

Decentralization is a must

Traffic congestion has become a common issue in the city life especially in Dhaka. Government is planning to construct more flyovers throughout the city but I just wonder why decentralization remains out of discussion? From all parts of the country people are coming to Dhaka for survival, as most of the important offices, institutes, universities, and garment industries are still getting built

here. Dhaka city suffers from pervading water pollution, air pollution, accommodation crisis, electricity crisis and what not, but who cares about decentralizing people or institutions? Without the eradication of the source of all these problems, how long can you protect this city?
Ashiquzzaman
On e-mail



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Portable gen-set as dowry!

This interesting news item from Patna in India was published in the pages of a local English daily on May 18th. It adds a new twist to the saga of dowry demands; common in India! Usually these demands are for cash, land, furniture and often bi-cycle, motor-cycles or may be even a car depending on the wealth of the prospective bride's household! Portable Gen-Sets are a new item in the menu of dower demands claimed by the groom's parents, in power starved state of Bihar in India!

Considering the bleak power situation in Bangladesh now, may be this could be an interesting idea for prospective groom's parents in negotiating the items for dowry for marriage of their son. It is also reported that some prospective brides in Bihar, are refusing to go and live in their in-laws residences; because power supply in some localities is very scarce; often only for three hours during the twenty four hours in the day!

This is under the circumstances stated in the report; more or less an item of necessity, and expensive for many rural families. Only as an item of dowry it can be asked for, and also provided; since traditionally in rural Bihar dowry is an accepted expensive facility to be provided for a girl's arranged marriage!
S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Who can go to the court?

I am really surprised to read the news in The Daily Star dated May 6, under the heading "Yunus removal upheld by SC" that "Dr Kamal said they still don't know on which grounds Yunus' petition was rejected." He also said, "Any citizen has the right to move to the independent judiciary for remedy, if his basic rights are violated. But the High Court in its judgment said Prof Muhammad Yunus has no right to come to the court," I would like to ask our honourable judges what are the qualifications needed to enter the court? What are the disqualifications of Prof. Yunus? Is it because he is not a sycophant of Hasina or he has not looted money from the share market or is it because he is a Nobel laureate who has lifted the image of Bangladesh? Please note that these are my questions and do not put me in jail (considering these queries as contempt of court), because as a citizen of the country I need to know whether I have the sufficient qualifications to go to the court.
Mahboob Hossain
Zigatola, Dhaka

Using the riches of Sylhet

The limited natural resources that Bangladesh is endowed with, lies mostly in the Sylhet region. Such as natural gas, tea garden, woods of rain forests, and abundant sweet water in beels and haors that we hardly get together in any part of Bangladesh. Also a large number of people who have migrated to the U .K. and the U.S.A are contributing greatly to our economy by sending remittances. Even the newly elected Bangladeshi origin British MP Rosnara Ali and US congressman Hashem Clarke are from Sylhet. But the rate of illiteracy, the growth rate of population is very high here. The gap between poor and rich is extremely wide. The madrassas are more in numbers which produce youths incapable of doing anything except religious rituals. The expatriates built houses which remain empty all the year. The govt. with the help of expatriates should take massive development plans for overall development of the region.

Zahangir
Agrani Bank

Industrial pollution- why should I care?



A.M.AHAD / DRINKNEWS

Industries and factories have been polluting the water bodies in and around Dhaka city for the longest time. It is clear that protecting the environment is not one of the top priorities. I am not even surprised. We, even me, pollute our cities with trashes. So how will the owners of these factories, with hardly any education be conscious about the environment, feel the need to protect the envi-

ronment? The long term benefits are invisible, but short term gain in cash is not. It is up to us, maybe the government, to make sure that people with money and power realize the need for a cleaner Bangladesh. After the Digital Bangladesh plan, we should initiate a Clean Bangladesh plan.
Asifur Rahman Khan
Circuit House Road, Ramna, Dhaka

Ignoring facts for beauty!

