

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 150 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

What a contrasting game!

Bangladesh Cricket Team's precarious defeat at the hands of the West Indies team still haunts many. Our faces dipped in shame at the performance of our team. We all saw in awe the performance of West Indies and felt that they are just invincible. But the Pakistan Cricket Team proved us wrong. In the first quarter-final match, Pakistan not only bowled West Indies out in 43.3 overs for only 112 runs but also defeated them by 10 wickets in just 20.5 overs and set a record in the history of the world cup cricket. Pakistan still retains many veterans in the team. But we find veterans' absent in our team. Our cricket authorities should consider this point with due importance.

Humayun Hyder
Zikatola, Dhaka

Ungrateful Pakistan team

Pakistan played their quarter-final match against West Indies and came out with flying colours. Bangladeshi cricket fans went to watch the match and most of them cheered for Pakistan team all through the match. What hurt us most came at the end, when Pakistani cricketers were being interviewed by Ramiz Raza, where none of them thanked Bangladeshi crowd, instead they thanked people coming from Pakistan. They should learn the basic manner of thanking the local crowd who were cheering for them. Earlier, when Wasim Akram was the captain, he never forgot to thank the local crowd, and even when they lost to Bangladesh in the 1999 World Cup, he said in an interview that Pakistan had lost to their brothers. Shahid Afridi and his team should learn some manners from the great cricketers.

Badal Hasib
SIBT

Indian Rupee and Bangladeshi Taka

Almost daily we come to know the exchange rates of Bangladeshi Taka with many foreign currencies through our TV, radio and national newspapers.

But unfortunately, we never learn about the exchange rate of Indian Rupee with Bangladeshi Taka. Would our authorities concerned kindly let us know this for our information and also for the interest of our trade and commerce.

Access to Inani Beach



FLICKR.COM

On 1st. March a local daily published a full page photograph which depicted the pristine beach at Inani, 15 kilometres from Cox's Bazar, which is overcrowded during holiday season. The advice to visit this beach, free from any crowd was indeed welcome news! However, walking up and down covering 30 kilometres to go and return along the beach from Cox's Bazar will be very tiresome for

most, especially for those over 50. It would have been most useful and very informative, if there was information for readers giving the direction and access to the location from a motor able road, and the nearest place where reasonably good board and lodging could be available; so that tourists can enjoy the beauty of this delightful beach.

S.A. Mansoor, Dhaka

Keep the city clean

Now Dhaka city is decorated with colourful lights and it has attracted many city dwellers. People are travelling to Dhaka from different places only to see the beauty. But to add to the beauty we should also keep it clean. It is a common sight that people throw plastic bottles and rubbish on the road which can cause severe accidents any time. The government should place dustbins alongside the roads, in parks and every

public place. This rubbish can be recycled. This is the proper time for the city people to show their responsibility towards the country. We have to start the process ourselves and show the path to others, rather than waiting for others to start, because it is our own country.

Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman
Student of A level
Glare institute



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Is media taking a turn?

There was a time when the media acted as a watchdog of democracy. Today, true journalism has become a rarity. The media have a significant role in formulating public opinion. But they ignore people's issues such as poverty, corruption, and raging communalism. From the television news channels and other media, we come to know more about Hollywood stars and their luxurious spending than about the decline in agriculture, migration of labour and growing poverty among the rural masses. If the fourth estate has lost its exalted position, it is because of a paradigm shift in the priorities of reporting, driven by corporate interests. Both the print and the visual media are giving a go-by to journalistic ethics and all that matters is sensationalism.

Gopal Sengupta
Canada

Cease smoking by laser!

A Saudi anti-smoking charity organisation 'Purity' has launched a campaign inspiring smokers to quit their habit within 30 minutes. How is this possible? Yes, this is possible through application of cold laser beam. A laser device is used to generate a 'feel-good' like chemical called endorphins in smoker which is generally produced by nicotine in cigarettes. Endorphins calm and relax the body to reduce nicotine

craving towards cessation of smoking habit. The laser treatment is a little expensive but I am sure if introduced by charity/philanthropic organisations or hospitals (in lower rate), many smokers in Bangladesh will be interested to avail of the facility to get rid of their smoking habit.

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

We are in need of wise men

Winston Churchill once called Gandhi 'a naked fakir'; it did not diminish Gandhi's greatness a bit. Those people who are calling Dr. Yunus 'blood sucker' only have showed their own ignorance. In the 'Puranas' there is a famous story. When a benevolent king died, God appeared before him to give him a boon. But God had one condition; if the king decides to go to the heaven he will be given 100 idiots to accompany him; on the other hand, if he chooses to go to the hell, he will be given 10 wise men to accompany him. The king thought for a moment and then replied, 'Almighty, if I take 100 idiots with me to the heaven, the heaven will turn into a hell for me; but if I take 10 wise men with me to the hell, they will make the hell a heaven for me'. This simple story tells us why we are unable to make our country a 'Sonar Bangla'.

M. Hassan Nawaz
Wilmington
United States of America

Notice

Dear readers,
We appreciate greatly your contributions to this page. In order to give more space to our valued readers we request you to please restrict your letters / comments / opinions to a maximum of 150 words.
--- Editor

What a foreign ministry!

The Awami League government is virtually failing in every aspect of governance. While all other countries are showing deep concern for their nationals, what is our foreign ministry doing? The relatives of the stranded Bangladeshis were bound to form a human chain to force the government to act! Foreign Minister Dipu Moni while discussing with the reporters only referred to 'their' source of information, whereas the relatives of the stranded Bangladeshis were referring to the direct telephone talks with their near and dear ones. If the foreign ministry cannot do anything for their nationals, at least they can give right information regarding what is happening to them!

Kazi Ahmed, Toronto, Canada

Ban this nonsense

One should travel in buses to understand the torture the passengers undergo when cassettes are played loudly. When music turns into cacophony, it is unbearable. A similar ban should be imposed on hi-fi music systems in all city buses. Blaring music causes irritation not only to the passengers but also to other road users. The disturbance caused by noise pollution is more pronounced in places where hospitals and clinics are situated in the vicinity of marriage halls, student hostels. It is also time to ban loud talk by people on cell phones on balconies of residential complexes without any consideration for the neighbours. What about those who take out processions on the streets and chant slogans? That no one presented this aspect of noise pollution to the court is an opportunity lost.

Avik Sengupta
Dhaka Medical College

Farmers - the real heroes

Bangladesh is a land of villages. Most people of these villages are farmers. They are the real patriots who contribute a lot to our economy. Without their tremendous labour it would be impossible for us to exist in this planet.

But do the nation and the govt. do anything for their future? We should not forget these heroes, because they are the people who make the barren fields green and keep us alive.

Sajal Chowdhury, Lecturer
Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET)

Stop bikes on footpaths

I would like to express my gratitude to Rizwanuzzaman Laskar for his reporting on reckless riding of motorcycles even on footpaths in Dhaka on 28th February. It is also true that the reckless drivers do not even bother about the reports in newspapers. When someone runs a motor bike, he is seen considering himself the only important person. These bikers cause a lot of sufferings to the pedestrians. This insensitive practice is prevailing in all cities of Bangladesh including Chittagong. I myself once fell victim, when the biker defied the traffic signal, injured me and fled the scene. Will the government do anything about this?

Nurul Aziz
Chittagong

Make abortion safe

Experts say, in Bangladesh one third of the pregnancies are either unwanted or unplanned. But attempt to get free from unwanted pregnancies carry potential threats for infection and long-term problems, if done in an unhygienic and unsafe way.

Currently in Bangladesh there are some good facilities in the cities with the government and the NGOs' supports; but in remote areas, there is no safe abortion care centre. According to a recent study, annually in Bangladesh about 7-8 lakh abortions take place and one patient in twenty needs hospitalisation for subsequent problems. 75% of these complications are due to unsafe abortion. Training and human resource development does not take much time and logistics are also not very costly. So, we feel an additional attention is required to solve this important but neglected issue to further lower down the maternal mortality rate.

ASMN Awal, Bashabo, Dhaka

Our team was over rated



PHOTO: AFP

It is not clear to me our team's problems while facing an accurate decent bowling line. It looked like they have not faced anything like this before and didn't know what to do other than give away the wickets. Shakib gave an indication of loosing ahead of time (how great!) but the manner in which they lost broke people's heart.

The batsmen like Shewag or Tamim can have the license to hit out but not the rest of 10 players. In the event of early fall of the wicket(s), the subsequent ones should have primarily focused on consolidation.

It looked like everyone had the license to play big shots every minute. They showed little regard to the ball being bowled and a total indifference to the direction of the shot they played and got out. Frankly, I think this team has been way overrated.

Dewan Jaglul
Orlando, FL, USA

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Yunus ready to sit with PM".

Shah Newaz

Excellent interview with excellent explanation. Hope people and the government of Bangladesh will get clear conception from this article that will help to resolve the Grameen Bank issue peacefully.

Shibli Chowdhury

I believe the government could have dealt with Muhammad Yunus respectfully.

Ziaul Hasan, HK

Why don't u give the interview to the national newspaper of the country, by doing all these? Aren't both of you (prime minister Vs Prof. Yunus) tarnishing the nation's image? Is it an international issue/problem? We like u but seem u don't have faith on your own people.

Sohel Rana Khan

Dr Yunus is absolutely right that if the bank is not run by efficient and devoted persons, the borrowers' interest might be affected to a great extent. Hope we will get a better solution to the issue involving Yunus and the bank. The Grameen Bank is a proud and widely recognised micro-finance institution and Dr Yunous is a globally respectable person. So, any decision on this person or institution should be taken carefully.

M. Moyz Uddin Khan

Most of the government institutions are running without responsibility and transparency at all. Particularly in state owned banks, lot of money is going to loan defaulters every year. What action did this govt. take against them? But it is only after Prof Yunus tarnishing his image globally like they are doing against their political opponents in this land. After 40 years of independence, no govt. can claim to ensure medical service and other basic needs to poor people.

Dr Nazrul Islam

How can the Attorney General compare a Nobel Laureate with terrorist Santu Larma? Is the present AG fit for the post he is holding or trying to please the PM to grab some thing better? The interview is excellent in nature.

M

But AL does not think he has the stature to be sitting with PM! PM is the daughter of Bangabandhu and thus she can't deal with Dr Yunus.

Muhit Islam

PM is a devoted and determined politician. Rightly or wrongly her government did what it believed to be right albeit at PM's direction. Although it appears to be a personal issue this is due to Dr Yunus's interest to join politics during the caretaker government. His decision was to please his friends of the West but people of Bangladesh rejected him.

It is unlikely that PM will sit with Dr Yunus. However an amicable solution is a must for the long-term interest of Bangladesh. The US will not give up on the issue until a solution is reached. US insistence is due to the reason that our politicians have always treated US as their masters.