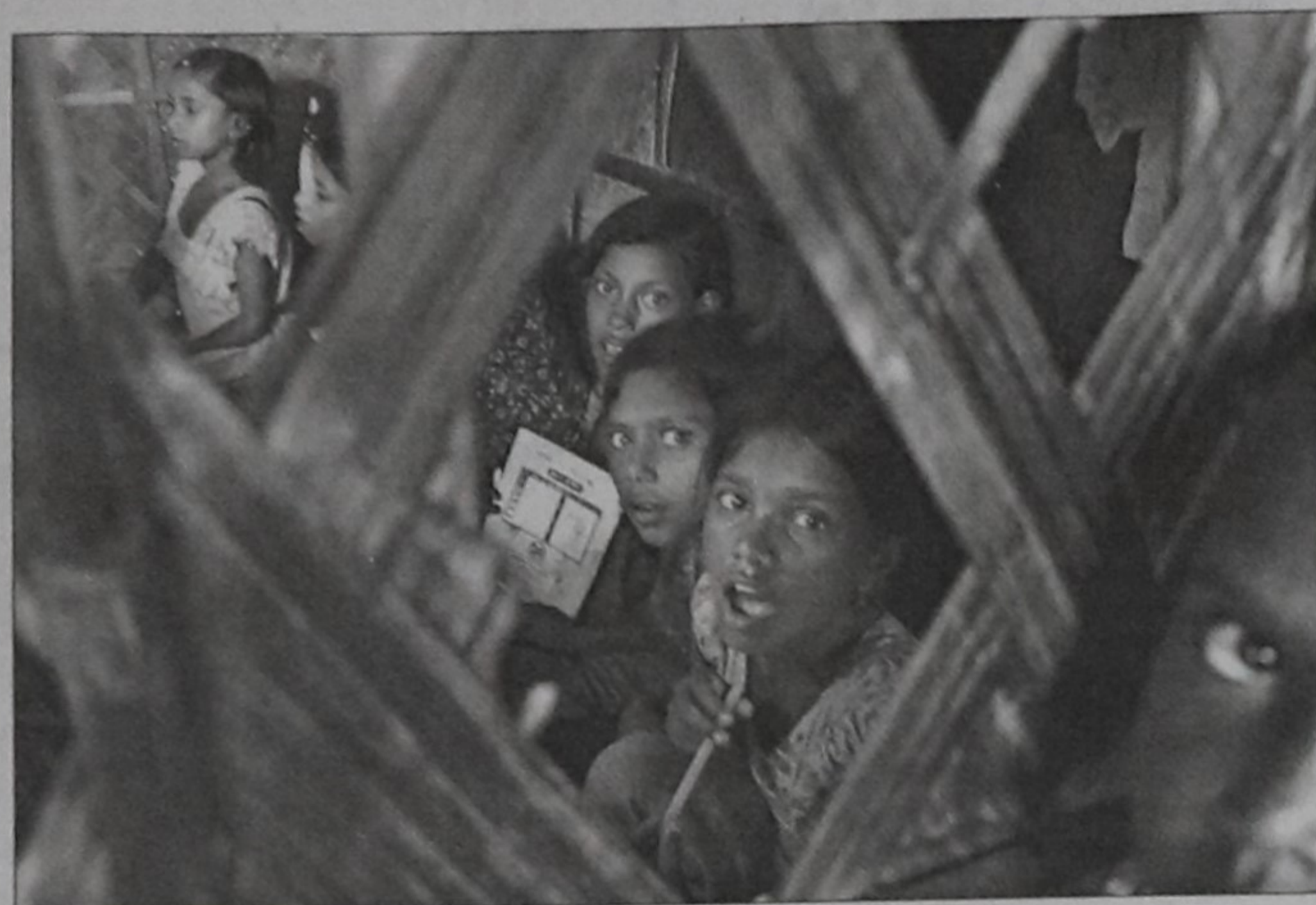


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



TANVIR AHMED / DRINKNEWS

Primary education

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in primary education over the last few years. Gross enrolment in primary school has increased to 97.5 percent, whereas net enrolment is 82 percent, and there are equal numbers of boys and girls in primary schools.

But imparting quality education has remained less than satisfactory as yet. As a result, those who pass out from primary school, mostly do not acquire the nationally defined basic competencies.

