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QUDDUS ALAM / DRINKNEWS

## Generate rural employment

Dhaka is now overloaded with a huge population. Many people came to Dhaka from the rural areas in search of cash earnings as the rural settings miserably lack employment opportunities. Under the pressure of over population, Dhaka is rapidly moving towards bankruptcy in respect of housing, transport, water-supply, civic amenities and most importantly its environmental status. Perhaps it is the time when the government should attach special attention to

generate employment opportunities in the rural setting by establishing agro-based small industries. At the same time, easy access of the farmers to cold-storage and marketing facilities has to be ensured for agricultural produce so that farmers may not sustain losses and lose interest in agricultural occupation.

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

## Hospitals or death centres?

Two weeks ago my nephew who was a month premature, died in a renowned private hospital in Gulshan. Although his condition was improving he was given high antibiotic without our knowledge. As a result, he died the next day of kidney and lungs problem. Two weeks later, the same thing happened to another premature child. Is this what we get in return for paying high amounts of money to these hospitals for our treatment? I would request the authorities concerned to stop this brutality. If this carelessness goes on, we will not be able to trust any doctor.

**Quazi Samira Rahman**  
Viqarunnisa Noon School and College  
Dhaka

## Japanese generosity

I was touched by the article published on 24<sup>th</sup> May in your daily that was so appreciative of the generosity of the Japanese to Bangladesh in the face of their problems, and, on the same page, the humorous article by Jamal Khan, about the chaos in a Bangladeshi public sector workplace. I think the best way of saying thank you to the Japanese for their donation for the building of the Padma Bridge is to be careful that the work is not spoilt by corruption. I heard that the British consultant for the building of the Pakshey (now the Lalor Shah) Bridge - also funded by the Japanese - got up at 2.00 am to check the quality of the cement going into the uprights.....

Somewhat I think that the bridge will not fall down or develop cracks.

**Angela Robinson**  
On e-mail

## Bad condition of Dhaka-Chittagong highway

I was pondering deeply on the issue of approving transit to India. No doubt that transit might appear as a blessing to the country's economy. But the question is whether appropriate infrastructure is available in our country or not. Transporting goods from the port towards north through Dhaka-Chittagong highway is the only option available to the govt. But the condition of the road is so dilapidated that this cannot take the huge load of traffic. Govt. must rethink on the issue prior to giving transit to India. Otherwise this will terminate into a mess.

**Kamrul Hasan**  
Student of Chittagong University  
Chittagong

## What is WASA doing?

In Dhaka hundreds of high-rise buildings are being constructed. But there is no coordination of work and planning between WASA and RAJUK. As a result, the suffering of the people due to acute shortage of water knows no bound. It is reported that most of the owners/developers of the high-rise buildings have illegally installed water pump and connected those with the WASA water pipeline. These pumps divert the water from the WASA's pipeline to their buildings depriving the people of the surrounding buildings of water supply. Would WASA and the authorities concerned kindly look into the matter and take disciplinary action against the dishonest persons and employees of WASA?

**O H Kabir**

## Make post offices useful



PHOTO: STAR

Once post offices were the only institutions we used to depend on for communication. In the past, post offices were always crowded with people. Now-a-days, our post offices give a reverse picture. Not many people are there. Only a few visit the place for sending official documents. This has happened only because of a sudden change in the communication technology that is widespread availability of cell phones and e-communications like e-mails, facebook, and also availability of courier services. Our post offices should now change

their strategy. They should come out of their traditional services and timing. Post offices should now remain open on weekends and they should render some other services like collecting all utility bills, selling train tickets, banking, selling land revenue stamps, etc. We request the ministries and departments concerned to review these proposals and bring a big change to make our post offices profitable.

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

## BNP in disarray

Mohammad Ali Sattar's well written article titled 'A party in disarray', published in your pages on 24<sup>th</sup> May describes BNP's lack of political outlook and policy. They are only interested in "winning election and ministerial seats".

If and when in opposition, their only slogan is: "withdraw all corruption cases against BNP politicians." BNP's plan can be summed up as: Win election, then 'make hay while the sun shines'! That is BNP, which stands for: "Beautiful New Pajeros"! So, good luck to all prospective BNP candidates in the next general election. However, hopefuls can no longer wait; so the slogan: 'Mid Term Election'; if possible tomorrow! That is the only objective; no realistic plans or options for the voters who will cast the votes, and go back to where they were.

**Ex. BNP supporter, Dhaka**

## Let's be humans, not robots

The students vomiting the most amount of information get the best results, under the current Bangla medium education system. It doesn't matter if the person's analytical ability or his reasoning power is poor, because he can memorize and reproduce well. These types of students, in my experience, get the shock of their lives in the university levels. Every good university in Bangladesh has an education system based on reasoning and analyzing, case studies, journals, presentations. These students can't present, can't analyze, can't reason, and suddenly, they are completely lost. It is not their fault that they are lost, but it is the fault of the system. Let's be humans, not robots.

