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Recycling e-wastes



PHOTO: STAR

We are yet to get rid of polybags. Another problem is growing fast, that is, e-wastes or electronic wastes. Currently the number of cell phone users in our country is increasing at a tremendous rate. With the availability of cheap but advanced cell phones, these electronic

gadgets have now become one-time usable items and every day we are buying new phones throwing away the old ones. These rejected cell phones plus other consumer electronic goods such as computers, i-pods, rechargeable batteries, etc., are constituting heaps of e-wastes! These rejected goods contain hazardous elements that are harmful for humans as well as for environment.

In order to contain the wastes problem, recycling plants and outlets at various points in the cities should be set up to purchase these rejected goods. The consumers are to be made aware of the appropriate disposal system of their used and old electronic products.

Some charity organisations may set up their own recycling plants and collect old and used electronic goods from the consumers as donation to re-make those items for distribution among the poor students and others who cannot afford to buy new ones.

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

Win-win diplomacy is expected

We, the people of this country, expect mutual co-operation and good understanding between Bangladesh and India. We expected a lot from the visiting Indian Prime Minister. We thought it would boost our economic relation and resolve our common problems. We got frustrated hearing the news of postponing of an important deal with India. Though the recent visit of the Indian prime minister gave us nothing but we are still looking forward to get a lot in the future to cope with the challenge of 21st century.

Mohammad Zahidul Islam

*Senior Officer
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Does Islam support terrorism?

Are Muslims really behind the 9/11attacks? Islam is always being blamed for these attacks, but does Islam really support terrorism? The Prophet (pbuh) said, "Kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever is not kind has no faith." He (pbuh) also said, "A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. So he should neither oppress him nor hand him over to an oppressor. And whoever fulfills the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfill his needs." After reading at least these two hadiths, we can be sure that Islam does not support terrorism. But it is sad that many Muslims do not know this and non-Muslims spread unpleasant statements against Islam. I would urge all the Muslims to stand united and defend this peaceful religion, Islam.

Anika Nawal Ahmed
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Shipping minister's interference

We can rest assured that depressing news will be awaiting us every day. As usual, on September 12 we learned that The National Road Safety Council meeting ended without any fruitful result. But it was not surprising because it was chaired by the Communications Minister Abul Hossain and dominated by the Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan. Both of them were severely criticized; people also demanded the communications minister's resignation.

It is foolish to expect that any solution coming from them will benefit the people. The communications minister will remain busy with the \$2.9 billion Padma Bridge and nearly \$2 billion elevated expressway and the shipping minister will insist on giving driving licenses without proper test declaring that education is not necessary to drive a vehicle. We are outraged by the shipping minister's meddling with the road safety issues.

It has been disclosed that 60 journalists were forced out of the meeting on road safety asdemanded by the Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan. This is too much.

Nur Jahan

Chittagong

Messi in Dhaka

A few days back, world famous footballer Lionel Messi came to Dhaka. He and his team were scheduled to play a friendly football match against Nigeria. Messi, along with the Argentine squad, displayed his prowess in doing what he does best, mesmerizing the audience with his football skills.

Now that they have left, let us ask ourselves, "Have we been the best of hosts?" I have read in the newspapers that the Argentine squad was not actually happy about the state of the stadium. Was the decision to invite these world class players to our country a prudent one?

Rafi Abdullah
North South University Dhaka

Wasn't the security excessive?

A large number of Swat, Rab and police personnel were deployed to ensure security for the Argentine football team including Lionel Messi. Since this was the first big match of this kind in the history of Bangladesh, this large scale security was essential. The spectators were checked by metal detectors on their entry.

From the dressing room to the field, the path was surrounded by law enforcers. Does not it mean that there was every possibility of a terrorist attack from the spectators? Does not it mean that Bangladesh is a land of terrorism? Our country is a land of peace and harmony and people here are highly hospitable. Enthusiasm of our people for Argentina, Brazil and even for Lionel Messi testifies to our love for football. We should be careful about how we represent our country to foreigners.

Tashrif Billah
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Change in the constitution

I sincerely thank Mr Samad for his letter entitled "The constitution is not a scripture." He wrote, "It is not a divine and infallible edict and criticizing it should not mean that we have to question that person's loyalty, allegiance or patriotism. The constitution itself guarantees the right to free speech. The irony is that the

We must raise our voice

It is an amazing country as law enforcing authorities here cannot take action against motor drivers with false licenses; they can not take action to stop unfit vehicles from plying the city roads because those drivers and the owners demonstrate on the street. It is amazing that the law enforcing authorities take action against them at a time when the need for transport is the highest, that is during Eid. It is surprising that the authorities responsible for repairing the roads wait to see that the roads are damaged severely during the rainy season, so that the repair cost and the sufferings of the commuters reach the peak. It isshocking that the distance we travelled by train in nine hours fifty years back, takes the same timenow. It is unfortunate that all the governments after liberation neglected this sector.