To ensure quality education, one of the most important requirements is to have quality teachers. But majority of the teachers are not familiar to the modern teaching methods. They lack proper training, skill and motivation.

However, there are some teachers who really know how to boost classroom perfor-

mance of the students and motivate them. But they cannot act accordingly due to weak policy and mechanism of the government and lack of cooperation and coordination among teachers and administrators.

Besides, unfair recruitment of teachers by the political governments, their non-academic activities, and shortage of educational materials and tools, are the constraints hindering quality improvement of our primary education.

It is time we addressed the issue and took effective and sustainable measures to improve our standards at the primary education level.

Md. Faisal
Sholokbazar, Panchlaish
Chittagong

country and mother tongue are something that need not be flaunted, rather are felt in the way we act. Irresponsible behaviour on the part of a popular celebrity can mislead his ardent fans in their realisation of the spirit of Pahela Baishakh.

Ahmad Ferdous Bin Alam
Department of CSE, DU

Letters page

I refer to the letter of Mr. Harun-or-Rashid published on 24 April, 2008 with the caption - "Full Page Daily, Please."

I fully agree with his views. Your "Letters to the Editor" page is very interesting. Your readers regularly write to you expressing their viewpoints on important issues of our daily life. We can learn many things from these letters. Many of your regular readers from home and abroad also send you e-mail letters on important topics.

I, therefore, request you to consider the proposal of publishing one full page "Letters to the Editor" every day. This will be appreciated by all readers of your daily.

Reader
One-mail

Role of universities

The universities have a major responsibility in nation building through enriching science, engineering, technology, humanities and arts by providing value based education to students to make them moral leaders. The extent of the research work undertaken by a university becomes a measure of judgment and representation for that university. Experience of research leads to quality teaching, and quality teaching imparted to the young in turn enriches the research and higher learning. Research brings transformation and development and also enhances the quality of education. This sets in a regenerative cycle of excellence. The second point is the standing and excellence of the universities to build moral leadership. Hence, quality of research and teaching will attract students from many parts of the country, creating a new environment and base for development of the nation.

The information technology and communication technology have already converged, leading to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Information Technology combined with biotechnology has led to bio-informatics. Now, Nano technology is knocking at our doors. It is the field of the future that will replace microelectronics and many fields with tremendous application potential in the areas of medicine, electronics and material science. When Nano technology and ICT meet, integrated silicon electronics, photonics are born and it can be said that material convergence will happen. With material convergence and biotechnology linked, a new science called Intelligent Bioscience will be born which would lead to a disease free, happy and more intelligent human habitat with longevity and high human capabilities. Nano robots when they are injected into a patient, my expert friends say, will diagnose and deliver the treatment exclusively in the affected area and then the nano-robot will get digested as it is a DNA based product.

The universities in the country produce lots of graduates every year and they need employment. University syllabi have to be integrated with entrepreneurship courses. Jewel Rana
Student, Dept. of Biotechnology
Bangladesh Agricultural University
Mymensingh

"To refrain from singing in Hindi for just one particular day would not prove our true love for our mother tongue", He says. Does that justify stage performance of Hindi songs on Pahela Baishakh either? Ridiculous!

Respect and love for our own

Flight safety assessment

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is the regulating agency for all the civil aviation activities in our airspace. It issues licence to pilots, flight engineers, navigators, aircraft maintenance engineers (AME), flight operation officers (FOO), aircraft maintenance organizations (AMO), aviation training organs, ground handling, tech handling agencies, certification of air transport operations (ATOL), aircraft leasing, route station etc.

CAAB also issues certificate of airworthiness (C of A) to civil aircrafts which allows the concerned aircraft to fly for one year provided it is kept airworthy by licensed aircraft maintenance engineers (AMEs) of different operators.

Oversight on all activities of the officials mentioned above are handled by officials of the flight safety directorate of CAAB. As flight safety itself is a high tech subject, officials looking after such important aspects are required to be selected properly, trained and kept up to date with the change of modern aviation trends. CAAB at present has only a handful of officials entrusted with such enormous responsibility.

In the last 10 years, the attitude of the government towards the aviation industry has changed. This obviously is a good sign for development of civil aviation in the country. But we should also keep in mind that unprofessional money mongers do not come in the market who can only cause disaster to the sector.

At present, the airworthiness division which is (like one of the main landing gears of an aeroplane, the other two being Flight Inspection and Air Transport) is suffering from acute shortage of inspectors. Out of 7 (seven) approved positions it only has 2 (two) inspectors, the other five positions are yet to be filled in. To address the above issues I would like to humbly suggest a few steps for the authorities to consider, so that the existing problems can be overcome in near future:

a) Immediately all 5 (five) positions of AELD should be filled in.
b) New entrants should be adequately qualified having relevant aircraft maintenance experience as mentioned in CAAB's Service Rules.

c) They should have hand on experience on transport category aircraft and its documentation procedure.

d) Auditing the aircraft and facilities should be taught hand on by qualified and experienced safety auditors.

e) They should undergo classroom lectures on airworthiness audits by existing and former flight safety officials.

I wish this letter will draw the attention of the authorities concerned.
Jalal Uddin Ahmed
Director Engineering
Best Air

Injustice

I was walking on the street and thinking about social disparities. Think about those hapless children on the streets deprived of almost everything they need to grow up. And there are those fortunate ones. But the tragedy is that the deprived far outnumber the fortunate!

When shall we be able to establish social justice?
Sumana Sharmin
Dhaka

IPL bonanza

I understand IPL has created a sensation around the cricketing world with its grandeur beginning and swashbuckling play by some of the well-known cricketers of this generation.

It is not untrue that Indian young players, especially the under 19s, will be benefited by playing their trade alongside the Warnes, the Chanderpauls, the Pollocks and current Indian national players, and many others.

IPL is attracting a lot of crowd, who can watch a complete match within three hours without sacrificing their working time at all. Unlike the 50 over matches or the Test matches, this new version of T-20 format will not keep you seated in the stadium for 8 long hours, or, on television viewers' part, it saves them time to do other important errands before sitting in front of the television for these matches.

At first, like all others, IPL created a great excitement within me. As the days are passing by, and the more I am watching these matches, I am losing that zeal which had induced me to remain glued onto the television set in the first few matches. It is because, IPL matches are being held every day.

That is my personal opinion. I may not be wrong to say that there might be some other viewers bored by too much of cricket.

The IPL organisers should think about it.
Nasib Ullah Alam (Paolo)
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

May Day

It was in 1886 in Chicago when workers went all out for establishing their rights and a meaningful identity in society. They got into the street and lost their precious lives to police bullets. People across the world are celebrating the day with due solemnity, and Bangladesh is no exception.

At this point, however, we've to make a soul search in regard to the event as to how well we have been following the spirit of the Day in our context.

Dissection of the fact surely will make us

feel all red in the face --- as we've utterly failed to ensure fixed working hours, hygiene factor, and social security to our workers.

Let us from today onwards make sure that we all will wholeheartedly try to ensure the rights of all working people. Only thus may we perform our duty towards the workers who are the real driving force behind development.

Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad, Chittagong



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

Fleeing passengers

Recently, I purchased a computer and took it to Khulna from Dhaka as I'm a student of Khulna University. After I reached Khulna Sonadanga bus terminal, I had to face transport problem. I was looking for a helping hand who could carry my computer but I didn't find anyone. So I had to carry the heavy monitor and CPU to a rickshaw. But suddenly a man came from the terminal and asked for money! He claimed that every passenger had to pay it at the terminal. I was finally rescued by a friend.

My question is, why should the professional extortionists be allowed to target innocent passengers?
Hasib
Khulna University

Exorbitant fees

Some English Medium Schools in Dhaka are charging too much as school fees and the parents are suffering.

The issue should be addressed by the education authorities. Even in a free market, education should have a special place.

Parent
One-mail

ICT sector

From a recent news report related to ICT sector published in The Daily Star on 23 April, we came to know that different agencies are taking up a number of major projects, ranging from installation of private sector submarine cable to launching of a national communication satellite. Apart from these, BTCL has already undertaken a couple of steps i.e. a massive drive against the illegal VoIP business, fining mobile phone companies for illegal VoIP business and awarding Call Centre licence at a cheap rate etc. with a view to developing the ICT sector in Bangladesh.

It is a good news that BTCL has also agreed to cut the Internet bandwidth charge costs in line with the charges in the neighbouring countries within two months.

