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Plant 20 million trees a year to arrest desertification



A.M. AHAD / DRINKNEWS

Destruction of forests has taken place due to industrialisation and population boom and was not compensated by reforestation. Its adverse impact on climate has been noticed. The humidity of air has been drastically reduced which affects the rainfalls in the country. If reforestation programmes are not taken by the government immediately, there is every possibility that Bangladesh will turn into a desert within a short span of time.

The government and the private organisations must come forward with specific programmes of reforestation in the country. There is a universal formula on reforestation that when you cut one tree, plant two more trees to compensate the loss. But in Bangladesh there is no such plan. On the contrary, we are destroying our forests in Chittagong Hills Tracts, Sundarbans, Gazipur, Mymensingh, etc.

In this context, we urge the government, especially the ministry of forest and environment, to come forward with a plan to plant at least 20 million trees a year throughout the country and encourage the public and private organisations to join the programmes of growing more trees to save the country from desertification.

Jubair, Dhaka

Fight for the rule of law

It is a good sign that people have started to assert themselves in the face of medieval mentality of a few ruling party cadres. Imran Hossain, an employee of Nur Optics of Patuatuli, who resisted the ruling party cadres who took away sunglasses without paying, represents the spirit of Liberation. It is the spirit that guided the people to fought British and Pakistani rulers in the past. Let us not downplay this incident that involved both looting and stabbing of innocent traders. Let us not let go the criminals only because they are part of the power structure. Pardoning them has already pampered them so much that they no behave like lords. Let us fight a final battle against obscurantism, religious extremism only for establishing the rule of law. Can't we be united for this great cause?

Tinku
Lalpur, Natore

Make dialysis affordable for all kidney patients



There are 20 million patients who are suffering from kidney diseases in Bangladesh, which is about 14 per cent of the country's total population. More than 35,000 people are afflicted with kidney diseases every year and about 40,000 are dying due to kidney related diseases as told by experts in a seminar.

Chronic kidney disease may be caused by diabetes, high blood pressure and other disorders. Nowadays, people are habituated to take different pain killer drugs without consulting physicians. As a result, their kidneys gradually get affected. It is really unexpected for those who are below 30. One of the other reasons is the use of preservatives in fruits and vegetables. So, it is very important to be self-educated about symptoms of kidney failures and prevention. People are now familiar with using internet at home and office and they can find best answers from this source.

Early detection and treatment can often stop chronic kidney disease from getting worse. When a kidney disease goes untreated, it may eventually lead to kidney failure, which requires dialysis or kidney transplant. This is a long process and the treatment is also expensive so far. Haemodialysis is the only hope for the aged kidney patients who are suffering from chronic kidney diseases.

Kidney Foundation and a few public hospitals are facilitated with dialysis equipment. They are providing the service at a nominal cost. But, the number of seats is very limited. So, most of the patients have to depend on the private clinics where the charge of dialysis is very high. Usually they charge Tk. 3,000 to 4,000 per session and a patient has to spend Tk.32,000 to 50,000 per month.

In view of this, the government hospitals, private clinics and NGOs should come forward and give proper attention to this humanitarian issue so that more kidney patients can get dialysis at nominal price.

Engr. Zahir U. Hyder
Senior Engineer
South Asia India
SITA Global Services

Forge broader national unity

I am really shocked to notice our government's as well as our opposition party's activities. They admit that democracy is for the people but when they are in power they forget what they say. Hardly had they taken any step for the people when they got to power. Last week I heard a vendor saying with dissatisfaction that when the Awami League runs the country they become busy with Sheikh Mujib and when BNP runs the country they become busy with Ziaur Rahman. So how will our country develop?

Khaleda Zia warns that no party will join the election without a caretaker government. On the other hand, the government is determined to hold the election without any caretaker government. In this way, only people's misery will increase. So both the government and the opposition parties should be ready to compromise and engage in a dialogue. Do not increase people's misery. They should rather join the march towards progress and prosperity of the country together.

Rafik Alamgir
Department of ELL
International Islamic University Chittagong

A teacher's shameless act

Many times in my life I felt embarrassed to be a Bangladeshi, but never more than now. The incident of severe beating and breaking of one hand of a seven-year-old girl named Rexona in Tiakhali Government Primary School is horrific.

It is outrageous that the child could not get proper medical treatment only because her parents are poor.

Why doesn't the school or the offending teacher pay the bill? It's the least that we can demand from them after inflicting such horrific pain to the little girl.

Every child who can read will tell you that a ban on corporal punishment in schools was imposed by the High Court on January 13, 2011. This is probably the only law that every parent, child and teacher in the country knows, thanks to Sir Frank Peters but it's being wilfully and shamelessly violated. If our teachers can not set a good example to our children -- one that is right, moral and lawful then whom the parents would turn to?

We send our children to school to learn the difference between right and wrong and if those who teach them choose to be outlaws, it's time they packed their bags and left before they cause our children more harm.

Eng. Sultan Hossain

Chittagong

War crimes trial and some questions

The incumbent government came to power with its promise to try the war criminals and the government is still screaming about completing the trial process within its tenure. But we the general public, who voted for the AL have been overwhelmed with its promises. But at the end of the day, what they see is nothing but a kind of hide and seek game with the nation.

Now the International Crimes Tribunal is not playing a satisfactory role in completing the process. Rather it has raised many questions at home and abroad.

