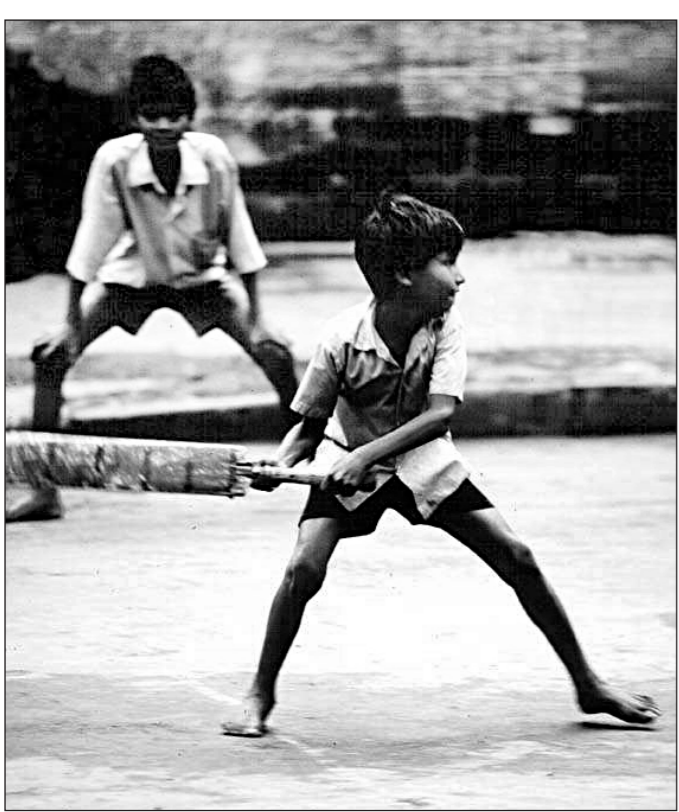


letters@thedailystar.net

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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 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Cricket and life



Cricket is chirping in the drawing rooms, thanks to Dhaka's pre-occupation with the danda (stick) in and outside the pitch. Just by watching cricket on the television screen, we can apply some of the tactics and techniques in our daily life.

Here are some do's and don'ts, which can be verified by any one, with or without experience in the field of life, while batting, bowling, fielding, umpiring, or acting as scorer (there is no 12" man).

Never try a googly on the wife. The Bengali equivalent for googly is 'gool' (bluffing). She can always spot it men do not have this mysterious feminine intuition for Surveillance Operation for Female Approach, or another kind of SOFA we read about in the papers these days. The damage is less if she spots it right away. If she finds out later, the appeal is outdated, and outmoded, and the resulting fine is damaging to light-

hearted gentlemen lighter in the pocket.

Never nibble outside the off stump. This temptation is almost irresistible; specially when you are 'fielding' in Bengali, which means romancing. The Bengali language is rich in cricketing terms. Our charming Bengali maidens are expert in bowling outside the off stump.

Don't be bowled over. During the initial overs do not try vicious cuts--get your eye in (you bat and ball with one eye, figuratively speaking). Later you might try the different types of glides and late cuts. Initially go for the singles. Cover your drives.

Good batsmen play a straight bat, but cross bats are more common. Lofted shots are nice to watch, if these are sixers, but most of the time these batsmen get caught sometimes awkwardly. Play your shots along the ground; which, in life, means keeping a low profile.

Also, in a life of crowded competition, you have to steer the ball along the gaps. So watch the field placing carefully. Remember, the field has been set for you, not for the other batsmen. If you are a footballer, do not dribble too much you might lose your balance.

You cannot hit a good length ball (unless you are world-class. What is world class in private life??). But we all do (as local heroes do), and land ourselves in trouble, by trying to score where there is no run. Moral, resist temptation, and cultivate patience. But before you can do both, you have to spot, or recognise a good one. That is the problem, because temptation always comes in disguised forms. The good things in life do not repeat too quickly. Invest safely. Don't go by the alluring figures displayed by the Dhaka Stock Exchange.

