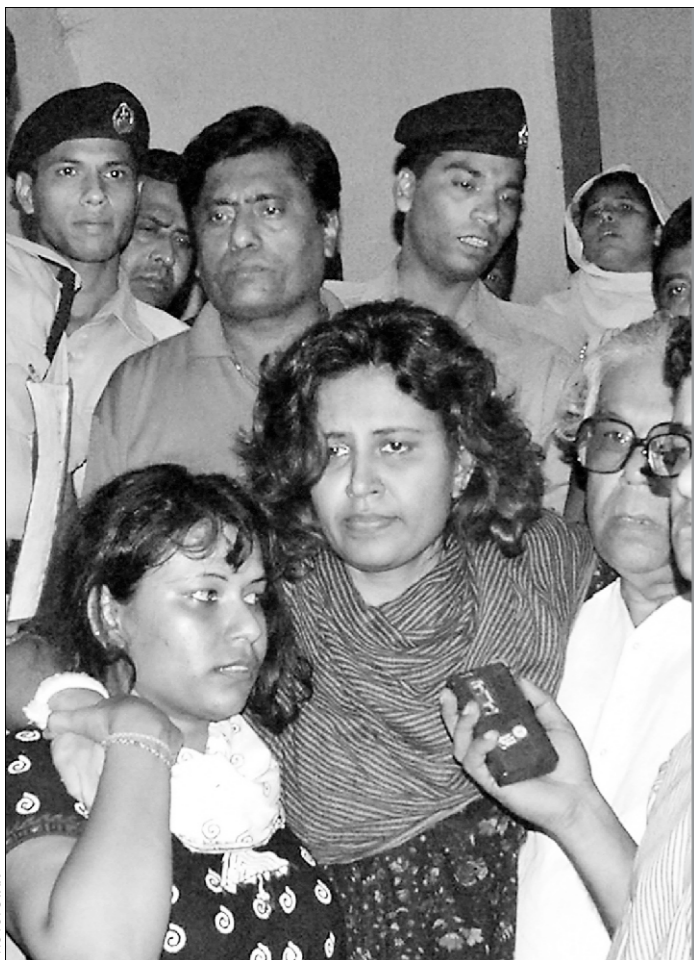


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



My heart bleeds

It's a shame for the country that we have to watch Mrs. Bidisha being dragged in and out of the court everyday on the charge based on fabricated political motive. I'm disgusted to see how a lady is dragged and tortured for whatever her political or family issues are.

Mr. Lawyers, can you show some respect to that lady and show some respect to the justice system? You've already caused enough damage to our justice system and national image to the world. Our justice system is nothing but the puppet of the corrupt government. You guys are so naïve that a mother needs to take her two year old son to court begging for bail yet she does not get it. You're saying that you can't grant Mrs. Bidisha a bail just because a character-less husband has brought charges against her of stealing a cell phone! For God's sake and for the sake of your life time studies on law, please give that lady a break and give us a break! Will you?

Mr. Ershad, who do you think you really are? There was a time when I had some sympathy for you but now you are nothing but a shameless, thoughtless, spineless and annoying something! Can't you show some respect to yourself even at this age? Have some shame and quit politics and let a dignified political leader take over your party. It's time to go to your retirement life and cool down. Will you?

My heart bleeds with agony seeing the poor law and political situation in my country. Please let our children grow with pride and honour. We want to be proud of our country and leaders. Make our heads high in our eyes and in the eyes of the world and make our next generation feel proud of us. Dear people of Bangladesh, please think twice before you vote for your leaders. Your thoughtless votes for these dishonest leaders will surely bite you and your family back today or tomorrow.

Delwar Hossain, US

Former President Ershad's scandals involving women are nothing new to the people of Bangladesh. After his fall from power in 1990 stories were there about women in his life.

From a common man's point of view it was purely a domestic matter of Ershad and could have been settled within the four walls of his apartment. I have never heard a gentleman put his wife in jail for theft and cheating. It is shameful that a former President's wife was languishing in jail while he himself was holidaying abroad. What a cruel act by a man vying for power. People of Bangladesh are ashamed of Ershad's behaviour!

