

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.



PHOTO: STAR

Unchecked house rent

House rent in the capital is on the continuous rise as it is beyond control of the authorities. Although there is a law relating to the house rent, it is not being enforced strictly. As a result the house owners are raising the house rents according to their will. According to Dhaka City Corporation sources, there are 3,580 holdings in the capital which are owned by only 17 per cent of city dwellers while the rest are tenants. Reporting on the unbridled rise in house rent, a national daily said

recently that house rent in the capital city has increased three times over the last 15 years. The law on house rent is there in papers only and it is not being executed.

The government should enforce the House Rent Control Act 1991 to bring some respite for the tenants by controlling the house rent.

Mohammed Jashim Uddin
BSS, Dhaka

Horoscopes, no good!

Horoscopes are now widely published in the columns of newspapers every day. People who predict how lucky one will be, based on whatever methodology, and doesn't make sense. And the prophet (pbuh) said, "Whoever went to a fortuneteller and asked him about some matter (i.e. of the unseen) and believed him, would have his prayer rejected for forty days." (In Sahih Muslim). I sincerely advise the newspapers not to publish these things.

Noor, *On e-mail*

Interest rates of saving certificates

Officials, pensioners, small businessmen and others purchase govt. saving certificates as a safe saving instrument, because they do not have the ability to bear big risk. Until a few years back the interest rates of saving certificates were quite attractive for this group of people. But in recent years, persistent pressure from the Dhaka Stock Exchange and Chittagong Stock Exchange led the govt. to reduce the interest rates of saving certificates substantially in the name of boosting capital market. As a result, small savers rushed to the Capital Market but recent bubble there made them paupers. So, the govt. should give priority to the interest of small savers rather than the interest of the members of DSE and CSE.

Will the Ministry of Finance look into the matter seriously?

Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury

D.O.H.S.Mohakhal, *On e-mail*

Our identity crisis

I supported Lankan team in ICC World Cup final and wished they had won to see the Indians wince. The unmitigated Indian hegemony over Bangladesh in the form of lopsided trade balance and treaties and her wanton killings of Bangladeshi at the border and her merciless strangulation of international rivers that flows into Bangladesh turned me against India.

However, I always admire the light of confidence that shines on the Indian faces. I think all Indians have got an identity. But we still quarrel over whether we are Bengali or Bangladeshi, secular or religious or humanists in nature and if Muslim, which version of Islam do we follow? I wonder when we will get back our identity as a vibrant country characterized with religious tolerance and rule of law.

Abdus Subhan, *On e-mail*

Demeaning ourselves

We are very saddened by the news of the removal of Prof Yunus by the present government. What are we showing to the world by this action? We are telling the world that we have not yet overcome our petty party politics, where even the Supreme Court is highly biased and always acts in favour of the Prime Minister. Please do not let this happen. We, the Bangladeshi Americans feel that we have been betrayed by the politicians and so-called educated people of Bangladesh. Some of our colleagues at work asked me why Dr. Yunus was removed from the Bank which he established to help the poor people of Bangladesh. I could not answer them clearly.

Mohammed M. Hossain, *Ph.D.*

New York State Department of

BGMEA Bhaban's future

The High Court has issued judgment to demolish this grand but unfortunately an illegal structure, built on unauthorized public land!

Despite appeals, truth and reality shall finally prevail! Further, in some dailies it has been reported that we do not have the expertise or equipment needed for safe demolition of this large structure.

Given this paradox, the government should appeal to the court to transfer this property legally to the government on whose land it has been built! The govern-

ment can then if needed rent this building out to any or all tenants existing and in future, except BGMEA and their members, who unlawfully built it in the first place!

It should also be investigated, if Rajuk was really unaware that the building was illegally built. Given our expertise in "Number Two Work" (as said in Bangla) this could very well be possible.

Engr. S. A. Mansoor

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

Displaying Qur'an

I loved the article by Mr. Mahfuz Anam, published on 6th of April, 2011. I feel it would have been better if the Prime Minister spoke out about the issues highlighted in that article. Islam condemns violence, and Qur'an is not something to display during protests. I think this has happened for the first time that the Qur'an has been used during protests. Furthermore, there are many people who have not even read Qur'an, but when it comes to protesting and condemning others, they will do it gladly. Recently, there was one youth who was protesting the injustice to Muslims, and he was using slangs. I wish I could ask him if using slang was allowed in Islam. I hope Muslims set their priorities straight practice what you preach!

A Concerned Citizen, Dhaka

The last tiger

It is heartening that a Tiger Rescue Service (Star Magazine, 18 Mar 11) has been initiated. TRS needs all the encouragement and funds to protect the 400+ tigers remaining. The report incorrectly stated that the last wild tiger, Sundarbans apart, was killed in Bhawal Madhupur in the 40s. In the winter of 1961-62, while proceeding up a steep slope in dense jungle at about 8 am to my timber extraction site from my camp about 8 miles upstream of Chema Jhiri in Bandarbans, I suddenly became aware of a strange silence prevailing all around. I stood still at one end of the narrow path. Suddenly a large tiger silently emerged from the undergrowth on to the path at the other end (maybe 20 yards away), stopped and for an eternity, we looked at each other. Then it disappeared.