We all like to be swingers in life. Only fast bowlers can swing

the ball. The amount of the swing depends a lot on the environment. With a cross breeze, it is more effective. So do not swing in and out of season. Perhaps sometimes you confess that you were swept off your feet. These is no such term in cricket.

There are time and tide in our lives. 'The batsman pulled it to the boundary, all along the ground'. We are always looking for pulls in life regardless of the quality of the bowling. Do not forget that a square-leg is waiting for you. Don't get caught in the gully (remember the Bangla sound of the word). If you like to pull, hit the ball along the ground you get the boundary; and you are not caught. The principle is the same as stated earlier: keep a low profile.

The batsman can never say "How's that?" only the bowler can. That is life. Play cricket!
Alif Zabr
 Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

Leaders without vision

As an elderly citizen, like millions of other non-articulate ones, I am worried about the future leadership of the nation. The young generations are not being groomed in the right way. The students at the tertiary level of education (college and university campuses), are denied the freedom of independent thinking, unbiased analysis, and individual formation of opinion, due to political polarisation in the campus, and in society. President Bush of the US is following the same policy; "You are with us, or not with us". Neutral stance has become a crime!

The criticism against and protests to this unhappy state of polarisation (thought control) are lukewarm, as there are few independent critics left at the top levels, to raise their voice against political autocracy, usurped by the two major political parties. The latter depends on charisma, or marketing names.

And sycophants gather under the respective umbrellas as mere opportunists. Money can turn black into white.

Opportunists cannot be dependable public service providers. The infantile paralysis of the parliament (JS) is a clear indicator of what is not working in society. Democracy is being black-marketed for subjective motives, as the effects are not visible even after three decades.

The passionate celebration of various national anniversaries is sham to the core. The holy mantras are forgotten the very next day, to pursue hidden agendas in the gray areas. Politics (correct governance of the state) cannot work in this polluted social environment. The political drains are choked, and political markets have no presence of regulatory discipline. Self-discipline has been replaced by money and/or violence and terrorism. There are no entry points for honest and dedicated players. Decay has set in, and refurbishment is already suffering. No

gardening is possible in the fossilized political gardens.

Look how the culture of violence is filtering down from the style of political agitation to other localised spheres of life. When a bus or truck kills a pedestrian, many passing vehicles are burnt or damaged by the outraged public in the locality. In the universities, the administrative and other offices are ransacked by the students, as a mark of protest. Violence has become the sole tool of seeking redress of grievances. Back to the stone age the brain is no longer working. How to think, and what to think? Intolerance and dictating terms rule the day.
Ahustnain, Dhaka

mid-on for irresistible members to spoon a catch, feigning to swing for a sixer, but delighted to fall to a dolly catch in the delicate hands of rosy beauties sipping Darjeeling tea with English water biscuits. No more maiden overs.

But the spinners would gain ground with their floaters, and the bouncers would fly low. Finger-licking spin, or palming off? Take your choice! No leg breaks or off breaks, but right on the middle stump. No variations of a theme, in

How can the public know that these are being monitored and the defaulters are being prosecuted? It is the usual nouka-dubi (launch capsizes) syndrome. The exorbitant 'service charges' should be controlled. Innocent job hunters and students might be caught in some traps; as is evident from recurrent news items on Bangladeshi migrants going abroad and being left stranded. It has become a fashion to seek education abroad. At what expense and credibility?

swindling goes on in indirect ways. Reward and punishment philosophy is not being enforced.
A Mawaz, Dhaka

Disabled rickshaw-puller

My uncle and I were leaving our house the other day. We were looking for a rickshaw to reach Jigatala bus-stand. We hired one of them and noticed a horrible scene. The rickshawpuller was disabled with a crippled right hand.

