

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.

How long should we wait?

We have been listening the news of Padma Bridge construction from our communications minister for last one and half year. Thanks to the government that World Bank, ADB, Japan and Islamic Development Bank has confirmed their commitments of funding the mega project. Some donors have already released funds to expedite the construction of this mega project.

According to Ministry of Communication last year the construction work of this mega project was scheduled to start in February later on again the Communication Minister informed that it will start in March. Of late it is heard from the Minister that it would start in July 2011. Even the Finance Ministry has assured in last December that the funding of the project by World Bank has been cleared and now what impediments are there to start the construction of the bridge? I would request our communication minister to let us know the exact time when actually you can start the construction work of Padma Bridge? I believe the minister will clear all doubts and fear from our minds.

Syed Shahid Hossain
Regensea Lines Ltd
HR Bhaban, Kakrail
Dhaka

A lesson from South Korea

I congratulate South Korean administration and specially its Navy who rescued their citizens from Somali Pirates by killing/capturing them from Indian Ocean last week from where only a few weeks back our sailors and the ship have been forcibly taken hostage without any resistance from our navy or our friendly neighbor's navy. We should be ashamed of ourselves. Even a properly channeled request from us to Indian Navy could have helped us. We must learn a lesson from South Korea. Shouldn't we!

Mohammed Alauddin
Green Road, Dhaka

ACC man caught red-handed!

With a view to "relentlessly combat, control, suppress and prevent corruption" the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) was formed in 2004 through an act. Alas! Assistant director of the ACC has been caught red-handed while taking bribe from a garment factory owner! We are accustomed to such cases, but when a high-ranked official of an institution assigned for alleviating corruption engages him in corruption it sounds terrible. The govt. must ensure exemplary punishment so that the ACC and country's positive image are not tainted.

Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir
Dept. of Business Administration
Shahjalal University of Science
and Technology, Sylhet



Leasing land abroad for farming!

A very interesting front page lead report on the innovative government idea of leasing land in Cambodia was published in a local daily on January 23; since the idea of farming rice overseas is a novel proposition. The viability of this process of getting rice will be based upon the total cost of production as well as the landed cost at Bangladesh, for rice harvested in Cambodia! In this case Bangladesh will be the absentee landlord for the rice that will be farmed in Cambodia!

It is a very interesting idea, and needs to be pragmatically looked into, particularly the cost of getting this rice from Cambodia against the cost of importing rice from Cambodia. If it is cost effective; then it is a novel idea that can be implemented.

Reader's views on the matter will be most welcome!

S. A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Lack of opportunities for disabled students

I read exclusive news titled 'students with disabilities face manifold problems at RU' on January 4, 2011 in a national English daily of Bangladesh. I came to know of problems at Rajshahi University faced by the disabled students. There is no residential seat for them. Many Universities have quota system and scholarships for disabled students.

Gas crisis in Bangladesh



In Bangladesh, gas is being used in different purposes. But the whole country is now suffering from gas shortage. Condition in urban areas is worse due to the huge deficit of gas. It is nothing but the nemesis of unscrupulous usage of the resource.

Unauthorized use, illegal license delivery, corruption, poor maintenance and most importantly wastage are the major causes of this nuisance. Only to save a match-stick, the people of urban areas keep the gas burner lighted the whole night. It is a great misuse of resource. The govt. must come forward with utmost sincerity. First of all, the corruption in sector has to be uprooted.

The public awareness about the present condition of gas resource must be arisen on emergence basis. People must come forward to help resolve the matter.

Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir
Dept. of Business
Administration
SUST
Sylhet

PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

Accesses for visually impaired students are inadequate. There's scarcity of Braille book in the library. There is no ramp and lift in RU for physically disabled student that they can move easily. There is also lack of accessible toilet for them. Not only RU, almost all public and private universities should take necessary steps for the disabled students who are facing those problems.

Azmal Hosen Mamun
BPKS, Dakkhinkhan, Uttara, Dhaka

What the Pak soldier told me

When the area bombardment began probably in late November or early December in 1971, our late father, took us to our village home only 30 miles from the capital for security concerns.

It so happened that our village fell on the path of the retreating Pak occupation army on their way back to the capital. When we could see the approaching army, we all decided to flee the village to a safer place. There was an old lady, too old to move, so she stayed behind. We all thought, we would find her alive when we come back.

The war over, we got back to our village and to our astonishment we found the old lady hale and hearty. We wanted to know how the Pak army dealt with her. She plainly replied, seeing her old and frail, they behaved well with her and wanted some thing to eat and she offered them whatever was there, thereafter they left.

The long gone old lady also said, while leaving a Pak army said: It is very unfortunate that we could not live together in peace, let's see how you do with the Indians while we are gone. All I can do is to regret the sad incidents that are happening every now and then at our borders.

Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

BCS Cadre

31st BCS cadre recruitment examination schedule has been published few days ago. I am a candidate for this examination. For general cadre there are 600 seats available. I am waiting for this exam eagerly but 55% cadre will be selected according to quota. I am not included in this quota. Only 45% is remaining for us. In this era of unemployment, isn't this absurd? At least the authority should lower this percentage. Otherwise, government sector will be short of meritorious hands.

