

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.

Use Guti urea, save money, get more yield

The government has recently increased the price of urea to Tk 20 from Tk 12 a kg saying its price went up in the international market. From farmers' perspectives, this means a lot of burden. However, this problem could be addressed by using a technology called urea deep placement or UDP.

If farmers use this technology they can save about 30-40% of urea. Usually, farmers of our country spread granular urea and broadcast it in the field. But, in UDP, the fertilizer is placed beneath the surface of soil after five to seven days of paddy plantation. In this technology, the granular urea is compressed in small machines and the size of it is made 1.8 grams and 2.7 grams.

Each briquette has to be placed at the centre of four hills having space of 20 cm X 20 cm. When farmers broadcast granular urea thrice throughout rice season, use of Guti urea once throughout the growth of paddy plants is enough.

The government through Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) has been extending this technology for the last several years. In this Boro season, IFDC introduced UDP technology in 68 upazilas. For each hectare, 170 kilograms of Guti urea was used, which is about 30 to 40 percent less than that of granular fertiliser. We found the crop yield in the Guti plots per hectare 300 to



FIROZ GAZI / DRINKNEWS

2,400 kilograms more than that of the fields where granular urea was broadcasted. The reason for more yields is in Guti urea plots plants get adequate nitrogen, while in the case of granular urea, 60 to 70 percent of the nitrogen is lost in the air or for leaching and runoff.

I would, therefore, suggest the farmers to use Guti urea and urge the government to take the technology to more farmers to save money, but get more yields.

Shahjahan Ali
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Kanchary Ghat
Mymensingh

For an amicable solution

As a developing country we are facing many problems. In this situation, people of this country are trying their level best to serve the nation. But I think the govt. and the opposition leaders don't want stability in the political field. Why is the AL trying to stop the caretaker govt. system? We should look at our next door country. How many days do they observe hartal? We request our two leaders to solve this problem by discussion.

Jahid Khan
Dept. of Sociology
Dhaka University

Good work by Bipasha Hayat

Recently I watched a single episode drama titled 'Amra Shamudra Dekhte Giyechhilam' in Desh TV which is written and directed by Bipasha Hayat. I think this is the first drama in this country made as a mark of protest against road traffic accident. There are many established directors in this country who never thought of making a drama based on this burning issue, i.e. road accident. The heroine of this drama takes the right decision by taking the law in her hand; she does not 'waste' her time for getting justice from any authorities concerned.

I also had a dream to direct a drama based on my novel 'After the Road Accident'. I don't know whether my dream will be fulfilled or not. But this drama by Bipasha Hayat has given me hope. Each and every person of this country must watch this drama.

Pradip Das
Lecturer in English
BHPI, CRP

Newspapers in Cox's Bazar

Recently I went on a private trip to Cox's Bazar. When I enquired about the daily newspapers, the Reception Desk at Seagull Hotel informed me that national dailies reach their hotel usually in the afternoon and they deliver newspapers to the rooms after 2 pm. I tried to buy some newspapers from the city but couldn't find one.

I strongly feel that Cox's Bazar being a tourists' city should get national newspapers early in the morning. I would request the authorities concerned to please take appropriate step in this regard.

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

DU class routines

Dhaka University is kept open for six days a week. The departments fix the class routine for each batch. Every batch has classes either in the morning or in the afternoon or at both times throughout the week. This is creating problem for many students, as they can't learn any other thing beside their regular study.

We all know that it is beneficial for career if one has knowledge on any foreign language or any specialized computer course. But students sometimes have to either skip their classes to continue these courses or they just cannot manage time to take these courses since there is no specific class routine.

If the authorities pay attention to this fact and ask the departments to follow a specific class routine for each batch, e.g. only the morning session for 1st year and 2nd year, and only the afternoon session for 3rd year, 4th year and master's batch, then the students will be benefited. Usually, the classes of those mentioned courses are held on Fridays and Saturdays. But DU is open on Saturdays. If DU is kept closed on Saturdays as it is the weekly government holiday, then the students will be benefited. If the private universities can complete their syllabus by scheduling classes five days a week, then DU can make it too.

Rabeya Rowshin
Department of Economics
Dhaka University



PHOTO: STAR

Let's uphold the spirit of democracy

It is totally against the democratic characteristics shown by the four party opposition alliance led by BNP not to sit with the coalition of ruling Awami League in the parliament and solve the issues of caretaker government. We reckon that this is the job of the ruling party to come forward and show their sincere desires that they are ready to discuss all problematic issues that the opposition deems not right in the essence of democracy.

