

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.



On 'Failure of teachers'

This is a reply to the letter published in your daily on 12th June, titled `Failure of Teachers" written by Tanha Kashfia Kate. Of course, “teachers all over the world have the same aim, to encourage their students to learn and to become independent adults".

But it is a matter of deep concern that the economic and social condition in which our teachers lead their life is the worst. The amount of salary they receive is too small to fulfill the basic needs of their family members. Socially, teachers are treated as third class citizens. Even we, the guardians of the students, do not show due respect to the teachers and forget that the future of our beloved children mainly depends on the very teachers.

Again, if a teacher lives in a frustrating situation, it is

very natural that the indication of his/her inner agony will be disclosed in the classroom by his/her speech and attitude. Private tuition is also the result of that absurd salary structure which creates the livelihood challenge they have to face. Students are punished brutally by those who do not have the minimum quality, in terms of educational or moral values, of being a teacher. Now-a-days, meritorious students do not want to be a teacher. So we can not expect grapes from a tamarind tree. Therefore, I think, the existing hazardous situation in education sector is for the complete failure of the State, not of the teachers.

Shadhin Rahman
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Chittagong

Regarding Rajuk's Jhilmil project application

Recently Rajuk invited applications for its Jhilmil project. It is not clear if someone sends money by TT from a foreign country what document should be attached to the application. Secondly, how can I approach to a foreign lawyer/notary public if I don't have an English version of Holofnama?

Is it not wise to keep an option for 'commissioner of oath' as an alternative to 'Notary public'? Because, for the wage earners it is not easy to manage these things in the same easy way as we do in our own country. This is just to prove the genuineness of one's signature. Rajuk, however, may ask for complete address and phone number of the lawyer/commissioner if in doubt.

Again, Rajuk must publish the names of those applicants whose applications will be rejected for some or other reasons and of course, it must be published much earlier on the website with mentioning the specific reason(s) so that the applicants can try to correct the mistakes in time to qualify themselves for the lottery. Another important matter I'd like to mention that there are lots of Bangladeshis who are living abroad with the status of permanent citizen of a country.

Should Rajuk allow them to apply under wage earners quota? Rajuk is an influential and rich authority. We do not expect any callous mistakes in its activities. I hope, in near future, Rajuk will be fully digitalized and fault-free because it works for our capital city and they are very much solvent and affluent (?).

A foreign worker
On e-mail

The state of global disparities

I read with much interest the article titled "The state of global disparities" published in The Daily Star editorial page on June 16, 2011. The writer has very well explained the economic disparity that countries have in various dimensions. He did not discuss the diverse reasons which caused such disparities.

Diversity in natural endowment, political background, degree of colonization, political advancement, access to the sea, institutional development, entrepreneurship, trade acumen, ability to produce things which people beyond the border will buy, cultural state which bring women to the mainstream workforce, internal mechanism which puts corruption in check etc. etc.

If we take the example of a man staying in Gulshan and below near the waterline of the lake are 10 shanties where people earn less than 100th of his daily income, in what formula will he agree to siphon his income/wealth so that their position is up? Will he agree at all? (This is not personalizing, this is an easy simple example).

The earthly feeling of power and greed will stay in this world and people will try to be richer and richer. It is the state's responsibility to redistribute the income by fiscal and monetary intervention. Institutions like World Bank, WTO, IMF should be controlled more by leaders of developing countries who genuinely will represent the poor people. That way we can have a new kind of world order!

ABM Bazlur Rahman
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Hackney carriage in Cox's Bazar



It is interesting to know that the DC, Cox's Bazar Md. Giasuddin Ahmed has taken an initiative to introduce hackney carriages (a vehicle with wheels drawn by one or more horses, also called cart) with a view to keep the sea beach clean and germ-free which is now polluted by horses feces owned by the horsemen who rent their horses to the tourists on the beach for riding. The Deputy Commissioner in the meantime organised a dialogue with the horses' owners and asked them to use their horses in pairs to pull the hackney carriages. Mr. Giasuddin has also requested some NGOs to help the horses' owners build hackney carriages. By now

some three or four horse owners have already made their carts.

I think the initiative is indeed very pragmatic which will re-introduce a Bangladeshi tradition and add extra charm to the tourists coming to Cox's Bazar. On the other side, the sea beach will get rid of getting polluted by the horses' feces. While sincerely congratulating DC Giasuddin Ahmed I would request all the concerned to help translating his initiative into reality.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
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Dhaka

Settle matters in parliament

In a democratic country like Bangladesh it is permitted to have hartals. But that too, should be set on the foundation of some firm cause. Calling frequent hartals for political reasons which are entirely self-centered can never be accepted, especially when the opposition party has launched a 72 -hour hartal scheme.

Consecutive hartals will have major impact on the country's whole economic system as well as education system. Many students are appearing in their O and A level exams and for these unanticipated hartals these exams will be postponed. This will create a lot of problems for students. A country that has been overshadowed by 3 days of continuous hartals has no future.

I urge the opposition party to withdraw the hartals, think about the benefit of the nation as a whole like good Samaritans rather than being adamant on their irrational and unjustified behaviour, and settle matters in the parliament.

Engr. Naome Syed
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Thank you, madam Khaleda Zia

Since December 1971, I never ventured outside the home late at night because of security concerns. 13th June 2011, was an exception, we were made to break the rules as the opposition BNP slapped a 36 hour non stop hartal beginning from the dawn of 12th June and ending on 13th June, 2011 in the evening.