M. A. Faruki
Indira Road, Dhaka

Finance Minister should answer

Since last few weeks stock market has been an unavoidable topic of discussion in everywhere all over the country. The disaster created acute panic among investors whereas few

months ago stock market was considered by the govt. as a fertile one to invest. We experienced the same problem in 1996 too. Who can assure there won't be a third one in future as govt. has failed to assign a probe committee as quickly as it should have?

But the worrying factor is both in 1996 and 2011 the stock market debacle took place during AL rule with two veteran Finance Ministers: SAMS Kibria and AMA Muhit. There is no denying the fact that responsibilities lies with the finance ministers.

Do we expect big disaster from big persons? And how will AL defend themselves and their two ministers from this unexpected (or pre-planned!) famine in stock market?
Harun Md. Shahed Bin Naim
EMBA, Eastern University
Kalabagan, Dhaka

Frequent tragedies at Ship Breaking Yard

Frequent loss of lives at ship breaking yards has raised our concern over inadequate safety gears and the risk the workers are enduring. Recently four workers died in a massive explosion while thirty others died in last twenty-one months in similar accidents at ship breaking yard. Despite the rise of the death toll, financial compensation is not properly made to the family members of the deceased workers.

Day labourers, working in the ship scrapping industry, generally come of a poor family. If the worker dies, his family will lose their expense bearer and have to starve. Considering the struggle of their family, the government should oblige the owners to make sufficient financial compensation. Moreover, vigilance team should be formed to verify precaution measures on a regular basis at the industry. Only then a hazard free atmosphere for ship breaking can be created.

Tashrif Billah
Dept. of EEE
BUET

Dishonouring the Nobel Laureate

With reference to your article "The New York Times Exclusive - Microcredit pioneer faces Inquiry" by Lydia Polgreen printed on 1 February 2011, it is shocking that Mr. Mozammel Huq could say such a thing about Prof. Yunus. He was only able to get to where he is in the organization due to the founder. I do not think it is fit for him to comment on this issue. Everyone knows the circumstances in which he left the organization. He should be careful what he says so that history does not become public.

Anonymous
Dhaka

Hats off to the Daily Star!

Thanks to The Daily Star for inviting us all to the Folk Music Festival titled "Matir Pinjira" that was held on January 28. I enjoyed much as audience and also participated as an artiste in that programme. I am amazed "The Daily Star" takes the responsibility of representing our opulent folk cultures that reminds of our own roots. It is definitely a sincere effort of the newspaper that showed a great love for our culture.

It is worth mentioning that many programmes are presented and patronized by some big organisations of our country; but most of those do not focus our own culture. They remain indifferent to our culture. My humble request would be project our culture widely at home and abroad. Thanks to the Daily Star family.
Akramul Islam (A music artiste)



READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star report headlined "Lowest bidder lost race".

Salam
A person cannot be in charge of the Power Ministry and bid for projects under the same ministry. I assume the term 'conflict of interest' does not apply in Bangladesh.

Khondkar A Saque
For the sake of accountability and transparency Communication minister and Commerce minister must remain clear of their business links of the family owned SAHCO and Summit Group. In recent times SAHCO represented Chinese Companies is allegedly manipulating contracts of all major works in communication and other sectors and Summit Group is dominating power sector. The DS must remain fair and honest in reporting. It favours issues related with a particular group while criticising others.

Anisur Rahman
Enough is enough! He must quit and be punished.

Rezina
How will Sahco groups Minister Abul Hossain fund the AL and its leader if he does not get business ignoring the principle of his conflict of interest? Why else the PM defends him? Good to remember that this is not the last government in the country-there will be a next government who will scrutinize these shady deals of Sahco and Summit groups.

Uttam
A country can never stand on its feet if meritocracy and fair judgment curve and manipulated by muscle power and privilege seeking evil minded people. Disqualified people are the worst enemy to destroy a country even they are in power a single hour. It is our irony of fate that many less qualified and inexperienced people are leading our poor country and dragging it to the door of miseries.

Jalal
Communication minister is handling his business better than the communication ministry, that's why communication system is in disarray.

Sheikh Monirul Islam Opee
So, corruptions are surfacing and we cannot possibly claim that it is not happening within the AL stalwarts; not so surprising, but interesting. It will be more interesting to see how the PM reacts to all these revealing as she often claims that her party-men are not touched by corrupt practices like previous political regime. We are very sad that our politicians were never above it.

Abul Kalam
Mr. Abul Hossain is enough to destroy the image of the PM. The PM should be careful about Mr. Abul Hossain if she wants to remain clean. The PM's support for Mr. Abul Hossain is under public camera. People is the ultimate power to keep AL in power. The PM should not misread public sentiments.

Kazi Ahmed
Shame to Abul. Shame to Awami League. Shame to the PM. How then they dream of eradicating corruption?

Dr Karim
So we are going to make digital Bangladesh with these stakeholders without transparency and answerability. Can we get a royal commission or JS body for these kinds of financial transactions at the expense of taxpayer's money? If DS reporter is wrong why Mr Abul Hossain doesn't challenge strongly??? We ask and thank DS reporters for digging in further.

Nrb
Informative article.

Anonymous
Only thing the minister seems to care about is bidding for power and construction projects.