

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.

# Save Buriganga River

Once the mighty Buriganga river, primarily known as the dominant lifeline of Dhaka city for channelling trade and commerce with other districts, has lost its entire splendour due to lack of proper river management by the government. Taking advantage of this lapse, a sizeable portion of the river has already been grabbed and filled up by a section of greedy real estate developers. Industries that sprang up on both sides of the river, has virtually turned the river into a waste water body devouring millions of gallons of untreated effluents everyday. Of them Hazaribagh Tanneries are the worst polluters. We want that government must take stringent measures to reclaim its lost areas and get rid of the unauthorized structures and order the industries to set up effluent treatment plants immediately or face the eviction.

Humayun Hyder  
Zikatola  
Dhaka



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

## Improve Dhaka-Chittagong Railway service

Bangladesh Railway plays a very important role from the very ancient period. But it is sadly known to everybody that we get very feeble outcome from this sector.

Though our railway division is divided into East & West (Chittagong & Rajshahi), but we mainly prefer Chittagong zone as the demand is more in this route. There are some useful measures to improve Dhaka-Chittagong train service:

- Introducing of new locomotives, AC and Shovon chair coaches.
- Rescheduling train time table with 2 hours interval.
- Expansion of broad gauge train network.
- Eviction of unauthorized structures beside the train lines.
- Requirement of different categories of manpower, govt. has approved only 7000 posts to be required.
- Establishment of rail linkage with Padma Bridge.
- Allocations of sufficient budget for railways.

Jahir Uddin Babur & others  
Dhaka

## Polybags back again

In 2002 government banned the production and use of polybags in our country. Unfortunately, polybags are being widely used again everywhere. Now we are using a huge amount of polybags daily and then throwing it into open place. The drainage system of our large city is hindered in rainy season due to polybags. It is also a threat of our environment and agriculture.

In the case of shopping we can use jute and cloth bags instead of polybags. We hope that the government, concerned groups, ministry of environment, law enforcing agencies, businessmen, and general people can play a vital role to prevent the use of polybags in our country.

We desire that the present government will take immediate steps by implementing the existing law more strictly.

Md. Tanvir Rahman (Tapos)  
University of Chittagong

## Don't export housemaids

The recent news item regarding export of maid servants from Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia is very disturbing. The inhuman torture and maltreatment of domestic helps in the Middle East in general and Saudi Arabia, in particular is well known. I think successive governments of Bangladesh in the past did not allow export of domestic helps to the region for this reason.

It is sad that the present rulers of Bangladesh have taken such a decision jeopardising the life and dignity of the innocent and vulnerable section of our society. I urge the prime minister to rescind the decision immediately.

Nuruddin Azam  
On e-mail

# Game of uncertainty

Who can forget the disastrous 58 and 78 of the tigers in the recently concluded Cricket WC, one of which was followed by brickbat throwing on the team bus? But how about the heroic New Zealand white wash, the nail-biting conclusion against Ireland, the nerve cracking one wicket victory over the English? All these bear testimony to the huge uncertainty the fans have to endure while

watching game of cricket. Very recently tigers' consistent batting display has been exhibited even under pressure against the mighty aussies. Therefore we must be patient rather than criticising on a defeat when accidentally tigers fail to perform.

Tashrif Billah  
Dept. of EEE, BUET



MAHBUB ALAM KHAN / DRINKNEWS

## Conditions at HSJ Int'l airport

I fully agree with Masaru Aklyama who wrote about the poor condition of

Hazrat Shah Jalal Int'l Airport on 17 April. It is very troublesome for the disabled and elderly passengers who are travelling in business class to climb the staircase and go to the lounge. Moreover, every passenger has some hand luggage. So I request the authorities to look into the matter and do something.

