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# London 2012 Olympics



PHOTO: AFP

The Summer Olympic Games has begun in London at the brand new Olympic Stadium in the Olympic Park. The Games of the XXX Olympiad (London 2012) will be staged in the British capital in which over 10,500 athletes from across 204 nations is expected to compete across 26 different sports and in over 300 matches. This will also be a historic occasion for London as it will become the only city in the world to have handed the honour of hosting the biggest global event for the third time after hosting the games in 1908 and 1948. The Olympic Games have the biggest global audience compared to any other event in the world and is widely regarded as the "greatest show on earth".

The official London 2012 motto is, "Inspire a Generation" and the 11 million visitors who are expected to travel to London to witness the greatest show on earth will be hoping that athletes from their respective nations will be making them proud.

Swimming has always been one of the most popular sports at the Olympics and this year will be no different especially with American Michael Phelps the greatest Olympian in the history of the Games with 14 gold medals attempting to win more medals at the spectacular Aquatics Centre, designed by award-winning British-Iraqi architect Dame Zaha Hadid, and keeping a clear blue-water distance from other legends in being recognised as the greatest Olympian ever.

Bangladesh have the record of being the most populous nation to have never won an Olympics medal which is a travesty considering its reputation as a sports-loving country.

Aranya Syed  
London, Great Britain

## Faltering AL govt.

One thing is for sure that Awami League (AL) government is the worst in respect of inter-ministerial coordination. The way the government has been faltering for the lack of coordination among its component parts, reminds me of the famous song 'gari cholena cholena cholena re...' We are surprised to see that AL government treated the World Bank as it treats the general people of Bangladesh. We the people of Bangladesh were aware of the Abul's corruption much earlier. We protested against our sufferings on the broken roads and not being able to go home for Eid, but the government did not pay heed to us.

And then came the allegation of corruption of Abul from the World Bank. The government then treated this powerful world body as its opposition party. We saw the result -- the cancellation of loan for Padma bridge. Then we saw the government throwing a magic spell of patriotism that we do not need any outside help for building the bridge. Many men at the helm gave many formulas for constructing the bridge. The golden boys who are behind burning down the backbone of education started to collect money for the bridge. Then we started to see something fishy in the fanfare of self-financing the bridge.

Now the government seems to be beaten to conscience that all these time they were on the wrong track wasting their time and energy and shattering the hopes of the people. Abul is gone, but we wonder whether the 'Abul style' is gone from all the nook and crannies of the government.

Tinku

# Myanmar president on Rohingya

Myanmar President Thein Sein is reported to have said to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, "We will take responsibilities for our ethnic people but it is impossible to accept the illegally entered Rohingyas who are not our ethnicity." He also expressed to the UNHCR chief that the only solution to the Rohingya issue was deporting them to a third country.

Myanmar President's comments and views are most unexpected and disappointing. The Rohingyas have been living in Rakhine state of Myanmar for centuries -- generation after generation. They are very much the sons of the soil. It is their birth right to get citizenship of Myanmar. But the sad story is that the Myanmar authorities have all along been refusing to accept them as the citizens of the country. The stateless and friendless Rohingyas, a small minority in Myanmar, are now fleeing their own motherland to escape injustice and torture by their own countrymen! What a tragedy!

Myanmar President's idea of deporting an entire minority community to a third country is regrettable. Is there any other instance like this?

We still hope the government and the people of Myanmar will see reason and change their stand and attitude towards the Rohingyas.

Md Mohsin Ali  
NutanCourtpara  
Kushtia



PHOTO: AFP

## "Pain and the remnants of love"

Syed Badrul Ahsan's above captioned article is a timely reaction of millions who could not have been caught by any sort of media. Any love is problematic if it causes plethora of distress to others.

I don't enjoy Badrul Ahsan's too biased partisan articles. But the editorial of 25th is truly a genius journalism depicting untold reactions of Gultekin sympathisers. Society moves by time-tested social laws. Any human being is free to have his own version of emotional activities. But when agony of others is bypassed, destiny is haunted by unforeseen dramas. Let us take all events in totality instead of isolated bliss.

DR. Q.M. Ohidul Alam  
Panchlaish R/A  
Chittagong

## Streamlining chaotic traffic

With the advent of the Ramadan, traffic jam has become a regular phenomenon on the roads of Chittagong. As a result, the woes of the commuters have multiplied. The roads around the shopping centres remain clogged up round the clock with different types of vehicles. Rickshaws -- slow moving as they are -- add to the traffic gridlock.

A flyover is under construction in the Bahadderhat area. So the middle part of the road in that area remains occupied, leaving narrow strips of road for the vehicular movement. Consequently, that part of the road remains clogged up from morning till night. A few days ago, a girder of the flyover fell down, injuring a rickshaw-puller. Those who travel to the southern part of Chittagong have to suffer a lot as they have to move across the Bahadderhat area.