Some say it is political pressure/blackmail on Ershad to take action on his wife. Any former President, ex-General and an ex-Army Chief of Staff would not have bowed down to political pressure to send his wife to jail rather he would have preferred to go to jail himself.

Need to learn lessons from Mr. L.K. Advani?

Ziauddin Ahmed
On e-mail

So I would like to request the authorities to take effective measures for establishing another academic building on the campus so that thousands of students can get rid of session jam.

Susanta Paul
University of Khulna

Late but praiseworthy

At last the Awami League has taken a late but praiseworthy step of expelling notorious terrorist and godfather, Joyntal Hazari. It was rather late for the AL.

Now, both the major parties should be very alert about their criminal and terrorist MPs, ward commissioners and other activists. The people of our country have witnessed much dummy game in



'Star City'

I think The Daily Star does a good job in its 'Star City' section. It always brings out quite obvious and relevant traffic and road rules violations. Therefore, I would like to point out to The Daily Star that maybe it can run a feature or even a small article on the recklessness and simply carelessness of the drivers in their habits of 'double' and even 'quadruple parking'. I'm just amazed at how even the owners don't care, I mean they are educated people aren't they? If they were illiterate and completely void of common sense, sure, that would make sense and yet they are not, or so they claim. You will find a four-line parking in front of Agora in Gulshan, you will find cars always double parked in front of Shoppers' World. How irresponsible are these people? To be fair, I must say that I cannot totally blame the drivers or the car owners but rather the greed of people to set up commercial ventures on main roads with virtually no parking space. But then again the drivers need not be so amazingly lazy and it is not totally outrageous to expect that they should drive ahead and park where there is space and not just double park for the sake of their convenience only.

It's a total hazard and RAJUK should do something about it.

Zeenat
Gulshan, Dhaka

A legitimate question

Is there any section or clause or provision in our constitution that has given autocratic power to our teachers of public universities? Or is there any ordinance in our country to give impunity from any unlawful activities to the teachers that they can do whatever they like? That is, they can't be asked anything about their responsibilities! Or they can't be challenged in the court.

I would like to know to whom they are responsible for their duties. They are not taking a minimum number of classes. Most often they are not regular in the class and that ultimately creates session-jam. Rather, they are taking classes in different private universities, depriving the students of public universities.

Who will look into the matter?

Md. Asiful Huq
Ibrahimpur, Kafrul Dhaka

Be creative

It is encouraging to note that IDCOL is pursuing the various renewable energy generation projects such as solar panels, wind turbines, biomass (advt in DS May 17).

While the NGOs are being assisted to take up more projects in the rural areas, including solar home systems, it is necessary to start a local base for building up or assembling such kits for DIY (do-it-yourself) in the SME (small and mid-level enterprises) sector, to gain local experience (HR and materials), eventually leading to more and more use of local and indigenous materials to reduce dependence on import. The commerce ministry and the FBCCI have to come in.

The project should be made popular like the sanitary latrine project of GoB, and the small mobile telephone shops seen in all cities in Bangladesh. An affordable utility quickly becomes popular; in fact a black market grows around it, according to the demand and supply equation.

Buy a kit, take it home, assemble it, and run the show, bringing cheer and entertainment all around. Alas, it's difficult to be simple!

A. Abad, Dhaka

Completion of DV form-2006

DV Form 2006 completion is a vital issue for intending immigrants under the said programme but a number of applicants are facing different problems while completing it. Column stipulated for educational qualification is one of the problems. Educational qualification has been described in para (a) of column 6. While completing this column the applicants who have changed their schools during their student days before passing SSC examinations and required to provide the name of one school in the form are facing problems.

The issue needs to be looked into.

Rotarian Quazi Raquibul Islam
Siddheswari Circular Road
Dhaka-1217

Session jam

I got into Khulna University in English discipline this year. But our class has not started yet. It is believed that our class will start in December or January. So before starting class we experience about one year session jam. Actually we lag behind around one year from the very beginning of the varsity term. But everybody knows that Khulna varsity is free from session jam. Actually the varsity cannot hold classes after the ending of admission owing to shortage of classrooms.

