

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.

Correct spelling of POISHA

I spell POISHA as I have done here. Poisha is our smallest coin. It is one hundredth part of a Taka. Its plural is POISHA and abbreviation Ps. The Bangladesh Post Office issued stamps spelling POISHA correctly.

PAISA is the smallest Pakistani coin and PAISA its Indian counterpart.

So far I recollect, there was an ordinance or a President's order back in 1972 or 1973 defining our currency. Some people, even newspapers and banks spell POISHA as PAISA which is wrong. I humbly draw the attention of the Bangladesh Bank and The Bangladesh Post Office and request them to enlighten us on this topic.

Md. Abu Siddique
Paribagh
Dhaka

France's new law

France has just enacted a new law banning burqa or hijab wearing by women in public places. This law is particularly aiming at Muslim women only or more precisely on Islamic culture. This is clearly a racial discrimination. We should enact this law not on the basis of religion but on the basis of local culture.

Ashiq Zaman
Dhamondi
Dhaka

VIP, only for a day

Political leaders are selected by parties elected by people but these people are always neglected by those leaders. There

are hundred of examples of their negligence to the people. Efficiency of our law enforcing agency increase by manifolds when VIPs visit any place. Whatever happens, they have to block roads for free movement of VIPs. This blockage may hamper a student's life, it may even take away life of a patient who needs to reach hospital as early as possible. We, the people suffer from traffic jam, load shedding, water crisis, gas shortage, drainage system, broken roads, waste disposal etc. How they will reduce sufferings of people if they do not suffer from it. Seeing and hearing of their facilities it seems that they are residents of heaven and we are of hell. Alas! If I were a VIP only for a single day.

Md. Rezaya Rabbi
Pagla Bazar
Narayanganj

Share market scam disclosure

Ibrahim Khaled's probe report on share scam has increased public faith in the government. This is completely a new trend. In the past people could only know the formation of committees but their reports never saw lights. The people of Bangladesh have seen probe committees of 21 Aug. grenade attack, 10-truck arms haul, bomb attacks etc., in the past. Public never saw probe reports.

The opposition has demanded disclosure of names. It is already disclosed by the head of the probe committee. The government has no other options but to disclose the rest. This is a big chance for the present government to clean its hands including the past allegations against the AL government. Sooner is the better. The Prime

For a blue sky...



FAZLEY ELAHI SHWOPON / DRIKNEWS

Reading the letter titled "Where has the blue sky gone?" by Nur Jahan published last week, I became nostalgic. From then on, I am enmeshed with the song "Neel Akasher Nichey Ami Rasta Cholechhi Eka". Peace and tranquility has deserted from Bangladesh. The other day, all national dailies published a report of siphoning of Tk.20,000/- crores from capital market by vested quarters. Now under these circumstances, what else can

dirty politics. University syndicate give the culprits exemplary punishment.

Mohammed Jashim Uddin
BSS, Dhaka

Improve facilities at Hazrat

Shah Jalal Int'l Airport

I am a Japanese national. I am trying to set up our company office in Bangladesh for seeking investment in this great market with huge potentiality.

So I use Dhaka International Airport frequently for my traveling, but this time I had to send off my client in Japan as he injured in his left leg due to unfortunate accident in town. Due to his temporarily handicap on his leg he booked business class flight from Dhaka and airport staff escorted him at the terminal by wheelchair.

However I surprisingly came to know at Dhaka airport lounge for frequent traveler/executive class passengers are all upstairs at departure terminal without any lifts/escalators, only stairs for healthy person.

Finally he couldn't go up and just spent long time at congested departure gate. This is quite against the standard of the international airport and sincerely hope relevant authority will look into the matter towards prompt arrangement.

Masaru Akiyama
DOHS Baridhara
Dhaka

Why people suffer?

Napoleon said - "The world suffers a lot, not because of the violence of bad people, but because of the silence of good people!"

