

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.

Ekushey Book Fair



Ekushey Book Fair is now a popular festival in the life of people. It is held only once in a year. Ekushey Book Fair or Amor Ekushey Grontho Mela ("Book Fair of the Immortal 21st"), commonly known as Ekushey Boi Mela ("Book Fair of the 21st"), is the national book fair of Bangladesh. It takes place over the entire month of February every year, and is devoted to the martyrs who died on 21 February 1952 in a demonstration calling for recognition of Bengali as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

Despite the fact that Ekushey Boi Mela began simply as a book fair, it has evolved into a great event, enlightening the spirit of the contemporary Bengali nation.

Shohag Mostafij
MBA, University of Dhaka

When February comes we feel happy. It has close connection with our glorious past. We can proudly say that we are Bengali. The Bengalis generally are not that much interested in reading books. But the scene of February is quite different. The whole nation waits for this month, especially for the book fair.

People buy books, parents buy books for their children. The writers are busy giving autographs, publishers try to publish more books, everywhere there is a festive look. We love books, the book fair, our glorious history and our country.

Mahfuzur Rahman Manik
Dhaka University

Women's seats in buses

Many campaigns have been launched to establish the rights of women, but most of the campaigns remain unsuccessful due to our lack of willingness to establish their rights in the true sense.

However, after observing many private transport service buses, I have noticed that many buses do not have the written statement notifying the allotment of women's seats. Even if it is there, still you will find it unnoticeable as it's written in very small letters, which do not draw any attention of women passengers. Apart from this, there are many male passengers who illegally occupy the allotted seats for women defying the presence of the statement written above the seats.

Indeed, we need to change ourselves before we think of changing others. Lastly, I would earnestly request the authorities concerned to ensure women's rights in every possible way.

Hasnat Banani, Dhaka

Employ beggars

I believe that the government could employ beggars and have them clean up the city. They could collect as many plastic bags and as much trash as possible and turn them in for food, cash or both, depending upon how much rubbish they turn in. This will also keep them busy and do something useful rather than being a menace to motorists on the roads and endangering traffic. There are many beggars, especially women who are not physically disabled, and it's about time they all started doing something useful instead of begging!

Aminur Rahim
New DOHS, Mohakhali Dhaka

Is it true?

I was quite shocked to hear a news report. This was given in a Channel 1 newspaper review programme by Mr MR Choudhury. The reaction of a senior journalist was quite legitimate and necessary. The news report is that a BWDB project from the "Aila" affected area has been moved from there to Bhairab. The news is missing a lot of details, yet I think the reaction of the journalist was quite appropriate.

I would draw the attention of the BWDB to explain to the public as to why and how this has happened, if the news is correct. If they fail to respond in next seven days of the publication of this letter, I would urge upon the government to kindly look into the matter and let the people know the fact through the media, so that the responsible party can be

"I did not read it"

Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia rejected the success of prime minister's India visit, calling the joint communiqué signed between the two neighbours as the document of sale-out of Bangladesh to India. She smelt the failure even before the visit started on the ground and warned the Hasina government not to sign any deal with this neighbour. However, while the signing ceremony was over and the joint communiqué was made public her party sharply reacted, accusing this govt. of signing a sell-out document and threatened to go for an agitation programme against this government taking the public with her.

In the press conference the pressmen were taking note of her official reaction to the visit.

An over enthusiastic newsman asked an usual question "Madam, which clauses embodied in the agreements are (according to you) against the interest of the nation?" She quickly replied "I did not read it". Should we expect such a reply from the leader of the opposition, who was twice our prime minister, and at present leader of the opposition and the chief of the second largest political party in the country?

Shafiqul Islam, NY

Great advice

Once one of the companions of our greatest and dearest Rasul Hazrat Muhammad (Pbuh) said to the Rasul, "Ya Rasulallah! Teach me such an act by which I will be able to gain love of both Allah and humans." Our dearest Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) advised him, "If you can give up your greed for things belonging to others, people will love you. And, if you can give up your earthly hopes, Allah will love you."

We should, therefore, always follow the rules of the Holy Quran and Hadith to make our life successful.

Habibur Rashid Ismail

Jamea Rahmania Madrassa

Chittagong

Lost harmony

I remembered the time when our small, quaint area was being urbanized. Lots of cutting down of trees and dust cloud may be the approved definition for urbanization but to me it is something different. It made the area arid and the harmony with the nature is lost. Once there were many charming songs of parrots and magpie robins. Now I can hardly see birds, except for crows dominating with their harsh noise.

