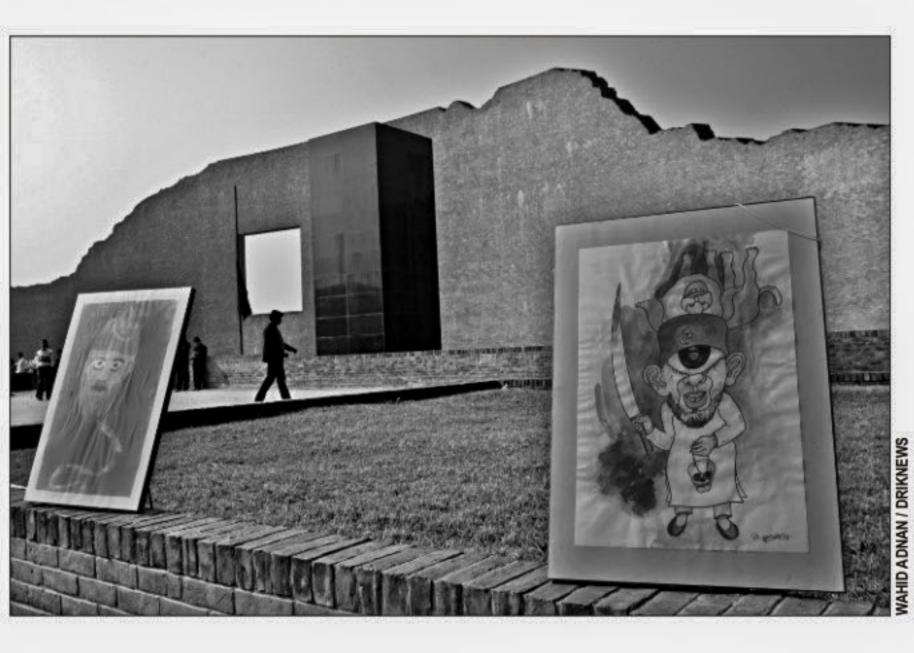
Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Trial of war criminals



It is very interesting and frustrating as and why it was necessary for an army issues are a. trial of war criminals b. tally killed and lost their dignity in the hands of the identified and self confessed killers who opposed the independence of Bangladesh physically with arms? Those who were born at least in the 60's clearly remember those dark days of our history.

The killers did not bother to move from door to door and sought international sanction to kill innocent men, women and children in Bangladesh. Why we are begging every day to start the trial and so eager to maintain some kind of standard accepted by a section of our intelligentsia and the international community. The way some of our politicians and members of so called civil society are behaving in front of the media, one would simply ask them where are you from ...?

On the issue (b), yes, we had heard the declaration by late Ziaur Rahman on the air even after March 27. I feel disgusted to state the actual content, but my question is, what impact it had

well to listen to the following hot major to read the declaration of indedebate every day on the media. The pendence? Does it mean without his declaration, Bangladesh would not declaration of independence. On the achieve independence? On the other issue (a) my question is, is it not a clear hand, if you see the history after fact that millions of people were bru- August 15, 1975 and his assuming power; is not it crystal clear why he made that declaration and what kind of dream he had?

Whatever he had done was just to undo the spirit of war liberation and ultimately turn Bangladesh into a fanatic fatalist country under the cover of religion. I have no doubt that he had so much political acumen to steer his ideology without the help of external mentors and support. He himself killed his own effort by deviating from the true path of the war of liberation.

We all know the history of Mogul rule in India. If you put Humayun's rule before Babar, the dynasty is put to question, I believe. This is where we are struggling and some well-identified groups are successfully playing the game. The political space that is being opened due to failure of the tested politicians, will either accommodate the military dictatorship or Islamic revolution like Iran.

Dhaka

Acitizen, On e-mail

A student body!

I was just following the news regarding Bangladesh Chhatra League for the last one week and noted down the headlines / titles of some news reports: AL men attack BCL leaders' houses for share of 'booty'; Admission quota BCL activists vandalise college; Sunny murder 13 BCL men charged in Rajshahi; 'Admission trade' Eden College tensed over feud in BCL; Clash again over admission 'quota' 3 BCL, Moitree men held; Infighting kills BCL leader 1 missing, 3 hurt as Jessore factions clash again; AL, BCL men snatch tender boxes 9 injured in clashes, one held; BCL activists van-

dalise principal's office etc.

