

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.

# It's time to help Egypt



PHOTO: AFP

After eighteen days of protest against Hosni Mubarak to step down, he finally resigned. A speaker made the announcement in Cairo's Tahrir Square where hundreds of thousands of people broke down in tears, joys, hugged each other and celebrated. This whole situation has stood to be an example to the world about how people can fight for their rights. Throughout these eight-

teen days of unrest, thousands of people died and were injured but still they protested for democracy and betterment of Egypt. Protests have affected their economy greatly. It's time for the countries around the world to help Egypt.  
**Choudhury Tasnim**  
On e-mail

## And I failed to attend .....

I bought a ticket of the Agnibina Express two days before my journey to Jamalpur from Dhaka and eagerly waited for a pleasant train journey.

On the scheduled day I reached Kamalapur Railway Station a bit earlier. The train was scheduled to start at 9.30 am. I went to a room seeing the signboard "Inquiry" and asked a person sitting there the platform number where the Agnibina Express was waiting. The man reluctantly advised me to ask others. At last I found my train standing on the platform by asking the newspaper-hawkers. But was I told that engine is yet to connect with the rest of the compartments. After boarding the train I found that my seat was defective. I sat keeping my body erect and stiff. I finished reading a whole newspaper including the advertisements published in it when at last the engine was connected to the carriages at 12:30 pm. And the train started moving at 1pm. It stopped on the way several times for unknown reasons. I reached Jamalpur at night and I failed to attend the meeting.

**Mobarak Ali**  
RK Mission Road  
Gopibagh  
Dhaka

## How do we express shame?

Currently, I along with my only son have been visiting Bangladesh. We have no words to express our sense of shame at what happened in the country during the last two weeks. That politicians can stoop so low as to indulge in a free and uninhibited use of obscene language and extremely objectionable gestures is something no one in any country can imagine. The nation expects a lot from them. Millions of people elected them and they cannot accept the behaviours some lawmakers displayed and the language they used beginning from Ariel Beel issue to ICC

World Cup, stock market scam to countrywide strike and many more. Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed. It is true that you may fool all the people for some time, you can even fool some people all the time; but you can't fool all the people all the time.

For God's sake, please act in such a way so that the parliament can be effective and people's desire is fulfilled.

**Gopal Sengupta**  
Dhaka

## False autopsy report

It was very sad and unexpected news. We all know that in Shariatpur a girl named Hena who was raped by a relative died later after being whipped. But the first post-mortem report found no injury marks on her body! From this we have again learnt how corrupt were the medical and police personnel in this case.

**Mottalib Hossain Badhon**  
Law & Justice Dept.  
Rajshahi University

## A good editorial

The editorial of February 9, 2011 titled "BNP blamed for prices and shares chaos" is a piece of wise reflection. The editorial rightly said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks "are not only shockingly surprising, but also a clear hint that the government is looking for scapegoats to pin blame over the issues."

People are really astonished by the remarks of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. How could she say such preposterous things? By such remarks she is demeaning herself. In future we hope she will refrain from making such remarks.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## War against smoking

The war against cigarette may be heating up, but a victory for all those out to rid this planet of this addiction is not going to come easily. A strong and determined tobacco industry is in no mood to give up the fight.

The World Health Organisation says in a report that "Philip Morris and others are engaged in systematic efforts to undermine and subvert its campaign. The attempted subversion has been elaborate, well-financed, sophisticated and usually invisible." However, the WHO, in a show of amazing grit and vigour, plans to cripple the offending trade by using the report as a weapon to hammer out the first international treaty to curb this menace. A global ban on cigarette advertising is also coming.

In Bangladesh, there are no ready statistics, but even a casual survey will reveal a rising sale of tobacco. High schools and colleges have already turned into fertile grounds for cigarette companies. Some of the government and private institutions have imposed a ban on smoking in public places, but no meaningful implementation is possible without sustained education. For a start, how about a boycott by film stars and sportsmen, whose power to sway attitudes is phenomenal. They can tell their fans that puffing is no longer stylish. On the contrary, it is lethal.

**Avik Sengupta**  
Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka

## Shafiqur and the government!

Pinaki Roy's front page lead news report and the photographs alongside shows the might of influence, that overrules laws and executive orders, even issued by the government! The opinion by a Shyampur resident, that the land (or river) grabber called Shafiqur, just does not care; as he has the government machinery under his thumb! Powerful 'thumbs' indeed!

Poor BIWTA Secretary stated "He (Shafiqur) is a river grabber with friends in every government!" BNP, AL, the 'interim' and the earlier 'martial law' governments; Shafiqur has managed to have them all in his pockets! Deep pockets indeed; that enables him to have many 'Powerful Friends' everywhere! He should author the Bangladeshi version of the famous book: "How to Win Friends and Influence People"! It will be a guaranteed best-seller!

Hats off to Shafiqur! He knows how to make money in Bangladesh; law or no law! He should be a "Business Guru"! Anyone needing help to bypass civil law should consult him. I am sure that for "an appropriate fee" he will be able to solve or get to avoid any law harmlessly passed by any government; civil or military; democratic or dictatorship; Shafiqur has the answer!