I remember that about a month ago in Star Lifestyle, an article stated five reasons why people shouldn't use BOTOX. I read that article and the reasons seemed very appropriate and convincing. But to my surprise, despite the facts of the article I noticed all sorts of media doing eye-catching and influencing advertisements on the same beauty cream, giving reasons why it should be used. Now my question is that why this cream is not discontinued even after the solid proof that it is not suitable for use? And why is the media helping this product to increase sales, risking the results on the customers after using this cream?
Ayushi Khan, The Aga Khan School, Dhaka

Diplomatic immunity

The arrest of the erstwhile IMF chief in New York for criminal charges shows that there is no diplomatic immunity in western countries for institutions like WB, IMF or UN bodies. This brings to mind various demands (a few years back) by such bodies for diplomatic immunity in developing countries including Bangladesh. No matter how much carrot is dangled before us in the name of development aid, we should give no diplomatic immunity to such organisations unless it is accepted worldwide as under the Geneva Convention.

Engineer Shafi Ahmed, London, UK

Fact check

Misinformation has been a primary tool to mislead people by many. When it is used for political gains, I believe it is the duty of the media to point it out in the form of 'Fact Check'. It is routinely done in the media of western countries. I urge the media in Bangladesh both print and electronic to do the same.
Mahmud Hassan
New Jersey, USA

The right expression

"I love you more than my soul" -- the line is presently used at random. Instead, we may use "I love you more than I can say" for our beloved ones. But the sentence 'I love you more than my soul' can be used only for Allah, the creator, as well as His dearest Rasul (SM). Once Hazrat Omar Faruk (R), the second caliph of Islam, said to our dearest Rasul (SM), "Ya Rasulallah! I love you very much, but not more than my soul." Then our dearest Rasul (SM) said, "Omar, you are yet to be a perfect 'mumin' (faithful)." Then Hazrat Omar (R) said, "Ya Rasulallah! Now I love you more than my soul." And our dearest Rasul (SM) declared, "O Omar! You are now a perfect 'mumin'." All of us should realise this.
Habibur Rashid Ismail

Largest women university



It is heartening to learn that the world's largest university exclusively for women has been opened in Riyadh, KSA. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah inaugurated the SR-20-billion Princess Nora bint Abdulrahman University (PNU) on May 15, 2011. With a capacity to enroll about 50,000 students, the PNU is the biggest women-only university which is indeed a symbol of women education and participation in the nation building process. Equipped with all the modern and digital facilities, the PNU is expected to impart higher education to the Saudi women and women from other Muslim countries. While sincerely appreciating King Abdullah's vision, I wish PNU's great success towards accomplishing its noble mission.
Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka



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Biman in severe cash crunch Borrows Tk 20cr from bank to pay staff salaries (May 21, 2011)

The Bangladesh Biman is a losing concern and it should be closed down.
Anonymous

Key problems lie with Biman's external environment, increased fuel price and corruption through political interference. To overcome the present situation, government should offload its share to the public. This will bring more liquidity as well as efficiency in the Board and Management. Besides, political interference will be reduced too. Transport sector is growing rapidly. Only a new Biman can tap this opportunity to earn revenue for the country.
Sanaur Rahman Khan

We don't need Biman. As it is a public limited company, why the court doesn't declare it bankrupt and take necessary legal measures to bury it once and for all.
Md. Bhuyan

Biman should sell a majority stake to a successful foreign carrier that will bring in qualified foreign management. Following this, the ACC should take action against the officials who are found to be corrupt.
MS

While Emirates, Etihad, Qatar, Gulf Air, Air Arabia, Fly Dubai, Saudia, Kuwait Airways, Dragon Air, Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Jet Airways taking away businesses from our coun-

try, why Biman is unable to run its business profitably remains a huge question? Where is the rot?
Sayed Abu Tahir

Biman Managing Director has also been made the Chief Executive Officer, that is the only significant change came to Biman after making it a PLC. Does the MD & CEO play very different roles? It is all about certain authority, interesting point!
Shamima Begum Shelley

No doubt the national airlines are going through the most critical time in its history, but were it done deliberately by destroying it from inside? As I often suggested that there is a conspiracy theory to make Biman never run profitably. All GSA and foreign operators in the country are profiting heavily from the opportunity. More interestingly the GSA and bulk of the foreign airlines agents are the same group of people who are also party to the same syndicate who controls all businesses within Biman.
Abdul Hamid Khan

Many times in the past we dis-

cussed the issues and we all know exactly where the leaks are. It is definitely not only the internal corruption; it is the syndicate that controls all the Biman businesses.
Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee

It's a sign of ineffective and inefficient management. Sole responsibility, if I may say, is of the MD. He lacks in marketing and management skills, no doubt.
Nazmul Hossain

All these debt and loan should be adjusted by the properties of Biman authority because of their corruption, unworthiness, unfitness and inefficiency. Now it is their responsibility to re-align the debit and credit line to shut down the Biman.
Bokaulah

Mismanagement and corruption is killing the Airlines. Only way we can stop this is by making the Airlines private.
Jihad

Because too many dishonest executives are running this industry.



TOWZ ID HOLLCOX / DRINKNEWS

Houses for the poor

Every year due to cyclone, heavy rain, tornado and flood millions of huts, bamboo/tin shed houses get damaged, blown off, and destroyed; thus the poor become poorer. Our land and housing developers are constructing hundreds of flats/buildings one after another for the rich people. The present cost of a house/flat in Dhaka ranges from taka 75 lakh to 1 crore and above. Do the middle class and poor people afford to

purchase a house/flat in Dhaka? Why don't our public and private sectors come forward to build low cost houses/flats for the middle class and lower class people? Why doesn't our government seek financial help/loan from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, ADP and World Bank to mitigate the sufferings of our poor people?
O.H. Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

A Saudi mother's protest

A news item was published in a newspaper that a Saudi mother defied ban on women drivers in her country to set an example for her daughter and her friends. The woman, a housewife in her mid 30s, drove non-stop for four days on the streets of the Red Sea city of Jeddah to defend her belief that Saudi women should be allowed to drive. Even not fearing the arrest she was offering driving lessons for other women.
However, I don't understand why Saudi government has imposed ban on women drivers. They should realize that any sort of undue restrictions, tightening rules or bans temporarily can suppress the people but accumulation of much little suppressions would make the people firstly defiant, secondly impatient, and finally revolutionist.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Ban the use of brick crushing machine

Almost about 4 years ago, when the apartment building where we live in was being built by a developer, I as one of the owners of the land insisted not to use the brick crushing machine, as it not only creates sound pollution but environmental pollution as well, to which the developer obliged even after bearing additional expenses for the job.
The use of brick crushing machine is rampant all over the town, with growing demand for housing. I wonder how the Department of Environment is so blind to this gross violation of human rights. I guess every individual has the right to live in a pollution free environment.

If the Department of Environment is incapable of taking any measures with a view to stopping this nuisance, then I would request the government through these columns to make and implement a law banning the use of brick crushing machines in the metropolis nay in the whole country with a view to curbing sound and environment pollution, which has already reached alarming proportion.
Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

Kahns departure - a loss

The arrest of IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn on attempted rape and assault charges in New York on Saturday had the effect of a bombshell in France. Kahn was widely expected to resign from his post at the IMF and run for the French presidential poll in 2012. His arrest put an end to a brilliant career as an economist and a politician. Mr. Strauss-Kahn's downfall comes at an opportune time for the French right and extreme right. Never has President Sarkozy been so low in the polls. Kahn was the politician who would have been acceptable to France's centre-right.
He was capable of stealing the centrist vote from France's president while carrying along sizeable sections of the French left. The sudden end to his political career has left the socialists in disarray with a huge hole which is likely to be filled by several presidential hopefuls, none of whom has the charisma, the brilliance or the pragmatic efficiency that Kahn displayed.
Gopal Sengupta