The BCL is an organisation of students and I do not know what is there in their charter of by laws. But definitely what they are doing now in the name of student politics cannot be the goal of any student body. The BCL elements are directly involved in admission trade in educational institutions to snatching of tender boxes in government offices. AL, the guardian and patron of the BCL, is occasionally seen warning them verbally as if they are immature naughty boys. In case of Eden College, even four leaders of BCL College unit were expelled from the organisation as they protested 'admission trade' and 'torture' of fellow activists. It is reported that in Eden College, two female BCL leaders managed admission of about 900 students in exchange for Tk 30, 000 to 50, 000 from each student i.e. a total business volume of Tk 36 lakh.

In the past we learned similar stories about student bodies affiliated with other political parties. All the political parties allow their student bodies to adopt these malpractices as a reward for their support to the parent organisations. On 16-03-2010, The Daily Star wrote an editorial entitled,

"BCL infighting taking a murderous turn will the ruling party move to protect its credibility?". There is no doubt the AL will do nothing effective to shackle of unruly BCL for known reasons. The only way is to clamp a com-

plete ban on student politics. The Supreme Court came forward on some issues of public interest. Can we expect a ruling from the Supreme Court banning student politics? In this respect, the guardians and the neutral teachers can also play a vital role. Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque

Khalishpur R/A, Khulna

Another wind power plant!

Your 'Star Business Report" of 15th. March is indeed very welcome news. But will it really happen? Engr. Fazlur Rahman's paper on the subject at the roundtable on Potential of Wind Power: Vision2021' on March 14 was a pragmatic and practical presentation of real issues on the subject.

Regarding 'Wind Map of Bangladesh' I wonder if it is being done by our Met. Dept., as no funds have been provided for it. It may need perhaps say Tk 10 crore (F.E)! Meanwhile, as reported in the same paper on the same day, we have uselessly spent Tk.222 crore, in the last ten years to maintain eight MiG 29s! This comes to over Tk:2.75 crore, per MiG per year! What do the MiG 29s do? Fly past on ceremonial occasions and fly for training. Possibly, nothing else.

Without uninterrupted power supply, which is today's fact of life, with the industries having curtailed production, where will the cash foreign exchange come from for maintaining the MiG 29s and F7s that we have?

We need people's commitment and involvement more than military hardware to fight an enemy. This has already been proved, in the battle for Bangladesh!

What we need now, and the sooner the better, is power from alternative sources. We can, if we seriously and nationally commit ourselves with the help and encouragement of the government, generate at least 1500MW of power from solar, wind, municipal waste and human excreta. For this endeavour, we need maybe Tk 150 to 200 crore as capital investment over the next five years. Do we have the will to do it, or are

MiGs and F7s our priority

now? It is for us to decide! Engr. S.A. Mansoor

Stop admission business

Majority of the population of

our country live under poverty line and cannot meet the basic need like education due to their economic insolvency. Needless to say, education is a prime requisite for any kind of national development and progress. Reasonably, the incumbent government since its assumption of office is showing keen interest in educating the students with proper knowledge of morality, patriotism, communication technology, that the new national education policy serves. Due to emphasis on the sector, pass rate of the students in the SSC and the HSC examinations over the past years has significantly increased. Consequently, the number of students seeking admission for higher education in different universities and colleges is already higher than the prevailing admission capacity of universities and colleges and is increasing rapidly day by day. As the existing public universities accommodate only a small number from the massive number of admission seekers and many for lack of their economic solvency cannot afford the exorbitant costs of higher education in the private universities, it categorically paves the way for higher education of the richer section of society.

Admission into the colleges affiliated with National University is controlled by the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student front of the ruling Awami League. They make the college authorities admit the less meritorious students in exchange of a large sum of money, depriving the genuine brilliant ones and thus are carrying on their admission business and, after the completion of admission process, seat allotment business. The general students and their

parents are silent victims. The issue must be addressed immediately to save the education sector from the hands of political goons out to ruin the sector. Alamin, DU

Power failures

As one of the inhabitants of a small district town of Bangladesh, Bogra, I have been experiencing for the past few days an acute power crisis.

I believe the general people of all other districts of Bangladesh are experiencing the same.

Frequent power failures hamper daily activities. Moreover, students of schools, colleges and universities cannot prepare their lessons which is, in a sense, a great loss for the country. The countrymen still

remember that the Bangladesh Awami League promised in its election campaign development of the country and making it 'Digital Bangladesh.'

The government knows well that the key to any development of a country is its energy resource.

Therefore, the government should take effective steps to increase energy generation and supply.

Kshitish Chandra Milan Assistant Teacher BograYMCA Public School

Politics and religion

We came to know that the present government is going to impose a ban on the religion-based parties in the country.

It is true that some people are trying to exploit the religious sentiments of people to attain their goals.

But because of their heinous activities, the government shouldn't or can not punish the innocent. Moreover, all of us follow our respective religion. The government should punish those who are trying to use religion as a political tool. But it must not ban all the religion based parties.

Habibur Rashid Ismail Jamea Rahmania Madrasa Chittagong

Devdas today

Sarat Chandra Chatterjee has remained immortal for his creative genius. There are several masterpieces written by him. Among these, Devdas is very significant for several reasons. Today like the writer himself, the character Devdas has become very familiar to

In this country, a film was made on Devdas. Very soon, another film is going to be made. The director is our Chashi Nazrul Islam. This time, Sakib Khan, the King Khan of this country, is going to play the role of Devdas. Congratulations Sakib Khan! I am sure, like Bulbul's Devdas, this Devdas would also be a hit. I am also sure in future more films will be made based

upon this character. Why is it so touchy? This question often shakes my mind. Is there a Devdas dwelling in the heart of every person? Are we all Devdas to some extent? Why do we sympathise with this person? The time when Devdas was written, society was rigid. Even today, society is not very flexible.

The colour of rigidity may change but its extent is very difficult to wipe out. Still there are many parents who do not try to understand the minds of their children.

Though the parents love their children very much, yet they often misevaluate the choice of their children. Is there a gap of understanding? Or is there a clash between the authorities? It is very difficult to answer.

Let us now think why did Devdas suffer? Who are responsible for his tragic consequence? Is he or the society? Undoubtedly, Devdas himself is responsible. He could at least try to forget Parvati and search for a new life. Whatever it may be, there are many Devdases

Last but not the least, I have a message for the young generation.

Enjoy the movie Devdas, read the novel Devdas, love the character Devdas, but never follow the footsteps of Devdas! Pradip Das

Lecturer BHPI, CRP

Name game

I am very disturbed to learn that we need to pay a large sum to change the name of the airport.

I just cannot accept such wastage of public funds. This was not in the election pledge of the AL. People gave mandate to the present government to implement their programmes. We want to see results on those fronts.

I believe the government has no right to spoil this huge amount on such a useless issue.

Interestingly, the government can implement some of their pledged programmes with less than this sum.

I am so frustrated to observe this huge drain of public funds. If we do not raise our voice, then we will be liable to ourselves as well as those less fortunate individuals whose life could be improved by proper utilization of public funds. Taslimul Hoque

Lalmatia, Dhaka

Well done, Honourable PM!

It is quite pleasing to see the qualitative changes that the present government has brought under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina in the last one year. Her role in climate change dialogue, improving the economic and political relationship with India and China - the two big world's power-, defusing tensions with Myanmar and her government's persistent efforts to improve the infrastructure development such as road, gas and electricity in lifting economic condition of the country certainly deserves much appreciation. The schemes to improve the traffic congestion and rivers around Dhaka city, rehabilitating beggars through employment creation, curbing the politics of militants, trial of war criminals and a corruption free cabinet are some of the notable achievements of the present government. The county will grow and reach the level of middle-income countries sooner than expected if our governments continue performing like this. I would urge the people to support the government and give them the credit for their genuine efforts to improve the condition of Bangladesh, as everybody expects recognition of his or her good work. This should also be a lesson for others who are willing to lead the country in future as the

endorse it. We wish you all the best!! Dr. Abdul Moyeen Melbourne, Australia

true and patriot leaders act to

improve the fate of common

people, not of themselves.

Also, no minister has the

courage to engage in corrup-

tion if the leader does not

Gulshan Park

am responding to Joost Kurstjens' letter of March 19. Fortunately, it seems there is nothing to worry about! I also was concerned about the fate

"Crossfire"

world today.

He has done his job quite well in mere lip service would not help. getting international media support to help motivate the policy makers and the people and create an actionoriented policy to stop crossfire in Bangladesh.

I think we are missing the vital alternative proposal from all our this process. I would be more hopeful he would think about the same and trained foreign observers and local come back in the media.

I am toying up with an idea as to Quadir, USA

An interesting presentation on how to address the issue. We will have crossfire was heard from a photo to take alternate steps to stop the journalist of international repute process. These includes a. legal step, on Channel i talk show-- Ajker b. motivation for Rab not to kill. Sangbadpatra. This is no doubt a They are trained to kill the enemy as third dimension of the problem. The soon as they feel insecure, it is very photographer apparently has deep difficult to change the mindset, c. the insight into this extra judicial killings international community, so bothin Bangladesh and elsewhere in the ered by the crossfire, must show us a plan of action to stop the process,

The same applies to human rights groups in Bangladesh and whoever is concerned about extra judicial killings should give a plan to stop the

I have an idea. I would recommend the setting up of a group of specialconscience keepers, i.e. how to stop ists who should be embedded with the Rab operation to follow exactly if the photographer could show us what is happening during the some positive snapshots, how to stop encounter. The embedded persons the practice and the process. I hope should preferably be journalists, human rights group members.



AMDADUL HUQ / DRIKNEWS

originated from Greek.

of Gulshan Park but, upon inquiry, was told that a major cleaning is taking place. The pond will be refilled with rainwater so we can only hope that the monsoon will start earlier than it did last year.

I did not think that the water was very clean - nor the park premises. While fish somehow survive, on occasion the water looks really polluted. The park users, no matter how well educated, continue to litter both the pond and the green area. Therefore, this letter also serves as a plea to others to please think about how lovely the park would look without any litter at all!

Suzanne Sarkar Gulshan 2, Dhaka

God save Biman

We must thank Capt Alamgir Sattar for his concern and prayer about the national flag carrier.

It seems to have caught the attention of many a discerning reader of your daily. Capt Sattar is a freedom fighter and is one of the founding fathers of the Airline. He is rightly placed to tell us

all about the birth and history of Biman. But what he does not tell us is their inability to liberate themselves from the "rotten legacy" of undermining the fellow members of the cabin and other ground services, and of dividing, and dominating the airline for self- aggrandisement as was prevalent in the then PIA. Perhaps, all of them wanted

to occupy the "left seat" of the nascent Biman, all of them at a time, it was a turf war! A Biman official Dhaka

Allelopathy

Recently, a school student asked me the meaning of the word 'Allelopathy' which was required for composing an essay on environment friendly agriculture. I think it would be helpful for others if I reproduce here the reply I had

given to that student. The word Allelopathy has a similarity with another word Allopathy. Both the words

Allelopathy is an agrochemical process wherein plants release some chemicals (called allelochemicals) that are toxic in nature.

These chemicals leave a detrimental effect on neighbouring plants or its own sharing the same habitat.

Of course allelochemicals also have positive effects on plant growth if used scientifically which can control weeds. Thus it can reduce the use of hazardous chemical weedicides, herbicides, etc. towards ensuring environment friendly agriculture. Allelopathy was earlier found in agricultural practice by

Allopathy is a term coined by Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. Allopathy is a way of medical practice.

Theophrastus (285 to 372 BC).

Professor M Zahidul Haque Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural

Preserve potatoes

For the last couple of years, in harvesting season the government of Bangladesh has been providing supportive price to rice growers as price goes too low in harvesting time.

The government purchases rice and paddy in different surplus rice growing areas. On the other hand, during the lean season when price goes too high the government releases that purchased rice at reasonable price to bring down the price and reduce suffering of general public. Both the interests of growers as well as consumers

are well taken care of.

This strategy is essential for potato growers as well. Recently, most of the national newspapers reported that about ten million metric tons of potato has been produced in current season throughout Bangladesh, which is the highest quantity ever produced here.

Harvesting season of potato is closing. Growers are getting Tk 5.00 to Tk 6.00 per kg but the consumers are purchasing that at Tk 13.00 to Tk 14.00 in retail markets. Only three million metric tons of

potato could be stored in existing cold storages. That is, a big quantity of potato will rot owing to lack of storage facilities.

In general, consumers have to purchase potato at a very high price. As an instance, it can be recalled that last year one kg potato was sold even at Tk 34.00 in Dhaka city retail markets but the hard working poor growers did not get the high price.

The government should intervene and set up 65 cold storages in 65 districts.

The cold storages could be constructed by and operated under the management of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC).

It would help provide price support to growers, save a good quantity from rotting and maintain a reasonable price level for the consumers. A portion of the capacity of the cold storages may also be used to store potato seeds of BADC, which is very much essential for having the targeted production regularly.

Md Ashraf Hossain Central Bashabo Dhaka

University Dhaka