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# State of Palestine



PHOTO: AFP

Under threat of Obama's veto, Palestine's bid for statehood (1967 borders) is with the UN. About time too, because all the votaries of 'democracy' will now have to either show their fangs or give credence to their oft-repeated desire for settlement of the 'Palestine problem', something not created by the Palestinians.

If the high priests, protectors and exporters of democracy really want to do justice to the Palestinians, they should have long ago supported the State of Palestine as it was in 1922, since when

the imperialists created this problem by filling the land with Caucasian Jews at the expense of native Palestinians reduced to refugees for decades. The world has had enough of the double-standards, hypocrisy and injustice for the last 50 years.

Let there be One state, not Two, and let there be democratic governance as practiced in Whitehall or Congress. One man, one vote as in South Africa.

**Sikander Ahmed**  
Niketon, Gulshan-1  
Dhaka

# Pseudo-Islamists



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Jamaat's vaunted Islamism was burning in the flame of the vehicles they torched during their violent protest rally. Their only motto behind burning national properties was to grab the newspaper headlines and media focus though Islam warrants us to do everything to please Allah who will surely punish those pseudo Islamists who is destroying the very principle in the process of establishing it. So once again it is proved that Jamaat version of Islam is not the true one. It is the Talibani version that is behind all kinds of wanton killing of innocent people and destruction of peaceful life across the globe. So,

however hard Jamaat may try to convince the people that they are out to establish Islam, people will not be hoodwinked by it. We Bangladeshis are peace-loving and non-violent. All the saints like Shahjalal, Shahmakhdom and Khan Jahan Ali propagated Islam in this part of the globe by doing welfare activities, both mental and physical. Some of the lakes they dug for pure drinking water, roads for easy communication and mosques and institutions for prayer and propagation of true Islam are still being used, while Jamaat is doing business like others with the huge amount of money they collect from the thousands of their activists. One of their hospitals Ibne Sina is now under scrutiny due to its alleged negligence. Jamaatists must keep in mind that actions speak louder than words. Our beloved Prophet (pbuh) used all his property to save so many people during famine in Mecca. So Allah helped him establish Islam in the most hostile terrain of Arabia. Jamaat is trying for so long but their popularity is dipping day by day, thanks to their motto: ends justify the means.

**Abdus Subhan**  
On e-mail

## Roads of Mohammadpur

Roads of Mohammadpur area, including Humayun road, Babar road, Tajmahal road, are in a very deplorable condition. These roads are getting totally unfit for use. Huge holes on these roads, filled with mud and water, are a serious threat to vehicular movement.

Would the authorities repair the roads and mitigate the sufferings of the people at the earliest?

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
A resident of Mohammadpur  
Dhaka

## Evil act by police

After reading reports of different newspapers about the death of pro-BNP lawyer MU Ahmed, we became certain that it was not natural and he was the victim of police brutality.

Police played a macabre drama by arresting him at dead of night terrorizing everybody of the building where MU Ahmed was residing. From the moment of the arrest he was tortured and then taken to a dark room in the DB office where he was subjected to physical and mental abuse. It is quite clear that the lawyer had a massive heart attack resulting from the shock he suffered in the detention room.

So, the policemen were responsible for his death. There is no scope to deny this. The home minister must punish the guilty policemen responsible for this inhuman act.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Restricting burqa in France

My attention was drawn to the article entitled, "The thorn in France's side" by Sabria Chowdhury that appeared in The Daily Star on 20th September 2011. In this article Ms Sabria referred to two recent proclamations by the French government that prohibited wearing of 'Burqa' in public, and saying of prayer on public thoroughfare.

The French government did not prohibit wearing Burqa, what they prohibited was "wearing any headgear that prevents identification of a person." Thus, there was no problem with 'Hijab' or 'Abaya'; only the all-covering Burqa that prevents individual identifica-

tion was banned. Burqa is banned in a number of countries as well as in places such as banks or airports where positive identification is necessary. We have seen in Russia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Jordan and in many other places that terrorists, male and female, garbed in a burqa have detonated explosives and killed hundreds.

The writer argued that the Muslims pray on the road because there are not enough space inside the mosque and the French government should make more space available for people to pray. The fact is that the French government, by constitution, cannot fund any places of worship.

It is the responsibility of the community to raise money and build and maintain places of worship. Muslims should build mosques with their own money or get some help from the oil-rich Arab states to build a few for them. The French had already offered a large space to the Muslim community in Paris to buy the land and build a mosque there.

Meanwhile, the Muslims have no reason to block the traffic on the street during Friday prayer. One's right to pray must not impinge on someone else's right to use public thoroughfare. I think the article lacked objectivity.