Mrs. Shameem Rahman  
Baridhara  
Dhaka

## How are female journos in KSA?

A news item titled "Abused TV presenter asks ministry to give protection to journalists" published in the daily "Arab News" on April 14, 2011 has attracted my attention. It was embarrassing and painful to learn that a lady TV Presenter Fadwa Al-Tayyar of the Saudi TV had to encounter some unwanted situation and harassment while performing her professional duties at a shopping mall.

I cannot believe that a lady TV Presenter in a country like KSA where laws are in stringent enforcement could be subjected to such type of ugly treatment!

While expressing sincere sympathy and extending moral support to Al-Tayyar I would strongly call upon the relevant Saudi authority(s) to take appropriate steps towards ensuring protection for Journos particularly the female Journalists.

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

## Bangladesh in the news

In Sweden we rarely see anything on TV or read anything in the press about Bangladesh. When we do it's usually a natural disaster, something distasteful, negative and embarrassing to those of us living here.

The sacking of Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Yunus and the gross disrespect shown to him by Prime Minister continues to be a hot topic on TV and radio talk shows.

But thankfully, it's not all 'doom and gloom'. The name Musa Ibrahim, for example, is quite well known here in Stockholm among the winter sports and snow-loving fraternity, but its flamboyant newcomer and multi-billionaire Dr. Moosa Bin Shamsher that everyone is talking about.

Since Dr. Moosa Bin Shamsher won the Best Dressed Man of the World title it's almost impossible to turn on the radio without someone mentioning his name. This can only be good for Bangladesh and perhaps help the garments industry.

Jafir Hoque  
Stockholm  
Sweden

## Fairy tale price list

I am sure the old timers would love to have a glance at such a price list from the late 1960's. For the younger generation it would be like a fairy tale. It should be mentioned here that this price list originated at BAU Mymensingh.

The price list is as follows:

1. A regular size bread: 0.45, 2. A full grown chicken: 1.88, 3. One dozen egg: 1.00, 4. Mustard oil 1 seer: 4.00, 5. Salt 1 seer: 0.31, 6. Rice 1 seer: 1.30, 7. Ice cream 1 liter size: 1.12 and the list continues on like this.

The dream for a modern Sonar Bangla, where people could have a maund of rice which equals to 40 kgs for Tk.20 only instead of the prevailing price of Tk.52 shall never become a reality. Yes, it was truly a Sonar Bangla and probably it is lost for ever.

Saleh Ayub  
On e-mail

## FM vows to tame Stock Scamsters!

Star Business, 22 Dec 2010, (stock slide starts), headlined the FM's "vow to tame stock conspirators, saying the government knows them and would control them". Today millions of investors are pauperized and after an authoritative probe report published, he is somersaulting to save the manipulators.

As if high prices, inflation, rampant corruption, load shedding, gas and water shortages, influx of ejected NRBs, traffic jams, deteriorating law and order, stock market crash, etc were not enough. The result is, two respected institutions, the judiciary and Bangladesh Bank stand suspect.

Sikander Ahmed  
Niketon  
Gulshan-1  
Dhaka

## It makes us happy!

We have heard that Prime Minister and leader of the opposition have exchanged Bengali New Year's greetings. Some say that the North Pole and the South Pole might be brought to one point but it is impossible in case of these two leaders.

Their gesture and posture have embedded this notion in the mind of the citizens. As a result, we have become hopeless. Popular leaders prefer popularity to power. We appeal to them to keep up exchanging greetings and showing us the signs of their unity in the issues concerning national interest.

Mobarak Ali  
RK Mission Road  
Gopibagh  
Dhaka

## Bangladesh launching satellite!

The UNB report on the matter, published in local English daily on 9th April, surprised me. I wonder what's the reason behind launching a satellite.

Is it, so that we can have dedicated facility for the wireless high speed transmission for radio, television and government communication links? If so, then these can be rented from available facilities from dedicated communication satellites already in orbit; which would be far cheaper! Why must we launch a satellite, for this purpose?

All the hardware, equipment, for the satellite and the related launching facilities and all receiving apparatus will have to be paid in scarce foreign exchange. All we can provide is land and building.