**Shafiqur's Fan**  
Dhaka

## A nation with short memory

We always need bumps to recall things, to see things. We are such a nation! We need a market to crash before getting to know that the market is dangerously overheated. We need people to be dead squeezed between buses, stamped under wheels to see those reckless drivers driving city buses. We need kids to be hit in the head and paralyzed by bricks falling from under-construction buildings to see that the constructors are not taking precautionary steps to prevent accidents! However, we do not need anything to forget all these in no time! We were shocked to see our government's bizarre attempt to grab huge area of cultivable lands, evict inhabitants from their homes to build "Airport" when we are facing food scarcity. In Cox's Bazar, those speedboats are dangerously being driven in the shore packed with hundreds of bathing tourists. Any day we would hear somebody is injured or dead having been hit by one of those boats. Then again, we will take steps to repel them off the shore, not before that. After a while they will come back again.

**Arafath Shahriar**  
Uttara, Dhaka

## Ban fatwa

A day labourer's 14-year-old daughter Hena was whipped to death after being raped recently following a fatwa passed by the Imam of a local mosque in Shariatpur. In the post-mortem report prepared by Shariatpur Sadar Hospital there was no mention of any injury marks on Hena's body. But a fresh post-mortem found severe injury marks on her body. A report was submitted to the High Court in which a huge difference between the two post-mortem reports was found. Receiving the report the HC has directed the authorities concerned to take action against them who were involved in preparing the first post-mortem report. We are grateful to the high court for this. According to the direction of the high court, the government and the authorities concerned should come forward to make people aware and take action against such unlawful fatwa.

**Md. Iqbal Hossain**  
Shankar, Dhaka

# A beautiful example of communal harmony



K M ASAD / DRINKNEWS

Saraswati Puja, another major celebratory event of the Hindu community apart from Durga Puja, this year took place on 8th February. Saraswati, a goddess of heavenly beauty who punishes demonic Asurs with the power of knowledge and music, is depicted to have a bina- a musical instrument- in one hand, and books on the other. Saraswati is believed to bring blessings for those who journey on the holy path of education, subduing all forms of distractions and disturbances.

Here in Rajshahi, this occasion is celebrated with due fervour every year by the Rajshahi Railway Office authorities. I saw women hurrying past to distribute food to the poor and destitute,

the Brahmin chanting mantras, offering flowers, to the goddess. I was amazed by catching a slight glimpse of Ma Saraswati, it was as if the idol with her deep black eyes, starred with bristly black lashes, adorned with a white sari and jewellery, had come alive, so real it seemed to me that I was submerged in a trance for a few seconds.

The organisers informed me that this event is funded by people irrespective of caste, creed or religion- a beautiful example of communal harmony and peace. After all, that is what the Vedas says- "The greatest truth surpassing everything is this human race."  
**Shatabdi Biswas, Rajshahi**

# We miss the 'Narail Express'

After losing to India the whole nation was upset. Even if the batting was good we could not reach the target. It all happened only because the bowlers did not give their best. How could the Indians score 370? It only happened because Mashrafe was not there! He has the heart of a real tiger. This all-rounder had a great contribution in beating India last time and was also the Man of the Match then. The whole nation, especially our captain will now miss the bowling of Mashrafe. Injured Mashrafe could play better than the other bowlers. We miss the 'Narail Express'!

**Shafeen Mahmood**  
Little Jewels School  
Chittagong



PHOTO: STAR

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Grameen bins Muhith claims".

### Golam Mostafa

We should listen to Dr Yunus. I hope most of our people also think in the same way. World is observing.

### Anne Adhikary

Is Mr Muhith an honourable man and does he speak the truth? Prof Yunus' hand-written letter and Mr Muhith's clear and loud statements in the media about the Grameen episode does not confirm it.

### A Bangalee

On the basis of this report, Muhith should resign from his position of minister. We need a minister with a character and integrity.

### Anonymous

How can Mr Muhith answer to the countrymen about his conduct in Dr Yunus' case?

### Mohamed Basher

Awami League has been doing all these heinous acts only because most of the leaders are jealous of the world-wide reputation and goodwill of Dr Yunus; I think people of Bangladesh will sooner or later hate and reject these types of leaders. In practice, these leaders do speak of democracy but had never practiced it inside their family, party and the country as a whole.

### Kazi Ahmed

It seems the Finance Minister cannot handle anything properly because of 'age' factor. He mishandled the stock market issue and later admitted his 'mistakes'. I think he will again admit his 'mistakes' in the case of Prof Yunus and resign from his post for making so many 'mistakes'.

### Anonymous

It is useless to discuss and argue about the Grameen Bank and Dr Yunus.

### Dr Islam

The explanation given by our Finance Minister was not at all convincing to the foreign diplomats and millions of people of Bangladesh. It created a negative image of our nation globally. We strongly believe there is some very highly experienced leaders who would realise that the issue was handled very poorly. It will no doubt affect the popularity of AL in the subsequent election.

### Anonymous

The Finance Minister should not be embarrassed any further. He himself is 10 years older than Prof Yunus. He is still recovering from the blames of stock market debacle. And now this letter and the Grameen Bank issue may be too much for his health.

### Khondkar Abdus Saleque

We must be careful to protect dignity and honour of a great Bangladeshi personality. Bangladesh's image will be tarnished internationally. PM must step in before it is too late to honourably resolve the matter.

### N Khan

I hope Dr Yunus will take action. It is high time that the morally bankrupt politicians of our country are shown the door, and no one is in a better position than Dr Yunus to lead us in this venture. Intellectuals of our country may be too much of a coward to join you on this venture, Dr Yunus. But remember that the young educated section of the society and millions of poor people are all by your side.

### EB

Our Finance Minister should resign from his position. He could not duly perform his responsibility as a minister. He and his government have done great harm to our country.

### Opee Monir

Basically, our Finance Minister is issuing statements which are highly contradictory and far away from the truth. What is the real motive is unknown to all of us. We are really in dark.