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# Admission test should stay



The last minute decision of not taking admission test for medical and dental admission this year is impractical and shocking. There are some serious issues to be addressed in this regard.

Firstly, this decision must have come at least four years earlier before implementation. Since GPA of both SSC and HSC will be counted, a student has to take preparation from class IX till class XII.

Secondly, and most importantly, can board exams like SSC and HSC be considered a standard way of selecting eligible candidates for medical and varsity admission? I must say, it can not be. It is quite clear from the recent record-breaking results of both SSC and HSC that teachers are encouraged, or should I say forced, by the government to give easy marks.

Board exam and admission tests are two very different exams in terms of standard. The standard of board questions and assessment of answer sheets are highly liberal. It can in no way come closer to the standard of admission tests in terms of differentiating between the students who studied books thoroughly and who studied based on 'suggestions'.

I am not saying admission tests are flawless, but it's way better system for the selection of eligible candidates than board exams.

Yes, coaching business is a problem. Why this practice developed and what the solution is -- that is another issue that requires realistic analysis.

If the combined GPA of SSC and HSC has to be the method of selecting the candidates, then there has to be a massive reform in the entire system also. Especially, the standard of board questions and the assessment of answer sheets have to be 'critical,' not 'politically popular'.

And the ever-lasting problem of Bangladesh -- lack of transparency and accountability -- is a major concern. Nobody, either the students or the parents, have any clear idea about the smallest details of the selection process based on GPA. So the chances of corruption and partiality are always there, since a number of students with identical grade points are going to compete against every single seat.

We believe the government will address this issue with proper importance and take the right decision.

**Sami Al Zabir**  
Bangladesh University of Textiles  
Dhaka

leadership could not give the country the dynamism and vision that Bangabandhu evinced through his people-oriented programmes. Instead, she miserably failed to live up to the expectation of the people and the dream of a Sonar Bangla has gone with the wind. The nation lost Bangabandhu untimely but he will be remembered for time immemorial with highest honour.

**Ahmed Niaz**  
Mohammadpur  
Dhaka

## Who then shot and maimed Limon?

On August 16, 2012, The Daily Star published a report under the heading 'Police Probe find RAB innocent'. It said that police have quietly submitted a report to Jhalakhathi court saying they have found no evidence and witnesses in favour of the attempt-to-murder case filed by the mother of Limon Hossain, a college student maimed by RAB personnel last year.

As we were following the case from the very beginning and from the reports of different newspapers, it was clear that Limon was innocent, so this news shocked and made us indignant. How could police do such things? Are they afraid of RAB that they did not dare to tell the truth?

Another news has been published on August 23, 2012 relating to Limon. We learned that Limon, his mother and brother were attacked on Eid day by a RAB informant and his aides when they were taking pictures on a road in Rajapur.

How could it be possible? Where has law and order gone? Has it crumpled completely? If it is the condition of the country, then we have no hope, we can just sit back and watch everything fall around us.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Bangabandhu's dream remains unfulfilled

Many of the great leaders of the world such as Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, fell prey to the bullets of the disgruntled men and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was no exception.

These leaders made great contributions in the field of politics and political freedom, human rights as well as human emancipation in their own country and their sacrifices for the cause of their people made them leaders. Bangabandhu too made similar, or even greater, contributions, according to many.

No other leaders of the then East Pakistan waged a relentless political battle against Pakistani exploitation and domination culminating in the birth of Bangladesh. He had the dream and the will to build it into a Sonar Bangla. But before he could materialise his dream, he was assassinated by some disgruntled army officers. As no man is infallible, he also made some mistakes, but there was no denying that he was always concerned about the welfare of the masses of the people. To cite a few of his accomplishments, he had started green revolution to make the country self-reliant in food supply. He waived tax for the land up to 25 bighas.

He set up the Bangladesh Military Academy to produce army officers in line with other nations, in order that the sovereignty of the country could be kept secure. He made education compulsory.

He first felt the necessity of building Jamuna bridge and ordered the minister concerned to go ahead. And your dispassionate reading of history will give credence to the fact that there was hardly anyone among the leaders who loved Bangladesh and its people more than he did.

His party Awami League, was elected to power twice, but sadly, the party under his daughter Sheikh Hasina's

# Dhaka, the worst liveable city

This year Dhaka has been ranked the worst liveable city among world's 140 cities, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s 2012 Global Liveability Survey. This ranking is done based on 30 factors, across five categories such as stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

Now we can respond to this report in two ways. We can condemn this report and protest against EIU for belittling our city intentionally in the international arena. Or we can do self-analysis and think seriously about improving the situation.

