

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.

Allowance for freedom fighters

We are grateful to our Prime Minister for providing allowances to the freedom fighters. But still now many freedom fighters do not get this allowance. They cannot buy enough food, medicine and daily necessities. My request to the government is to provide enough facilities to the freedom fighters. Freedom fighters didn't fight considering that their sons and daughters will get privilege in future, rather they did it for the emancipation of the people of the country. My humble request to our Prime Minister- please does not make difference among the present generation by offering special BCS and quota system for the freedom fighters' children. The general people also contributed much to the country.

Sagir Ahmed
University of Dhaka

Electronic car stealing!

A technical article, titled 'Tech Story' was published on 21st March, in a local English daily. It was a fascinating piece of information that revealed the dark side of 'high tech electronics'!

Here we had the advanced motor car, with electronics all over; and on the other hand, we had the cunning electronics 'whiz-kid', who by changing some programme and may be a few codes, managed to steal the car without leaving any clue or fingerprints anywhere!

As we say 'there are down side to everything'; it seems it also applies to the latest in automation! That is the way the modern culprits will go.

Engr. S. A. Mansoor, Dhaka

Thank you, Bangladesh

I am writing to express my earnest gratitude to the people of Dhaka and Bangladesh for the relentless support and encouragement they gave to Pakistan cricket team during the quarter-final match of ICC world cup. The jubilation and enthusiasm they expressed as each West Indies wicket fell was very adorable. People of Bangladesh have won our hearts. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. I sincerely hope one day we will be able to cheer for the Bangladeshi cricket team playing an important match of world cup in Pakistan.

Musadaq Zulqarnain
Faisalabad, Pakistan

World cup and disaster in Japan



PHOTO: AFP

On March 11 the worst earthquake hit Japan followed by tsunami. We heard the news when the match between Bangladesh and England was in progress. It was a crucial match for us and Bangladeshis were glued to their TV sets if they were not in the stadium. The saddest part was that at that moment none of the Bangladeshi TV channels gave this as breaking news. After Bangladesh won the match, the breaking news was the historic win but not the disaster that had struck Japan and was contin-

uing in the form of earthquakes, aftershocks and the nuclear disaster. Japan has always been a very good friend of Bangladesh and has been helping us in bad and good times. The officials of ICC and BCB along with the players could have observed a minute's silence to condole the death of so many people and to be one with the homeless and the injured.

Nahas Ahmed Chowdhuri
Sylhet

Gains and pains of cricket

Bangladesh seems to have got relieved of cricket fever which prevailed across the country for one month. Thousands of people have been shocked at the inglorious exit of our team. As a host country, our expectation was like a mountain. However, it should be acknowledged that there are some positives as there are negatives. We hope BCB will scrutinise

these and appoint experts to train the players. At last, I request the spectators to be rational in showing reaction after games. What we did after our defeat against West Indies was not good.

Md. Shafiuddin Sabuj
Department of English
University of Dhaka



MAHABUB ALAM KHAN / DRINKNEWS

'The Martyr of Benghazi'

The CNN has aired a touching story titled 'The Martyr of Benghazi'. A strictly apolitical narrator would tell you that a rebel suicide bomber named Mehdi Mohammed Zeyo blew up a (government) barrack on February 19, 2011. He is therefore, says CNN, a great freedom-loving martyr. I wonder if the admiration would be the same if the incident had taken place in Iraq or Afghanistan or any country in the world for that matter. Also, what of the generic strategy of suicide-bombing? Is it acceptable? If not, then mere imperial-favour has bestowed honour to an otherwise despised act.

Adnan R. Amin, Gulshan, Dhaka

Toll free number

Bangladesh Telephone Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has taken a wise decision by instructing the six private mobile phone operators to keep number 121 free from billing. The Chairman of the Commission Major General (Retd) Zia Ahmed has said that people who are availing services from these operators should not be burdened with extra money. He says there is no point to levy extra money by the operators when customers need to know something about their services. Operators, on the other hand, say that this will create problems for them as they will be flooded with customers' queries resulting in loss of revenues. We hope that BTRC will remain strict in its policy and apply this non billing system as soon as possible.

Humayun Hyder, Zikatola, Dhaka

Lawmakers' acts in JS

It is appalling and shameful how the MPs behave in the parliament. When the parliamentary session goes on, per minute costs a huge amount of money, during this time the lawmakers are supposed to discuss various problems of the country and find solutions, but alas, it is not the case. They waste time by admiring their respective leaders, adding many adjectives to their names every time their names are mentioned.

I have noticed another thing which seems unusual,

while addressing the speaker the MPs say 'Manoniyo Speaker' innumerable times. We hope the Honourable speaker and the MPs would think about the matter.

