

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.

Congratulations to our young talents



IQBAL AHMED / DRINKNEWS

This year more than 86 percent students who took part in the SSC exams have come out successful. It is really very nice to see the jubilant and potentially prospective students embracing the teachers, guardians and friends just after hearing the result. I congratulate them on their success. This time the girl examinees have outnumbered the boys. The credit goes to the education ministry and the non-government organisations that are working to promote female education. Students have done well in both English and mathematics. Another important aspect that should be mentioned here is that the science group students have done comparatively well. The fear of creative method that engulfed the students, teachers and guardians has now completely disappeared. However, my request to our young talents, concentrate on study and get well prepared and be committed to serve the nation in the future; your service is badly needed for the nation to move forward. We are waiting keenly to see you make effort to follow the correct path. Keep up the good work.

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar, Rajshahi

Cooling water for Barapukuria Power Plant

An article on the above topic was published in a local English daily on May 6th on this issue.

Interestingly, it seemed that the answer to the problems of water depletion in surrounding villages was not such a difficult matter!

The article stated that the mine-mouth coal-fired power plant needs 1000 cusec of water for cooling daily. On the other hand, it was also stated that the mine pumps out 1500m³ of water every hour which is equivalent to 36000m³ water daily. It would have been better to put both the units of water flow in either meter cube or cusecs per day, for comparison. Further, it was stated that the water for cooling the power plant is supplied by 14 deep tube-wells at an average of 70 cusec each per tube-well daily.

Normally, the power plant should recover at least 80 percent of the cooling water needed, and thus the logical shortfall of (1000-800) around 200cusecs of water daily needs to be provided. Further, it was also stated that 36000m³ of water pumped out of the mine daily, which can easily produce 32000m³ of boiler water suitable for the power plant daily. Nothing was said about this important aspect of salvaging the mine water for use in the power plant!

This water can be filtered and treated and can produce boiler quality water. Such plant can easily be procured from boiler water softening plant suppliers who, based on the analysis of the mine water samples, can recommend the plant and equipment needed for producing boiler quality water. It does not need any consultant for design and procurement of such a plant. Unfortunately, nothing was mentioned about this matter either. Over all, it was an unclear and technically incomplete report on the gamut of the whole problem, to come to any sensible conclusion!

We want safe travel on road

In recent days road accidents have become so common that people do not feel safe during travels. In our local news bulletins, either in the print and electronic media, every day we come across reports on a large number of deaths and injuries due to road accidents.

The causes of these accidents include mechanical error, carelessness of the drivers and commuters about traffic rules, bad condition of highways and untrained drivers. Moreover, use of drug by drivers, talking on mobile phones while driving, reluctance of the public to use overbridge, stopping vehicles at any place, overtaking, over speeding, and use of unfit vehicles have added to the already critical situation.

A survey shows that about 12-15 thousand people of our country lose their lives and nearly 20-25 thousand people are wounded due to road accidents every year. About 100-150 vehicles out of 10,000 are subjected to road accidents. The expansion of business activities and growth of the economy have its negative impact on the traffic system because our infrastructure facilities have not expanded at the same pace.

These accidents cause a large number of families helpless. Many people become disabled for the rest of their lives. This also affects a person psychologically. Unfortunately, the authorities do not seem to be careful enough to reduce the frequency of road accidents. We, therefore, draw the attention of the communications ministry and the general public. As responsible citizens, we have to be careful, make our children and drivers aware of the traffic rules. Carefulness can save our valuable lives.

Students of Grade V
The Aga Khan School
Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

Learning English through music

English language can effectively be learned through listening English music. When I used to offer instructions in English language I would regularly play English music, particularly country songs in my class and ask the students to write the lyrics as they listen. And it worked quite well.

One of the problems in our country with English language is that most of us cannot pronounce English words correctly. Learning English through music helps improve pronunciation. Recently I came across an alternative to YouTube named 'uWall' for learning English through music. The uWall (uwall.tv) site contains a lot of English songs with lyrics, pictures with provision to voice recording and voice command for particular song to play.

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

ITLOS verdict an 'achievement' not 'conquest'

There has been a big uproar over government's maritime 'conquest'. Allied parties are praising the government to the skies, while the opposition is criticising the ITLOS verdict. The Daily Star article entitled "'Conquest' of the Bay!" on 3rd May has drawn our attention. The writer sarcastically mentioned our preference for celebration. Ironically, our legislators are susceptible to pomposity. Government deserves commendation for reinstating our right in the Bay, but they should be less showy.

Stork sanctuary in the heart of Texas

Please allow me to share this picture of Stork sanctuary in the city of Houston also known as the space city that I found just beside the Elsie High School on Diary Ashford. This reminded me of the fate of their fellow cousins, popularly known as "Shikar" in front of the Hotel Ruposhi Bangla crossing, Elephant Road crossing and many other palaces of Dhaka, where I was born 52 years ago.

No one would dare to do such a thing here in the United States, as he would end up in jail even if he or she happens to be the child of the most powerful person in the world. It is so sad that the people back at home do not even feel sorry to put to death thousands of birds of different species by way of poisoning in the far flung areas of the country only to eat these poor harmless creatures.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas, USA



PHOTO: WRITER

An appeal to ruling and opposition leaders

The socioeconomic, administrative and political situation of our country has been topsy-turvy for a long time. Boycott of parliament and observance of hartal by the opposition, corruption, illegal toll collection, negligence of duties by some ministers and government officials are leading us towards destruction.

What is going on in the name of democracy? The superiority complex of some of our leaders either in the ruling party or in the opposition party is very annoying. Are not some of our leaders unwisely and carelessly striking their own legs with axe? And people are falling victim to their wrongdoings.

We and our political leaders, government servants, intellectuals, students, teachers, and people of all professions should take lessons from the pages of our history when we lived peacefully together. The dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would never be fulfilled if we do not rectify ourselves.

O.H. Kabir
Hare Street

Reducing maternal and newborn deaths

It is appreciable that Bangladesh has improved the situation in the area of maternal and newborn deaths. A report says that infant mortality rate has declined from 85 deaths per 1000 live births in late '80s to 52 deaths per 1000 live births over the period of 2002 to 2006. Another report says that maternal mortality rate has declined from 514 deaths per 100,000 in the mid '80s to 322 deaths per 100,000 in the late '90s.

It is said that malnutrition is the major cause of maternal and newborn deaths in our country. Though poverty alleviation is the first step to tackle malnutrition in general, maternal anemia should be addressed particularly as part of tackling malnutrition. Experts say around 45 percent women in Bangladesh suffer from anemia during pregnancy. Because of anemia, women face different types of complications like prolonged labour during delivery. Delivering underweight child, maternal and neonatal death etc. are also the results of anemia.

We have learnt from a newspaper report that for improving the situation of maternal anemia in Bangladesh, the government has introduced a programme under which 100 Iron Folic Acid tablets are distributed among the pregnant women. Unfortunately, the tablets are wrapped in normal paper when distributed. These tablets lose their original colour and turn black in contact with air. As a result, many women give up taking those discoloured tablets thinking that they have lost their effectiveness. These tablets can be distributed in bottles or blister packets.

Sincere efforts of the authorities can reduce maternal and newborn deaths in the country.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news analysis headlined "Popularity? Ask Barua"

Mirza Zeehan Mahmud

A great analysis. Thanks to The Daily Star. People will now know the real popularity of our industries minister.

Suahmed

Thanks to Mr. Liton for drawing a true picture of popularity of the technocrat minister who speaks loudly about others' popularity while his life long stay in politics brought him no popularity. He has forgotten his past, being favoured by the PM who picked him as an unelected minister. What a shame!

Rubo

It is not surprising why popularity of this government is waning so fast.

Anonymous

Great statistics! They hardly know what they are talking about.

Labib Tazwar Rahman

I don't see any reason why some human beings criticise and use vulgar words against persons who have brought name and fame for their native land! A person having a different opinion over a national issue now has to prove his/her fame in the field of politics!

Jumana Sarwar

Not only Dilip Barua, everybody in Hasina's cabinet is saying so.

Upfront

Thanks for the analysis by Shakhawat Liton. He has performed his professional duty as usual but his views are one-sided. Nobel Prize winner Prof Yunus and Knighthood winner Fazle Hasan Abed are not comparable to Dilip Barua by any criteria. Why is it necessary for the international community and a donor country to defend the Nobel prize winner?

Juhurul alom

Perhaps they should join politics. Both of them were vocal about how the country should be run. It is time they asked people to allow them the opportunity. If people say yes, then they will get the chance to serve the nation.

E Chowdhury

I couldn't agree more with the writer. A timely news analysis by The Daily Star. Thanking Daily Star for defending Dr. Yunus and Mr. Abed - Bangladesh's pride.

Dilip Kumar Datta

I did my Matriculation in 1961 while Honourable Minister Dilip Barua in 1964. He is junior to me by three years. He will never be able to win any parliamentary seat so far my experience goes. He has, therefore, belittled himself by inviting the two of the world personalities to contest elections to judge their popularity.

W Khan

Don't Prof Yunus and Abed have the right to express their opinions as citizens of Bangladesh? I don't know how these ministers will face their own families after making such atrocious com-



PHOTO: STAR