So I would like to request the authorities to take effective measures for establishing another academic building on the campus so that thousands of students can get rid of session jam.

Susanta Paul
University of Khulna

Late but praiseworthy

At last the Awami League has taken a late but praiseworthy step of expelling notorious terrorist and godfather, Joyntal Hazari. It was rather late for the AL.

Now, both the major parties should be very alert about their criminal and terrorist MPs, ward commissioners and other activists. The people of our country have witnessed much dummy game in

Ah! Maiury

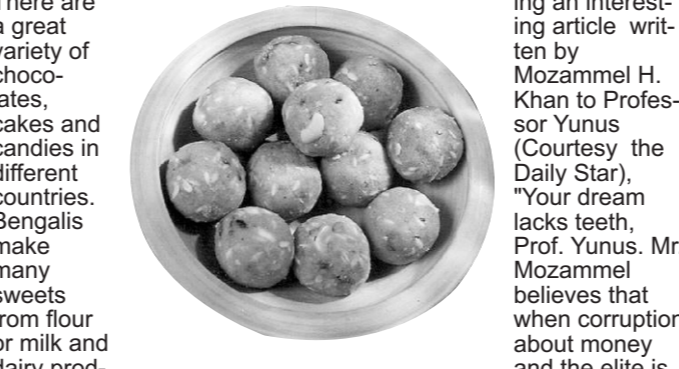
Do the communications ministry and the BRTA know that the sweet sounding so-called transport contraption called the 'Maiury' is nowhere in the world used in city roads or highways? Such vehicles are used in holiday resorts, golf courses and sea beaches for only short trips. It is quite puzzling that when the communications minister is thinking of introducing Maglev railway system in the country and flyovers in the city, he has allowed such things for mass-transit!

Dr. K. Maudood Elahi
Jahangirnagar University

OF SWEETS

We were reading the article on Sweets in Bangladesh, Eating dangerously (June 13). In the book on Indian sweets, we can see that there are a great variety of sweets in different regions. But Calcutta has the largest number of confectioneries and sweets, Bengali sweets. Bangladesh also has many sweets shops. Many people have sweet tooth.

There are a great variety of chocolates, cakes and candies in different countries. Bengalis make many sweets from flour or milk and dairy products. Eating too much sugar can cause dental problems. It's better if the confectioners put a moderate amount of sugar or use healthy products such as carrots, beets and date sugar. Confectioneries are made around the world with various ingredients, designs and machines. Candy floss looks like cotton, *roshogolla* and



so blatant, how can we think about anti corruption? It's sad that some people are themselves toxic or "adulterated", we can't expect "pure" sugar and Bengali sweets, those days are gone in history in a society that is not interested in the truth about its existence.

Estelle Mahnuma, Suchitra, Gabriel On e-mail

the name of democracy. In this context, I would like to repeat what the former President of the US Abraham Lincoln said: "You can fool part of the people all the time, and all the people part of times but you cannot fool all the people all the time." During the Awami regime, the AL leaders said that the press media had made him a terrorist.

osition told in support of Hazari that, "Hazari was, Hazari is and Hazari will be there". Now, we can say that Hazari was, Hazari is not and Hazari will not be there. On the other hand, what the BNP, the government party, is doing? There are terrorists in their folds.

We, the general people, want the political parties to be more asser-

Rainwater harvesting

Thanks to Dr MH Khan for his article on possible sources of water supply for Dhaka city. In fact, recently I was doing some self-study on the same issue. I found out that even our neighbouring country India has got significant success using rainwater harvesting technology. I believe, as Dr Khan suggested, using this technology we can surely reduce the water usage problem of our country. Also due to heavy load on our groundwater system, we have faced problem of lowering of groundwater level. To lessen this problem of groundwater, we can artificially recharge our subsurface with the available rainwater or waste water. Also what happens is while the rainwater or waste water passes through the subsurface, it gets treated naturally. While surface water treatment is expensive, we can look into this technology as a viable alternative. In the west, artificial recharge is a very well known practice and we should also adopt this in Bangladesh.

Nazmun Nahar
Vancouver, Canada



can be claimed by any person for the very reason that he is a human being.

