

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.



Kolkata hospital fire

We are shocked at the news that medical staff in an Indian hospital abandoned their patients and fled for safety as fire and smoke engulfed the building, leaving 73 people dead. Reportedly many of them died from smoke inhalation. We have learnt from the news reports that at the time of the blaze, there were 160 patients in the 190-bed hospital annex.

We have also learnt that this is an expensive hospital named AMRI private hospital and was recently rated one of the best hospitals in Kolkata by an Indian magazine. But this fire incident proved that the rating was incorrect.

Anyway, we should take lessons from this sad incident that an expensive or a high-ranking hospital does not mean that the hospital staff would discharge service at their highest level or safety measures are ensured for facing any accident like a big fire.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

PHOTO: AFP



Use Facebook to honour freedom fighters

For some unknown reason we always fail to express our patriotism. The time has come and some of us are hoping to celebrate the coming Victory Day in a unique manner. I urge everyone, those who use Facebook, to change their profile pictures to our national flag, only till 16th December. Just imagine, the whole Facebook world will be adorned with green and red in our Victory Day! The freedom fighters did so much to earn us this flag, can't we even do this for them? This will be a unique expression of our patriotism and will also show the world what the martyrs did to earn us this motherland. I hope all the people who take pride in calling them Bangladeshi will do this.

Shafeen Mahmood
Class IX (commerce)
Little Jewels School, Chittagong

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Ghulam faces 52 charges".

Md Musa

Jamaat-e-Islami's top leader Ghulam Azam was the main planner of all war crimes committed by the Pakistani soldiers and their local collaborators. Mojaheed and Nizami were the chiefs of Al-Badr in 1971 whose most notorious act was the killing of so many intellectuals within just a few days before our victory in the Liberation War.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

The tribunal took a long time to press charges against him. Nonetheless, if he faces the tribunal for his alleged role in '71, all the martyrs would get consolation in heaven.

Ruhul Insaf

Didn't Ghulam Azam go through the trials during his deportation hearings in the early 1990s and got his citizenship restored? To the best of my memory at that time, all these charges were brought forth and the High Court exonerated him.

I believe this time the charges will make a difference because the constitution of the tribunal is different.

Dev Saha

Innocent civilians have been butchered and killed in the name of saving Pakistan. Whether the perpetrators were local or foreign born is irrelevant. The Awami League may not be a party of angels, but they have shown the courage to go after these criminals who have been conveniently protected by the BNP/Jamaat group for such a long time.

Gopal Sengupta, Canada

Justice for crimes against humanity must have no limitations. War criminals who committed serious crimes are supposed to be deported. Why are the judges giving them a second chance? The court can't fix the crime against humanity, only citizens can. The struggle for democracy and human rights in Bangladesh is a struggle for life and dignity.

An observer

I want to see that our justice system punishes the war criminals as fairly as possible. Mob justice is no justice, but crime in reaction to crime.

M Hossain

This is a terrible cartoon by DS of a person who is innocent of all the charges until found guilty and apparently he was exonerated of all the charges in the 90s.

RCH

Nothing will happen to Ghulam Azam as our political leadership is not sincere about anything except grabbing power. Awami League (AL) allied itself with Jamaat before and they will again, forget about BNP.

We should have tried these traitors long time ago and AL should at least finish what they have started.

Abul, UK

At one time this very AL was an ally of the Jamaat-e-Islami and formed the cabinet with them. Yesterday's friend is today's arch enemy.

Amdem

A person is a friend today and an enemy the next day. Everything revolves around selfish political gains in Bangladesh.

Anonymous

The war criminals get the opportunity to become ministers in Bangladesh which is humiliating for our freedom fighters. Shame on those who patronise them.

Dilkash Ahmed

Why use a goofy-looking cartoon and not an actual photograph of Ghulam Azam to illustrate your story? Let people see the true face of the criminal.

Shahed

Ghulam Azam is a war criminal and there is no debate about that. He should be arrested before he hatches a conspiracy again. Jamaat and Shibir have always been against the state of Bangladesh. The war criminals were not naive or stupid when they committed crimes against humanity; they did so with full information and

An ill-considered movement

An astonishing and ridiculous movement has been going on in Jahangirnagar University. The officers and staff who have arranged this movement are demanding admission opportunity for their children under Possho (dependant) quota.

Quota facility is given to the university employees' children and siblings in the admission test where getting only pass mark is enough. But this new quota will give the children of the employees an opportunity to get admission in the university if only s/he has the qualification to sit for the admission test.

This is a conspiracy against the general meritorious students. University is a place for excellence, not for mediocrity. We, the students of JU, urge the civil society and the media to come forward to resist this ill-considered movement.

And we suggest the employees of the university that they should prepare their children well so that they get at least pass mark in the admission test. They should utilise the advantage they already have.

Mithun Dip

Final year
Dept. of International Relations
Jahangirnagar University

Middlemen's sorcery!

The other day my father-in-law told me something which I could not decipher logically. Someone got him some cauliflowers from Bogra, and the price was more amazing than the taste.

