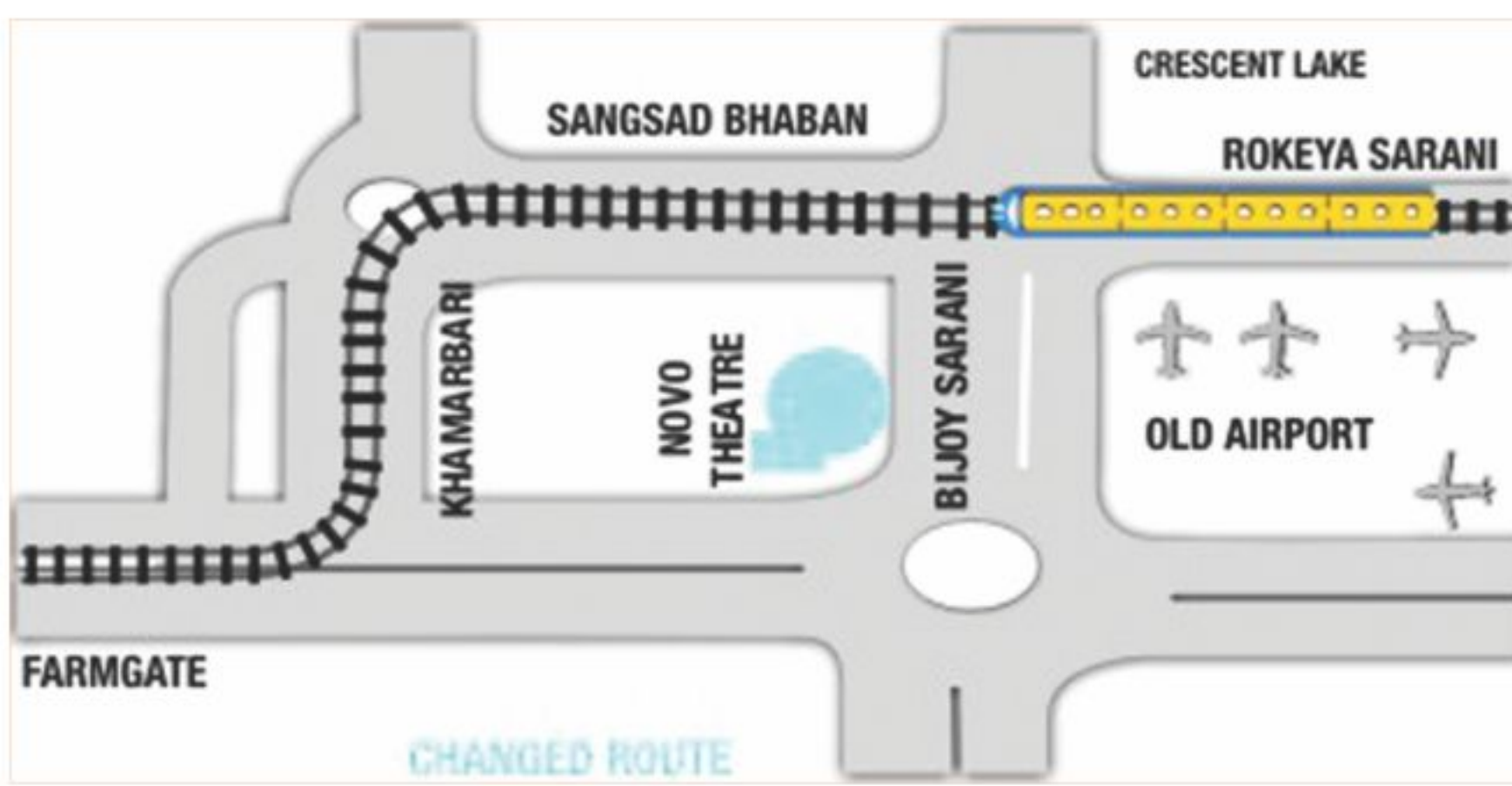


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 200 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Ensure transparency in elevated metro rail project



We came to know from the report of The Daily Star on 19.12.12 that the government has approved the elevated metro rail project at a cost of Tk 21,985 crore. The amount will be provided jointly by the JICA and the government to improve the transport system as well as ease traffic in the capital. The government also took up a plan to build an elevated expressway in line with the suggestion put forward in the city's suburban transport strategy. The 20-kilometre Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 will begin from Uttara third phase and pass through Pallabi, Rokeya Sarani, Farmgate, Sonargaon hotel, Ruposhi Bangla hotel, TSC of Dhaka University and Bangladesh Bank. We want to see transparency in the implementation of this project.

Sheikh Khalilur Sohel
Department of English
University of Dhaka

Why didn't shot-taking reporters save Bishwajit?

When Bishwajit Das was hacked to death, there were TV cameras and photo-journalists around. This is the reason why we got to see such a gruesome murder. But aren't we missing a point? We have not heard yet if any of the media men present there during the beastly attack had made any attempt to save the life of a fellow human!

The cameramen were busy taking shots from different angles when an innocent man was dying right in front of them! Were they thinking that the guy under attack was some sort of a dangerous animal? Why didn't they intervene to rescue the man? There were 5 or 6 killers, or maybe more. So what? Had the reporters and photographers chased them, those killers' confidence would have been jolted and may be Bishwajit's life might be saved.

The media is now busy preparing a list of those who were responsible for such demonic act, but they should also ask themselves what they had done to save a life. It is a big shame.

Like the bystanders, all the reporters, photographers and camera crews present at the crime scene were party to that crime. The people present there did not help the young innocent man in distress and the killers got indirect encouragement by getting instant media attention. Those media men lost their basic sense and kept rolling the cameras instead of saving a life. Shame!

An observer
Dhaka

Are Tupperware products environment-friendly?

Tupperware is an America based international company producing beauty products and plastic wares which has sales operation in many countries. In Bangladesh, Tupperware started its sales operation in 2012 with different types of plastic food containers.

The company has a special sales system which aims at empowering women in Bangladesh. Only females can associate themselves with Tupperware sales system in Bangladesh. At the moment Tupper has no local facility for making products in Bangladesh. So the current sales operation is going on imported plastic products. I appreciate the Tupperware's noble motto. But I have some questions and confusions about their products and sales operation:

--The price of Tupperware products is too high when the local plastic products are cheaper and affordable. Aren't imported Tupper products causing harm to the local plastic products manufacturer?

--Since Tupper does not sell their products through sales centres or dealers but only through their women sales team, the customers do not have flexibility to buy products of their choice from a wide range of products.

--Tupper claims that their products are made of virgin plastic but even the virgin plastic are not suitable for humans and environment because of additives mixed during processing of virgin plastics. Instead, recycled plastic helps control environmental pollution. Above all, plastic products are not good for human health as well as the environment. The authorities concerned may examine the above issues for the greater good.

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



Restore caretaker govt system for election

The common people of Bangladesh do not believe that the next general election under the incumbent government can be neutral, free and fair. How can we expect that the ruling party men, most of whom are now involved in corruption and other unlawful activities will become righteous overnight and behave like 'saints during election? How can we expect that the sabre-rattling and gun-toting activists of the ruling party's student front will turn into good boys during national election days?

Actually, the reasons behind the introduction of the caretaker government (CTG) system in 1996 are still valid. The opposition parties and majority of the people have no trust in the present government in conducting the next general election neutrally and fairly.

The ruling AL-led government must feel the pulse of the people and take immediate steps to return to the CTG system by re-amending the constitution. At present a dangerous political confrontation is looming large over the CTG issue. Since the government unilaterally scrapped the CTG provision, the onus of reinstalling the system rests with the government. Have we got any other option to avert the repetition of one-eleven like situations in the country?

Md. Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara
Kushtia

Don't grab fields, let us play

Nowadays many real estate companies have been taking our playgrounds and building high-rises there. But they don't think about us -- teenagers and children. If we don't get open space to play, we won't be physically fit. So, I strongly request the real estate companies to let us play by not occupying the fields.

Md. Tawsifur Rahman
Anandaniketan School
Sylhet

Stop abusing religion

Religion has a great contribution in purifying our minds. A true believer who obeys his religion can not hate others. But what is happening around in the name of religion? Rohingya Muslims were burnt to death; thousands of them were forced to take refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. Killing people of other religions are common all over the world. But no religion allows killing innocent people. I urge the people of all religions to realise the ideology of their religion and practice it accordingly. This way the world will be peaceful and secure for all.

