

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.

Ramna Park-a lost delight



PHOTOS: WRITER

We are all aware that lead-laced toxic fume all over Dhaka city is a serious challenge to quality life. Like numerous city dwellers, I, as a part of daily chores, visit the Ramna Park for a little respite. But, I am deeply saddened to note that olden days' pastoral and pristine beauty of the premier park in recent years has greatly disappeared:

- a) The garden itself is not properly tended; some of the sitting benches dilapidated; toilets awfully stinky.
 - b) Vendors blocking all the entry-gates, hawkers inside, relentless screaming of brats engaged in fun-games, joy-rides; occasional invasions by ravaging urchins, stray-dogs, obscene amouir in open by wayward couples, brazen smoking etc -- all these contributed to making of the present state of sordid decay.
- There is hardly any plea for the authority to remain disconnected from this condition in as much as the site is a proud possession of our capital city, Dhaka.
SA Samad
Baro Mogbazar, Dhaka

Stinky water of WASA

Dhaka is a city of numerous problems and miseries. It is also one of the most polluted cities around the world. Both the authorities and the dwellers are to be blamed for this nuisance. The outbreak of numerous problems with numerous dimensions is a day to day phenomenon of Dhaka city. The city residents are now getting stinky water. The water supplied by WASA is so stinky that one can hardly call it water! A few days ago, a leading daily reported that the water reservoir of WASA was being used for garbage disposal! Drinking such water leads to serious health crises. The authorities must be sincere enough in ensuring safe water supply.

Khondoker Rezwan Tanvir
*Department of Business Administration
 Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet*

We want peace now

I have learnt from BBC that Afghan President Hamid Karzai said: "Again and again, for years and every day we have said that the war on terror is not in Afghan villages, not in Afghan houses of the poor and oppressed.....The war against terrorism is in its sources, in its financial sources, its sanctuaries, in its training bases, not in Afghanistan. It was proven that we were right."

I think this is very significant and should be taken into account by the USA. The damages occurred due to military actions by the world's top ranking armed forces in this war would never be compensated by anything. However, we want an end to this war and we want peace.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka

Internet facilities in rural areas

The number of internet users is increasing day by day in both urban and rural areas. Many companies are giving their services so that people can enjoy using internet. But we need better service from these operators. Majority of the people are living in rural areas and are deprived of internet facilities. Enabling the rural people to access internet can empower them to bring themselves out of poverty.

Saurav Sinha
Dept. of English, DU

Lack of social etiquette

A few days ago, I participated in a national seminar on occupational safety, health and environment. At that seminar, I felt so disturbed due to frequent ringing of cell phones. It was so surprising that someone was talking over cell phone in the seminar room. We are used to spitting here and there even on a neat and clean floor. We are very reluctant to say 'Thank You', 'You Are Most Welcome' and 'I Am Sorry'. We walk making sound in a place which needs silence most. We do not want to stand in a queue for getting or doing something because we always are so busy. In fact, standing in a queue is more or less humiliating to most of us. These manners do not work in our country.

Md. Taherul Islam
*M.S.S
 Institute of Social Welfare & Research*

Share market scam

Over the last few days, the report of the probe body on the subject, is hiding behind the bush of "administrative editing or auditing"; which is making it all the more murky!

Why not publish it in verbatim, with the statement that the opinions are of the members of the probe committee, and not of the government.

As a novice on the subject; with no 'shares'; I have no idea of the mechanics of the 'share market'. From the news item it seems that 'clever share market operators' naturally buy shares cheaply and sell it at a high price, like any other commodity market.

And in the same manner, they can set the price trend in the market by what is called "cornering the market" by creating demand and supply of 'shares' like any other commodity!

However, if the companies selling shares have given wrong information about their accounts and profitability, then they should be taken to task.

It is a different matter if the share market operators are also owners of the companies providing wrong and misleading information about their company's finances!

Share Market Novice
Dhaka

(ISWR), University of Dhaka

Our affluent leaders

We feel excited and elated when we see that our 'big' and even 'semi-big' political leaders are affluent enough to go to renowned foreign hospitals and clinics for medical treatment! It seems that medical establishments, competence and facilities which our leaders have developed so far in Bangladesh are meant only for the poor multitude, not for themselves! Of course, to our leaders money is no problem! Our big leaders have big pockets! Our leaders fly to London, Bangkok or Singapore as we, poor Dhakaites, take a stroll across Gulshan or Banani! And for them there is the 'perennial' source of forex lying with BB! Certainly, our leaders' lives are far more precious than the lives of the poor masses! If they do not remain healthy and stout, then who will rescue us?

Md Mohsin Ali
*Nutan Courtpara
 Kushtia*

Another stock market scam?

The results of the IPO Lottery of EBL NRB Mutual Fund, conducted by BUET spread over 978 pages covering lacs of investors, is now available in DSE website. Subscription was payable to 13 Banks, their branches (about 100) all over Bangladesh, institutional buyers including ICB and Mutual Funds.

Astonishingly, these 978 pages comprise only those who paid subscriptions in the Dilkusha Branches of Eastern Bank, Bank Asia, Trust Bank and BRAC Bank. No one else received any allotment including NRB allottees as per the website. The mode of refund is also absent. Nothing similar has ever happened in all the years I have been participating in IPOs. Can SEC, DSE, BUET and Race Management please explain how this could happen? BUET has long been trusted by investors for impartiality in IPO Lotteries.

