

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.

Proud to achieve the tag of NASA participation



I was absolutely awestruck to read about BRAC university students building the nation's first lunar robot. That's a fantastic achievement! I sincerely congratulate the people concerned with this effort, for it shows that there exist some pockets of intelligence in our student body. Even if we don't win anything, the mere participation exemplifies our presence in the field of robotics, which is a monumental achievement considering just how far behind we, as a country, are in the field of science and technology. Hopefully, with the right exposure, there will be more of this type of recognitions. Who knows, maybe one day some rocket will carry a robot designed by Bangladeshi students to some distant planet? That will be the day I will be waiting for!

Asifur Rahman Khan
Circuit House Road
Ramna
Dhaka

RAB is always right!

Over the last few days trigger happy RAB is under focus of all Human Rights Groups, both national and international! Yet RAB carries on indiscriminate killing or maiming people, many totally innocent, like Limon and his uncle; one shot and maimed for life, one mercilessly beaten; and none carrying arms!

Why not post them as border guards, where they will meet their match; against the trigger happy Indian BSF. We will soon find out; whose aim is better, and how RAB fares against BSF!

RAB Watcher
Dhaka

Zamzam water not contaminated

Recently some international news agencies reported that the water of the holy Zamzam well in Makkah has been contaminated. Although the concerned Saudi authorities regularly monitors the purity and safety of Zamzam water through performing regular scientific tests, still the scientists of King Fahd University for Petroleum and Mineral Resources (KFUPM) have recently conducted a series of tests on Zamzam water using the latest laser spectrum disintegration technology. The results have found no harmful element in Zamzam water; it is safe for human consumption.

Meanwhile as reported by the Saudi Press, some people are selling bottles of water calling it Zamzam water but which is not actually collected from the authorized centres. It is sincerely hoped that the concerned Saudi authorities would take appropriate measures to check unauthorized bottling and selling of Zamzam water to retaining the purity and safety of the holy water.

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

All about flying high

On 12th May 2011, the grade 8 students of the Aga Khan School Dhaka paid an educational visit to the Bangladesh Flying Club and Aviation Academy. The whole trip was arranged to enrich knowledge about airplanes and the physics behind its mechanism. This wonderful trip would not have been possible without the directive of the teachers and the authorities of the Bangladesh Flying Club.

Students were provided the opportunity to converse with many senior pilots of renowned airlines including trainers of the Air Force. The students were there for guidance and to quench their thirst for information.

This experience was undoubtedly edifying and pleasurable. I strongly believe that if more schools endeavour to provide such opportunities to the students along with effective school hours, there will be a more enriched education system.

Ramisa Mehjabeen Doha
The Aga Khan School
Uttara Model Town
Dhaka

Daytime Running Lights (DRL)

Everyone knows that the safety record on the roads of Bangladesh is terrible with many lives lost each year. I would like to advocate the adoption and use of Daytime Running Lights [DRL] in Bangladesh on all road traffic.

I spent some years in Canada. They introduced mandatory daytime lights on cars. I found that my road awareness during the sunlit hours was much improved. When leaving my lights on in Dhaka, I see many people on the road signalling me that I am doing something wrong.

I congratulate the government for making seatbelt use mandatory, and I urge them to consider DRL. Many Western countries have adopted DRL on cars by making law, as can be seen with a quick internet check on Wikipedia.

I strongly believe that if we undertake a public education campaign, we can introduce this much needed safety habit in Bangladesh.

Tarek Ali
Uttara
Dhaka

Left debacle in West Bengal

Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Bannerjee has struck at the very heart of the left in West Bengal with a crushing victory that has brought to an end the longest reign of any left bloc in India. The election of West Bengal indicates again that public is the main source of state power.

It is we who forget ethics after being elected and become detached from the mass people. We try to fulfill our own interest denying people's expectations. This election of West Bengal is a warning even for the MPs of Bangladesh. We should learn from this election and should be honest and respectful to masses and perform our duties.

Our hearty felicitations to Mamata Bannerjee on her electoral victory as we look forward to continuation and enrichment of our neighbourly relations with the Indian state of West Bengal.

Mohammed Jashim Uddin
BSS
Dhaka

Poor Banglalink network

I completely agree with the report titled "Poor Banglalink Network" published on May 1 in your daily. In spite of achieving the 2nd position in market, they are constantly failing to provide us with an uninterrupted network.

In this regard, I would also like to say that they should stop airing those Banglalink Desh commercials where the models wear colourful expensive clothes and heavy make up, and dance in weddings and fairs without any logical reason, as the song they sing praising their network coverage is hardly true. I kindly request the authorities to spend their money in improving their network rather than in illogical commercials.

Quazi Samira Rahman
Viqarunnisa Noon School and College

Constitution amendment



The talk of the town nay of the country is constitution amendment. We are given to understand that constitution is a set of rules compiled by men of wisdom for good governance of a country with a view to doing good to its people.

"To err is human", as such man made constitution can never be above any mistakes. With every regime change, constitution shall be amended to suit the needs of the regime in power. Since constitution is meant for the good governance of a country, it should be amended in a manner so as to ensure the good of its people. In order to do good to the people, the constitution should be amended to:

- 1) Make laws that would prevent children of the present and past prime ministers to inherit the throne of the country, if they do not qualify for it.
- 2) Make PhD or Masters Degree a prerequisite for a person desiring to become a politician and
- 3) Make laws that would prevent a person from becoming a Prime Minister or a President for more than two terms, no matter how popular the person may be. If the above mentioned amendments are made, the people at large shall be immensely benefited.

Nigar Choudhury
On e-mail

Occupation of Bashabo playground

Bashabo, one of the densely populated areas of Dhaka, is seriously deprived of public amenities. However, Bashabo playground is the only open space left in the area where people can take some breath and children can play. But it is unfortunate that some organizations regularly arrange different kinds of fairs occupying the playground depriving the young people to play there.

The Daily Star has been very much aware of the issue. As such, several times The Daily Star covered news on illegal occupations of different playgrounds in the city. But it is unfortunate that they have not published any news on the occupation of the Bashabo playground.

So, we would humbly request you to visit the Bashabo playground and publish investigative news in your reputed newspaper which will uncover the nexus of public, private and political persons who are involved in the undue use of the public playground for their personal gain.

Md. Mynul Mamun
Goran, Dhaka

Unfair bus fare



READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "PM's adviser sees criminal link of Limon, his father."

Sarwar
PM should sack this adviser with immediate effect. Otherwise there will be a time when there will be no time except to say that sycophants have sunk the PM.

Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee
In a country the PM, Home Minister, IGP, DG of Rab and the PM's Advisor are the only person can be correct; rest are not worth taking into consideration.

Kabir Ahmad
The PM's Defense Adviser has suggested that Limon's parents are also involved with criminals besides Limon.

The retired Major General's opinion will undoubtedly jeopardize inquiry commission's activities.

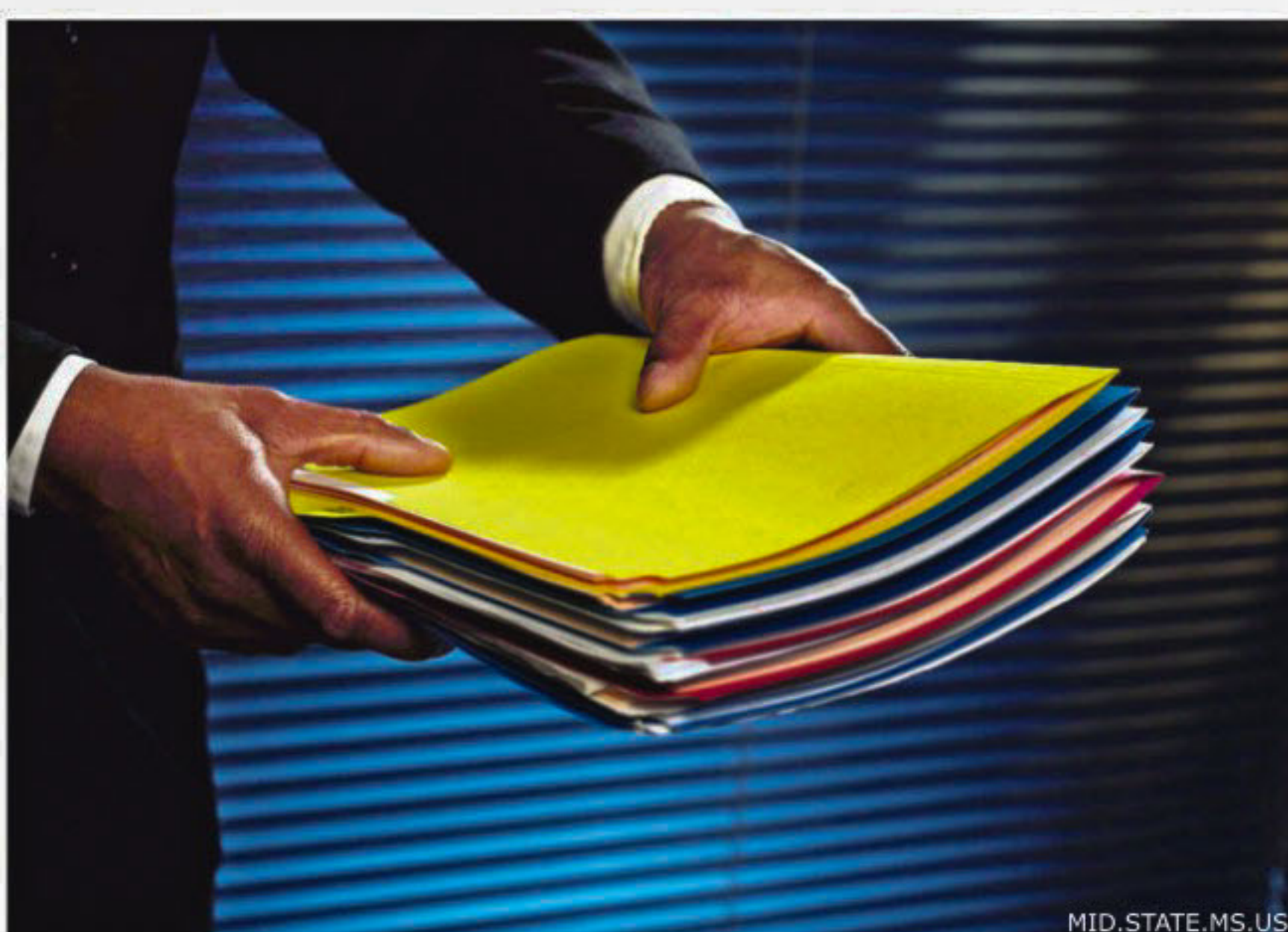
A puzzled reader
With his statement Tarique has caused a genuine reason for the public to raise the ultimate question that 'How far a person, who himself as a DGI had been inactive and silent towards such a grievance of Rab thus betraying the people by neglecting his prime responsibility and duty, is trustworthy to serve as an important person like Defense Adviser to PM?'

Anonymous
It is hard to believe what I am reading. The Daily Star which has been fighting for justice is being smeared. Where do we go for the truth? It transpires that the case of Limon is getting serious. Thorough investigation should be made on this case.

Ahmed
Has the Defense Adviser been demoted to the job of Rab's Spokesperson? Why does he think that the international organisations like Human Rights Watch & Amnesty International would be conspiring against Bangladesh's ruling party? What would be their benefit?

If Siddique's statements are correct then it appears to be everyone else except the government has been conspiring against Rab.

Digital Bangladesh?



Awami League government in its election manifesto declared that digitization would be done in most of the government offices to reduce sufferings of the people. Although, digitization does not mean wide use of computers, it means easy access and exchange of information and communication. A number of initiatives have also been taken by the government and equipment was also supplied to different service departments like DESA, WASA, Police, Income Tax, Customs, Telephone, Land, Railway, City

Corporation, District Administration etc. Does any relevant department review what type of services we are receiving in reality? I requested for some services through website to some of the above departments; I never got any response from anyone. From the Police, WASA, Telephone (BTCL), and Income Tax offices, nobody responded to any of our requested services. I would, therefore, request the concerned departments to respond to people with their requested services.

S. M. Khaleque Zaman
Popular Housing-1
Mirpur-2, Dhaka

We condemn the wicked remarks

With amusement and contempt, I read the ignorant and prejudiced remarks of AQ Khan, regarding Bangladesh's war of liberation.

Coming from a man who has neither morals nor ethics and whose life is based on anger over his country's humiliation before the entire world, we in Bangladesh, can only smile and shake our heads at his pathetic attempt to justify his corrupt method of developing 'nuclear technology' for a bankrupt country, whose people starve and women are killed every day, in the name of 'honour'.

Evidently, the success of Bangladesh is a thorn in AQ Khan's side. Has it ever occurred to him that his beloved 'land of the pure' committed atrocities in our golden Bengal, which put the Nazi atrocities to shame?

But again, his blind ignorance forbids him to see beyond his bigoted thoughts. I feel rather sorry for the Pakistani people, who have to declare AQ Khan their 'national hero'.

A nation has sunk really low, when an international nuclear thief, is the national hero. Good luck to them and good luck to AQ Khan. Perhaps he should come to Bangladesh sometime to see where we stand today; but again, do we want to pollute our beautiful land with the likes of him?

I also congratulate the DS, for its very pointed and thought provoking editorial on the subject.

P. Haque
Uttara, Dhaka

For our safety

According to the holy Quran, "Save yourselves as well as your own family from the hell." Our dearest Rasul (SM) says, "Time will come when it will be difficult for a person to protect him/herself." Actually, we are now passing through this time. Moreover, the honest and good people are now neglected everywhere, and vice versa. We should always pray to Allah for our safety of all sorts.

Habibur Rashid Ismail



Megalomania!

The article titled "The Kings we crown" by Mark Moyar published in TDS of May 13, 2011 gives us a notion that the USA knows the men who will hold the state power in any country of the world. However, it has been proved many times that the US foreign policy makes a Frankenstein in any country just to kill it in the nick of time when this country would be required to appear as a saviour. This is done as 'fuel to the flame' mechanism. Even sometimes they patronize immoral diplomacy like religious militancy. A series of success of these events makes a country megalomaniac. And glow of this mental state transmits into every citizen's mind.

Apparently, the author of this article appeared to the readers as an impartial critic, but the inner message is to show us the lengths of the hands of the USA.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka