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Footpaths not for motorcycles



PHOTO: STAR

The report headlined "No bike riding on footpaths" published in The Daily Star on 6th March is obviously a timely news. Hopefully, the illegal use of footpaths by motorcyclists will at last stop. Better late than never! It is very sad that the Metropolitan Police did nothing about it; until it was brought to the notice of the High Court.

In the letter's column, I have earlier written about this illegal use of the footpath. Motorcyclists even had the audacity to blow their horn, asking pedestrians to get out of their way. We hope that now the traffic police will come to their senses and put a stop to this illegal practice.

The other crime being continuously practiced on the footpaths around the first traffic island at Gulshan is that those are used for car parking. This illegal practice too needs to be stopped.

I take this opportunity to thank Supreme Court lawyers KH Zubair and AN Siddiqi, for their public service and request them to kindly take up the matter of illegal parking of vehicles on foot path.

S.A.Mansoor
 Gulshan, Dhaka

Misinterpretation of my letters

This is in response to the letter of Ahmed Niaz from Dhaka published in The Daily Star on March 5, 2012. I am glad to know that he reads my letters and at the same time very disappointed noticing that he misinterpreted those.

At one place Ahmed Niaz wrote, "Nur Jahan wants next election to be held under CTG scrapped by the High Court, and blindly supports BNP's movement to oust the elected government." For his information, I want to say that it is not my demand, it is the people's demand. They think it is the most unjust act of the Awami League because CTG was formed to meet people's demand.

Ahmed Niaz quoted from my letter, "we have noticed that offenders who belong to the ruling party somehow get away without punishment." The observation was meant to be general, what I wanted to say is that no matter to which party the offenders belong, if their party is in power they have nothing to fear.

And about March 12 programme of BNP, the opposition has every right to hold peaceful programmes, but it will not remain peaceful if the government take hold of all the streets.

I hope I have been able to clear the confusion of Ahmed Niaz.

Nur Jahan
 Chittagong

Energy security

Most of the under-developed and undeveloped countries have the power shortage problem. According to the World Bank, Bangladesh loses around \$1 billion per year in terms of its productivity and revenue due to power shortage!

So what we need is the best and maximum utilization of our available domestic resources for our energy security.

"Biodiesel" is not a fully a bio-product but a blend of 80% diesel from crude and 20% ethanol. This oil has less environmental impact than conventional diesel and it is very efficient for low and medium duty power requirement.

My opinion in that case is that, if we can domestically produce 20% of ethanol (which is possible) and can make use of biodiesel popular among farmers and shallow power users. This will enable Bangladesh to import 20% less diesel. South American countries are doing well with this biodiesel.

This may be one example of how we can improve day by day our future energy security. All the fastest growing countries like China, India, Brazil, Malaysia, etc are doing their best, investing more and more in power generation and supply utilizing their available resources to keep up their production.

MH Uddin
 USA

A disappointment

Being an avid cricket fan, I was very excited about the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). I was proud to see my country arranging such a high-profile T-20 tournament like the IPL. But as the tournament progressed, my hopes were turned into disappointment as the stark reality was exposed. The tournament was to help our local players, but that was not to be the case. Instead, the teams were busy catering to the foreign players, and many of our local stars like Shakib and Tamim had to give way to players like Nasir Jamshed and Jason Roy, who are unknown even in their own country. Youngsters like Anamul, Arafat Sunny, Saqlain Shajib and others proved their talent, but they got far too less chances. The spot fixing and semi-final fiasco did their bit to tarnish Bangladesh's image. But the worst part of it was that many people with no proper knowledge of cricket came to the stadium not to watch the game, but to watch Bollywood stars and cheerleaders. However, it was the first time, even IPL is not beyond controversy. So, I hope the authorities concerned will give us a much better BPL next year.

Tauhidul Islam
 The Aga Khan School, Dhaka

Riding bikes with your kid

We are deeply moved at every road mishap. But nothing appears to be as horrifying as knowing that: a kid has been run over by a killer vehicle. We castigate the traffic system; hold uneducated and reckless drivers liable and blame authorities at the end for not punishing these killers. But have we ever blamed or questioned ourselves how much we are conscious about our kids? We often see mothers with their kids crossing a road dangerously despite having an over bridge nearby. The Daily Star made this a headline couple of weeks ago which is appreciable. Yet one thing I think should have been pointed out and that is, we see a mother holding her kid in her lap with one hand and grip her husband's shoulder with other hand on a bike. They didn't even use helmet. How dangerous it is to ride! In abroad one cannot hold a kid on one's lap even inside a car on the road. How this could be allowed for a bike which itself is a very risky ride!

Arafath Shahriar
 Former student
 Department of Marketing studies and International Marketing

University Of Chittagong

India crash out?

During the 2011 world cup cricket, Navjot Singh Sidhu, made a remark --"Birds Fly...Cockroaches Fly...But it is birds that stay up in the air!!!" He was actually referring to the Bangladesh Cricket Team as cockroaches in his comment. Well, at present, the Indian Cricket Team is proving to be just that. After winning the World Cup, they seem to have lost all their firepower and are looking like anything but "World Champions!" It really doesn't surprise me. What does Sidhu think about this? I would like to advise Sidhu to talk about cricket in a more technical way. He should learn how to remain neutral and give positive remarks which could help improve the game.

