

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.

Bangla, not Bengali



PHOTO: STAR

Though we have been enjoying the bliss of independence for long, the legacy of the imperialistic British dominance still follows us. It is evident from the nomenclature of numerous institutions, roads etc. which were named after the British queens or governor-generals. The pronunciation of Bangla words by the British tormented us during the colonial rule. It is a matter of regret that we still pronounce Bangla words erroneously and impudently like the British. We still write the word "Bangla" in a weird spelling, 'Bengali'. Although it was quite late, our parliament, by the eighth

amendment of the constitution in 1988, amended and recognised the spelling of "Bangla" in a deserved manner. Yet many Bangladeshi writers and even some government offices make the mistake of writing "Bangla" as "Bengali". We should enhance the dignity of our beloved Bangla language by spelling it as "Bangla," not "Bengali".
Md Nazmul Hasan Chowdhury
A student of law
Jagannath University
Dhaka

Herald of new era of air travel

Few readers may have gone through the AFP news release, published on 1st June by a local English daily. It is a significant event initiating the breakthrough for the up and coming fuel-less aircraft that will crisscross our skies in the future! It will herald the solar-powered airlines of tomorrow!

The innovative Swiss made sun-powered air craft named 'Solar Impulse' was shown in the photograph alongside. It is setting out for its first inter-continental flight, which will NOT need a single drop of conventional hydrocarbon aviation fuel!

It is the beginning of the new era of air transport! It showed the dedicated and committed people making the effort and taking the risks involved in this new and unconventional way of air travel.

They deserve our recognition; the least of which could be more information and coverage of this remarkable adventure of both the men and the machine!

It will herald a new era of air flight that is unknown today!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

Distorting image of Dr. Yunus

Our country is facing so many problems but instead of improving the condition which is clearly worsening every day (disappearance of people, communication hassle, deteriorating law and order, to name a few) the government is busy with unimportant issues. None of the banks gave loan to the poor people before Dr. Yunus. Dr. Yunus saved the poor people from the so-called "Mohajon", who used to take 150 to 200% interest. Interest rate of many microcredit providers including some government organisations is significantly higher than that of Grameen Bank. The money taken as interest is being used to make Grameen Bank sustainable so that it can continue to help the helpless. Moreover, Grameen Bank is giving loan to the poor students with which many students are studying. It is also providing interest-free loan to thousands of beggars. People all over the world are getting benefit from microcredit introduced Grameen Bank. If Grameen Bank had not brought any benefit to the people, it would have failed long time ago. All the corruption cases against the politicians of the government party have been dismissed without any proper investigation whereas Dr. Yunus welcomed investigation of corruption charges against him. Subsequently he was proved innocent. But now the government has taken a vow to malign Professor Yunus. The government is planning to take over the Grameen Bank and make it a state enterprise. The result will be that the AL politicians' own people will be appointed in key positions and the profit coming from it will be shared by them. I foresee that this is going to happen to Grameen Bank. It will be a business enterprise of AL politicians and this will be done before the next election. In this way, by endangering the livelihood of 8.4 million poor women, this government is going to be the worst enemy of the poor in the history of Bangladesh.

Regarding the four-member commission made to conducting probe into Grameen Bank and 54 of its associates, I would say that they will give report which will be prepared in the AL office. Why the AL has become so arrogant after Yunus' getting the Nobel prize is crystal clear to everybody. This government proved itself to be a fool by considering the people fools.

Mahboob Hossian
Zigatola, Dhaka



PHOTO: STAR

A black message

Finance minister encouraged the black money owners to invest in the national economy like in the past. It has become a culture of our country. Doesn't it mean: "Earn black money and take the chance of whitening it?" Thus the fields of corruption will be fertile in the coming days and our country will turn into a black hole.

Asraful Islam
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August 21 grenade attack

The headline of The Daily Star of 21 May was about the involvement of Tarique in August 21 grenade attack. It is really shocking to see that the leaders of one party are trying to eliminate the leaders of another major political party of the country only to have absolute authority in politics. BNP was in power for several terms and their track records don't show anything much good. None of the governments is absolutely successful in promoting the interest of the country and keep pace with the rest of the world to make the life of the people better. But it can in no way be accepted that a party should be trying to eliminate another. But unfortunately, there were several attacks on Sheikh Hasina in different places of the country including the big attempt in Kotalipara and Bangabandhu Avenue. If Tarique's involvement is proved in this case, he should be brought to justice so that no politician in the future dares to attack his opponent. Many politicians have been killed and many have been abducted since the independence of our beloved motherland. If the big leaders are not safe in this country, where will we common people go?
Indrajit Kumar Das
Chittagong College
Chittagong

Just observing 'days' won't help

June 5 is World Environment Day. In Bangladesh it was observed as we are very expert in observing days on many issues. Seminars, rallies, talk shows were held, the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the Department of Environment organised programmes: holding colourful banners and umbrellas and wearing caps, the participants took out processions. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President Zillur Rahman gave messages on the occasion. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina planted a sapling and asked everyone to do so, saying that trees are very important to living a healthy life and it plays an important role to combat climate change.



MUNIR UZ ZAMAN / DRINKNEWS

But only advice will not bring any results unless the government stops tree felling, cutting down hills, filling up water bodies, polluting the rivers by dumping toxic materials etc, which are going on unabated. The water of the Buriganga has become black like tar; many other rivers have also become severely polluted endangering the lives of aquatic species. Air pollution has taken a severe turn, making people suffer from many serious diseases.

People should become conscious, try their utmost to improve the situation and join hands with the government to save the country from disaster. And the government must act fast. If urgent steps are not taken, the day is not far away when we will be doomed.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Merchant banks' role

Merchant banks play a vital role in maintaining and restoring the stability of the stock market. Especially in a stock market like ours, their transparent and accountable participation is expected. Their designated duties include issue management, underwriting and signing due diligence certificates keeping to moral principles. Recently, they have allegedly been deviating from their key duties. Violation of rules by them would cast a negative impact on the capital market. Merchant banks should come up with research-based services for the clients so that the stability is restored. They have an important role in increasing the investors' participation through Initial Public Offering (IPO).

S.M. Shamim-Ur-Rashid Tushar
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Railway bridge in peril

A few days ago I travelled from Chittagong to Dhaka by train. On the way, to my horror, I found that sand/earth being extracted from a canal using extractor, and the place of extraction is extremely near to the pillars of the railway bridge over the canal. The bridge is the one next to the Gomoti bridge towards Dhaka. The extracted sand/earth is being used for earth filling in the existing railway line to lay a new track. Extracting sand/earth from so near to the railway bridge will put that bridge in danger of collapsing. I would like to draw the attention of the authorities to this matter.

Faruque Hasan

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "One lawmaker says sorry"

Yasmin

This is a very good example set by Mr. Haque. We hope other lawmakers will also do the same.

Anonymous

Rest of them should express their regret immediately.

SG

This says that people's power defeats the supreme (politicians') power. Even though I am an AL supporter, I cannot support what the lawmakers said about our Sir. We all are with our Sir.

Rch

But the AL MPs do not have the decency to do it as they only believe in Awami doctrine of never admitting mistakes using force or lies.

Mahfuzul h chowdhury

MP Haque's gesture is appreciable because he has realised his mistake and felt ashamed of it, but his three other colleagues have not yet done so.

Kishore

Prof. Sayeed is 100% correct. If the lawmakers break the laws, punishment should be double.

Upfront

We are just ordinary readers of the news online. But we fail to find any logic behind the entire drama reported in the DS. What was the purpose of Prof Sayeed in making such a remark when he does not admit that he mentioned anything specific about any country or parliament members? We expect somebody to answer our question.

Dr Reza Khan

I thank JP lawmaker to come forward and say sorry to our nationally and internationally acclaimed Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed. I wish other lawmakers would follow suit. After all, there is no harm in saying sorry for silly mistakes, whether these be in the personal, private or business arenas.

Rony

A good gesture by Mujib-ul-Haque Chunnu. We hope other lawmakers will learn from this.

Huda's decision

Instead of doing what Barrister Nazmul Huda has done, he could perhaps play the role of an icebreaker for resolving the present political crisis. He could do so by exploring possible avenues and through communication with some of his friends/colleagues in both the parties.

In our poverty-stricken country we have so many problems and to work out pragmatic solutions to these problems, both ruling and opposition leaders need to sit together. I would like to sincerely call upon our political leaders to break the ice and sit in a dialogue to find out ways and means for overcoming the present political crisis for the greater good of the nation, of course before it gets too late!

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

Not a big budget...

The finance minister's comment that 'this is not a big budget' is true enough as taka 1,91,738 Crore equates to about £14.92 billion British pounds. For a clear perspective, Mayor Boris Johnson has a budget of about £16 billion for London; the richest man in Britain Laxmi Mital has a personal fortune of about £20 billion; and the British overseas budget (about 0.7% of GDP) is about £8 billion.

However, the budgetary provision for capital investments like the Padma Bridge, nuclear power stations etc should not form part of the national budget to confuse the issues, as for instance, the London Cross-rail project which has an estimated budgetary cost of £24 billion is spread over several years with its own financing mechanisms.

I congratulate the government on its budget.
Shafi Ahmed