The measures adopted by the CTG to promote the ICT sector are very positive, as these will generate more employment opportunities for young bright boys and girls of the country. But these measures should have been taken a decade ago!

Sumana Saha
BBA
University of Dhaka

VIPs!

Is everyone living in Tangail a VIP? Let us come to the point. There is only one CNG refilling station in Tangail, though there should be many, on the road to Sirajganj. So every time I go home and come back to Dhaka I cannot help stopping by the CNG station to have my car's gas cylinder replenished.

My experience has taught me that it does not guarantee the gas cylinder being replenished, despite waiting for a long time in a queue, thanks to the VIPs of Tangail who have to be served before all others!

Md. Shofiqul Islam
Mohammadi Housing Society
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Attention: DCC

The past BNP government may be credited for introducing buses with counter services and feeding of many routes including the new ones by those large and luxurious buses plying throughout the city. This has resulted in a better and respectable transportation for the city commuters.

But all those counters with small desks are manned by young boys who have to perform their duties, mainly handling cash, on the pavements at the risk of being mugged any time. Safety has been compromised. Commuters at times have to exchange words bitterly with the ticket sellers over torn and fake notes. At the end of the day, these poor boys are rendering essential public services.

I would draw the attention of our city fathers to arrange illumination of all those counters simply by hanging an overhead high powered bulb. Those lights may be switched off after 10:00pm every day. This is in public interest and a very small job on the part of DCC, but it will pay good dividends.

I also urge the DCC not to keep on shifting those counters every

gested imposition of duties on the ads telecast by the foreign TV channels in Bangladesh.

I appreciate the above observations made by the FBCCI president and I would like to sincerely call upon the authorities in India to take the necessary steps, so that Bangladeshi channels could be viewed in that country.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

Rashida Muhiuddin

With great sadness I came to know that Rashida Muhiuddin, the elder sister of one of my childhood school friends Nina, had died. We all attended, once upon a time, the same school abroad. Nina and I were in the same class. I have had the benefit of knowing the late Rashida Muhiuddin pretty closely both as my school senior and my friend's elder sister.

Rashida Muhiuddin had a personality of her own - apparently, an excellent combination of extrovert and introvert personality traits,

Rajshahi University



RU is the second largest university of Bangladesh and so many students are entering it each year with great expectations. Like most of the universities, it is also facing severe session jam, recruitment politics, hall politics etc. But at the same time here exists some departments which are jam free. I would like to put a question to our honourable teachers: how could their colleagues make their departments session jam free?

The most serious problem is the recruitment of teachers on political consideration.

The RU authorities have to address these issues in the interest of all concerned.

Abdullah Khan, One-mail

now and then. Those are essential part of the public services and deserve to be treated in a serious manner.

Abul B.M. Zakaria
East Sheurapara
Mirpur, Dhaka

BD channels

Recently, while inaugurating the second Dhaka International Cable TV Exhibition, FBCCI President Anisul Haq observed that Bangladesh has been maintaining a soft line in its cable TV exhibition policy. In Bangladesh, so many foreign TV channels, including those of India, are operating. But it is a matter of great regret that Bangladeshi channels are not exhibited in India. The FBCCI president urged the authorities to take steps to telecast Bangladesh channels in India. He also sug-

among other things. She was social, people-oriented and considerate. She was a great soul. I will in-leed miss her but will cherish her fond memories.

May the Almighty Allah bless her in Heaven! May the Almighty give Nina and other family members the strength to bear the irreparable loss of Rashida.

Neena, Dhaka

Paradox

The Chief Justice asked the judges to be guided by their conscience in dispensing justice and reminded them that the nation has a lot to expect from them, ignoring the fact that the government is the biggest oppressor of our people at all times.

Acitizen
One-mail

Tree plantation



AZKUR RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

A country needs 25 per cent forests on its total landmass. But due to unplanned industrialization and urbanization, our planet is losing huge forest areas which has triggered numerous natural calamities. The flora and fauna in the ocean are facing extinction. Aquatic animals are reportedly dying under the propellers of fishing trawlers and ships.

However, plantation of more trees is a sure way of keeping the environment cool. So, I would appeal to the learned readers of The Daily Star to support the "Plant more trees" campaign.

MAH Nazim
Dept of Political Science
Dhaka University