

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.

### BP and eggs

Eggs are mostly avoided for their high cholesterol content which is believed to increase blood pressure and considered a potential heart disease factor. But according to a report published in the February 2009 issue of the 'Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry', researchers in Canada have recently identified several different peptides in boiled and fried eggs that act as ACE inhibitors which is believed to be capable of lowering blood pressure. The egg proteins might contain certain prescription drugs similar to ACE inhibitors that are used to treat hypertension or high blood pressure. The inhibitors of Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) are a group of pharmaceuticals used in the treatment of high blood pressure and Congestive Heart Failure (CHF).

Great news! Should we follow the Indian egg marketing slogan Sunday or Monday, Roz Knao Undey?

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Chairman

Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System, SAU, Dhaka

### Thoughts on 18th anniversary

We congratulate The Daily Star on the occasion of its 18th founding anniversary. The Daily Star is a widely circulated English daily and acclaimed for its role in our recent quest for vibrant democracy.

Our society, till date, is far from exorcising the plethora of social ills. Violence against women and children, dehumanising dowry, inhuman child labour, curse of unemployment, and chronic violence on campuses, corruption in public and private sectors, and shortsightedness of governments are some of those that we could not overcome.

Added to these is threat from the radicals whose outrage may boil down to the flip side of capitalism, that is, the wide gap between pompous consumerism and distress of grinding poverty. Before we push the synchronized bomb blasts across the country a few years ago to the backside of our mind, the recent incidents lend once again credence to the claim that fundamentalists are yet to abandon their plan. The Daily Star is worth our thanks for its vocal stance on those issues.

Words printed in newspapers reach more or less all sections of society. So, the

print media is by far the most important not only for having the value of the media and the public-imposed powers it yields but also for communication from government, between and inside groups now controlled by the media.

Unpalatable as the truth is, anyway, some journalists of our country, as it is, are neglectful of their duties and their acts resemble yellow journalism. Though a small portion of journalists indulge in such type of wrongdoings, this overspill has already given off a bad impression of print media. Moreover, some newspapers, to put it mildly, give huge importance to pandering readers so as to increase their circulation, it neither bodes well for society, nor do the readers like reading those when they get the message.

Since independence our country has not made much progress.

It rolled on the verge of a precipice over the selection of the head of the last caretaker government.

Now a democratically elected government is at the helm of the country so, the onus is on the journalists to perform their duties as social critics. This time our expectation is much higher.

All the more important is how you as social critics make people aware. When elected people overstep the boundary line, government officials go against the grain, people's representatives overlook the people, and high-handed attitudes of police look too brazen. Aware, they can stand against the social evils and that may knock the authority to reality.

Last but not the least, on this day, we, the readers, remember the founding editor of the Daily Star, S.M. Ali. The Daily Star is his dream that glinted in his eye when he ventured an extra mile to look at the horizon and saw the Rainbow over the Padma.

We hope DS will keep up its journalistic ethics in the days to come and wish more success in its voyage.

**A reader**

One-mail

### DU scene

A student from Social Welfare and Research Institute came under gun attack by his rivals when he was entering Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall a few days ago.

I would appeal to the university authorities to take stern action against all such elements.

**A citizen**

Uttara, Dhaka

### VCs

This newly elected government had to change vice-chancellors of public universities as some VCs have resigned already (who were appointed by the BNP-Jamaat Jote or later by the caretaker government) and some are completing their tenures. The BNP-Jamaat Jote appointed VCs as espoused by the Hawa Bhaban purely on party cadre consideration.

Let all the public universities now have a fresh and committed/ clean leadership to help build a new order for academic improvement overhauling the system for human resource development that the country needs most. The change is imperative.

**A professor**

One-mail

### Publishers' role

This month, February, is known for publication of books. The electronic media was giving mammoth coverage of the Book Fair. Thus, we were getting updated information regarding the fair. Especially, the writers got the chance to come and express their good and bad feelings towards television audiences.

All writers, even the distinguished ones like Hasan Azizul Hoque and Selina Hossain, have spoken about the publishers bringing out books on different topics. In different talk shows, they and all other writers have claimed that the publishers don't follow any rules in this respect. For example, they have informed us that no publisher signs any contract with writers on publishing the upcoming book.

They don't get exact information as to how many copies are being published. Generally, they don't get the money of royalty timely. Always the writers are being deprived, though we are enjoying the festive mood of 'Ekushey Gronthomela'.

Obviously, it's a matter of great regret. The government should impose practical rules and regulations. Copyright act and supporting regulations are not so up to date; on the other hand, the publishers should be respectful of the rights of writers.

Without the existence of the writers, how will they run their business?

