



SHAFIQUIL ISLAM KAJOL / DRIKNEWS

# Nurturing good neighbourliness

Bangladeshis are looking forward to the august visit of Dr. Manmohan Singh. We have so much to learn, receive, exchange and share with India. This visit can usher in a big change in our economic and neighbourly relations, and pragmatic steps can follow, if we are sincere on both sides. Let this be a visit of developing more meaningful economic relations. If economy is in the right footing, all other areas will follow suit automatically, including trust. As a huge economy, and a strong country in many ways, and since we have good relations, we can really benefit in a massive manner. Areas we can take into account could include the following:

- Transfer of technology in selected areas
- Transfer of Agricultural know-how
- Setting up industrial base
- Setting up a futuristic IT/Knowledge base
- More Educational Exchanges (capacity building of management schools)
- Agreeing on a 'favoured nation' status with our exports and its expansion
- Reducing the trade gap and help with balance of payments
- Proper water sharing
- Tipaimukh Hydro-Electric Project update and assurance of not restricting the regular water flow to Bangladesh (the technical visit NEVER materialized!).
- Marine demarcation settlement
- Complete halt in border killings as promised
- Easier handling of the \$1b credit (of Indian goods and services), which often is not without hiccups and compromise on national interests
- BAJAJ Scooters can plan a manufacturing or assembly plant in BD for the three-wheelers we now import in hundreds.

If India really comes forward to offer help in most of these areas, we must be prepared to receive them in good faith and make good use of it. Let us hope and plan to work for our shared future. We are very small, and will remain so always, geographically and economically. So, our development will never be a threat to India; rather it would be eventually good for both.

I hope and pray the message and 'wishes' above are shared by both sides and are included as part of economic agenda towards sincere approach in further improving our relationship.

Long live our friendship!

Syed Imtiaz Ali  
Banani, Dhaka

# Police commit robbery and extortion!



AFP

The recent arrest of eight police personnel in Rajshahi paints the worst possible picture of the police. Not that all are bad, but this glaring event has put police corruption and misdeeds in the limelight. Let them be aware, and take strong corrective actions, so that they may become 'protectors,' not 'patrons of crime'. That would be a nightmare. But given the rising trend of lawlessness, this seems to be 'what is going on', in most places!

Morality can not be legislated, it is implanted in the DNA, and slowly and firmly developed by parents. In our school days in missionary schools, for non-Christians, "Moral Science" was a compulsory subject. Do we have anything similar in

schools today? If not, education authorities should inculcate these basic elements of character into young minds!

May be that the basic needs of the policemen have been long ignored for long. Something has to be done about it. Morality in the police force must be strictly enforced without any lobbying by anyone. This should be done strictly 'bottom up' and not 'top down.' But who will bell the cat of a society in which 'opportunism and monetary acquisition' is the 'order of the day'! We badly miss the example of (Late) Moulana Bashani among us in today's politics.  
S. A. Mansoor  
Gulshan, Dhaka

## The PM defended them!

When people were feeling a bit consoled by the Awami League lawmakers' coming down heavily on the ministers who were responsible for the immense sufferings of the people, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ruined all those by asking them not to play into the hands of the enemies by pointing out a few failures of the government and concealing the success. We were deeply shocked at what she said. When the government portrays the opposition as enemy, the country is in real trouble.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should have praised those MPs who spoke for the welfare of the people, she should have become ashamed for not doing it herself, not sacking the inefficient ministers. But how could she come to their rescue? With this attitude Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made it clear that she does not care for the people, their sufferings do not touch her at all. If this is the mentality of one who is at the helm of the country, we can just wait for the worst to happen.

Nur Jahan  
Chittagong

## BNP's denial

A few days earlier BNP leader Moudud Ahmed, in a talk show, compared Bangabandhu with Ziaur Rahman giving Bangabandhu's position before Zia. And the acting Secretary General of the BNP expressed his party position saying that Joj Miah was the mastermind behind 21st August grenade attack. The final probe report, based on confessional statements, has revealed the truth. But the BNP could not even maintain silence.

My question is, will these denials convince the people that BNP and its top leaders were not involved in that grenade attack? I don't think denial will work any more. I think BNP should maintain silence rather than shouting in vain and fight legal battles instead of inciting violence.  
Shafiqul Islam, NY

## Road accidents

Every day we get news of horrific road accidents from the print and electronic media. Many valuable lives are being lost in these road accidents. Actually, the highways have become the death traps in our country. Reckless driving, overtaking tendency, overloading, defective vehicles and dilapidated roads are mainly responsible for this. We all should raise our voice against this. The government should take pragmatic and effective measures to curb road accidents. Traffic police as well as highway police can play a pivotal role here. People should not travel on the roof of the vehicles and they should not encourage the drivers to overtake other vehicles on the highway.

Molla Mohammad Shaheen  
Dhaka

## We need to return to the basics

In education, both the teacher and the taught feel that imparting of too much information and doing a lot of things determine the quality of education. Most students in Bangladesh write pages and pages of answers, containing just a mere reproduction of class notes or notes from guides without any kind of analysis, synthesis, knowledge integration and application to practical situations. Our governance is ridden with heaps and heaps of paperwork, endless meetings and unimaginable formalities seldom found in progressive countries.

The ramifications of this collective phenomenon of overdoing everything can be observed at various levels, in areas of mundane daily living to more complex societal phenomena. I have been watching a particular trend among small businesses, large corporate houses and even educational institutions, service industries and, to some extent, even among government offices. Among educational institutions, a similar thing happens when schools and colleges mushroom in particular localities offering more or less the same types of courses, competing with one another. Service industries are no better either.

Specifically, in economic policies and programmes, we find an over-emphasis on growth, which is just an indication of doing much quantitatively without being able to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. What we fail to understand is that we need to return to the basics concentrating on the quality rather than quantity of anything.

Gopal Sengupta  
Canada

## Don't kill the goose

Like the farmer in the Aesop's fable, the government has become very greedy and so has decided to kill the goose, the country, to obtain all the eggs at a time. The decision to give India tax free transit facilities, the white elephant of \$1billion high interest loan to facilitate transit facility for India, keeping mum about India's continuous withdrawal of water from rivers flowing into Bangladesh and her atrocities across the border and maritime boundaries, and law enforcer's law of jungles, country's body covered with sores in the form of broken roads and highways- are squeezing the last breath from our beloved country. But I think the conscious and brave people of this country who fought so valiantly against the Pakistani atrocities in 1971 will hold the killer hand before it slits the country dead. I urge the government to learn from history that if one kills the principles, principles will ultimately kill him. Will you still kill the goose, our production capacity? Will you not come to sense?

Abdus Subhan  
On e-mail

## Justice delayed, justice denied

The August 21 grenade attack shocked the whole nation. Seven years have passed since then. But the progress, to establish justice, is going on at a snail's pace. The then government tried to stage a puppet show using Joj Miah who hardly had any involvement in that gruesome attack. The persons responsible for the crime had been behind the scene for a long time. Just days ago fresh charges have been filed to ensure arresting the conspirators. 24 people were dead and hundreds were maimed in that attack. The traumatised people may get a little consolation and the departed souls may rest in peace if the culprits get the punishment they deserve.  
Md. Ahsanul Kabir Palash  
Department of Marketing  
University of Dhaka

# Load-shedding on Eid vacation

We were surprised when we suffered load-shedding the day after Eid. We faced load shedding six times that day. The next day we could not sleep from midnight because of frequent load-shedding. And in the morning it was the worst. The electricity was gone for five hours, from 6 am to

11am. We never had such experience during Eid vacation before. This means we can never get relief from load-shedding for a single day. We hope the authorities would look into the matter.

Nupur  
Mirpur, Dhaka



A.M.AHAD / DRIKNEWS

# Let peace be established in Libya

On September 2, I read a news item in the daily Arab News entitled "Qaddafi wants Libya engulfed in flames." It appears from above news heading that he has no feeling for his own country and countrymen. In

fact, he ruled his country for long 42 years as a stranger! If it was not true then how could he expect his own country to be engulfed in flames? We have witnessed enough of his charisma. Now he should quit.

Thousands of innocent Libyans have been killed due to Qaddafi's whimsical decisions and autocratic attitude. Let the common Libyans design their own democratic institution for forming a fresh government of the people, for the people and by the people. Let peace and good governance be established in Libya.

Meanwhile, I fully endorse UN Chief Ban Ki-moon's suggestion to deploy a civilian mission in Libya as soon as possible.

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



AFP

# Health in jeopardy

We all know 'health is wealth,' but in our country the proverb gets more accurate when I say "wealth is health." Well, that is the motto of most of the shopkeepers. According to a report by The Daily Star, 90% food items contain adulterants. As a citizen I have the right to have fresh food but who cares? Chocolate, kids' favourite, is also not free from textile dyes. We don't even get fresh vegetables to eat which is very important for our health. We, the kids, the future leaders of Bangladesh,

are hugely affected by food adulteration and so I think the government should take strong initiatives if they don't want the next generation to be a burden on the country! I urge all my fellow brothers and sisters, please plant vegetables on your rooftop because this is the best way to avoid adulterants.

Shafeen Mahmood  
Class IX(Commerce)  
Little Jewels School  
Chittagong



PHOTO: STAR