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Shrimp farming and salinity



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

Hossain's important front page report published in your daily on May 26th is a subject, which I believe a very few know about; more so the ignorant farmers, who made their farmland into saline ponds for shrimp breeding and farming. The recent storm and heavy waves destroyed the fish farms, and all the shrimps were lost to the tidal wave. As an option, the farmers went back to growing paddy and other food crops; little knowing that their soil is now saturated in saline, and no green crops can be grown! In this case not only have they lost the shrimps; which were financially rewarding; but now no cash crops can be grown, which before

farming of shrimps in saline water, used to provide cash crop! Not only they, but possibly the agricultural officials were unaware of this. Otherwise they would have stopped the farmers in wasting money, scarce resources and their labor in trying to plant farm food crops in the saline contaminated soil! Agriculture Department should now take necessary steps, so that all farmers become aware of this problem of soil salinity; so that the farmers know the pros and cons; before opting for fish farming in their farmland.

S.A. Mansoor
 Dhaka

Constitutional amendment, why?

Tucked away on Page 5 of DS 27 May 2011 is a news item that has disturbed me immensely. Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) and some political parties have demanded from the Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment that 1) Islam as state religion is scrapped, 2) Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim dropped as 3) the two-nation theory had been rejected. My questions were not the first two inserted more than 30 years ago, to fulfill the original deficiencies and make our constitution consistent with the aspirations of 85% of Bangladeshis?

Does Islam, the most secular of all religions, not guarantee the rights of minorities? Is not rejection of the two-nation theory, striking at the raison-d'etre and the very roots of Bangladesh's sovereignty? After acceptance, will the next demand be the merger of our blood-soaked country back with the pre-1947 mother, as we have a common language and culture with her contiguous part?

Sikander Ahmed
 Niketon
 Gulshan - I
 Dhaka

No more confrontation

A few days earlier a presidium member of AL declared that Justice Khairul Haque will be the next Chief of CTG. But the Prime Minister has bid farewell to the Caretaker System saying that the country's highest court has declared CTG system illegal.

The apex business body FBCCI has immediately expressed fears of hartals and blockades which bring immense losses to the business. The people of Bangladesh do not want to go back to pre-1/11 era. All politicians should know this and act accordingly.

We believe, in politics there is no last word. Cooperation of all will only bring a healthy change in democratic process. We want a safe country for our next generation. Both the govt. and the opposition should sit and work out a peaceful solution for us before it is too late.

Shafiqul Islam
 NY



Drone attack

The United States has carried out a series of attacks in northwest Pakistan since 2004 using drones or unmanned aerial vehicles. These strikes by UAV are operated remotely from Creech Air Force Base located in Nevada, USA. The attacks are part of the US "War on Terrorism" campaign, seeking to defeat Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants in Pakistan.

The Brookings Institution of USA suggests that "drone missiles cause collateral damage and kill 10 or so civilians for every militant killed." US estimates 2,377 militants were killed by 244 drone attacks since 2004. By the above estimate 23,770 innocent elderly men, women and children lost their dear lives. So long most Americans observed this with indifference.

The recent series of devastating tornados in the USA might have given them a small taste of how it feels when the lives of innocent citizens are lost for no fault of theirs.

Mahmoodul Haque
 Gulshan
 Dhaka

We don't want any confrontation over CTG

It is the government's duty to see to it that people live in peace and there is stability in the country, but from the activities of Awami League led government, people are getting the impression that the government does not care, and it will stubbornly go ahead with its plan no matter what the outcome is.

Suddenly out of the blue, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 30 May 2011 told the special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendment that the caretaker government provision should be dropped from the constitution, though on May 17, she instructed to retain caretaker government system without visiting the Supreme Court verdict.

She was in favour of caretaker government system in the past, why this U turn? There are many questions arising in people's minds. Has she become afraid that if caretaker government system remains, she may not win the next general election? People do not want any confrontational politics anymore, so the government must drop the plan of scrapping the caretaker government system.

