wife' go back to being accepted as 'husband's rights' and 'hacking into other people's computers' become 'freedom of access'? And as for 'long-term imprisonment without trial'? Will that become - no, I better not go into that...

Angela Robinson
On e-mail

We condemn this act of servility

In the past we have seen that students of different institutions used to get lined up on either side of the street with small flags in their hands to greet the head of the state visiting our country. But now the same thing has become a ritual even for a minister, visiting a district or his constituency. We learnt that the ministry of education has strictly forbidden this practice to relieve students from this laborious process. However, some over enthusiastic party activists flouting the directive amass students from different institutions and kept them standing for hours in the parching weather against their will just to please the minister. It is also reported that many students especially girl students fell sick due to heat and dehydration. We strongly protest this act of servility and urge that this practice be stopped immediately.

Humayun Hyder
Zikatola, Dhaka

Please do something

Our policy makers have a slogan, 'steps towards change'. We still believe in this motto. But we the 3340 frustrated youths who have been selected for the non-cadre service in 29th B.C.S remain unemployed. Our future looks bleak from the experience of 28th B.C.S. We have relevant information that there are nearly 38000 non-cadre first class vacant posts in different ministries. I am an ardent believer in the actions of the Head of the State as well as the Head of the Govt. We have a heart-felt plea that their excellencies will soothe our

Saleh Ayub, On e-mail

Undue harassment

Distance between Gulistan to Saidabad is hardly 2 kilometers but, surprisingly, all bus conductors snatch taka five from each passenger as fare. When asked on several occasions, the conductors reply in rude voice that this is their rate. Secondly, the 'tempo' which is the main transport for small income group people charge taka six between Gulistan to Chawk Bazar will be hardly 3 kilometers.

When asked tempo drivers reply that they have cannot help. Keeping anonymity, he mentioned that a ruling party leader based in Chawk Bazar area is the overall 'authority' of this sector and he controls all these tempos and other sectors. I would like to draw attention of the BRTA /concerned authority to look into the matter seriously and save the passengers from undue harassments.

Abul Kashem

Check population growth

We know that large population is considered as an asset of a country but it is considered as a burden if they are unskilled and unproductive. The rate of population growth in our country is 1.4%. In our neighboring countries like Sri Lanka and Maldives it is 0.9% and 0.5%. Now the population of our country is 16.44 crores. What will happen in 2025? Every year more than two million people are added to our population. It is time we include a lesson

on the adverse effect of having large family in primary and secondary education. Family planning system in our country is not satisfactory due to shortage of employee. Conscious people, mass media and govt. should join hands to minimize the population growth if we want to make a Digital Bangladesh.

Md. Tanvir Rahman (Tapos)
University of Chittagong



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS



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

Steps taken not to follow through 10 initiatives to tackle tailbacks fizzle out soon after (April 19, 2011)

Traffic jam kills lot of time and fuel. We are a developing country. If this condition goes on, we can't reach our goal in time.

Md Jalil

Car owners in Bangladesh are very influential people apart from being rich. In Bangladesh, rich and influential people are above the law. If someone happened to be a political tout or relation or an associate of high ups, it is easier for them to break traffic law.

M. Afsaruddin

Govt. is always busy to spoil the opposition meeting and not concentrate to solve other important problems. Govt. is not interested to build the nation but busy with sick politics.

Hussain

Dhaka is the second worst city in the

world! How come MPs, ministers will understand it, while their cars get priority and not considered as general commuters? Government and law makers are not strict at all, have no headache to solve major problem and has failed to implement laws in our country.

AAA

Pedestrians are always encouraged to use foot over bridge for crossing roads. But piles of garbage are seen in every foot over bridges. In addition to this, stairs of the over bridges are often found broken/craggy. Beggars, stalkers occupy most parts of the bridges. No light is found lit in the bridge. These factors are discouraging for the pedestrians to use foot over bridges.

Kazi Abdul Mannan

Thanks for highlighting the dismal

failure of our government in implementing anything other than expensive name changes to existing organizations. Bangladesh is truly beyond reform, its time for a revolution.

Mujahid Ashraf

The state of traffic movement represents a fairly accurate window to the way a country is administered. Bangladesh is no exception. All measures will fail unless the rules are diligently enforced and all citizens abide by them. We may have the best of infrastructures but the chaotic conditions will worsen with time. Unless the authorities enforce the laws and the citizens abide by them.

Pervez Rasheed

The car owners are not interested to follow the traffic rather using their muscle power. One day, I asked a driver while parking in a non-parking zone and at a time I told him to follow the traffic rules and he simply replied to me this car owner is the father of traffic sergeant.

Farhad Haque

This article shows the lack of clear thinking pervasive. How will enforcing helmet and seat belt laws or mobile phones laws improve gridlock?

What is needed instead is: Build more wider roads to provide alternate routes, increasing the efficiency of major roads by making all lanes used for traffic, eliminate the carts, CNG/rickshaw/taxi parking on the left lane, build more flyovers

anguish in which we are groaning.

Swapon Biswas
Shahid Zia-Ur-Rahman Sarak, Jhenidah

Frequent short circuit incidents

Incidents due to short circuits have increased. On 17th March 2011, there was a fire incident due to electrical short circuit occurred in my home at Popular Housing-1, Barabagh, Mirpur-2. It's a five storied building and eight families live here. All of us got stuck in the smoke. Later the electric rescue team from DESCO disconnected the main wire from the pole and all of us were saved from a fatal incident. Thanks to DESCO team. I am also extending my sincere thanks to DESCO, Kallayanpur team for reconnecting my electricity without any hassle. Now my earnest request to DESCO/DESA and other electrical agencies to find the reasons for these frequent short circuit and take necessary action to reduce these incidents

S.M. Khaleque Zaman, Popular Housing-1, Mirpur-2

An appeal to the LHC

Our understanding of the universe is about to change by the outcomes in the gigantic experiment of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) conducted by European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). It will revolutionize our understanding, from the minuscule world deep within atoms to the vastness of the universe. The LHC will not be completed until the people of backward societies in every corner of the world in superstition-chain will not be enlightened with the true knowledge of nature. So, we appeal to the LHC to work on complete eradication of false notions about nature from people's mind.

Mobarak Ali, RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka

Poor Airtel network!

I am using Warid telecom for the last couple of months. Recently its name has changed; it's not a big deal. The problem is network. Last one month it's network is totally down. These days we use mobile phone for all purpose. On 18 April I went outside from my house and faced a dangerous problem. I tried to call my parents 100 times but I didn't get through. I had to stay outside in the evening but I couldn't inform them. Lots of people are suffering from this problem. My humble request to Airtel group, please do something quickly!

Kaniz Fatema, On e-mail

Ice and Soot!

Both are very common items in every home. Ice is now on the shelf, at all times; thanks to refrigerators in almost all houses. So too is soot; when we burn any fuel anywhere. But can one imagine soot along with the ice; high up in the Himalayan mountains where nothing is normally burnt!

However, as newspaper article in your pages, stated on 5th April, it is already there! Interestingly, soot samples in glacial ice, on south west Himalayan Mountains has increased by 30 percent between 1990 and 2003! It is the result of the recent industrialization in India!

However, all the heat so generated in the atmosphere will not make the glaciers disappear. However, it may give the glacial ice, an ash coloured hue; no longer it will be all white; maybe a century or two later! The simple fine particles of

and underpasses, keep two-way roads open by imposing harsh penalties on cars/buses that block oncoming traffic by going on the wrong side of the road to bypass tailbacks, on the single lane roads, add dedicated asphalted bus loading areas on the side of the road and don't let buses block traffic by stopping in traffic lane to pick up passengers.

Nick Andersen

Recent study shows that the congestion cost is over Tk 19 thousand crore (approx. US\$3.00 billion) a year in Dhaka and the city loses 8.16 millions work hours daily. Just imagine the extent of the problem.

Anonymous

Traffic management is not only the main problem where we need to work. Our population is the main cause of this crisis.

Iqbal

Dhaka city's road is unable to sustain superfluous vehicles. City needs more roads or fewer vehicles. Management is not the only solution to ease off traffic gridlock.

Nasirullah Mridha

Nothing new or surprising! Bangladeshi agencies do not have the intelligence and skills of a good traffic management system. Hire a foreign consultant. Go to Asian capitals like Hong Kong and Singapore and learn their traffic management skills.