Sikander Ahmed, *Gulshan-1, Dhaka*



QUDDUS ALAM / DRIKNEWS

No light in sight

Like it or not, neither the government nor the opposition has any other agenda besides making the lives of the people more miserable. They simply can not conceive of doing any good to them, they have altogether lost their capability of doing so.

Whatever policies and programs the government may adopt shall result in the more sufferings of the people, perhaps it is their only goal. Man and his institutions are responsible for all the evils. Perhaps in our life time, we shall not experience any thing good happening to this nation. Yes, I am utterly frustrated as I fail to see any light at the end of the tunnel.

Saleh Ayub

On e-mail

We are proud to be Bangladeshi

Bangladeshis are finding more reasons to feel proud almost daily.

As we celebrate our 40th birthday and look back, we see many changes for the better in recent times. Take Musa Ibrahim, as an example. He's bravely proved to the world 'where there's a will, there's a way' His achievement, in our view, is far superior to mountain climbers from other parts of the globe where there are mountains and the locals know everything there is to know about snow and ice. Bangladesh does not have mountains nor snow.

Then there's Nobel Laureate, Dr. Muhammad Yunus who has brought and continues to bring incalculable kudos to Bangladesh. There is truly hope for Bangladesh and we rapturously applaud the change.

Ali Abbas & Fatema Hossain

Brixton, London (UK)

Stop extra-judicial killings

It is needless to say that the number of extra-judicial killings is on the rise. Though this ruling government promised in their election manifesto before the national election that they would put an end to such killings, the issue seems to be in limbo. It is obvious that such killings keep undermining the rule of law and damaging the image of the country abroad.

According to the reports of various national dailies, nearly 30 individuals have been killed in so-called crossfire, and another 25 have been killed in police custody during last three months. After every incident, the law enforcers claim that the killing is a consequence of defense measure when they come under attack by the criminals. Such arguments lack validity as well as credibility.

It is high time for the government to be decisive in enforcing the relevant laws to stop these brutal killings in the hands of the law enforcers.

Md. Shafiuddin Sabur

Department of English

Dhaka University

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "Milk magician".

Nasarullah

It proves, the country has many talents with innovative ideas to discover social, biological elements for health, natural and physical development that are highly in need in medical and social, physiological development of mankind. Warmest congratulations and best regards. It once again confirmed, if scope and opportunities are available, our people can expose talents and quality through research and development by generating ideas, discovering elements and scientific evaluation and evolution.

S Ali

Congrats Dr Azam! What a revolutionary invention! But unfortunately you have not been given the opportunity to conduct your research in your native land. No government has ever taken the initiative to stop brain-drain. Alas for us!

Pokraj

We Bangladeshi's are proud to know that you are so successful!! Keep your good work up and Allah will guide you to achieve your dreams to help the mankind. Just stay away from Politics, Intrigues and Financial commitments of Bangladeshi's.

Md Abdul Ahad

Really, it's a great news...I think he will be successful. I hope it will work properly in human body.....Thanks...Dr Azam Ali

Manush

This gentleman shows the true picture of level of intelligence of the Bengali people. We want more people like Dr Azam.

Ali

Congratulations.

Md. Mosifur Rahman

Congratulation!!! Truly good feeling to know you are Bangladeshi..

Mahmud Koli, USA

We are proud of you. Keep it up. We pray for your good health and happiness.

Engg Asif

Thanks for your excellent invention for our nation. Thanks a lot.

Maksudul Hasan

It is great news for us as Bangladeshi.

Kbr Md Masud Rana

I feel proud!

Bangladeshi web directory

Great news. Everything is possible by Bangladeshi if they get opportunity. We need opportunity, scope and government helps.

Share debacle report



AMADUL HUQ / DRIKNEWS

Finally, the probe report on much talked about share debacle is out. It is praiseworthy on the part of Mohammed Khaled Ibrahim and his team. Here are a few suggestions, book building method should be totally scrapped to stop over valuation of shares. SEC should be completely re-organized and transparency and accountability should be restored. A counter vigilance team comprised professionals may be appointed who will be responsible for auditing the activity of SEC on a monthly basis and if any wrong doing is found, it should be immediately notified to the proper authorities and immediate actions must be taken against the responsible persons. Demutualization is a must to give SEC an independent entity free from outside influence. Recommendations made by the probe body if initiated properly will definitely boost the capital market gradually and bring back confidence of the investors.

Humayun Hyder

Zigatola, Dhaka