

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.



Bravo Bangladesh!



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh Cricket team has won the most crucial and nerve-wrecking match against Ireland and the outcome of the match offered us the much needed sigh of relief, anxiety and gave us the much coveted mental satisfaction. This match probably was the best ever exciting and well fought match Bangladesh has played so far. Now I have few suggestions to Bangladesh team which are; you start very well it is like a dynamite but what happens to you in a span of few overs you layoff like dominos. Please keep your tempo as well as your poise firm and have your

patience solid, because you are our heroes, our pride and prestige of our country. So, keep the responsibilities that we put on you and you must carry on the job with due care and determination. We all know that you boys can beat any team if you play the way you played with Ireland. Lastly, thanks to all the members of our Cricket team and wishing you good luck.

Humayun Hyder
Zikatola
Dhaka

Official mascot of the World Cup 2011

Stumpy is the certified mascot for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011. He was revealed at a gathering in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 2nd April 2010. He is a ten year old elephant who is wholehearted and is strong-minded. Cricket followers all over the world were able to take part in a competition to name the mascot.

However, the official name of the mascot was released on 2nd August 2010 following an online contest carried out by the International Cricket Council in the last week of July, 2010. Finally, it was unveiled by renowned players like Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Kumar Sangakkara with 200 days to go for the World Cup. We, the Bangladeshi cricket lovers, expect the World Cup to be thrilling. Furthermore, as a host, we want to invite all to work for peace, prosperity and harmony of the entire mankind. The official mascot of the ICC Cricket World Cup 'Stumpy' is, therefore, the symbol of our fine motto 'Enhancing harmony among countries and building a superior planet collectively.'

Shohag Mostafij
University of Dhaka

Awami League's rule

Traditionally, whenever Awami League came to power, the Bangladesh economy experienced great setbacks. Since independence it has been observed that during the regime of AL, peoples' sufferings increased. Immediately after the independence, the great famine caught the nation. In 1996 the biggest ever share market debacle happened. In 2011 again the 1996 episode is going to be repeated. The Forex reserve, after a long period has gone deficit. All these prove that all has been set to make the country a bottomless basket again.

Kazi Ahmed, Toronto, Canada

Stop CNG for private vehicles

Further to Alam's views published in your pages on 14th February; in my opinion, CNG should not be supplied to any vehicle apart from public and cargo transport (bus & trucks) vehicles. Cars are owned by well-to-do people, and they should use only petrol or octane. The same logic is applicable for taxi-cabs, which are used by the better-off people also. Compressed Natural Gas should not be supplied to any private motor vehicle. Logically, natural gas price should be raised step by step, so that the price on unit BTU basis is a par with coal.

Talking about coal; the mining and commercial sale of coal in open market should be our topmost national priority. The hue and cry, raised by the environmental lobby and all other groups, should be ignored in our overall national priority for energy independence! We must use coal for the generation of power and energy provided to all prime-movers and other equipment in use.

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Trees are treasures!

Trees are essential to living, without these, the environmental balance would collapse and the effect would be drastic. Recently at regular intervals, news of cutting down huge number of trees is reaching us. Thirty thousand Jhau trees at Teknaf beach, four hundred trees around international airport in Dhaka, four thousand trees in Srimongol, the list will go on and on. A few days ago, Dhaka University authorities decided to cut down the hundred year old trees in front of Salimullah Muslim Hall, we just cannot believe it. Not only did these trees give shade, sheltered birds and lots of other small creatures, they were witness to many historical events. Those ancient trees were entitled to have special attention, but what a dismal fate waited for them, how unfortunate and disappointing! It takes many years for the saplings to become full grown trees; it is painful to see those razed to the ground in a moment. We urge the government to give special attention to this matter, stop unnecessary cutting of trees, plant more trees and encourage people to do so.

Nur Jahan
Creator? No, it is us, the human beings, we are responsible for this. You may ask how? The rudimentary method of cleanliness and other man made factors are responsible for spreading dust into the air. The way we sweep our streets and other places with brooms, spreads dust into the air containing many a harmful dust mites which gradually settles onto the leaves of the trees and grass all around us. I wonder why the Department of Environment (DoE) is so indifferent towards this situation. The government should immediately consider putting into service the necessary number of vacuum cleaning trucks for the purpose of cleaning the streets and ensure an environment friendly atmosphere.

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Let greens be green

Who is to be blamed for this? The Nature? The Creator? No, it is us, the human beings, we are responsible for this. You may ask how? The rudimentary method of cleanliness and other man made factors are responsible for spreading dust into the air. The way we sweep our streets and other places with brooms, spreads dust into the air containing many a harmful dust mites which gradually settles onto the leaves of the trees and grass all around us. I wonder why the Department of Environment (DoE) is so indifferent towards this situation. The government should immediately consider putting into service the necessary number of vacuum cleaning trucks for the purpose of cleaning the streets and ensure an environment friendly atmosphere.

Nigar Chowdhury, On e-mail

Celebrating victory in an uncanny way

Bangladesh's win against Ireland gave the whole nation something to go crazy about. After the breathtaking finish, the whole country burst out in jubilation and people from all part of the city started celebrating this victory in their own way, but there is always a flip side of the coin; some people in the name of celebration created havoc amongst cricket loving people.

They barricaded Satmasjid road, lit fire, which looked quite dangerous and created serious traffic congestion at around 10:30 pm causing intolerable problem to the commuters. I would like to request those elated fans, like them we also love our cricket team but they should not do anything that might ruin the reputation of cricket and cause suffering to homebound people.

Badal Hasib
SIBT, Sylhet

Stop this killing!

