

Congratulations to Barack Obama!



I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to President Barack Obama on his election for a second term as the President of the United States. This is not only a victory of Barack Obama but every ordinary citizen of the United States. This is also a landmark victory for most of the global citizens who always vote for peace and greater international understanding. Let the world move towards a better goal under the dynamic and pru-

dent leadership of President Obama. I sincerely wish President Obama every success in his second term in the White House. May God bless him.
Prof. M Zahidul Haque
Dean
Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Stop juveniles from throwing stones at moving trains!

M Abul Kalam Azad's report published recently in this daily entitled "Trains face little terrors" stirred my childhood memory. My maternal uncle's house was beside a railway track. Still I remember that my cousins used to throw stones at the moving train targeting the window.
On vacations, I used to visit them and joined the game with excitement. We usually played this game in the evening while returning home after playing football in the afternoon. At that time we were students of class III or IV. We considered the boy who succeeded in throwing stones into a train compartment through the window a hero. We hardly thought about the sufferings of the passengers in the train.
However, today the number of naughty boys have increased as the population has almost doubled. Kids have become more expert at throwing stones and running away after hitting the target. So these types of accidents are taking place frequently nowadays.
Creating awareness among the children of the areas adjacent to rail line is one of the best ways of solving the problem. Local teachers especially of moktob (because all Muslim parents, irrespective of class, send their kids to moktob in the morning in the rural areas) can play an important

role in stopping this dangerous game played by the children.
Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Please reinstate YouTube

It is unfortunate that YouTube was banned in Bangladesh due to circumstances for which no one from here were responsible. As far as I know, no one really watched that video here and the only reason for violence in Bangladesh was because other Muslim countries reacted and Muslims in Bangladesh followed them. No one could give me a clear description of what the video was really about. All they said was it was a stupid video. I think our people are being more stupid reacting to something they know nothing about.
YouTube is used for educational purposes. I was also very pleased to find old songs and even old movies which my parents used to listen to 30 years ago, and the songs brought back so many memories.
I urge the government to consider people's sufferings and only filter what requires filtering instead of banning the whole network. The government is trying to create a "Digital Bangladesh". In this case I believe it is a step backwards.
Aminur Rahim
New DOHS, Mohakhali
Dhaka

Novel way to fleece Biman

Your first page lead report and a second page report on 5th.November dealt with two remarkable scenarios of corruption in Bangladesh! Saiful Islam's front page heading was all about corruption in Biman through "Organized Baggage Bungling", a unique way to practice corruption that even puts the aircraft's safety at risk!
This now seems to be the m\ain reason for excessive fuel consumption of Biman flights; where unrecorded, unauthorized baggage is loaded without weighing. So that extra money might be pocketed by a group on the ground! This has been going on for many years and unofficially known to many! No action has been taken so far about this organized corruption.
The solution is to scrap Biman's overseas flights, if not close Biman and sell off all its assets to stop the haemorrhage of losses continuing year after year! We should leave airlines industry to the private sector, to cure this malady, which we have failed to rectify over decades.
The second page report is by your Dhaka court correspondent about the former OC of Demra PS; for tax evasion to the tune of taka 1.92 crore over a period of ten years. This works out to an average of taka 19.2 lac annually! Just think of the crookedness of the mind that carried it out year after year.
Regular Reader
Dhaka



Why blame Western culture?

I note how often 'western culture' is blamed for the deterioration in behaviour and morals. I would like to assure your readers, sir, that what passes for 'western culture' today is what I do not recognise as my 'culture' at all, as one brought up in the England of 60 years ago!
I think it arrived, with the 'winds of change', fanned by the growth of a ruthlessly commercial media, especially television, that soon realised that actively promoting rudeness, lasciviousness and violence was highly profitable. It met little or no resistance from governments, the upper classes, educational establishments or family life. It was indulged and, not surprisingly, it has spread. It somehow convinced people that this was 'modern' and 'liberal'.
I was brought up with a strict sense of the 'done thing' which, apart from the disgraceful way in which some minorities were treated, provided firm and good guidelines for society. Wearing skimpy clothes and lots of make-up was NOT the 'done thing'. Once a girl's hair reached her shoulders, it had to be tied back. Dead bodies were not seen on TV, nor gross behaviour. The sort of thing we see in the trailers of films today, would have been unthinkable.
In some areas, even of cities, many left the key to the back door under the mat and the man delivering fish or meat would put it in your kitchen and pick up the money you left him on the table.
I do not remember hearing any of the Anglo-Saxon words even through four years at Oxford University. These were words men did not use in front of 'nice girls'. Yet, I heard an employee on the phone in a Dhaka bank manager's office saying, "Oh, sh*t!"