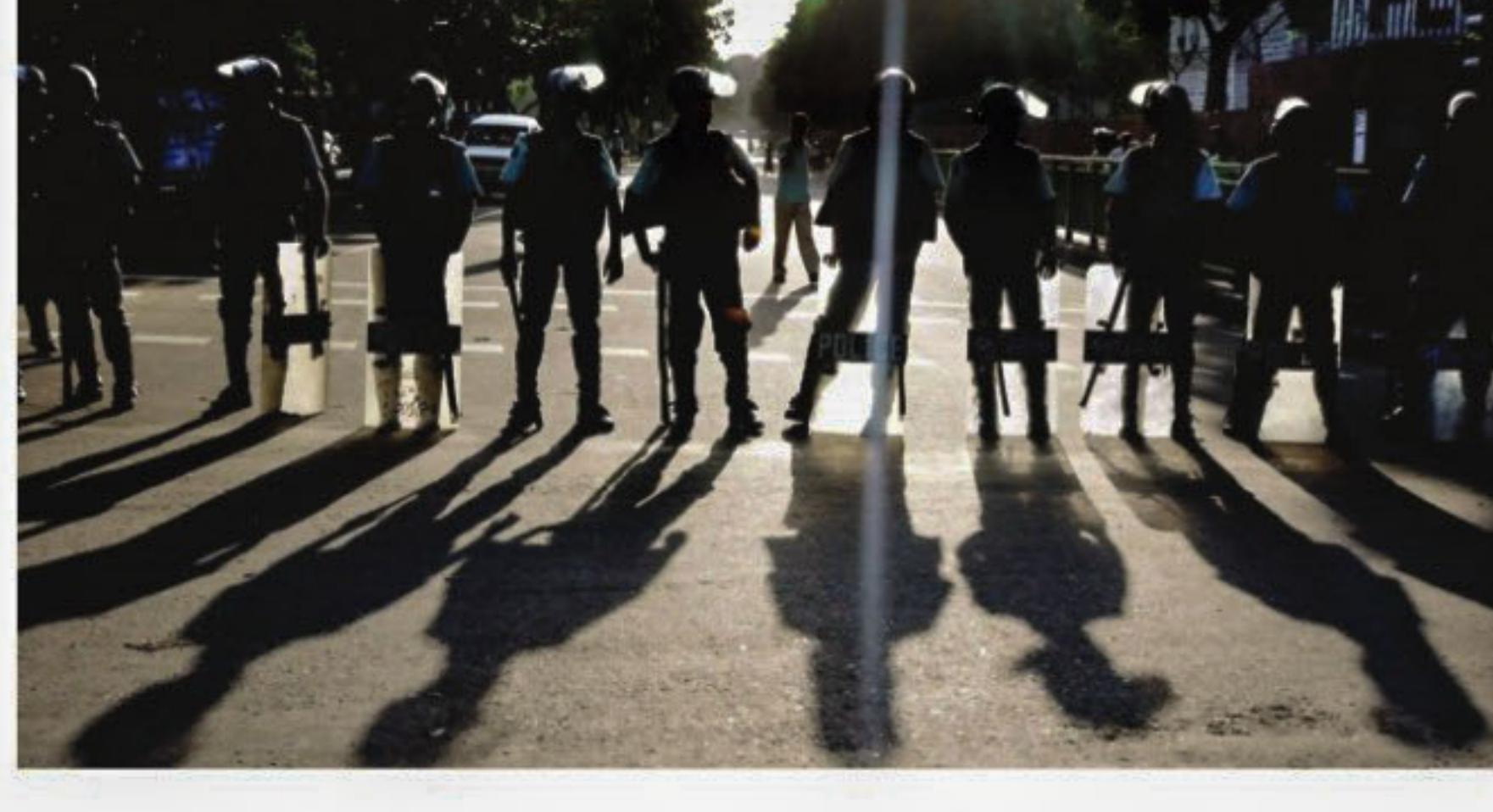
**Asifur Rahman Khan**  
Circuit House Road, Ramna, Dhaka

## PM pledged jobs, but ...

I would like to remind the honorable PM that one of the pledges made by her party before the election was to create job opportunities for at least one member of every family. Obviously, young people were inspired by this pledge and cast their votes in favour of change, but in vain. It is reported that 35 thousand first class non-cadre gazetted posts are vacant in different ministries. But it is a matter of frustration that only 300 out of 2700 candidates of 28th BCS were appointed before the final result of 29th BCS was published. We hope the honorable PM would immediately intervene to solve this problem.

**Shadhin Rahman, Rahman Nagar R/A, Chittagong**

## Grievances of our police force



It is known to all that the police force of a country is assigned with the arduous task of keeping the law and order situation at a tolerable level to ensure peace and stability. And to do so police have to go through lots of difficult situations. However, in return, what do they get? They don't get a better pay, comfortable place to live in, or better meals, let alone other promised benefits enjoyed by the officers. I was saddened while going through a local daily which gave a very sorry tale about the condition of low

ranking police personnel. Government must take immediate actions to address their plight. If the police don't get enough to live a decent life, how will they perform their duties properly? Obviously, they will resort to other means to make some extra bucks. Our police force should also be adequately equipped with all required logistics to combat crimes effectively.