**Ishfaq Ilahi**  
On e-mail

## Asset declaration

The asset declarations of the Indian Prime Minister and his cabinet colleagues have been published in many a daily newspaper of Bangladesh. The BNP chief said something about monetary benefits given to the recently retired chief justice of the country. As a humble resident of the country I am of the opinion that the chief justice should declare his assets along with his dependents. Recently a High Court bench directed the Rajuk officials to declare their assets and submit the papers to the Rajuk Chairman. I feel that the officials of Income Tax, Wasa, City Corporations, Customs and other departments should declare their assets as directed by the High Court.

**Mahmud Ali**  
Dasani, Bagerhat

# Our national problems

I am an NRB and have been teaching in the USA for many years. We NRBs always try to keep track of things in Bangladesh. This Ramadan I came to Bangladesh to spend my whole vacation with my family and I was truly shocked to see the kind of things happening here.

A few years back I met Tareq Masud. He was a wonderful person. The way we lost him made me angry and frustrated. Our minister should have resigned, not just because of Tareq's death but because of the thousands of road casualties and the state of the roads.

In parliament, there is a lot of clamour, but what are the results? Tarana Halim said that she would go on a hunger strike. But will that even change anything? One of the few reasonable articles I read was from Bobby Hajjaj, whom I had met a few years ago, and I agree with his point that it is not just about the roads. Our problems are bigger than that and are rooted in all parts of the society.

We Bangladeshis do very well when we are outside Bangladesh. I am a tenured

professor at a prestigious university in the USA and very happy in my life. If I had chosen to stay in Dhaka, the situation would have been quite different today.

We need to uproot all the problems from our society. We need to rid this country of corruption and nepotism. Bangladeshis are very talented but our country is not benefited from them as there is no scope for them to work in the country.

**Dr. Arif Hassan**  
Falcon Heights  
Minnesota, USA



PHOTO: STAR

# Tax on environmental pollution!

An interesting news item, rightfully headlined in the front page of a local English daily, was published on September 24th. The news item was titled "Eco-tax to be mandatory on polluters"! I wonder how polluters will be defined, and how the laws will be constituted and tax levied for violating the proposed 'Eco-pollution laws'?

From a health and hygiene point of view, smoking in public tops the list. Next comes spitting in public places. Then there is the filthy habit of urinating on the roadside. These and many other such matters that happen regularly in public places can fall under the Act. All these will make the task of the law framers quite complex.

However, to begin with, we could start off with a list of about fifty or so activities that may be construed as eco-pollution which have to be taxed! How much and how it will be paid - all these need to be sorted out for implementing an anti eco-pollution Act.

However, it is a step in the right direction, and I wish the government succeed in enacting, and, more importantly, implementing the laws to reduce environmental pollution.

**Engr. S. A. Mansoor**  
Dhaka



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS



ONLINE VOICES

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

## Education MP style

AL lawmaker Mannan heads managing bodies of seven institutions; his wife, former night guard, two aides in charge of four others (September 26, 2011)

Fantastic cartoon and article! I hope The Daily Star would continue to expose such corruption at all levels.

**Andy**

There are hardly any educational institutions where you can get a job without resorting to bribery. Meritocracy is the least emphasized criterion in the recruitment process of our primary or secondary school teachers. The recruitment, selection, placement, retention, tenure, and promotion of the teachers in all educational institutions are being rigidly controlled by the

ruling party MPs and their surrogates. Hopefully, The Daily Star should continue to publish such credible reports on other upazilas of various districts.

**W. Zaman Manik**

The lawmaker is doing his job properly and this report was prepared to ruin his reputation-- this will be the comment of our prime minister.

**Iqbal Hussain**

The DS has let a noble man's noble initiative down by doing destructive criticism of the

lawmaker. Instead he should be praised for initiating a not-very-new policy to politicize students from grassroots level. And as far as their academic qualifications are concerned, the MP's opinion is the right, as he said, 'Who are you to ask me about these?'

**Urmila**

The situation will deteriorate further if stern action is not taken immediately.

**Fida Likhon**

Now Mr Mannan may say that one only needs to know the difference between a cow and a goat, that this is what education is all about.

**Kaniz**

Menon, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on education didn't recommend any disciplinary action against the MP. The Ministry of education is in deep siesta.

**Nasirullah Mridha**

This is the scene everywhere, all the times, whoever is in power. This is seen not only in the educational institutions but in all departments of the

government. I would like to request you to write more and more every day about these sorts of misuse of power by the politicians. May be some day in the next 'millennium' our future generation will get a good environment.

**Nizam Al-Hussainy**

To manage a school one does not need any education at all, right? And one wonders why Bangladesh's education is going downhill. I guess the PM will have to prove her authenticity by sacking this lawmaker as promised in her recent speech. What a shameless display of nepotism! The cartoonist actually flattered the group with a goat amidst the culprits.

**Tirtho Mahmud**

Your news are really getting more public-oriented which is embarrassing for the government. May be that is why the government is trying so hard to control the media.

**M Hossain**

People should come forward to resist this kind of activities. The AL people already destroyed the administration.