We have far more pressing needs in the country; than to go for launching a bought in satellite! Will the authorities kindly justify the need, to the taxpayers and voters?

S.A. Mansoor  
Dhaka

## How highways are connected

The fantastic solution of the Kanchpur chaos is surely the product of the fertile brains of our able engineers. The long loops will cost lot of money and acquisition of land. I am not an engineer but I have seen in western countries how highways are connected.

It is very simple, scientific and takes very little space. Let me tell you how to solve the Kanchpur riddle. For Sylhet traffic going to Dhaka, cross Dhaka-Chittagong highway through a tunnel, then make an anti-clockwise round turn and join the left lane towards Dhaka.

Similarly for Chittagong traffic going to Sylhet, just after passing the point where Sylhet road hits the highway, make an exit from the left lane, take an anti-clockwise round turn, pass through a tunnel under Dhaka-Chittagong highway and join the left lane towards Sylhet. This is the way highways are connected through out the world.

Shahjahan Hafiz  
Gulshan  
Dhaka

## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's *The Daily Star* report headlined "e-textbook for students."

### Dr Shaidul Kazi, Finland

In the era of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) presence on virtual world is as important as real world. Consequently, the initiative of e-textbook for students is a praiseworthy initiative. In addition, PMO could make it obligatory for all primary, secondary and higher secondary schools and colleges in urban areas to launch their institutional website

### Wazih Uddin

It is very helpful for advanced teacher who can make their lesson plan with the help of this site. I have visited this site. It has been very nice. Actually our country is going to be a digital country.

### Salam

Looks like this is a sheer waste of money since students who cannot afford to buy books will obviously not be able to afford a more expensive personal computer. Not sure how much this e-textbook project cost to the taxpayer and how much it will cost to maintain this project each year.

### Md Shahabuddin

I am a guardian of a student living abroad simply express my gratitude to our prime minister and PM office. It has begun a new era of education at home as well abroad to learn Bangla as second language.

### ShB

This is really hopeful for the people like me who study abroad where finding these books is really difficult.

### Shahidul Islam

It will help the young minds understand and appreciate the power of technology. Great initiative.

# The BSF fright



PHOTO: AFP

It has been a constant panic that the people living and trading at the borders will always stay in a threat to be illegally shot at by BSE. Almost every day, we go through the daily papers with such kind of pathetic news of illegal shooting. From elderly to children, traders to general people, visitors to inhabitants-nobody is free from the fright of BSF killings. Border security must be maintained but it is, in no means ethical to shoot at the people without giving prior notice to the 'violators'. Moreover, sometimes the relatives of the people killed by the BSF do not get the dead bodies. Such kind of occurrence is no good in retaining the positive relationship between these two neighbouring countries. The both govt. must come forward in settling the matter as soon as possible.

### Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir

Dept. of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology  
Sylhet

## Teachers are deprived

Teachers are the nation builders. In developed countries; they are given high salaries for their work. But in Bangladesh, they are deprived. Government seems to be reluctant about teacher's compensation strategy or pay policy. Government recently declared that they will increase the pay scale and make separate pay scale for the teachers. But didn't focus on a major problem that they never get their salaries in due time in government schools and colleges.

The government and private investors are financing and approving schools and colleges but there are shortages of teachers. Due to poor pay and facilities, teachers are naturally quitting this novel job and searching new profession.

Anubhab Chakraborty and others  
Mohakhali  
Dhaka

## Disturbing news

Last Friday when I was going through a newspaper, I became startled to see the news that a young boy had been killed by an S.I. of police in Tangail. I thought the police officer beat him profusely and he died. The law enforcement agencies duty is to protect human rights but they are actually violating us by killing of innocent people in custody.

We are not better off today because of this situation and it is really unacceptable from the law enforcement agencies. I request the concerned authority to take stern action against the culprits.

Md. Sabbir Hossain  
Department of English  
Govt. Haraganga College  
Munshigonj