The death of a minor boy saw massive violence throughout the Dhaka-Aricha highway recently. The angry mass vandalised a huge number of vehicles. The general public had to suffer due to traffic jam. I do not understand who should be blamed for this situation. One after another, accident is taking place, but no action is being taken. Till now, we did not hear that any driver was penalised for his wrong-doing. The minor boy was the son of a school teacher named A K M Nizam Uddin. Nothing would be able to console him. We could not spare even a minor boy!

Even a blind man knows how risky Savar-Aricha highway is. But we hardly took any step. This is high time to build as many speed breakers as possible in this zone. It is also the high time for every conscious citizen to raise their voice against road traffic accident.

Pradip Das
Lecturer, BHPI, CRP

Sports reporting in The Daily Star

I am a reader of your esteemed daily since its inception. I am not very happy about the recent change you made in the layout of the newspaper. I am a keen follower of sports and I find it difficult these days to read the sports pages.

Previously, it was a 4-page pull-out section, which was very convenient to read for most of the readers including me. But now the sports pages are merged with the main pages. If you look at the Times/ Telegraph newspapers of UK, on which The Daily Star is modelled, you would find that the sports is totally a separate section.

I would earnestly request you to go back to your original format of a 4-page pull-out section for the sports.

Sharifuzzaman Choudhury
New DOHS, Mohakhali
Dhaka

Vaccinate people against pandemic viruses

As with any infectious disease, the best way to protect people is to vaccinate them against it. This becomes all the more important when a pandemic flu virus against which a few people have any immunity spreads easily in communities and countries around the world. "Since the spread of the pandemic virus is considered unstoppable, vaccine will be needed in all countries," observed a World Health Organisation (WHO) advisory group of experts on immunisation.

Assuming that only limited quantities of the vaccine will be available, the government must decide which categories of people should be given priority. The WHO advisory group has, for instance, recommended that health-care workers should be given first priority.

Pregnant women, children and primary school teachers form a vulnerable group who risk developing severe illness; they too should be given preference. It is time for the government to look at hard options and get proactive.

Avik Sengupta
Dhaka Medical College
Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "Only people's graft to be under watch."

Saleh-Rahim Ahmed

What a shameful law designed and prepared by the bureaucrats.

NRB

This gross misuse of power and apathy towards people's rightit's not unfathomable that our unfinished revolution will someday come back again in the form of a violent revolution.

Shahriar Hasan

In other words, none of the big thieves can be touched. Great!!!

Shamim H

They say, when you are at the top, the only place to go is - down!! It is shameful.

Engr. Nizam Uddin

An appeal to PM, please stop discrimination even in corruption cases. We don't expect this from you.

Shamim

I don't know why we should pay tax to run ACC. Just disband it. It's completely anti-people,

Akkas

Is it not contradictory to Awami league's 26-point election declaration where they said that they will curb corruption? May be it will help to enhance corruption.

Rabbi

Public servants and policy maker want to make sure no one else can grab the money from the country. They want whole of it. We are living in Hirok Rajar Deshe.

William Kerry Daring

AL's commitment was the ACC will be free. But now in reality it is going to be a dependent agency. We will hope honorable PM will see this and take initiative to establish a model ACC.

Md. Abdullah

As if present Awami Government will check their misdeed! Why were they telling lie in election pledge? Are they cheating with people?

Wind Peace

Prime Minister and our leader of the opposition, one day the mass people of the country will over throw you out from the power. Yes, we need a big revolution. Before that we have to find out an honest and moral leader who will lead us like our liberation war in 1971.

Khairul Ramzan

We all know where we stand as far as corruption goes in Bangladesh. People aren't living in the Dark Age any more. Who will be watching these big fish when the judicial system is not independent and where is the opposition party now, no comments right, because this may help them in future?

KM

This is the last nail in the coffin of ACC. The whole idea of having an anti-corruption body is about prevention of corruption by people holding public office. If public servants (or representatives), President to union Parishad members kept outside the ACC's jurisdiction, then it is completely meaningless to have an ACC at all. Bangladesh is doomed.

Sheikh Monirul Islam Opee

We shall do our part in that case. If the lawmakers think that this country belongs to them and they can simply get away whatever they are doing, they are wrong. They must understand that there is change in the air. If they keep their ear open and watch what is going around, there are reasons to be terrified. Some of them may flee the country, go to Canada, Australia, Europe & America; but we shall get them back here one day including the wealth they have stolen from people. This includes those scrupulous businessmen who are having their palace overseas and enjoying the best of life with all those amenities. Preparing a list will not be difficult.

Re-designed rickshaws

While commiserating with Angela Robinson for her bloodied knee, I can only join her in the wilderness in her plea for a re-designed rickshaw. I had given some ideas in a letter some months ago, while those of Angela are even more practical. How can we dig out her disgusted Bangladeshi engineer who came up with a prototype in vain?

Here are some more ideas: 1) Offer handsome prizes (BUET, Workshops etc) for a practical and safer prototype which can use existing rickshaws with the least modifications, 2) This will involve lowering the centre of gravity, 2 or 3 gears to ease the pullers' job, explore solar/battery power, 3) Use Angela's 'carrot and stick' policy to implement, 4) Finance the Dhaka rickshaws first with about Tk. 5 crores out of the 50,000 crore "white elephant" new airport, 5) Let them roam freely, so more people can use them, 6) We can even name them "Bangabandhu Rickshaws".

In the midst of all the grandiose projects flying about, one thing is clear. Rickshaws will be even more indispensable in the next decades because the number of Gas Guzzling Monstrosities plying, parking, running empty, etc will multiply so that they will stand still on the roads, if they dare venture out. I too confess to having a love-love affair with rickshaws for the last 61 years, with just one mishap recently when my rickshawala was first blinded and then blasted from the wrong side by a GGM. The cost a week in hospital and 4 in plaster!

Sikander Ahmed