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World Cup ticket conundrum



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

As the excitement begins to reach a crescendo in the coming days leading to the opening game in February 19, there is a growing concern among the general public about the availability of the tickets in time. With the BCB President himself making ambiguous comments about the allocations for ministers and MPs, former national players venting their frustrations quite publicly and justifiably with the way they have been treated over the issue of tickets, the situation is hardly encouraging for the tax-paying, sports-loving individual.

World Cup Cricket 2011 is by far the biggest sporting event the country will host and these early signs naturally beg the question of whether the personnel selected to organise the show are efficient

and worthy of such a huge responsibility. The comical posture of one official, a former high profile footballer, in front of international dignitaries at the count-down show was a glaring indication towards this concern. The subsequent confusion over the tickets has further compounded the misgiving. It gets even worse when rumors become abound that political higher-ups are swinging their muscles for their share of tickets.

One can only hope that good sense with a touch of sincerity and patriotism will prevail where they are needed and the real cricket lovers will not be deprived of eye-witnessing this historic event.

Maisha Maliha, DOHS, Banani, Dhaka

Reasons behind traffic jam

Of late traffic congestion has become an acute problem. The traffic police are introducing new rules frequently for the drivers, but nothing is working. It seems it is not a manageable problem at all. The number of vehicles is not the reason for such traffic jam. I feel it is the traffic management which is at fault. We remember, during the army backed caretaker government the traffic was well managed and there was less traffic jam. This means, people strictly follow the traffic rules under efficient management. In general, Bangladeshis are not a law-abiding nation. Here people get proud in flouting the laws than obeying them.

Traffic rules are there, but none bothers to obey. Most of the drivers of private cars have no valid driving licenses. They compete anywhere at any time to overtake each other and create blockage on the road; they park their cars at any place in the jam-packed area.

Pedestrians' frequent crossing of roads, unguarded railway crossings, occupation of 30% road by the hawkers and pedestrians, shortage of flyovers in the intersections, lack of knowledge of traffic police, bus stoppage at any place are the main reasons behind this situation.

I believe efficient handling of traffic system may bring down 80% of traffic jam in Dhaka. In western countries there is deterrent punishment for traffic rule violators. Traffic jam is not only taking away valuable working hours, it is also burning billions of dollars of imported fuels.

Shafiqul Islam, NY



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

A stubborn lady indeed!

Even the Honourable Prime Minister at times reluctantly admits the failure of the government to carry out the pledges made to the people on different occasions. On the other hand, the Honourable Home Minister is unwilling to admit that law and order is not well in the country when a daring dacoity was committed at the residence of a treasury bench member of the parliament and her landlord. Thanks heaven that she did not blame it on the opposition.

Then again on the following day, probably the homecoming day of Bangabandhu, two dead bodies were found in a pond in between railway tracks and Banani Bus stand. On the same day, two dead bodies of a mother and a son were also discovered at their residence in Farmgate area in the morning. Then in the afternoon, the small investors vandalised vehicles, fought pitch battles with the police, which eventually spread out across the country. The homecoming day of Bangabandhu was mired in such a manner and yet the Honourable Home Minister said the law and order situation was good. She is too stubborn to admit the truth.

Saleh Ayub

On e-mail

Shortage of teachers

The Minister said in a meeting that her government will establish public university in every district. Not very long ago a report was published in a daily that there was shortage of students in Pabna University, established recently. The scenario is almost the same in all the newly established universities. There is not only shortage of students, but also shortage of teachers. Most of the districts have university colleges with shortage of teachers. Many government high schools have no Head teachers, Assistant Head teachers, English, Math and Science teachers.

The government should look into this matter.

Israr Istiaque Isti

On e-mail

President Obama

recites the Beatles

The President of the United States of America Barack Obama recited the lyrics of the Beatles' song "Let it be" in a gospel choir performance. This is for the first time a US President's voice is being incorporated in the Beatles song. The video is now on show on the Web.

The Beatles is an English rock band which has been entertaining the world with their enchanting musical compositions. The Beatles is famous and popular for its creativity plus its stance by peace. Recently the Beatles has undertaken a music project entitled "The Beatles Complete on Ukulele" which would re-create and re-record all its original songs previously recorded. The most special part of this project is inclusion of Ukulele, a Hawaiian guitar-like musical instrument in every song.

The lyrics of 'Let it be' is very touchy. Below I quote some lines from 'Let it be':

"And when the broken hearted people living in the world agree, /
 there will be an answer, let it be. /
 For though they may be parted, there is still a chance they will see, /
 there will be an answer, let it be."

Well done The Beatles! Thank you Barack Obama!

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

Habit of reading

newspapers

Reading newspaper daily is one of the best ways to keep up to date with the ever advancing world. All the important news and events of the world are brought to our doorstep by the newspapers. But reading newspapers have other benefits as well. Reading English daily can enrich the vocabulary of an individual.

Newspapers can also act as a forum for the readers and writers. Thus reading newspapers is a must for young learners. But unfortunately, many students of our country do not have easy access to newspapers.

The educational institutions can offer this opportunity to the students. A few daily newspapers, with at least one English newspaper, can be kept in the library or the common room so that all students can have a look at the dailies whenever they can.

Here, I think the newspaper authorities also have some responsibilities. They can help the institutions with financial constraints by supplying them daily or weekly issues. The Daily Star has already taken such initiatives which are greatly appreciated by this writer. Now, the attention should be turned towards the rural students, as they are in greater need of these facilities than the affluent urban students.