**Humayun Hyder**  
Zigatola  
Dhaka

## Bring peace in hills

Santu Larma's organization PCJSS (signed in the Peace Treaty of 1997) is blamed for killing 4 UPDF (raising objection to the Peace Treaty) men including its central leader Animesh Chakma. We have learnt from local media reports that the incident might be a result of ongoing conflict and rivalry between the activists of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

The latest clashes occurred for establishing supremacy ahead of the Union Parishad elections. That means no single group is commanding over this area. So peace can not be established without participation of all the groups in the deal. Santu Larma's organization has lost its influences over all other regional groups, and failures of the government to implement its promises in time have also jeopardized Santu Larma's PCJSS. We urge the government to do the needful immediately for bringing peace in hills.

**Mobarak Ali**  
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka

## Four cases against Khaleda Zia

I wrote in this column of DS several times in the past about why BNP is boycotting parliament. Finally Moudud Ahmed has come out with the main reason, because the BNP leadership failed to convince the media, other political parties and our intellectuals. All are blaming the government for failing to bring the opposition in the parliament. According to the intellectuals, it is the duty of the government to bring them in and make parliament functional, as if the opposition has no responsibility to attend voluntarily. Now the time has come for the government to make the parliament functional by withdrawing four cases against Khaleda Zia. The government should act quickly but with conditions as the New York court has done to Kahn, the IMF boss. The government does not need to compel the BNP leadership to wear monitoring devices. But Khaleda should vow that she will not demand withdrawal of cases against her sons and other top leaders like Moudud, Sirker, Abbas and many others.

**Shafiqul Islam, NY**

## Campus violence

Campus violence has become a common issue these days. It has increased the sufferings of the students. I urge the political leaders of our country to take immediate steps so that students can never become victims of politics.

**Md. Sabbir Hossain Shovon**  
Dept. of English  
Govt. Haraganga College  
Munshigonj

## Ragging- an inhuman practice

University is the highest institution of education where students get access to the world of excellence in terms of humanity and professionalism. Students come here to make themselves enlightened. But it is very appalling that in some universities, in the name of 'ragging', the newcomers are tortured by their seniors! Of late, a leading daily reported that freshers at Chittagong Marine Academy were severely tortured by the seniors. The level of torture was so high that some of the students were admitted to the emergency units of the hospitals with acute physical and mental problems. Some of them even died! Though ragging is prohibited, this is going on unabated!

**Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir**  
Department of Business Administration

## READERS

## respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Toxic tannery waste posing health risk."

### Anonymous

Who cares about toxic tannery? We are busy in making money. Not much time is left.

### Arafat

We have to pay back, what we are doing to nature. Government should be very strict regarding these issues.

### Anonymous

Instead of speaking in UNESCO meeting about health, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh should have taken care of this unhealthy situation. Their priorities are always misplaced. How colorful the water looks!

### Md. Zakirul Islam Khan

This condition happened only for corruption. If we were not corrupted it would not have happened. We should also have the awareness of social responsibilities. Now is the time to raise your voice against every unfair thing.

### Ishtiaq Chowdhury

Why elect a government when HC has to step in and get involved in almost every sphere of mismanagement and corruption. We should change the system and let judges run the country. The politicians are too busy with other important things.

### Nasirullah Mridha, USA

Tannery owners and government's snail's pace of horse-trading on relocation of these industries are causing severe health hazard to adjoining areas. Owners' indifference to relocate is the root cause of the problem. In order to save the environment it should set up ETPs at all the tanneries before a deal between two parties. High Court's order should not be violated by the government as well.

### Zashim

Regardless of any procedural excuse, the High Court order is required to be complied immediately to protect hundreds of thousands of people. It is indeed a difficult task for the government though but obviously not impossible. A successful relocation of it is to be simply a healthy gift to the people living there from the government.

### Abu Rayhan

This is very disappointing that even after six years of initiating the process to relocate the tannery industries the government is yet make a tangible progress. The demands and concerns of the tannery owners are not unwarranted considering the investment they have made over the years to establish the industrial base. For the government's part it should demonstrate seriousness to complete all its necessary preparations before standing ready to engage with the tanners. Then the government has to engage with the tannery owners with the aim of addressing their concerns in a way acceptable to both.

## Obama's sacred duty

On May 24, 2011, I listened to Israeli PM's speech telecast live by CNN. He was speaking to both the houses of congress about the peace plan with Palestine. But the Israeli Prime Minister did not budge from his stance, he rejected the idea of a Palestinian state to be created based on the borders that existed before 1967. He declared that Jerusalem must never be divided, it would remain the capital of Israel, there would be Israeli military presence along the Jordan river, in short, everything in favour of Israel. One can easily imagine the hold Israel has over the US.

When Obama got the presidential nomination, people from all over the world prayed for him because he seemed different from others. He talked about change and we hoped that many things would change for the better. We hoped that he will help end the sufferings of the Palestinians. Obama has the power to end the conflict between Israel and Palestine, and we hope that he will consider it his sacred duty.

**Nur Jahan, Chittagong**



PHOTO: AFP