

Mangoes with toxic chemicals



Mangoes ripened with calcium carbide and other chemicals have been appearing in the markets of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj. A section of unscrupulous businessmen are using calcium carbide on mangoes to ripen them for maximum profit. The markets are now flooded with toxic chemical-mixed fruits, especially mangoes, the most popular and largely available fruit in this season. The consumers do not get

fresh fruits even after paying high prices. As a result, consumers of such fruits are at risk of serious health hazards. In view of this, the authorities should take urgent steps to protect the people from eating toxic chemical mixed fruits.
Mohammed Jashim Uddin
BSS
Dhaka

Contempt of Court

The government has drafted an upgrade law on contempt exempting the government employees from the charges of contempt of the court if it is done in course of delivering the official duties (DS 15.06.2011). We feel happy to know that if any contempt proceeding is drawn against any government employee the government pleaders can represent the employee in the court. Yet I don't see anything in that draft (as stated in the newspaper) which prohibits any civil jail terms of the government employees.
I strongly propose that provisions of safeguarding physical humiliation should be absolutely prohibited. It will encourage government employees to discharge their duties properly, neutrally and fearlessly.
Abdullah Shaikh
Purana Paltan
Dhaka

It seems to be elating to have a revised law on contempt of court (DS: June 15, 2011). Every organ of the public administration, including the judiciary, should have the transparency and accountability. Since the people of this country bear the expenditure of the judiciary, they should have the right to see what has been happening there.
But unfortunately, some people concerned with the judiciary are accustomed to think they are above all criticism. The government has taken a bold and right step to this regard so that both people of this republic and the judges alike can think that both have rights and accountability to each other. We expect that as some other propositions of changes this bill will not be lost in quagmire of bureaucracy and political haggle.
Nazia
Muhammadpur
Dhaka

To the government and the opposition

The government's unjust decision of abolishing the caretaker government system and its dealing with the opposition before and during hartal was so bizarre that it looks like the Awami League led government has become afraid realising that in the next general election they might be defeated, because in the two and a half years of their rule they have failed to make people happy.
Even before the commencement of hartal, police started to arrest leaders and activists of the opposition; they were not allowed to hold peaceful processions; mobile courts were deployed which is unprecedented during hartal. Law experts and rights activists have said that punishing people by mobile courts denying the accused their right to self defense is unconstitutional and gross violation of human rights. So, the unjust and ruthless actions of the government actually show how desperate it has become. Its dealing with the opposition is so despicable that many questions are arising in people's minds. We also urge the opposition political party not to resort to hartal anymore; they should find other means to press their demands.
Nur Jahan, Chittagong



Regarding 31st BCS examination

This year, 31st BCS examination came off successfully on May 27, 2011 across the country without any rumour of leaking out of the question paper. That bears a positive sign. Questions on varied sections have been set tactfully in order to sort out the real genius.
We, the candidates, are happy with such questions that do not encourage only memorizing but basic expertise. But we are shocked that some answers have manifested anomalies in the options, notably one in mathematics and other in general knowledge section in which there were no accurate answers at all. This is very frustrating and unexpected. Nobody expects such errors in the BCS question papers. Officials of the PSC must be sincere and responsible in preparing the question papers.
Md. Anisur Rahman
Department of English
Kabi Jasimuddin Hall
Dhaka University

Increase manpower export

Manpower export is a significant factor for Bangladesh economy. It reduces acute unemployment problem. Expatriate people remit huge amount of foreign currencies to Bangladesh that reduces the huge gap of balance of payment. Our inward remittance growth fell in May, mainly due to the ongoing unrest in the Middle East and North Africa, which sent back thousands of migrant workers in the past few months. The decline in remittance inflow is a matter of concern. To overcome the problem, government should revitalize the drive of the ministry of manpower to increase manpower export.
Md. Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo
Dhaka

Resumption of flights

The country is now achieving remarkable export growth and this will consequently expand the domestic market whereby the country will enjoy commendable GDP growth in the years to come.
In this positive scenario, setting up of new factories now at a higher rate, both for export and domestic market, are absolutely essential but it has been very expensive to buy land for industry in the existing industrial locations in and around Dhaka and Chittagong, and at the same time it is not easy to move around the country for setting up of industries and management thereof because of unfriendly road conditions.
In view of the above, it is essential that flights to Barisal, Rajshahi, Syedpur, Thakurgaon and Chittagong via Comilla should be re-opened and, if required, by allowing subsidy to the airlines companies. This will bring about relatively bigger benefit for the country through rapid industrialisation and achieving higher export growth. In this connection, we have written a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, and it will be highly appreciated if you please try at your level to convince the authorities to re-open the above flights.
M.A. Kalam
Chairman
Bangladesh Economic & Industrial Forum

Garbage bins in Rupnagar

The local people and the passers-by of Rupnagar in Mirpur area are passing an unendurable life because of the stench of some big garbage dumps beside Shialbari graveyard on Rupnagar road. Rupnagar road is the most important road in Rupnagar Residential and Commercial

