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.

Floods



Earlier, on an average in ten to twelve years a big flood would occur in our country. Those floods were very devastating and would cause harm to lives and crops etc.

Due to the climate change and global warming in last three-four years, it's occurring regularly. The government tries to face them according to its ability. Additionally, some foreign aid comes from developed and neighboring countries. Watching the vulnerability of

affected people on television screen we are shocked. For this reason, we also try to collect some funds, groceries, clothes etc to be of assistance to them. But is that enough? Certainly not, we should adopt a proactive approach, instead of just offering temporary relief to the

Md. Abdul Hamid Assistant Professor Dept. of Business Administration

Books

It is widely said that a book is the reflection of one's mind. When we read good books, our inner literary mind is gradually developed and begins to give us the real taste of literature. In the heart of literature, our daily affairs, hopes and aspirations get life.

Our mind is relieved of the monotonous pangs of life through reading books.

Budu Das Student Department of English

Govt. City College, Chittagong

Burglary

Every day, at every moment, the city dwellers are at the risk of burglary. Ranging from banal to precious, torn sandal to mobile phone, laptop and so on are being stolen. No law enforcement body has yet been successful in stopping

The problem is becoming insurmountable day by day. Is anybody listening? Sadek

Dhanialapara, Pathantoli Doublemooring, Chittagong

Power supply

a particular day has been as 1) 05:30 AM to 06:30 AM -

No electricity. 2) 07:30 to 08:30 - No elec-

The Electric Power supply for

tricity (1 hr). 3) 09:40 to 10:40 - No elec-

tricity (1 hr).

tricity (1 hr 5 min).

4) 10:45 to 11:35 - No electricity. On enquiry, they told us that they had problem in one of their transformers (T1

5) 12:35 to 13:40 - No elec-

or T2) since midnight.(50

6) 13:43 to 14:05 - No electricity. They reported trouble in another transformer (local, whatever that means) (1 hr 22 min).

7) 15:00 to 16:30 - No electricity (1.5 hrs).

8) 17:30 to 19:00 - No electricity. (1.5 hrs).

So, there was no electricity for about 8.5 hours out of 14 hours. We could not work, my children could not study, and all the foods in the refrigerator were spoiled. Does it have anything to do with the prime minister's warning? They have increased the shedding period to 1.5 hrs! We are at a loss. Whom should we contact? What is their telephone number? Who can assure us that we will be able to sleep tonight? What will happen tomorrow? It is nothing but politics. Do they think that I will vote for any other party? Stern action is necessary.

AHM Jamil Dhaka

Facebook, not for us

Today, a new word has been added to our everyday life. The name of that word is Facebook. The students are very much fond of this Facebook. Day by day, its popularity is increasing sharply. With the help of mobile too, this Facebook can

Now a question peeps into my mind, is it for our country? No, never. In western countries, the major portion of the population is egocentric. For them, the Facebook is a blessing. But the environment is quite different in our country. Here the people are very social. We do not need the help of Facebook to socialise.

Shahjalal University, Sylhet As a teacher, I noticed both school and college students spending lots of time with this Facebook. They not only waste their time but also the hard-earned money of their parents. Moreover, they often interchange wrong informa-

tion. They also use the identity

of some famous people. The

situation is worsening day by

day. Students are the pillars of

the society. But if they suffer

moral degradation, then the whole nation will suffer. The teachers as well guardians must be aware of the situation. I do not hesitate to say that Facebook is nothing but a "luxury of the devil." It serves no purpose in a developing country.

Pradip Das Lecturer BHPI, CRP

Shuttle train service

What if we have high walls erected on both sides of the railway track from Kamalapur station to Joydevpur station with flyover at all railway crossings and start a frequent shuttle train service between these two points with stopovers at as many places possible? Would not this be an alternative commuting service for people living in Joydevpur, Uttara, Baridhara DOHS, Banani, Tejgaon,

Maghbazar, and Motijheel. I think this project can be considered as the main infrastructure is already there. Let the plans for expressways, super highways and underground train go on as these projects will take years to complete. So why not start with this shuttle train service? Ziauddin Ahmed Gulshan - 1, Dhaka

Orsaline price

TO THE

As the summer heat continues to increase, more and more people are being affected by various waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery etc. A very effective way to meet water loss of the patients is to drink saline water. One of the most trusted medicines in this regard is the ORSaline-N. But recently the retail price of this extremely essential medicine has been increased. One sachet of ORSaline-N now costs Tk 5 whereas only two months ago it was Tk3.

I would request the authorities concerned to consider the problems of the general people and reduce the price of the medicine at an early date. Shahriar Kabir

HSCExaminee 2010 Eskaton Garden Govt. Officers' Quarters Dhaka

Pull the trigger

Bangladesh has huge potential to compete with the Tiger Economies in SE, Asia thanks to the large percentage of its young people. The question is who will pull the trigger?

The greatest resource of Bangladesh is its people! It has facilitated BD to become a player in the international garments arena. However, it is time for BD to become a leading actor within manufacturing and processing units. It is necessary to educate the young population! Education will create skilled workers, improve management system, provide the use of new technology and enhance growth of new entrepreneurs. Only, then can BD move up the chain and reach high end production as an export oriented country.

To educate the rural people to create new jobs in the villages should be the focal point. Why should the dream of a village girl/boy be to move to an overpopulated and polluted Dhaka for higher education or a job? It is definitely time to invest in the quality education at schools and colleges in the rural areas!

The prospect to develop more environmental friendly production units is a great challenge! Organic cotton farming, ecological agriculture and ecological garments production are some of the examples. This will make companies in BD more competitive and it will be easier to preserve jobs and create sustainable growth, because the international market is asking for green products. The present government's vision of digital Bangladesh should include Green Bangladesh to make it Digital and Green BD. Bangladesh is today suffering from the 3P disease: Pollution, Poverty and Politics. The diseases need to be treated instantly and therefore, individuals and industries in all sectors and politicians from all parties need to adopt the green technology and adapt ecological methods in daily life. The current environmental conditions caused by traffic, shortage of electricity

and water supply in Dhaka

years.

efficiency.

to the grid.

Ameer

daily.

Molla A. Latif

Humayun Khalid

Dear PM, your success is our

success. Please involve the

opposition while planning

these developmental activities,

so that they cannot obstruct

these by strikes, hartals etc.

They may also feel that they are

partners in progress. If they do

not, they will be out of the

I'm afraid India won't allow

Bangladesh to establish a

nuclear plant. So, we should

Stop talking and do something.

All we hear and read about is

we are going to do this and that

but NOTHING is being imple-

We should suffer for a few

months, rather than handover

One would certainly appreci-

ate the hurried measures taken

up by the govt for solving the

power crisis. Involving neigh-

bours along with China and

other Far East countries, the

govt has shown its earnestness,

unlike the opposition's myopic

our gas fields to foreigners.

better try for other ways.

scene naturally.

Faruk

mented.

Selim

M.A. Malique

cause serious fear among foreign investors and is a ticking time bomb for the inhabitants!

EDITOR Etters@thedailystar.net

BD could benefit from the steps of President Lula Da Silva, who took Brazil to the top league by exercising social policies with a fruitful business climate. The preservation of the rule of law and free enterprise in combination with welcoming entrepreneurs to the political table and planning the architecture of the country has turned to a great success. BD needs foreign investments to challenge the issues of energy and infrastructure. Someone has to pull the trigger! **Ronald Domelid**

Private Banker HQ Bank, Sweden and Chief Advisor to Dhaka Capital

Dogmatism

When people place faith above the dignity of a human being they do not follow any religion. They follow a cult and a cult is controlled by a demon. When the former military dictator of Pakistan, Gen. Zia ul Huq, declared the Ahmadiyya sect as non Muslims, he violated a very basic form of human rights.

In the greater Muslim community the proliferation of dogmatism is a very ominous sign.

Akbar Hussain Toronto Canada

Hijab and culture

I was watching a talk show broadcast by Rtv channel on 13 April 2010. There were three journalists in the talk

One of them commented on Bangla culture, especially about the auspicious Bangla New Year 1417. He said that our women should give up their Hijab for taking part in the Pahela Baishakh festivals.

With due respect to him, he forgot that if a large number of Hijab wearing women could obtain high academic degrees, if they could fly aero planes and if these Hijab wearing women could fight in the battle field then why they shouldn't be allowed to wear Hijab in cultural functions?