The tribunal could not produce 46 witnesses of the crimes done by Delwar Hossain Sayedee. Among the 46 absentees are Shahriar Kabir and Dr Jafar Iqbal. We see the two talk tall before the nation but unfortunately now they are shown absent in the trial process. What is wrong with them in facing the tribunal? Is it not a mockery before the nation? If they were unable to face the tribunal, then why were their names included in the witnesses' list?

It now seems that the government is not sincere enough to complete the process of trial and therefore lengthening the process to again come to power with the same promise. Will we or our next generation be lucky enough to see the completion of the trial?

Akash Mahmood
Department of English
Chittagong University

Plight of ordinary travellers on VIP roads

Road number 18 in North Banani has been made off limit for rickshaws for the last few months because of traffic jam. But does it mean that people who own cars are the owners of that road and who do not have cars should remain away? Is it democracy? Is it the decision of the traffic police? If it is, then Road number 11 of South Banani is also overcrowded most of the days of the week but there is no solution. May be it is the decision of an adviser in the prime minister's office whose house lies on road number 18.

Old people, schoolgoing children, patients and other unfortunate commuters have to go from North Gulshan to Banani or from Banani to North Gulshan by using the overcrowded Kemal Ataturk Avenue to reach their destinations by CNG-run auto rickshaw, or they have to go via road number 11 of South Banani to Gulshan 2 and then cross the main road twice and take another rickshaw to reach their destination and undergo a lot of sufferings because they do not belong to the posh society.

Kazi Mizanur Rahman

End traffic jam

Is there anybody who can tell us when the traffic jam of Dhaka city will be over? Is there any planning -- short term or long term by RAJUK or by DCC or by any other authority? We the helpless dwellers of Dhaka city have been experiencing unbearable and excruciating pains, losing our valuable time and energy sitting idle inside the cars, buses, rickshaws for hours together. Serious patients are suffering in the ambulance for many hours to reach the hospitals. Traffic jams slow down our lifestyle and also impede the trade and commercial activities to a great extent.

We were expecting some solution from the government who won the election by two-third majority. But we don't see any visible solution, we only hear about solution to take place in the future in 2021! There are many lanes and by-lanes which are directly connected to the main roads especially the VIP roads (airport road).

If these lanes and by-lanes are expanded wherever possible enabling smooth movement of cars and rickshaws, that will definitely reduce traffic jams on the main roads to some extent.

We urge the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to minimise traffic jams in Dhaka and thus save 10 million people from regular suffering caused by uncontrolled traffic jams.

M Jalal Hussain
Dhaka



PHOTO: WRITER



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'Cheating' Thru' MLM

Finance passes the buck
Central bank says it only can probe, but govt can take action; JS body wants law
(Monday, April 2, 2012)

This is one kind of cheating. I think the government should take necessary steps against such kind of financial organisations.

Partho

Government's reluctance and political involvements are the reasons behind such type of activities.

Travis

It is strange that the government is reluctant to take any action against people involved in Destiny 2000 Limited or its affiliate concerns.

Musharrif Hossain

I have read in the newspaper that important people within the government and their strong supporters are part of destiny. If the case be so, this will have the same fate as share

market inquiry by Khaled Ibrahim.

M.S Choudhury

What is the interest of the finance minister? Why is he reluctant to take action against Destiny 2000 Ltd.?

Shimul

Stop Destiny 2000 Ltd now, otherwise they will destroy this country.

Saidur rahman

Bangladesh government will be responsible for this sort of cheating business because it is the obligation of the government to protect people from this.

Fida Likhon

The strategy of Destiny 2000 is a new form of financial colonialism. It is destroying our youth

as they are now more concerned about Destiny rather than study. It is high time we did something against it.

Maruf

Destiny is cheating the unsuspecting people of our country. But it is not clear why does our government not take steps to protect them from the claws of Destiny?

Saiful

Destiny-2000 Ltd should be shut down immediately. At the same time, the interest of the cheated people should be considered by the government before taking any stern action.

Prabir Kumar Bairagi

Destiny 2000 Ltd. makes its own destiny by cheating innocent people. Some powerful persons are enjoying the benefit. Why are our intellectuals and financial experts silent? The government should take action immediately otherwise people will think that they are only considering the case of an ex-General. We all know that multi-level marketing (MLM) is a cheating business.

Anonymous

They possess the power and authority to manage the regulators like finance and commerce ministry, BB etc. Ironically, the persons responsible for such

swindle will go unpunished and as usual retain their positions as advisers, consultants and committee members.

M Shafiqula

Destiny 2000 Ltd. is in business for 3 years and respective government institutions didn't take any action against them for cheating the public. What will be the answer from the Bangladesh Bank and the ministry of finance?

Sengupta, Canada

Proper disciplinary action should be taken against the responsible persons. Who are the influential persons behind Destiny? Bring them under law immediately without making any false rhetoric. Lots of poor people may have to lose their hard-earned money. We have reasons to believe that owners of Destiny would escape unharmed and finance ministry will not dare to take any action against them like those involved in share market scam.

Makhan

Destiny has been cheating people by alluring them with large benefits, high profits and illegal investments and even with unethical activities to win the investors' minds.

People now want to see how the government reacts to this issue and how they take action against the activities of Destiny.