Golam Ali Rubel

'Put a little love in your heart'



Many poor folks in the world haven't yet found the real meaning of Christmas. So many people are lost, lonely, downtrodden, weak and weary. Some are weak in their bodies, weary in their flesh; others are weak in their minds; and yet others are weak in body, mind and spirit. There are the trampled-on, the poor, the persecuted, the hungry; those who are victims of war and crime and exploitation; those who nobody wants and for whom nobody cares; those who have so little in the way of worldly goods, who are lacking in food, clothing and shelter -- even the basic necessities.

There are others who do have material goods and riches. They can extend hands to those who are found wanting; those who have ache inside; those who are engulfed in a sea of emptiness. We can spread a little more love and light and cheer!

"Lift up your fellow man, lend him a helping hand. Put a little love in your heart."

Ted Rudow III, MA
Encina Ave
Palo Alto, CA

We share your sorrow

Connecticut school shooting incident was very ugly and sad. We are in tears along with Barack Obama and people of the world. We mourn the deaths and pray for the kids, teachers and parents who died in the shooting. All schools should tighten their security. Let there be peace everywhere. We do not want to see injury and deaths anywhere in the world. Let the gun game be over.

Shafkat Rahman Arib
Kids tutorial
Circuit House Road
Dhaka

Noisy, powerful generators in residential areas

Garment sector plays the most important role in the economic development of our country. But it can also be a source of problem if a garment unit is situated in a residential area as it can create sound. An example is a factory located at Mirpur. It is close to a residential area and has two high voltage power generators that operate during load-shedding. In the area, load shedding is a common experience. These generators operate for long hours and create intolerable noise pollution. I am a resident of the area. Sound pollution causes hearing problem, heart problem, brain stroke, etc. Considering its adverse impact on public health, it is advised that the unit may replace those screaming generators with quieter ones. It will save some money, as well as give relief to local residents.

Siam Abdullah
Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering
Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "President > 340 passengers"

OpeeMonir

They talk about democracy and people's right every day. However, we live in a country where prime minister and president are able to exert their VVIP rights even at the cost of national interest. A few Biman passengers are simply expendable. Interestingly, they do not face the people or the journalists on these issues.

Anonymous

How unfortunate! The country and its people have been held hostage by these few people.

Asad

Shame!

Pokraj

During one of my visits in London, I accompanied my host to Heathrow to see off a friend. On our arrival there, we heard a commotion. On inquiry, we were told that the flight returned the night before without any passengers since our "father of the nation" needed the aircraft. I am sure old Biman personnel can recall this issue. I suggest that these passengers should ask for compensation, which is a law in the EU.

Rawshan Iajdani

Why doesn't Bangladesh government buy a small Cessna or Lear jet plane for president and prime minister?

Jumana Sarwar

His home coming could be arranged with another carrier without disturbing the others. I am pretty sure the president can realise that his office is for the people and people are not for him.

Rakib

It is unbelievable! Is he the president of a democratic country?

A. Rahman

After all he is the president. Ordinary people really do not matter.

Akhtar Hossain

The president and the prime minister own Bangladesh, so they can do whatever they want. I would like to see all 340 passengers sue Biman and the government.

Dr M A Obaydullah

The passengers should be grateful that Biman had given them the opportunity to fly with the president.

Truth Teller

Why does the president have to go to London for medical treatment? He should be getting his medical treatment in Bangladesh like millions of Bangladeshis do.

A frustrated Bangladeshi expatriate

It is fair to say that the Biman is obliged to serve the government elites at all cost, maybe it is time for the passengers to choose other airlines and let Biman serve our political elites only.

Moudud Rahman

Not new! I recall a similar situation with the current honourable prime minister during her first term. She kept a Biman flight on the ground for hours in the Middle East. The passengers were sweating in the desert heat. I hope someone takes it to the court and sues Biman this time.

Probashi

Recently I read a book written by Lee Kuan Yew. He criticised the incident that a plane was kept waiting for two days for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when he was the president and was attending a meeting abroad. Lee Kuan Yew was also attending the same meeting. It appears that president Zillur Rahman is following the tradition of wast-