Bangladesh is going to be a better democratic and a secular country compared to the past and so no one should forget their respective religious obligations. For example, if a Christian Nun is advised to give up her religious dress for participating in the cultural function, then of course it would be treated as an inhuman and humiliating act against the Nuns. If such types of advices are given by the renowned journalists, then our problems are unlikely to be solved. Tanvirul Wahhab

Crescent Road Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Power crisis and

policy followed for so many

It seems officially Bangladesh

is getting into the coal era. We

must ensure that we get the

latest clean coal technology

when we implement coal fired

power projects with higher

Whatever the speed of rush

may be, the existing power

crisis cannot be overcome

overnight. One year and five

months have elapsed without

any action. It will need another

4/5 years to add a little power

ultimately prove to be effective.

Nepal suffers from 16 hours of

power cut which cannot be

Yangon, capital of Myanmar,

has only two hours of power

How do we import power

If the government is sincere,

Bangladesh can produce M.S.Rahim

solved in the next five years.

from these countries?

Nazmul Bari

Let's hope these measures will Anonymous

Mohammad Zahinul Islam

The power crisis was engineered and organised by the great BNP hero (or zero); the Heir Apparent himself, the anointed next CEO of the BNP!

Women's role

In Bangladesh women population is almost "Half" the total population. Unfortunately, they face lots of problems in their daily life. These can be summarised as follows:

a. Socially they are looked down by their male partners.

b. They get very little assistance to get a suitable job after completing their studies. There is male domination everywhere.

c. Many offices do not encourage women because they cannot provide suitable transport for them. Extra transport costs extra money.

d. The organisations have to pay extra leave/pay during the pregnancy of the female employees.

In spite of all these problems, the female population is getting more and

houses, garment industries, private businesses, travel agencies, NGOs, health sector etc. It is hoped that with the assistance of the present government the "Female Population" will get a much better deal.

more education and now competing

with their male counterpart in many

fields-like education, commercial

Unless we get educated mothers and administrators the country will not prosper. The Daily Star has always fought for

women's emancipation and we appreciate your role. Mrs.S.Khatun

New Eskaton, Dhaka



It was the power deal, which was made sour for an international company by the exposure, when the under the table deal came out in the American newspapers over the table! This international misdeed shied away power plant manufacturers from bidding for any Bangladesh power projects, when the BNP ruled the roost.

They can "fool" some people (their committed loyalists); 'for all the time' and all the people of Bangladesh for 'some time'; and now they are desperately "crying wolf", to try to "fool" all the people, 'for all the time'! No wonder, people call it the Boro Natokio Party(BNP)!

One who knows Dhaka

Vulnerability of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is located between the golden crescent to the west, comprising Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, and the golden triangle, to the east, comprising Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand. Afghanistan remains the largest cultivator of poppy in the world. Mayanmar is the world's second largest producer of illicit opium. But by far the most important drug threat for Bangladesh is from India, most of India's brown sugar heroin comes from Indian opium and is locally manufactured and transhifted to

100MW power within the next

three years. None of our neigh-

bors has any exportable power.

Bangladesh should produce its

The government can ask

Bangladeshi expatriates to

contribute at least \$1,000 each

India has a serious power cri-

sis. Delhi suffers from 6 hours

of daily power cut. Why do we

We have no time to let our coal

sleep beneath the earth. We

need to extract it open and

build mega plants in the vicin-

ity. Problem of power will go in

I would like to appreciate the

moves made by the present

govt to solve the power crisis. It

is also understandable that it

might take a significant

amount of time to improve the

situation. But I feel sad when I

see that a huge amount of

money will be spent by the

govt just to change the names

of different establishments,

including the international

airport in Dhaka.

look to India for everything?

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

as investment.

S.F. Elahi

10 years.

own power with its own funds.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. India produces methaqualone (mandrax) and psychotropic pharmaceuticals (LOOPS). Within the bordering localities of India there are a number of small, medium, or even large factories, producing phensidyl. Those types of phensidyl are delivered easily into Bangladesh. As a result, our youths are getting destroyed.

Mamun Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies University of Chittagong

Karwan or Kawran?

