

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 250 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Private University Act



A well thought article has been published in The Daily Star entitled 'Private University Act: Implementation is more challenging' where Dr. Abdul Mannan, former Vice-Chancellor of CU, has sought practical implementation of the Private University Act-2010. He has emphasized on whether learning and teaching is taking place properly.

He has concluded his article with the opinion that a few perpetrators should not be allowed to blemish the image of the entire sector.

The world is shifting. We cannot live with archaic ideas and outdated thinking. We just need to be a bit realistic and make appropriate roadmap to bridge the talent gap by making our

higher education system and its administration more useful. To begin with, we should stop unnecessary sabre-rattling and start implementing the Act with rationality and logic and without prejudice of any sort. Let the



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL KHAN

good and promising ones thrive and gross perpetrators be punished.

As an ordinary citizen, I strongly agree with his opinion and would like to add that Bangladesh lacks world-class universities according to international rankings.

If Bangladesh invests a large amount of money and human capital in academic improvement and expansion without undertaking strategies to ensure that the investment yields results, resources will be wasted and failure assured.

We should move our attention and energies away from getting a world-class status, and instead revamp our universities from within.

Gopal Sengupta
Canada

organisations would be divided.

If we need multiple mayors, why don't we also have multiple District Commissioners, District Judges, SPs and other officers in the administration of Dhaka district?

We strongly feel and recommend that the existing DCC needs to be further improved and strengthened for carrying out smooth, efficient, properly coordinated development works in Dhaka city.

In this connection, a senior officer each from RAJUK, WASA, Titas Gas, Telephone Department as well as DMP, may be deputed with adequate power for prompt coordination and development works under DCC Mayor in the interest of public service.

OH Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

Mobile phone in exam hall

Mobile phone helps us in various ways. Mobile phones have become a very integral part of everyone's life. It has made our life easy. Nevertheless, there are some restrictions in using mobile phones.

It is prohibited to carry a mobile phone in the examination hall. Usually, students keep it in silent mode or turn it off when in the exam hall.

But, it is a matter of great shame that the invigilators in the exam halls do not keep their phones in silent mode or turn it off, although they have made a list of instructions for the students to follow during the examination.

They not only keep their phones on, but also talk loudly in the exam hall. Our highly qualified teachers should avoid this practice.

Md. Ataul Goni Rabbani
Bangladesh Agricultural University
Mymensingh

Khaleda's demand

We have learned from the media that Begum Khaleda Zia, on the eve of her departure to visit China, demanded the grand alliance government's immediate resign for their failure to run the country.

However, she did not mention any specific failure of the govt. I believe she has totally forgotten her own past and thinks the people of Bangladesh have also forgotten that.

We feel sorry that she has a short memory. She should, at least, have realised that a short press briefing at the airport is not the right platform to demand this. She should go to the parliament, elaborately explain the government's failures and make such a demand.

One thing she should not have forgotten, that the similar demand came from the opposition when her party was in power. Did she resign then?
Shafiqul Islam
NY, US

Meaning of Christmas

What is the real meaning of Christmas? For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. God sent his son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this

was not an ordinary baby. The prophets had told of his coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

His story is one of truth, love, and hope. He brought salvation to all of us. Jesus came so he could die on the cross for all of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask him to come into our hearts and forgive us.

Then, we are clean and made whole; and we can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

Peter Rebeiro
Indira road, Dhaka



A. M. AHAD / DRINKNEWS

Share market

The call money rate soared to a preposterous 175 percent on 15th December. The funds have been required to meet the Cash Reserve Requirement (CRR) of scheduled banks with Bangladesh Bank. Bangladesh Bank has increased the CRR by another 0.5 percent to 6 percent in total.

This is the second increase in six months. In the month of May, the CRR was increased by 0.5 percent. The top bankers opined that the decision to increase CRR 'should not have been taken, it is an abrupt rate hike'. The rate hike has affected the stock

market very adversely.

On 5th December, trade volume of Dhaka Stock Exchange was the highest of Tk. 3250 Crore. Then the trade volume started sliding down due to anti-investor measures taken by SEC and Bangladesh Bank.

On 15th December, the trade volume hit the rock bottom of Tk. 1270 Crore! So, there was a decline of staggering Tk.1980 crore in trade volume in only 10 days time, wiping out profits, and most importantly, capital of thousands of small, medium investors which mostly comprise youths, fixed income groups, housewives, wid-

ows, and pensioners - people who supplement their living from incomes of stock market profits.

Such abrupt, irrational, illogical decision by Bangladesh Bank officials benefited none, on the contrary, made the present government unnecessarily unpopular.

We would request the government to enquire about the matter and take necessary steps. The government should also restrain the Bangladesh Bank authorities from taking any rash decisions which harm the common people.

Dr. SN Mamoon
One-mail

Damaging

St. Martin's coral!

Your back page photograph published on December 21st showed a number of makeshift thatched bamboo matted tin-roofed shops. However, the description of the photograph opined that these makeshift shops are 'damaging the coral!' The latter part of the description, that it is 'ruining the beauty of the tourist attraction' is well justified. The reason for the damage to the underlying coral structure covered under the beach sand, is, however, not clear. I will request the concerned 'Star' personnel to kindly explain this phenomenon.

I can not understand how the light bamboo matted tin roofed hut, with very little superstructure load, built on the coastal sand bed of the sea shore, can damage the

underlying coral?

It provokes my curiosity; based on my basic idea of foundation loading and subsoil, during my engineering studies, many years back; during which days perhaps the interaction between light loads and coral based soil may not have been so well defined! I wonder if the light bamboo structure built on the beach sand, with shallow bamboo poles acting as frames for these makeshift huts, will really destroy the underlying coral structure on which the island is built!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Christmas hopes

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way- Christmas has returned once again in the midst of heavy snowfall in Europe and chilly, wintry weather in Asia, the day com-

memorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Preparations have also started among the Christian community in Rajshahi, to celebrate this holy occasion.

The Rajshahi city church has been newly painted in shades of red, green and white, the gigantic prayer hall decorated with confetti, flowers, balloons and a miniature Christmas tree.

May Christmas bring festivity, joy and happiness to all household, peace and harmony for the whole world! Sometimes I even wish to sing Christmas carol, indulging in the gaiety and merriment, dressing up in red and white attire like Santa Claus and distribute gifts to children.

Shatabdi Biswas
Student of A Level
Paramount School and College
Rajshahi

Fate of 26 abductees

It has been one month since the pirates have hijacked a Bangladeshi ship. Our govt. remains totally silent about this matter. It seems Bangladesh Navy is not capable of rescuing the 26 crews of that ship. And I think it will be illogical to expect anything from them.

The pirates, reportedly, have demanded Tk. 50 crore as ransom; the govt. should meet their demand immediately. The govt. should not worry about the amount, because it is the taxpayers' money they have to pay.

As we can see, our political

leaders have no interest in this important matter. If we look at other countries, we will see a completely opposite scene. They do everything they can to rescue their fellow citizens. The example of the rescue operation of Chilean miners is still fresh in our memory.

It is hard to believe that our media, except for some renowned newspapers and TV channels, is also silent about this issue. And so, the government is neglecting the issue.

We request our government and Bangladesh Navy to take all the initiatives needed to rescue our citizens from the pirates.

Md. Mahmud
Habibullah Bahar College
Dhaka

Division of DCC in the offing?

Are we going to split DCC into 2-4 parts and have multiple number of mayors in the city accordingly?

Unfortunately, we are always in the habit of creating new problem instead of solving our old and existing problem, which results in spawning more and more problems.

If DCC is divided we may face a number of peculiar and complicated problems and possibly Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Rangpur may move in the same direction. Further, for one excuse or another, RAJUK, WASA, Titas Gas, DESCO and many other

Asthma - not a contagious disease



Unfortunate but true, some people in our society believe that Asthma is a contagious disease! They usually prevents the little children of the family to come in contact with the elderly family members (e.g. grandpa, grandma, etc.) having Asthma for fear that the former might get infected by the latter as Asthma being a contagious disease, of course according to their assessment. In fact, Asthma is neither a contagious (infectious) nor a communicable (transmitted by the patient to healthy person either by direct or by indirect contact) disease. Asthma is actually a disorder of the respiratory air-passage. Many people around the world suffer from Asthma. The actual cause of Asthma is yet to be identified but several factors which include allergies, hereditary connection, environmental elements, etc., are responsible for triggering asthma. For instance, the present changing of weather in our country is triggering asthma in the patients.

Asthma can be triggered by anything ranging from dust, pollen, cigarette smoke, dry air, strenuous exercise to sensitive immune system. The major symptoms of Asthma include shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, headache, mood swings, etc. To keep Asthma under control, the patient needs to learn to recognise the triggers of his/her asthma and what intervention(s) provides him/her relief and comfort. There are many allopathic and herbal treatments available to prevent and control Asthma. A medical practitioner can prescribe an appropriate treatment plan with necessary drugs plus use of inhaler or nebulizer.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Is it impossible?

I have learnt from a local newspaper of 15th December that there are twenty thousand people living under open sky in Dhaka City. 'Coalition for the Urban Poor', an organisation working for this people, provides this information. These people sleep on the pavements, islands and park benches. They can hardly find any abandoned building for passing the night nowadays, though even a decade back, many homeless people could live in the deserted govt. buildings. Now corridors of the market and community centre also remain closed at night with tight security.

We, the city dwellers, are habituated to this. So, it does not hamper our normal life. We can eat, drink and enjoy in our room seeing these people through the window.

Is it an impossible work for all the inhabitants of Dhaka City to bring these twenty thousand people under roof?

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka



SAAD SHAHRIAR / DRINKNEWS

Thanks to DS

On behalf of the people of Chittagong, I want to thank The Daily Star for making it possible for us to get this newspaper early in the morning. It is a very thoughtful step and we appreciate it very much.

Newspapers should play a constructive role in society; we hope they will always serve the people as usual, without fear or favour.

From a leading newspaper like The Daily Star people have high expectations and we have no doubt it will be fulfilled.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Valerie Taylor- our pride

Valerie Ann Taylor, the founder and coordinator of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), received an honorary doctorate degree in Health Sciences from York St John University, UK. This is great news for all the citizens of Bangladesh. She is "the chosen agent and the special child of God" who has been serving the weaker section of our country for the last 40 years.

Though she has already achieved several awards, this particular achievement would definitely give a new dimension to the image of CRP and also Bangladesh. At the same time, it would also serve as a strong source of motivation for all social activists of the country.

Today, to know Bangladesh, one must visit CRP.



EXPECTEDRESULT.CO.UK

I strongly believe that the age is no bar to her. I hope, like Mother Teresa and Florence Nightingale, she too would have a long lifespan, and by dint of will power and love for humanity, she would contribute more to our country and the world at large.

Pradip Das
Lecturer
BHPi