

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.

Where has the blue sky gone?



MUNEM WASIF / DRINKNEWS

Nowadays we do not see the blue colour of the sky, it has been replaced by an ash colour and the smog, created by emissions from vehicles, factories, generators and many other sources, has blanketed the city sky. We are unable to see the star studded night sky; the pollution filled atmosphere has taken it from us.

Due to this severe pollution, people are suffering from various diseases. Respiratory problems, allergies, and a host of other afflictions are making people sick. In recent days, due to constant load shedding people are compelled to turn on the generator which is making the situation worse. It is the government's duty to ensure a healthy atmosphere, but it seems that the government is not concerned at all. It is busy with other things which are not helping the people, in fact, making them very unhappy. It is high time for the government to wake up and work for the interest of the country.

Nur Jahan, Chittagong



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh team's performance

Now that the World Cup Cricket - 2011 is over, it is time to analyse both our strengths and weaknesses and prepare to be a more competent for the upcoming cricket events. There are more things to be optimistic than to be frustrated about. The interesting thing is, Bangladesh do play really well sometimes. And at times their performance is very disappointing. But that's not the point. The point is that Bangladesh is an amazing "Game Changer". It has been proved in this world cup and no

matter how some commentators of neighbouring countries want to portray, our victory against England was no "accident". It is not possible for every team to turn the game from a losing position, while Bangladesh pulled it off against England and proved that if we try we can also change the game. What we need is persistence, focus, determination, commitment and practice.

Cantara Wali Ruhi
On e-mail

WASA's aims and objectives!

If I am not mistaken, WASA was set up with the idea of providing potable water to urban areas of Dhaka, and making water easily available, and also to ensure clean and hygienic sanitation and sewage disposal. All these facilities were installed at huge cost to the taxpayers; but what is the result today? WASA's water supply could not meet the demand, and now it has become a water rationing authority; a function that it enjoys, exercising power and authority by throttling water supply! About sewerage, the less said the better! Today, WASA stands for: "Water Available? Sometimes Available!" That sometimes will soon dwindle down to two hours out of twenty four in a day!

WASA awaits the setting up of another giant corporation "SGA", the Sewage Gasification Authority. There will then be two Authorities; with lots of 'authority' but no responsibility; to ensure effective water supply and sewage disposal! That is left to imagination; as 'implementation' is nobody's business! Exercising authority is what they all excel at!

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

A true friend of helpless people

It was nobody but Dr. Yunus who effectively came up with the idea of micro-credit, which indeed came to impoverished people as a blessing and a new hope. Most of the people in Bangladesh live below the poverty line. Dr Yunus' Grameen Bank has always been beside the poverty-stricken people especially in time of their crucial need. It not only enables poor people to manage their daily meals to survive, but also helps the incapable people get proper education. If I am not mistaken, there is not a single government bank that renders student loans to help poor students get education. Now BB is after the Nobel laureate for his constructive initiatives to eradicate poverty and hunger from this country!

Hasnat
AIUB

Banani, Dhaka

Our political philosophies

It is high time to review our political approach and philosophy. The young generation looks to the future but dynasty rulers look into the past. There is huge communication gap between the rulers and the ruled. The politicians ignore the majority of the voters who live in the rural areas. Our farmers keep us alive in this fertile land but enjoy no social status.

The so-called leaders simply can't deliver. True leaders have to rise above the 'chawapawa' stage (no desire, no want). Both the AL & BNP are in disarray today; concentrating on each other; neglecting national long-term priorities. Popularity should not be confined within the circle of sycophants. Monitoring should be 3-D and not restricted to one plane only.

A Mahasen, Dhaka

Tax cuts

As many as 500,000 protesters marched in London on Saturday to protest Britain's deepest cuts in public spending since World War II. The protests came after U.K. officials estimated corporate taxes would be reduced even as it tackles a \$235 billion deficit and plans to cut more than 300,000 public sector jobs. Meanwhile, in the United States protesters gathered in 40 cities on Saturday to oppose tax cuts for the wealthy amid budget cuts in public services.

When you're rich and lose money on a leveraged investment, you are a victim of the bad economy and deserved to be bailed out. When you're poor and lose money on a risky investment, you're a financially incompetent yahoo who chases get-rich-quick schemes.

Ted Rudow III, MA
Encina Ave
Palo Alto, CA

Quota system

I am a freedom fighter's son. My father fought under sector 8. In Bangladesh all parties say that they are ready to serve the freedom fighters. The govt. reserved 30% job quota for their children

and most recently even for their grandchildren. But practically, no govt. departments or private organisations maintain this quota system. On the other hand, general students claim that they cannot get jobs because of the quota system.

We request the honorable PM to implement the quota system properly.

