

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.

NU students' future at stake

National University (NU) students are the worst sufferers of session jam which has taken an acute turn. I am a student of 3rd year of the English department. My session is 2007-2008. This year we were supposed to have appeared in the Honours final exam but still we are waiting for our 3rd year final exam to be held. What is the reason behind this situation at the NU? Classes are not held regularly; teachers are busy with private tuition at home; exam papers are not examined in given time; and results are also not published in time. To our utter surprise, teachers give more importance to money making and considers education a commodity. Have they forgotten that teaching is a noble profession?



PHOTO: STAR

However, we want to get rid of all these problems. I would request the education minister to give a very serious look into the matter in the greater interests of thousands of NU students.

Ayesha Rahman
Dept. of English
Azizul Haque College
Bogra

Publish the list of rejected MRPs

According to a report of the daily Prothom Alo of 22nd July, 100,000 MRP passports have been rejected by the Department of Immigration and Passport. It is very sad that 2,080 MRPs were stolen from the concerned department. How could this happen? Who were involved in this? Have the authorities identified them and taken proper steps against them? To remove the hassles of the innocent applicants, the list of rejected MRPs should be published in the newspapers as early as possible. At the same time, the perpetrators must be identified and punished.

Shariful Islam
University of Dhaka

Criminal activities rise during Ramadan!

Maybe Bangladesh is the only Muslim country in the world where police have to take special security measures to prevent criminal activities during the month of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr. From the July 20, 2012 issue of The Daily Star we learned that Dhaka Metropolitan Police is stepping up its security system.

In the holy month of Ramadan people not only fast, they are supposed to reform themselves, refrain from doing any criminal activities, and make themselves pure and humble. But in Bangladesh it never happens... crimes escalate; looting and snatching increases; and prices of essential commodities rise alarmingly. Forgetting the true spirit of Ramadan, a great number of people become busy to fulfil their selfish interest. What a shame and disgrace!

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Are we too lazy to react?

Being tolerant is good. Letting people take advantage of you is not. And that's exactly what we are guilty of. We, the people of Bangladesh, turn a blind eye to every other flaw that appears in our daily life.

It's almost like we like to suffer, silently. Every year we let our beloved utility providers dig up the roads, and somehow it's always the rainy season when it's easier to misappropriate funds, and no one has the power to do anything. The roads of the capital city are full of potholes. Disgraceful, but we can't care enough to react. Kitchen market prices have increased beyond the reach of even the middle class families, but what can we do? The government's attempt to reduce the prices of essential commodities or the CNG fares has been nothing more than just an attempt of misdirection. And the best part is, it works. I look around, and I see no one doing anything. What happened? Did all the courageous souls die in the War of Independence, leaving just pathetic citizens behind?

Asif
Sr. Copywriter
Unitrend Limited

Great writer with dreams

The whole nation is still mourning the death of Humayun Ahmed, an author, dramatist, screenwriter, playwright and filmmaker. Some noted writers of West Bengal have also expressed their deep shock over the death of our great writer. Sunil Gangopadhyay said: "I can not think that my friend is no more in this world, he (Humayun Ahmed) had a mastery over all the spheres of literature. His death is an irreparable loss to Bangla literature." Famous writer Samaresh Majumder has said that the contribution of Humayun Ahmed in Bangla literature would remain alive for decades. His supervisor got very surprised to know about his command over literature while he was doing his Ph.D in polymer chemistry in North Dakota State University in US. Apart from his literary works, I am also impressed with his great dream of building a cancer hospital and an institution like Shantiniketan. His dreams remained unfulfilled in his lifetime. But I think all the fans of Humayun Ahmed, his relatives and the government should come forward and make all out efforts to translate his great dreams into reality.

Md. Musfikur Rahman Jony
Baneswar, Rajshahi

Thanks to our power dept people

Every local daily has published the disastrous power grid failure leading to blackout all over India. In some locations, power failure has been catastrophic. The sad part was that when about forty percent of power was restored, the supply grid failure happened again! All this misery happened during the hot Indian summer, when naturally electric power demand is at the highest. Compared to that, we should consider ourselves lucky. Despite our outdated, lame and limping power generation equipment, we have thankfully been spared such disasters now occurring in India. Fortunately, we have been spared any large scale electric power blackouts due to technical failure.

As a retired fellow professional in the field, I take this opportunity to felicitate all our technicians and engineers of the generation and transmission side in the power generation plants and transmission stations concerned, who have coaxed electric power from old, outdated and worn out equipment! The nation owes them thanks and gratitude, for their professional performance.

Engr. S. A. Mansoor, Dhaka

Tragically the dark knight rose!

On July 20, 2012, a very painful and tragic incident took place during a midnight show of Christopher Nolan's super hit film "The Dark Knight Rises" wherein a gunman wearing a gas mask opened fire inside a theatre in Aurora, Colorado. Twelve moviegoers were killed and more than 58 injured during the indiscriminate shooting.

Based on the DC Comics character 'Batman' 'The Dark Knight Rises' is the third and final installment of Nolan's Batman series.

While expressing deep shock and extending pro-

found sympathy and condolences to the victims, I would like to place a question: How and why a citizen in the United States, a country of strict law, order and justice could get motivated to commit such a deadly crime publicly? Previously, such types of painful incidents occurred in shopping centres, schools, etc. I strongly feel that a thorough psychological and sociological investigation should be conducted to determine why some people are spontaneously committing such crimes.

On the other hand, filmmakers are also required to critically review the possible impacts of their movie before release. In this connection, I would like to quote Catherine Shoard of The Guardian of London who claimed: "The film is a quite audaciously capitalist vision, radically conservative, radically vigilante that advances a serious, stirring proposal that the wish-fulfillment of the wealthy is to be championed if they say they want to do good."

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

PM's BBC interview

Stephen Sackur interviewed our prime minister for the BBC Hardtalk. At the end part of the interview he suggested that the prime minister should leave the stage for new. We think a foreign journalist cannot give such a suggestion to an elected prime minister of a sovereign country in an interview. Mind that she is elected by the people. It is a gross violation of etiquette. We, the Bangladeshi people, may disagree with our prime minister on many policy matters, but after all she is our elected prime minister. Her dignity is our nation's dignity which must not be hurt.

Faruque Hasan

Need for national policy to prevent AIDS

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) caused by Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) is one of the major killer diseases in this century. More than 33.4 million people have HIV in the world and more than 2.7 million are getting newly infected. In South and South East Asia more than 5.6 million people are infected with HIV, in Middle East and North Africa the number is about 470000. In the South East Asian region, especially in India, Thailand and Myanmar, a high number of people are carrying HIV virus. A large number of Bangladeshis are working in the Middle East and Africa. Many of us are frequently travelling in highly positive areas including our neighbouring countries.

AIDS is controllable through education and treatment. Modern AIDS treatment increased the life expectancy of HIV-positive patients towards leading a normal life. Therefore, early diagnosis and intervention is essential for

prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.

Being a poor country, Bangladesh is facing a big challenge to combat HIV. A national policy that would be duly implemented is urgently required to prevent HIV/AIDS. This should serve as a wake-up call to the nation.

Dr. Md. Gulam Mostafa
Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University
Bangkok School of Tropical Medicine
Thailand



PHOTO: ALAM / DRINKNEWS

Farmers use mobile phones

Recently the World Bank revealed a survey report that says 80 pc farmers are using mobile phone to get direct entrance in the market. Our farmers do not get proper price of their products. So it is encouraging that farmers are realising the importance of electronic devices in marketing their goods. But experts indicate that this is not enough to reduce the differences the prices of agricultural commodities between field level and the market. To change this situation, the government needs to adopt a holistic business model. Storage, transportation and food processing facilities should be improved. The government should also continue to provide power and fertilisers subsidies to the farmers.

Mizanur Rahman
MS student
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University



PHOTO: RASHED SUMON



Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

Grameen Bank Govt to clip board wings

Proposal to amend ordinance goes to cabinet division today (August 2, 2012)

Roni Rahman
In corporate architecture, it is the board that decides and approves key issues including the selection of the CEO. Hijacking this power and giving it to the chairman will surely make the Grameen Bank more autocratic and devoid of the checks and accountabilities the board was designed to maintain. This seems to be a power grab scheme by the government.

Jumana Sarwar
This move must be challenged in the courts.

Manzoor Ashraf
I do not usually agree with the PM but I do agree with her that Grameen Bank and all other banks in Bangladesh are blood suckers since they charge very

high interest. But this move by the government will not stop the culture of charging high interest, so I think the BB should look into this matter urgently.

Rocky Sinha
It is quite clear that the government won't step back from its stand. We can't deny that TICFA signing, Padma bridge project were affected by the activities of the government against the Grameen Bank.

A Bangalee
By clipping the wings of Grameen Bank, the government will harm the economy of the country. It already has lost the support of many western countries. So they should think seriously before taking such a drastic decision.

Md. Muslemur Rahman
This is the 1st step to take full control. What will be the next step to destroy the GB?

Translucent
It is not a suspicion! It's a fact that the government wants to take full control. Normally, board of directors employ the MD and s/he is responsible to the board. Chairman only chairs the board meetings. If company law is changed then it would affect other corporate entities in general. I foresee more chaos and confusion ahead that can only hurt GB and its poor subscribers!

Saleh Tanveer
There is now no doubt that the government wants to appoint political persons, thereby controlling the lives of 8.5 million borrowers and their families.

Md. Nahid Khan
Please do not hurt the poor people's organisation.

Johny
Why is the government playing hide and seek with Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank? What does the government want to prove? This is quite funny and ridiculous.

Mufazzal
I think the Grameen Bank interest rate should be lowered and the government should not try to take control over the bank.

Mayen Uddin Tazim, former Advisor, UNDP
We know absolute power corrupts absolutely. Unfortunately, the government is going to give absolute power to the Grameen Bank's chairman for reducing the power of the board of directors. This undemocratic decision will hurt the millions of borrowers and small investors who are linked to the Grameen Bank. With the intervention of the government, the bank will be far away from its original objectives. The government should appoint the right person to pave the way for realising its fundamental objectives.

Joseph Gomes
Why are we taking it in a negative way? The board is united as Dr Yunus is still there. When he will not be there, the board members will start disagreeing with each other and it will be automatically divided about existing rules and procedures. So both the government and the GB should work together to make it a sustainable organisation.