

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.



PHOTO: WRITER

An offensive sculpture

Of late an imposing sculpture of horse-mounted twin cops has been installed in the intersection of Mintoo road entry-point. The inscriptions on the subject depict it as a symbol of British-era policemen.

As a discerning person I wonder how an anti-people, hostile-colonial masters' policemen who were primarily fielded to foil genuine and legitimate aspirations of countrymen may be chosen as a landmark-exhibit in a busy inter-

section of the capital city of a self-respecting, free and sovereign nation. This is not only naive and demeaning but also plays an unsavoury note for our patriotic police force and its concept and commitment.

If at all, this sort of works may be kept in museums only to sequence transformation of our political history.

S. A. Samad
*General Manager (Retd.)
 Janata Bank
 Bara Moghbazar
 Dhaka*

Why this discrimination?

There is hardly any doubt that RMG sector is the highest foreign currency earner in Bangladesh. Nowadays in this sector Industrial Engineering Department is playing a vital role to enrich its productivity. But it is an irony of fate that some so-called industrial engineers coming from different institutions are entering RMG sector having no knowledge about garment manufacturing. The engineers during their study only concentrate on heavy industrial machineries like those in the pharmaceuticals, cement factories and food & beverage factories. Yet these engineers are being hired with huge salary. On the contrary, some highly experienced persons are being hired with low salaries. Why is this discrimination? I would urge the government as well as BGMEA to look into this matter seriously, if they really want to improve this sector.

Lean, On e-mail

Replace the word 'shood'

I entirely agree with the letter by Dr S N Mamoon (13 June). In old days when there was no official or regulated banking word 'interest'. What existed was 'usury' or 'shood', always with manipulative exploitation of the poor and needy and extreme hardship of those who took loans from unregulated lenders. Similar transactions unfortunately still exist in England and other developed countries, believe it or not. This is what is forbidden in Islam i.e. such exploitation and hardships; and 'karje-hasana' i.e. interest free loans to the needy in the community is encouraged. So, the word 'shood' is inapplicable to regulated banking context and the word 'interest' on capital, whether deposited or loaned from a bank.

Engineer Shafi Ahmed
 London, UK

Reading films with great care

It was a fortunate event for me to participate in renowned film critique and writer John W. Hood's workshop on 6-10th instant, titled "Aesthetics of Satyajit Ray's movie: four classic films" at Bangladesh Film Institute, Dhaka. He wrote many books on Indian/Bengali classic films. Among them two are highly acclaimed. Those are: The Essential Mystery: Major Filmmakers of Indian Art Cinema and Beyond the World of Apu: Films of Satyajit Ray. John Hood's style of reading a film is not biased to any person, or any society. Rather, he is much more devoted to the distinct art of films. To analyze Ray's movies, he uses such an investigative approach which catches not only the context of the story but also the camera/cinematic elements, the filmmaker's emphasis and most importantly, the comparative analysis of Ray's particular work to his other works.

To develop our film industry and film aesthetics, every film society can arrange such programmes. My heartfelt thanks to John Hood for sowing an innovative seed in our minds to read films with great care.

Md. Ilias Kamal Risat
 Department of Sociology

Nature at your service



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

On 5th June, the World Environment Day was observed all over the world. This year's theme "Forests: Nature at Your Service" calls for collaborative global efforts for increased investment in forest management and forest resources to increase employment, reduce deforestation and help tackle climate change. The government of Bangladesh along with NGOs and different socio-political organisations arranged various programmes on the day to make people aware who are directly involved in the act of deforestation. They stressed the importance of tree plantation, reducing felling of trees, etc., because trees trim down floods and droughts. It is not possible to eradicate all the problems overnight as we have limited manpower and logistic support. Awareness is the main way to come out of this problem.