As he could not balance his body he had to strive a lot to pull the rickshaw. That day the temperature was also high and he sweated profusely. We were at a fix as to what could be done. We asked him why he was doing such a risky job. He replied that he would set up a tea stall and to meet the costs he was doing it. After a while we left him with a heavy heart. What country do we live in? It can't give the minimum social security to the physically disabled persons. Many people who are rich in mind and money in our country can contribute to the disabled. As they are the neglected lot of our society, we have to have a proper care taking system for them. We have to create a positive mentality towards them. They are part of our society and nobody should neglect them in any manner.
Mars Sohel, Dept. of EEE, Buet

Dreams

Dreams are one of the most mysterious things of our life. Astrologers try to interrupt it. On the other hand, psychologists try to analyse it. Most of the elements that we see in our dreams are very much unrealistic and not reliable. There are many explanations about the dreams. People say that our daily anxieties and worry return in a different shape while sleeping or feeling drowsy. Some people say that dreams have no colours. Also, we sometime experience some horror in dreams, which we call nightmares. In the religion of Islam, we find that dreams come from some supernatural sources and have some internal meaning. All these thoughts and explanations are true in one sense or the other.

There is another kind of

dream which we can actualise by our own will. We dream of a beautiful country where there will be no corruption, no terrorism, no violence. Every child will have the access to the school. We will have a pollution free land and a confident educated nation. Though it sounds like almost impossible but can't we invest our time and energy to make our nation a respectable one among the other countries of the world? Many countries like Malaysia showed the world that if there is a dream and hard work it is possible to reach the shiny shore of a fiery sea. Following their example, we should also try our best to translate our dreams to reality.
Shoaib M. Siddiqui
 Dhaka City College
 Dhaka

Role of India

I've been working with Indians since long and have learned about good and bad sides of Indians. Indians are sincere and hard working, but most of them don't have the guts to stand for themselves. Indians are either too calculative or evasive. They are trying to patch up with Pakistanis just because of the fact that Pakistan has nuclear power. On the other fronts, Indians are playing foul with Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar. India is playing a nasty game with Bangladesh but it's turning to be bad for India itself.. Right now I live in the US working as a highly paid software engineer but I promise that I won't hesitate to come back if Bangladesh needs my service.

Therefore, I would advice India to cool down and respect its neighbours if it wants peace and development of the region as a whole. Peace in the region cannot be achieved by a country alone, rather it will be the result of equal participation of all.

India, please be the leader of peace.
Delwar, On e-mail

US visa

This is to express my gratitude to you for focusing my demand for compensation from the US Department of Justice when I was denied US visa to receive the International Award from the US based International Society of Poetry in 2001. It so happened that the US Department of Justice by its letter to me (refer No # HQ ISD 70/48.2 1-C) informed me of its decision that after a fair and impartial review of my case the Department of Justice would communicate its final verdict on the question of compensation to me.

Now I look forward to receiving a fair judgment from them. In this case the part played by newspapers is important for me because of its impact upon the authorities concerned to assess my inner agonies and mental torture plus humiliation that I faced after the denial of US visa to me.
Abul Ashraf Noor, Uttara, Dhaka-1230

this age of supper efficiency and micro appreciation. How about yorkers? What do you mean?
Abad, Dhaka

A mosque in bad shape

I am a regular traveller from Gulshan to Motijheel on my car for business purposes and I frequently cross the mosque located at Kakrail, housed right beside the Ramna Park. I am appalled by the manner in which the authorities concerned maintain this unique mosque.

This mosque plays a significant role in the preaching of Islam not only in Bangladesh, but also all over the world. I am deeply shocked to see the manner and state this building has been maintained over the years. With the Saarc summit coming up, and the government boosting up its funds allocation programme through the DCC for renovation and various other beautification projects throughout the city, I feel the DCC as well as the government can take necessary steps to renovate all monumental structures, including mosques.
Akhter Salim Fahmi
 Dhaka

These advertisements should print Gob registration numbers. Also, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the official checking agencies have to appear in the papers from time to time, so that applicants could check up on the validity of genuine advertisements. The government-controlled electronic media does not probe into such gray markets. Reactive governance is dangerous and damaging. We are still very weak in Operation and Maintenance routines at the public service level. There is some competition in the private sector, but

Garbage disposal?

