

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.



"Better is expected"

Probably you, the captain of the Bangladesh cricket team, have taken his asking as "Rebuke" but it was a "Cry" from the bottom of the heart of the board president which echoes millions of Bangladeshis and he has the right to do so. Late Maj. Khaled Mosharaf and Maj Haider, the legendary sector commanders, would always asked for more even if the "Boys" gave their best. It does not mean that they "Humiliated" their boys by asking for more, they just wanted their boys to give their best. It is how boys used to be inspired. How a leader of a group could stand in front of those sector commanders

and defend after losing more than 100 boys [read runs] in an attack where there seemed to be a winning situation, just because of lacking in attitude [clearly there was along with the body language] to win the war. When the boys could do it after nine months why it could not be done after more than 150 months [read Tests]. Just saying "Doing Better" is definitely not enough. I would like to remind you, Mr skipper, the famous quotation by Thomas Fuller: "Good is not good where better is expected" **Dr Md Shameem Hassan** *New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka*

Save migratory birds

With the arrival of winter every year we see the mass-migration of birds of different species from ice-covered regions of the world to our country. Hence they are our guests. These birds play a vital role for the eco-system of Bangladesh. But we do not make our land a haven to them, rather we give a cruel treatment to these dumb guests. Poachers in different parts of the country are catching the birds and selling them openly. Nevertheless, there are consumers too who think that these are good sources of nutrition. But think about the environmental hazard we are heading for in the near future. **Ahsan Uddin** *Department of English Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology Sylhet*

university. But in the present chaotic situation, how will they enlighten themselves and reach their goal? **Md. Ismail** *Department of English Govt. City College, Chittagong*

Yes, I am student. Student politics is necessary for education in our context. Because, when the authorities decide to do anything against students' interests, the political students first raise their hands against it. In that sense, student politics is a positive thing.

Students are often found to be involved in bloody clashes. My request to the guardians of the political parties--please don't spoil them. Students are the future leaders of your party. Don't let them fight with each other. We expect you to change the environment of educational institutions. We expect you to change Bangladesh! **Minhaz Uddin Ahmed Mishok** *Dept of Business Administration Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet*

Standard of education

We feel worried, shocked and concerned about the standard of education, general knowledge, learning of English and mathematics of our secondary school boys and girls. Many of them cannot read their Bangla textbooks correctly and smoothly and while writing or spelling simple and easy Bangla words they make mistakes. Their English is very weak and poor. Their general knowledge and information about our own country cannot be appreciated. They fail to tell

the names of our neighbouring countries. They are unaware of the history of Islam, Muslim rule in Bangladesh and our hard earned independence. Would our Ministry of Education kindly look into the matter?

May we humbly suggest our respectable and learned schoolteachers to kindly pay more attention to regular routine classes. **OH Kabir Wari, Dhaka**

Rootless people

The other night I was made to stop by an uproar and a pathetic wailing of some young children outside my residential hall. When I went to the spot, I found the little possessions of some homeless people who were living on the footpath around Dhaka University and BUET campus lying scattered while a few women were shouting at the top of their voice and a couple of young panic-stricken shivering children letting out heart-rendering cry which made air heavy on that chilly night. I saw a micro-bus parked beside with a line "Proctorial team, University of Dhaka" stuck to its back and came to know that it was a drive meant to eradicate the rootless people occupying the university footpath making the place look dirty. Some people were justifying the drive saying that those footpath-dwellers were involved in illicit activities and responsible for making the area untidy. I knew that the accusation of the people was not baseless and the university authorities had the right to do what they did in terms of law. But from a human viewpoint how and who can justify an action that threw a number of

poor creatures including a couple of innocent kids out of 'their home' on that biting and bone-shivering cold midnight? The two children were too panic-stricken and cold-beaten to cry normally. The sight was pathetic enough to make even an iron-hearted to have sympathy for those children.

I don't say that the University shouldn't do what they did, but they could adopt a different way. Actually, rootless people like those have to face the similar treatment everywhere in the city. True, at times such eradication drive becomes the only option, yet can we not think of rehabilitating those poor people before we show our power on them? Aren't they human beings? Don't they have any right to lead at least a simple life? **A Rahman Shibly** *Applied Linguistics and ELT Department of English University of Dhaka*

Anatomy of 1/11

It is well known that a democratic system is a self contained and self sustained foolproof system. Solution to any problem in a democratic system is contained within the system itself and one should look for solution within the system, not outside. If solution has to be brought from outside then the system is incomplete and weak. There can be many examples of good outcome as a result of some illegal activities but in the eye of law it is not acceptable. It will be treated as double standard if in one instance illegal activities are accepted and in another instance not accepted. Death in cross-fire has got some support of people but it is a gross violation of law and human rights and is not acceptable at all. "Anatomy of one-eleven" stands void in the eye of law and should not be encouraged in any fashion whatsoever to stop recurrence of another 1/11 in future. **Md. Delwar Hossain** *East Rampura, Dhaka*

Prime minister and Imams

Learnt from the DS report dated 21 Jan 2010 that while addressing the National Conference of Trained Imams at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre you said the following: "The government will introduce religion studies at primary level through the new education policy and raise allowances for the imams." "You [imams] are the real educated persons as you have both religious and general education. You have great influence on society. We want to involve you in all development programmes of the country." "Get united forgetting minor differences of thinking and work to spread the message of peace, harmony, generosity and friendship of Islam across society and work for welfare of the country and the nation." Religion must be taught at schools as religion is the main source of moral education. Your decision to involve the Imams in all development programmes of the country is praiseworthy. If the Imams play their role according to the teachings of Islam, we will be able to build a just society which is the mandate of our Constitution. Imams' contribution should be recognised and they should be equipped with IT facilities [as much as practicable]. **Mohammed Belayet Hossain** *Barrister-at-Law Advocate Supreme Court of Bangladesh*

As all other power seekers are anti-Bangladesh elements their signing of any deal with foreign countries relating to Bangladesh is naturally an anti-Bangladesh endeavour and she cannot react positively. The most surprising thing is that she does not know that most people do not believe what she says nowadays. This belief is, in fact, distancing herself from people more and more. She should realise that she is not a natural QUEEN and Bangladesh is an emerging democratic country. Here hands will change by peoples' choice. Although her negative attitude will not matter much, she should change her position for her own good. **Shafiqul Islam, NY**

Test cricket

Test cricket is the real test for a cricketer. Only very good players can survive here. In this sense Bangladesh cricket team is really an ordinary one. After spending nine years in Test arena it's pathetic to see the miserable performance of the cricket team. They could not learn anything all these years. Our batsmen go to the crease and do some 'gung-ho' style batting. And it costs us dearly. We could easily draw the Chittagong Test, which was shortened by bad weather, if our batsmen showed some patience. We can't stop the critics if our team fails to play good cricket. So, I do not find anything wrong with what Sehswag said. Now we are a good limited over side no doubt, but for Test cricket we are a very ordinary team. **Solaiman Palash** *East Jurain, Dhaka*

Introduce train to Cox's Bazar

We all know that Bangladesh has been independent for the last 40 years. But only a few kilometres of railway track have been added to our vulnerable railways.

Cox's Bazar is our main tourist spot. But one cannot travel to the world's largest sea beach comfortably. Bus is the only transport to reach the place. So, train service to Cox's Bazar is necessary. **Asaduzzaman Titu** *Mirpur Dhaka*

Sell-outs and secrets

The well written article, printed in your pages on 21st January, by your Defense & Strategic Affairs editor is a polite though sarcastic and indirect criticism of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition! Hopefully, someone reads it out and explain it to her. One barb, and I quote, states, "Much is to be said in favour of modern journalism. By giving us the opinions of the uneducated, it keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community!" One can add, that the ignorance of the leader magnifies the ignorance of the led-- the masses. They are nothing but a herd of "follow my leader" types; right or wrong, politely labelled as blind supporters! In another place, he states, "Any one with the basic knowledge of military logistics would know that there are far better options of moving war materials than through a third country, however friendly." For this she may be excused. Although the wife of a military general, she is not familiar with any knowledge of military logistics. Coming to the secret deal. Since the deal was secret, no one knows about it. However, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has excellent, may be divine intelligence sources, for she knows it all! Yet she wants to retain the secret, why, only she knows best! Once again, she has full confidence on her "blind supporters" who trust her, and do not desire that the secret be revealed! Another example of the "blind leading the blind", on a dark road on a moonless night! **Disappointed BNP supporter**

Justice Although progress has been made in the judiciary of our country Bangladesh, strange loopholes exist in our legal systems that take away our rights. Very recently, I got deprived of my paternal share of property and was cheated by my aunts and uncles, thirteen years after my father passed away. As per the existing laws, I was entitled to one third of the share of property, however my aunts and my only uncle managed to manipulate documents and deprive me completely from anything whatsoever from my father's share which I would have had full entitlement to. In order to launch an investigation into the matter, I tried to file a General Diary in the respective police station. While the police were initially eager to help me, one of the SIs of that thana later informed me that my aunt had threatened them with dire consequences. Filing a GD is the least I could do in the situation that I'm facing. From the way I see it, our Judicial System is defying my right to file a general diary that has something to do with myself being deprived of my paternal share of property. What can I ask for? What should I do? **Rizwan Shamim** *North Shyamoli Dhaka*

Khaleda's predictable reaction

The Daily Star in its editorial of 19 Jan under the above caption has expressed surprise over Begum Khaleda's reaction. What the paper predicted has proved to be right and the paper should not have expected anything else. Begum Zia has said what she was expected to say and the people were not surprised. We will have to keep in mind what she believes about her position. She believes that she is an undisputed leader, there is none other than her family and few of her party supporters who are naturally empowered to run this country. All others are against the independence of the country and are out to destroy the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh. Look at her, she still firmly believes that she did not lose the 2008 elections and it was a staged election to defeat her. The present AL was brought to power in Dec 2008 by some foreign powers. She also believes that the people of Bangladesh do not want anyone else to sit on the seat of power except her or her sons. As all other power seekers are anti-Bangladesh elements their signing of any deal with foreign countries relating to Bangladesh is naturally an anti-Bangladesh endeavour and she cannot react positively. The most surprising thing is that she does not know that most people do not believe what she says nowadays. This belief is, in fact, distancing herself from people more and more. She should realise that she is not a natural QUEEN and Bangladesh is an emerging democratic country. Here hands will change by peoples' choice. Although her negative attitude will not matter much, she should change her position for her own good. **Shafiqul Islam, NY**

Controlling traffic

The editorial on Dhaka Traffic (DS, Jan 19, 2010), was very appropriate and timely, but hardly adequate. It was like blowing a puff of air to remove a mountain. As media personnel, you have to do something more substantive to make the government declare the traffic situation an 'emergency' and get various ministries to put their heads together to solve the problem. It needs a many-pronged attack, not least of which is slowing down the import of cars, or charging cars which come out on roads. Of course, ade-

quate public transport systems have also to be ensured. In developed countries, traffic management has become a fine science and planning exercise, with the best minds engaged in gauging and synchronizing ebb and flow with office hours, shopping malls, school timings, and long term need of roads. Believe it or not, even human psychology factors into mathematical equations for traffic management. **Zeba I. Seraj** *Dhaka University*



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

Justice

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Traffic jam and solution

Traffic jams are the biggest problem in Dhaka city. Day by day the number of vehicles is increasing. No alternative roads are being made. Therefore, the vehicles get stuck in a few roads. It is also true that it is difficult to construct alternative roads around Dhaka. But we could build more flyovers to reduce traffic jams. It is hard to believe that our political parties and government leaders are also creating problems. Such as: 1. Political parties bring out processions, creating traffic jam. 2. The prime minister or the president use a road and create traffic jam as movement of all other vehicles is stopped. 3. Artificial garden is set up in the middle of the road (example Press Club circle). So, the roads become narrower. The traffic managers should address all these problems in right earnest. **Md. Abdul Wahab** *East Jurain, Dhaka*

