



PRITO REZA / DRINKNEWS

## Eid and plight of Muslims

Eid-ul-Fitr came again with its boons. There was a brisk business across the country because people were generous to spend on daily essentials and clothing. The wealthy eyed not only on flaunting their spending spree but also on honing their popularity by giving the meager Zakaat. Muslims across the country renewed the relation by mending fence and making amends for past offences.

An air of festivity was in the air. The Market places were aglow with electric lighting and abuzz with people busy with last time buying. The countryside market places and villages experienced the full tide of people that had negotiated the bad transport to come to their roots. But this year Eid came with a looming fear of political unrest ahead. It had been better if we could celebrate Eid in a corruption free country.

One of my relatives, a police officer, getting less salary than me, distributed 'zakaat sari' among the poor with a view to running for the future election. But my anguish was assuaged by seeing the plight of Muslims in Libya, Syria and other war torn areas. My heart went out to the Muslims in the Horns of Africa who were dying of hunger in their hundreds. Where is humanity? When will the promised savior come to replace the overwhelming injustice with overwhelming justice?

**Abdus Subhan**  
Assistant Professor  
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## Flimsy international laws

A spectacular revolution has overthrown Gaddafi's government in Libya. A very well-equipped civilian population engaged in armed battles against the army for 6 months. It's evident, conceded in many cases, that France, UK and the USA armed civilians and parachuted weapons to rebel groups (The Guardian, UK, June 30, 2011) though Mr. Obama recently started denying it. NATO even provided naval support for the flank attack on Tripoli. I draw your attention to the 'legality' (or the lack thereof) of arming civilian populations - regardless the end. The actions violated the UN arms embargo on Libya, not to mention - the country's sovereignty. In this era of ends justifying means, international courts, laws and conventions will bend over backwards for the rich or well-represented nations.

**Adnan R. Amin**  
Gulshan, Dhaka

## Placebo methods of treatment

Confusions and concerns are increasingly growing over the use of various types of synthetic pharmaceutical drugs, not only because of their serious side effects but also, as experts say, often these drugs do not do any good to settle the symptom. For instance, statin drugs are being used to lower blood cholesterol (LDL) which reduces the risk of heart attack among patients with high LDL or bad cholesterol level. People are getting more interested to go for herbal drugs. Perhaps all the diseases can be kept under control if the patient could be assured by some way that s/he has the capability to resist certain disease.

Placebo is a method of administering substance or procedure, not a specific medication, for the condition being treated. It may be done with some drug or just a sham (sugar pills). In fact placebo, originally a Latin word, which means "I will please" was first used in medicinal context in the 18th century and was defined as "any medicine adapted more to please than to benefit the patient". Placebo produces psychological effects on the patient and increases his/her confidence towards cure. It stimulates brain function and improves the immune system. Meanwhile, placebo in some cases yield negative effects too, when it is called "nocebo".

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
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## Bridges for Dhanmondi

With the growing population and importance of Dhanmondi for schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and offices, it has become essential to construct two bridges at road number 3 and 4 for smooth flow of traffic. Moving around the so-called residential area nowadays is very difficult. The gridlock turns into nightmare during the school breaks as well as in the evening, almost every day. Educational institutions, hospitals and shopping malls have made moving on roads very difficult as vehicles of all sorts are parked on the pavements. The proposed two bridges will make life much easier. The city corporation became totally inactive after the present government took charge of the country. DCC should consider this proposal.

**Sohel Ahmed**  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

## Prescription for well-being



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

We are given to understand that the Almighty is above all kinds of needs, then why did He order His subjects to practice religious rituals? Has any one ever thought like me? Well if I were still in Bangladesh, possibly this thought would not come to my mind as one has to come across untold sufferings from sunrise to sunset.

I would like to believe that the Almighty has prescribed all these rituals for our well being. Sadly my guess is more than 80% of the Muslims have become non practicing and with the passage of time we are drifting farther away from the principles of Islam.

Seek the opinion of any world famous fitness expert, I am more than sure he or she will admit after witnessing the physical positions of a Muslim in prayer that it is the best form of exercise. The Almighty has also prescribed one month's fasting; seek the opinion of a nutritionist. I am equally sure that he or she will admit that this fasting is highly beneficial to health.

So Allah SWT prescribed all this for the welfare and well-being of man, for whom He has created everything that we see around us. If all the people of the world carried out His orders the way He intended, we would be left with no problem to deal with. Hence, without any doubt, Islam is a prescription for the well-being of mankind.

**Saleh Ayub**  
On e-mail

## Help the needy

The other day I was enjoying the buffet offer at Pizza Hut. The feast was delicious as always. It was a treat from a junior student of my school. The buffet offered unlimited pizzas. Well, we had as much as we can!

When we came out of the place, a little boy wearing only a torn t-shirt came to us. He said that he just ate muri (puffed rice) before evening. We had just enjoyed a lavish feast whereas this boy was enduring hunger for such a long time! I request all to contribute to the needy according to their ability.

**Mahbuba Sharmeen Preema**  
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## Mobile hospital on highway

The government, transport authorities and the persons behind the wheels must act responsibly to curb road accidents. The condition of the roads, fake licensing, depleted vehicles and the mentality of our drivers need to be changed for a safe road.

However, we need the change immediately but realistically; it is a long process to bring back those fallen pieces on the track. In the face of these road accidents, I request the govt. to introduce a few mobile hospitals at accident-prone highways.

The hospitals on wheels would reach the spot on calls and be able to give immediate life saving supports. At least it would reduce the helplessness of survivors. It will also ensure the right of getting treatment at that critical moment.

Whenever there occurs a road accident, it takes a long time to get the victims to nearby hospitals. Government and responsible citizens of the country may come forward and take the initiative.  
**Kabir Hossain Taposh**  
Banani, Dhaka

## Why should we read newspapers?

There was a time when we used to memorise essays like "the importance of reading newspaper every day". It was a very important topic for essay and even for letter writing. However, I am doubtful about how much important it is now to read newspaper.

Noticing my aversion to newspaper, the other day I was given three newspapers and asked to find out ten pieces of information. I enthusiastically started reading thinking it would be an easy task but ended up in dismay.

Because to my utter surprise, I found it very difficult to get something which was a bit interesting. I almost felt I was right not to read the horrible news, after all I don't want to feel miserable the rest of the day. All the news was of accidents, robbery, death, murder, rape, suicide, political blame game, and worse. No wonder the youth nowadays don't read newspapers.

Mr. Nixon, ex-President of America once remarked, 'four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets'. In a time when information is available to anyone at the push of a button, a turn of the dial, and now, the click of a mouse, newspapers have to adapt in order to continue to please and inform their readers. This is where most of our newspapers fail invariably. The print media has not only the responsibility of what they are doing, but also what they are not doing, or more precisely, not being able to inspire and lead the youth to a better situation, in every aspect.

**Mouli Tasnuva**  
Faculty

## Public transport in Dhaka

It is a matter of great regret that most of the middle class people of Dhaka city have been suffering from acute transportation shortage.

The public buses are too congested and limited in number that the people are in a real trap. It's time to take immediate measures to overcome this problem as all citizens have the right to have a hassle free safe journey.

There may be some bureaucratic problems while planning for this massive change but the government policymakers must have watched the buses while crossing the roads with flags in their cars.

Most of the people do not want luxurious tax free cars but a small space in a public bus to breathe. The people inside the buses are also the citizens of Bangladesh.

**Farhad Haque**  
Gulshan, Dhaka



## Tarana Halim's campaign

For a long time, I had been a blind fan of Tarana Halim, especially for her acting. Now my respect towards her has doubled due to her strong position against road accident.

To bring a radical change somebody must take the initiative. Tarana Halim is doing that and it is not a very easy task. There are uncountable victims around us who are directly or indirectly affected by road accidents. But how many of them raise their voice against this? A large number of victims just blame their fate. There are also victims who do not consider it as a social issue. It is unbelievable that sometimes they even laugh at people who speak against road accident.

I strongly believe today people, irrespective of class, would support any person who campaigns against road accident. It is a humanitarian issue and we should all take it as a challenge. At the same time, we should stop blaming each other because this will weaken our campaign. I thank The Daily Star for giving huge coverage of the issue.

**Pradip Das**  
Lecturer  
BHPI, CRP

## Education for all



A M AHAD / DRINKNEWS

I am glad it is proposed to admit to school those children with special needs because of certain levels of autism etc but why are some schools allowed to reject children with the 'disability' of poverty?

When visiting an excellent little NGO school in a slum area, on behalf of a donor, I discovered that only 20 out of the 160 children fitted the category of special needs covered by that NGO. I asked, "Why aren't the other 140 pupils in the local government primary school?" The answer was, "They don't want them!" Evidently, some parents of the not-so-poor make a fuss if their children are educated with the poor!

I beg the Ministry of Education to train its management committees and employees to know how to explain to parents, sweetly and firmly, that schools have a constitutional and professional duty to admit ALL children and see they ALL get the best possible standards of education and proper behaviour from staff and other pupils.

It is their moral obligation also to work, discreetly and devotedly, behind the scenes, to find ways of ensuring poorer children have uniforms, books etc. This is what good teachers do in all countries! How can any nation develop, if those climbing the ladder out of poverty are allowed to put their feet firmly on the heads of those following after them?

**Angela Robinson**  
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PHOTO: AMIRUL HASNIN