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## Driving schools needed

There is acute shortage of trained and efficient drivers in the country. In Dhaka city alone some three hundred vehicles are added to the existing fleet every day. In keeping pace with this demand, the number of drivers is inadequate. Of course, there are a few private driving schools in Dhaka but they are not at all sufficient to cope with the growing demand.

I suggest that the government should set up five to six driving schools under the directorate of youth development to train drivers in large numbers. Fee charged should be nominal to attract people. The government is providing huge subsidy to our schools, colleges and universities. A little subsidy on driving schools will create a lot of job opportunities at a nominal cost.

I appeal to the Ministry of Youth and Sports to take urgent steps to set up a number of driving schools with a little investment in Dhaka and one each in every divisional headquarter to solve this acute problem. What is required is only a little imagination, planning and sincerity of purpose.

Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury

DOHS Mohakhali

Dhaka

## Rab's claims questioned

I never thought the day would come to write this; but, it seems that RAB has serious organisational as well as policy-related problems about its field operations. Without legal transparency, their very existence becomes invalid, since no one knows what exactly motivates RAB to fire--necessity or or something calculated?

In the light of recently reported aggressive behaviour of RAB personnel, (i.e. shooting innocent Limon, beating the DU professor, etc.) how can one believe that these shootouts were anything but examples of a law enforcement agency gone out of control?

It would be naive to try to convince general populace by the silly claim that those incidents were unexpected or unavoidable or to attribute them to lower ranks and files.

If the high ranking officials cannot accept responsibility for the actions of their subordinates, then they should step down. The only way RAB can clarify its position is to show the public at least some justification behind all their so called "actions." Being professionals, they should be expert at handling such situations with the knowledge of how to take prisoners without killing them.

Yet, their tally of arrest from shootout is almost negligible. It's unbelievable that they have to shoot lethally in every encounter and kill so many people without justification.

If they cannot shoot without killing, if they cannot target any parts of the human anatomy except the vital organs, maybe they should be sent back to the shooting range to qualify as marksmen. People's wrath remains dormant for some time, and when it explodes, history tells us what a havoc it can wreak.

Tirtho Mahmud

San Antonio, TX

USA

## Stunting problem in kids

From the The Daily Star report of 8 April 2012, we have learnt that malnutrition is the root cause of stunted growth in kids. Statistics say that Bangladesh is in the list of top ten countries with the large number of underweight children.

Specialists say that stunted kids do not die but suffer a different fate. Stunting is associated with impaired brain development. A typical stunted brain has fewer cells. The cells themselves are somewhat smaller, and the interaction between them is more limited. It means that stunting seriously affects the intellect of children and also their productivity. Most of the children suffer irreversible damage due to this by age two, long before they begin to go to primary schools. In this regard, the UNICEF on 2009 pinpointed the first 1,000 days of a person's life as the key period in which to tackle stunting problem.

Anyway, as the root cause of stunting is malnutrition so eradication of malnutrition comes first as the remedy. Poverty, hunger, high food price, household nutrition insecurity, lack of knowledge about sanitation and hygiene and inadequate dietary intake etc. are closely related to this issue.

However, we have learnt that no government initiative has been taken till now focusing on stunting. So we hope that the government will take a scheme soon jointly with countries, organisations and personalities in this regard.

Mobarak Ali

RK Mission Road, Gopibagh

Dhaka



## Example set by Ashuganj power plant's technicians

S. Islam's report on the above matter, published in your pages on March 28th. is very good news for the Ashuganj Power Plant. The managing director of the plant and his team of engineers and technicians deserve recognition and reward for their initiative and dedication for the excellent work.

I wondered if the turbine of the faulty unit had problems of vibration due to damage and wear of turbine blades. The matter should be covered in all our audio visual media, which will be a recognition of the exemplary effort of the technical personnel concerned, and encouragement for all others.

The power ministry should do this to give them due recognition which will be an example for the other technical personnel in the various power plants, working thanklessly round the clock, all over Bangladesh.

I also recall, way back in 1965, when we faced similar types of problems with one of our steam turbine, at Khulna Newsprint Mill's power plant, which had to be solved and rectified by the mill personnel! Once again, congratulations for an excellent job done.

Engr. S.A. Mansoor

Dhaka

## Unbridled exploitation

Prior to coming to Houston, Texas, in the month of July 2011, we required to do some shopping. Back in Dhaka, as we happen to live near Bashundhara Shopping Complex, we preferred shopping at the mall.

At the Bata shoe store, probably on 6th/7th floor, I came across a sandal-shoe on display, which fascinated me, though I did not need one. I took a look at the sandal-shoe and was shocked and dismayed to see the price tag! It was either Tk. 5,000.00 or Tk. 6,000.00. I thought they must have put one additional zero by mistake, but upon inquiry I was told it was the correct price.

After about eight months in Houston, I came across a similar sandal-shoe or may be even better at the Walmart stores and bought it for only US \$13.00 with tax, by converting (13X85) into BD taka it is only Tk. 1,105.00.

It is really astonishing how it is possible for a Bangladeshi to buy a pair of sandal-shoe for Tk.5,000.00/ Tk.6,000.00 while the per capita income is perhaps less than US\$1,000.00, whereas the per capita income in the United States is US\$40,000.00 plus!

I have learned with great dismay and dissatisfaction that the prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed and are causing untold sufferings to the common people back at my homeland.

One of my childhood friends recently migrated to the United States and is now living in NY, which is considered to be one of the most expensive places to live in the United States.

While talking on the phone the other day, he told me he was shocked to see the prices of the essential commodities, which appeared to him to be rather cheaper compared to the prevailing prices back at home.

I told him that it was even cheaper in Houston compared to NY. He exclaimed, no wonder why people want to migrate to the United States.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub

## Monopoly of injustice

An American soldier killed at least 16 Afghans, 9 of them were children. Deep down, most Americans see it as a revenge for the recent murder of six American trainers by an Afghan trainee.

And the Muslims may see it as American's deep-seated hatred for all Muslims both moderate and extreme.

While such rampant massacre by lone gunman often happens in western society, some might downplay it as the action of a single demented soldier, but actually there goes on a well-designed long-term plan to keep Muslims down.

Experts, however, attribute the widespread killing and violence all over the world to the monopoly of injustice in the present world system as evidenced in superpowers' pre-emptive attack on the weaker countries and using their veto power for their own interest.

Especially, Muslims all over the world bore the brunt of the injustice and were and are still being subjected to untold conspiracy, deception, torture, deprivation, discrimination, double standard, crippling sanctions and unjust atrocious wars.

For example, Iraq was destroyed on the false plea of WMD and now Iran is facing an impending war on its alleged nuclear activity- a clear double standard here in the way they have a huge stockpile of nuclear warheads but will not allow the same power to the Muslim countries.

In reality the lone superpower, America, is trying to stem the Muslim revival by destroying Muslim countries' infrastructure and energy sources as evidenced by Israel's bombing of nuclear sites in Iraq, Syria and Libya.

Unfortunately, instead of standing against these atrocities by the west and its proxy, some Muslim countries are siding with the neo-colonialists to fight the rise of Iran as a true Islamic spirit.

I think the next world war which seems to be inevitable is likely to forge a brave new world. We hope that will be for the triumph of justice over the present world's overwhelming injustice.

Abdus Subhan

Iswardi Govt. College

Iswardi

## The shower in the morning



SHAIKH MOHIR UDDIN/ DRINK NEWS

Nature got wet through the exquisite shower in the morning of 6th April. The morning raindrops fell on leaves and rejuvenated them. It appeared that a long night journey has not ended in another hot and sultry day. All woke up with a touch of tranquillity.

The rain soothed my soul. I was immersed in nature. I smelt the earth drenched in rain. For me, it was breathtaking.

Rubab Abdullah (Shukla)

Dhaka Cantonment

Dhaka



## Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

### 'Railway-gate' scandal Suranjit comes under fire

Govt embarrassed; BNP asks minister to go; ACC to probe; Tk 70 lakh alleged to have come from recent recruitment (April 12, 2012)

The authorities concerned should investigate the matter properly so that the truth may come out.

Jahangir Alam

Why is not the anti-corruption body investigating this obvious instance of corruption case?

Roni Rahman

Even a grade 4 student would understand that you cannot investigate against yourself. If we fail to set standards here, we have very little chance to get out of the infamy as the number one corrupt nation.

Jumana Sarwar

What a disgrace! Sengupta should resign and prove his

innocence later in the court of law. It is utterly disgusting for a man like him to be involved in such incident.

Dev Saha

The bold red and green coloured flag of Bangladesh does not inspire anyone anymore. Money, greed and power are driving us all. We have no religion, no faith, no pride and no moral values. For a little money we can sacrifice everything.

Shah

We should award the driver a medal in recognition of his role in exposing the blatant bribery.

Hoq Kotha

If the present government is really against corruption, as they always claim, it is a good opportunity for them to prove it --- reward 'the driver'.

Fed up

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta has been exposed for his corruption and illegal money. The vehicle involved was going to his residence. This fact proves that he is accountable for this money. He must resign immediately and let an independent body investigate the case.

Mohammad Rahman

Suranjit Sengupta gave several statements in support of his APS and two other high-ranking railway officers and against the driver, which were contradictory. I think it is time for the minister to take full responsibility for the incident and resign when someone so close to him and other high-ranking railway officers are involved in such an alleged bribery scheme.

Truth Teller

The minister indirectly proved his direct involvement in the scandal. Why should he be scared of judicial inquiry? How sad! He used to talk so loudly against his opponents and vilify them. It would be wiser for him

to immediately resign that may cool down the heat generated by his own action. But he is looking for scapegoats like the innocent driver who has so courageously exposed the scandal before the nation. The PM instead of asking him to submit resignation, directed him to take action.

Abul, UK

There should be a judicial inquiry into the Tk 70 lakh which was found with the APS of the Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta on the way to his home at midnight. The inquiry should focus on issues like the source of the money, why at midnight such a huge amount of money was being brought to the minister's home, role of the APS and two other officials and why the driver disclosed it to BGB, etc.

Anonymous

The minister was aware of the big recruitment and the large scale bribery could not take place without his secret involvement. It cannot be imagined that the personnel responsible for the recruitment would dare to resort to bribery if the minister was not involved in it. The government should institute a high-level probe body to investigate the incident