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# Integrity of slum kids



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Last week while I was waiting with some of my friends for the train at the airport railway station, we lost our laptop and a purse with a good amount of money in it. We were at a loss what to do. After we got on the train, a group of boys came to us with our missing bag. They told us that they noticed the bag while they were walking along the railway. They guessed that the bag was ours as they saw us leaving the place. We felt so happy and wanted to give them some money as a reward. But Ganesh, Shuzan, Mona and other boys requested us to impart them education, instead of giving them some money. They will thus learn how to read and write. They also said that they would be able to earn money once they become literate. The integrity of the boys amazed us.

**Bipul K Debnath**  
English Department  
Dhaka College, Dhaka

## Deadly Tipaimukh dam

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has reiterated its earlier assurance that Bangladesh would not be harmed by the 1,500 MW Tipaimukh hydroelectric project. India had said the same thing during the construction of Farakka dam. Now see how severely agricultural lands of Bangladesh are affected due to the Farakka dam. So many rivers are dead due to this dam. Bangladesh could have produced much more crops if there were no such dam. In fact, this dam turned a part of Bangladesh into desert. According to the environmentalists, Tipaimukh and other dams planned by the Indian government will result in the death of the rest of our rivers. Dams constructed by India are one of the main reasons of poverty in Bangladesh. We are grateful to India for helping us during our War of Independence. But today they are doing things which go against our welfare. This dam will not benefit the Indian people much. And not only BNP but also Indian environmentalists are against the building of this dam. Previously, India followed the ideology "people above profit," but now it follows the ideology of "profit above people".

**Dr. M. Mahboob Hossain**  
Associate Professor  
Microbiology Program  
BRAC University, Dhaka

## Stand beside Palestinian brethren

Through this letter I condemn the continuous attacks made by Israel against the people of Palestine. The air strikes by Israel on December 8th took three innocent lives in Gaza and injured many. The strikes also destroyed many houses. This is simply violation of human rights. But sadly enough, we are not doing anything to help them. Our Prophet (pbuh) said that the entire Muslim community is like one body. If one part of the body is hurt then it hampers the functioning of the whole body. Similarly, if a Muslim is hurt in any part of the world, it hurts the entire community.

So many innocent children are made orphans and so many women are made widows, but we, instead of helping them, sit comfortably in our luxurious sofas and watch them crying on TV. Is this humanity? What is stopping us from helping them? There are many organisations in Bangladesh who worked for the earthquake victims of Japan. But astonishingly, no one is there for our Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine. Those orphans are like our children too, they too crave for toys and chocolates, but there is no one to give them any. What will we answer to Allah on the Judgment Day for not extending our hands towards our brothers and sisters? We should act before it is too late. I hope my letter will stir the true Muslim spirit in us.

**Anika Nawal Ahmed**

# Changing realtors' mindset

I think the reason developers flout building construction codes is that they do not know why should they obey the rules. Maybe they don't know why filling up of water bodies should harm the environment, for will they not, in the short term, earn millions of taka from those works? Who cares, what those will cost the nation in the longer term? Maybe they don't know why they should make adequate parking facilities so that traffic congestion might ease for the convenience of many. Maybe they don't know why they should stop building so many buildings at the same time? The infrastructure of Dhaka city? But then why is the government so fussy about such minor problems?

I think newspapers, especially a well informed newspaper like The Daily Star, should clearly mention in bullet points why we should follow the rules. It will help those running only after money to have a grasp of the larger picture.

**Asifur Rahman Khan**  
Pubali, Circuit House Road  
Ramna, Dhaka



BAVAZID AKTER / DRINKNEWS

## Plight of English medium students

English medium schools allow the students to have a high standard of education. It also costs a lot to study in an English medium school and very few people of our country afford to send their children to English medium schools. After passing O/A levels, the students want to study abroad, but many families cannot afford it. So they try to get their children admitted into good public universities or medical colleges in Bangladesh.

But then the problem arises. Only 1% of the English medium students get chance in public universities, and they hardly get any chance in the government medical colleges. The teachers of the English medium schools claim that the problem arises because the English medium schools follow a different curriculum. But how long will it go on like this?

**Imrul Chowdhury**  
A student  
Little Jewels School  
Chittagong

## God save our democracy

I was amused to read the article by G.M.Quader, on the above topic in the editorial page of The Daily Star on December 8, 2011. This write-up may be likened to "the writing on the wall" in our context of practicing democracy.

I congratulate the author. He was very frank, bold and straightforward to make his point absolutely clear. He has shown the path how we should correct ourselves. He provided us the food for thought. Politics of confrontations will take us nowhere. As he says, it is time we realised the hard facts about our 'miseries, about misconceived democracy.'

