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## Respecting our parents

Last Saturday I was waiting for my car in front of my coaching centre. Another student of that class was also waiting for his car. He told his mother to bring the fees of our teacher when she would come to pick him up. Due to poor condition of the road she couldn't arrive at the right time and as our teacher also left, he failed to give the fees. When his mother arrived he aggressively approached towards his car and threw some disgusting words at his mother. I was shocked. I couldn't understand how a young boy like him could humiliate his mother in such a disgraceful way in front of other peo-

ple on the road and even in front of the driver. Most of the children of our country, especially the teenagers are losing their respect for the elders day by day. Therefore, I would like to suggest all the parents of the country to look after their children and take necessary steps to teach them manners and make them more polite towards their parents and other people as well.

**Antar Chowdhury**  
Gopibagh  
Dhaka

### Carbon Funds coming our way?

This imaginative but pragmatic idea was front page main news, in only one local English daily on July 16th! One wonders why other local English dailies missed out on it. Reportedly, the idea has come from the UK Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, Mr. John Aston!

As the cost of a CCS (Carbon Capture & Storage) facility will be very high; Mr. Ashton proposes that the 'fast-track fund' for carbon technology can be used to finance such a project in Bangladesh; where coal can be locally available! In my opinion, this is an interesting proposition; and we should latch on to it. UK can set up both the Coal Fired Power Plant and the associated CCS facilities for say a 200 to 300 MW power plant; located suitably for easy transport of coal, both imported from our mines in future! We must follow up on this interesting proposal with urgency, and make good use of the 'Carbon Funds' that is coming our way. Let us hope, that in overall national interest, this idea is taken up and swiftly followed up by concerned authorities at the soonest!

**Engr. S.A. Mansoor**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

### Amini's comments

Amini's assertion that AL leaders should be hanged for "wanting to change the Quran" is shocking, bigoted, and unacceptable and deserves all round condemnation. It is the desperate attempt of a narrow-minded person to attract attention. It is worth pointing out that his statement is factually incorrect and a prime example of religious hypocrisy.

Does he not realize that Bangladesh is not just a land for Muslims but for people of all faiths and ideologies? Have he forgotten that millions of Bengalis, irrespective of gender, ethnicity and creed, gave their lives for the motherland in our Liberation War? It is apparent that Amini's convoluted mind is stuck in the Medieval Ages. According to his closed mind, anyone who disagrees is an infidel.

**Nabil A.Siddiqui**  
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

### Population boom

The present population of our country is approximately fourteen crore and seventy nine lakh. Yet most of the rural people are not aware of this increasing population. So, at this moment the government should take all necessary steps to inform the general people about the negative sides of over population. Also the ministry of family planning should be sincere in doing their duty.

**Shimul Chandra Voumik**  
Dept. of Physics

## Discourage smoking

The government decision to enhance customs duty on cigarettes and other tobacco products has been hailed by the conscious people of the country. The step has been taken in an apparent bid to bring about a curtailment in the consumption of cigarettes which takes a heavy toll of lives in our country as well as in other parts of the world every year. Smoking is injurious to health and its (smoking) dreadful consequences have prompted the strengthening of the anti-smoking drive around the globe. Bill Gates, the world-known computer software exponent, has recently gone on a tour to China to involve himself in the anti-smoking campaign in the country (China) where smoking has, in the meantime, surfaced as a colossal

problem claiming innumerable lives each year.

A smoker cause harm not only to himself but also to the person before whom he smokes. This is, in other words, known as 'passive smoking' which arguably is more dangerous than direct smoking. Keeping this in view, the government has, in the recent past, enacted Tobacco Control Act' prohibiting smoking in public places. But implementation and application of the law continues to remain a far cry. However, the government must be strict in enforcing the law if it wants to prove its sincerity in controlling the use of cigarettes and similar products.

**M Anwaruzzaman**  
Jhawtala, Comilla



PHOTO: STAR

### Unfair mobile operators

Mobile phone operator Robi has sponsored a popular reality show 'Ke Hote Chay Kotipoti'. In the process, they have showed how harshly a customer can be charged if he/she participates in it.

They have fixed irrational charges for messages and phone calls for its participants. Most irritating part is that I have been charged Tk. 20/- for an undelivered SMS. Other mobile operators are also no good. For instance, a few days ago I was charged Tk. 30/- when I sent a message from my Banglalink SIM to vote for the Sundarbans, though my SMS was not even delivered. Mobile phone operators should realize that service should always come first; only costly advertisements are not enough.

I would like to request BTRC to look into the anomalies done by these operators.

**An unconvinced customer**  
Dhaka

### The debt situation

A downgrade of Irish government debt to "junk" status by a credit ratings agency did little to boost confidence, especially as Moody's said debt-laden Ireland would probably need a second bailout. A week ago the ratings firm slashed Portugal's rating to junk with a similar warning and a collapse in Italy or Spain would stretch its resources beyond breaking point.

They would then have to be rescued again by national governmentsif they can afford to do so. Somebody's lying, because it couldn't be that good with all these huge corporations and governments folding and going bankrupt! I mean, they're desperate to try to get money. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are desperately trying to rake up enough money to loan to some of these countries so they can at least meet their interest payments, because if they don't do that, things will collapse!