I also think the media is being very unfair on Sachin Tendulkar. Everyone in the team is equally responsible for the failures of the team and not just one man. I would like to advise everyone to leave Sachin alone and he will surely harness all his abilities and bounce back. It's just a matter of time.

Aminur Rahim
 New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Dhaka

About the suffering of Mohammadpur residents

First I would like to congratulate The Daily Star on its 21st anniversary and thanks for being with us all these years. I would like to inform you that, we are the permanent residents of Mohammadi Housing Ltd. in Mohammadpur Thana. For a couple of months in this area, Dhaka WASA is constructing a pipeline as well as sewerage and culvert. We are happy for the ongoing development work and like to give thanks to the WASA.

But recently for this ongoing development work, the residents of the area, pedestrians and vehicle users are facing problem travelling as it created an obstacle for us.

The most sufferers are the school and college-going students. They are using bypass roads and reaching their educational institutions late, even ambulance cannot pass through the road.

For the reasons, we the residents of the area through your newspaper are requesting the authority concerned to finish the construction work quickly.

Moksudur Rahman

Facing the challenge of climate

Climate change is the most burning issue at the moment. Climate is changing fast but are we taking the most necessary steps to control it? We are just talking at the seminars or symposiums or planting some trees on the world environment day every year. We need funding to control climate change but more important is how we may properly use those funds. Is there appropriate programme in the country? Some politicians who create all the furore over climate change always blame others.

If this situation continues, nothing meaningful will happen about addressing the challenge of climate change and we will be in a dreadful circumstances in future. So the first step for tackling climate change should be to form a common platform which will not entertain any politics or any personal agenda. The main slogan for Bangladesh will be: "We are together to face the challenge of climate change".

Sajal Chowdhury
 Coordinator
 Student Climate Cell, CUET



PALASH KHAN / DRINKNEWS

Fuel price hike and people's suffering

The living costs of common people are crossing its tolerable limit. The adverse impact has already started to impact the commodity market in the wake of repeated increase in fuel price. The transport cost has increased as a result of this unexpected price hike. Taking undue advantage of this situation, the transport owners are hiking fares whimsically defying the rate fixed by the government. As a result, the businessmen are increasing the price of essentials showing this excuse of increase in transport fares.

On many occasions, it has been observed that the government raise the prices of different services on the plea of financial loss. Meanwhile, two tariff hike proposals placed by the PDB and REB are pending with the regulatory body.

It is now almost certain that power tariff will be increased once again soon.

Mismanagement and corruption are the prime causes behind the massive losses in the government-owned enterprises. So, we urge the government to give importance to public interest, stop raising prices and tariffs and take urgent steps to remove the prevailing mismanagement and corruption.

Lutfur Rahman
 Ghoraghat, Dinajpur



PHOTO: STAR



Saudi embassy official shot dead

Police yet to find out motive (March 7, 2012)

A Foreign Diplomat has been murdered in Gulshan. We know that Gulshan is the most protected area in Bangladesh. The police have banned rickshaws over the past six months to reduce crime in this area. Then what is the benefit of banning rickshaws if you can't provide security in the area?

Samir

This is just another proof of how the law and order situation in the country has completely gone out of control. I really hope that this serves as a wake up call to the Home Ministry and the people in its charge. Now that someone important and highly-placed has been the victim of what goes every single day, I hope the ruling party will take steps to reshuffle the home ministry and remove the incompetent people who are currently running it.

Syed Sobhan

The fact is (if I'm not mistaken), we have only 1 (one) policeman against 10,000 people of the country. Thus, in a lay-

man's word--it's not possible to guard every nook and cranny of the country. No one from the political arena can do the same. There is need for heightening the level of consciousness among ourselves so that we may refrain from committing crimes.

Razib

No doubt, the government is a total failure in improving law and order situation. The government has no right to rule.

Muhammad Golam Rabbani Islamabadi

This is sabotage and a heinous act to undermine law and order in the country for mere political gain. This is our politics shame!

Salauddin Ahmed

Isn't there any one to save us from those killers? We need a very strong action from the government against those killers. I hope our home minister will not set any timeline to solve this case. Please solve it ASAP.

Akash Mahmud

Let it be a wake-up call to the government that is rotten from top to bottom! Now I understand why all the rich people are leaving Bangladesh for the West and Near East!

Sellma

It is heartbreaking, miserable and bad news for Bangladeshi people in general and expatriates Bangladeshi living in Saudi Arabia in particular. We are praying for peace of the departed soul of Khalaf Al Ali, and condolences to his family. We request our government to arrest the culprit for punishment, otherwise our country's images will be affected very badly. For the sake of two million Bangladeshi expatriates and their families, the government should look after the matter seriously.

Abdul Aziz Mir

We should investigate whether the incident is an attempt to harm the relationship between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. Bangladesh has been trying to convince KSA to remove the ban on hiring Bangladeshi nationals. According to some media reports, recently, there has been some progress in that regard. We need to investigate whether the assassination is an attempt to jeopardize the removal of that ban. We should keep in mind that there are more than 20 lakh Bangladeshis working in the KSA and banning Bangladeshis from that labour market would open up huge opportunities for other labour exporting countries. However, it is very possible that the incident has nothing to do with the above noted possibility. But a nation should keep its eyes open.