

# Removing anomalies in basic education



There are four types of basic education systems in Bangladesh i.e. English medium, Bangla medium, Alia Madrasa and Kawmi Madrasa. Students of English medium have sound knowledge in English but are weak in Bangla. Students of Bangla medium are weak in English. Although students of Alia Madrasa have enough knowledge in Arabic and religion, they are also weak in English and Bangla because they study these subjects less. Kawmi Madrasa students are very good in Arabic and Urdu but have almost zero knowledge in English, Bangla and mathematics. Madrasa Board can solve this problem by introducing the same Bangla, English and Mathematics courses that are used in schools and colleges. To recover the deficiency in education, four basic courses should be emphasised equally by all mediums: Bangla, English, General Science and Religion. After passing JSC, students are divided in three groups: Science, Business Studies, and Humanities. At this level, some additional courses can be incorporated with the basic courses like Disaster Management, Economics and Basic Law.

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## Sports channels should improve broadcasting standards

Today, as I turn on my TV to watch some IPL games, I'm frustrated to see that Channel 9 has requested the cable operators to stop showing IPL's cricket from other channels, just because Channel 9 has bought the broadcasting right of the whole tournament. As much as I appreciate Channel 9's efforts in bringing IPL to their channel, I cannot help feeling that I will be missing some vibrant Pre/Post match analysis shows like Extra Innings; which are generally conducted by renowned international players, focusing on different aspects and finer points of the game.

Unfortunately, the show that is conducted by Channel 9 is abysmal, due to the fact that most part of their game analysis show is filled with different participants of their musical shows to promote their respective singing profile. Entertainment in cricket is always welcome but to an extent where it doesn't overshadow the discussion of cricket itself.

Although Channel 9 has had a rough start, we are still waiting for Channel 9 to get their priorities right in improving the broadcasting standard of both national and international games of Bangladesh. As such, I would request the authorities to allow the cable operators in Bangladesh to show IPL both from Channel 9 and Set Max.

**Masud Hussain**  
*Dhanmondi, Dhaka*

## Protest wrong things

We humans tend to do wrong when we are given opportunity. Why did the bloggers do such a thing when they know that they are living in a country where most of the people are Muslims? A few bloggers are preaching wrong things. Similarly, the various political parties are killing people, destroying public property, calling strikes every now and then and all these are done in the name of Allah. So who to be blamed? It is for the people of Bangladesh to decide.

If someone occupies your home, I am sure you would protest. Then why are all the people hiding in their houses? It's time to wake up and stop things which are going wrong. Now you would say that the government is there. It is not just the government's responsibility but ours too. If you ask those people, who are calling strikes and demanding to hang the bloggers, what does "blogger" mean, I am sure they would reply by saying "it's something related to internet". So why are they in the rally?

**Tysen Troy**  
*On e-mail*

# Hazards of CT scan



Computed Tomography scans (CT scan) help doctors detecting everything from cancer to stone. However, rising concern about radiation-linked cancer is posing a new challenge. A single CT scan delivers 500 times more radiation than conventional X-ray. Researchers found a population of 25,000 Japanese post-atomic-bomb survivors who were exposed to roughly the same amount of radiation as two CT scans. Although there is no immediate effect after going through CT scan, cumulative risk is very high. In USA they have studied extensively and found the correlation between exposure and future cancer. It has been estimated that 29000 future cancers might be related to CT scan exposures earlier. Children are particularly more vulnerable. To avoid unnecessary CT scans, doctors should advise other alternative choices to the patients. Despite these concerns, CT scans provide great medical benefits. If the scan is justified, the benefits should outweigh the risks.

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# On growing Jatropha

It's a well-proven fact that Jatropha grows wild in wasteland and can be extensively cultivated at a low cost with minimum care and be used for extraction of diesel oil. In India, the species has been planted successfully in the waste land of several provinces for over decades. According to a reliable estimate, India is planning to plant this species in 300,000 square km of wasteland. In India, the oil extracted from Jatropha is of high quality and is being used in motor driven engines including railway, to the satisfaction of its consumers. I recommend that besides tea gardens, it should be planted wherever dry wasteland is available in Bangladesh. The attention of the ministry of energy, government of Bangladesh is being drawn to look into the feasibility of obtaining bio-diesel oil from Jatropha species that grows wild in Bangladesh and launch a vigorous programme to meet fuel shortage in the country. Now it's the time for action.

