

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.

Will Osama's death bring peace ?



On 2nd May, all western news channels, BBC, CNN and SKY news that I watch regularly; highlighted the killing of Osama bin Laden at his stronghold in Abbotabad in Pakistan; hardly 50 miles from Islamabad! Imagine bin Laden living there with his family; and the ISI knowing nothing about it! Seems very surprising! There seems to be "many a slip, between the cup and the lip", as the popular saying goes! Pakistan's ISI is today at the bottom of the 'rubbish bin', worldwide!

Another interesting matter is about their names. After painstaking ten years of effort by the US, it was OBAMA, who finally got OSAMA! The spelling of their first name; except in one it is 'B' after the 'O', and in the other it is the 'S' after the 'O'! Surprising coincidence indeed! It needed an 'OBAMA' to finish off 'OSAMA'; a good riddance indeed!

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Osama bin Laden, the most wanted man in the world, at long last was killed by the USA Navy's SEAL elite force near the affluent suburbs of Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan in the early hours of May 2, 2011. He rose to prominence after his cohorts in a suicidal bid, blown out the Twin Towers in Manhattan with big passenger aircrafts. They also waged long war in Afghanistan alongside the infamous Taliban, to install the administration of Mullah Omar, who gave shelter to Laden when he was stalked

by both Bush and Obama administration. Almost for a decade Laden, evaded arrest and kept the world at bay with his crusading activities against USA, Europe and other progressive Muslim countries. His death though unexpected will most probably bring peace and stability in the world.

Humayun Hyder
Zikatola
Dhaka

I would have become sad hearing the news of death of Osama bin Laden, had I been in my previous mindset that Al Qaeda is fighting to regain the prestige of Islam. Now when I know that killing the innocent people in the name of Jihad is the great disservice to Islam, I hear the news with a sigh of relief that Osama is no more to bring bad name to Islam that it breeds terrorism. Imperialist forces used us as they wished to serve their interest of weakening us by mass killing and exploiting our resources.

They choose our half-educated madrasa students to pit them against other Muslims. Now the game is going to be over with the ugly, hideous face of so-called western civilization, clearly revealed to the civil society worldwide, the enemy of Muslims and Islam is quick to regain some sense of respectability by killing Bin Laden or it may be some sort of exit strategy from Afghanistan.

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur
Natore

Heredity and stupidity?

Apparently, the whole world was taken aback by the pomp and grandeur of the British fairytale royal nuptial on 29 April 2011. To the awe of the spectators, this couple was much brighter than the movie stars. And indeed they have to be, as they are the real prince and the real princess.

However, the question is: does the world have to wait for another millennium or two to see the superiority of sense and sensibility over heredity and stupidity? How long shall the human race continue to be swayed by emotions and therefore obstinacy?

Mohsin
Dhaka

Name changing game

The ruling government is changing names of the old famous structures and also naming every newly built structure after the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Every famous place, whether it's a hospital or bridge or conference center, is getting the same name. On the other hand, same name for different things is creating huge confusion. And some changes are really difficult to remember. I sincerely request the govt. to stop this useless name changing game. Because, we all know that your work will make you memorable, not your name.

Taneen Mustafa
Dhaka University

Geiger-Muller counter

It was in the school I read about the Geiger-Muller counter in our nuclear physics and nuclear chemistry subjects. Since then I heard a little about its extensive use. But after the recent devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the use

of Geiger-Muller counter increased tremendously as the disaster caused serious damage to some of the nuclear power plants.

Geiger-Muller counter has now become a common device in Japan to measure nuclear radiation level among the school children and the people residing around the damaged nuclear power plant and in other parts of Japan. As reported in the press, the manufacturers of Geiger-Muller counter are running out of stock due to high demand for the device.

This device was developed by Geiger and Muller in Germany in 1928. Various types of Geiger counters are widely used to detect and to measure ionizing radiation.

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

Credit where it's due

Congratulations to Md. Abdul Mabud, Director-General of the Department of Immigration and Passports, and all those responsible for introducing the new Bangladesh Immigration Arrival Card. Having cringed in dismay countless times over the years as I completed the obligatory landing card, this time was like inhaling a breath of fresh air.

Previously the cards demanded some totally irrelevant and superfluous questions be answered. The new card asks a mere 10 questions - all relevant and of equal importance. Of the 80 countries I've visited, Bangladesh now matches that of Thailand, which I've found to be the most user-friendly, fast-track immigration system in the world, and the friendliest.

Congratulations Bangladesh.
Sir Frank Peters

Gulshan
Dhaka

In the interest of public service

Over the last one year we have written several times to our Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Science Information and Communication Technology, Ministry of LGRD, Ministry of Planning, and Department of Roads and Highways to kindly let us know the road distance from our capital city Dhaka to our upazila headquarters, and also the distance from district headquarters to upazila headquarters, but all in vain.