**Md. Abdul Hamid**  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University, Sylhet

### People want peace

We have seen the capturing of different halls like "char dakhol". Students are fighting not only with their opponents but also with their intra-party opposition. Some days back we saw a picture of a BCL activist with a gun in Jahangirnagar University. Teachers are vying for posts, doctors are fighting to come to Dhaka from outside of the capital using their political influence and everywhere this kind of activities are going on. From these activities the party activists may get profits but the country loses heavily, no doubt.

During the previous regime of the AL people would get frightened to hear some leaders' names. Although those controversial and infamous leaders did not get nomination tickets this time but they have started coming out of their dens. And people are scared once more.

Actually, the character of the BNP and the AL is the same. How can people live in peace?

**Harun-or-Rashid**

Sobhanbag, Dhaka

### 48 hours of mutiny

What happened in our country in those 48 hours, why it happened, what should have been done; I will not discuss anything about these issues. I only want to share some of my experiences with the conscious citizens that I had in last two days.

I was at my office when the mutiny started on 25th February. Like any other day I was trying to share my knowledge with my students as teaching is my profession. Many times I used to share my opinions about my values, culture, and country with the students. But that day I found myself with some next generation citizens of Bangladesh who are not at all conscious about the country's well being. At noon when I was returning home like all other scared and anxious people, I had an interesting experience. I found that one of our famous clothing and lifestyle store is open located within the one and half kilometre area of BDR HQ. While waiting for my car, suddenly I heard a voice speaking, "What has happened I am far away from that and this really does not matter, I will return home after completing my shopping". After returning home when I was busy to collect information about my relatives and friends, I came to know that someone was telling that the persons who had been killed were none of his relatives, so he did not want to talk about that issue.

Next day I found some of my relatives were telling that they do not live in the Dhanmondi area. "So let's not care about what happened. At night I heard that one of my colleague's cousin came to Dhaka from abroad for a visit. So he went to Star Cineplex for watching a movie.

He did not get any ticket, as the cinema was houseful with people who were enjoying 'Monpura'. From newspaper and TV news I found that people visited the book fair also. I heard from my reporter friends that when lots of people were leaving homes in Dhanmondi, then many people were standing beside the large tanks as they have never seen such things. When firing was going on, the curious people were playing hide and seek game. I found in Facebook, lots of people updated their status with some statements. Students organised a rally in Dhaka University campus area.

I don't know about what other people are thinking at this moment about this issue. But I know about lots of people who had the similar kind of experiences in those 48 hours. I don't look upon me as a highly patriotic and conscientious citizen of the country. But I think this is the right time for the young generation to act as conscious and responsible people. The TV talk shows in different channels will not be able to create conscientiousness among people. To survive in this world as a Bangladeshi, it is very much essential to become a good human being who not only love his/her country but is also concerned about humanity, and who can differentiate between good and bad, right and wrong, justice and injustice.

**Ayesha Tabassum**

Lecturer, Faculty of Business Administration  
Eastern University

# Bloodbath at BDR HQ



AMDADUL HUQ / DRINKNEWS



NOOR ALAM / DRINKNEWS

What we saw in the last few days in Pilkhana is a tragedy. The atrocious activities of the BDR jawans were quite unacceptable. I feel their agony but not do not support the way they took. It's a massacre; it's a crime against humanity to kill scores of unarmed army officers. No compensation can fill the void created, we lost some of our great sons. What will happen to the families which lost their sons?

It's a war crime. They not only brutally & savagely killed them but also tried in vain to conceal their crime. We the new generation witnessed a horrible scene of mass grave & mutilated dead bodies found in drains.

It's beyond my imagination how could a man become such a murderer. Why couldn't they think what will happen to the victims' families? It's a matter of great sorrow that our own men killed their very own men. It's a shame!

I also feel sorry for those people who don't condemn this atrocity on the plea of BDR's misery. My question to them is what benefit they (revolting BDR men) achieved by this madness & mass murder? It's only spread the hatred among our very own people. And send an ominous signal to our

hard-earned democracy.

Lastly, I congratulate the PM for her patience and the way she handled the situation without a bullet being fired. It's a praiseworthy work.

**Solaiman Palash**

East Jurain, Dhaka

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The government cannot afford to waste so much time on incidents involving the defence forces. Otherwise, they will not be able to achieve the promises they have made to the nation in their election manifesto. The BDR is an excellent force but the command and control structure is more suited to the British Raj than a modern country. The British Army officers were posted to this organisation in order to maintain their pre-eminent position.

The government may create BCS (BDR), BCS (Rab) and BCS (Ansar) to put an end to any mutiny in future. The government should also investigate the allegations of corruption during the emergency period.

**A reader**

One-mail

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They left this world forever, leaving behind their families. There is no

way to deny that we have failed to deal with certain complex issues. As a result, such tragic incidents are now occurring.

Any way, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, addressed the nation on February 26 which boosted our morale. Now the nation must remain united to handle the situation that has arisen.