**AS Islam**  
*Retired professor  
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# Achieving MDGs by 2015

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon recently said, "The MDGs are the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. The goals have helped set global and national priorities, mobilise action, and achieve remarkable results."

The eight time-bound Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) address poverty and hunger, education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, combating AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environmental sustainability and a global partnership for development. According to UN figures, since the MDGs were adopted by all UN member states in 2000, global extreme poverty rate has been cut in half; two billion more people have gained access to safe drinking water; maternal and child mortality have dropped; a record number of children are in primary school; and the fight against killer diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS continues.

Meanwhile, nearly one thousand days remain to reach the target date (2015) for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and every member state of the United Nations has to work hard to accomplish the target. It is hoped that the target of the MDGs will be accomplished within the deadline.

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
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■ READERS  
r e s p o n d

*Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "No blasphemy law needed"*

**Reaz Hassan**  
Hasina is absolutely correct in her assessment that no new blasphemy law is required in the country. The existing laws are sufficient. I am sure BNP holds the same view though there may be some pressure from Jamaat. The party needs to take a tougher stand on this against the Islamist forces within.

**Mohd Shah Alam Khan, Canada**  
Hasina is showing a softer attitude towards the Islamists. She is afraid of Mufti and Mollah for what reason she knows better. She said Bangladesh is a secular democracy. But till today, we did not read about the arrest of the culprits for destroying minorities' properties and temples.

**Anonymous**  
The government can arrest anyone for writing offensive things. It could be eyewash. Maybe innocent people would be arrested instead of the real bloggers.

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*Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "PM's view rejected by Hefajat"*

**S M Iftekhar Ahmed**  
Are the Hefajat men aware that Islam significantly empowers women? Do they know of the example set by our beloved Prophet (pbuh) that he did not take revenge on the Quraish who hurled insult at him when the Muslims triumphed? Compared to that, the existing laws in Bangladesh regarding insults to religious sentiment are less lenient and rightfully so. They should do their research before going on a 'demand spree'. But of course, it is now becoming clear that they consist of fanatical Jamaat-Shibir elements.

**Amrit Barua**  
I don't understand why these religious people are demanding death penalty. They are supposed to be religious leaders, so I expect them to have more compassion, love, and sense of humanity. If anyone commits an offence by writing anything wrong about Islam, that may be due to his ignorance about religious values. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the religious to educate him or her rather than putting end to his/her life. Besides, there is a law regarding this. I suppose the duty of the religious people is to rehabilitate the offenders, not killing them.

**Arnab**  
In afterlife, the merciful Creator will decide who are the atheists and who are not and according to that, He will punish those people. It is not necessary to punish them so severely like sending them to gallows. Better punishment awaits them.

## An open letter to politicians

I am writing this letter on behalf of all those students whose academic life is being hampered because of the mess you politicians are making. I am writing on behalf of all the parents who are investing their life's saving for a better future of their children, and yet worried. Losing a future is not like losing one of your countless political games, or losing an election. Nowadays the students are afraid to go out on the street. They are afraid to explore knowledge with a peaceful mind because the political atmosphere is too polluted and corrupted. They are not even safe in their classroom. Just a few days ago, dozens of little kids of a primary school in Lalmonirhat were sent to hospital as a punishment of going to school during a political programme!

Over one million students who are taking HSC exam this year have fallen prey to your political games. Millions more aren't being able to attend classes and exams regularly because you are using them as pawns in your way to the state power.

I cannot help but worrying about countless number of educated but unemployed youths who are running from pillar to post for a job. You have made the recruitment system of the government jobs so corrupt and politicised that merit doesn't guarantee a job these days, but money and political link does. In doing so, you are pushing meritorious students into a world of depression and depriving the state of talented professionals.

Furthermore, we have your blissful student politicians on university and college campuses. With your blessing they are making general students' life miserable. They bully the students, harass them, mock them and laugh at them.

Maybe you don't understand what education means to this generation but they do. But they don't understand why you adults don't go by the lessons which are taught even in the kindergarten, like -- not to fight with others, to respect others, to share, not to be greedy, etc. Power is so important to you that when you are out of power, you don't bother to shut the country down.

Please be true to yourself, and make your actions reflect your words.

**Atiqul Kabir Tuhin, On e-mail**