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.



University admission

This year CU, IU and JU held the admission tests before medical college, BUET and DU. If a student gets admitted to CU or IU first, later, when he is selected for admission to Medical college or BUET, he will obviously leave the previous university and get admitted in Medical college or BUET. In this way, the guardians are compelled to waste a lot of money every year.

Some seats will fall vacant in these universities, naturally. But as the communication system in rural areas is not good enough, students from the rural areas, who are in the waiting list, will not be able to get admitted to any university. Because a student who is in the waiting list has to contact from

time to time with the university authorities to know about the present status of the seats that are or will be vacant. Last year in DU more than 1000 seats were vacant because of lack of coordination in the admission procedure.

This year, admission tests of DU and JNU were held on the same day. And the students suffered a lot because of mismanagement. There must be some rules and regulations for the universities for holding admission tests. We, the guardians, request the Education Ministry to do it in a coordinated way, for the benefit of the students and the guardians.

Aguardian On e-mail

A competent taxi service

am pleased to hear that the government will supply 6,740 new taxi cabs but I seem to remember the same thing happened some years ago and the only result was that the drivers behind the wheels of the new cars were, on the whole, more arrogant and undisciplined than those behind the wheels of the old ones! How old a taxi is, surely, is less important than a taxi service being managed effectively so that they serve at least one section of the travelling public, though admittedly a small one. When I lived in Lalmatia, some years ago, with no car, I remember trying to get home from Gulshan and the taxi drivers lined up to vie with one another to humiliate and mock this single foreign woman, shouting higher and higher prices.

fact, I am sure that many people would get rid of their cars if there were a truly reliable radio taxi service. The drivers of such a firm would know, of course, that, if they refused to respond to a call from their office - or tried to charge more than their meter said - they would lose their job but that, if they obeyed the rules, they would earn a decent income.

I accept that, because of traffic jams, most taxi rides would have to be booked some time ahead and that mobile numbers from clients who booked the service and then were not there when the taxi arrived, would be blacklisted. However, such a service would mean that those capable of forward planning (and of building up



Today, several people I know without cars have given up trying to visit other parts of Dhaka because of bad experiences of trying to get home by

companies would be selected. The only sort of 'capable company' I want is one that I can telephone and find someone sensible (preferably a woman) in an office with radio contact with her taxis so that I can book one, ahead of time - even for the next day and know that a taxi will turn up for the job and will charge a reasonable price. This will, of course, be higher than I want to pay but will be a great deal cheaper than running my own car. In

ONLINE

VOICES

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports.

Tortured domestic help rescued (November 1, 2010)

Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

Bangladesh should introduce ID cards

for all domestic helps. There should be a

central database and numerous

registered and all their ID cards should

have renewal / expiration date. All their

ID cards should have multiple levels of

security and welfare features. It should

All domestic helps should be

agencies to look after their issues.

function as a work permit.

SNH

an honourable relationship with a taxi service) would be confident that they could get to - and be collected from important meetings, airports etc.

It is surely a cause for shame that, in a Your report said that 'capable country with plenty of capital and a huge number of courses in Business Studies and Management, no one has yet discovered how to run a competent taxi service at a reasonable profit - as is the case in most other capitals of the world. It surely merits a doctoral thesis in some university, exploring the questions, "What's the blockage?" and "Is it really the government's job to do something about it - and if so, what?"

Angela Robinson Gulshan, Dhaka

Prices of essentials

The ruling Grand Alliance

committed in their election manifesto to bring down prices of essential items within the reach of common people. With that end in view they provided additional subsidy of taka two thousand crore to urea fertiliser soon after coming to power. But in reality, prices of rice and wheat have gone up despite the bumper crop.

A few days ago it was decided to provide another additional subsidy of nearly seven hundred crore to two other varieties of fertilisers. It is doubtful whether this will yield any result at the consumer level. Total annual subsidy given to fertiliser at the moment runs to about four thousand crore taka. Major decisions were made without proper thought, evaluation and analysis. So these four thousand crore are practically going down the drain for whimsical decisions of the govt.

Had this amount been spent for developing rural infrastructures, building primary and secondary schools, vocational schools, power plants, etc., its impact on the economy would have been tremendous. Just because the govt. is elected does not mean that it can misuse public fund. So it is high time that the govt was bold enough and withdrew this subsidy, which is not contributing to public welfare. A team of experts may be appointed to analyse, evaluate and make the right recommendation on the subject.

Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury DOHS Mohakhali Dhaka

Digital Bangladesh

Digital Bangladesh is indeed a name of a dream. To implement the dream, the present government has launched onlinebased academic activities, mobile-based rail tickets service, etc.

In fact, if we now want to keep pace with the present world, we need to acquire a lot of technological knowledge. We are really lucky that the govt. is working hard to turn our country into a digital one. We hail the move. But, the govt. can hardly implement this initiative without people's help.

We need to work together for our country avoiding any sort of personal hostility. We should always say 'YES' to the positives and 'NO' to the negatives.

Habibur Rashid Ismail Chittagong

CNG filling

Anonymous

Aakash

Shayamoli

stations The government's decision to keep CNG filling stations closed for 6 hours is not well thought out and

without any sense of proportion. The magnitude of miseries caused by this decision is enormous and people of all walks of life are suffering. Think about the helpless

CNG drivers. How much gas can they store in the cylinder/ reserve tank? Obviously, after some trips they run out of gas and then have to stand in a long queue. Eventually, it is the commuter who has to pay increased fare than normal. Then the car owners have to wait till 9pm to send their drivers for gas and stand in a long queue for two/three hours. Unscrupulous drivers also take advantage of this situation. Some of them make short trips for extra income. As a matter of fact, there is chain reaction of anomalies. If the government has to control the use of gas at all, a better alternative can be to close for a total of four hours split into 2 to 4 pm and then again from 6-30 to 8-30 pm.

This is just a food for thought for the people concerned. The best option is, of course, the total withdrawal of the order as far as general people are concerned. Nuruzzaman Khan On e-mail

Children and cell phones

Kids today, I'm talking about 10-year-olds, have convinced their parents that they desperately need cell phones. And not just any cell phones! They need unlimited 'texting' options, internet access, mp3 downloading capabilities and more. Granting kids free access to too much information through the cell phones can be harmful. If they can't handle it responsibly they shouldn't be accessing it in the first place. We live in a very difficult and sometimes dangerous world. It is very easy for the children to receive text messages and pictures that the parents may not approve of. Along with that, cell phones pose serious health hazards to the children. Sometimes eve-teasing starts with a simple phone call to a teen. Tanha Kashfia Kate

Uttara Model Town

Islamist parties

Only a few days ago Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that Islamist parties wouldn't be banned. But on October 25, 2010 we have learnt from the news media that our Law Minister has said that Islamist parties will be automatically banned if the Constitution is reprinted in the light of Supreme Court interpretation.

Would our authorities concerned kindly clarify the matter for public

Death of a teacher

Mizanur Rashid was a solid man. He did not win a medal in the last Commonwealth games, neither did he fight a renowned case in the court and win. His achievements are within his own perimeter of work. He tried to protest a wrongdoing. That was not done with a view to achieving any personal gain. In fact, not only did he volunteer in favour of discipline and decency, but he also was ready to put himself in danger doing so. He was ready; he was upright and bold to protect his students come what may. I believe that is called courage and dignity. He considered it his duty to uphold the honour and dignity of KSA

people around him. He wanted to ensure their rights.

I would consider his short life to be more valuable and meaningful than any other present-day 'successful' ones. The best we can do is to take lessons from his life, and understand the difference between 'living' and 'existing'.

I salute late Mizanur Rashid. And my condolences are for his family members. May Almighty Allah grant him heaven and give peace in the hearts of his family members. Rajib Ahmed

Najran University, Najran



interest, political stability, democracy, peace and welfare of our millions of

people? O.H. Kabir Dhaka

Bad governance

The DS's news of 7th October entitled "People worried at bad governance" drew my attention. The news was on a lecture given by Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman, the ex-CJ and former Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government.

He reportedly remarked that Bangladesh appears to be in the grip of swindlers. People blame the government for all evils but he did not do that. He spoke about the national character of our citizens.

Our forefathers were corrupt and we inherited this trait.

We are educationally backward than many nations in the world. Our new politicians did not get required training to be a politician. After the Liberation many such poor calibre gentlemen joined politics. There is no practice of democracy in their parties. There are hundreds of political parties, many of which are mostly one-man party with a small number of

supporters. There are widespread criticisms of the present government for passing a bill which reportedly allowed it sweeping powers to sign any deal for

quick electricity generation.