However, Dhaka has not acquired this position suddenly. It was a gradual process. While other city dwellers and officials concerned were sincerely carrying out their respective duties to upgrade the condition of their cities, we as a nation neglected this matter. Time has come to ask ourselves: Have we played our roles?

The government has failed to chalk out any short term or long term plans for creating public awareness in this regard. Many political leaders have compromised the interest of the city for personal gains. The law enforcers were blind to the law-breakers. We hope each and everyone of us would rise to the occasion and someday our collective efforts would make this historical city liveable again.

**Mobarak Ali**  
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh  
Dhaka

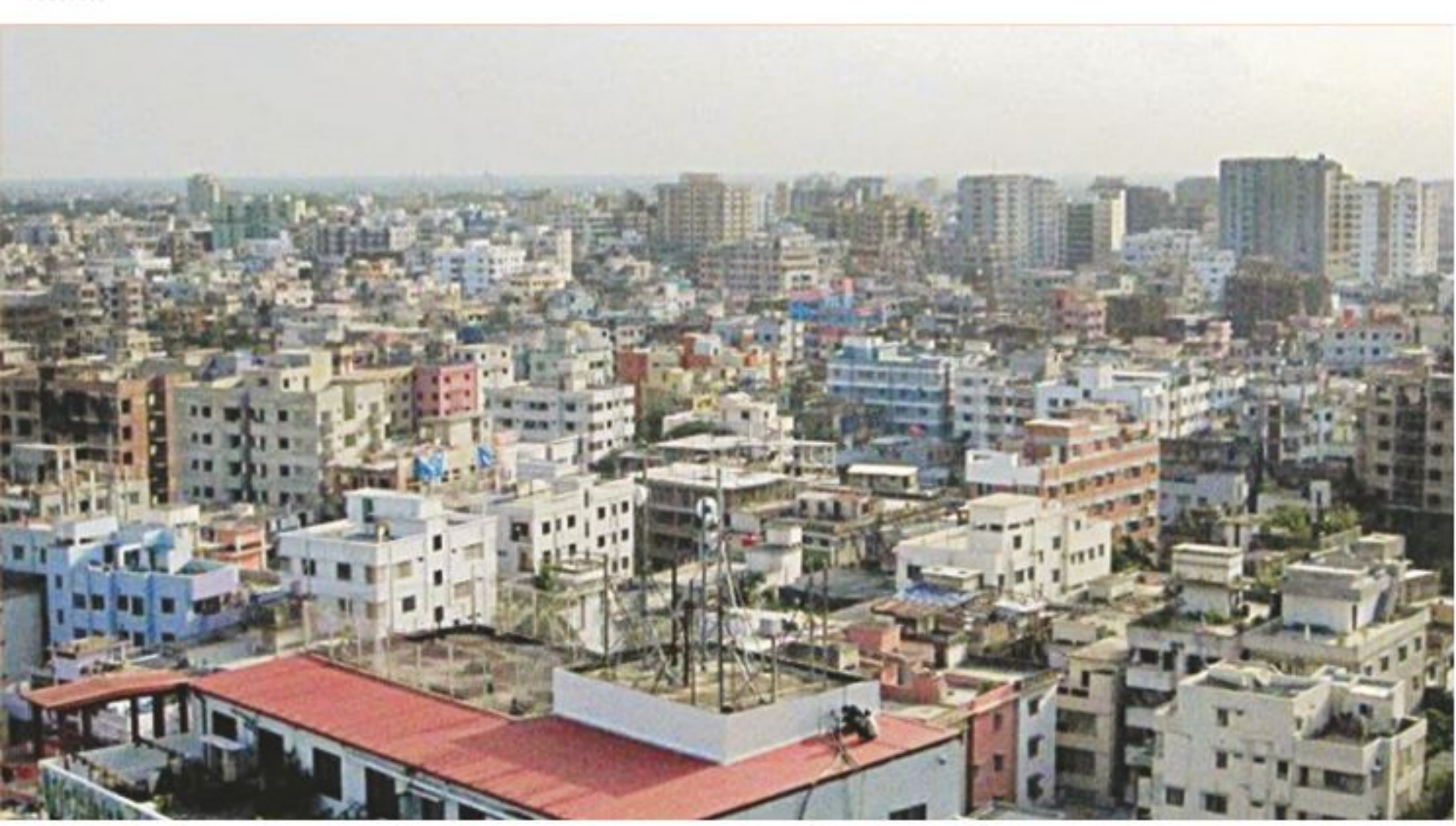


PHOTO: PROBR BIDHAN

## Satellite towns around Dhaka

Every year we see oceans of people leave Dhaka to go to their native towns and villages across the country to enjoy Eid holidays. We can see the rush of people when they move to and from Dhaka city. Overpopulation has made this city a complete failure in terms of food, shelter, transport, education, or to put it briefly, standard of living. People live miserable lives without minimum amenities of a modern city.