And for that, the ruling party must create a congenial atmosphere so that discussions can be held between parties on issues that remained disputed and resolve them amicably. We also feel that it is not a right decision to prolong the provisions of the caretaker government in democratic systems of government which undermines the true esteem of democracy. Hence, to get rid of the caretaker government, let all political parties of the country sit together and devise a formula to make the election commission adequately powerful and independent by enacting a law which may be accepted well by all parties.

As it is said that in democracy, people feel that they are safe in the country because democracy gives them all the requisite civil rights. So, to uphold the spirit of democracy, let our politicians shun the path of vindictive politics and maintain their conviction on the principles of democracy.

Humayun Hyder
Zigatola
Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Reasonable education allowance

Government of Bangladesh introduced education allowance in pay scale 2009 for employees of the republic. An employee gets at least Tk. 200 for one child per month, and maximum Tk. 300 per month. The amount is very insignificant in relation to the current living cost of common people. After introduction of pay scale 2009, two financial years have passed.

Inflation was 8.65% in the year 2009-10 and 10.20% in the year 2010-11. Moreover, as per current proposed national budget, a government employee has to pay income tax from his own income. People are confronting financial hardships now. As an interim measure, the elected government can consider enhancing the education allowance to Tk. 1,000 per school going child and for two children in a family. Educational expenses at college or university level are much high nowadays. Hope the govt. will pay attention to people's welfare.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo

'Butcher of Bosnia'

We have not yet forgotten the name of the notorious Serb general Ratko Mladic, dubbed the 'Butcher of Bosnia'. He masterminded the Srebrenica massacre, Europe's worst mass killing since world war II. More than 8000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were brutally killed after Bosnian Serb troops led by Mladic overran Srebrenica in July, 1995. He had recently been arrested and produced before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In the tribunal, he has been charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of rules of war. Mladic is facing a maximum sentence of life in prison.

We think life imprisonment is not sufficient a punishment for the heinous atrocities committed by this die-hard criminal. Only death sentence along with confiscation of all his properties may bring a little solace to the victim families.

Md. Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara, Kushtia

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star report headlined "BCL factions clash at RU"

Mahedi
I think we should profoundly think over student politics.

Anonymous
What a tragedy in Bangladesh! Who is going to save the country?

Sarwar
No arrest! Because they are the golden boys of the ruling party! Mockery of law.

Sami
Heroes of BCL! Will Shahara see the photographs to take action against the brilliant students of BCL?

Mohammad Rahman
Cancer of student politics! Can the university authority or the home ministry bring these so called students (shown in the photo) to justice? How long the government will ignore this?

Sawgat Chowdhury
Honorable Prime Minister and Home Minister of Bangladesh, may I know if anyone of these people who will be arrested?

Anonymous Bangalee
Well, it has been happening and it will happen. This time it happened in Bangabandhu Hall. Although sharp weapons and drugs were found in the rooms controlled by BCL students, they will be set free because of political clout.

Black money in stock market

A news analysis written by Inam Ahmed published in The Daily Star of 23rd June, 2011 entitled "Taka goes downhill" drew my attention. A future economic prognosis of our country is outlined in this article. Really, it is our bad luck that many leading businessmen of our country do not maintain any business ethics and even do not have any social and national commitment. May be that's why their descendants are becoming like the shallow Epicureans. However, some suggestive opinions were also given by the author. One of those is to channel black money into the real sector through bonds but not to allow it in the stock market. But no rescue suggestions, specifically for the small investors, were given there. In fact, millions of extremely frustrated small investors, who have become almost penniless, demand to allow black money in the stock market for their survival.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh

Fast food harmful for children

Fast foods are usually high in fat, calories, cholesterol, and sodium. But too much fast food can lead to health problems such as obesity. However, fast foods are usually cheap because they are often made with cheap ingredients such as high fat meat, refined grains, and added sugar and fats, instead of nutritious foods such as lean meats, fresh fruits, and vegetables. Fast foods also lack many of the nutrients, vitamins, and minerals that a child needs to grow strong.

Many children today are obese or overweight, and meals like these are contributing to that obesity. We have learned that children as young as two are becoming obese and children as young as six are getting strokes, so we should be alarmed. Britain is removing fast foods from school menus in the hope that it will stop the trend. It is particularly worrying because children get fatter as they go through school. A sedentary lifestyle combined with fast foods is a lethal combination that is putting children at risk of contracting diseases hitherto confined to adults.

Mohammed Jashim Uddin
BSS, Dhaka



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