We have not yet received any response from any quarter. The above mentioned information is required for our knowledge and for travelling from one place to another, and also for the sake of trade and commerce. Would the authorities concerned kindly issue a press release in the interest of public service?

O H Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

No more private universities

In recent times setting up of private universities has become a fashion. This is a profitable business in the name of providing education. The recent annual reports published by the UGC indicate that private universities are widely offering business oriented courses to produce graduates and post graduates. There are many universities which are running without having the UGC's approval. Thus, the quality of educa-

tion has deteriorated alarmingly. Also, foreign culture is being widely exercised in those universities, which has a long term detrimental effects on our moral values. It is high time the govt. stopped giving permission to set up any more private university.

Eng. Md. Meheboob Haque, BUET

Contrasting leaders

If one takes a closer look at the American presidents, one shall see that soon after assumption of the office, they begin to grow grey hairs and appear to be older than usual, which presumably results from thoughts and worries.

On the contrary, the leaders of Bangladesh appear to grow younger after taking oath, which implies that they become worry free after assumption of their office. And we can see the result- Bangladesh is going backwards.

I wish we had a leader, whose hair would turn grey and would appear older than usual after assumption of the office, which in turn would ensure a better and prosperous Bangladesh like that of the United States.
Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

Disgusting act!

On 26th April 2011, a news was published in The Daily Star that a student of an English medium school in Dhaka stopped attending school because an administrator hit her and six others with a wooden ruler for protesting the expulsion of two class-

mates. This is unacceptable.

Rowshan Ali
Department of Law
Northern University Bangladesh

Ban student politics

Clashes among student groups are becoming front page news in the national dailies. We observe that clash between activists of two political parties are more ferocious than that of two factions of a same party. Some days ago such a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) took place at Dhaka University over establishing supremacy at the dormitory that left 50 hurt. In the past, many promising students were killed and injured in these types of clashes. These sorts of incidents mostly occurred between pro-BNP and pro-AL activists. Even over a trivial matter, the activists used to entangle themselves in the fierce clash using illegal arms.

We admit that our students achieved historical glories in the past. We also admit that students are the future statesmen of the country. So, now the time has come to ban student politics for at least ten years to restore the proper environment in the educational institutions.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka

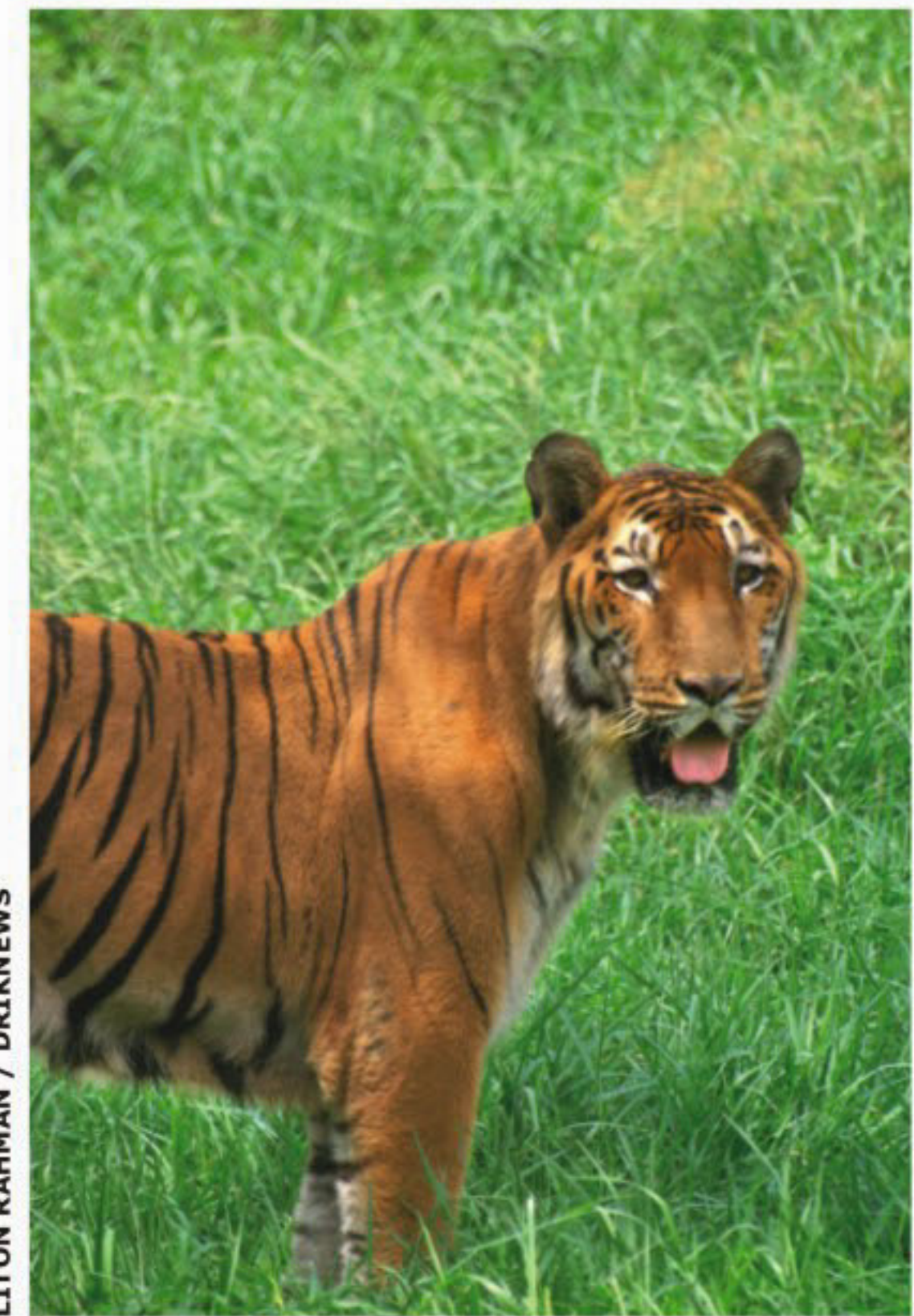
Poverty is curse

Our dearest Rasul (pbuh) often prayed to Allah to protect him from poverty. He says, "The utter state of poverty leads a person to become even a 'kafir' (atheist)." Poverty is obviously a big hindrance to any type of devel-

Save our tigers

The players of Bangladesh Cricket Team have become known as Tigers all over the world. We become highly delighted whenever our team wins a match, especially against a powerful team. But what about our real tigers? Do we care for them? The lives of the tigers in the Sundarbans are in jeopardy. Various factors are responsible for this. For example, the illegal intruders in the Sundarbans are cutting trees indiscriminately and hunting the wild animals. Moreover, climate change and other manmade problems are making the Sundarbans ecologically imbalanced. As a result, availability of food and hunting ground of tigers are decreasing day by day. So, the govt. has to take immediate initiatives to protect the tigers, otherwise tigers will be extinct very soon in the Sundarbans.

Mustafa Iqbal Shahadat, Dhaka



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

Low quality of OMS rice

With the honest intention of saving the poor people from the onslaught of ever-increasing price of rice, the govt. has been selling rice at a reduced rate through Open Market Sales (OMS) throughout the country. But very often the rice sold at OMS centres is of such a low quality that it is only usable as poultry feed. It is actually a mixture of particles (Khud) of different varieties of rice

full of husks and grits. The rice seems to have lost its original colour and emits a bad odour. Perhaps it had remained heaped up in godowns for years. It will be nice if the authorities do not consider OMS as govt. charity and the people who queue up to buy OMS rice as beggars!

Md Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara
Kushtia



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS



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

Past govt to hold polls if CG fails

AL proposes reviving immediate past political govt if elections not held within 90-day tenure of caretaker govt (April 28, 2011)

People want a fair election to continue democratic process, to elect next government. We opted for CG because political parties could not show fair process of electing people's representative. Once major parties show some maturity in electing next government, we would not need CG. Everyone remembers how both major parties behaved in the time of power transition.

EB

The controversy on constitutional changes will continue as no major changes have been indicated by the PM. The reason not to change article 70 is weak

in view of the past experiences we have with the right and obligation of the law makers to perform as law makers. The provision proposed for the caretaker government is loose enough to allow the past government to run the election. It will not work.

Anonymous in USA

Handling back the power to immediate past government will further create chaos. The immediate past party may create anarchy only to delay the election and eventually get the power back to them and hold the election under them.

Regarding Article 70, I changed my mind after seeing what our MP's did regarding to empowering the upazila chairman. This article should remain unchanged.

Rawshan Iajdani

Probably it would not be justifiable to give power to past government again. As caretaker government came in the ground that political government always tries to mold election results in favor of them by unfair means. The recent local government election by and large proves that. However, there should be some restrictions so that caretaker government gets no chance to increase their period without the consensus of the major political parties

Abu Zubair

Article 70 is Achilles heel for our constitution. This provision has throttled down our MP's will power. They play the copycat role in parliament. All the members wait for their chief to take any decision even they personally deplore the bills. Article 70 should be scrapped at any cost to free the MP's.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

No party still said to strengthen

the EC who would be responsible to hold the elections within the time. Why EC cannot hold the DCC election? Is it not an undemocratic pressure on the EC?

Jalal

We could have considered plebiscite as Turkey has done in connection with our problem so that encroaching on government would be hard. We have a ready made voter list. It would have closed the matter once for all.

Md. Mahbul Huq

CG should have special power to prosecute corrupt politicians, business men, and officials. CG should continue in power as along as all political parties agree to participate in fair election. CG should have special power to establish special courts to prosecute these criminals.

Yasmin

Excellent proposals, much appreciated.

Parvez Shibly

This issue is hot of controversy, now it is rekindled further.

Ruddho

It may create more problems.