

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.

Traffic rules

On November 01, I started my journey at 7:00am from Motijheel and reached Uttara at 9:00am. I waited for about 40 minutes at Moghbazar crossing. I did not notice any extra activities of traffic police to implement the new traffic rules. There are two CNG filling stations. There are two CNG filling stations, which creates severe traffic jam. Traffic police do not take any action against haphazard parking near the CNG filling stations.

The government has postponed the drive to evict the hawkers and has decided to discuss the matter with them after Eid-ul-Azha. Footpaths are meant for pedestrians, not for hawkers. They have illegally occupied the footpaths and they should leave the footpaths as soon as the government orders them to do so.

From 01 November BRTA has launched a drive to ensure that motor-

car drivers use seat belts, motorcyclists wear helmets and pedestrians use footpaths, footbridges and zebra crossings. This initiative is definitely good. But this drive alone will not solve the problem of traffic jam.

We have traffic rules, but we do not follow those. If the traffic police take some strict measures everybody will automatically obey the traffic rules. Pedestrians are ready to use pavements and footbridges. But, have the authorities seen the condition of our pavements and footbridges? Hawkers and garage owners have occupied them illegally.

I request the authorities to take quick action to evict the hawkers and remove the garages and car parks from footpaths for smooth movement of vehicles.

Nirmal Singha Chowdhury
On e-mail



For a better society

The education minister has said that he would introduce moral lessons in the new syllabus. And the govt. is going to enact a new law against stalking.

Not very long ago acid throwing was a major problem. But after a stringent law against acid throwing was enacted, this crime has reduced. But the incidence of extortion, mugging, killing, teasing, etc., is on the rise. The young generation is addicted to drugs. The young do not show respect to the elderly. This is the present situation of our country.

We request the education minister to include religious studies along with moral lessons in the syllabus for building a better society.

Mawduda Hasnin
Raninagar
Rajshahi

Political parties

We hope our political parties will think about the future of the country. They should work for the benefit of the people. We do not want to see them blaming each other. We want to see both the parties in the parliament.

Runa Arjuman
Department of Law
World University of
Bangladesh

Corruption

The Sabri Brothers undoubtedly took Qaw'wali, especially Natia and Sufi Qaw'wali to the very apex of the difficult but thoroughly intoxicating rendering of the Munificent Majesty of Allah and the Deeds of the Prophet. One of their all-time popular Qaw'walis of 25-30 years ago, is "Paisa bolta hai (money talks)", where they decried the use of currency notes, on the one hand, for payment of Zakat, Fitra and other good deeds, while on the other hand, the same notes being used for payment of bribes, corruption of all sorts, and white and blue collar crimes and vices.

It cannot be denied that corruption at all levels has reached a peak in recent years, where no work anywhere can be got done without greasing the palms of all and sundry, from top to bottom. Inflated greed, inflation and deflated morals have set a benchmark for the amounts where there is no upper limit, but the lower limit is undoubtedly Tk. 500/- and multiples thereof.

During our "ada", many of my contemporaries (senior citizens, who have retained their sense of morality) and who are still in some sort of vocation like service, and pensioners, landlords, contractors, etc., bemoan having to pay even the minimum

amount for every little thing that can facilitate a decent and honest living for them. Many of them have resented the fact that they have to pay bribes with notes carrying the portrait of the "Father of the Nation" whom we all revere.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan 1
Dhaka

Stalking

Almost every day there is a report in the media of stalking. Yet the government continues to say that the law and order situation in the country is good. I wonder when they will admit the truth. Deaths resulting from stalking are quite frequent and it is on the rise.

Before the advent of Islam, many a civilisation was wiped out when attempts were made to replace divine laws by man made laws.

Since the dawn of Islam nothing like that has yet taken place, but it is likely that something similar or even worse might happen soon, may be in a few hundred years, because those of us who claim to be Muslims have chosen to be governed by man-made laws instead of divine laws. It is a pity that we claim to be Muslims, yet we take part in all sorts of non-Islamic activities. Many non-Islamic practices have penetrated into the society,

thanks to the so-called modernisation of mankind.

It is my hunch that no more than 5% of the Muslim population in Bangladesh are practicing Muslims. It is, therefore, no wonder that all kinds of social evils invade and strike us. This can only be averted by surrendering to the Almighty and seeking His forgiveness in true earnest; nothing short of this can save us.

Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

Taking care of a male child

It is said that a child's mental maturity is no better than an unintelligent creature. When a baby boy grows up to the age of going to school, dependency on his mother gradually decreases and he starts following the men around him. He follows his father, elder brother and teachers. The environment of his family and school is very much responsible for his grooming. I would like to request all parents and teachers to take care of their sons and students. The teachers should discuss with the parents if they find any deviation in the students' attitude.

Mobarak Ali
Gopibag, Dhaka

Teachers

Teaching is a profession different from others in the context of nature, motives and status. Our education system has many limitations resulting in acute socio-economic problems. Most of our teachers lack the qualities they should have to teach. Very few are familiar with the participatory method of teaching. Most of them lack proper trainings and, therefore, 'Training of Teachers' should be arranged for them.