These rights come with birth and are applicable to all people, irrespective of their race, colour, sex, language and political or other opinions.

Md. Abu Boker Siddique Bakul
Dept of Law, CU

lines!

But those of us who work in education must remember that these returning Bangladeshis, and their children, will simply not put up with some of the things that go on here in the name of 'education'. Usually their children have had experience of an enlightened English-medium education overseas.

express themselves and their opinions creatively and, above all, how to think! Also, in my experience, the standard of behaviour of many of the boys is way above those of the 'locals', especially with girls.

What a delicious challenge to those of struggling against the demands of some parents who cannot think beyond the next test results, threaten to take their under-age and/or under-performing children out of the school if they are not 'promoted', tell us we are being 'harsh' if we discipline them and want us to give them notes that can be memorised!

I'm getting quite excited. Hurry up, you returnees! We need you!

Angela MV Robinson (Rev Mrs)
Principal of The British School in Dhaka, Lalmatia

Role of India

This is in response to the letter of Mr. Delwar published in The Daily Star on June 6, 2005. In his statement he said that Indians don't have the guts to stand for themselves, Indians are evasive and the Indians are playing a nasty game with Bangladesh. As a conscious citizen of Bangladesh, I do not understand what nasty game the Indians are playing with Bangladesh.

I also oppose his remark that only for nuclear power Indians are trying to patch up with Pakistanis. Don't the Indians have anything common with the Pakistanis?

In my view Indians have much respect for Bangladesh and are helping us a lot.

Simon Dutta Wari, Dhaka

Return quickly!

I am delighted to read Delwar Hossain's letter about his desire to return to Bangladesh. When Bangladeshis talk to me about emigrating, they usually get an earful from me along exactly these



Come on, Tigers

Bangladesh Vs Australia, not a very important match for the world of cricket, people around the globe guessed like that, but they were all wrong. For us, Bangladeshis, it was always something great, because we love cricket.

Then the day came, June 18, Sophia Garden in Cardiff. Bangladeshis fans present there were hoping that their Tigers would attack, and they did, Australia two down for 9 runs, simply amusing. The bowlers were working hard and the batsman were feeling

the heat of summer. Mashrafe, Tapash, Nazmul were playing with pace and Rafique bhai was engaged in spinning the eyes of Aussies. Then came the Tigers to bat. The fall of the first wicket for 17 runs was quiet disappointing, but later when Ashrafur came to bat, we hoped something big from him. Not big, he gave us something huge, a century against Australia, which led us to win. Maybe, over 49 was lucky for us as in-form Aftab Ahmed hit a towering six in the first ball of the over. Actually

we won the match at that time. Bangladesh won the historic match in style. The team showed that they are all professionals, and they have the skill and talent, only they need to use it properly.

We must not forget the man behind this great success, Dav Whatmore. Fifth win in last nine ODIs, he really proved his worth. Now, we must keep supporting our team, Bangladesh.

Tahsin Hyder
Maple Leaf International School, Dhaka

Environmental diplomacy

The two very recent events: namely, the collection of 40 freshwater crocodiles of a rare species by the government of Bangladesh from Crocodile Bank Trust of Madras, India; and the handing over of two "Black Bengal Goats"- a typical species of Bangladesh - to the Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh for their onward transmission to the Thai Princess, as per the commitment made previously in that respect by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh; have demonstrated, among other things, the conscious, collaborative and result-oriented efforts on the part of Bangladesh, as well as India

towards the protection and the promotion of biodiversity in pertinent areas. Congratulations!

Those are the success stories in the area of environmental diplomacy. It is hoped the transaction between the two countries in environment related areas will continue to increase further in the foreseeable future. It is also hoped a continuing success in the area of environmental diplomacy will, among other things, be instrumental in supplementing and complementing the efforts of Bangladesh and India towards the improvement of the bilateral relations in other areas. The same holds good in the case of Bangladesh's relationship with other countries, perse.

In fine, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and his relevant team members should be commended for a professional job well executed. But Bangladesh would need more such examples for facilitating the advancement of sustainable development in the country and elsewhere in the world in a more meaningful and timely manner.

Dr. M. S. Haq
Dhaka