**Ted Rudow III, MA**  
Encina Ave



PHOTO: STAR

## Gas resources

Nature has bestowed bountiful gifts and immense wealth on Bangladesh. However, it is unfortunate that we are not able to utilize them properly. As a result, there is apparently no economic development. Gas resources, for instance, is one of the most important natural resources of Bangladesh as they play a very active role in the development of the infrastructure and super-structure of our country. In thirteen districts, there have been seventeen gas fields discovered up until now. At present only Titas of Brahman Baria, Bakhrabad of Comilla, Haripur and

Kailashtila of Sylhet, Chhatak of Sunamganj and Hobiganj gas fields are in use to standardize gas for our utility. This is not adequate for us, and the demand for gas resources is increasing relatively with the immense rise in our population. Nevertheless, if Bangladesh puts particular emphasis on the proper preservation and extraction of natural gas, surely one day we will reach the highest pinnacle of success.

**Tanha Kashfia Kate**  
Uttara Model Town  
Dhaka

### Who are responsible for Aminbazar incident?

We have learnt from the media that six college and university students were beaten to death at Aminbazar in Savar and another was injured by locals suspecting them to be robbers. A friend of the victims said he was also supposed to go with the group. He also added, "We go to Savar and Aminbazar area for a walk after the prayers during the Shab-e-Barat every year. But I failed to make it this time."

The report also says that locals said when they contacted police in the wake of alarming rise in robbery and snatching, police asked them to form groups to guard the area in shifts. The police high officials should look into the matter to detect the actual responsible persons for this pathetic incident. We also request the media to update us the progress in investigation.

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

### A lesson to learn

The resignation of London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson in the wake of the phone-hacking scandal engulfing the UK should be seen as a shining example for our leaders who cling onto their posts despite being implicated in scandals.

In spite of the fact that even though Sir Stephenson was not directly involved, he quit his office in order to protect its integrity of which he was a proud servant! With the resignation of News of the World editor, Rebekah Brooks, this is transparency at its best!

**Muhammed Jamil Ather**  
Karachi, Pakistan

### Will Viqarunnisa Noon School get justice?

A TV channel is trying to prove that Porimol Joydhor is innocent. They are repeatedly showing in their news programmes that the whole thing including the protests of the students is a set up to harass the school committee and principal Husne Ara herself. They are claiming that a third party is adding fuel to the fire. How do they know? The education minister is also claiming that the students are being agitated, and he pointed at the opposition. Are they trying to take people's attention to elsewhere by finding a scapegoat? What will people understand from this? The students themselves made it clear to the media that this protest was not politically influenced.

**Ruhul Quddus**

## READERS respond

*Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "Country now like a derailed train"*

#### Anonymous

The train is derailed because it is driven by the PM and her party AL both being interested only in staying in power. It is power and not principles that are the fuel of the train and the driver uses different tracks as per necessity of pleasing different groups to 'keep the throne'.

#### Roni

The fact is that people have no opportunity to say anything neither in election nor in amendment passage about religion's mention in the constitution.

So, please don't say that people elected AL to remove state religion as it was not even in the election manifesto. Significant changes like constitution must have national consensus or referendum for its legitimating.

#### Faqrul

This is a well-respected group of individual who should sincerely try to bring the opposition and the government for a dialogue until a compromise formula is reached to save the country which is left in the hand of the fanatics and ultra- religious group who are trying to take control of the power unconstitutionally. The supporting forces are waiting to support them to achieve their only objective: to remove the present government from power.

#### Mohammed Shah Alam Khan

The problem of our intellectuals is, they believe that whatever they think is the reflection of people and good for them , which is not true. Zillur Rahman said that they all gave opinion but the government did not take that.

Why the government will take their decision? Did the government take mandate from the people that they will take out Bismillah and Islam as state religion from constitution?

#### Anonymous

The people who are talking about Bangladesh as derailed train are the people who were the strongest supporters of Awami League. They should have known that Awami League was never a democratic minded party as it tried to introduce one party system.

It says that it believes in socialism but most of its members are wealthy. We must remember what happened to the state owned enterprises at the beginning of the Awami League government. They were looted by the people who were put in charge of those enterprises.

#### A. Zakaria

Late Tajuddin Ahmad was a great leader. He was far sighted and a dynamic leader. The nation remained deprived of his contributions. This is our misfortune.

It was an irony that he had to pay such a heavy price though he was the true son of the soil. His untimely death was a great blow to the nation. I also fail to understand why our eminent citizens are allergic to Bismillah and Islam as a state religion.

They express their bitterness. After all Bangladesh is a Muslim state. Accepting this in our constitution made no difference and created no hazard for the country.

### Criminal activities are rising

Everyday news of macabre incidents is reaching us, these are so horrifying that we are unable to take it anymore; it seems that criminal activities have reached a new height.

From the newspapers of July 23, 2011 we learned about the death of an elderly woman who was dragged down from a moving train by a mugger who was trying to snatch her purse hanging around her neck. It is learnt that the muggers were running with the train, pulled hard at the purse and as a result the woman fell from the train and died tragically.

Law and order is going from bad to worse, death is lurking everywhere, when the situation is like this, Home Minister Sahara Khatun and the IGP of police are saying that law and order is under control.

I wonder who is echoing whom? It cannot go on like this, the government must take urgent steps to check criminal activities, engage the police, RAB and other law enforcing agents to give people safety instead of engaging them to thwart the peaceful programs of the opposition political parties.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong