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# Health Policy 2011 and role of media



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

I am happy to see the present government's ambitious health policy. The headline news (The Daily Star; 31-05-2011) indicated that the government's emphasis is to serve our poor; satisfactorily! This is ambitious because several new agenda have been included. These are: i) Stopping private practice of GOB employed doctors, ii) Inclusion of Homeopathy, Ayurvedi & Unani medicines among GOB health service providers, & iii) Inclusion of health insurance in both public & private sectors. As it has been approved without the consensus of major service providers, meaning MBBS doctors' organizations as well as the corporate committees who will have to spend money for their employees, in the form of insurance; govern-

ment should be aware of possible hindrance. I am pleased to learn the concerns of Farida Akhter, co-convenor of Health Movement, about preventive aspects of health. No health policy has brought the matter under consideration including that of mental health, in past. But it can be included now. Now when audio-visual media; i.e. TV and radio have been able to provide messages to grassroots level of our country, nutrition specialists and doctors' committees can provide a guideline on the preventive aspects of health to the people through the media. It would enrich the knowledge of illiterate, ignorant mothers. **A conscious citizen**  
*On e-mail*

## Who is right, FBCCI or BB?

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has claimed that the apex trade body, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) lobbied with it to extend the deadline for bringing down the bank's exposure to the stock market. But the FBCCI said neither it nor any business organization made such lobby. The FBCCI also added that in the early 2010, the index was 4,200 and crossed 6,000 by June. The central bank gave only warning but did not fix CRR (Cash Reserve Requirement). As a result, banks made huge investment that took index unusually to 8,900.

The BB announced CRR for banks in December, they made unusual profits by selling shares resulting in a debacle, and thus small investors suffered huge losses. However, if these two organizations are busy refuting each other's claim, we can guess the fate of the small investors. We do not know who is right, FBCCI or BB. We urge them to work for saving the small investors and stop blaming each other.

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

## Toxic tanneries

Roy's important report on pollution by tanneries and the photo alongside it both show the red color! Meanwhile, the plans for shifting tanneries has gone to the "red" zone of inaction as usual; being stuck up in bureaucratic 'Red Tape' for how long, no one knows! While with the background is becoming 'redder' as shown in Khan's photograph; alongside the report. May be it will become useful raw material for dying in red color! Interesting re-cycling indeed; with cost reduction in the bargain!

It was back in June 2009, when court ordered the removal of the offending tanneries. Only three years is ending; not a long time at bureaucratic note pushing pace; give it three more years to mature; to come to any conclusion!

The Hon. Court needs to give a thought on reviewing the case; and give some strong dose of punitive punishment like fines and jail terms; may be then it may start moving; and tannery owners wake up from their "deep dream of sleep in peace"; while cash flow floods in!  
**S.A. Mansoor**  
*Dhaka*

## Resolve the Limon crisis

The prime minister's defense adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique recently told that he was 100% sure that RAB shot Limon as he attempted to run away at the time of operation to arrest Jamadder, a local accused. He also said Limon and his father are members of a criminal gang and a conspiracy was being hatched to disband RAB. Then Sahara Khatun, the state minister, confirmed that he (Tarique Siddique) expressed the government's position. It is worthwhile to note that the state minister a few days ago said that she had nothing to do with Limon. Finally, RAB's Director General opined, "Limon is a young boy, not a notorious criminal. He just became a

victim of the incident." According to the newspapers, two cases were filed against Limon. He was accused of illegally possessing arms and of obstructing law enforcement agencies in discharging their duties. He was also recorded as being 25-year-old, but actually he was 16. The probe committee had not been able to find any evidence that indicates Limon as a criminal. We hope that the PM will personally handle the issue and give directives to the concerned to resolve the crisis.

**Md. Shafiuddin Sabuj**  
*Department of English*  
*Dhaka University*



PHOTO: STAR

## Congrats, Mustafa Zaman Abbasi

Recently Mustafa Zaman Abbasi has obtained a life-time achievement award in a program celebrating the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, organized by Channel 1. I read his novel "Kalzanir Dheu".

The writer perfectly portrayed the consequence of global warming and the rising sea level which would definitely drown the southern part of this country.

What would happen then? In page no. 129 of this book, a heart-touching question is raised by the writer i.e. why is the nature so angry with us when we have not done any crime such as making atom bomb or throw it upon others? However, the writer is very optimistic in attitude towards the Bangladeshis.

He said, "Bangalees know very well how to be winner." This novel also gives a vivid description of our very own culture. I hope to read more articles and novels of Mustafa Zaman Abbasi.

**Pradip Das**  
*Lecturer*  
*BHPI, CRP*

## Laden and terrorism

After ten years of history's most strenuous manhunt, US Navy's elite Commandos recently killed Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind behind the nine-eleven holocaust of the Twin Towers.

The Americans have genuine reasons for celebrating the occasion as the man whom they dreaded most has at last been annihilated. Laden's al-Qaeda is also held responsible for several terrorist attacks in different parts of the world. Still, to millions of people bin Laden was a symbol of resistance against double standards and hypocrisy of the US and its western allies in dealing with different world issues.

Now, it should be understood that terrorism or extremism is the resultant consequence of gross injustices caused to the oppressed people. If the root causes are not uprooted, mere physical elimination of Laden can not ensure the complete eradication of terrorism.

**Md Mohsin Ali**  
*Nutan Courtpara*  
*Kushtia*



PHOTO: AFP

## Anniversary of Nimtoli tragedy

One year has just passed on June 3, 2011 since the devastating inferno that caused colossal damages to property and loss of innumerable human lives. It was detected that the warehouses that stored inflammable chemicals were solely responsible for this tragedy, and the govt. assured that those storage facilities will be shifted immediately to elsewhere so that these kinds of gruesome incidents never occur again. But it is sad to notice that despite the Prime Minister's interventions, promises of the concerned minister and other authorities, the chemical stores still remain in the same place. I wonder why nothing materializes in our country despite instructions, promises made by the superior authorities.

**Humayun Hyder**  
*Zigatola*  
*Dhaka*

## SEC pending issues

After months of down slides, the market swung up this week but down it went again today (Wednesday, 1 June). The small investors can only hope and wait as we, the hostages to the big players and controllers pray for relief. Following issues have now been pending for months without any sign of action.

1. Dividend for June 2010 of Padma Oil stuck up without trading on the Exchanges.
2. IPO of Mobil Jamuna was held months ago but there is no sign of listing.
3. Right Shares of a dozen companies are in line without any activity to approve.
4. IPOs of another dozen are also in line without any action as no IPOs of any worthwhile company has been floated to ease the market over the last 3 months.

**Sikander Ahmed, Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka**

## Memorizing lessons

There are many students in our country who memorize their lessons without understanding them. Without studying textbooks, they read guidebooks which are available in the market. They often get good marks in the exams. But we can see that due to memorizing lessons, they do not get good jobs. To get a job, they have to pay bribe and involve in corruption and nepotism. But if students study hard and try to understand what they are reading, avoiding the bad practice of memorizing lessons, it would yield good results in future. It is of great delight that GOB has already introduced creative system in SSC and HSC level which discourages memorizing lessons.

**M.M. Parvej**  
*Dept. of Fisheries*  
*Patuakhali Science and Technology University*

## A royal love story

Directed by Linda Yellen a movie titled - "William & Kate: A Royal Love Story" depicting the budding romance of Prince William and Kate Middleton and their subsequent fairytale wedding is under production and is expected to be released by August next on the Hallmark Channel. Yellen who also wrote the story of "William & Kate: A Royal Love Story" called the movie "a very personal story. In a way, it's my tribute to late Princess Diana as well as to the young couple". Yellen, whose father died on the first day of shooting the film, said that her loss made her better understand some of the scenes where William communicates with his mother in a spiritual way.

She wrote the script in two weeks, after she saw William had given Diana's ring to Middleton. The movie is based on real-life events and words plus situations as imagined by the playwright. We are looking forward to watching the film.

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "52 MILLS sawing reserve forests."

**Anonymous**  
 This culture should stop to prevent the country from disaster.

**Mohammed Ibrahim**  
 When would people with position and power in the government stop taking bribes to destroy my country?

**Faqrul**  
 Very good pictorial news. The climate change fund might be more difficult for us to claim if this is our effort to protect forest areas.

**Md Russell Talukder**  
 With only 10 percent forests reserve, we can only expect worse natural calamities in future. The ruling party leaders and the concerned authorities should take proper steps immediately. Thanks to The Daily Star for a very informative report.

**Anonymous**  
 The present government under Awami League is most vocal about climate change. It is asking for money from foreign countries without knowing or recognizing that its own people are damaging the climate and environment.

**AA**  
 So that's why Caretaker Government is bad as they interrupted the corruption of political parties. And how can we think that World Bank money will be utilised properly. Government must be faithful and should take actions against their own people to get public support.

**Abu Rayhan**  
 If these trends continue unabated then it would not be too far from now when the country's shrinking forest area will reach a point of no return. Even at present the country has one of the lowest per capita forest lands in the world. To protect the existing forests the government should make substantial investment to increase the country's greenery and adopting new strategy of tree plantation. This kind of measures will help reduce the impacts of climate change.

## Fast unto death against Islam

I wonder with curiosity, are the students taught history at schools these days? It was late A.K. Fazlul Haque who presented the idea for a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent at the historic Lahore Resolution in 1940. With this policy in mind, Pakistan came into being with East and West Pakistan.

Later on, East Pakistan emerged as an independent Bangladesh in the year 1971. One of the founding principles of Bangladesh was secularism, which implies that the state would not intervene into the religious beliefs of the people. Subsequently with the change in government, this policy of secularism was amended favoring the vast majority of the Muslim population, which is more than 80 percent.

Now the group "Sector Commanders Forum", favoring secularism, declared a program of fast unto death, if the policy is not reversed. It is an irony of fate that these Sector Commanders who are vowing to fast unto death, happens to have come from the same place where from late Sher-e-Bangla A.K.F. Fazlul Haque came, who is also regarded as one of the founding fathers of Bangladesh. This is perhaps the most racist outburst against Islam made in the history of Bangladesh since independence in 1971.

**Nigar Choudhury**  
*On e-mail*

## BNP's



The BNP leaders have said that Sunday's hartal was not against the Supreme Court verdict but against Prime Minister's speech on the Caretaker Government issue. What a big reason for calling hartal, a destructive and damaging mechanism to cripple the country's economy and creating anarchy! If they were correct, they should have waited until the final day of implementation of the Prime Minister's "NO" to the Caretaker Government. The impatient BNP could not wait that long. We must appreciate BNP for their love for people, democracy and national prosperity! I believe the people of Bangladesh will surely bring this party to power if the voting is held under a caretaker administration with power to hold an engineered election without e-voting and voter list. We wish BNP all the success.  
**Shafiqul Islam, NY**