A father's day gift

I am a teacher of a university where my students learn with pleasure. Sometimes serious and the most difficult issues are made easy by my students within a very short time, which is essential for creative study.
On 19th June, 2011, our students gave us a big surprise by arranging a programme for us on Father's Day. We enjoyed it much realising that our students love us. I was surprised that some students kept their loving gifts with written messages on my desk without mentioning their names. I wish them all the best from the core of my heart.
Zafar Alam Bhuiyan
Shanto-Mariam University of creative Technology
Dhaka

Very poor conduct

Shamim Osman's conduct with parliament member Begum Kobori was very disappointing. His words were abusive and body language terrible. I was astonished to see how he stood up from his chair to assault her! He could even hit her if others were not around. He deserves punishment. He, who can not respect women, has no respect for anybody at all and nobody respects him also. No wonder why he was not nominated. He's just another example of hopeless jealousy.
Dimitry
Nikunja
Dhaka

Suggestions on Budget 2011/12

- a) Tax free allowance be increased from Tk 200,000, to Tk. 250,000 for women and persons over 65, and to Tk. 300,000 for the mentally and physically challenged persons as they have higher medical expenses.
 - b) The government should lower the cost of doing business and therefore the present provision of 15 percent Value Added Tax(VAT) on renting of commercial space and license/registration can be withdrawn.
- Dr Abdus Sattar Syed**
On e-mail



Decentralise in order to survive

The density of population in Dhaka has already reached alarming proportion. With the given trend of influx of people from all over the country i.e. 2000 a day, the mere survival of people in Dhaka shall be at stake very soon. Something needs to be done quickly.
I wonder why the government, political leaders, entrepreneurs and the people at large are so indifferent to this problem of epic proportion. Through these columns of your esteemed daily, I would humbly request the media, both print and electronic, to launch a campaign "Decentralise in order to survive" before it is too late. I am sure the media can perform miracles if they wish. Decentralisation shall not only bring about positive changes but also do away with many of the evils that prevail in the country.
Saleh Ayub
On e-mail

Area. More than 10,000 passers-by and 1,000 vehicles use this road every day. Besides, there are a lot of garment factories, business organisations as well as a university and a bazaar. The number of garbage dumps is increasing day by day. The authorities should move these depots to another place, because they are making our life unbearable and also ruining the beauty of Rupnagar Residential Area.
Sabbir Rayhan
Department of English
BUBT

We want severe punishment

Rumana has lost her eyesight by the brutal and inhuman act of her husband Hassan Sayeed. The acts of Hassan Sayeed prove that he is not a human but a devil with the most despicable soul. He deserves capital punishment as per the law of the land. I propose here that if law permits, one of the two eyes of Hassan Sayeed be taken out and implanted in Rumana's eye so that she can get her eyesight back, though it would be a poor vision. And the criminal Hassan Sayeed will also be able to see with his one eye and repent for his misdeeds as long as he lives, provided the implant of eye is possible.
M Jalal Hussain
Nakhla para
Dhaka

The misunderstood caricature....

The cartoon caricature of the former president Ershad published in the DS on 20th June doesn't depict the reality. The fortunate general has been acquitted from another criminal case. So, the cartoon caricature should have worn a grin ear to ear instead.
Opurba
Purana Paltan
Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "Hope for talks fading away."

Kazi Rashidul Azam
The caretaker government is a must to ensure free and fair election. I do not understand why AL has made such a settled topic a matter of dispute.

S
Politics of Bangladesh is always on the street. Both parties failed to value parliament. We expect that both parties will respect each other. I think still there is time for negotiation.

Anupam
The dispute among the political parties on CTG issue has arisen after the High Court verdict. In such situation, the HC can play a vital role for the sake of state and people's safety.

Nasirullah Mridha
If AL and BNP remain locked in their view, another 1-/11 will knock the door in future. Before having a wild condition, they should exert discretion.

Muhammed Elias
Caretaker Government system gave us three free and fair election. After abolishing the system muscle, money and armed miscreants will capture our politics. Disappearance of the system from the constitution will bring disaster to the country and its people.

Raihan Sharif
AL made two mistakes regarding the verdict on the caretaker government raising suspicions of BNP. One is deliberate simple minded interpretation of the verdict and another is the haste with which the ruling party rushed to implement the verdict.

Anonymous
We do not know whom should we blame for leading us to an uncertain political future. If BNP believes in any kind of constitutional politics, they still have two options.
They can attend parliament and voice their concern. Another option is to resign from parliament and pursue their political agitation. The government should allow BNP to speak in parliament. Members of the treasury benches should be allowed to speak on the amendment freely. A meaningful proposal to change the amendment will be accepted.

Justice in killing bin Laden



Just after Osama bin Laden was shot dead by US Navy Commandos in a secret operation inside Pakistan, the US president proudly declared in a televised address, "Justice has been done". He referred to the nine-eleven tragedy and sympathised with the victims' families.
But the fact is : Laden was never sued in any court of law, no charge was framed and evidence produced against him regarding his alleged involvement in nine-eleven terrorist attacks. Again, according to criminal jurisprudence an accused can not be punished without examining the evidences, even if he confesses his guilt. From legal point of view, therefore, the killing of Laden was extrajudicial and unlawful. Moreover, the US commandos killed Laden violating the sovereignty of an independent state. This was also a flagrant violation of international law. Now the question arises - has justice been actually done or undone?
Md. Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara
Kushtia