The photograph of a strange floating thing was taken from Motijheel Commercial area, adjacent to IFIC Bank and The Bangladesh Observer building. The floating net on the road is used for garbage disposal. Are we a barbaric people? Dirty things are being thrown on the net all the time. But who will remove those things? I would like to draw the attention of the DCC authorities to this newly installed garbage disposal mechanism.
Md Anisuzzaman
 Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1204

Ladies and cricket

Ladies at the MCC Lord's Club? It is unthinkable after 211 years of abstinence, deprivation, austerity and brahmachari culture! On the other hand, the patience of the English gentlemen is admirable they could not have expected better company than this social intercourse, embodying the eternal principle; the very basis on which God created man and woman, to live together in complementary philosophy, till cricket intervened.

Still, the signs of the times point to another flag: What's gone wrong? No lady is safe anywhere, batting their eyelids, or bowling their hearts out. Surely they are not at Lord's to wield the willow, although they carry the suppleness of the latter.

Now MCC lady members would slip around the wicked keeper (the spelling correct!), and field at silly

Season of death

On 20 May, The Daily Star made a headline on the Jamuna launch disaster. A photo of a 12 or 13 years old boy was printed with the report. The boy was crying and his tears were clearly shown in the photo.

I didn't read the news, because my heart is not so strong that I could bear his sorrow. I tried to forget the boy, but I was not able to do that. And for that I've taken the pen to show my sympathy for him.

After such accidents, our honourable ministers visit the spot. Then they express their sympathy for the relatives of the dead. But the family members of the victims do not get adequate compensation. The rainy season has become 'the season of death'.
Talibun Noor Himesel
 New Jail Road,
 Majidee court,
 Noakhali

