

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.

A tale of two kind of doctors



PHOTOS: STAR

I sincerely thank The DS for publishing the story of Doktor Bhai, Dr. Edric Baker, the New Zealand born doctor who dedicated his life serving the poorest of the poor in Bangladesh. His lone effort established the Kailakuri Health Care Centre through which he is providing healthcare to poor people of a remote area of Bangladesh. He travels to his own country once a year for visa extension and to collect donations from his friends and well-wishers in New Zealand, the US and the UK so that the poor of Bangladesh do not die without treatment. Doktor Bhai himself is now under treatment, who treated our people for 50 years. A New Zealand born doctor, sitting in a mud-built house in a remote village in Bangladesh waits for a competent person to carry his torch. He said, "Many students get the MBBS degree in the country every year. I'm waiting for one of them to come and take the responsibility to provide treatment to the poor in the area."

However, the news item titled "Khulna Medical college shut amid tension" depicts what the future doctors are doing with taxpayers' money. The factions of Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, a pro-AL body



reportedly clashed over the selection of chief guest at a function for installing an endoscopy machine at gastroenterology department of KMCH, which led to the closure of KMC sine die. I wonder if the wait of Doktor Bhai will ever end.

Saif
Dhaka

Teaching of the holy Prophet

The holy Prophet (peace be upon him) of Islam always preferred to give a direct and brief statement so that it could be learnt quickly. He was blessed with an extra-ordinary ability of expressing broad messages in a short form so that one can easily understand and memorize his teachings relating to Islam and human values.

I strongly feel that we should follow the above teaching of the holy Prophet (pbuh) in our everyday life. Instead of going into unnecessary details, we should restrict our expressions to the relevant points only.

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

Rights of construction workers

Recently, the construction workers and human rights bodies urged the government to formulate effective laws immediately for the safety of the labourers who work in high-rise buildings. Our labourers are precious assets who contribute a lot to the development of the country. It is their right to work in a safe environment because security is a must for all who work in dangerous conditions. It is high time the authorities concerned took steps to make effective laws and implement them for ensuring safety of the construction workers.

Manik Esahak Biswas
A student
Notre Dame College

World Tourism Day 2011

This year the World Tourism Day (WTD) was observed in Bangladesh on 27 September as elsewhere of the world. The theme of the WTD is "Tourism Linking Cultures." It means linking together the cultures of the world through travel. Millions of people visit many places and experience other cultures each year. This interaction between individuals and communities, and their diverse cultures, lead to tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. As per the UNWTO statistics, 940 million tourists crossed international borders in 2010. Through tourism, millions of people are brought closer every day. On this occasion, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) said, "World Tourism Day is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of tourism to global well-being."

As we travel, let us engage with other cultures and celebrate human diversity. Let us recognize tourism as a force for a more tolerant, open and united world." In this regard, the UNWTO Secretary General said, "... a call to all those involved in tourism to act in a way that is conscious and respectful of culture, which promotes intercultural dialogue and ensures that local communities fully participate in, and benefit from, the development opportunities of tourism." To make the theme of this day really meaningful, we must be respectful to the indigenous cultures of Bangladesh. We must show respect to the local communities while making the tourism development plan, and work for protecting the indigenous people's rights in the country. We should develop eco-tourism and cultural tourism, instead of mass tourism which can be harmful to our rich culture.

Ziaul Haque Howlader, DM, BPC



RAJ ANIKAT/ DRINKNEWS

Stop the blame game

We are distraught that the government is increasing the price of all essentials without even having sympathy for the common people. Look at the bigwigs of the government as well as the opposition and other political parties. They are all rich. How do we expect them to understand common people's problems? Have they ever thought how will these people cope with the sudden increase in fuel and gas price?

When WikiLeaks started revealing secret news about our politicians, each of them denied the accusations made against them, blaming it on the opposition party.

Our ministers blame the former government for all the corruption done, without thinking that they were elected to save the nation from the clutch of corruption, and blaming is nothing but hiding from the reality and ignoring the responsibility.

We vote for the two political parties over and over again thinking that this time there will be a change but we are just hoping against hope. This blame game will continue for eternity. It all seems a cliché to me.

Badal Hasib
English Teacher
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Learn to take criticism

Ziauddin Choudhury's excellent article (20th Sep) points out that the greatest threat to democracy is the absence of criticism.

I first had evidence of this factor in Bangladeshi life when, many years ago, the superintendent of the school, where I was Principal, came back from getting my work permit and visa and said, gloomily, "The home ministry has a collection of your letters published in The Daily Star. Please be careful!" I am still intrigued by this image of myself as a subversive. Is a 12-year commitment to Bangladesh no defence?

Those who applauded ZC's article may also like the following from 'Fateful Choices' by Sir Ian Kershaw, a military historian, writing about the decisions taken in the Second World War, contrasting those made in the democracies to those made by Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin:

'A despot's entourage of nervous sycophants is clearly the worst environment for good decision-making. The leaders of democracies are in less danger, but unless they have good intelligence and unless their subordinates are prepared to present facts that contradict their chief's mindset, they too can make terrible blunders. The worst folly of decision-makers is to believe their own propaganda.'

Listening to the opinion of those who disagree with us is not 'submission'; it is long-term self-interest.

Angela Robinson
Gulshan, Dhaka

Good wishes to Mushfiqur Rahim & Co.!



Mushfiqur Rahim



Mahmudullah Riyad

We have a great expectation from Mushfiqur Rahim as the new captain of Bangladesh cricket team and from Mahmudullah Riyad as his deputy as well.

Of course Mushfiqur, the 23-year-old who has played 24 Test matches and 98 ODIs after making his Test debut at the age of 16 at Lord's against England in 2005, is a good choice for leading the team. However, the new captain's first and foremost job should be keeping up harmony and congenial atmosphere in the team.

I wish them success in fulfilling the dream of the millions of our countrymen in the upcoming series against West Indies next month and Pakistan in December.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

This is not cricket

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has sacked Shakib Al Hasan as the captain of the national team. The manner in which he was sacked is perhaps more surprising than his sacking. Someone had to be made the sacrificial lamb for the team's failure in Zimbabwe; so the captain and the vice captain were chosen as the lambs. But there is something more than this, they were also accused of not showing "proper respect" to the BCB officials. I say to BCB, respect has to be earned, and you guys need to show the way.

Writing on this topic, Mohammad Isam penned, "Among some board directors, there is a feeling that BCB president AHM Mustafa Kamal's hand had been forced into making the decision on the urging of a faction that did not want Shakib and Tamim to continue leading the team." The honourable board president's only qualification is that he is a member of the ruling party.

Shakib, the only world class cricketer Bangladesh has ever produced can walk into any national cricket team by his performance and achievement. Tamim is undoubtedly the best performing batsman in the team. They both play country cricket. The duo's fame has spread far and wide. Shakib was sacked in the most unsavoury manner, with the allegation of indiscipline in the dressing room, while the team coach Stuart Law was on vacation.

On his return, Law said that he was not consulted about the decision to sack Shakib and Tamim.

My advice to BCB, even if these boys are temperamental, they are talented, guide them, admonish them, but do not douse their enthusiasm. I only hope that the young Bangladesh team do not suffer irrevocably from this great injustice, and its progress is not halted. Shakib was never given the support to succeed, but he was blamed for the team's failure. He is only 24 years old, and Tamim is merely 22. My advice to them: Forget the pettiness of the BCB, play for your country. No one will remember those puny officials in a few years from now. Don't get disheartened, be humble, and just PLAY CRICKET.

A Mohit
Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star report head-lined "PM under fire for 'no talks' remarks".

Urmila

It is really unfortunate that our PM made such comments, particularly at a venue of political importance which not only was contrary to democratic norms but also indicated her political short-sightedness!

Reaz Hassan

We are living in a democratic society and matters of vital state importance are enshrined in our constitution. Unfortunately, the recent significant amendments to the constitution have been carried out by one single party having more than two-third majority in JS. We know how the pendulum of our general elections swings, and therefore, utmost consideration should have been given to accommodate the views of the opposition regarding caretaker government system. There can be no general elections in the country without a caretaker government. How can that be taken care of in the present scenario when the PM speaks in such a defiant manner?

Ryan

And the PM lectures the world about peace?

Abdul Mahbub

Isn't the national parliament the right forum to discuss the national issues? Aren't both the government and opposition members of parliament being paid millions of taka to attend the parliament? Then why don't the leader of the ruling party and the opposition take the opportunity to discuss the issues in the parliament?

Faqrul

We feel threatened by this kind of attitude of a political leader who is supposed to work for peace and stability in the country taking the opposition in full confidence. We want her to be more pragmatic and learn from the mistakes of the past.

Anonymous Bangalee

After speaking at the UN General Assembly, where she offered the model of peace, Sheikh Hasina thinks that her six-point model will be implemented in all the countries of the world. But will she implement this model in her own country?

Jumana Sarwar

I don't think that she is under fire for 'no talks' remarks.

Ahsan Habib

If the prime minister knows that the opposition leaders are corrupt, why is not she bringing them to justice?

Shubhro Ahmed

People in high position ought to ponder before they make any comment.

Ibrahim

Sheikh Hasina can make any comment at any place without considering her position! We should not be astonished at all.

Nasirullah Mridha

PM's comment on the opposition proves her inept policy. She should not tarnish the image of the opposition party before the world media. If Khaleda's sons are corrupt, court will dispense their punishment. Hasina's remarks will exacerbate the already bad political situation in the country.

Shamim

It did not come at all as a surprise. She is practicing the politics of vengeance and her comments justify that.

Gringo

May we conclude that the Bangladesh PM does not look into the mirror?

Anonymous

She always makes comments like this. This