Sikander Ahmed
*Niketon
 Gulshan-1, Dhaka*

Of NSU, graduation and the President

This letter is in response to the letter titled 'Convocation day can never be sad.' I totally agree, I never used the word sad to describe the graduation; I, however, go on to call the graduation at NSU extremely disappointing judging by its shambolic organization. Universities abroad host their convocations on campus, however, I don't think they leave the parents waiting to sweat for over an hour and run so ridiculously late on time. And I am also pretty sure arrangements are made so they sit where they can actually see the programme they are attending!

And I don't wish to demean the role of the President. However, freedom of expression gives me the right to question the integrity of a President whose age restricts him from the day-to-day acts of welcoming dignitaries and signing check books. My phrases were tongue-in-cheek and not meant to be patronizing. I would have hoped someone with a little sense of sarcasm would have appreciated it. I must thank you for your enlightening response. I look forward to locking horns again!

Sajid A. Choudhury

Dargamahalla
 Sylhet

What's law got to do with it?

Unarmed-yet-dead, Osama Bin Laden could've made a valuable informant in fighting terrorism. However, President Obama's dramatic announcement of a 'kill' order shows little or no intent of 'capture'. As the US PR machine prays for elation to wash away questions, the Attorney General has assured legitimacy of the kill.

Let's face the facts: there just ain't any legal basis for shooting an unarmed man. Also Pakistan, as a sovereign land, cannot be made the site for extrajudicial killings without prior consent. Since when does being a VIC (Very Important Country) exempt you from the Law? Or is that a contradiction in terms?

Can the US now go into any country and kill anyone for the love of national security? A person's right to life or a country's right to sovereignty is unalienable whether he/she/it is popular or not. It may yield no fruit, but I think it is only decent to at least raise these questions.

Adnan R. Amin
*Gulshan
 Dhaka*

High-rise apartments

A number of high-rise apartments with all amenities are now found in the city. Most of these apartments are very costly and beyond the reach of the low-income group of people. As days are passing, the competition is getting tougher mainly because of mushrooming of small property developers.

It is also found that the high-rise apartments put pressure on the existing infrastructure facilities. So, the authorities concerned should immediately take some effective steps in this regard.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Chittagong

Blow to AL image

While the AL regime is actively busy investigating past crimes, the recent daylight swindling of the Dhaka Stock Exchange has severely, directly, and permanently damaged the image of AL.

Lakhs of middle class investors have direct experience of their financial losses; due to negligence of the concerned authorities in monitoring and timely deterrent actions. Now the names of the alleged culprits are being withheld from publication (as named by the independent investigating body). Such lack of transparency would affect the vote-attracting power of AL. Then there are the disputes in regard to new regulations in the religious field; thereby creating new problems.

We have to be alert to the changes occurring in the Middle East, the Gulf States and in North Africa. Religion has entered politics globally, due to corrupt political practices and dictatorial regimes. The problems of the third world countries do not seem to be sensitive to the rich nations -- the human touch is lacking in modern capitalistic politics.

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's *The Daily Star* report headlined "Carjackers on the prowl!"

Christopher Sangma

I guess Dhaka is truly getting to be top ranked inhospitable cities in the world. Crime circles, road accidents, armed robbery, water and power crisis, price hike of food essentials, etc. are increasing day by day.

Afreen Chowdhury

Dhaka is being flooded by so many issues. This hardly comes as a shock, its part of life unfortunately. My sympathy goes to the affected, however I hope *Daily Star* is not lacking in lead stories, just look around with so much going at home and abroad!!

Afreen

It is a shame that justice and punishment take too long a time to become effective. If the same people do carjacking after bail, from now on court should not bail them unless exemplary punishment is given to them.

Nasirullah Mridha

Police arrest the carjackers and send them to court. After getting bail they indulged in same carjacking. Why the Law ministry didn't take measures to close the loopholes of law? Criminals not only hijack the car they are hell bent to kill drivers if resisted. Home ministry should not eschew the responsibility to deal with carjackers strenuously.

Novel Emdad

This is very pathetic that this type of gang still persists. Govt. should demolish all such groups. Is police really doing their job?

Abdus Sobhan

This is horrible indeed. How the Interior ministers still claim that Law and Order Situations are under their control?

S Ali

The report once again confirms that the law is toothless in respect of dealing properly with the carjackers. How do carjackers get bail so easily and engage in the same act with ease? In most cases how do police make cases against them that they get bail so easily? We think that both the law and the police have much more to do.

Anonymous

The spirit of Liberation War goes on! They were out to fight the war but they are not still going home. Use the skill of warfare to earn a livelihood.



Our currency notes

Recently, Bangladesh Bank has requested all concerned to refrain from writing on currency notes (taka) as it causes financial loss to its bearer and damages it. We need to make people aware about this. But it is a matter of great regret that the major damages are often caused by the banks. BB provides notes tied with steel string punching holes through the notes. Other banks also put seal and stick levels with gum on the notes. I hope BB would take proper steps to save our currency notes.

Md. Abdul Hai
*Teacher
 Garjantali Govt. Primary School
 Ramgarh, Khagrachhari*

Osama's killing and media

The news of Osama Bin Laden's killing by the US elite forces in Pakistan reached to the world people through various media which include web, cell phone, cable TV network, etcetera. This highlights the change in the nature of modern media.

Even the people are enjoying the opportunity to analyze the credibility of the news on different social networks including Facebook, Twitter, etc. Incidentally when these debates were going on over different media, the world was observing the "World Press Freedom Day 2011" with the theme - "21st Century Media: New Frontiers, New Barriers". Well, with Bin Laden's news, free flow of information is on between and among the people on digital media.

Meanwhile, it is sincerely hoped that the US government vide digital media will release all the videos, audios and other related information regarding Laden's mysterious killing and subsequent unnatural burial at the sea to dismiss public doubts and confusions.

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



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS