

# Not everyone can be teachers



I am greatly shocked at the appalling incident that happened in the institution where I enjoyed working till my retirement in 2007.

I fail to understand how a teacher taking up the sacred oath of creating ideal citizens with good moral values, could stoop so low, as to destroy a student's life. Teaching profession is not for everyone. A teacher should have some extraordinary qualities because on his/her shoulder lies the task of training young people. I am sure all teachers of this institution, those still in service or retired, are equally upset by this horrible incident that has tarnished the image of this glorious institution. This incident has happened because some undeserv-

ing persons incapable of understanding the real meaning of teaching profession, are recruited and given the duty of training young minds. I join hands with students, guardians and teachers to protest against the horrible act and demand exemplary punishment of the culprit and his accomplices so that no one ever dares to commit the same crime.

May Allah grant the young woman the strength to recover from her ordeal. And I hope that she is able to erase this painful chapter from her life and move on to strive for a bright future.

**Naheed Ahmad**  
Retired teacher  
Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

## Wealth statement of ministers

It is a waste of time and effort if wealth statements of ministers are not made public for transparency and accountability. The procedure of submitting such statements to the PM, says nothing about PM's own wealth statement (or for that matter that of the President). Do the PM and President remain exempt from such statements? Who will guard the guardians? If wealth statements are not made public how would the citizens be assured that the incumbent in high posts are good persons to vote for in subsequent elections. Failure of such evaluation is not democracy at all, unless there is some other clear mechanism for assessment of their honesty.

**Engineer Shafi Ahmed**  
London, UK

## Where is the country heading to?

Very recently six innocent students were beaten to death in Aminbazar area of Dhaka in the holy night of Shab-e- Barat, 44 students died in a horrible road accident in Mirsarai, Chittagong; a teacher of a renowned school in Dhaka raped his student; and a husband pushed his fingers into his wife's eyes, making her completely blind. The list of such incidents will be long. Our experience tells us that none of the accused will be punished for their crimes. We know very well that no crime is punished in this country. The law enforcing agencies are being used by the people in power, whoever they are. And the common people are getting no justice. We do not know every day how many girls are being harassed and raped in this country, how many people are dying in road crashes, how many women are beaten, tortured, and burned to death, and how many persons die by mob beating. As the perpetrators get away with impunity, others are encouraged to commit the same crimes again. The Aminbazar incident is an indicator how frustrated people are with the law enforcing agencies that they are now taking the law in their own hands. The overall situation of the country is getting from bad to worse. We go to sleep every day fearing what would happen the next day.

The question that frequently comes to our mind is: are we going back to the Dark Age? If we can't punish the evil doers in time, a bleak future is waiting for us.

**Rakhi Saha**  
Jatrabari, Dhaka

# We want absolute road safety

Last year in the month of October, we witnessed the Turag tragedy. This year, we have witnessed the Mirsarai tragedy that claimed more than forty lives. Some of them might have wanted to be doctors, some engineers. Now all the brains went down the drain! Only Almighty knows what we are going to see next! Beside most of the roads we find ditches, why? Can't these ditches be filled up? If not, why don't we make iron walls beside the roads? Moreover, there was no divider on the road where the accident occurred.

We know that no action will be taken against the accused driver who was basically a helper.

Could we punish even a single accused in the last twenty years? These crimes will go on happening. Every year we will celebrate Road Safety Day and many other days but we will never get a day when no accident will occur. In this country we see so many national and international projects for the country's development. But unfortunately, there

is hardly any project that would ensure absolute safety on road.

**Pradip Das**  
Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP

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The news of tragic deaths of 44 school children in a road accident in Mirsarai of Chittagong has made us numb with shock and despair. The careless driving by an inexperienced person changed the lives of many people, to whom life would not be the same again.

Traffic rules are so lax in our country; nobody cares to obey them because hardly any steps are taken against those who break them. So, every day numerous road accidents are taking place and the authorities seem indifferent to take concrete steps to curb it.

It is my firm belief that our country will top the list of road accidents happening around the world. It seems that we excel in matters which are not praiseworthy.

**Nur Jahan, Chittagong**



## Three challenges before BNSS

It is great news that Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha (BNSS) was formed through the initiatives of some acclaimed exponents of Nazrul Sangeet like Sudhin Das, Khaled Hossain and Khairul Anam Shakil. As a fan of Nazrul Sangeet I think that the main challenges before BNSS are three: 1) to give attention that nobody can distort Nazrul's original compositions and lyrics, 2) to groom the young artistes so that they get exposure and can take the lead and break the old coterie who has monopolized the arena of Nazrul Sangeet for so long and 3) to resist any attempt to modernize those songs to make them popular which are already popular among the people.

**Professor S. M. Nurul Alam**  
Department of Anthropology  
Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka

## 'No' to hartal

Our main opposition BNP will probably gain nothing by imposing frequent hartals on the people. Actually, the general people of the country abhor hartal as it brings immense sufferings to their daily existence. It causes serious harm to our fragile economy by disrupting the communications and dislocating day-to-day transactions in trade and commerce. A poor country like Bangladesh can not, therefore, afford such an anarchic and costly method of demonstrating public protest against political decisions. Opposition parties should now seek effective alternatives to hartal for pressurizing the govt. to fulfill their demands.