Md. Arshad Ali
 Department of Physics, University of Chittagong

Marketing Guru Prof. Philip Kotlar

Marketing Guru Prof Philip Kotlar visited Bangladesh for the first time and made his deliberation on different aspects of marketing at different seminars in Dhaka attended by marketing professionals, academicians, executives, company bosses who got rare chances to renew their ideas, innovativeness in marketing. He said "Brand of a product is the name of the story of the product and marketing of the product is telling the story." What an easy way to describe the two most complicated issues of marketing. Like human being every product has a life cycle and unless it is given new lease of life by "entrepreneurship" the product will not exist any more. This is done by the brand manager of the product. With the new message of Prof Philip Kotlar our local companies will give new lease of life to their products through new ideas and will start the culture of "Branding" their product. Prof. Kotlar said some of our Bangladesh garments are sold at "Mark and Spencer" without any brand name except it is tagged "Made in Bangladesh", which is working temporarily as Brand. Had it been properly branded after continuous product development, diversification, product improvement and new production method and procedures, the product could have been sold in foreign market under strong footing of brand name and the country would have been highly benefited.

Md. Lutfar Rahman
 Faculty, College of Business Administration, IUBAT, Dhaka

Unstable edible oil market

It is now apparent that the powerful oil mafias are playing a cat and mouse game with the government by breaking the promises they made to the Prime Minister, that they will not increase the prices of oil during the month of Ramadan. It is also heartening to know that the Prime Minister has also agreed to the importers' demand of slashing down the VAT on oil from 15% to 10% in order to keep the price to tolerable levels. However, despite government's compromising attitude, the importers seem indifferent in their attitude and keep on increasing the prices whimsically showing their high handedness on the matter. The government must form a taskforce to see why the prices of oil are going up almost every day. Government must also appoint more importers to break the monopoly of a few handful importers. It is also suggested that if the taskforce finds any anomalies or wrong doings in the business, let their license be revoked

immediately. Government should also direct the authorities concerned to monitor imports and mills that are refining oil strictly. Moreover, govt. must assign substantial powers to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh and put them at the helm to quell the manipulators by importing oil in large scale.

Humayun Hyder, Zigatola, Dhaka

Our Mohoram Bhai

Iron heart and endless hope are the two essential qualities of a hero. Mohoram Ali of CRP is blessed with these two qualities and now getting ready for the world tour. He will prove that a wheel-chair user can also roam throughout the world. Being his colleague, I am really proud. I honestly confess, I got tremendous mental support from him while writing any letter or article. He is very popular among all his colleagues because of his pleasant cheerful personality and a very simple lifestyle. His mission would definitely motivate all physically challenged people to change their attitude towards life. His adventure will make a history and definitely bring glory to our country. At present he needs some money to meet the cost. The affluent persons of this country should stand beside him. We all pray for his safe and successful mission.

Pradip Das, Lecturer, BHPI, CRP

Decentralisation of Dhaka

Traffic jams have become an everyday event for us living in Dhaka city. If one would like to go to Motijheel from Gulshan, s/he would have to wait for hours on a busy working day. This certainly has become an annoying problem. A few years ago I read an article in The Daily Star about decentralising Dhaka's industrial sectors and making Dhaka a complete residential city. I think this particular idea is very good indeed, as most of the developed countries around the world have decentralised capitals. I believe that considering the idea of a decentralised Dhaka will be pretty much helpful for the general public. If the government does consider changing the location of different sectors and relocating them outside Dhaka or to the suburbs of Dhaka, we shall see reduction in traffic jams in our capital. If the government is confused about taking a particular decision regarding decentralisation, then it must hold a referendum. And a reduction of traffic jam will trigger a reduction of pollution as well.

Please put a stop to mindless hartals



MAHABUB ALAM KHAN / DRINKNEWS

Hartals are taking place at the worst of times. Ordinary and Advanced level candidates are now taking their examinations - international examinations, nonetheless - and have to suffer as much as even having to wait six months to re-take the exams if the hartals continue for a long period of time. Issues like budget or caretaker government will not be solved with hartal. Please attempt to put a stop to these strikes, as their ineffectiveness has been proven time and time again. It's about time our 'leaders' understand that. Why should we be caught in the middle of a pointless power-play?
Amiya Atahar
*A level candidate
 Sunbeams
 Dhaka*

I urge the opposition party to assess the sorrows and sufferings common people are subjected to because of their hartal. They must understand that only common people, not the government, suffer from hartal tremendously. Let us, common people, make it clear that we would reject those who cause this sort of sufferings.
Dr M A Obaydullah
 Banani, Dhaka

This is to draw the attention of the BNP and its allies. Do you, who claim to be working for the welfare of the people of Bangladesh, even care what hardship and anxiety you are causing to countless young students who are being harmed by your hartal calls? These children have to sit for their exams at odd hours. They also fear that if the opposition calls non-stop hartals, their exams will be cancelled, jeopardizing their chances of applying for scholarships or admission to universities. If calling hartals is something that you cannot do without, could you not wait for the O and A level exams to be over?
A worried mother
 Uttara, Dhaka

I am writing in response to the oft repeated claim by the BNP leadership that the public participated spontaneously in the hartals called by them. The truth, if you do not know it already, is that the political parties, for solely their own benefit, terrorize the people into keeping away from the streets, their workplaces, etc, and shamelessly claim that the people have observed hartal. Please understand that if you keep on harming the people with your hartals, you will NOT BE

VOTED TO POWER even if the caretaker government oversees the elections. The general masses are just FED UP with your selfish calls for hartals.

Irene Sultan
 Dhanmondi
 Dhaka

The BNP always claims that they do politics for the people. As far as we are concerned, this time they have called hartal to protest a comment of the Prime Minister about the continuation of caretaker government. In her statement, the Prime Minister said that there was no scope of caretaker government to be continued as per high court directives. Furthermore, she has shown remarkable kindness by making scope for dialogue on the issue. It may be said that this hartal was groundless like other ones. Any national issue can be discussed in the parliament. The opposition leader should go to the parliament or innovate some other program which is harmless for the country.

Sabuj Sheikh
 Sir A.F Rahman Hall
 Dhaka University



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

Torturer Sumon caught
 Claims wife Rumana cheated on him; her friend says doctors in India found grievous injuries to cornea, retinae of both eyes
 (June 16, 2011)

Sumon is using the age old trick that criminals use. He is now cheating as a defense. If she cheated on you, leave her, divorce her. But you cannot justify your actions by making her blind.

S Khan

Without glass the beast can not be seen and that is why he grabbed her face near her mouth to attack and to make her

injured. If we call him a beast, that will be belittling a beast.

AA

My son-in-law was not exactly the same, but the family was not too far from here. My daughter's mother-in-law was dangerous and giving her son bad advice all the time. Her father-in-law did not have any vocal in family affairs. I did not wait too long, asked my daughter to come

home quickly and send her husband a divorce notice. If Rumana's parents did the same, then she would have lived life happily.

Opee

What happened to Rumana is condemnable of course. But one-sided verdict in this case should not be done.

Azim

Sumon is sick. An unemployed man can never absorb his wife's cumulative success. He needs psychiatric treatment firstly. Then the litigation which has been already lodged should be continued. We should vent our anger on our declined social ethics. We are heading uncharacteristically to the medieval age which is not a good sign.

Nasirullah Mridha

Nothing can justify Sumon's crime. Rumana may have an affair. But that does not make it

legal for his husband to torture her so inhumanely. He could have divorced her or done anything to her but this torture. He should be given exemplary punishment. We want eyes for eyes.

Kayes

Rumana, you are educated women. You earned yourself a Fulbright Scholarship to do your MS in a prestigious university and failed to take a right decision at the right time. For ten years a husband frequently is assaulting his wife and, you and your family failed to take the most vital decision of your life? Who will pay now? Just only you got married without your parent's permission is not an excuse at all. Your parents are equally responsible and failed to advice you properly. It is very sad and inhumane; but the victim herself and the family are equally responsible. We can't deny that. The criminal must be punished quickly so that the men behind these crimes do take note very seriously.