Roadside trees

On the dawn of the New Year, there was a heart rending bus accident in Faridpur, killing 18 passengers and leaving many critically wounded. Unfortunately, some of our newspapers could not even accommodate the news in the front page. Most probably the reason is that accidents are becoming a daily occurrence. The safe road engineering must not ignore the resultant rolling of vehicles when it loses control due to mechanical failure. Such rolling may result from sudden deflating of wheels or break away of its control arms or axels which pushes the vehicle into either skidding or rolling to fall off the road. However, the impact can be reduced to a minimum if the rolling vehicle is freed to travel with little resistance to come to a halt. Unfortunately, when the roadside trees are in its way, the impact of resisting load onto the vehicle gets strong enough to squeeze the vehicle and its contents as well. The issue deserves a closer look. **KMN Sarwar Iqbal** *Faculty, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering IUBAT, Dhaka*

Decentralisation

In the process of decentralisation, upazila parishad has been a focal point of administration. As per the recommendation of CARR (Committee for Administrative Reform and Reorganization), formed in 1982, under the chairmanship of martial law administrator

M. A. Khan, during the regime of H. M. Ershad, upazila parishad was entrusted with a broad range of functions. The activities included formulation of development plans, proper implementation of these plans, discharge of criminal and civilian cases, collection of revenue and maintenance of law and order. As an outcome of this initiative, we distinctively prioritise the flow of participation of local people in administration and development. The upazila chairman was provided with the authority to oversee and monitor the activities of civil servants in collaboration with the upazila parishad members. He was also authorised to write the ACR (Annual Confidential Report) of the officers concerned. But, now the ACR is usually written by UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer). Though the first upazila election was held in 1985, it was abolished in 1991 during the then BNP government. Later, almost nineteen years, in 2008, the military backed caretaker government wanted to revive the upazila parishad through holding "Upazila Election -2008." But our lawmakers intended to emerge as advisers to the upazila chairman. The intention and intervention of the lawmakers have almost kept the upazila parishad dysfunctional. Again the ruling party also pledged that they would strengthen local government to ensure good governance. In order to ensure decentralization of power, local development and people's participation, it is a must to empower upazila chairman. **Md. Abdul Hannan** *Dept. of Public Administration SUST, Sylhet*

Racism in Australia

At last the Australian police admitted that there was element of racism during the attack on the Indian student and they knew that for the last two years. Why they were hiding the facts before the murder of the unfortunate Indian student is not clear. Actually the word 'discrimination' replaced the word Racism and we know that most of the western countries are notoriously skilled in hiding facts with nice terminologies. Amnesty International General Secretary Irene Khan reported about Australia's bad record on discrimination and irregularities. It is not only Indian students but also Bangladeshis were attacked in more than one cases, but our High Commission remained silent unlike the Indian High Commission in Australia. Myself and many of our colleagues feel racism in workplace. Foreign medical graduates have ten years' moratorium and have to work in remote areas at the expense of their family life and that is compulsory, even though they are citizens and residents. Both our govt and its Australian counterpart should be aware of that, and act accordingly. I couldn't publish my unbiased opinions in Australian newspapers, although it is a democratic country with "freedom of press". Interestingly, they publish quickly if I write negative things about Asian values which I brought during migration. **Dr Azizul Karim** *GP, Australia*

"Best is not good enough"

Thank you very much Architect Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed for your article "Best is just not good enough" (Star Sports Section of January 24, 2010). Shakib & his team can not demand respect, they have to learn to earn it. They have to prove their critics wrong by doing the talking with their bat & ball as Dr. Ahmed pointed out. These cricketers have been around for some time and it is appalling to see that they are making the same mistakes over and over again. I would like to raise my hand and point out to Mr. Shakib Al Hassan that most of us differ with his definition of 'integrity' and 'doing best' and we are very unhappy with their overall performance and attitude. As I was writing this, three wickets of Bangladesh innings have already fallen for 15 runs in the second Test against India. We have padded enough; I think it is time to criticise. **Oyed DOHS** *Dhaka*

Nigeria riots



Most of these riots are politically motivated. During such riots anti-social elements got the full advantage, thereby furthering animosity. To overcome this problem, politicians have to be taken into confidence and committees have to be

formed at local levels to foster peace and understanding among different religious and ethnic communities. **Mohammed Sadullah Khan** *Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*