For every parliamentary session, public have to pay a large sum of money, we want it to be utilised, not wasted by insensitive ways of the lawmakers.

Nur Jahan, Chittagong

Learning economics

The education minister deserves praise for the new education policy and the examination system. Today the media speaks about many aspects of general people's income, expenditure, market prices, costs of living and so on. Thus, a student of class VII or above is well aware about the income of their parents. Students must learn economics in their schools. The education minister should do something about this.

Mahbub Ali
Rashed Khan Menon Sarak
Dhaka

Modern day slavery

Those who have watched the famous television serial "The Roots" by Alex Haley are definitely familiar with the term slavery and what it means. America devised new concept (DV Lottery) of modern day slavery. They do not come, hunt you down, bind you with chains and take on board the vessels en-route to the United States, as we have seen in the television serial.

They lure you to come and live in the US through different lottery programmes, thereby making financial gains. Once someone lands up in the United States disposing off all his or her belongings in the hope of a better life, he/she has to put up with whatever means of livelihood available in order to survive, having been left with no option to return to their homeland. Invariably all these means are odd jobs, which the locals are rather unwilling to do. Of course the living conditions are better and tempting. In due course this migratory population settles down and becomes naturalized citizens of the US.

Prioritise Dhaka-Cox's Bazar rail link

As reported by the press, several organisations plus a ward commissioner of Cox's Bazar in a press conference in Dhaka protested the move to expand the Cox's Bazar airport and demanded immediate cancellation of the project to save poor people of the area. Instead, they stressed on the need for construction of the proposed Dhaka-Cox's Bazar railway line.

Being a conscious citizen, I would sincerely call upon the government to give priority on the construction of Dhaka-Cox's Bazar Rail link which will not only benefit the national tourists but international tourists also. Dhaka-Cox's Bazar rail link will greatly contribute to the growth and development of tourism industry in Bangladesh.

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

For a digital Bangladesh

At present online-based activities are getting popularity everywhere. A remarkable part of the credit will go to the present government which is trying to turn our country into a digital one. We hope the government will take further effective initiatives so that each person can enjoy this service easily- free of cost- or at an affordable cost. Then, we believe, the dream of digital Bangladesh will come true.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Chittagong

Attention Readers

We bring to your kind notice that most of the letters we receive still contain more than 150 words, which makes it difficult for us to edit and publish. We therefore remind you again to restrict your letters/opinions/comments to a maximum of 150 words. Your kind cooperation will be highly appreciated.
...Editor

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "Civil surgeon at fault".

Niloufar Sarker

The doctors including the civil surgeon involved in the first postmortem should get exemplary punishment. Hena however poor had the same right to life as these so-called rogue doctors. We owe it to Hena.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

Now time is ripe to take appropriate action against those who cooked up false report on this girl's suspicious death.

Shaz

How can the doctors say that the first post-mortem reports were misleading due to lack of training? Allah has blessed us with eyes that can see a lot just through looking. Hena had external injuries as well as internal ones. Did the doctors not see them? I just cannot believe how corrupt people of Bangladesh really are. The entire government is corrupt. There is no law and order in the country. I guess that is why selfish, evil people find it so easy to cover their backs. Doctors, Police and anyone of authority get away with murder but not the poor. Please do keep us updated.

Munim Chowdhury, New York

No one is surprised and no one will ever for so called reports prepared.

Farhana

When I came to know about the pathetic story of Hena, I just feel so much helpless that I just can't stop putting my self in the place of Hena's family members. How it can be described that a girl who has been raped unmercifully and then afterward lashed for being raped. And she felt the pains of those lashes till the last moment of her life. If I was her parents, I would lose each and every hope of getting sound judgment. I am just surprised, why it is taking so long to give their family a fair judgment for the unfortunate murder of their daughter.

Samiur

The Civil Surgeon of Shariatpur must be punished for his negligence. It is either a deliberate mistake or professional incompetence. Either way it should not be tolerated. Exemplary punishment should be given in this regard.

Protect the wage earners

With the developed world's liquidity crisis as well as political unrest in the Arab regime triggering a global economic downturn, safeguarding our wage earners is critical. Shrinking wages directly affect our low-income classes. The accompanying dip in consumer expenditure will drag economic growth and delay recovery from recession. The Bangladeshi wage earners' woes are exacerbated by several factors. A meaningful and universal minimum wage policy should precede any further initiative on labour reforms. Another imperative is

to step up income support measures. One sector where these are required immediately is also one that is going through a major labour market transformation: the rural agrarian workforce, which suffers from lower job prospects. These call for a further strengthening, not weakening, of labour market institutions. The challenges are huge. Governments in Bangladesh and elsewhere should strengthen their protective role through new initiatives.

Gopal Sengupta, Canada



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS