

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.

Collapsed buildings



In our capital city there were many incidents of building collapse, killing and injuring people and property loss. The last one and the most ridiculous is a just finished three-storied building in a jheel at Norda in the capital's Dakkhinkhan area. It was a miracle that the collapsed building toppled on a tin-shed house but none was injured or missing. But what is seen from the photograph of the collapsed building is really unbelievable and tells the sadly poor management of the concerned authority.

No one can construct a building overnight. It takes months and years to construct a multi-storied building. Even a non-technical

man having normal sense will understand that this three-storied building at Norda did not follow any building code or maintain minimum safety requirements. In low-lying areas tin-shed houses are seen to be built on such concrete pillars. But how such a concrete structure was built in a capital city, risking the life and property of not only the owner of the said building but also others in and around that building is not understood. This shows there is none to look after such unsafe acts of some careless people.

In an editorial The Daily Star has suggested Rajuk to immediately set up mobile teams of civil engineers, architects, soil scien-

tists and other relevant experts and start investigating such vulnerable structures and take on the spot legal actions.

In addition, we would suggest Rajuk to open a complain centre and invite complains or information regarding apparently illegal and risky constructions, even over telephone. The identity of the caller or complainer should not be disclosed and Rajuk may also reward such caller or informer in case of true report. Of course, this needs general awareness of the people that can be done through media.

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

Gas supply to steel factories

An absurd front-page report on the subject was published in an English daily on 26th October, which was illogical and shortsighted. It seems that there is no technically qualified person in the Natural Gas sector management who has even some basic knowledge of Physics and the heating and rolling of steel materials! I am surprised by their idea; since for steel rolling mills this will only increase rolling costs and wastage of natural gas! Rolling temperature of steel sections varies from about 900deg.C to say 1100deg.C, depending on the chemical composition of the steel, and the stage of reduction and the section to be rolled.

To start the rolling operation, the heating furnace, with the steel billets, has to be heated for say three to four hours, to reach rolling temperature, depending on the furnace size and capacity; if the heating burners had no natural gas from 6am to 11pm, starting the furnace at 11pm,

rolling can start say from 2am after midnight. After 6am no rolling will be possible, as gas to the burners will be shut off. The hot furnace with the steel billets or ingots inside will then only be cooling from 6am throughout the day. All the heat just will be wasted! The cost of rolling, and hence the finished product cost will go up!

The alternative is to stagger short rolling schedules for the mills in the area. Say for example, ten mills will roll continuously round the clock for say ten days, the other mills being shut. Then another group of ten mills will roll round the clock, and so on; so that the gas rationing is shared by all rolling mills by turn, without hampering their efficiency and fuel usage to an absurd extent, which will happen if illogical daily shutting down is enforced! Will the natural gas companies look into the matter in overall national interest in a sensible and rational manner to face the gas shortage?

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Dream and nightmare

I always dream of a land where rules and justice rules supreme, the meritorious are given the proper position, the good are amply rewarded to curb the bad. People here get the proper education in the hazardless institutions and after finishing the education get work and enjoy every kind of amenities of life in a clean environment. Our commodities that we manufacture and harness from land and delimited sea areas go to every part of the world. Our golden people spread all over the world are the torch bearer of civilisation marked by justice, science and literature. Every citizen of my land is a powerhouse powered by honesty, truth, knowledge and spirituality.

But in reality my dream killers are there, running amuck to amass money, by every possible illegal means, greed reigns supreme here. I see my land being ravaged by the rapacious from home and

abroad. The ruling party has no time to see to the education or exploration of sea and land. Every night I go to sleep feeling that the avowed foes will come in our sleep to violate my beloved land. Is there a way out of my nightmare?

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur, Natore

Hallowe'en

I am glad that Vic Veritas has drawn our attention to the quite extraordinary way so many people have got some half-baked ideas about Hallowe'en and have ended up doing things that make some of us feel very uncomfortable indeed about the message that is being sent out to young people about good and evil. Of course, the moment we criticise what goes on, we risk being called kill-joys. How dare we stop letting the kids have fun - even if it does look like celebrating the powers of evil!