Reading newspapers should be forged into a habit in the academic period because student life is certainly the seed time of life.

Shahriar Kabir
Dept. of EEE, BUET, Dhaka

A teacher's responsibility

Teaching is a noble profession. But it is very pathetic to observe that some teachers do not show any instance of nobility. I have witnessed and learned that in many schools and colleges some teachers use slang words if any student does any mistake. If any student makes any fault they also abuse their parents verbally. This is not acceptable.

A teacher should know his/her responsibility and should also know that every word from a teacher affects the students. There is a saying- "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." Every teacher should follow this.

Md. Nazmus Sakib
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Minimum wage of journalists

I would like to draw attention of the people concerned as to the minimum wage of the probationary journalists. Not all, but most of the newspapers remunerate the probationary journalists at around TK. 3,000- 4,000/-. To my utter surprise, many do not even pay the journalists during the probationary period as I have recently come to know from some of my friends working in the media. Management asks them to work 3-4 months for free and start paying them only upon satisfactory performance at the completion of this period.

Well, I am talking about the people who work around 8 hours a day after completion of their graduation from the universities. In addition, the probationary journalists cannot even enjoy weekly holidays; they are forced to work 30 days a month in the pretext of learning. They do not receive any appointment letter as well, which is an outright violation of labour law, 2006 of the country.

Other benefits, such as gratuity, provident fund, are seldom found in the industry with only a handful of established newspapers offering it to its journalists and other employees.

Initial salary of the journalists was around TK. 3,000- 4,000/- in 2000-2002 periods. When the nation faced almost 300% inflation in the mean time, journalists' initial salary remains the same. However, there is wage board which fixes a salary structure commensurate with the inflation of the country. But, apart from only a few, no other print or electronic media comply with the wage board structure.

Protik Bardhan
On e-mail

We want peace in campus

Recently we witnessed another clash between two groups of Chhatra League, this time not in the campus but on the roads (Prothom Alo, 5th January). We have seen the same occurrences throughout the year 2010. Even in last two years we lost some valuable lives in different clashes. But whenever we ask the MPs to ban student politics, they cite the examples of students' role in 1952. We all know that the situation is very different now.

Our urge to the government -- please don't play with our future, ban student politics at least for the time being as this is getting more and more violent. All we want is peace in campus.

Manas Nag
Rajuk Uttara Model College
 Dhaka

Power-at-all-cost syndrome

Our nation will see the beginning of hard bargains with some parties demanding that elected city/town mayors be thrown out, some others wanting plum portfolios and so on. No party is likely to demand efficient, corrupt-free governance. Who are they? Who wants to think about them for the next five years?

Common people vote a candidate or a party for what it represents or promises. Candidates and political parties should tell the voters who their allies are and seek votes. By waiting for the results and exploring the possibilities of entering into alliances, they commit a fraud on the electorate.

Sometimes, we prefer to elect a candidate on personal merit, regardless of the party ticket. But come results and all ideologies and identities are buried in a heap. The voter is aghast at the power-at-all-cost syndrome.

Gopal Sengupta
 Canada

From Pentagon to Hexagon and beyond!

An interesting and detailed essay on the subject on the total number of US military bases was published in a local English daily on 14th January.

The writer in his essay is not sure of the number of bases 'Uncle Sam' has! From a starting figure of 662 bases, it goes on to the startling figure of 1180 bases, or even more!

The US armed forces has the 'Pentagon'. Leaving aside complex Greek numbers, in plain English we may call it 'Fiveagon' to enable the US military to cover all the four cardinal points of the compass, on land, sea and air; and even beyond! Don't forget the intercontinental ballistic missiles, beyond the atmospheric envelope, and to cover all the file pushing for all this. They actually need a 'Sixagon' to look after the vast under sea mass of water that covers most of our earth's surface; given the depth of waters of the seas and oceans! Sometimes later, not far from now, good old 'Uncle Sam' will need a 'Sevenagon' to have military control over outer space and the planets and galaxies beyond; which may become part of USA's real estate in future! Already land is being purchased by US speculators in the moon and Mars, and planets beyond! So why worry about more than 2000 or say even 20000 military bases that 'Uncle Sam' may feel like having on earth!

Despite all the lip service to peace and democracy, those who matter in governing USA, know and firmly believe in the age old maxim: 'might is right'.

S.A. Mansoor
 Dhaka

Utilising the golden fibre



TANVIR AHMED / DRINKNEWS

Nowadays we see that poly bags are used everywhere. Even if it is banned, thousands of poly bags are made every day. It has serious effects on our environment. On the other hand, a jute bag can replace more than 300 conventional poly bags in its lifetime! It will help our environment a lot! It is economical and durable. Items made from jute fabric include fashion apparel, soft luggage, carpet backing and bags or sacks for packing.

Though apparently cheap, synthetic substitutes of jute have immense environmental hazards. The world has gradually started to realise this. In addition, jute plant releases

oxygen and enriches soil with nitrogen & organic matters. Jute is 100% bio-degradable, recyclable and environment friendly. Jute stem a substitute of wood can save our valuable forests. Besides, jute is the cheapest natural fibre.

Farmers are losing interest in growing jute because of low profit. If they are made aware that so many things can be made from jute, they will happily cultivate jute. The government should adopt a marketing policy to revive jute sector.
Shafeen Mahmood
Little Jewels School
 Chittagong