



# Destructive capitalism

The Wall Street agitation that ignited similar movements across Europe vindicated my conviction that the destructive machine of capitalism is sure to be burned down by the fire that was so far burning in the hearts of 99% people of the world who were exploited by the 1% corporate giants. Writers like Rabinadranath Tagore, Thomas Hardy and T.S. Elliot much earlier pointed at the destructive consequences of the materialistic industrial revolution, but the general people were hypnotised by the glamour and glitzy lifestyle that the new civilisation brought. Once again it is proved that when the powerful are not knowledgeable, they always impose a system of greed and exploitation. So, the new trend is to establish a society marked with justice and faith. People have started to pour into the streets asserting themselves so valiantly that it seems it is only a matter of time before the juggernauts of capitalism are completely washed away by the waves of change for the better.

Abdus Subhan  
Lalpur, Natore

## The plight of BBA students

Every institution has become politicised in our country and the National University of Bangladesh is no exception. The recent sacking of more than 800 employees has created a big problem in the lives of the BBA students, as their exams will be delayed for months. When one goes to the university, there is no one to answer his questions. Many students took admission into the National University's BBA programme as it used to be completely free of session jam, but not any more.

We, the students, do not understand politics and we are here to complete our courses within the earliest possible time. Please do not let our education career plunge into uncertainty. We urge the authorities to resolve the problem as early as possible. We want our exams to take place in time.

Hasib  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

## Let the Eid journey be safe

The holy Eid-ul-Azha will be observed on November 07. The Muslims all over the country will celebrate the holy Eid with due solemnity and religious fervour. During the Eid time people naturally want to stay with their near and dear ones. Most of the people living in Dhaka will start leaving the capital immediately before the holy occasion. At the time of Eid each year, a number of accidents take place marring the joy of the festivity. Almost every year one or two launches overloaded with passengers capsize drowning many home-bound passengers.

The risk of road accidents on the eve of Eid has heightened this year because of the condition of the roads. The roads have become unsafe and the commuters are always in a state of insecurity.

The holy Eid is only a few days away. Let the journeys of the homebound people be safe.

M Anwaruzzaman  
Shaheed Shamsul Haque Road  
Jhawtala, Comilla

# Easing Dhaka's traffic jam



The Daily Star published a special cover page with their regular issue of October 24, 2011 for raising public awareness about Dhaka's traffic jam. People are fully aware of this problem but they have nothing to do other than accepting the sufferings. It seems the government is not aware about the traffic jam. Otherwise, it would take some steps to improve the situation, which could be implemented within a short period of time. Instead of doing that, the government is thinking about big projects which needs a large amount of money and will take a long time to be complete.

Our communications minister said that he would evict the hawkers from the footpaths after the Eid ul Fitr of 2011. But we did not see any action from our minister about this. Day by day, not only hawkers but also floating people are grabbing the footpaths. And so, the pedestrians walk through the main roads creating traffic jam. Why is the government allowing slums to grow on foot-paths? Hawkers are using electricity illegally from the main line in Motijheel area. The authorities concerned are not taking any action against them although they know it.

The government has taken some steps like construction of flyover, metro rail, link road, etc., to improve the traffic situation. But these will not improve the scene until and unless the government evicts hawkers, slums, unauthorised garages and shops from the footpaths and impose some strict rules for movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The bus drivers drive recklessly and take passengers from any place of the road, and the pedestrians also walk in disorderly manner and cross the roads through any place creating traffic jam.

Lastly, I request the government and the authorities concerned to improve the traffic scene. Sincerity of the government is very important to do something good. Some actions may go against somebody but mass people will support it.

Nirmal Singha Chowdhury  
Gopibagh, Dhaka

## Metro rail transit

It is good to hear the prime minister clarify the confusions regarding the reservation of the air force with regards to re-routing of the metro rail. One wonders why it took so long to reveal the information? Unfortunately, the other half of the story remains untold; and I am drawing your attention to probe further into the issue to make the readers aware of the various interests that may shape the future of Dhaka city dwellers for good or for worse.

Everyone knows that a new road running by one's property will increase the value of that property more than others. All these years, a privileged few with prior information have gained in the process. Why would it be different in case of the rail transit? Did anyone try to check the relative price increases in properties that are close to the metro rail stations, compared to those which fail to benefit in commercial terms?

It is good to know that the proposal is under review; and there may be rationale to keep the open space free. But the critical question of the taxpayers and indebted citizens of this country is: are we going to raise revenue from the property owners who gain from the routing of metro rail transit in order to pay for part of the expenses? Or, do such individual gains get distributed in the form of informal deals?

Sajjad Zohir  
On e-mail

# We can make the earth green again

Pollution is a big problem that is affecting us all. It is our actions that are causing so many problems to this earth which was once a beautiful planet. We are using all the resources that nature has given us, not even thinking about the future generation. If we use everything right now, what will be left for us in the future? There are many organisations who are working to stop pollution, mainly by suggesting people to plant trees.

