

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.

Harmful effects of mobile towers



PHOTOS: STAR



Nowadays mobile towers of different phone companies are seen in every nook and crannies of our country. Almost all use mobile phones. But how many of us know about the adverse impact of mobiles and mobile towers on our body and environment? Scientists are saying that every mobile tower emits a lot of electromagnetic radiation which causes different types of diseases such as heart disease, leukaemia, hypertension, brain tumour, brain cancer etc. It affects those badly who are living within one kilometre from the tower. Children are the worst victims of this harmful electromagnetic radiation. Even the birds, insects and trees will also be affected. What is more worrying is that almost all the towers have been installed near public places such as schools, colleges, clinics, hospitals and

residential areas, ignoring the terms and conditions of installing those. It should be installed on the rooftop of more than forty-storied buildings or in an open space where there will be no public places within one kilometre. But phone companies choose to install the towers in an area which is densely populated, for their commercial purposes. So, the phone companies should come up with a unified policy of installing the towers for the sake of people's health and environment.

Therefore, I would like to request the telecommunications minister to address the issue and take pragmatic steps without any delay as it is posing serious threats to public health.

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar
Rajshahi

End corporal punishment

I'm among the majority of the people who hoped and prayed that corporal punishment would end in schools when the High Court gave its landmark verdict over a year ago, but the reality is that this evil practice is still rampant in classrooms. Some teachers still practice their "right" to beat the students whenever they like, and often for reasons best known to them. The sooner the teachers realise that corporal punishment is a curse to the nation, the better.

Sabina Kabir
Uttara, Dhaka

Escaping from pains

Almost all intellectuals of the country say that the government staged the Ilias Ali incident to cover up the Suronjit saga. We do not know what follows next to divert our attention to a new one. But recently it seemed to me that the Satan is busy there continuously diverting our attention from the most important thing. So to defy the Satan, I have turned to music and art to forget those grisly scenes that I see on TV these days. It may sound like "Nero playing flute while the Rome was burning" but it is actually like the Titanic musician who valiantly played on to soothe the pangs of departing.

Abdus Subhan, *On e-mail*

May Day and workers' rights

Every year May Day is observed all over the world to reaffirm the rights of the workers. The factory/industry owners must offer better wages and humane treatment to their workers. The contribution of the workers should not be ignored, if the owners want to run businesses successfully.

Meanwhile, I would like to suggest that the workers should also work honestly and sincerely. They should work with full dedication.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Dean
Faculty of Agriculture
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

This is not cricket!

IPL is a very popular cricket tournament throughout the cricketing world. Shakib and Tamim are playing in the IPL and that is why there are lots of Kolkata and Pune fans in Bangladesh. However, IPL matches focus too much on cheerleaders and glamour, rather than the game itself. Not only cheerleaders, there are female hosts whose main job is not to discuss cricket, but probably to entertain the audience with their indecent gestures. Nowadays it is quite embarrassing to watch IPL matches with our family members.

Tauhidul Islam

Battered roads

The road network of the capital has suffered severely in the last ten years. Many of the busy roads and highways are in urgent need for repair, because they cannot stand heavy pressure of heavy traffic.

The roads of Sector 4 in Uttara are in battered condition. Built some 10-20 years ago and meant small volume of traffic, many roads and highways are now have bear to bear 10 times the expected traffic.

It has become difficult for the commuters to travel every day using these roads. Quite often one can see accidents happening on these roads. No one seems to care.

My earnest request to the authorities concerned is to take some actions to relieve us of this suffering that we have to go through every day.

Tahmid Samiul Mowla
Student
The Aga Khan School, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Disappearances and mysterious killings

According to the statistics of the rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a total of 100 people have become victims of enforced disappearance from January 2010 till 20 April, 2012. Of them, 21 have been found dead later, 3 have been released and the remaining 76 are still missing. Following the disappearance of former lawmaker and BNP's Organising Secretary (Sylhet division) Ilias Ali along with his driver, the state minister for home said that the disappearance of Ilias Ali had embarrassed the government. Expressing his deep concern over such incidents, chairman of National Human Rights Commission Dr. Mizanur Rahman said that the state will be accountable to international organisations for disappearances. Earlier, the country's highest court had also expressed their concern over disappearances and extra-judicial killings on several occasions.

The law enforcers have failed to trace out the killers of Sagor-Runi and the Saudi diplomat. We also notice that the same police are very expert in attacking the opposition activists not only on the streets but also in the office of the police!

The government is using the law enforcers politically and that is why they are failing to perform their responsibilities. The increasing incidents of disappearances and mysterious killings in recent times have triggered a wave of anxiety among the common people. But the government is totally apathetic towards these issues.

Abul Kalam Azad
Agailjhara
Barisal

"Conquest" of the Bay!



LITON RAHMAN / DRINKNEWS

I always read Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan's articles, as in today's DS. I have been nauseated by the new benchmarks of adulation that the sycophants have reached and in recent days wasting huge sums of money (whose?). I wonder what pleasure was derived by the recipient(s), when the real facts and the balance sheet of the 'victory' remain obscure. Does anyone know what our nation will gain in practical terms?

Amitava Ranjan's posting in the Indian Express on Thursday, 26 April 2012 at 0,23 hrs is relevant and reproduced below:

"New Delhi : India has escaped a standoff a repeat of the South China Sea squabble with neighbouring Bangladesh following a ruling by International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (ITLOS) that India's natural gas assets in Myanmar were outside Dhaka's maritime limits.

Clarifying the ITLOS ruling on water boundary between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) has informed that blocks A1 and A3 would "remain within Myanmar side". The blocks collectively hold about 6 trillion cubic feet of discovered gas and state-run Indian firms hold 25.5 per cent equity in each. The oil and gas fields map prepared by Myanmar following ITLOS' March 14 verdict shows that almost all of its offshore blocks had been excluded from Bangladesh.

"As such, the ITLOS' verdict would have little impact on Myanmar's offshore energy resources." What did Bangladesh get a lot of salty water with little or no fish in it? Will someone explain, please!!!

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

About Sohel Taj's resignation

This is a silent yet strong protest against the unhealthy politics in Bangladesh. No good and conscientious person would be okay with the current politics in our country. It would take a millennium or perhaps more than that to improve the scenario of politics in our country. Gone are the days of good politics in BD.

Cantara Wali

Lack of awareness behind noise pollution

Noise pollution has already become a concern for the city dwellers in Dhaka. Daytime commuters especially patients and children suffer a lot. But the persons who are responsible for making these noises defy the sufferings of others and also the rules regarding this. Buses, trucks, mikes and construction sites (mainly brick crushing machines) are the major sources of unbearable noises. But the law enforcers turn a deaf ear to this public nuisance.

Lack of awareness about the harmful effects of high noises among drivers, mike-users, construction workers and even some law enforcers is one of the main causes of noise pollution. Most of them even do not know that they themselves are the direct victims of their own acts.

Environmentalists say that noise levels at different points in the capital are more than double the permissible level. A daytime test taken in some areas revealed that in Shahbag the noise level is 120 to 126 decibels while in Jatrabari it is 125 to 130 decibels. But the World Health Organization suggests that healthy noise levels should not surpass 55 decibels during day.

Doctors say that besides creating multiple injuries in patients and children, noise pollution may also cause hearing problems, mental problems and cardiac problems in healthy people.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Hold talks for credible polls"

Noor

She is right. But it is not possible in Bangladeshi politics.

Rashna

We don't want Hillary to come here and give us suggestions.

Kazi Shoaib

Thanks to Hillary for her great suggestions to our politicians. But will our politicians listen to her advice?

Kazi Salim

Our prime minister and foreign minister have asked Hillary Clinton to extradite one of the killers of the Father of the Nation from USA. But Hillary Clinton did not say anything about this during the joint press conference. If the US government doesn't extradite the killer, it will prove that USA is a safe haven for killers.

Md. Emdadul Islam

We welcome Hillary Clinton to our country. But our government should not let her interfere with our internal affairs.

Upfront

So, the government and the opposition should sit for a meaningful dialogue to work out the framework for a free, fair and creditable election in 2014.

The issues like interim government vs. caretaker government, the disappearance of Ilias Ali etc. must be resolved with practical political sense with the participation of political leaders of both the parties.

True talk

The government must reduce people's sufferings by negotiating with the opposition about their demands.

Sellma

Hillary Clinton is 100% right in what she says, but would our PM and the opposition leader operate under these parameters?

Sheikh Monirul Islam, Opee

America wants a deep-sea port which Dr. Yunus always advocated with a sensible purpose. India is always showing its big brotherly attitude towards us and we can see how quickly Mr. Pranab made his presence here during Hillary Clinton's visit. Very interesting!

Omi

We are a poor third-world country and have to do what USA tells us to do! They are worried about the violation of human rights here but look what they are doing in Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran in the name of "war against terrorism." They have the power. They will do whatever they like to do. They will come here and give us suggestions (or orders!). This is the fate of Bangladesh!

Tinni

Our leaders should be honest and sincere enough to solve the crisis on their own, with-



PHOTO: STAR