Question is, where have those good people gone? Is good people's stock on this earth got exhausted? Or, the demarcation line between good and bad, true and false got erased?

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

Stop this injustice

To ensure good governance there is no alternative to recruiting meritorious citizen in this sector. The quota system is the violation of equal employment

one expect to see in the mirror? The mirror can not deceive anybody. In order to see the clear blue sky one has to travel to the North America. In my first ever visit to Houston, I was astonished to see the clear blue sky and for a moment traveled back in time to the sixties of Dhaka that looked like all the goodness leaving forever from life.

Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

opportunity in the job market. The brilliant students who undergo a huge competition for getting a good job especially in BCS feel discouraged when a section of the society get the opportunity like getting readymade cheap cake. It is very shameful for us that 55% seats are distributed on the basis of quota where only 45% are on merits. Through using this rough system our government is discouraging the meritorious and encouraging the infertile students to serve the nation that leads to brain drain, poor governance and high level of corruption.

We want this system be made ineffective very soon to stop discrimination against meritorious students.

Md. Nurnobi Islam
Dept. of marketing
Dhaka University

Beware of the traitors

Some members of the ruling Awami League is antagonistic towards Dr. Yunus. Their behaviour is tarnishing the party's image. Recently, the party's joint general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said that Professor Yunus had pushed nearly two crore women towards suicide in the name of microcredit. Nationally and internationally people know that this statement of Hanif is baseless and targeted against the fame of the Nobel laureate.

Some traitors like Khandakaar Mostaque of Awami League were behind the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975, and now there are some more who are damaging the image of Awami League. We should be aware of them.

Azmeri Begum
Kamalpur
Dhaka

A brave lady!

A special correspondent's report published on 5 April in a local English daily on Capt. Ferdousi of Bangladesh Army, is indeed the description of an exemplary brave lady; an example for all of us! Despite being in the peace time army she has chosen a profession that could not have been any more dangerous; and at the same time bringing safety for many innocent civilians, who become

■ READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Taking journalism to new heights."

Md Sabbir Hossain Shovon
The Daily Star, a renowned daily newspaper has made a landmark in our country that cannot be denied.

The immense contribution to the development of our country is praise-worthy as well as extraordinary.

Mizan
We are writers but unfortunately we never get an invitation to The Daily Star programmes.

Mahakim
I read The Daily Star regularly in England through Internet. It is a quality newspaper, neutral and transparent. It is enjoyable and a excellent newspaper of its own. I wish all the best for this high class, incomparable newspaper.

Imran
Here's to another 20 years of objective reporting.

Gupesh Saha
Congratulations! I feel proud, once I was part of this paper from 1995-2008. Thanks to Star family.

Palash
Heartfelt congratulations for The Daily Star!

Anonymous
I wish our tribes, ethnic groups are more represented in the electronic media. I'd like to see news presenters, actors, actresses, models, popular culture personalities from Chittagong Hill Tracts, North Bengal, East, and South everywhere. We have not empowered our minorities in order to prosper and add dynamism in every pace of national life.

the victim of forgotten and left over land mines! As a demining expert, sudden and unexpected injury or even fatality is her constant companion in her line of work. Hats off, to this brave lady! May Allah bless her. She should be an icon for the women of Bangladesh! She aptly represents the thought behind the two famous lines of Campbell's famous poem on war:

"The battle deepens, O ye braves,

Who rush to glory or their graves!"

Engr. S. A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Flawed population assessment

The development policy of a country depends to a great extent on the size of population. In our country, the government conducts this operation every ten years. This year, it has been conducted from March 15 to 18.

But the people have questioned the accuracy of the population census. They have alleged that they were not enumerated while some claimed that they were counted twice.

Actually, it is beyond imagination to count citizens within such a short time. Unlike Bangladesh the foreign countries allow much time to complete the assessment of the population. It should be kept in mind that the census will be effective if it reflects the ground reality of the population..