It is amazing that people tolerate everything and never question the accountability of the organisations or the government. Unless we all take the responsibility to improve the situation nothing will improve in the country and the vested interest groups will go on enjoying power and money in the way they like.

Zabedin
Dhanmondi, Dhaka



AFP

constitution also guarantees certain fundamental human rights and expressly prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. Yet on a daily basis, in the name of remand, citizens routinely face police brutality in the form of threats, intimidation and torture." However, I have a doubt whether our politicians will pay any attention to this letter. AL government is now using constitution to torture people and kill democracy again. Corruption is NOT permitted in the constitution but both AL and BNP made this nation champion in corruption several times. Alas! These two parties talk for the constitution more than others. Influencing the judiciary is absolutely against the fundamental principles of the constitution.

The government has withdrawn almost all the cases against AL people branding them as politically motivated and the judges have watched the drama silently as they forgot that they are the servants of the people and not of the government. Finally, I would like to ask, is it constitutional to withdraw rickshaws, which 56% of the people use daily, for the smooth running of the cars, which 7% of the people use, by making a baseless allegation that rickshaw is the main cause of traffic jam?

Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain
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READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news analysis headlined "Corrupt ministers, nothing to worry"

MRR Khan
My thoughts have been adequately expressed in this well written piece by Syed Badrul Ahsan. Thanks to The Daily Star.

Sadrul Ahsan
I hope the PM and the ruling party leaders have time to read and understand this article. Just beating their own drums cannot silence the failures of the government.

Jain Aggrawal
The Daily Star has totally missed mentioning the Communications Minister's deep involvement in corruption in the power ministry. He has been collecting toll from almost all power projects in the country. This is not a secret.

Quadir
Awesome write-up. In a weak democracy such as ours, it is important that the media, especially an established, internationally recognised outlet such as The Daily Star, play a strong role. Hats off to Syed Badrul Ahsan.

Siraj Talukdar
This government came to power promising accountability and openness. But the reality turned out to be just the opposite. We are back to the days of yore as pervasive corruption and red tape-ism permeates all levels of society.

Zarina Rahman
There is a more important question here. Is the Prime Minister above corruption? The role of the PM and her family and friends need to be subject to the same rules. In India there is a strong demand to do this. Let Bangladesh start the war against corruption right from the top.

Anonymous Bangalee
It is very hard to get proof of corruption, but there are allegations and people are to judge. Why is the PM not taking action against any minister, although allegations were made and there are some proofs (road conditions)? These ministers must have paid lots of money to get the position.

S Khan
I agree that the corrupt ministers must go and there must be a reshuffle. It might be hard to find the proof, but that's your job as a journalist; nobody gets fired anywhere in the world without proof.

Shalauddin Ahmed
This is the first time in Bangladeshi politics a government head announced sacking of her ministers if any wrong-doing is found. One cannot make arbitrary accusations.

Nasser
In the developed countries, ministers are fired because of their poor performances according to public perception. The proof of corruption requires years to be established in the court. So before proving the corruption of a minister, the tenure of this government will expire. The prime minister does not need proof from public. She has already got the real picture through different government and intelligence agencies.

M.A. Malique
The ministers and MPs pay millions of taka to get a party ticket which is an open secret. So how can PM sack ministers or MPs? The leadership of BNP and AL needs to be replaced with honest and competent leaders, and other honest people from the civil society should join them for the sake of the country and its people.

“Spare the rod and spoil the child”



PHOTO: STAR

I remember this was a favorite mantra of many schoolteachers in early and mid seventies. Once I was beaten up seriously by one of my schoolteachers which caused me a weeklong fever. My offence was that I told his nephew who was also my classmate that I was not afraid of that teacher. After coming back home, my mother exclaimed, “How can a teacher beat up a boy like this whose father passed away some months back!” I am sure that beating contributed nothing good to my life.

Some parents also believe in corporal punishment for building their children's competence to cope with this competitive world. I would like to request all teachers and parents to recall their own experiences of physical punishment. Then, I am sure, they will not give corporal punishment to the children. We should not defy government's ban on corporal punishment.

Mobarak Ali
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Eating less is good

Unequal distribution of wealth is not a new problem in Bangladesh. Some people eat more than required, while others can't get anything to eat at all. In Islam it is said that one should not take more food than is reserved for him. Some of us eat plenty of foods not thinking of the consequences. Gluttony gives birth to many problems.

Too much consumption of food causes high blood pressure, diabetes and lots of other diseases. Over consumption of food leads to inadequate supply and thus the price hike. So, the Commerce Minister was right, though his solution to price hike sounded self defending and evasive. He should focus on finding an effective and immediate way out ofthis problem.

Sad pilgrim , On e-mail