"Blaming game is the easiest game", said President Barack Obama. Let us end the blame game and ask everyone to be active, dedicated and patriotic.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

Khaleda Zia's house

I am a great admirer of writings of Nur Jahan of Chittagong. But in this particular case, I would respectfully like to differ with her.

We are given to understand that the residence in which Begum Khaleda Zia lives is situated on a big piece of land, which was given to her by the then government after assassination of late president Ziaur Rahman in 1981. Since then she has been living in there with other members of her family. The present government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demanded of her to return the premises to the government for reasons best known to them.

I am no supporter of either BNP or Awami League; I consider both as the two sides of the same coin. And in general, I do not consider any politician of the country better than the British colonial rulers. Perhaps they were even better.

I think Begum Khaleda Zia ought to have given away a portion of the land to the families of the victims of BDR carnage for residential purpose retaining a portion for her even before being asked by the govt. This particular action would have highly boosted her popularity among the masses and she would have remained immortal forever in the minds of the people. Saleh Ayub

On e-mail

Landslides/ avalanches

Both avalanche/landslide are similar except in the composition of their matter snow/ice and earth/mud. When snow does not compact to bear fresh snow on steep slopes, adverse weather causes un-stability and ava-

lanches. Similarly, deforested hills crumble into landslides after heavy rainfall. Everything in their

path is swept clean. The same prescription holds good in the affairs of men politics, government, administration and people. When the foundation corrodes and decays each subsequent layer degenerates and the top degrades into depravity, immorality and vice. Then one day the whole edifice of good governance crashes down sweeping away everything

in its path. Every democratic dispensation, like a tripod, has three pillars to support it. The Legislative to formulate laws and rules of conduct, the Executive to govern, develop and implement projects to benefit the people, and the Judiciary to see that justice is done. Standing by as a watch-dog, is the Fourth Estate, the Media, to inform and to shout fearlessly for any deviation from accepted norms, by the other three. For 20 years, having democratic governance, which due to circumstances or design has degenerated into "One Party Democratic Dictatorships", has privileged us. The net result has

1. The Legislative, most of the time, devoid of any opposition, spends its time in heaping praise on one, while hurling invectives on the other.

2. The Executive pays lip service to necessities like population control, food, power, water, infrastructure, environment, energy etc. All we get is regular doses of grandiose "lollipops" like metros, freeways, maglev, subways, giga-watts, and the latest, a 50,000 crore airport.

3. The Judiciary is above comment, but lo and behold, adverse comments are a-plenty recently in the media with one senior barrister openly commenting that rot has set in here too.

4. The media, which is the watch-dog, has tried to remain steadfast, but they have already been taken to task by "people's representatives". So how long can they endure the pressure and survive?

Sikander Ahmed Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Give the culprits the highest

punishment as admissible under the

law of the land. Govt or NGOs should

take care of this little angel who

survived such an unbearable torture in

the hands of so called human beings.

She needs utmost care and psychiatric

treatment as well to overcome the

horrific trauma.

Dr. Reza khan

The employers who have tortured Sohagi should not get bail and the trial should end in a month.

Only God knows how many children are locked up in our domestic torture cells! Thanks to the law enforcers for saving her. I just want to say, we as a nation have a long way to go.

What a shame! One wonders how many such children are there in Dhaka city? In this case, severe action needs to be taken against those who have tortured her so brutally.

We congratulate the RAB. Now take action against the abusers. Please make sure they don't get away. The public should also know what punishment

therapy for the trauma she suffered. Dewan

The couple should be punished. Moksadul Alam

Thanks to The Daily Star for not showing her photos of horrifying wounds. Please do the follow up reports. Sawgat Chowdhury

I think if the same were done to Mr Moshiur and his wife they would have realised their crime. Mr.Wahid

This is horrible. It is a common practice in Bangladesh. It is appreciated that the media has covered it up. In this perspective I just want to add a point regarding this kind of matter, that is when media cover this kind of violence, they should publish the photos of the employers as well. I believe it would help to prevent this kind of violence.

receives treatment for her wounds and Razaul Islam

would be given to the perpetrators. We also appeal to the government and the NGOs that this child is taken care of and