Shahriar Hasan
Mirpur, Dhaka

Sayedabad water treatment plant

More than ten million people depend on water supplied by Dhaka WASA. WASA's Sayedabad water treatment plant has been supplying contaminated water for long. We urge the ministry concerned to do something urgent in this regard.

Mohammad Ali Hawladar
Tilpapara, Khilgoan
Dhaka

Triclosan is harmful!

Triclosan is a chemical used in cosmetics and in many common household products including toothpastes, deodorants, etc. Because of its antibacterial properties triclosan is also used as an active ingredient in many anti-microbial creams and lotions. But it has been revealed through research that triclosan, a chlorophenol can combine with chlorine in tap water to form chloroform gas that can cause human cancer. The United States and the United Kingdom have classified triclosan as a probable human carcinogen. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has listed triclosan as a pesticide.

Recently, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) banned the use of cosmetic products, toothpastes containing triclosan. In Bangladesh, cosmetics, toothpastes, anti-septic creams containing triclosan are freely used. I strongly feel that the competent authorities should take proper measures to stop the use of triclosan containing products.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System

Need for a new terminal at HSI airport

There has been lots of hue and cry over the decision of the present government to set up a new airport away from Dhaka. As citizen of a least developed country I consider that the very thought of building a new airport and abandoning the present one is nothing but a unwise idea when the basic infrastructure of the country is yet to be fully developed.

What the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport actually needs is a new 'state of the art' air terminal building and a second runway. The area around Shahjalal airport is huge and there is enough space to build a new air

terminal of international standard. If you take an aerial view of the area you will see that east and west of the airport is still free from any high rise constructions. So is the flight approach of aircraft from north over Ashulia. Adjustments can be made around Nikunja in south. Through a decree government can restrict construction of buildings within a radius of a safe distance to keep the present airport viable. Why should any government think of abandoning the Shahjalal airport? Think of modernising the airport.

Ziauddin Ahmed
Gulshan - 1, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Sprawling urbanisation



AMDADUL HUQ / DRINKNEWS

The sprawling urbanisation in and around Dhaka city is moving at such a pace that very soon it is going to absorb the city's empty spaces as well as the greenbelts. It is also bereft of basic amenities such as playgrounds, parks, walkways. Gas, electricity and water crisis is also mounting. It is also alarming to read that the experts have predicted that around 70,000 buildings in Dhaka city alone are vulnerable to high velocity typhoon or cyclone, let alone an earthquake. They opined that most of the builders have filled the ditches, canals and low lying lands and started construction without conducting proper soil test which is an important criterion for construction of a building. It was also seen in the past that due to poor construction many buildings either collapsed or tilted. RAJUK must ensure that proper roads are being constructed in order to provide access to the rescue team in case a building caves in. It is also alleged that the builders get their plan passed in connivance with a section of corrupt RAJUK officials flouting the established building code. We strongly urge the concerned authorities to take stern measures against all these malpractices.

Humayun Hyder, Zigatola, Dhaka

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' instant comments
on The Daily Star
Online reports.
Log on to thedailystar.net
to leave your comments.

Yunus loses plea, seeks review

SC hears his petition today (April 6, 2011)

It's the beginning of the end of Grameen Bank. With the grip of the present government, Grameen Bank will eventually face the same fate as lots of nationalised big industries after the liberation of Bangladesh. History will repeat itself.

Mostafa

Is there any legal age for the retirement of politicians?

Zaber

e hope personalities like Prof Yunus would help the rules of games be established in every walk of life! If we need to change any rules for betterment we should have done that before the game started, not in the MIDDLE of the game and/or at the END of the game!

Saleh-Rahim Ahmed

Dr. Yunus was removed to restore

law and order in the country (although according to Dr. Kamal Hossain Bangladesh Bank cannot remove Dr. Yunus in this way because Grameen Bank is not a nationalised bank).

Anonymous

We don't know the future of Grameen Bank but we can surely say if Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus is really removed from his position of Managing Director, then this bank has to pay a lot in the forthcoming days.

Eng. Md. Meheub Haque

There is no reason to assume that the people who are expressing slightly different views on the merit of the case of Prof Yunus are out to tarnish the image, prestige and honor of the Nobel laureate; we also want him to live in peace and dignity.

We feel embarrassed to see that the legal proceedings are being prejudiced from various quarters. My question is whether Prof Yunus

believes in a respectable compromise or looking for victory and glorious comeback as MD of the GB. The judiciary has to deal with facts and figures and acceptable evidences.

Faqrul

It is very difficult to understand why a dignified personality of his status failed to understand the possible outcome of the case he had filed with the court against a government decision where. Enough has been done--now it would be better for Dr. Yunus to shelve the matter.

Abul Kashem

Before issuing any termination, dismissal or discharge order a 'show cause' is supposed to be served. This is a mandatory provision of law. In his case no such notice was served.

Kabir Ahmad

End of highly regarded organisation. No foreign company will come forward to invest in Bangladesh as we