Bangladesh excels other countries in terms of population growth. How this country is still thriving with the ever-growing population is truly surprising. It's really difficult for us to protect wildlife as we need to give away land for our future. We waste land unwisely and imperil the existence of animals. Valuing the real ones is imperative for us. Our fauna, involuntarily

and unwillingly, diminishes fast and should be enlisted in the red list of WWF.

In recent days, news on animals being brutally killed in remote parts of Bangladesh is drawing our attention. Irony is that, all we do is just read the lines with sympathy, even the avid ones among us shout at the top of their voice but hardly do anything for them. If we really need to change ourselves, now is the time. The government itself can do very little for them as it is already preoccupied with other 'very important matters'. Various species of animals found here and there is the telling window that this country once had a very diverse wildlife.

Nurus Sakib

HSC examinee

Student of

Notre Dame College

Motijheel, Dhaka

Duty free cars

The last caretaker government had done one good thing it abolished the unjust privilege of the lawmakers of importing duty free cars. I am greatly distressed to see the vile practice being revived again. Our perception is that nobody in our country is ever poorer after entering politics. In most cases the aspirants to the Jatiyo Sangsad spend several millions just to get party nomination.

They also spend a fortune during their election campaign. It is not believable that they cannot pay the import duty of a car, a SUV or a microbus! In such a case they should go for a modest car they can afford.

Ideally, they should avail the public transport and get to feel how the common people travel. Allowing the lawmakers duty-free cars is a regressive step and it feeds on their elitist ego.

Iskander Meah

Gulshan, Dhaka

Progoti Industries

The Progoti Industries is an industrial enterprise that belongs to Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC). It assembles motor vehicles. A Bangla daily newspaper from Dhaka reported recently that it had been suffering from acute working capital shortage. It borrowed inadequate working capital from commercial banks with high interest.

It is known to people concerned that the capital market in Bangladesh has been developing rapidly since the last few years and is suffering from tremendous short supply of stocks to invest. In addition to that in principle the government has accepted the policy of private, public partnership (PPP) to accelerate economic development of the country. No strategies have been formulated in this respect to implement the principle of PPP. A substantial amount has been allocated for PPP in the current national budget but even after six months no investment in PPP could be attracted.

The Progoti Industries could be converted into a

Global warming and weather

This winter, most countries have had cold waves and harsher winters. Also, the ice in Himalayan and Alps Mountain range and high mountains in North America and Canada have melted faster than normal. Similarly, there has been considerable melting of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Sea passages in the Arctic and Antarctic oceans are now open for navigation, because of this accelerated melting of ice. Cargo sea vessels from the North German port of Hamburg are now safely sailing through the North West Passage, to Canada and north US ports, which earlier remained ice bound at this time of the year! This apparent anomaly of the weather may be explained by basic principles of physics.

In my opinion, the total heat including the latent heat needed for melting the ice masses over the high mountains

and the polar regions, has been taken from the atmosphere; resulting in the cold weather all over the northern hemisphere, and milder summers in the southern hemisphere. This may be the reason for the colder winter that we were experiencing in Bangladesh now!

This weather pattern will continue globally; till the time comes when the Ice Age will begin, and we attain 0 deg. C all over the globe. The ice will then float up, and cold will be transferred to the water below, when all the water on the globe will become ice. Gradually life will be unsustainable on Earth, and the planet will become a dead planet!

I am not sure if my hypothesis is correct. However, it will be interesting to get readers' opinions and of those who are more knowledgeable in meteorological and atmosphere physics

S.A. Mansoor

Dhaka



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public limited company to improve its performance and increase availability of stocks in capital market, but with the government retaining its direct control. It would be a good example of PPP as well.

Md. Ashraf Hossain

Central Bashabo, Dhaka

A good system

Bangladesh has been experimenting with different forms of government since Independence without any remarkable achievement. None of the systems has been able to deliver what this country requires. To achieve any tangible success Bangladesh needs to switch over to a failure-proof time tested system. The system that is in vogue in the United States has made America the number one country in the world. This system of governance ensures accountability and responsible leadership.

Besides the two George Bushes, I am not aware of any other father and son presidents of America. Here in Bangladesh it is almost impossible to imagine any one becoming the prime minister, other than those from the two families. The reason is the prevailing system of governance. This system of governance shall never allow new

leadership to grow and thrive in the country.