**Md Mohsin Ali**  
Nutan Courtpara, Kushtia

## Important remark

Paramount leader Hussein Shahid Suhrawardy once remarked that the army and the police are the two arms of the bureaucracy and the political party and alliances should face the bureaucracy with a whip which is the people's mandate. So, the opposition bench in the Jatiya Sangsad should never remain vacant.

**Golam Ashraf, Gulshan, Dhaka**

## Biman in acute crisis

Biman, the national carrier of Bangladesh is as usually reeling in acute financial crisis. Compounded by lack of proper planning, incompetence, mismanagement, rampant corruption in all levels, excessive manpower and a dearth of transparency in all kinds of purchasing, maintenance costs followed by the lack of viable commercial route planning etc. Biman initially was salvaged by the government before going to bankruptcy when it was turned to a public company. And a ray of hope was glistening when Biman made profit during the first and second year of its becoming a company. We all became happy that finally Biman would get rid of the stigma of a loss making concern. But unfortunately, after two years of operation, Biman again went back to its same old fold as a loss making company. It seems that Biman and loss have become synonymous. A comparison has been highlighted by some leading newspapers which show a colossal difference between debit and credit of Biman. We feel



# Corporal punishment, a shame

It is appalling and disgraceful that children in school still suffer the inhumane horrors of corporal punishment. I carry a physical scar on the back of my left leg as a constant reminder of how brutal and cruel teachers and corporal punishment can be. In those days corporal punishment was accepted as 'normal', something that we all experienced and lived through. My 'crime' was that I had a slightly longer hair than most of the students, not as a protest or fashion but simply because my family could not spend for the barber at that time. No one paid much attention to the horrors of corporal punishment until Sir Frank Peters spoke out in a loud voice, brought the subject with all its ugliness to the surface. But rogue 'teachers' continue this repulsive practice. Corporal punishment needs to be recognised for what it is: a scourge on society and a violation of human rights; and it must not be tolerated even in the mildest form. My heart bleeds every time I read a news report about any child being beaten by a teacher.

**Engineer Jalal Abir**  
Savar, Dhaka

that it is about time that government should appoint a qualified foreign audit company who will audit Biman thoroughly and impartially and submit the report to the concerned ministry in order to alleviate Biman from the brink of disaster.

**Humayun Hyder, Zigatola, Dhaka**

## We want justice

It is shocking that the controversial headmistress of Viqarunnisa Noon School is back in her old position. What more, police force has been deployed at the school premises to 'pacify' the outraged students. What is happening? No word is left to condemn. If people like Porimol Joydhor the controversial headmistress are not punished, then those perverts, child abusers, and sex offenders will do this same crime again. Incidents like this show clearly how vulnerable women are in our country.

**Sad pilgrim, On e-mail**

# Save the lake



The pictures show how the Banani-Karial lake is being unlawfully occupied by slums. These are gradually grabbing the whole lake inch by inch. Please report in your newspaper about it to protect the lake. We have been living next to the lake for the last 4 decades and never has the lake been occupied like this before.



One of the pictures was taken in early 2010, and the other was taken recently. By looking at the pictures you will be able to get an idea of how fast the lake is being destroyed.

**Tanzil Malek**  
Banani  
Dhaka



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

## 6 beaten to death

Villagers in Aminbazar, police claim them to be robbers; they found to be fun-loving students; families barricade roads (July 19, 2011)

Just no words to say... how could people do this? It proves that our government doesn't provide any human security!

**M**

It is really a sad incident. All those students were victims of the incident since Keblarchar is known as a hot spot for drug trade.

**Tanya**

It's the matter of grave concern for our society. People take law in their own hand without considering existing law and order. Our law and order forces must be more active and dynamic to protect people's lives and possessions.

**Zonto Das**

This incident exposes two things, one, the condition of our students' morality and the other is the pulse of common mass. Our politicians should wake up before it's too late.

**Azim**

The villagers killed six students suspecting them to be robbers. I think it is just stupidity of the mob. There might be another reason behind it. It should be investigated.

**Shahadat Hossain**

How many students will sacrifice their lives for such foolishness? When will these shameful incidents be stopped in our country?

**Ayesha rahman Riya**

This is really unbearable, irreparable loss for the families. This incident is heinous in a word. Really we are living in such a rubbish society where there is no law and order, and this sort of incidents are happening frequently as we started extra-judicial killing. Hope law enforcing agency is taking the right step to stop this type of monstrous incidents.

**Biblob Ch. Das**

Barbaric act.  
**London Eye**

The incident is abhorrent and truly shocking.

**Barrister A Habib**

Absence of law and order for decades, no implementation of police act and absence of law of reason or rationality in this insensible nation has made mob to do this action of idiocy.

**Dr karim**

Real robbers would not take the risk of robbery at a night when most people were not sleeping. It's very sad. Why do such things happen in Bangladesh?

**Mohammad Kamrul Hassan**

They are all drug addicted students not robbers.

**A.N.M Iktarul Islam Hasan**