In the Christian calendar, Hallowe'en (i.e. the evening of All Hallow's) is the last kick of the dying horse of evil, before the power and light and joy of All Saints and All Souls Days that follow it. However, all sorts of spooky things from the pagan past have got attached to it as well as the indulging of the thrill of being frightened out of one's wits, which, in the case of children, should be by something that proves not to be too frightening after all - like Daddy dressed up as a bear!

The point of Hallowe'en is that half the kids should be dressed up in something that makes them represent the forces of goodness - such as St George and his soldiers - or St Michael and his angels or anyone who, in your culture or religion represents the powers of goodness. When the half who are dressed up as devils and witches have got a party going with all sorts of hideous shrieks and groans and badness going on, the Good Guys swoop in and drive them out, shrieking with laughter, of course. The whole point of Hallowe'en is that the powers of evil get CHASED AWAY into outer darkness, leaving the powers of good triumphant. Then you party together and have games and eat lots of nice food. If a clear message is not sent out that evil only APPEARS to have the upper hand, then we are declaring to ourselves and our children that evil is more powerful than good!

Angela Robinson
Gulshan, Dhaka

A great teacher

Recently two so-called students attacked Mizanur Rashid, a lecturer of Natore College. They ran a motorcycle into him for protesting stalking of college girls.

The aftermath of this incident would be very dangerous. It would discourage any conscious person to raise his/her voice against eve teasing, and at the same time it would encourage the stalkers.

It is very disgraceful that the teachers do not have any security in the society. The youths are getting engaged in destructive activities, because they do not have any noble aim before them. That's why even the brilliant students are getting engaged in mischievous works.

I hope, the culprits would be treated with zero tolerance and Mizanur Rashid would be rewarded for his bravery and sacrifice.

Pradip Das
Lecturer
BHPi, CRP

Clean Dhaka

I thank our government for taking an initiative to evict the hawkers from the footpaths of Dhaka. They should also take steps to make a clean Dhaka, because Cricket World Cup, 2011 would be held in Dhaka.

Rowshan Ali
One-mail

Women's rights

Some people do not want the women to enjoy their freedom.

Our dearest Rasul (pbuh) says, "every human being is by birth independent." He honoured women with the declaration- "One's heaven lies under the feet of one's mother."

All of us should properly follow the teachings of the religion.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Chittagong

Cars for cricketers!

I saw a picture published in The Daily Star on 21st October 2010 in which our PM was on stage with the acting captain of our cricket team who was holding a car key. Then I read the news that PM has promised to give 20 cars and lands for all the 20 players!

Why did the PM choose CAR as a gift? Doesn't she know that Dhaka cannot afford any more cars on its streets? No doubt, lands and cars are the most valuable assets. But the PM should be more careful and reasonable while taking such a decision.

Azad Hafiz
Gulshan, Dhaka

Choosing a brand

All the companies are trying to convince the consumers for buying their products. The companies are doing it in a competitive manner. So, all companies are carrying out promotional activities for selling their products.

We have heard that in the

Misuse of mobile phones

It is true that parents let their children use mobile phones at an early age. But it is just to ensure their safety as we live in an unsecured society.

Unfortunately, these children do not utilise it in a proper way. They spend hours talking to friends, not for good purposes but to gossip. They prefer indoor games like those in the mobiles rather than the outdoor games.

I appreciate the law made by the government, which restricts the children from buying a SIM card until they reach the age of eighteen.

I thank the government for taking this effective step. And I request the parents to be aware of what their children are doing with the mobile phones.

Tasnim Choudhury
One-mail



developed countries most of the consumers are very much conscious. They know the reason why they select a specific brand. A consumer never compromises with the quality of the product. So, among all the products he chooses the right brand for him. Quality and price are among the factors why someone chooses to buy one product.

I would like to request all the consumers of our country to think about their own benefit and the country's benefit before buying a product.