Something needs to be done to streamline the chaotic traffic system.  
ZabedWali

# Congrats to President Mukherjee



PHOTO: AFP

Pranab Mukherjee has become the 1st Bangalee president of India. Hearty congratulations to President Pranab Mukherjee. Mr. Mukherjee is an experienced and talented political leader. There is no doubt that under the able leadership of President Pranab Mukherjee India will move forward in its democracy and diplomacy in the changing world. Relationship with neighbouring countries including Bangladesh will, as I trust, witness a new dimension of peace and understanding during President Mukherjee's tenure. I expect that the new Indian President Pranab Mukherjee would contribute effectively in strengthening SAARC and introducing a common currency for the SAARC countries.

I sincerely wish total success of President Pranab Mukherjee.

Professor M Zahidul Haque  
Dean  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

## A great achievement

Last Sunday was a bright day for all Bangladeshis as some young mathematicians achieved a silver medal along with two brass medals in the 53rd International Mathematical Olympiad in Argentina. Heartiest congratulations to all the members of Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad, especially Dhonanjoy Biswas for achieving the silver medal.

It is a great honour for us that they have raised our red-green flag to a higher level. We tried for the last eight years and got four brass medals before. It is also an astonishing achievement because there are some countries which are trying for the last 53 years but got nothing yet. It proves how talented our youths are. This achievement again proved our ability in the science-oriented knowledge to the world. As our selection process is exceptional and fair, we can expect more.

Again my heartiest congratulations to Dhonanjoy Biswas, Sourav Das, Nur Mohammad, Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad, the DBBL and the daily Prothom Alo for their nice vision and commitment. Hope we can achieve the gold medal next.

Mohammad Jashim Uddin  
Rupnagar, Mirpur

# Life is a creation of mind

Is the glass half-empty or half-full? Answer to this age-old question may determine one's perception of life, whether he is a pessimist or an optimist--and it may not only affect his physical and mental health but also impact on his financial condition. Positive thinking plays a great role in improving the condition of the wretched people reducing their poverty. Esther Duflo, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, inferred this from her research on poverty and concluded that the infusion of hope can help the poor people move out of the trap of poverty.

Badhon, an MFI of Indian state of West Bengal, provides loan and assets like a cow, a chicken etc to the poor people with the hope of increasing their income level. But evaluating the outcome of the programme, Ms Duflo found that there was a huge improvement in their life style. According to her research, they were eating 15% more and earning 20% more each month. Interestingly, this income gain did not come directly from the assets provided by Badhon. Neither was it attributed to direct effects of grants nor from simply selling the assets. Ms Duflo and her colleague found that the programme had reduced the depression of the recipient imbuing them with energy to work more. Ms Duflo considers that this scenario demonstrated that the insertion of optimism could let the people out of poverty.



PHOTO: AFP

Hence, infusion of hope has apparent benefits and it keeps our minds composed and improves physical health that leads to a better life. As Budhdha said: "Life is a creation of the mind."

Shanjida Yasmin  
College Avenue West  
Guelph, Canada

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* news report headlined "We cannot take in any more Rohingya"

### Md. Russell Talukder

These unfortunate people, just because they are Muslims, have nowhere to go. As Muslim brothers, we have some responsibility.

### Sabbir

We should support our prime minister in this regard. We just cannot allow any more Rohingyas in our country. Our country is already overpopulated and we have been suffering a lot. If any Muslim or European country talks in favour of Rohingyas, we should ask them to give them shelter in their own country.

### Shahid

I do not know why Bangladeshis get so emotional and compare this situation with 1971. It is not the same. Bangladeshis came back to their homeland as soon as the war ended. Rohingyas will never return once they come to Bangladesh. Myanmar will never accept them.

### Anonymous

Millions of Bangalees stayed in India for 9 months in 1971. We should remember that.

### Nasim Hasan

Some readers compare this situation with 1971 of Bangladesh. Well, have we stayed in India since then? Besides, Bangladesh was in a state of a war then. Is Myanmar in the midst of a war now? Moreover, Bangladesh has already given shelter to more than 350,000 Myanmar citizens. The solution to the Rohingya problem depends entirely on Myanmar government.

### Vidstarr

Giving asylum to Rohingyas will not lessen their plight much as they will be equally detested by native Bangladeshis. Our prime minister has made the right decision here even though it might not seem humane.

### F Khan

Rohingya issue is indeed a humanitarian one. Rising above all other logical state policies, Bangladesh government should have helped them instead of sending them back to danger again. Moreover, the role of international community was anything but enough.

### Translucent

I think the PM is right to stay firm in her stance. Why isn't there a greater amount of international pressure on Myanmar? Problems within Myanmar are created due to lack of administrative skills within the government there. Why should BD accept the overspill? What is the foreign office doing?

### MH Uddin

We are the most densely populated country in the world and we have many serious problems like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, corruption etc.

Middle East and other Mediterranean countries have vast land and it's quite possible for them to relocate all those hapless Rohingyas. They will not do that though they are speaking loud for their Muslim brothers.

### Anonymous

The United Nations promised to pay the cost of maintaining them in Bangladesh. Accepting the