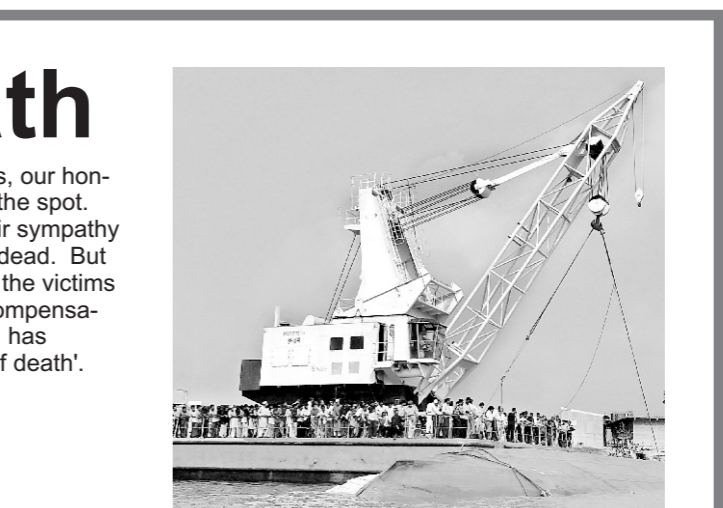


PHOTO: AFP



PHOTO: AFP

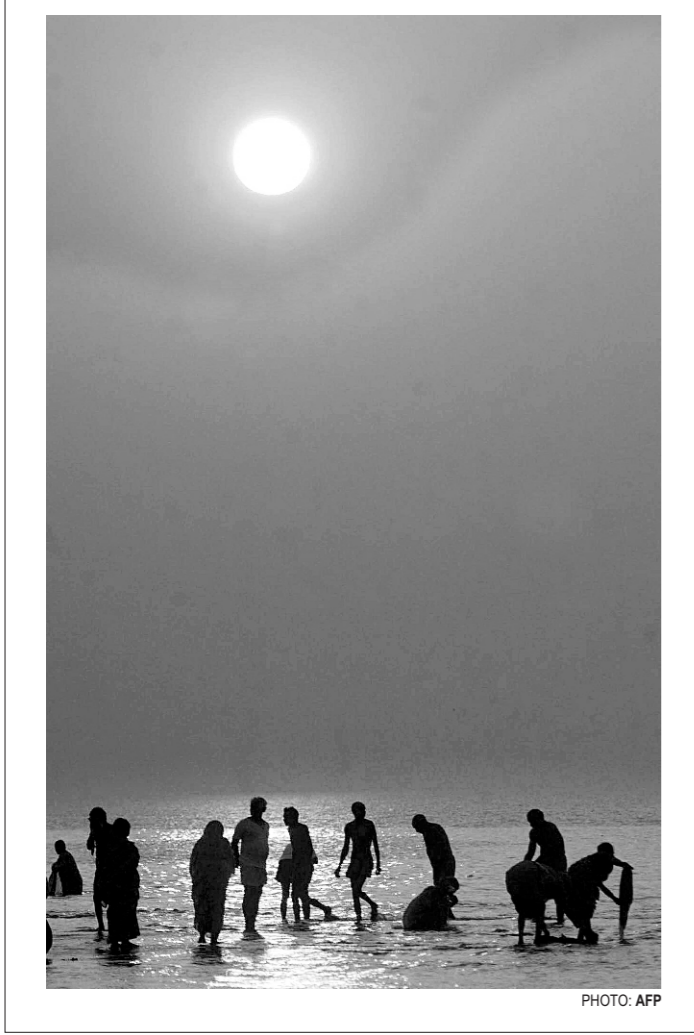


PHOTO: AFP

would always pay. But my present experience suggests that "Goodness has no reward!"

Nowadays a person who strives for goodness suffers much! Now goodness is measured and established according to one's financial and vocal strength! There are some people who consider 'money' as their only end and with the strength of money, they turn 'false' into 'true', 'injustice' to 'justice'! On any issue these people put forward arguments with prophetic words but they never care about religious injunctions, social or moral obligations. The hard truth i.e. death, which is inevitable to any living 'being, makes no difference to their wrong doings!

These are the type of people who are rapidly getting themselves established in every segment of our life and redesigning 'goodness' according to their whims!
Prof. M. Zahidul Haque
 Chairman
 Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, Dhaka

To the honourable finance minister...

As you have significantly increased the salaries of the public servants at the cost of the taxpayers' money, please ask them to change their

anti-people attitude, and to be pro-people and friendly--not masters as they think they are.

Please brief them on how to behave with their real boss - the common people of Bangladesh - and ask them not to take bribe for the public services they provide to their boss.
M. A Obaydullah
 Melbourne, Australia

Corruption

I beg to draw your attention to the above problem. Our lives have become unbearable due to all-pervasive corruption. Corruption is a social malady which has to be eradicated for our collective welfare.
Md. Kamrul Hasan Sohag
 Lalbag, Dhaka

Value of human lives

The Savar garments factory tragedy reminds me of the period I worked for a chemical industry abroad (GPIC) in ammonia, methanol area. This complex is like the size of our Zia Fertiliser Factory at Ashuganj where I worked for the period from 10-10-75 to 31-12-84. At the GPIC like at Ashuganj the main raw material is natural gas which is very inflammable and could cause any disaster of high magnitude. The main concern at the GPIC is personal safety which is the most important factor above all. The GPIC spends a huge sum of money for safety of the employees, apart from payment of salaries. Due to the safety precaution and awareness the company was awarded international safety awards several times.

In the context of Savar tragedy, the question arises, why is the life of a Bangladeshi worker so cheap? If the life of a Bangladeshi worker is so valuable in an Asian country like ours, why shouldn't it be so in a Bangladeshi industry? The owner of the Spectrum is not, of course, a poor person.

Can't we honour the principle "Accident does not occur, it is caused in industries as well as in our houses and in any working environment." However, matters will improve only if the employees are trained on their safety needs and the owners strictly follow the safety standards.
Thomas Gomes Bhura
 Monipuri Para, Dhaka

General Aurora

I would like to point out a simple fact, that we as a nation have not even recalled a single deed of our Liberation War C-in-C General Aurora, his passing away being such a tragic loss.

Our government should at least pay homage to him by naming a national monument or institution after him.
M. Haneef
 Univ. of Calif. Berkeley