

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.

Human or beast?



guished faculty member of International Relations of Dhaka University. She was attacked barbarically by her homicidal husband. Her two eyes are badly damaged and her nose is severely bitten by her husband. We all express our heartfelt commiseration to the victim. We cannot believe that such a decent and brilliant university teacher can be attacked so ruthlessly. We

condemn this heinous attack on an innocent lady. The culprit should be brought to book immediately. The probe of the case should be done with utmost sincerity and rectitude to ensure justice to Rumana madam. The civil society, National Human Rights Commission, Dhaka University Teachers' Association should come forward to give all-out support to

the victim's family. The government must show zero tolerance to the miscreant. The government should also enact a law to eradicate domestic violence from Bangladesh. We all hope that Rumana madam will come round soon with the blessings of all.
Molla Mohammad Shaheen
Senior Lecturer
Dept. of English
Leading University, Sylhet

Being an educated person how Hasan Manzur could do this! Why should he be jealous by the shining prospect of his wife? He should have been happy with her brilliant success. We feel shame to see and hear such kind of news. Hassan Syed has bitten her nose! Almost gouged her eyes out! What a shame! I have watched in discovery channel that the big cats and Hyenas are always hunting the gentle animal like deer and others. No doubt, Hassan Syed will be regarded as the symbol of human hyena. I would request

the concerned to publish his picture in all printing and electronic media, so that everybody can recognize this new hyena in our society. It's a matter of hope that he has been caught by the detectives already.
Md Zahidul Islam Milton
LL.B Final Examinee (English Medium)
Bangabandhu Law College
Dhaka

I am very appalled at the macabre physical assault on Rumana Manjur, a distin-



PHOTO: STAR

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's *The Daily Star* report headlined "Graft documents vanish":

Dr Nazmul Haq
Good job. Very well done by the different ministers to protect various corruptions. This is the best way to clinch the top position in corruption.

M
This is the status of Awami League's truthfulness.

Anonymous
What is unusual about it? This is a part of corruption.

Sandip K. Dasverma
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should intervene immediately and suspend the Chief Engineer and other RHD officials and start taking legal actions. Anything less will bring 2001 back. If the files are not found, the minister should also be dismissed. The Department Secretary and related officials should be investigated also.

S Ali
The government is clearly reluctant to strengthen the ACC which is most likely to save the corrupt officers and employees. ACC will take necessary steps. Vanishing files, destroying evidence are nothing but to save the corrupted. The government came to power by taking oath to protect the interest of the common people but soon they act the opposite.

Amrit
This makes neither AL government nor BNP government sincere to make Bangladesh a better country. They are making people foolish. How long will they betray the country?

Corruption, adulteration and 'brain-drain'



PHOTO: STAR

Adulteration in all spheres of our country at present has attained a new height, perhaps the maximum. Can anyone identify a single sector in our country bereft of corruption or adulteration? Corruption has made its way in every nook and corner of our society. Adulteration is an inevitable by-product of the number one problem of our country, i.e., corruption. The appalling scenario in our fruit markets simply multiplies our anxiety and panic. What we are eating are all adulterated mixed with perilous chemicals and other detrimental ingredients.

The people of the country are working hard, earning money, going to the market, buying impure (adulterated) food items, particularly mouth watering fruits, eating those and as a consequence, they are being attacked with various fatal diseases which they succumb to in many cases. Was it our expectation that after forty years of independence, our lives may be endangered as a result of eating adulterated and contaminated food products?

Our country is confronted with manifold gigantic problems. The overall situation prevailing in our country is obviously persuading the talented sons of the soil to desert our beloved motherland increasingly culminating in the so-called 'brain-drain.'
M Anwaruzzaman, Jhawtala, Comilla

Of democracy

No one can bypass the Constitution which provides the legislature and the judiciary their right to discuss and finalize any law of the land. Surely, the wise legal advisers of the civil society group are aware of the constitutional provisions. I am sure that with all the mounting pressure, this government will work on the Ombudsman Bill without further delay.

Civil society activists have an important role to play in a democracy by taking up critical issues that are ignored by the political class either by default or by design. But the people at the forefront seem to be in a tearing hurry to change the status quo. Instrumentalism and incrementalism constitute the essence of democracy. Radicalism is incompatible with republicanism. Issuing ultimatums will rob the anti-corruption movement of legitimacy and give an alibi for the government to suppress even peaceful protests as threats to national security. Destabilization should not be the goal of the civil societies. If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in government to the utmost. If one way be better than another, that you may be sure is nature's way. In a democracy the poor will have more power than the rich, because there are more of them, and the will of the majority is supreme.
Gopal Sengupta
Canada

Building road voluntarily!

The Tangail correspondent of a local English daily reported this matter, published on June 6th issue of the daily. It was indeed a commendable matter; where villagers voluntarily improved their local communication facilities! As a villager told the correspondent that: "It was a matter of great pride, and a different kind of joy, to build the road with our own money and labour"! This is indeed a worthwhile matter, and should set an example, for others to follow! It should be widely covered in our audio-visual and print media; that can motivate others to take up similar projects on voluntary basis.

Congratulations to the people of Protima Bonki village in Tangail, for this example of civic service for their common good! The government should officially recognise this excellent voluntary effort of the villagers, and see to it, that it is widely publicised all over Bangladesh!
S.A. Mansoor, Dhaka

Our irrational fear of Alzheimer's disease

This disease is the most common form of dementia which is almost incurable and is diagnosed in people over 65 years of age. In 2006, there were 26.6 million sufferers worldwide. This disease was named after German psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer in 1905.

The realities are: becoming forgetful does not necessarily mean one has dementia. Dementia-like symptoms can come from stress, depression, brain

tumors, vitamin deficiency and other health conditions. A healthy diet and lifestyle can enhance natural defenses against dementia. Not smoking, exercising regularly, doing away with fatty foods, and keeping mentally stimulated in old age may lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease. A diagnosis of probable Alzheimer's disease can be made at medical centers specializing in Alzheimer's and dementia.
Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka

Please re-carpet the road

More than a thousand pupils study in Kadamtala Purba Bashabo High School & College situated in Kadamtala, Bashabo. The only approaching road to Kadamtala has been damaged in such a way that it is not at all suitable for traffic movement or even for pedestrians' use. Hundreds of small potholes have developed on the road and those are growing bigger day by day. As Kadamtala is basically a residential area, thousands of inhabitants as well as the school and college students are suffering immensely on their way back home. Re-carpeting of the main road and other lanes is very much necessary. But the Dhaka City Corporation is overlooking the problem. If the road and lanes are not re-carpeted immediately, those are to be re-constructed in near future. We urge the Dhaka City Corporation to re-carpet the road and lanes of Kadamtala, Bashabo.
Tahsina Ashraf
Kadamtala Purba Bashabo High School & College

We want the opposition in parliament

We think BNP should not become enthusiastic just because people supported a few of its strikes, the eviction of Begum Khaleda Zia from her house made people so outraged and Awami League-led government's decision of scrapping caretaker government system made them so angry that they did not oppose the hartal. It does not mean that people like hartal, they have had enough when Awami League was in the opposition, from 12 hours to 72 hours non-stop hartals; we shudder to think about that period. So much public property was damaged, newly built railway station and the Biman office in Chittagong was vandalised and set on fire by the activists of

Awami League. Office goers were stripped off their clothes if they dared to go to the office during hartal hours.

We know that BNP will not go to that extent, still we urge them to avoid hartal because it would have a negative effect on the economy and people will suffer. By attending parliament and other peaceful programmes, they should try to achieve their goal. We think it would be fruitful because people already have become very dissatisfied with the government for its inefficiency in tackling many important issues.
Nur Jahan
Chittagong



AMADUL HUQ / DRINKNEWS

Tax limit for lower income group



A.M.AHAD / DRINKNEWS

The minimum taxable income limit has been proposed to be raised from Tk 165,000 to Tk 180,000 in the budget of FY 2011-12. Thanks to the government. The prices of essentials have shot up tremendously and the cost of living like house rent, educational and medical expenses have also gone beyond the control of the lower income group. We are the worst sufferers in the society. The minimum ceiling should reasonably be increased considering the purchasing power of the lower and middle income group. If somebody gets a salary of Tk 15,000 plus, it's very difficult and burdensome for him to pay tax with this little income. All the people of Bangladesh are paying taxes by paying VAT while buying essentials, paying telephone bills, electricity bills, and water bills and so on. Why should the lower income group pay Income Tax again? If the ceiling is raised from proposed Tk 180,000 to Tk 240,000, the lower and middle income group will get some space to breathe and it will be a great relief to them especially at this critical time when prices of essentials are beyond the capacity of the general people.
M Jalal Hussain
Nakhalpara, Dhaka

Paying for polluted water!

The other day I was waiting for some of my friends in front of a fast food shop at Shugondha Residential Area in Chittagong. Suddenly I became terrified to witness something unusual -- a man carried two buckets of water to fill up the empty "filtered water jar". At once I took a snap with my mobile phone. I did not understand how the shop owner allowed him to do so? I was thinking how we are being cheated by drinking so-called "filtered water." When I was taking the snap the shop owner was laughing at me. He did not even bother about my photograph. The law enforcing agencies must take stern action against these fast food shops, hotels and restaurants which are providing unsafe drinking water and thus cheating the public.
Asif Iqbal Chowdhury
Officer, DataSoft (CTMS Project),
Chittagong Port, Chittagong