Md. Shafiuiddin Sabuj
Department of English
Dhaka University

Save the

only institute

Bangladesh College of Leather Engineering and Technology is the sole educational institute teaching the subject in Bangladesh. We got admitted into this institute to become Engineers. However, things are turning out to be pretty much bleak for us.

Lack of qualified teachers and inadequate recruitment of teachers will lead to shutting of this institute soon. As the wages of the teachers are not duly paid, many of the teachers, especially the competent ones are going abroad.

The Board of Technology, however, has failed to recommend any solution or remedial steps to overcome the



PHOTO: AFP

A poor gesture to Japan

After the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, our government announced that it would send a rescue team and a medical team to assist the Japanese people. Days passed and still nothing happened. Finally, a few days ago the government announced that it was making a symbolic gesture and sending four people with 2,000 blankets, 1000 pairs of gloves and 500 pairs of boots. Certainly, given the vast difference between the resources of Bangladesh and Japan we perhaps cannot make a

significant contribution to their recovery efforts. But even then this is a most unsatisfactory gesture on our part. In this time of their greatest difficulty we should have done more than make such a paltry gesture. The Japanese, as ever, are the very model of graciousness and politely smile at our beggarly conduct. But how much longer can our nation's dignity absorb the failures of our shameless politicians?

Ezajur Rahman
Kuwait

B.Sc. Fisheries (Hons.)
Patuakhali Science and Technology
University

In God We Trust

Those familiar with the above caption, knows pretty well where it appears. It is for kind information of those who are not familiar. Well it appears on one side of the US Dollar. We all must have observed and noticed that all American Presidents concludes their speeches by saying "God Bless America", perhaps we all also know the meaning of this.

It is very unfortunate that we call ourselves a Muslim majority country believing in secularism but none of the legal tender bears the mark "In God We Trust" nor do our national leaders conclude their speeches by saying "God Bless Bangladesh". Perhaps this is one of the main reasons that Bangladesh continues to remain non-blessed even after 40 years into independence at a cost of 3 million lives.

Apparently the political parties are engaged in bitter criticism of one another having no other agendas to serve the nation.

Nigar Chowdhury
On e-mail

Stalking at

Dhaka University

A few days ago at DU campus some students of DU were stalking while three young women were walking in front of the F. Rahman Hall around 10:00 P.M. One of the students came to protest against those stalkers and the gang beat the protester indiscriminately. Some of his fellow students took him to DMC for treatment. We thank Alamgir the name of the protester who protested against stalking. On the other hand, we condemn those stalkers. They are the culprits of our society, they are not students and they will never be real students. They came here to train in

M.M. Parvez

Stop nepotism

Nowadays we see that nepotism has turned into a social disease. It is also a national problem. We see that majority public service institutions are polluted by nepotism from top to bottom levels of the society.

When one person gets appointment to any important and powerful position, he/she gets involved in nepotism. There are many appointment systems run under him/ her. Usually he/she tries to give priority to his/her relatives. Though there are many capable candidates. It is one kind of misuse of power. At this, the capable candidates are encouraged and frustrated. Nepotism creates corruption and stand as an obstacle to the overall development of a country. So I urge all the high officials and VIPs to avoid nepotism. Then our country will move towards development.

M.M. Parvez



A. MAHAD / DRIKNEWS

Nationwide food distribution

Overwhelming majority of people of our country who belong to middle, low and no-income groups are gasping for survival due to acute price-pressure on essential commodities like cereal, flour, edible oil, pulse etc. Any democratic govt bears constitutional obligation to reach food to every single citizen of the country in the most accessible and affordable manner. So, the obvious question is how and what shall be the game-plan to achieve the objective:

The govt. should consider this problem as number one priority setting aside all kinds of debilitating non-issues.

a) Empower and engage trading corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) as govt. sole agent.

b) Launch well-structured subsidized food rationing network all over the country down to the union level.

c) Focus and finance agriculture to achieve food autarky. The maxim goes that food procured by begging tastes the bitterest.

S.A Samad
Dhaka