**Habibur Rashid Ismail**

Jamea Rahmania Fadi Madrasa, Chaitenyarhat Chittagong

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We are saddened to see the incident that took place at Peelkhana, BDR Headquarters. BDR jawans took arms against their officers and resorted to indiscriminate killing. Many BDR officials are reported to have been killed. Why the ordinary soldiers have mutinied against their officials and how they become so violent is yet to be uncovered.

We came to know from the media that they had certain demands. However, they could place their demands in a peaceful manner. What they have committed is a crime against humanity.

**Emran**

Tajmahal Road

Mohammadpur, Dhaka

### Enemies of the state at work

The massacre at Peelkhana is one of the darkest episodes in our history. When we are dreaming of making a digital Bangladesh and making Bangladesh a prosperous nation, some criminals and enemies of the state brutally killed many innocent senior army officers.

This incident has proved that there are Mir Zafars who will not hesitate for a second to betray the nation, their motherland. These people are criminals and enemies of the state.

The perpetrators' main aim was to weaken our army and create clash between the army and the BDR. They succeeded in their first mission but could not succeed in the second one.

These enemies of the state should be captured and given exemplary punishment.

**Minhaj Ahmed**

Uttara, Dhaka

### BDR mutiny

While the people of Bangladesh eagerly awaited some changes in their lives and the new government has already started to work in that direction, all of a sudden, without any hints, a unit of the country's defence system staged a mutiny in their headquarters.

The Prime Minister has generously declared amnesty to the mutineers and promised that their demands will be met gradually. We highly appreciate her gesture and statesmanship and her quick decision making ability which has saved many lives. We believe the situation will calm down soon and the people's lives will return to normal.

The BDR is our border guards to keep us protected from all sorts of foreign intrusions, we sleep peacefully while they guard us from intruders. So their duties are august and absolutely precious to us. But we cannot afford to condone the crimes they have committed. They might have lot many demands and the government is bound to listen and solve those within its means. But the language used is wrong.

They have committed unpardonable crimes and should face due punishments.

**Shafiqul Islam, NY**

### Khatib issue

I left Dhaka for the USA over two decades ago. Now living in a beautiful coastal town, about 160 km north of Los Angeles. I have been always in touch with my parents, relatives and friends in Bangladesh. They have been gracefully nice to me all these years.

I am also equally fortunate with good friends, co-workers and neighbours in the USA. Our town and the surrounding

areas have about 2,000 Muslims of various majhabs and traditions.

Our Muslim community receives lot of help from Christians, Jews and many others members of the society. They invite us to their Churches, Synagogue and Temples to talk about Islam. They come to our Friday Prayers to see how we pray. They come in hundreds to our Iftar during Ramadan.

I was alarmed and shocked

at the recent incidents in Baitul Mukarrum Masjid regarding selection of Khatib. I know him for over 35 years. I still remember and cherish his Friday Jumma sermons. He is an Islamic scholar and a fine gentleman.

I urge everyone to show respect to our Ulema. Let's not repeat what happened in the Baitul Mukarrum Masjid last month.

**Zaman**

California, USA

## Rural healthcare system



Though Bangladesh achieved remarkable advancement in the domain of healthcare, the irony is that a significant portion of its population is still out of its coverage. For many, modern medicines and healthcare are still a distant dream.

The issue poses a great challenge for the new government as it did to previous governments, which undertook the task of improving the healthcare delivery system. In spite of the past initiatives, the overall health care scenario does not provide any optimistic picture. Much remains to be done to ensure quality health service to the people, more so in the countryside. Due to the lack of proper health care service, the mortality rate in the rural and interior areas is still quite high.

Not many of the primary healthcare centres, set up by the previous government, in the rural areas serve the designated purpose. It is so because the centres do not have the doctors to make them functional. The reluctance of the doctors to serve in the rural areas compounds the problem. From time to time the authorities took a host of measures to tone up the healthcare delivery system in the rural areas of Bangladesh. But the sad part is that modern medicines and treat-

ment remain yet a far cry for the people in the rural areas.

The ground realities call for fresh initiatives to ensure the presence of doctors in the countryside. It will indeed be laudable if the new government, which came to power, with the pledge of changing the ways, takes early initiative for improving this situation. Better pay package and preference in post-graduate education could attract the doctors to opt for compulsory rural postings. The government has also to identify the areas where there is a severe dearth of doctors.

Such options would hopefully send the right signals and help solve the perennial problem of shortage of doctors in the countryside. The mandatory one-year rural posting for the post-graduate doctors could be a positive step. Compulsory rural posting will, to an extent, ensure medical treatment of the patients in the remote areas.

A macro-level decision of the government alone would not be enough unless it is properly implemented at the micro-level. Without such initiatives, healthcare for all will remain a distant dream.

**Mohammad Shahidul Islam**

A national tourism worker