Also, a good number of teachers are involved in private tuition, guide-book writing, part time jobs, business, etc. That is why they are not sincere in the classroom. Therefore, the students are growing dependent even more on private coaching.

The government should revise the salary structure of teachers and provide them with the basic amenities which might prevent them from doing part time jobs, for the sake of the well-being of the nation.

K M Atikur Rahman
Govt. Zia Mahila College, Feni

Child rights

It creates a mental pressure on me when I see a poor boy or girl begging in front of my school. I feel intolerable pain when I see a girl or a boy working in a restaurant where I am eating. We often forget that they are also human beings and they have some basic rights too. This situation cannot continue any more.

The government has promised a digital Bangladesh. But I would like to say that with the exclusion of these children, the dream of digital Bangladesh can never

Child workers



Childhood is the time for studying, playing and growing up. But in Bangladesh children are working in factories, small shops, tea stalls and where not. They are deprived of their basic rights like education, food, shelter and healthcare.

They are often engaged in jobs that are meant for adults and, thus, cannot cope with the workload. They are exposed to serious health hazards and suffer from different kinds of diseases.

There are a large number of street kids in Dhaka. When I look at their innocent faces I am saddened. At this tender age, when they should be going to

school and playing with their friends, they are working for survival.

Our government should take effective steps to stop child labour immediately. It is our responsibility to keep the children away from these hazardous jobs.

The govt. should also carry out campaigns to make parents aware of the bad effect of child labour so that they never send their kids to do dangerous work.

Samir
On e-mail

Errors in textbooks

It is a matter of regret that our textbooks contain many errors; especially English and Bengali textbooks of HSC published this year contain lots of wrong information and spelling mistakes. Because of lack of supply, many students couldn't buy the original books.

In a passage of English textbook there is a sentence - "Air pollution from factories, burning trash, and vehicle fumes cause pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases." Another sentence reads "Water pollution from industrial discharge, indiscriminate disposal of toxic chemicals, and dumping of

human waste into rivers and canals causes poisoning and water borne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea." The pattern of both the sentences is same. But one sentence contains the plural verb 'cause' and the other the singular verb 'causes' whereas it should be singular in both the sentences. There are many other errors in the textbooks. Therefore, we are learning wrong things.

The authorities should look into this matter. Before publishing, these books should be checked thoroughly.

Md. Nazmus Sakib
Notre Dame College, Dhaka



SAAD SHAHRIAR / DRIKNEWS

Higher education in Bangladesh



In Bangladesh, everybody is talking about "quality education" from top to bottom. There are more than 86 higher educational institutions in Bangladesh. Every day, news appears in the media on quality education. But the reality is very different.

Dhaka University is still the best educational institution in the country. But unfortunately, still today, if a student has very good results (SSC A-grade, HSC A-grade, BSc first class first and MSc first class first) and can be considered as the most meritorious student, if she/he goes for a PhD to a foreign country, she/he has to complete at least four to five semesters (varies from department to department) before she/he can start her/his PhD course. In other words, an MSc degree with a first class first, from the best educational institution of the country, is equivalent to less than BSc grade of a foreign university. This shows the quality of higher education in Bangladesh. One can simply imagine how much money the parents are spending, or rather wasting, for their children, how much money the country is losing every year, and how many valuable years the students are losing from their life.

My intention is simply to draw attention of the responsible authorities - Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission - so that they act before it is too late.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Saifullah Khandker
Chairman, IGUB e.V.
Technische Universität Berlin
Institute for Chemistry
Berlin, Germany

A plot of land

Musa Ibrahim is a victim of gross injustice. Musa brought immense honour to Bangladesh by becoming the first Bangladeshi to scale Mount Everest. A remarkable achievement for any person, but for a man from a country that doesn't have snow, ice, or mountains on which he could practice, it's simply phenomenal. He risked his life to accomplish his dreams and bring honour and glory to Bangladesh.

Musa's exceptional achievement was rightly recognised and praised by Sir Frank Peters who branded him "a national and world hero", and campaigned to have a postage stamp issued in his honour for the world to see and respect. We are hoping and wishing success for Sir Frank Peters' campaign.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina honoured the young hero by welcoming him home with a bouquet of flowers. But then, when the Bangladesh cricket team scored the historic win over New Zealand, the PM not only presented them with

bouquets but also a plot of land to each. Doesn't Musa Ibrahim deserve a plot of land as a reward?

With due respect to the cricket team I would like to say- cricket heroes will come and go, but unique achievers like Musa Ibrahim will be rare.

Sabina Kabir
Uttara, Dhaka

Where are the traffic police?

Some boys, with bags on their back, are busy in controlling traffic congestion at Shobid Bazar in Sylhet. They are not traffic police but university students. This is a usual scene in Sylhet town.

Population is increasing day by day as well as vehicles on the streets. On the other hand, roads are unplanned and narrow, schools and colleges have no parking facilities and the hawkers have occupied the roads. The ultimate result is traffic congestion.

There are no traffic police on some important points of the city roads. So the university students have replaced the traffic police.

Hasan Jaman
On e-mail