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# People now seek God's protection for safety



PHOTO: STAR

Another outburst of student violence at Kamal Ataturk Avenue, triggered by the alleged stalking of a female student of Primeasia University by a student of Southeast University, resulted in the vandalism that damaged 100 vehicles, 15 houses and inflicted injury to several students. People are getting increasingly vulnerable these days. Killers sheltered by the power structure are pardoned. Weeds of corruption and rubbishes like Phensedyl are promoted even by the law enforcing authorities. Finding no other alternative, people are praying to God for peace and security and to protect them from oppression.

Tinku  
On e-mail

## Stop jaywalking

After every road mishap, we blame the driver of the 'killer' vehicle. No one finds jaywalking a problem; no one finds the mother guilty who walks with her child on a busy Dhaka road ignoring the traffic signal and showing no interest in using over bridge while crossing a road. We should understand that stopping a speeding vehicle all on a sudden is not an easy task. Though someone, who runs like a fool on a busy road may not understand that.

Raisa Rowan  
Grade IX, Tulip Int'l School and College  
Dinajpur

## Caretaker government is the need of the time

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, other ministers and the leaders of the Awami League are constantly reminding us that elections under this government will be free and fair and they are giving examples of the recently held city corporation elections where candidates of BNP won. They are saying that the fear of the opposition is baseless.

But people think otherwise. The municipality or city corporation elections cannot be compared to a general election. The government should not have such low esteem about people's knowledge and intelligence. They have seen the last minute drama in the Narayanganj City Corporation election. Knowing very well that Selina Hayat Ivy was going to win, the leaders of Awami League went to Narayanganj to give their party support to Shamim Osman, to say that their candidate failed in the election and it was a proof of their impartiality.

The ruling party may try different ways to convince people, but people will not accept the next general election without a neutral government. So it would be wise to come to an understanding with the opposition political party and save the country from a horrible fate.

Nur Jahan

# Congrats, communications minister!

The other day at Gajipur, our communications minister said to the Awami League activists, "Please don't call me to the stage. Let me be on the road and work." Very praiseworthy statement from a minister. This is what the countrymen as well as the commuters wanted to listen and now they want to see him working hard on the road to ease the sufferings of the commuters.

A couple of days back, I was going past a bus which really horrified me. It seems that it has been out of order for the last thirty years but the fact is that it is proudly plying through the roads of the capital city before the very nose of the traffic police.

How did this bus manage to have the fitness certificate to run on the road? And there are hundreds of buses plying the city just like this one. Now, what can be done? As a city dweller, I have a humble request to him which he may consider implementing. All the buses that have no tail lights, no side lights, no rear-view mirrors and that has crushed victims should be given a fixed time e.g. 15 days to complete overhauling and repairs done before they are again pressed into service.. After the stipulated time, the BRTA authorities along with the traffic police will launch mobile courts to check it. If a bus has not yet been repaired, it will be spot fined a big amount, say about Tk 100,000.

I strongly believe our Communications Minister has got the courage to implement this idea which will cut down the number of road accidents. At last, I pray for him to the Almighty so that he can accomplish all his benevolent attempts for the commuters.

Khandaker Zia Hasan  
English Language Trainer, Dhaka



PHOTO: WRITER

## Indo-Bangla cyber war

Bangladeshi hackers with the international help have hacked numerous Indian government and some other renowned sites. The number of sites hacked are more than 100, according to the newspapers. Similarly, Bangladeshi important sites are also being hacked by the Indian hackers. In both cases, hackers are leaving their messages after hacking the sites.

The analysts are referring to this action and counter action as "Cyber War" between the two countries. The reason behind this is known to all. This is the after-effect of the video and report aired by ND TV showing the BSF's brutality on a Bangladeshi citizen.

So, our government and policymakers should pay attention to this issue. These types of actions done by the BSF and comments given by the Indian government are not acceptable. Our government should also realise the weight of the issue and take some strong actions to defend our sovereignty.

Riasat Hasan  
East West University  
Mohakhali, Dhaka

## Outrageous remarks in parliament

Recently, at a function Speaker Abdul Hamid strongly opposed the trend of exchanging offensive remarks in the parliament. Needless to mention that parliament is the house of the people where the representatives of the common people are sent to discuss various problems and try to solve them taking appropriate steps as soon as possible for the betterment of the nation and hence the parliament is rightly called the place of solving national problems.

There must be debate on various national issues in the parliament where the lawmakers should express their opinion in a decent way and help the government solve the problems the nation is facing.

The lawmakers should realise that the parliamentary sessions cost huge amount of money that, of course, should not be wasted on quarrelling and attacking each other verbally. Most regrettably, we observe that most of our lawmakers waste their valuable time for nothing and do not perform their respective duties destroying all norms of decency in the parliament.

We, therefore, urge our lawmakers to stop making outrageous comments and at the same time they should try to utilise the parliament only for the greater interest of the nation.

Abul Kalam Azad

# Say no to corporal punishment



PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

I felt very disappointed when I read the letter entitled 'Dishonouring the teacher' published on 22nd February in your daily. This is very sad that still many teachers think that corporal punishment is needed to discipline their students. I want to tell all teachers who think in that way that to teach discipline, a teacher simply needs a good way of teaching, and nothing else. And corporal punishment cannot be a part of good teaching.

In most of the developed countries in the West, corporal punishment has been outlawed decades ago. Have all students of those countries gone astray? The answer is unquestionably no. Then why do some teachers think that banning corporal punishment is a direct blow to their right? Be it a severe physical punishment or a light slap, all sorts of punishment should be avoided in schools. Even a mild physical punishment or humiliation can cause extreme psychological problems to a child. So I hope all the teachers, who believe that punishment in schools should not be banned, will contemplate these issues.

Kohinur Khyum Tithila  
East West University  
Dhaka

## Making use of Bangla compulsory

Dr. Ali Reza Khan deserves our appreciation for his letter published in The Daily Star of 29 February entitled "Make law to enforce use of Bangla." This year being the sixtieth year of sacrifice for Bangla Language has a special significance. Lots of seminars, symposia and TV talk shows have been organised and held throughout the month of February with the participation of eminent personalities.

But in almost all these deliberations, although there were enough of shedding of tears for non-use or misuse of Bangla, nobody could come up with the suggestion of a right measure that could change the scenario completely. At last on the last day of February 2012, Dr. Reza from far away has thrown light on the real action needed at this moment.

In this connection, I would like to say that countries like France, China, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, The Phillipines, Quebec-Canada, Latvia, Slovakia etc have expressed legal requirements for use of their respective state/official languages in signboards, public information materials etc. Near at home many states of India also allow use of their respective languages and scripts in these cases.

The other day, Kolkata Corporation has made it mandatory to use Bangla in shop signboards. We are far behind all these countries. But better late than never. Let our government rise from the slumber and go for enactment of laws within this year thereby placing Bangla in its prestigious position which it deserves.

Prof. Nurul Islam  
Gausul Azam Avenue  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Liquidity crisis

The central bank of Bangladesh is frequently borrowing money from the private banks because of the increasing need of the government. That's why the call money rate of these banks is on the rise. To earn revenue, the private banks also had to impose an absurd rate of interest on loans.

This is indeed an evil sign for the economy. Many private banks are losing their market due to liquidity crisis. If this situation goes on, some private banks might have to face dire consequences like bankruptcy. This situation proves again the naivety of the ministry concerned.

Md. Ahsanul Kabir Palash  
Department of Marketing

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Divider, speed reducer can cut 30pc crash"

### Roney

There are more than a hundred of speed breakers on Dhaka-Jessore highway. As a result, journey on that route is so uncomfortable. Picture of Jessore-Benapole, an international road, is so miserable. Between Jessore and Jhikargachha thana there are 11 speed breakers over a distance of 11 km road. For frequent change of gear to slow the vehicle, the drivers get irritated and distracted, which cause accidents. All speed breakers must be dismantled for safe journey.

### M.Shafiqul Alam

A callous administration can hardly deter the incidence of road mishaps and prevail upon the wrong-doers. Strict enforcement of traffic rules and punishing the violators can reduce road accidents substantially.

### Nimu Chakrabarty

It's an irony of fate for us that our irresponsible drivers couldn't respect traffic rules and also our government don't apply the traffic rules strictly on drivers. That's why premature deaths have increased at an alarming rate every year.

### Golam Rumman

I do not support this research as it fails to mention the following:

1. Our country does not have a standardized format for constructing such speed breakers.
2. The ones that exist are poorly planned, improperly placed and causes significant damage to vehicles.
3. The report does not take into consideration the stupidity of the average pedestrian.

Therefore I suggest that if the state wants to squander money behind such types of research at this moment - then they also spend money to promote Road and Safety Education for the masses.

### Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee

What is happening at BRTA needs investigation as faulty vehicles are passing fitness tests by paying money through wrong channels every day. Training of the new drivers needs to be brought under strict scrutiny. The law enforcement units in the country need to be strictly vigilant and in general the awareness of the general mass on the subject needs to be enhanced. We all know the solutions; but what is lacking is interest to implement those as politicians look for fewer restrictions in obtaining driver's license. We need to understand the core of the problem first. It is a serious one.

### Md. Abir Hossain

Most of the cases in Dhaka city accidents happen in front of educational institutions and banks. Therefore, speed breakers are needed there. And head on collisions are seen on the highways where dividers are necessary. Our law regarding this problem is incomplete and one sided. Actually there are a number of reasons behind road accidents. If after getting a license, the driver becomes addicted to drugs, undoubtedly that license will not be able to stop road accidents. Corrupt personnel who are involved in giving licenses in exchange for money should be punished. In this way we will have safe roads.

### Opee Monir

We need a unified guidance over national transport policy and that conclusive policy need to be prepared very carefully without any delay.

### Msa

Dividers can reduce accidents for sure but I don't think the speed bumps will, rather those will become the main reason for accidents on highways as from experience we all know that there are no markings on speed bumps in any area of the country.

### NR

The logic of placing dividers to prevent head-on collisions is intuitive. But erecting 'speed bumps' on highways would partially defeat the purpose of having a highway (assuming that one of the purposes is to travel long distances at a

## Why not Bangladeshi presenter?

Finally, we have arranged Bangladesh Premier League to improve the ability of our players to play standard cricket. But I do not know why BCB has selected an Indian presenter for hosting talk shows during the breaks. Isn't there any presenter in our country who is better than she is? Obviously, we have lots of smarter and better presenters. I think the BCB should have appointed a Bangladeshi presenter.  
Abir Hossain