But trees aren't the only things that will help. If the air is polluted and the soil is filled with plastic bottles and cans, trees won't grow there. Everyone should be made aware of this problem. People who are educated must tell others about it and give them easy solutions to do things without causing pollution. The anti-pollution organisations should take effective actions against pollution in order to achieve their goals. I believe that by working together, we can get rid of this problem, and make the earth green and beautiful again.

Samiha Raida  
The Aga Khan School  
Dhaka



## About dictators

I have received many questions after the publication of my write-up in your esteemed daily. The most common question was regarding my statement that "the Libyan dictator's death satisfied the understandable desires of not only Libyans for revenge as well as others who live and govern in the West."

Reserving my respect for the question raised, my sincere response is dictators brim with self-confidence and freedom. They are also unrepentant liars. They are cunning, cruel, flamboyant and eccentric. For example, Colonel Gaddafi liked to be known as "Brother Leader and Guide of the Revolution." Many dictators try to create a cult of personality and like grandiloquent titles.

The late Libyan leader abolished all ranks above colonel to discourage coup plotters. The same instance we might see in Bangladesh while General Zia and General Ershad were in power. In life, the dictators had unequivocally admitted their guilt by paying restitution to the victims. And they would undoubtedly have stood before the court claiming innocence. Whoever might have put a bullet into his head did, in fact, deliver justice perfectly, simply by denying them the opportunity to do it themselves, which would have been their final insult to our collective humanity.

Gopal Sengupta  
Canada

# Anti-liberation forces

I am getting increasingly concerned with the atmosphere of our politics, drifting away from the glory of the Liberation War. A top political leader is consistently voicing her disagreement regarding the trial of war criminals. She is telling her supporters all over the country to be ready for a direct political showdown to unseat the present government.

I wonder for what kind of state Sheikh Mujib led the people to win freedom at the cost of millions of lives of the ordinary countrymen?

Within just 40 years, we are about to forget the ideology of our Liberation War, and very unfortunately hearing the loud voices of the Razakars and Al-Badr!

Is it our failure or the success of the anti-liberation forces who are trying to change the course of history? Except for Mr Mahfuz Anam, the editor of The Daily Star, I have seen very little concern from our so-called civil society members and those who were active for the trial of the war criminals.

It is very unfortunate that we are



surrounded by anti-liberation forces everywhere.

An expatriate Bangladeshi  
California, USA

# READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news commentary headlined "A breath of fresh air".

### M.I.Arif

Let us take such victory as the start of a new era.

### M.A. Malique

I hope this gives a ray of hope and courage to the honest leaders of the country to contest parliamentary elections from both parties next time. Let's get competent and honest leaders to lead the country and its people.

### Gopal Sengupta

Courage is contagious, and the courage showed by the people of Narayanganj streets is spreading to other cities. While our youths are learning from the actions of their compatriots, our rulers are learning from what happened to their fellow leaders.

### Ziauddin Ahmed

Honest senior politicians and activists of the two major political parties should get out of their respective parties and defy the dictatorial attitudes of their party chiefs. Narayanganj city polls have proved that voters are no more fools.

### Anonymous

The Bangladeshi political parties will never learn from this. It is such a pity. Yes, we profusely thank the CEC and his team for so wonderfully conducting such a clean election with unwavering determination. Unfortunately, the opposition parties are making a villain out of them.

### Shazzad Khan

Indeed an example has been set. By voting Ivy into mayoral position people have proved that they just hate nasty business. It is not only a reply to Shamim but also a reminder to remind Sheikh Hasina. I humbly request Sheikh Hasina to go for clean politics from now on. Then we shall be with you. Same advice for Khaleda Zia.

### A Choudhury

Thanks too for the brilliant description of Ivy's courage and conviction by winning the mayoral race. This calls for a big cheer and hopes for her ability to serve the citizens of Narayanganj.

As you said and I agree that it should be the yardstick for other ambitious politicians who wish to serve the people with honesty and sincerity.

With best wishes to Ivy and the people of NCC.

### Faqrul

Thank you very much Mahfuz Anam for setting a clear objective and strategy to salvage our hard earned independence and democracy from being killed by unpatriotic political leaders and their supporters.

I think as our national responsibility we must hate and discard terrorist acts, political lies and shall always support candidates having clean record. He or she can be from any political party or an independent candidate.

### Anonymous

Thanks for a good and thoughtful article. But I am sorry to say that neither this election, nor ten others like it would affect our two parties.

As long as the two leaders are at the helm of their parties nothing would change. It is simply impossible at this time to have a third party with a strong organisation at the grassroots in the country. So I do not see any light at the end of the tunnel in the near future.