

# Promoting tourism



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Recently Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Faruk Khan has emphasized diversification of the country's tourism sector. He said, "You can't keep tourists more than one day by showing one particular attraction. We need to bring diversification in tourism with a blend of natural beauty, culture and heritage." The government has taken a significant approach to make Bangladesh one of the top 10 Asian tourist destinations, he added.

However, the minister said the government believes that development of the country's tourism would be done by private sector. In fact, calling private sectors to come forward to invest in tourism businesses will hardly get any response until the government makes the environment business-friendly. The government has to play an

important role in supporting the entrepreneurs for developing tourism sector in the country.

We are happy to know that the present government has prioritised the tourism sector as a thrust sector. Meanwhile, the government has already formed Cox's Bazar and Kuakata Development Authorities for the infrastructure development of these two most exciting tourist destinations.

We thank M Faruk Khan for showing such enthusiasm because we believe his gesture would also work to promote this sector.

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

## Ban carrying of weapons on campus

Most students of public universities belong to middle class or lower middle class families. Their parents send them to the universities with the hope that one day they will complete their studies and take the responsibility of their family. But instead of studying, they get involved in dirty politics and political violence only for power and money.

Our government has made a law against smoking in public places. Can they make another law banning the use of any kind of weapons on the university campus? Then at least we will not have to see newspaper photos of students carrying sharp weapons and attacking each other.

From our experience we can say that only 10-15% of the students are involved in active politics but all the students have to suffer for their misdeeds. Student politics had a great contribution to our Language Movement and Liberation War. Now the time has come for the political parties to research why the students have deviated from that principle. A joint effort of the government and the university authorities is necessary to make our campuses violence-free.

**Jabunnaher**  
*Dhaka*

## Best performance of Shawon

In Houston, Texas, USA, we were watching Meher Afroze Shawon, wife of late Humayun Ahmed, featuring on Tritio Matra on Channel i. We have seen

Shawon acting in a number of dramas and cinemas in the past while staying in Dhaka.

Watching her perform on Tritio Matra made me believe that it is the best ever performance by Meher Afroze Shawon and she definitely deserves accolades for her performance on Tritio Matra episode number 3337. I hope Meher Afroze Shawon will be able to live up to the expectation of the late writer and continue to add to his glory. May the soul of the late writer rest in peace forever.

**Saleh Mohammad Ayub**  
*Houston, Texas*  
*USA*

## Nuclear power: Can we handle it?

The article "Mutant butterflies in Fukushima: What's next?" written by Abdul Matin on September 25 in your pages is a scientific analysis of possible harms of nuclear accidents. The writer has given different examples of nuclear accidents around the world. Bangladesh has intended to produce electricity through nuclear power in Ruppur to meet its increasing demand. We hope the government will take all necessary precautions to contain the damage from possible accidents. Japan has struggled a lot and is still suffering after its nuclear disaster originated from an 8.9 magnitude earthquake followed by tsunami. We have to proceed more carefully and carry out several experiments before we go ahead with the nuclear project.

**Mizanur Rahman**

# Water logging in Satkhira

Water logging is more harmful than natural flood. It is more destructive because it stays longer than flood. But unfortunately, we give more emphasis on flood control than water logging. The marginal farmers are mostly affected by water logging.

Machkhola, Damerputa, Ziala, Shallah in Satkhira sadar are the worst affected areas. Every year these areas get affected by water logging. Water logging causes huge economic loss by damaging crops, creating scarcity of pure water, spreading various diseases, etc. I think the main cause of water logging in this area is that the sluice gates are not properly maintained. The gates get completely blocked by winter. Every year 5 lakh or more people remain without work, shelter and starve in this region. The authorities concerned should pay attention to this problem.

**Asad**  
*Satkhira*



PHOTO: STAR

## Punish criminals for dishonouring

### Prophet(sm)

The person or persons in the USA who made the film dishonouring the holy Prophet of Islam Muhammad (sm) committed an unforgivable crime. Their criminal act has created a terrible situation in the world. Scores of people have been killed due to their criminal acts.

While strongly condemning the criminals and their heinous act, I would request the US President Barack Obama to take initiative to punish the criminals who dishonoured our Prophet(SM) of Islam and hurt the sentiments of the Muslims all over the world. At the same time, the United States should pass necessary legislation prohibiting such criminal act(s) in the name of freedom of speech.

In my opinion, this criminal act might have been designed to stop President Obama from winning the coming presidential election. It may be mentioned here that according to a post-election poll by the American Muslim Taskforce on Civil Rights and Elections (AMT), nearly 90% of American Muslims voted for Barack Obama in 2008.