Our second child had his O Level exam scheduled for 13th June in the afternoon, which was shifted to 12 O' clock midnight on the same day. I was told that about 700 students took part in that examination which lasted for 2 hours. I wonder what the ex-education minister Dr. Osman farque does in his capacity as an adviser to the leader of the opposition.

Bangladesh has proved to the world that it is safe to move around at night, without fearing about the loss of life and property. No doubt that these two parties i.e. Awami League and BNP shall continue to misrule the nation for generations.
Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

Shood controversy

In the last few days two of the DS readers opined that shood (interest) in the banking system is not anti-Islamic. I would like to shed some lights on the issue. Let's first clear the definitions. While we can say that interest is technically a profit, for this example, we take them as 2 separate items: Interest as interest or riba' and profit as the gain from trading.

In understanding the difference between interest and profit, let's take a look at the similarity. The similarity is essentially the amount of money gained. If someone has Tk.500 in interest, versus Tk.500 in profit, both represent gains of Tk.500. So monetary wise, it is the same. So if the end result is the same, what then is the difference?

The difference then, is the process of getting the Tk.500. One method (profit by trading) is permissible, while the other (riba') isn't.

So how do we get Tk.500 in interest? One way is by lending someone a certain amount of money. And the agreement is that when the money is returned, we want Tk.500 more. Islam forbids this for many reasons. Some we can spot here are 1) unfair gain and 2) laziness on the part of the gainer. This is different from getting Tk.500 in profit. An effort of buying and selling an asset and making profit from it is not forbidden in Islam.

Syed Muhammed Azim
Chittagong

In praise of hartal

Hartal day creates a level playing field for everybody. The rich and the poor travel jostling with each other on the same kind of vehicle- rickshaws, Nasiman or Koriman.

The poor Nasiman drivers make a brisk business by plying their high sounding vehicles more frequently and freely in the absence of other modes of transport. But what is remarkable, they do not claim higher fair. Our poorer class is still ethically strong. It is the educated class who has lost their ethics.

The slower pace of hartal day give the retrospective mind a little more time to think on life and death. However vehemently the ruling party decry hartal, they inwardly love it because they know soon they will be in the opposition when hartal will be the only means to take down the recalcitrant ruling monster suffering from paranoia and amnesia. Some say there is no place of caretaker government system under democratic system. But I see no democracy here; rather it is demoncracy that rules the roost.

Tinku
Lalpur, Natore

Punish the forest plunderers

The ruling Awami League lawmaker from Bhola 4 (Charfashion) constituency should be handed exemplary punishment for flouting court orders and environmental laws by exercising his power and influence to construct a road in a most unauthorized manner.

Kukrimukri, the man made mangrove had been the pride of the forest department because of its beauty and regarded as the best eco-system for wildlife sanctuary for animals and birds in the country. It is also learnt that the forest officials' repeated request to use alternative paths to construct the road was out rightly ignored by the party enthusiasts, which would have saved the destruction of the mangrove.

Of them the upcoming Union Parishad chairman candidate is the man who initiated the lead role in the destructions. It is very unfortunate to learn that the country's forest cover has alarmingly reduced to less than 10% of land mass; one of lowest in the world.

Hence, plundering forest in a large scale should be considered a criminal offence which will severely render a negative effect on the bio-diversity. The lawmaker's decision of constructing a 2.5 kilometre road to connect two villages by chopping down thousands of trees only shows his whims of power to get away with anything as a ruling party MP.

Humayun Hyder
Zigatola, Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined “No ray of light”

Md Mizanur Rahman
Her husband should be punished.

Anjan Basu
Simply, savage. Sentence him to death.

Azad
Instant punishment is a must for this kind of inhuman activities.

Nazim
I am totally disappointed to see such a situation. God bless her and I pray for her.

Earul
The government should take steps for such torture. He should get capital punishment.

Dev Saha
How can anybody be such cruel to a spouse? Was he clinically mad? Can't we stop the next one?

Nafees
My deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Rumana for the unfortunate attack from her husband as a result of unresolved domestic issue. The consequences have led her to blindness and an impossible situation to resolve the family dispute.

Tom
I am not sure what 'remand' means in Bangladesh. But there is a perception by some people that offenses against women, like this, is somehow tolerated by the judicial systems, custom, religious, and social culture in Bangladesh and other countries like India, Pakistan and so on.

Afreen
Death sentence will be less than what he did. Because she will never get back her vision. Such a beast should not live in our society. Only if he donate his eyes to her before death, that will make sense.

Naser
This is a result and feedback for assaulting and ignoring husband. It will not stop if we do not follow Islam and its rules. From my little experience and belief, I can say when people go abroad for higher education, they start to forget God, they stop sharing with spouse and disrespect the seniors.



New blame game issue!

We have learnt from the reports referring to the top jurists of the country, published in The Daily Star of June 17, 2011 that the caretaker government system became illegal the day the Supreme Court declared the 13th amendment to the constitution “prospectively” void and unconstitutional.

However, I am quoting here from former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal's comment: “The election will not be illegal or unconstitutional, as the SC verdict permits holding of the next two elections under caretaker government. There will be no need to amend the constitution, if parliament keeps in force the existing caretaker system headed by the last retired chief justice.” But the Prime Minister says that the caretaker government system is illegal and there is no need to discuss the issue. On the other hand, leader of the opposition says that caretaker government system exists and the matter of discussion is only who to head interim government.

However, we, the common people, can understand that a new issue is created that will make our lives miserable in the name of observing political programs.
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