



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.

Dodgy doctors

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while inaugurating the World Breastfeeding Week-2010, issued a warning that the government would take stern action against the doctors who would not attend duties at the rural hospitals regularly. In this regard she also said, "All government servants get salaries from the taxes paid by the general mass and hence cannot ignore the common people's rights".

The prime minister is very right in her statement and this is what everyone expects. But to say something in an inaugural ceremony is not enough to make it happen. We regularly see and hear the prime minister and her high profile Ministers telling big things in the media and hardly find those words reflecting in deeds. This is true from easing traffic jams to control prices of essential commodities. Now a days, finding that nothing tangible is happening, the high judiciary is giving direct orders to government functionaries to do specific things for public interest such as marking the rivers boundaries around Dhaka, cross-fire killings, environment related issues etc. But the general people notice with extreme worry that even the High Court's

instructions are probably falling in deaf ears.

Prior to issuing any instruction to correct any non-compliance, the authorities should look into the root causes. Say, in this case of dodgy doctors, the concerned ministry and directorate should find the reasons why the doctors are not attending their duties in village hospitals. I know some cases of the recently appointed medical officers on ad-hoc basis. My daughter who hails from Shibpur upazila under Narsingdi district has been posted

in Kashiani upazila under Gopalganj. Her husband works in a multinational bank having no workstation outside Dhaka. My daughter has no objection to serve in upazila level but her present posting has become a big challenge for her. I know two other doctors who are husband and wife and have been posted in two upazilas apart from each other by 300 kms. What is the rationale behind such postings of the new appointees?

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur R/A, Khulna



WAHID ADNAN / DRKNEWS

School fees

Thanks to our government, especially our education minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid for taking the initiative to cut down VAT from private university students. This is indeed a great relief for their parents who find it quite difficult to defray their educational fees in most of the cases. I would now request our government to monitor the fees in English medium schools as they are charging fees at high rate with additional VAT. There is no policy amongst those English Medium Schools and as a result everybody is charging fees as per their wishes. Adding to this headache another additional cost is bus fare. Many schools have moved to Uttara, Ashulia and other distant places which have allowed the school authorities to charge a handsome amount as bus fares. Schools are charging full bus fare even when the school is open for 5/6 days in some months. I, as a parent, am finding it quite amazing to see that nobody is monitoring this increased fees and fares. Education should not be a business. I hope somebody will pay heed to this problem. Hasib
A concerned parent
Dharmundi, Dhaka

Parliament and politics

From the beginning, the activities of ninth parliament have been paralysed on one ground or the other. Initially, the opposition stalled the proceedings over the issue of controversial attitude of the ruling party or the speaker. The hallmark of an effective parliamentarian now seems to be the ability to shout and disrupt proceedings. The practice is to completely paralyse any discussion in parliament if the opposition is agitated about any particular subject. The practice of repeatedly obstructing the proceedings in parliament is most regrettable and defeats the very purpose for which the legislature exists.

discussed in detail before they become the laws of the country. Similarly, government policy, howsoever controversial, requires dispassionate debate and cold facts, and logic must prevail over emotional rhetoric.

The leaders of the respective political parties are squarely to blame for the pathetic state of affairs. If they want to make the coming session of Parliament, beginning on August 16, a meaningful one, they must completely prohibit walkouts, shouting or any disruption of the House proceedings. Paralysing parliamentary proceedings does not solve any problem. In the long run, it will only affect the credibility of parliament as an institution.

It is also high time that the Speaker exercises his power to suspend unruly members so that some dignity and decorum is restored. The running of parliament casts a heavy burden on the taxpayer. The legislators must conduct themselves in a responsible manner and discharge their constitutional obligations. Looking at the parliamentary proceedings of present times, it appears that our parliamentarians believe in the principle of 'survival of the loudest.'

Digital Bangladesh

It has been a tradition of leaking question papers, delay in response from govt. employers, errors in question papers, taking more than a year to set question papers and hold recruitment exams, publishing results etc.

But the concerned ministries and the ministers pay very little heed in this regard so far.

The recently postponed Secondary School Teacher recruitment is an example.

How long does it take the experts to set a question paper? I think the more time they take the more chance of leaking and corruption increases.

Some public banks advertised in 2009 i.e. Sonali Bank, Ansar VDP Unnayan Bank and we applied as usual

still we see no sign of taking exams.

It has been more than two months that Rupali Bank exams were held for Officer and Senior Officer Recruitment.

Though their process was much easier than other public banks but the result is yet to be published.

Will anybody look into the matter?

Nurul Aziz
Chittagong

Thanks to BTRC

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has finally decided to reduce the charge for the SMS services of the mobile service companies (Star Business: 6.8.10).

We would like to thank the BTRC and the government for this step in the interest of the 58

million users of the cell phones.

The cell users generally prefer to use SMS mainly

for privacy and facilities of

sending the same message to

myriad receivers. I know some

people who use SMS for docu-

mentation for future refer-

ences. The decision of reduc-

ing the cost to as little as Tk. 50

is a timely step, indeed.

The government at the same time decided to ask the operators to explain the cryptic "conditions applied" to any new packages.

It is surprising that the operators used to

advertise any new lucrative

packages but never advertise

when they cease the facilities.

The BTRC may think of intro-

ducing the system whereby

the operators will have to

announce/advertise when

any packages are closed.

