

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.



Flood donation: A suggestion

I received a forwarded email from the Los Angeles BD Consulate asking to send donation directly to CA's account in Bangladesh. Why the Bangladesh Consulate in Los Angeles does not accept flood donation?

It is much easier for me and thousands like me to write a check and mail to Los

Angeles. How do I send money to CA's Bangladeshi account from Silicon Valley? There are hundreds of Bangladeshi origin high income people who live in California's Silicon Valley.

Make the process easy and money will pour in. Ask all your Bangladesh embassies, consulates to take lead in

collecting donations. They have been passive so far.

And don't forget to publish the addresses of these embassies and consulates in The Daily Star and other Bengali newspapers in their respective internet editions. We read them regularly.

Robin
San Francisco, California,US

Fare increase

I have found that haggling over fare in local buses is common all the time. Whenever there's a price hike of fuel, there's an increase in travel cost. Sometimes this is done legally through agreement between transportation committee members and the government. But sometimes transportation owners increase the fares by themselves. So people get confused whether the travel costs are increased legally or illegally.

I think there should be a provision to let people know about any legal transportation fare increase.

Sohel Rana
Shantibag, Dhaka

Rangs Bhaban

There has been lot of discussion both in the media and amongst the general people regarding the fate of the Rangs Bhaban ever since Rajuk declared it illegal several months ago. Unlike other illegal structures and slums that Rajuk bulldozed the Rangs people tried to take the cover of the court but at last the verdict went against them and the tenants were asked to vacate overnight. One of the tenants was Grameen Phone whose network management department occupied a floor for their 'switch' to transfer calls. As a user it comes to me as a big surprise that the Grameen folks

got caught literally on Thursday evening when the court verdict was declared against Rangs and floors above the sixth were ordered to be demolished. Grameenphone, supposed to be employing some of the brightest minds in the country paying grandiose salaries, should have known better and moved their equipment out of the place as soon as the controversy arose regarding the legality of the building. As a service provider Grameenphone cannot afford to make such mistakes.

Akku Chowdhury
Banani, Dhaka

A memorable day

I have some memorable days in my life, one of them is the day when my first letter was published in DS. Four years back, I wrote my first letter tentatively and sent it to the DS office. I religiously looked at the "letters to the editor" for some days, but in van.

Finally, when I was about to give up my hope, one day it appeared in the newspaper! At first I could not believe my eyes! I was so happy and excited.

Md. Sohel Hara
Baridhara DOHS
Dhaka

Khaleda Zia's plan

I am amused by the news item published in a daily on August 10, which stated that 'BNP activists will be shocked if Khaleda Zia is not allowed to engage in relief activities'.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia could provide cash and kinds for the flood victims, there is no need to go to the flood affected areas in person. What will she do there, distribute saris, lungis and goods to the people?

Many people are giving donations through different organisations, they are not going there personally, so, why Khaleda Zia had to go?

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

US structural designs

The recent collapse of a river bridge in Minnesota State in USA, and an earlier (a few years back) similar collapse of a bridge in California and a few lesser known similar failures; points to the fact that something is seriously wrong in the design or construction standards in the US! The situation is quite worrisome for the millions of automobile drivers crossing such bridges every day in the US.

In the TV news item on it, it was reported that this bridge was declared "suspect or deficient" way back in 1990! Worse, it collapsed while it was being repaired and under modification! It is surprising that no safety measures in terms of reducing speed limit for vehicles or restriction for heavily loaded vehicles or some form of traffic flow control were imposed. It appears to be a dangerous lapse on the part of the State Government.

I wonder if this issue was a

neglect in safety and responsibility on the part of the State Government, and they could be held legally liable for the loss of lives, injuries and damages to private properties (vehicles) of many people. If this is the state of affairs in one of the richest country in the world, then they stand on very thin ice when preaching concerns for safety of their citizens in other countries. In short, one is tempted to state " Physician, heal thyself"

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

Present Bangladesh

Approximately 19 million people are homeless (CBC, Canada), people died from bridge collapse in Tangail; they are without food and medicine all around the flooded areas. In the mean time, the government has started demolishing Rangs Bhaban without giving them the minimum time to take their goods to a safe place. The people are crying for food; but prices are consistently going up.

Corruption is a very important issue and nobody should be excluded from it. Tax is a government right and people have the right to get service in exchange of tax. It is not clear to me why the people in the caretaker government are not delivering their own information to the ACC.

Kazal
Ontario, Canada

Patriotism

I would like to remind the people of our country that we can't afford our rosy possibilities to nip in the bud owing to some corrupt demons. About 3 million valiant sons laid down their lives for the independence of our beloved country. During this crucial period only one tonic can protect us from all evil deeds -- "Love your country". In the words of Edwin Arnold, "I love my life, true, but not more than I love my motherland". Let us unite and honestly work for the peace, progress as well as prosperity of the nation.

Md. Murshed Kabir
On e-mail

Golden opportunity

The government should be given more time for reforming the politi-

cal parties as well as the whole political structure in our country. One party goes, another party enters and misuse power, this has become a trend in Bangladeshi politics. Some people are still restlessly screaming for immediate election. We don't want to see our country like before, we hope a new day has come.

It's time to get a panacea for all the diseases.

Cantara Wali Ruhi
Dhaka

Unscrupulous businessmen

The price hike of the oral saline during floods only reveal the greediness of the dishonest businessmen. They exploit the helpless people to make profit. It's a shame! Where's the government? Why shouldn't they take action against the culprits? Why shouldn't they supply enough medicines to the flood affected people? It's a big failure of the present government.

In 1998, I had the opportunity to

serve the flood affected people. Then I was a Rover Scout & joined a camp. We supplied more than 15,000 packets of oral saline every day to different organisations.

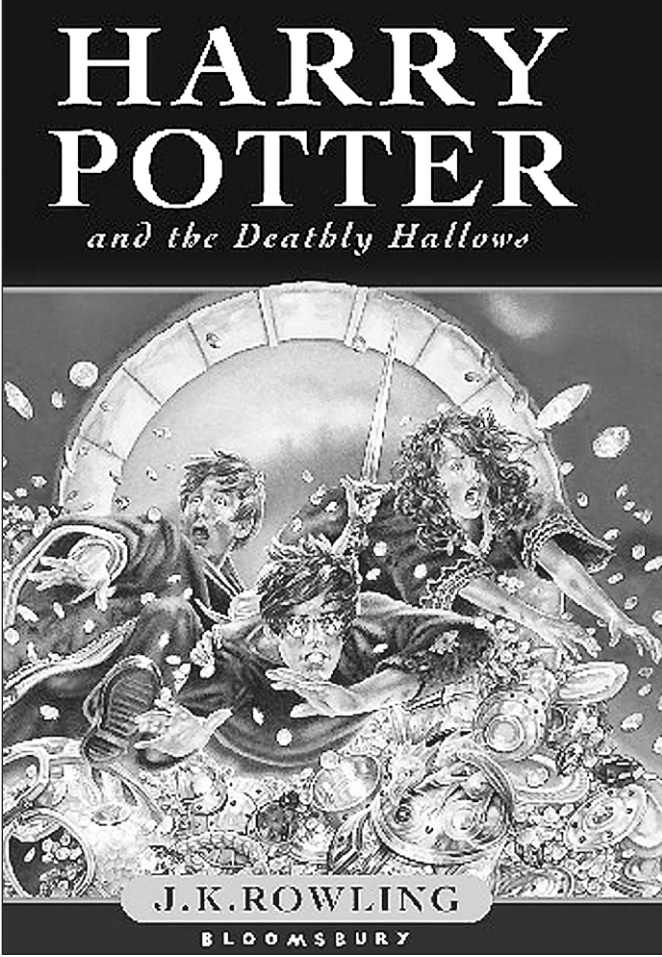
So, why shouldn't the organisations, especially multinational companies and pharmaceuticals, make oral saline and distribute it?

Solaiman Palash
East Jurain, Dhaka

Potter puzzle!

It is really amazing to notice and wonder as to how a person/writer can reach a height that J. K. Rowling has done through her titanic series Harry Potter! The youths, along with the adults, have been relishing it in a mind-blowing manner. The recent incident on the launching of the last book of the series that saw millions of enthusiasts wait till midnight in countdown and finally to celebrate the occasion in yet another mind-blowing affair the sellers including the online book seller Amazon.com were in a jaw-dropping situation as they witnessed, much to their amazement, how the books were sold out instant; and how the further orders for copies were pouring forth on their business platters! It is indeed a phenomenal event!

Interestingly, the book, though, is full of magic and the magicians; the art of sorcery and the indomitable spirit of the youths involved, at times tend to appear to be defiant behaviour on their part. At this point, however, some people are of the view



that these aspects of the book will by no means bear any good for the youngsters.

However, the writer deserves our big salute!

Rafiqul Islam Rime
Chittagong