The above two names describe the same place of the city. But nobody seems to care about the accurate or correct name. Most of the people spell it as Kawran Bazar, however, the media house that publishes the two dailies with the largest circulations, "Prothom Alo" and "The Daily Star" seems to prefer the former name. Obviously, they have logic behind the use of a different spelling.

Will some one enlighten us about it?

Shaheen Bin-Zaman North Pirerbag, Dhaka

Campus violence Campus violence is a matter

of great concern for all of us. It is not only ruining the academic atmosphere but also claiming the lives of many promising students. All concerned, including

students, are earnestly requested to refrain from all types of violent activities, especially in their own cam-Habibur Rashid Ismail

Jamea Rahmania Madrasa Chittagong

Private tuition

The queue of secondary level students for Private Tuition towards either school teacher's house, or the coaching centre or both, is becoming longer day by day, while for each student at least one private tutor like a student of a college, university, or a teacher of school, college etc is being engaged and the number of private tutors varies according to the affordability of the parents.

Why is such mentality of our tender-minded students, who will lead the country in future to reach the highest peak of prosperity, is growing unbridled? Three probable answers, I think, of this question are there. These are 1) Students have eagerness to learn more than they are taught in the classroom. 2) Guardians, who are confused over what is taught in the classroom, influence their children to go for private tuition. 3) Private tuition is satisfactory and intelligible to both students and guardians.

If any one, of the said three reasons, is likely to be viable in our education system, it

the system, as well as the public belief in schooling and let the queue to be longer and longer. So, what should be done? Md Raihan Uddin MSS

will intransigently degenerate

University of Chittagong **Provincial** government

Economics

Former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad proposed to establish provincial government in Bangladesh in a discussion meeting recently. He also unveiled a plan on it. I support his proposal as population in Bangladesh is increasing rapidly. People come to Dhaka regularly. Most of them come here to get a job. As a result, Dhaka has become a populous city. So, there is no alternative to establishing a provincial government. If the provincial government is established,

we will get some amenities. (i) Administration will be decentralised. (ii) New job opportunities

country. (iii) Better medical facilities will be available outside

will be created across the

Dhaka, Balanced development of the country will be ensured.

Actually, it is a tough task. It will be possible only if the government tries to implement it sincerely. Sohel Rana

Four-lane highway A project like 4-lane Dhaka -

Mirpur-12, Dhaka

Chittagong highway can bring many advantages if the authorities concerned pay due attention to it. The good news is that the construction work of a highway with 4 lanes between the capital city, Dhaka and the port city will start soon. It is a very popular demand of the common people and the present government has taken the issue very seriously to complete the project before the end of the tenure. When completed, communication and transportation of commodities between the two important cities will be easier and it will help increase economic activities of the whole country. Let us hope that the project will be complete as per the schedule.

Ours is a poor country with financial limitations. We have many plans but those plans always remain unexecuted due to shortage of money. It has been reported that the fund for implementing the 4-lane Dhaka -- Chittagong highway project has already been arranged from different donor agencies, including some portion by the state. Since we have limited resources, we must be careful to utilize the money properly. Mosharaf On e-mail

ONLINE **VOICES**

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

The power rush

Government hopes to sign 1,000MW electricity deals in a month; PM targets 500MW import from India (April 26, 2010)

jects.

Rawshan Iajdani

rent situation?

Ferdous Jalil

I would rather suggest to

install ten 1,000MW or more

power plants, instead of very

small generator like plants.

And all of them must be coal or

nuclear fired, efficient, well

maintained and centralised.

The existing gas-powered

plants must be decommis-

sioned within five years and

gas must be used in industrial,

non-power generating pro-

Good! But where's the invest-

ment in wind and solar plants!

What will happen when supply

of gas becomes more erratic, or

simply a worsening of the cur-

Many parts of India are facing power shortage. Even Kolkata

suffers from it. How does the PM expect to import electricity from India? Sadat

Good plan indeed! But everything will depend upon the capacity of our implementing agencies. If the authorities concerned take year after year to finalise the bidding documents, then how people can hope for the best. Please make it happen. Ashad

Where will we get the coal and gas for these new power plants? I hope the government is also working to increase the supply of coal and gas.

Raheem Sarcar