Nazia Afrin
Shekhertek, Muhammadpur

Dhaka

Private car

This is in regard to a letter on the issue written by Mr. Md. Mahabubur Rahman. He reasoned his article with a simple solution that dwellers of Dhaka city should opt for private cars instead of traveling like a chimpanzee on the bus and risk their precious lives. I do agree with the writer but I would also like to remind him that he may have forgotten the per capita income of the people of this country and also the living pattern, financial ability and spaces that are needed to keep these private cars. I would therefore request our road transport authorities to introduce more private buses on the roads in order to alleviate the sufferings of the general public and improve the traffic problems of the city. It is also important to mention that the government must adopt a policy such as "one car one family" instead of having 3/4 car per family and if this policy is properly maintained the influx of private cars will minimize substantially on the roads, or, otherwise, very soon the country will be running out of the much needed gas.

Humayun Hyder
Zigatola, Dhaka

Clinical pharmacy

In general, the responsibility of a doctor is to identify the exact cause of disease and prescribing drug to treat the disease. After that, the responsibility of clinical pharmacist is to check drug interaction, any prior hypersensitivity to prescribed multiple drugs, giving instructions on when & how to use drugs and advising on safe & rational use of drug. Although, in our country doctors do their task properly but the patient cannot get proper instructions of above mentioned from a graduate (registered) clinical pharmacist. So, inappropriate use of drug causes the treatment failure in our country while the same prescription of drugs in other countries results in cure of disease. In my practical experience, a physician prescribed flucloxacillin 500mg tablet (Generic name) 4 times a day without mentioning the time of taking drug (because he is busy identifying disease). As usual, patient took this drug after meal & there was no benefit from this drug because the absorption of flucloxacillin is almost zero if taken after meal (it must be taken at least 30 minutes before meal). These types of situations including drug interactions & hypersensitivity occur in silence due to no job facilities of graduate pharmacist in hospital or clinic.

The government should take necessary steps for establishment of clinical pharmacy practice to ensure better healthcare.

Md. Abu Monsur Dinar
Department of Pharmacy
BGC Trust University



THECRICKETBLOG.CO.UK
An incredible player

Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan, the planet's leading wicket taker and one of the finest exponents of spin bowling, lately announced his retirement from Test cricket, bringing an end to a dazzling career spanning 18 years.

He is the first bowler ever to take 800 wickets in Test cricket. Although World's leading wicket-taker and champion spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has decided to retire from Test cricket, he will continue playing in ODI.

There is no denying that Muralitharan is one of the most successful bowlers in the history of the game but controversies were an integral part of his successful career. However, his performance goes beyond everything. What a player the cricket world has witnessed!!

Shohag Mostafij

MBA (Strategic & International management)
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roads. Will their Lordships be "forward looking" or will they uphold the law when the constitutional rights of so many people are being infringed? If only the rickshaw associations were more organized, the judgment on a PIL suit would surprise Mr Rahat.

I will not say anything against his precious private cars and other Gas Guzzling Monstrosities (GGMs) that of course float in the air (as most roads are mostly potholes) and have no hand in the endless gridlocks that choke the life out of the national economy!!!! Being only a layman, I am not trying to "confuse" intellectually superior beings by "complex statistical data". I have only quoted verbatim the views, facts and figures of experts -- Urban planners, University Professors, BRITA, DMP etc. Most of all, I have been writing the plain truth (73 letters in 3 years), that is evident to all Dhakabashis who keep their eyes open when they venture out onto Dhaka's roads.

Mr Rahat is evidently banking on the promises of free-ways, highways, metro, underpasses, over-passes, digitalized traffic control that will be in place in 10-15 years and will result in the natural death of rickshaws!! Good for him!! Unfortunately, the era of fossil fuelled transports will also begin to end at about that time unless massive new oil and gas reserves are discovered before that (Nat. Geo Documentary "AFTER OIL"). So Mr Rahat with all those lollipops in place by 2020 (?), you might well be forced to put your car into a museum/junk yard because fossil fuel may not be available.

Raisa
Shekhertek
Mohammadpur
Dhaka

Rickshaw issue

My old friend, Mr Rahat of Malibagh has once again resurrected himself (DS 2/8/2010) after a long time, but as in numerous other letters before, he has nothing new to say except repeating his old bias BAN RICKSHAWS.

He is "outraged and appalled" that I had the temerity to appeal to Their Lordships of the Supreme and High Courts in my letter in DS on 17 May 2010, to intercede on behalf of the 3 lakh rickshaws (providing livelihood to 20-25 lakh rickshaw related families) that carry about 50 lakh Dhakabashis every day. They are illegally denied access to the so-called VIP

Labour unrest



The news that has captured the headlines of all national dailies is labour unrest in the garment sector. No doubt, that is a big threat for our garment industry. From the very beginning of this industry, we have been experiencing the virulent crisis that is getting worse with the passage of time. Though the government with the help of the employers tries to get to a proper solution to this so called labour unrest, it still remains a long way to go.

It is very much reasonable to say that labourers of our garments sector are

really exploited by the employers who enjoy unlimited profit by using the cheap labour as a competitive advantage of the industry. Our labour forces raise their voices against the exploitation, and we are right beside them. We want the authorities to look into the matter both by enacting separate labour laws for garment workers and by practicing corporate culture in which good relationship between employers and employees exists.

Farhan Kabir
Abaner



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