Policymakers along with the civil society have proposed the establishment of several satellite towns surrounding Dhaka city. Considering the population pressure on life of the city dwellers, it is of topmost priority to plan a model so that their feasibilities and acceptability can be tested. Four or five such satellite towns can be created. If an efficient and well-planned transportation system can be ensured, then distribution of the population among these towns can bring substantial social and economic gains.

Moreover, it will have quite a large magnitude of spread effect among the surrounding neighbourhoods which will bring change in their standard of living.

**Md. Anisuzzaman Sarker**  
Junior Assistant Vice President  
Mutual Trust Bank Limited

## Why only teachers and not doctors?

Many guardians and students have welcomed the education minister's announcement of banning private coaching by teachers. Some schoolteachers have raised a question that if the highly paid doctors can do private practice, why on earth cannot the poor teachers do private coaching?

Would our education minister and health minister kindly clarify the matter?

**O H Kabir**  
Dhaka

# Promoting tourism

Branding Bangladesh as "Beautiful Bangladesh" to attract tourists was suggested in S. Ahmad's write up published in your pages on August 10.

It is, however, only an optimistic side of the matter. Once a tourist lands in Dhaka, the unwary tourist might quite possibly be stranded due to non functional transportation caused by a political strike, a common phenomenon of Bangladesh today. This is the first cruel reality the tourist may face. He or she may be extremely lucky to hire a three wheeler, to go to the hotel, unhindered and unstopped by a crowd of so called 'political activists' that rules the city during strikes. Usually, being stopped a number of times on the way; and even facing a brawl or throwing of stones on the way is the norm; with chances of injury!

After such a beginning, will any tourist feel comfortable to travel further to far off places where most of the popular tourist spots are located? Most likely not. The disappointed tourist would rather seek the first available plane to go out of the country at the earliest opportunity!

Such uncertain political climate is more the rule than exception. This is the unfortunate. No amount of promotional measures taken or promises made can improve the situation. Thanks to our politicians, whose only aim is to go to power! How can we then expect to transform Bangladesh into a popular tourist destination?

**S.A. Mansoor**  
Gulshan, Dhaka



PHOTO: NOOR ALAM/DRINKNEWS



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## Non-govt Primary Schools

Govt goes for nationalisation  
Process starts in January with MPO-listed schools; to be completed in three phases  
(August 17, 2012)

**Dr Samiul Haque**  
It is a good step taken by the government.

**Nasim Hasan**  
The nationalisation process of the non government primary school is a very timely decision and should be implemented properly as soon as possible. It's better late than never.

We have a tendency to politicize every great achievement. So, we would like to request the involved bodies to keep

the whole process clean and transparent.

## Mahbur Rahman Sharif

Just before the Eid celebration, at least we got a good news. Through this declaration, the primary school teacher's dream is going to be fulfilled. Now, they will be able to give full concentration to build our future citizens.

## Mosleh Uddin

National election is near at hand. Government should not be tempted

just for vote. Qualifications and aptitude of the teachers should be properly checked prior to nationalization.

## Mahub

To nationalise the non-government primary schools is a right decision. Of course it, is a praiseworthy action by the present government. I appreciate it so much but our teachers should be more sincere to teach our future generation who will lead the country.

## Reaz Hassan

It is an excellent and right decision. Thus greatly relieved of their pecuniary hardship, teachers are expected to take up their profession in a more serious manner.

However, to ensure quality education, we need also to take up a program of teachers' training, improve school buildings, and provide pupils with meal, library, periodical medical check

up and recreational facilities. For all these, the education budget needs to be increased.

## Sellma

Is it wise to increase costs to the government when it is sinking in debts?

## Jumana Sarwar

Sellma has rightly pointed out a fact that concerns me too. But at the same time, I know the next year is the election year and the stakes are very high for AL government.

## Sengupta, Canada

It needs three billion taka per year to pay out our respectable primary school teachers.

And more contributions of the teachers are needed for our children's mental and physical development. So besides implementing the step, the government must introduce modern and timely training programme for boosting