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

## Poor healthcare service at RMCH

Last week I went to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as one of my family members was admitted there. I was really shocked to see the pathetic condition of the hospital. This famous hospital, which is one of the biggest hospitals in South Asia, is beset with mismanagement due to indifference of the hospital authorities. Each ward commodates 70 to 90 patients and is supervised by only one or two doctors. Though the Emergency department promises 24 hour service to the patients, actually this is

not possible because of lack of doctors. Almost no washroom is in usable condition. Even bribery is rampant inside the wards. Doctors are seen giving their visiting cards to the patients to meet them later at their private chambers. The most pathetic thing is doctors' rude behaviour with the patients. It seems that doctors are just like machines. They have no human feeling or sympathy for the patients. Maybe this is a common picture in all public hospitals. Perhaps those who are not affluent go to public hospitals. Sensing their weakness, the authorities concerned maltreat them. The government should take initiatives to improve the condition and services of the public hospitals.

**A student**  
*University of Dhaka*

## Intersection at Khilkhet

Needless to say, Dhaka is an unplanned city with worst traffic jams. Probably it would take many more decades for our present and future governments to focus more on the development of infrastructure to deal with traffic mismanagement. To ease traffic congestion, authorities build intersections mostly in VIP areas overlooking others. For example, there is no intersection at Khilkhet area on the airport road.

Students and service holders regularly face problems to get a CNG or taxicab to go to their destination. It is because there is no intersection in the area. The CNG or cab drivers do not want to go to Khilkhet or demand exorbitant fare showing the cause that they have to take a detour via airport intersection reach Khilkhet. As a result, patients and elder people suffer. This area needs an intersection urgently. We urge the authorities concerned to immediately build an intersection at Khilkhet to mitigate the sufferings of tens of thousands of residents of this area.

**Hasnat and Noyon**  
*On behalf of the inhabitants of Khilkhet*  
*Dhaka*

# Think about peaceful ways to protest

It is natural to get irritated whenever insulted or provoked. It is also a constitutional right to protest such provocation. But the way I see protests are being conducted is not right. Of course religion comes first but I saw in The Daily Star that a police car was being vandalised by the protestors. The maker of the provocative film is far away from Bangladesh, but the police car that was destroyed was an asset of the state and the people. If the police had not come early, more damage or destruction would have happened. The government will use the taxpayers' money to replace the police car and repair other cases of damage. This is the money that could be used in other development works. My point here is, let opinion leaders ask people to adopt peaceful means of protest. The same message of anger can be communicated and

received peacefully. There are so many means of protest which are equally effective. Condemn provocation but don't destroy national property. And not every foreigner in Bangladesh is the maker of the film. Some are development experts and we need them; others are tourists, they bring money to the economy; some are investors, they create jobs. I am an African student living here for 2 weeks but I made friends with people.

**Julius Zaake Wasswa, Uganda**



PHOTO: AFP



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## Fresh reminder from WB

Padma graft allegations must be thoroughly investigated, it insists (*September 27, 2012*)

### Manzoor Ashraf

It seems that the World Bank will play active role in this project and I hope the WB team will assist the ACC to find out all the corrupt officials.

### Iftikhar-ul-Awwal

It is heartening that an expert team of investigators from the WB will soon be arriving in Dhaka to witness ACC's investigation on some suspected public officials said to be involved in financial scam in the project. We sincerely hope that the truth will soon come out and we can proceed along at a pace with the work of the project keeping the notorious ones at bay.

### Suahmed

Government high ups are considering the WB loan revival their victory. But their rhetoric implies that the government is still taking the graft allegations lightly. But the WB statement made its intention clear to supervise the investigation by the ACC and also expressed its concern about possible corruption in future. So we request the government to be more cautious in every step if they really want to construct Padma bridge with WB loan.

### Truth Hurts

To suspend a project without disbursing a single dollar on

allegation of corruption is lunacy. I firmly believe that there are more corrupt people in Bangladesh than honest ones and I also believe that the WB will play the drama and dillydally more as the election time nears. The sad part is the AL has proven to be an utterly inefficient political party when it comes to administering the nation.

### Pothik

Please stop fooling us. The government should show us that they have the ability to investigate fairly.

### W. Khan

I am afraid that the WB might cancel the loan again if Bangladesh government officials keep up the rhetoric against the lender.

### Barkat

Due to the greed of a few top politicians and officials, the entire nation is facing disgrace. Today the WB does not trust ACC and it wants its own investigators to be present. It is well understood that the WB does not trust the present govern-

ment and hence they will be highly reluctant to lend.

### Himukala

The WB knows very well that zero tolerance to corruption in a developing country is impossible when even reputed firms from the developed countries are also corrupt. The WB will bring in further conditions to delay the project and ensure that the Hasina government fails to build the Padma bridge. Sheikh Hasina should understand this.

### Niloufar Sarker

The ball is in the WB's court. What does the ACC investigation have to do with the disbursement of the loan? Showing distrust of ACC is demeaning, yet the government has agreed to investigate the allegations in presence of the international panel designated by the WB. I am beginning to think that the bank is playing cat and mouse game with Bangladesh.

### A reader

Spare us from this drama, please.