If Bangladesh wants to achieve anything like America, then it needs to switch over to the American system of governance. There cannot be any thing better than this.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub

Kalabagan, Dhaka

Misuse of corporate culture

Like any other thing, Bangladeshi traditional work-culture doesn't adopt the western practice of the 'corporate culture' without terrible deformation. While in the west, this working pattern maintains clarity, equality and system, in Bangladesh it fuels up the manipulation of the surplus labour force. Over the last decade, we have seen a change in the overall working condition of Bangladesh. This change, in its turn, is moulding the socio-cultural fabric of our society. Both my parents were service-holders; however, when we were younger, we found both of them returning home before four o'clock. Consequently, the family did not face the disorientation of loneliness and boredom. But in our present time, most of the corporate offices, banks

and even the education institutions have very long working-hours, the minimum of which is perhaps no less than eight-hours. Now the point is, some of the banks and offices even make the workers work till late-nights. And the academics return home with the overwhelming workload in the form of preparing questions, checking the scripts. They are not spared. When these people return home, after a day long of exhaustion (adding the never ending traffic-jam), they are, no doubt, not in a mood to spend time with the children and other family members. And without creating enough child-care provision for the small and school-going children, we demand married women to work and maintain a family life. All these exploitation of labour should be brought under control.

No research shows that longer time work makes an employer efficient. And within the context of Bangladesh, where we have scarcity of electricity, water and everything, the office-hours should be closely maintained. And finally and most importantly, we need to save our children from living an isolated and deprived life.

Rifat Mahub
Edinburgh, UK



ONLINE VOICES

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

5 Bangabandhu killers hanged

Govt goes for execution 14 hours after review petition rejected; bodies sent to their village homes with police escort (January 28, 2010)

Why did the media publish it in minute detail? What pleasure did the readers get out of it? The killers committed the crime to utter revulsion of any sober human soul, and the custodians of justice are meticulously offering them punishment on the same scale. That is all.

T. Husain

The nation is relieved of deferred justice. The judges are our heroes. The lawyers, on both sides, played their part as expected. The law and justice have finally prevailed.

One request to our media, please do not mislead the people with baseless comments, juicy tit bits. Let the nation be united on this single issue of justice done to the nation and to

the family of the late founding father of Bangladesh.

Faqrul

Justice served only for 1975 killings, we also want justice for killing of three million people in 1971.

Sawgat Chowdhury

Free at last, from national shame and disgrace.

Nurul Amin

Justice at last. It has proved after long 35 years that no one is above law and no one can escape law. I feel sorry for the families, but these killers did not show any mercy to even innocent children and pregnant women. They were lucky to live so long.

Mahfuz Chisti

It is about time the country absolved itself of the sin against the founding father. Now let there be a worldwide search by those who love this country for the six who are on the run! Let us usher in a new day in Bangladesh!

Ahmed

Good job done at last. Six on the run. Our govt should bring them back.

Baz

I glance at the headlines just to kind of get a feeling for what's moving after the review petitions were rejected in the Supreme Court. I hardly read the stories, and got briefed by those killers who have made the news by themselves.

Gopal Sengupta

It is never too late, if justice can prevail.

Shah Sazzad

Great! Let there be justice in our land. Criminals should not be spared and must be brought to justice even after 1,000 years!

ABangladeshi

No criminals like them will ever be able to escape justice.

Dewan

As a Bangladeshi, I can say we are now free from imprecation. Thanks to all the justices and lawyers who were

involved in the trial process.

Sharif Shafiq

The death penalty is always wrong. Capital punishment should not exist in a civilized society.

Of the western countries, only the USA still retains the death penalty, and undoubtedly only for religious reasons. If you are religious and believe that God is Love, why do you kill? Only God is without sin and we are all sinners.

Fabian Ouchterlony

At last, justice is being served to our nation. Now the govt. should make sure the families do not suffer. Let us not forget that their families are innocent.

May Allah protect our nation.

Shaheen Hasnat

Bravo, Bangladesh! After all, the heinous traitors have received what they deserved by killing a person who could have made this new nation a prosperous one long ago.

Antik

The nation was waiting for this day for 35 years.

Anwar Hossain

Capital punishment is inhuman, must not be continued.

Ridwan

I feel very annoyed watching various TV channel activities. They should be hanged, it is all right but why do we need full description of hanging?

Mahfuz

This is an indication. Let's ensure justice for everyone and every bereaved family. I still hear the voices crying for justice.

Abdul Alim Munshi

There is talk about discontinuing the capital punishment. Can Bangladesh afford this? If these convicted murderers were given life imprisonment, there would remain the possibility of a subsequent regime pardoning them. We also remember that they boasted after committing the heinous crime in front of the world & local media.

Haq

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was an iconic nation builder and role model for all in South Asia. His barbaric killing with impunity is at last met with the justice it deserved. Unless there is rule of law and punishment for murder, such violent and anti democratic acts would continue.

Gopal

Feels like a burden has been removed! Now let's hope that justice will be served by awarding punishment to the rajakars.

Dipalok Mukherjee