The writer said it clearly so that we may not have to say or redefine democracy as 'Off the people, far the people and by the people' and can go on with democracy in the true sense of the term.

**Engr. Shaheedul Islam**  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka



ABU ALA RUSSEL / DRINKNEWS

# Dream of the Victory Day

The 16th of December, a red letter day in the history of our country, has come again. It was on this day that we were to snatch our independence after a bloody Liberation War for long nine months. After 40 years of our victory when we consider our achievements we feel frustrated.

The dream of the freedom fighters was to establish a country where there would be no hunger, poverty and injustice.

True victory will be achieved only when we can claim to have eradicated poverty once and for all, removed the last vestiges of hunger, and provided opportunity for all to work and earn a decent living.

The glory of the Victory Day will be meaningless unless we fulfil the martyrs' dream. Today on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our glorious Victory Day, let us promise that we all will come together to build a prosperous Bangladesh and fulfil the dream of our freedom fighters.

**Yeasir Arafat Nadim**  
Dept. of Economics  
University of Dhaka

# Splitting of Dhaka city

As a capital city, Dhaka has a long history. Among the 64 districts in the country, hardly a few cities have undergone what is known as urban development. People from all over the country come to Dhaka in search of a livelihood. To keep the city habitable, multi-sectoral coordinated move by the government in consultation with the local representatives and members of the civil society is needed.

We need to develop other cities to reduce the pressure on Dhaka. But mere splitting of Dhaka will not improve the standard of city life, rather it will double the expenditure and create chaos. It seems the government has become afraid after seeing the results of the city corporation elections held recently in Chittagong and Narayanganj.

So, it has taken the decision of dividing the Dhaka city. The division of Dhaka City Corporation has been opposed by many including some members of the Awami League. The BNP opposed the decision and called hartal in protest.

The government now wants to hold the elections as early as possible. If the Opposition sticks to its stand, they will not be able to take part in the upcoming city corporation elections which will make it easy for the AL candidates to win the elections. But if the BNP takes part in the elections, it will be moral defeat on its part as it had it had earlier opposed the decision to split Dhaka city.

**Dr. Khairuddin Barkat**  
Bashundhara R/A  
Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR



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## All she wanted was to study

Husband blindfolds, chops off her hand as punishment, culprit sent to jail  
(December 15, 2011)

This incident is simply despicable.  
**M Hossain**

The victim should be provided with proper treatment by the government and the culprit should be sentenced to life imprisonment.  
**Andrew Paul**

The government must take stringent measures against domestic violence which has exceeded all limits in Bangladesh. The accused should be brought back home and awarded harshest punishment in the court of law for committing such outrage.  
**Gopal Sengupta**

We became horrified reading the report. How could someone do this type of thing? The

government should punish him immediately and the media should publish news on the follow-up developments of the incident.  
**Shohely**

The Bangladesh government should provide Jui with medical expenses. What about her educational expenses? I will be happy to contribute for her educational expenses and hope others too would come forward.

I sincerely hope that her husband rots in the jail.  
**Jahangir**

We have to see such things happen even after forty years of our Liberation. This shows the real picture of Bangladesh where women and children

are mistreated by men regularly. I feel sad for Jui. Jui, please do not give up hope. I am sure you will be able to continue your study and do something in the future to change our society.  
**Anonymous**

It is a matter of shame for the entire nation that women continue to suffer such inhuman tortures while both the prime minister and the leader of the Opposition happen to be women. The government should take all possible measures to punish the culprit and also ensure that the victim gets all types of help and cooperation required at this hour of crisis. Most of all the poor family needs financial support.  
**Saleh Mohammad Ayub**

I am feeling very sorry for the girl. I wish our prime minister would facilitate taking necessary legal action and also help the girl to continue her study. The culprit must be given exemplary punishment.  
**Steven Miller**

What a cold blooded crime! The criminal should be awarded severest punishment in the quickest possible

time. In Bangladesh, due to utter failure of law, order and justice, people take law in their own hands. There is hardly any policing. They are kept on their toes to bash the Opposition movements. The home minister should cover her face in shame and quit her post to relieve the nation. When people see a group of people related to the ruling party get away easily with murder, rape, etc., then people lose faith in the administration.  
**Abul**

I like to help this young lady and her family financially. This is an abominable criminal act. I wish this butcher is locked up for 20 years.

The Daily Star can give my email address to the family to contact me in the United States.  
**Iftekhar Hassan**

It's unbelievable that someone will lose her hand for a noble cause!  
**Shah Asad Ahmed**

He must be jailed for 12 years.  
**Afsana Begum**

What an idiot! Cut his beautiful wife's hand as a surprise?