Apparently, they were priced at Tk.1 apiece at Bogra. Even though the cost of growing them was between Tk. 3-4, traders settled the price at Tk.1 because of an overabundant supply. The price at Bogra was not the astonishing part. What was absolutely astonishing is that the same cauliflowers are priced at Tk. 20 in Dhaka!

How on earth does the price of a product rise from Tk.1 outside Dhaka to Tk. 20 inside Dhaka? I really don't understand how this works.

It seems that studying through an undergraduate programme was a gross waste of my time. I should have been just a trader. Huge profit, more cars, bigger houses what more could I want!

Minu Ahmed Khan

Pubali, Circuit House Road
Ramna, Dhaka

Curse of corruption

Corruption has become a buzzword in Bangladesh. It is a curse to the nation. In a corrupt society, people's lives are miserable because everywhere corruption gives rise to exploitation. If we fail to curb corruption right now, our next generation will experience a dark future. We don't want that corruption should control our lives; we want a life with dignity.

Asrafur Islam

Chunarughat
Habiganj

'How to lose a winning match'

After long twelve years, the Bangladesh team got an opportunity to beat Pakistan team in One Day cricket again. But our team failed to utilise its home ground advantage. It could have been a morale booster victory for Bangladesh team ahead of much important test series. We witnessed, much to our agony, irresponsible, pointless and reckless batting display by the Bangladeshi batsmen. The way our team lost the wickets made us frustrated. The dew factor was working in favour of Bangladeshi batsmen and Pakistani bowlers had no clue how Shahriar Nafees and Mahmudullah were batting. Pakistan was losing its grip on the match and then suddenly our batsmen started to lose their concentration. It was a match which can be tagged as "how to lose a winning match"!

Mohammed Sohel Hara
Adamjee EPZ
Narayanganj

'Tale of two cities'

Father is always one. But we are going to have two city 'fathers' of our capital city Dhaka, thanks to the epoch-making 'research' conducted by our talented 'genetic engineers' at the top!

But we are very much worried about the future of our beloved city under two 'fathers'! Most probably, dual parenthood will make Dhaka a big 'hybrid' city, wherein the north of the city will look quite different from the south and the city-dwellers living in two parts will also behave differently! When the northerners will decide to cry, the southerners will like to laugh! It will be indeed, a glaring instance of 'genetic' maladjustment! Reasonably, we fear that our Dhaka will be a two-in-one city! Living in a single city, the poor Dhakaites will be, henceforth, telling us 'the tale of two cities'!

Md. Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara, Kushita

Why lose a winning match?



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh really bowled and fielded well in the final One-Day match against Pakistan. They bowled the strong visitors for 177 runs. Bangladesh team was in a commanding position, 74 for 1 wicket, and was about to win the match. But what went wrong? Why could not our boys continue their performance? They were bowled out for 119. All that was required then was patience and to flick the ball all around for singles or couple of runs to reach the small target of 177. What a shame!

Whatever respect we had for our team, now seems to be all over. The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board really needs to sit down and work out plans to do something about this. Why not get back some of the recently retired players? There is less scope for the current set of players to do any better. The only remedy is: get the boys learn proper cricketing skill and application.

K. Viqar Moinuddin
Purana Paltan, Dhaka

Negativist civil society

The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has complained against some members of the civil society. To some extent I support her. The members of this group are intellectuals, former high ranking officials, veteran politicians, retired army officers, economists, philosophers, professors, eminent lawyers and so on. They are of course respectable persons of society. But they hold certain political beliefs and so they are not fully neutral. About a month ago, I wrote a letter in the DS titled "All are not wrong." Many of the civil society members do not see any positive side of the government actions. They find everything wrong. They

never give any hope to the citizens, they only spread frustration among people. Every government has some successes and failures, but the civil society members only see the failures. Instead of giving people hope, they confuse them. Most people expect them to be neutral.

The national committee to protect oil, gas, mineral resources, power and ports is trying to save our natural resources, but can't they see that if we do not dig up our resources, our neighbours, who are digging their wells near our border, will take away all our resources? Is it not their responsibility to give us the right direction in saving our natural resources?

Shafiqul Islam, NY

Air pollution a health hazard



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

Smog is spread over the city's sky like a canopy which is caused by severe air pollution; it is so thick that it seems we can almost touch it. As no steps are being taken, the pollution is increasing day by day posing a threat to healthy living. Already a great number of people are suffering from a host of serious diseases related to air pollution. We are feeling deeply upset because if the matter does not get its due importance, we will be doomed, our nation will become a sick one with no future.

The government must start addressing the problem of environment pollution immediately.

It is very disappointing that our government is very busy with unnecessary things, not caring about people's views, suggestions and feelings. There are many instances of these, the recent one is splitting Dhaka city which in no way will be helpful.

In fact, it will create more chaos and inconvenience. We hoped that the government would drop the plan as it had done with DST (Daylight Saving Time), against which people were vocal and they thanked the government for giving back their old timing.

But this time the government is not giving a hoot to people's pleas, putting forward lame excuses.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong