

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 200 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

7th March, the moment nation rose up as one



7th March evokes the memory of the thunderous declaration- this struggle is for our freedom, this struggle is for our independence--by our Himalaya, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He led the great procession of the freedom-loving people in their struggle for freedom from the oppressive Pakistani regime. The few who cowered before the Pakistani junta instead of siding with the cause of truth and justice were the scum of the earth. Once again, we need one like Bangabandhu at a time when our enemies from home and abroad are humiliatingly our flag, earned at the price of an ocean of blood. How long will we live in poverty, fear and corruption? Does not that thunderous voice of freedom and justice of our father of the Bangladeshi Nation ring in our minds? Where is everybody? Wake up again!!

Abdus Subhan
On e-mail

Mosquito menace at Hazrat ShahJalal intl. airport

A few days back, I went to the Hazrat Shahjalal intl. Airport to receive a guest of mine who was flying to Bangladesh from the USA. I bought an entrance ticket for Tk. 200, and entered the Concord Hall of the terminal building. To my utter discomfort, I found thousands of mosquitoes there inside the hall. I had to wait there for one dreadful hour in that mosquito-infested place for my guest. In that long one hour, I saw all the people in the Concord Hall were fighting ceaselessly against the mosquitoes with their bare hands.

The Hazrat Shahjalal Airport is a property of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. As far as I know, it (CAAB) is one of the richest bodies of the country. Can't it keep the airport free from mosquitoes? Every year more than half a million air travellers use this airport. What is the first impression of the foreigners who land in this mosquito-infested airport? Keeping an airport free from mosquito is not a big deal like firing cannon. What is needed is the sense of duty and responsibility of the authority concerned.

Faruque Hasan
Uttara, Dhaka

What good confrontational politics will bring?

BNP announced their March 12 programme titled "March towards Dhaka". At the same time they have threatened that there will be no space for rickshaws on the roads of Dhaka city, as they are looking forward to drawing a huge crowd. On the other hand, Awami League announced their activities throughout March. The government party also assured that any kind of untoward activities would be to handle strictly.

General people of our country are worried about the confrontational position of the two rival parties. Political leaders of both the parties say that, they are protecting the people's right, but a real question is: can this confrontational political activity bring any good for our people and country?

Shariful Islam
Comilla University

Come in aid of malnourished children

The charitable organization "Save the Children" recently has said in a survey report that 500 million children in the world could grow up physically and mentally stunned over the next 15 years because they do not have enough to eat. The survey was carried out in the five countries, Bangladesh, India, Peru, Pakistan and Nigeria, where half the world's malnourished children live. It is said that the world has made dramatic progress in reducing child deaths, down from 12 to 7.6 million. But this survey reveals that a third of parents surveyed said their children complained about not having enough to eat.

High food prices this year have worsened child malnutrition. It affects people throughout the world irrespective of their statuses as rich and poor countries. One in four of the world's children have stunted growth. It means that these children's body and brain have failed to develop properly due to malnutrition.

However, it is impossible for any charity do away with malnutrition from all the children of the world. It requires affluent people to extend their hands to their nearby poor families and their children. If the parents, whose children are having enough to eat, only remember the children who do not have sufficient food, that would be the best way to reduce the number of malnourished children in every society.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka



Saudi official's mysterious killing!

The front page report of The Daily Star creates further confusion about the reason behind the embassy official's killing. Further, Shahidul Islam's report adds more fuel to the fire! He stated that the killers are professionals. However one definite part of the story is still missing. The post-mortem examination should have identified and established if the bullet was fired by a rifle or revolver. This is not known till date; at least publicly. If robbery was not a motive, then it leads to further confusion and speculation.

The Bahrain Foreign Minister's statement as reported states that the assassination was part of "an open war" and that the criminal is known.

Other Arab diplomats, as reported, called it as a 'terrorist act'.

If this was so, and it was an organized matter then there is little scope for the government to provide 'killer proof' security as stated by the leader of the opposition. Further as reported in the papers; the deceased gentleman's habit to go out for walking alone at dead of night also did not help matters.

S. A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

USTC area becomes battlefield

USTC stands for University of Science and Technology Chittagong. This is one of the oldest private universities in Bangladesh and the university is rich in medical science. From the name of the university, we understand, the students come here to learn science, technology and their applications in social life. For example, the medical students gain theoretical as well as practical knowledge in their respective fields. They learn how to diagnose patients' disease using modern technology. Obviously, the students of other departments are supposed to know which technology is used for what purposes. Nowadays life has become largely dependent on technology particularly for the new generation. They need to adapt themselves accordingly in all respects.

A very surprising message came to my notice on March 5, 2012, from one of the national dailies. It went like USTC area becomes battlefield over trifling matter. As it was reported, the brawl started over sitting on a motorbike that had an anti-theft alarm. During programme, when someone sat on the bike, the alarm went off and that is quite natural--whoever sits on it, may be a thief or an innocent student, the alarm will do its function. The university students are expected to know this basic technology and they must have shown much tolerance in such situations.

Dr. Lutfor Rahman
Treasurer

Help out small stock market investors



PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

Since the start of stock market disaster, more than a year ago finance minister, BB governor, SEC chief and other experts of stock market regularly gave advice to investors so as to judge the fundamentals of the Public Limited Companies (PCL) before investing their money. Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Bangladesh Bank (BB) are the authorities to allow raising of capital by PLC through Initial Public Offering (IPO). Naturally they are the experts who analyse through various options and sensitivity analysis before giving permission. Thus small investors like me do not bother to verify fundamentals as often uttered. What is more, I am not capable of doing so and I invest blindly in Primary shares and debentures.

Unfortunately, many of these PLCs after raising capital are no longer in existence. I asked the authority concerned to do something praiseworthy in the favour of small investors like me.

Mahmud Ali
Dhaka

Make violation of traffic rules punishable offence

A few days ago we witnessed a tragic accident that occurred in the early morning at the crossing between Bijoy Sarani and Sangsad Bhaban (Northern side) roads. The reason is the traffic signal was not being followed by the careless drivers of a private vehicle and a bus. One person died on the spot and two persons were seriously injured. This is a common scene which often turns tragic in Dhaka city. The accident would not happen if they followed the rules and obeyed traffic signals.

Every moment pedestrians, drivers and passengers remain in panic and anxious while moving around and they also feel scared of anything that might happen to them.

This type of accident can be minimized to zero percent by enforcing strict traffic rules. We have to make the people understand first and must force them to strictly follow the traffic rules. Traffic signals should be operational for 24 hours. We would suggest that heavy penalty should be imposed on the violators of traffic rules as well as signals and there should be provision for imprisonment if any one fails to pay penalty.

I am sure that this will work well. There is no alternative to enforcement of laws in the society.

Adnan Abdullah
Dhaka

Avoid destructive politics

Political crisis is an acute problem in our country. All the political parties are becoming crazy and cruel. BNP is all set on its move to "Dhaka Cholo" programme on 12th March. On the other hand, Awami League has called for a "Moha Somabesh" on 11th March. And Jamaat -Shibir party too is not far behind other political parties in confrontational activities. We have been habituated to seeing that political party's movement or procession results in vandalising of vehicles, loss of lives and so on. We have nothing to say but to witness those.

All political parties should give preference to the interest of common people at first. They should practice constructive and peaceful politics. General people are the worst sufferers due to hartal, movement, procession, human chain, so and so forth. That's why we request all the political parties to avoid all types of destructive activities in the name of politics.

M. D. Joy
BBA student

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "State playing role of criminal"

Ashraf

Is this the symbol of democracy and rule of law? This government should remember that all the people of Bangladesh are not stupid, though some people are!

Shah Deeldar

This political game will destroy the whole country soon or later. This is not politics at all.

Anonymous

Civil society sees the cruel ruler. Is it part of democracy? All the city dweller should come out of house to mount pressure on the government that so called 'digital rule' of oppression is no longer acceptable to the nation.

Andy

AL and BNP leaders are showing immaturity and playing political games in the name of democracy. If this continues then you must realize that people in Bangladesh may be poor but not stupid. You will be stripped off your power very soon.

Zafar Benzadid

BNP always plays a vital role in upholding constitution, democracy and development. But Awami League ruins it repeatedly. This is the difference between AL and BNP.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA

Indiscriminate arrest of pedestrians, activists and common people without any allegation on the eve of BNP rally betrays the ruling party's autocratic attitudes. All ruling parties, when they are in power, oppressed people like we are living in as a Stone Age era. This inhuman arrests should come to a halt otherwise we are not be able to consider ourselves a civilized nation.

Faqrul, USA

The government needs to face the hot-headed politicians in a cool headed manner. Use all constitutional means to save the interests of the citizen. Offer a simple and most appropriate constitutional proposal to go back to parliament and submit the proposal in detail so that the nation can see it.

Imrul Hassan

Is this the face of the democracy of Bangladesh? What a shame! There is no difference between Bangladesh and those autocratic states like, Mubarak's Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Gaddafi's Libya and some African states.

Anonk

BNP should go to parliament to show their strength. If history is any witness, it will show that twice BNP was in power and both times they refused peaceful transfer of power. This gathering is nothing but an attempt to reclaim that power and probably a plot to save war criminals.

M. Mohiuddin

This is primitive. The police have a liberty to earn money arresting people. We are really poor in thoughts and deeds.

NDS

The picture here is very candid and eloquent enough to convey what an achievement we have had after practicing more than 20 years of much hyped democracy. No reason to get confused, if watching this scene you fail to distinguish between human beings and animals. After all, we also come under the broad classification of animal. We as a great nation have very successfully been able to erase that petty difference! We have really proved ourselves exceptional in realising the true essence of democracy(!).

Roni Rahman

This autocratic and fascist approach is reminiscent of Stalin's rule in Soviet era. The media has the utmost responsibility in voicing and upholding the democratic norms and institutions. Only media can raise the