

Our Readers Suggest . . . .

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The portion I find most useful in The Daily Star is the editorial page where thought-provoking articles appear on the latest economic reforms and its associated problems. I read with keen interest, your commentaries addressed to the political parties on the grave crisis facing the country. Previous to that, you presented to the readers good many debate/articles on the Caretaker Government issue which stirred up an interesting series of letters on the same subject although it eventually fell on the deaf ears of our political stalwarts.

The thing I admired most about this paper is the honest and objective journalism and demonstration of boldness practiced at great risk. Of course, this trend was set in motion by your late founder editor Mr SM Ali.

You had, on occasions, rebuked the top political leaders for their irresponsible utterances and on one occasion exposed their false statement.

Although your tone of optimism during the political deadlock has not been vindicated, it has been apparent that you care a lot about this poor country.

Dhaka Day by Day is another section which is my favourite. It is enlivened with humour and cartoons. We would like to see more witty and humorous contribution from Mr Nicolson Del Twinder.

As it seems for years to come the politics, which is the main headline-maker, in our region will remain dull, insipid and downright misleading. Somehow we have to live with it.

In the year of 1995, you could contribute substantially to make our life a little cheerful. We will welcome more coverage on development activities that is taking place by private initiative, and also on innovative ideas and business growth. Let there be, for a change, some positive news.

Your feature page — Travel and Tourism is just the thing we require more often. We would like to read more articles on historical sites and buildings and places of archaeological interest. Attractive travel spots should also be highlighted.

Eating Out, adds spice to our monotonous wedding feast of rich foods. Our cities lack eating places where food is cheap and at the same time

clean. Unless we, the Bangladeshis, learn to eat out more often, the catering industry here will not flourish. Through your columns, perhaps, you could promote such ventures.

For the TV viewers, possibly, you could elaborate on the day's interesting programmes on BBC, Star Plus and Prime Sports.

A part of the magazine section may be devoted to advise students on higher studies and career-building.

All these tall orders need to be achieved without increasing the newspaper price, is it not too much to expect? But please try.

Sakhawat Hossain  
House 20A, Road No 82  
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Congratulations to the Daily Star on its 5th year of publication. I would like to congratulate the editor and other contributors for their toilsome effort in these years to satisfy the readers. Whom I remember very much on this colourful occasion is the late founder of The Daily Star, Mr S M Ali. May his departed soul be in peace. He is also perhaps rejecting this moment in heaven.

The Daily Star is the best English daily in my eyes. I feel almost addicted to it. The non-partisan attitude of the daily deserves eulogy. The editorials and the post-editorials are probably the heart of this daily. These reflect suggestions, likings and dislikings of the general people on various issues of home and abroad. Sports page of this daily is very charming and well-fed. I still remember, one year ago, when I first selected The Daily Star for my reading — that was only because of its copious sports news. The feature pages are few of the useful pages of this daily. The articles contained on these pages are praiseworthy. Teens and Twenties is a new addition to the feature pages. But it seems yet to be right on the mark. Subjects which will fill the page may be rearranged and selected meticulously. However, the Rising Stars is a good inclusion. The International page is less important to me, as various international news also receive prominence in the front page. Comments on international happenings can be reflected through more post-editorials. Business news can be cut short and covered in one

page. Weekend Magazine is useful and attractive. But a regular page on literature can be included. Another page, on learning English, I think would be more useful especially for the students of different levels.

I hope The Daily Star will be a vital English daily for every type of readers in the long run. The daily's attitude and motto will help in the nation building. I wish The Daily Star will thrive even better in future and be ever-present in the readers' mind.

Emdadur Rahman Rumon  
Department of English,  
Chittagong University

I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the Editor, journalists, staff of The Daily Star on its 5th anniversary of publication. I also remember with due respect the founder-Editor of this premiere daily, Late SM Ali.

There is no doubt that during the last few years The Daily Star has gained the status of an A-grade English language newspaper.

I would suggest that you introduce a follow-up system on important letters appearing in the Letters Column.

I also like to find a round-table conference on the present status and future aspects of higher agricultural education in Bangladesh.

I wish continued progress and prosperity of The Daily Star.

M Zahidul Haque  
Asstt. Professor  
Deptt. of Agric. Extension  
Bangladesh Agricultural Institute, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

As per your announcement as a reader, we like to offer the following suggestions for 1995 onwards for your paper:

1) Your paper forgot to publish a calendar for the new year, 1995 for the readers.

2) Every editorial and post-editorial should be very attractive covering current problems of the country including socio-economic and political affairs.

3) Letter columns should not contain mostly letters from Dhaka but it should also include letters from other divisions of the country to highlight the opinions of readers in other areas of the country.

4) TV programmes schedules should include BTv also.

The last but not the least suggestion is to print on a finer paper as we sometimes find it difficult to read various news items due to inferior printing.

Md Monohar Ali  
Sofia Lodge,  
Kadeganj, Rajshahi.

I am a regular reader of your esteemed paper and I also deem that The Daily Star may be considered as one of the best paper in this subcontinent. I like to put forward a few suggestions for your kind consideration:

a) I feel that you may consider to report prices of daily essentials in Dhaka City collected exclusively by your reporter and a month-end report may be produced with a comparison of prices prevailing in Calcutta and other cities of the SAARC countries.

b) Interest rate matrix of banks may also be reported for public awareness.

KH Das  
Joint Director, Research Deptt.  
Bangladesh Bank Dhaka.

The role of The Daily Star in the context of journalism in Bangladesh is glorious. From the very beginning, it has been observing a greater role to create awareness among the people of Bangladesh. I am not aware of the principles of journalism perfectly but The Daily Star seems to have set an example in our newspaper publications arena. We all know that most of the leading dailies are politically affiliated as well as motivated to attain their respective ideologies. In this connection, The Daily Star is fully free above from this accusation, side by side. It is trying to adjust to the modern wave of journalism. It is being always trying to meet the need for the modern time. Obviously, I may say that the items of publications like sufficient business news and articles, international news and news interpretations, the exchange of views in regard to our domestic political perspective are very praisable.

Since our expectation is more, we need more and we would like to be informed of multidimensional internal and

external information that may possibly be able to quench our thirst for news. And I believe that this purpose is well served by the effective performance of The Daily Star.

There is a few English dailies in our country but their performance, I don't think is much praiseworthy. I am not going to accuse them about their inefficiency but comparatively, the role of The Daily Star in this regard is unquestionable. I think if the newspapers that come out able to attract the readers' attention and can cater well to their demands, the readers would definitely love the publications. I don't think The Daily Star has realised all our aspiration but it is true that it has reflected most of our expectations. For example, the exchanging of views by the different political and social elites on the caretaker government issue was a significant step taken by this paper that reflected the public opinion. I am only saying that as a leading newspaper of the nation if had observed the duty growing a mass awareness on the issue accurately. In this regard, I am congratulating the daily for their contribution in the media world.

There are many more contributions of The Daily Star because of its endeavour to create diverse and interesting reading. It often publishes supplements or 'specials' on any important matter or days. And regularly it also publishes news related to finance and business thoughtfully according to the need of the time. Due to our going towards global free market economy these news items will have a far-reaching impact and will be fruitful undoubtedly. The Computer Special is a timely step taken by the Star. Although the use of super computer has not already started in our region but the use of computer is being continued, almost in all our daily works. Another contribution of The Daily Star is in its endeavour in trying to improve the standard of the English language. As an international language, it goes without saying that English must be learnt well. The Daily Star in this regard has played a pioneering role.

Here, I would like to say that the role played so far by The Daily Star in a single word is: good. I think there is no other newspaper that represents the nation in such an unbiased and non-partisan way. But then again, it does not represent everything. The following suggestions can be considered:

1. To investigate the actual socio-economic problems before the nation.
2. To arrange more and more view-exchanging programmes on various burning issues.
3. To uphold the significance of economic and political development in our mind.
4. To arrange the more English language programmes through your daily from which the readers can be benefited.
5. To promote culture and literature of the country through your daily.

Finally, as a reader of The Daily Star I want it to flourish in every discipline. My expectation is more to your daily, as I solely depend on the news items provided by this paper alone. So I hope your daily will be able to appease my thirst for news in the future also through your effective performance in the field of journalism.

Nur Mohammad Ansari (Tipu)  
BSS (Hons) MSS  
University of Dhaka.

I am a student of class XI. I like your newspaper because it is an non-partisan daily. In your newspaper every subject is very important to me to know about our country, political situation, different national and international problems, sports and business.

My favourite subject of your newspaper is sports.

But I want to know more subjects through your newspaper. These are: The different places of interest in the world, different creatures, architectural wonders of the world; past and present invention of science and different religious informations about Islam. You can also discuss different basic elements of Physical Science, Chemistry and Mathematics which might help me to understand my subjects clearly.

I would also like to see a weekly page on actors and actresses and different news on television and movie.

Tanjilur Rahman  
49/1 Jikatola, Dhaka-1209

What We Stood for

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**ON SPIRIT OF LIBERATION WAR**  
**The Glorious Seventh March** 73-94

From March 3 evening to March 7 afternoon public imagination seethed and frothed for 95 hours over the question of what the leader could say, what indeed were the options open to him. Towards the end of that impossible wait an unspoken consensus was emerging — the Sheikh must declare independence.

In one of the greatest pieces of oration in the political history of mankind, the great leader ropewalked between the two total positions and laid the foundation of the armed struggle that would eventually beat Pakistan into an ignoble defeat and a loss of its dear colony.

**ON HEALTH CARE**  
**People are not Pawns** 20-1-1994

Many a tragic death could be avoided had the government moved fast and tried to solve the problem across the table. Both the government and the doctors are blamable for treating human lives so disdainfully — in effect, it may be convenient for them to test the limit of each other's patience, but diseases will not wait to see who wins in the cruel game.

**ON CONSUMER RIGHT**  
**Giving Teeth to Quality Control** 2-1-94

Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), the legal quality control authority is handicapped by the existing law's provision that it can only serve legal notices on the recalcitrant manufacturing companies but has no power to make them comply with the regulations. What is ludicrous is that when the companies are found guilty by the court, they cannot be fined more than Tk 5,000. This amply explains why things on the manufacturing front are going wrong.

**ON METROPOLIS**  
**Megacity on a Dead River** 19-5-1995

There are two complementary approaches to revive the clinically dead river and making it what a river always has been — life-giving and culture-spawning. It must be cleaned even as the Thames has been or parts of the upstream of our own Ganges. And its pollution must be stopped by banning industries of all size and kind from emptying any waste into the river and arranging for all domestic human waste to be treated and recycled and turned into fertilizer far away from any river or other water reservoirs.

If the government is serious, this would be no forbidding proposition. How and when can we be sure of government turning sincerely to the Buriganga problem?

Some of SHARIER'S Cartoons of the Year.