Such words are universally used today.
So please do not blame 'western culture', dear readers. Your 'culture', too, has taken to these standards as a duck to water!
Angela Robinson
Baridhara DOHS
Dhaka

Another feather in Yunus' cap

Our lone Nobel laureate and global anti-poverty campaigner Prof. Yunus has recently been made the chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland. This is perhaps for the first time a Bangladeshi has become the chancellor of a university in a foreign country.
Actually, Prof Yunus' dedication to alleviating poverty through micro-lending and his innovative concept of social business have made him one of the most honoured personalities of the present day world.
But it is a matter of great regret that such a globally-renowned iconic figure is being humiliated and belittled by the leaders of the ruling political party in his own country! While Prof. Yunus is being praised and honoured for his pioneering achievement in different foreign countries, the Bangladesh government is hell-bent on discrediting him!
What a shame! Such vindictive attitude towards a man who has immensely raised the image of the nation in the world is totally unacceptable and of course, disgusting. Will our government mend its ways and give Prof Yunus and his Grameen Bank their due?
Md. Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara

Dust a public health hazard

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. M Mahboob Hossain of Brac University for bringing up this important topic in the forefront. I also express my heartfelt thanks to The Daily Star for publishing the letter.
Dr. Mahboob Hossain said those behind polluting the environment with dust particles should be held responsible and penalized accordingly. I highly appreciate this suggestion.. The irony is, those entrusted with the job to maintain cleanliness are, in fact, the main polluters. By sweeping the streets with broomsticks, more environmental pollution is caused. What about the space or the cosmic dust that falls onto the earth by about 40,000 tons a year!
Everyone must have noticed that the leaves of all the trees and plants in and around Dhaka turn dusty during winter, which definitely obstructs the photosynthesis process through which plants and trees take in carbon-dioxide and breathe out oxygen, an essential element for the survival of all living beings. Perhaps, majority of the countrymen are in absolute dark about this fact as most of the people are not aware, and even those of us who consider ourselves educated are not aware of this dire situation.
Here in the United States, the streets are



cleaned with mechanized vacuum cleaners that are put into operation at night, when people go to sleep, ensuring a pollution and dust free environment for its citizens. But in Bangladesh there is no other way out but to wait for the rain to come and clean the environment for the 160 million inhabitants of Bangladesh. Moreover, there does not exist a proper and hygienically developed system for the disposal of trash. This particular issue of environmental pollution poses a serious threat to public health in Bangladesh and as such it is more important to establish a pollution free environment than building a digital Bangladesh.
Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas
USA



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Hope revived

Re-elected Obama vows the best yet to come.
(November 8, 2012)

Iftekhhar Chowdhury
Congratulations, Barack Obama. With this victory people of the United States of America have again proved that they firmly believe in democracy.

Shekhar Dev
We should learn this culture of democracy. Romney's comments were really nice after Obama's win. Our leaders should follow this culture.

Saleh Md. Shahriar
Congratulations, President Obama. We hope you will play a significant role in making the world peaceful and

stable. We are not in favour of military conflict and aggression. You will, of course, have to face a lot of challenges in future. Best wishes for you and your team.

Parvez Babul
I am very glad to congratulate President Barack Obama. I hope that President Obama will do better than before for the American people. I also hope that he will kindly work for establishing peace in the whole world and avoid war.

Dev Saha
This is what I call the true spirit of a democracy. It

was a hotly contested election with two different ideologies. Should government be run as a cutthroat business or benevolent instrument to provide services to the people? Congratulations to President Obama!

Dr Islam
Can we expect our top leaders here in Bangladesh to learn something about the beauty of real democracy, behaviour with the opponent, and mutual respect? Our national election is not far, people of the country will keenly observe our leaders' 'democratic' activities.

Iftikhar-ul-Awwal
Democracy as practiced in the West is a great gift of modern times. How disciplined the electorate in the USA were!
We have just witnessed an election in which more than a 100 million voters cast their ballot in perfect peace and without voter

list ambiguity. There has been no allegation or counter allegation of vote rigging. Results were duly announced and accepted by both the parties, victors being congratulated immediately by the vanquished. Almost the same scenario like the USA is discernible in most of the mature democracies except in Bangladesh. We thank the American public, and congratulate Barack Obama on his re-election for another term of four years.

A citizen
Though the present economic condition of USA is not so stable but Barack Obama is so far a successful president of the United States of America. We hope he will recover the economic crisis.

A reader
The politicians of Bangladesh should learn the manner and culture of a democratic election from Obama and Romney.