Mobarak Ali
Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka

Seat belts

This refers to the letter of Mr. Saleh Ayub about seat belt (24-10-10). He tried to establish that seat belt has no use in Bangladesh and using it is also dangerous. He said using seat belt was the cause of death of Former Finance Minister Saifur Rahman. But he forgot to mention that Saifur Rahman was an old man and maybe he had a heart attack.

It's not wise to discourage people to use seat belts. In most of the road accidents in our country people died for having head injuries. Seat belts may reduce this kind of injuries.

And our drivers are no angels that they don't drive fast. So, using seat belts must be made mandatory.

Please don't try to discourage the govt. to implement a good law.

Solaiman Palash
East Jurain, Dhaka

Death of a dream

Billal Hossain, a student of Dhaka University, has died in a road accident on 26th October near the Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka while crossing the road. He was a fourth-year student of Sociology department.

Reckless driving is the main cause behind such type of tragedy. In most of the cases drivers compete with one another while driving.

We don't want to see this kind of unexpected deaths any more.

Sohel Rana
Mohsin hall
University of Dhaka

Deceived and deprived

The per capita income of Bangladesh, I think is between US\$ 600 and 700, yet in many ways the people have to pay more for goods and services than a country whose per capita income is above US\$ 40,000. I really fail to understand why this is so. Is the government responsible for this? To some extent yes.

In the United States all kinds of food items meaning everything that a man has to eat in order to survive is duty free, whereas in Bangladesh it is not. It may also be noted that most of the things are imported from China, which is very close to Bangladesh in comparison to the United States. Yet the consumable items are expensive in Bangladesh, only because of the taxation policy of the government.

It is the moral responsibility of the United States government to ensure that no one goes hungry there, I am not sure what policy does the Bangladesh government follows.

Then again the goods and services that the people receive in exchange of money are spurious.

Thus it can fairly be concluded that the people at large are deceived and deprived, for which the government is largely responsible.

Saleh Ayub
One-mail

Learning English

Today the world has become a global village. Thanks to the advancement of communication system and technology. Every country is dependent on others for trade and commerce, education, etc. Third world countries like Bangladesh have to depend on foreign aid because they are not self-sufficient. In this situation, we have to learn other languages, especially English, to communicate with foreigners.

Bangladesh is the only country in the world whose people sacrificed their lives for the language. Now the historical language movement of 1952 is acknowledged internationally as the International Mother

Language Day. It is true that we are emotional about our language Bangla. But it is equally true that now Bengalis have become very serious about learning English.

Tanha Kashfia Kate
Uttara Model Town
Dhaka

Adulterated food



I cannot purchase any kind of fruit for my loving kids! As a father, this is so painful for me. The unscrupulous traders use poisonous chemicals in fruits and other food items. They use calcium carbide to ripen bananas, heat the papayas to make those look red. Fish and vegetable traders use formalin in their products to keep those fresh. Milk is also not pure. These adulterated food items pose serious threat to public health. People are suffering from various diseases like cancer, heart disease and kidney failure. The number of cancer patients has increased alarmingly.

These dishonest traders should be given exemplary punishment for committing such heinous crimes.

Zafar Alam Bhuiyan
Lecturer of Fashion
Design
Shanto-Mariam
University
of Creative Technology

Goodbye childhood!



After finishing class five an ordinary kid has to say goodbye to childhood. Thanks to the pressure of studying that now we do not have any time to play! When a child reaches class six, his nightmare begins! He totally forgets the word 'play'.

Let me tell you the story of a boy. He wakes up in the morning

- goes to school - comes from school - has his lunch - goes to coaching centre - comes from coaching centre - rests for five minutes - then comes his house tutor - he goes late. After that the boy has his dinner and goes to bed thinking sadly that he has to do it every day!

This is the story of an ordinary

kid of Bangladesh. When does he get the time to play, to rest, to have fun? There is a proverb- "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Shafeen Mahmood
Student of Class-8
Little Jewels School
Chittagong