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# 10th anniversary of 9/11



10th anniversary of 9/11 has been observed. Surely the losses of the bereaved families are incomparable. But was it wise for the USA and its allies to invade countries like Afghanistan and Iraq? Was it wise to torture and kill someone who was not guilty? Was it wise to rape innocent girls and torture young boys? After 10 years many Americans hold different perceptions about the attacks. Some say it was done by Muslims, while others say it was a strategy of the USA to find an excuse to invade Iraq and Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden has been killed and Saddam Hussein has been prosecuted but when will the people who started these meaningless wars face trial? When will these wars come to a stop? These wars aren't eradicating terrorism rather these are bringing misfortunes to the families of Middle East countries and economic crisis to the Western countries.

Anika Nawal Ahmed  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

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The twin tower attack is still fresh in people's memory as it was so spectacularly devastating and also gratifying for many. While we condemn the still unknown perpetrators of the attack, we are now

pleased to see the American people facing economic hardship which is caused by costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, waged on the plea of 9/11 attack. Now when I see people at ground zero shedding apartheid and racist tears remembering only those killed in 9/11 incident, my eyes welled up remembering all those innumerable innocent unsung people killed by one brutal declaration: either you are with us or with the terrorist. They were enumerating their dead beloved ones at the ground zero but how can we innumerate the millions of our brothers and sisters killed during the campaign against terror?

The so-called soldiers of freedom came to free us by killing all our people and destroying our sweet dwellings and infrastructures. But they don't know that our dead ones are not dead but alive; they are fighting with us in Tahrir Square, Syrian streets and Libyan deserts. They will not rest until the vicious and irresponsible powers are down, the walls of division are demolished, and the world is transformed into a place of justice, peace and prosperity.

Abdus Subhan  
Assistant professor, Ishwardi Govt.  
College, Pabna

# No smoking



TANVIR AHMED / DRIKNEWS

Canada has been successful in reducing the smoking rate to about 18 percent by using some strategies. They banned smoking in public places and it is illegal to sell tobacco products to minors there. These laws are enforced strictly. In an effort to get cooperation from cigarette retailers, the government enforcement agencies helped them make changes to the way they displayed the products. However, a single strategy may not work here. There has to be a concerted effort to enforce legislation and educate the public.

In Canada, education on smoking is a part of all curriculums, from kindergarten to high school, because the government believes in protecting the public through education rather than controlling them. I think Bangladesh should follow suit.

Miton Kumar Gupta  
Phulbari, Dinajpur

# Banks should reduce interest rate

The Indian prime minister has announced to provide duty-free market access to 46 textile items from Bangladesh to the Indian market. It is good news for our country and the textile exporters. This decision will help to increase our exports and decrease the trade gap between Bangladesh and India. At present, banks are charging as high as 16 percent interest for project financing in the textile sector.

Now it is high time for our central bank to reduce the interest rate. High interest rate will discourage producers to expand their business. So, Bangladesh Bank should take some measures to lower the interest rate and help the entrepreneurs compete in the Indian market.

Goutam Gourab Barua  
Department of Economics  
Jahangirnagar University



PHOTO: STAR

## The Daily Star labelled as "generally neutral"

It is good to learn from a press report that an US diplomat Nicholas J Dean, the then charge d'affaires of the US in Dhaka, termed The Daily Star a "generally neutral" newspaper in Bangladesh, in a cable sent on October 14, 2009, on the reaction in the Bangladeshi media to President Barack Obama's winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Dean did further indicated some other Bangladeshi newspapers as pro and anti American. I would like to request Mr. Dean or the present US ambassador to please throw some light on why all the Bangladeshi newspapers cannot report news and views neutrally when The Daily Star generally can?

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

## BFF needs updating

A sports reporter's detailed write-up about Bangladesh Football Federation was published in a local English daily on 7th September. It prompted me to label our BFF as 'Big Foolish Failures'. In short, the event was too big for our BFF bigwigs! While claiming overwhelming ticket sales, one daily photographed many empty seats. Since the match was to start at 7pm, why did not they sell the empty seats at a counter in the stadium say at taka one or two hundred each? If not anything, it would have at least helped the BFF cash flow positively!

The dinner, for which Beximco was roped in, was a major fiasco. It showed that the BFF had no idea of the strict routine on diet and time management of top teams, who are not interested in talks and rich food till late hours at night before any games.

S.A. Mansoor

# Auto-rickshaw fare

In Dhaka city we are helpless before the drivers of CNG-run auto-rickshaws. They demand exorbitant fares from the passengers, defying all rules. As for example, they demand Tk. 200 for going to Motijheel from Tejgaon whereas the meter shows around Tk. 60 for this distance. The commuters from the middle income group suffer a lot for the lawlessness in this sector.

We have learnt that there are about 13 thousand CNG-run auto-rickshaws in Dhaka and only two mobile courts are working to chastise them. But it is simply impossible to control the ongoing anarchy in this sector with only two mobile courts working. So, we urge the authorities concerned to set up more mobile courts to stop this anarchy.

Mobarak Ali  
RKMission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

## Need for tougher action against violators of traffic rules

While Bangladesh was deeply in grief at the untimely deaths of noted filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Ashfaq Munier Mishuk, your news headline of Aug 22 "Action Sparks Demonstration" must have awoken the nation to rude reality.

While speakers at numerous meetings were terming these deaths as murders that shattered the hopes and dreams of the nation, transport workers and owners blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway protesting the drive by a mobile court against traffic rule violations and fake licenses. The authorities' action was a total waste of time, energy and good intent as the court had to release all the traffic rules violators.

Dhaka Zilla Janbahan Sramik Union leaders termed the arrest and roping of the offenders 'inhuman.' The question is how 'human' is the murder of more than 4,000 innocent lives annually by reckless driving? The media must also be very careful in projecting the sufferings of the commuters as it could smudge the criminal activities of the offenders and distort the lawful actions of the authorities. For the greater interest of the country, temporary sufferings of a few must be put up with. Now we have to go beyond meetings and speeches and collectively support stern lawful actions of the mobile courts against the traffic rules violators.

Mahmoodul Haque  
Gulshan, Dhaka



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**Louis Kahn's masterpiece at stake**  
Air Force's objection forces metro rail to change route; new proposal awaits PM's approval; financier Jica yet to respond  
(September 14, 2011)

The air force chief should think about the people and the country.  
**Nabi Islam**

I hope we will show a better sense by not ruining the iconic masterpiece of a visionary like Louis Kahn. Such architectural glory should be preserved at any cost.

**Niloufar Sarker**

For the sake of people's interest, old airport should be shifted, may be near Savar, and not only the metro rail, we should also build more roads for connecting the eastern and western parts of Dhaka.

**Imrul**

If the newly proposed route is the only alternative, then it should be accepted. There is no point in making a fuss over who is right and who is wrong as long as it serves our purpose. We are afraid if this project does not get the go ahead now, it would be placed in the cold storage forever.

**Kamal**

Our 'experts' are ready to waste more land and money by making more twists and turns in the route. Have they never heard of the hassle-free underground rail system that many highly populated cities like Kolkata, Singapore and Hong Kong have?

**Husna**

The government should not pay any heed to the absurd and lame logic of the air force chief and proceed with the original plan. I do not understand how the air force chief gets away with his illogical demands.

**Mohammed Rahman**

To control traffic jam some offices or garment factories can be shifted from Dhaka. These garment factories are situated in residential areas like Hatirpool, Elephant Road, Gulshan, etc., making this city more congested. Just do this and over-populated Dhaka city will get back to its normal look.

**Shohely**

Those who are involved in the planning and setting the alignment, and have opposed the original plan may be troublemakers. I am not worried because I am confident that the plan of the metro rail will never be materialized, either for controversy in planning or for donor disagreement.

**Faqrul**

We must save the world renowned Louis Kahn's masterpiece. The world may not know us for whatever legislation we may pass but there is no doubt that the

world know us for we are in possession of a glorious architectural masterpiece of a world renowned visionary. Let us not insult him by ruining the serenity and sanctity of the place by the noisy metro rail passing by.

**Kashfi Sarker**

BAF may reconsider their view and allow the construction of the road. I humbly ask, must a military installation remain in the heart of the capital? For the better interest of the country and the people, they may consider shifting their location to somewhere else.

**Md. S I Bhuiyan**

We don't need aesthetic beauty but need roads and transportation. The media should not be critical of every step taken by the government.

**SZT**

Our Air Force will crumble within a few hours in any war situation. So, they can stop worrying about war.

**Dr. Sayeed Ahemd**

The government may check how aircraft in Hong Kong or Hawaii land through a very narrow space of airport there. I think air force should think more for public interest rather than their own benefit. Louis Kahn's design should be kept since it is a model