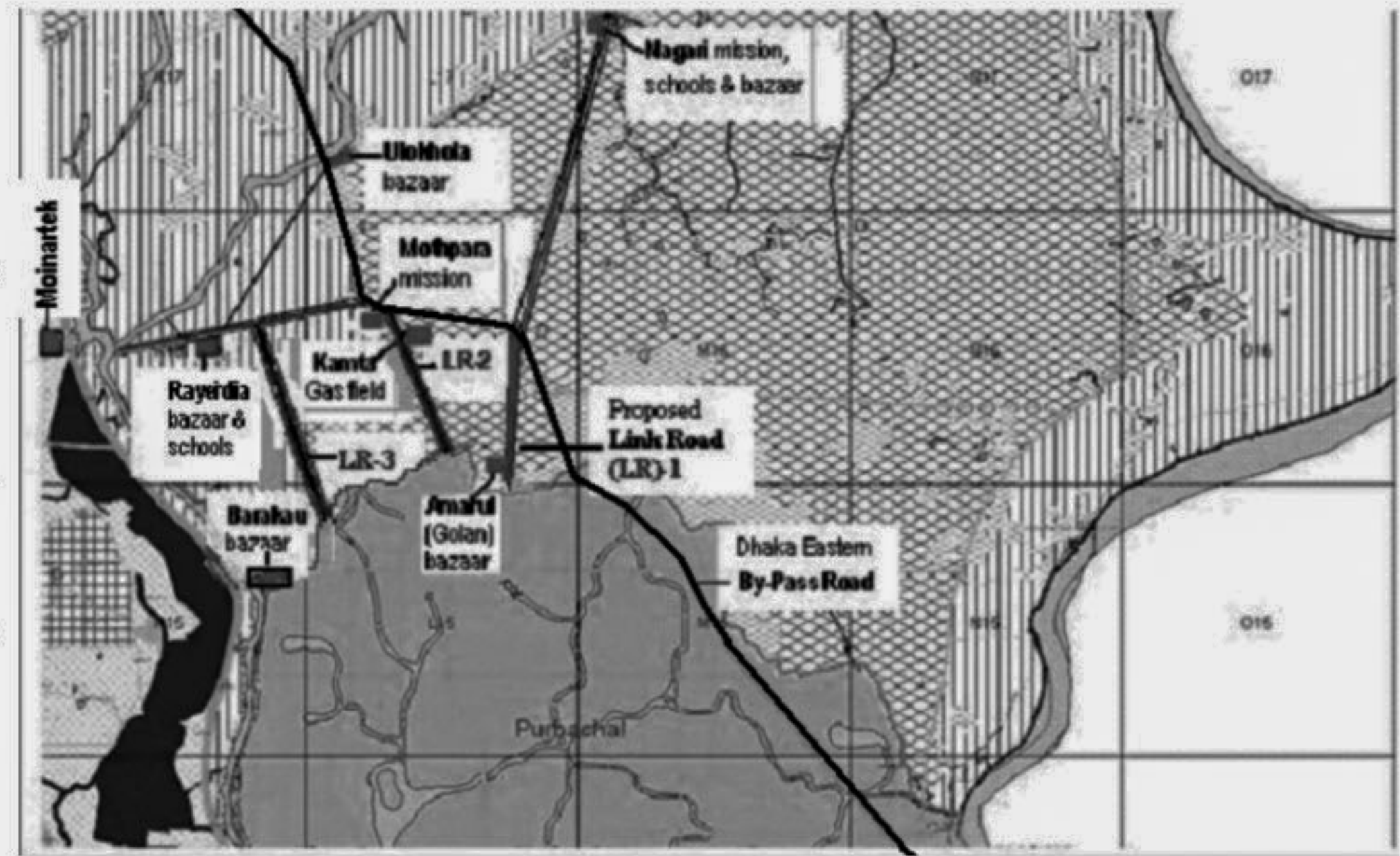
Nur Jahan
 Chittagong

Is Purbachal a model town?

The over 6000 acre 'model town' under development in Rupganj (Narayanganj), that RAJUK now calls Purbachal New Town (PNT), started with "Yusufganj Satellite Town" project about two decades ago. Although people know this as a model town, it still bears the smell of the first conceived 'satellite' character. Although RAJUK's plan shows over 25% road area inside the town is over 100 feet wide, Dhaka Eastern By-pass road running along its east side obliquely, and a planned 300 feet road link from Kuril in Dhaka, PNT doesn't have any north-south links that could do justice to the local people of two adjacent upazilas: Rupganj and Kaliganj, each of which has contributed land to it.

A number of north-south link roads could also connect two bazaars: Barakau and Amarul to the 'mother' locality receiving fresh produces from nearby. The map shows three proposed links labeled LR-1, LR-2 and LR-3. Only about one kilometer link at LR-1 point, can, not only link Amarul Bazaar to the northern locality, but also can link Nagari and thus Kaliganj with central PNT if the present LGED narrow road (darker in the middle) is broadened. LR-2 and LR-3 have similar significance in connecting the locality, and thus contributing to transforming PNT into a model all over the country.

Abdus Sattar Molla
 Senior Specialist, NCTB, Dhaka



Fake notes in ATM booths

ATM (Automated Teller Machine) is a great invention of modern technology, as we know that majority banks of our country are doing trading on-line basis. Banks are providing debit and credit cards to the customers. With the help of those cards, customers can easily withdraw money from booths at any time. ATM booths are playing a vital role in our modern e-banking system. They provide 24 hours service throughout the week. Recently, there was widespread allegation from the customers that they got fake notes from ATM booths. If anyone gets fake notes from ATM, s/he can not produce any evidence of that. So, banks should be more cautious regarding this issue. They should ensure that there will be no more fake notes in ATM. Otherwise customers will reject this popular service.

Mohammed Jashim Uddin
 BSS, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Queen opens a new chapter

Queen Elizabeth's recent visit to the Republic of Ireland opened a new chapter in the Anglo-Irish relations. It was the first visit by a British Monarch in 100 years to Ireland which marked the anniversary of the end of the British colonial rule in the Republic.

While extending her deep sympathy to the victims of Ireland, the Queen said "To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy".

I sincerely appreciate the Queen's move towards promoting peace and friendship. The world is heavily burdened with the curse of hatred, enmity and mistrust which needs proper and urgent treatment. Let the world leaders follow the Queen's instance towards ending all sorts of hatred and hostility.

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

Who should be our role model?

The Lord Almighty sent messengers into this world whenever people had gone astray. This process continued for some time, and then the Lord Almighty put a stop to sending any more messengers. The process culminated in sending the last and final messenger Prophet Muhammad SM, the best of the best.

He has been sent into this world as a role model for all of mankind and not for any particular group or sect of people. It has now been 14 hundred years into his prophet hood. With the passage of time, people are forgetting their role model being driven by cunning induced by the devil. We have arrived at such a time that many of us do not even know for sure who our role model is.

Some will say Amitabh Bachchan, while others will say Shahrukh Khan and so on and so forth. It is so very unfortunate that our national leaders care very less about this prime issue. If this process continues unabated, the spirit and message of Islam shall be lost altogether.

We all need to remember that the Lord Almighty coined His name along with the name of His chosen role model. Without following the footsteps of the role model it will be impossible to reach the desired goal i.e. the blessings of the Almighty, irrespective of whatever we may do.

Saleh Ayub
 On e-mail

River erosion

Bangladesh is a country of rivers. But it is a matter of regret that we are victims of river erosion. Many families lost their home and land. But our authorities remain silent. Now the magnitude of erosion has increased in the rainy season. So authorities should do something urgently to save the poor people's land.

Rezaul Haque
 Beanibazar
 Sylhet

Separate tickets for students



PHOTO: STAR

Now-a-days, the main problem for the people in Dhaka is bus fare. Huge numbers of students are studying in this city and they have to travel to different places regularly. Some educational institutions have their own transports but they are not sufficient. So, the students have to travel by public buses. Because of increased fuel price, the bus fare has been raised. Quarrels between bus staff and passengers are very common. Sometimes, the helpers behave roughly with the students. In this circumstance, I hope that our Ministry of Communications, BRTA and the owners of the buses arrange separate tickets for students.

Bipul K Debnath
 Dhaka College
 Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Random parking goes unabated."

Sabbir
 Why the government needs two wreckers on VIP duty? As it lacks in tow trucks they can utilize it in a more organized way.

Sujon Mondal
 Car parking beside roads is common phenomenon. Most of the shops or commercial buildings don't have parking area. Baily Road is mostly affected.

S N Hossain
 Best way to control parking problem is to introduce parking meters everywhere in the city. It will bring large revenues. For violation, parking ticket for every hour may be Tk 700. There should be special traffic police squad just to give tickets to offenders.

David
 Actually the main problem is our mentality. Everybody has a tendency to take a chance for parking whether or not this creates a problem for passersby/for movement of next vehicle. It is not created by the driver only but the owner is very much responsible. So, at first the owners of vehicles should change their mentality.

Farhan Siddique
 At first we need to understand whether the city dwellers have any other option or not because especially in Gulshan area it is very difficult to find a parking place. We do not have any other option. From my point of view government should try to resolve the parking issue firstly, then if someone park his/her car on street should be penalised.