

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.

Thanks to FBCCI and govt



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Scarcity of hilsa fish in the local market has increased its price so high that it has become the food of the rich people in Bangladesh. The price has further increased in the month of Ramadan. Bangladesh Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) recently suggested that the government should impose a ban on white fish export in the month of Ramadan. People of Bangladesh have experienced that business communities can do anything for making high profit ignoring the interest of commoners. The Bangladesh government also responded promptly and issued an order banning the export of white fishes, which is unprecedented. Within a couple of days, the price of our national fish hilsa has come down. The commoners have finally got the chance of tasting hilsa. Thanks to FBCCI and the government.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Ramna, Dhaka

Let's bring a positive change

Bangladesh is in dire need of a 3rd political party. Each of our two major political parties have already shown wice what they can do in the last two decades which indicated that we should not keep faith on them anymore. Future of Bangladesh is not safe in their hands. People have already tested their capability and failed to draw any difference in their quality of governance.

Many people argue that we don't need any 3rd political power as these two parties can live up to people's expectations if they correct their ways. But unfortunately this is not the reality. Bangladesh can't afford any more time for their correction. It will be a big mistake if we wait for their renewed face. Because in last 20 years the nature of politics has not improved even a little. They are still doing politics of power and protecting party interests. But Bangladesh needs politics of development and peace.

I love my country a lot and want to live in a developed Bangladesh. Let's unite and bring a positive change.

G.M. Rezwon Rasul
A Bangladeshi

Monipur High School students made to pay tolls?

A recent report of The Daily Star says that the capital's Monipur High School authorities were allegedly collecting money from the students in the name of adma Bridge Project. According to the news, the guardians of the school expressed resentment over the unlawful act of the school authorities. The high-ups of the government said several times that no individual or institution is asked to collect money right now. Then why are the authorities ignoring the matter? Isn't this unlawful money collection tarnishing the image of both the school and the government? Who doesn't want to see the Padma bridge built? But not in such unlawful way. I hope the government will punish those who are involved in such crimes.

Md. Abir Hossain
Department of English, Govt Titumir College

A new portfolio needed for Suranjit Sengupta

We do not know why Suranjit Sengupta is being called a 'minister without portfolio'. Should not the government give him a portfolio as he is so vocal on various important issues? We see him regularly speaking and sometimes more than other ministers and even more than Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The saying goes, "Raja joto boley, parishodgon boley tar shotogoon".

After Taka 70 lakh found in his APS's car, he resigned but was reappointed the next day. Maybe Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wanted to make Suranjit Sengupta a spokesman of her government. But people feel irritated by his constant presence in the electronic media. It would be better for him to maintain a low profile.

Nur Jahan

More scientific journals needed for varsities

We, the university students, are pursuing higher education without doing any research work. Without any research activities of applied science and pure science, we can not have quality education. Frankly, what we are studying at the university level in Bangladesh is totally backdated. Most of the lectures given by the course teachers were written in their student life. Moreover, our higher education is theory-based. The books we use are not updated with time. There are thousands of books in the university library but there are less than a hundred journals. Surely, it would be a good initiative if the authorities could collect more scientific journals for the students.

Azad M Obyedul Kalam
PhD Fellow
Department of Food Science- Horticulture
Aarhus University, Denmark



PHOTO: STAR

Cancer hospital after Humayun's name

Our beloved writer Humayun Ahmed breathed his last in a New York hospital on July 19, after a prolonged fight against cancer. His untimely and abrupt demise came as a terrible shock to the entire nation. He had to stay in a foreign country and spend a big amount of money for the treatment of the deadly disease. During his last days, he expressed his desire to establish a cancer hospital in Bangladesh so that our people need not go outside the country for highly expensive cancer treatment. To materialise his dream, we can establish a cancer hospital in his memory. The hospital may be named as 'Humayun Ahmed Cancer Hospital' and established preferably at or near Nuhash Polli in Gazipur.

A 'Trust' may be formed with renowned personalities of the country as its members. The Trust may raise necessary funds by collecting donations from all sections of the people and organisations. The government may also provide funds and necessary logistic support for the construction of a modern world class cancer hospital. It may be hoped that millions of well-wishers and admirers of Humayun Ahmed will extend their whole-hearted co-operation to make their favourite writer's dream a reality.

Md Mohsin Ali
Nutan Courtpara
Khustia

Is Gulshan a residential area?

I wonder if any of your readers, sir, can help me to understand the way the minds work of those responsible for Planning Permission in Gulshan...

We are continually informed it should be a residential area but, in that case, where do its children go to school? Some schools have obediently relocated to Uttara which means that either their families have to shift there or endure the anxiety of exposing their progeny to the Airport Road traffic, pollution and driving hazards - and, of course, adding to them - as well as adding up to two hours to their children's school day...

And - lo! - there is now a supermarket on Gulshan Avenue, a short walk from the shops (and car parking space) of the official Gulshan 2 market! So does that mean that the authorities are not allowing commercial outlets and schools on the back roads of Gulshan but are allowing them on Gulshan Avenue which causes maximum disturbance?

It seems to me that the Planners also feel confusion but that those who require a special favour have found ways of helping them to overcome it.

Angela Robinson
Baridhara DOHS
Dhaka

How history will remember Dr. Yunus



PHOTO: STAR

History will not remember how much salary Dr. Yunus earned after he turned 60. History will not remember how our Nobel laureate was pestered by the government. In fact, history will not bother about the kind of embarrassment this man had to go through. What history will remember is, how he developed the ability and power of the rural people, how the acts of one person changed the course of their lives. As a nation, we should be ashamed that we are silently watching Dr. Yunus being denounced. Of course, we have no power to do anything because we are living in the prison where the government is the warden, and we are shackled at the whims of our utility providers, inept officials and visionary 'patriots'. I often can't help but think, where are the courageous citizens of Bangladesh? Had they all died in the Independence War?

Asifur Rahman Khan
Sr. Copywriter
Unitrend Limited

In reply: Road safety in Bangladesh

On 1st August I was amazed at how D. Jones highlighted the traffic situation in our country. Kudos to him for taking such interest in a mess that we have created. I am humbled by this man's effort (owing to the fact that he has actually taken the time emailing various organisations about the matter!). I have something positive that I want to let him know.

I have seen buses stop at bus terminals (yes, bus terminals, not just by the side of the road). I have seen people line up and in the most mannered sense do they get on those buses. I have seen cars brake at red and go at green. Now where in Dhaka, one might wonder, is this possible? Only in one magical place - Cantonment. Now how do they do it in Cantonment? I came up with two answers:

1. They do not allow illiterate drivers in Cantonment. In other words, only army drivers (those trained by the army) are allowed to drive in the Cantonment area. And those drivers, I tell you sir, are top graded.

2. Constant monitoring by Army Military Police (MP). The Cantonment is obviously off-limits to the common people for national security reasons. However, if it is an emergency or the fastest route available in an urgent situation, they would most likely allow you to use the Cantonment roads. Army MP does not tolerate any indiscipline on road. You show them a little rowdy side of yours and you are immediately asked to stop and show papers (license, etc.). No one wants to get into trouble with the Army MP.

It is possible in Bangladesh to follow these driving and safety rules - that much I know, that much I've seen.

To finish, I'd like to apologise to D. Jones and all the disturbed and worried foreigner well-wishers/guests that we have in Bangladesh. I am sorry and I care too, about road safety in Bangladesh.

Farzana Fayeza
A'level candidate
Dhaka

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Tuesday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Tax men swoop on 54 entities"

Sunagarik

It is frustrating to see the AL government fighting with Nobel laureate and GB who brought prestige for the country. Micro-credit theory is now adopted by many countries.

Saleh MD Shahriar

How long will the discussion on Grameen Bank go on? We are fed up with this issue.

Sarwar, Riyadh

It is simply unfortunate for the nation to see how mean a democratically elected government could be with an individual citizen who brought name and fame for the country. Does not Professor Yunus deserve a respectful way of vengeance? What are these leaders teaching the future generation?

Sellma

We are still waiting for the government to publish all correspondence from WB in reference to Padma bridge.

Shabbir A. Bashar

Paying tax is the biggest form of bearing individual and corporate social responsibility in the modern age. No one has any legal or moral authority to escape it. I am glad Grameen Bank is finally coming under the microscope just like the Destiny group. Better late than never. It is necessary for fostering a culture of transparency and accountability in the non government organisations.

T. Raiden

I am scared that personal vengeance will destroy the Grameen Bank. It is impossible to fight with the state machinery where rule of law plays no role.

Objective Observer

Well, this is very much within the routine functions of the government. However, people must be informed about the outcome.

Reaz Hassan

Excellent idea. The associated entities must be thoroughly probed as these are, according to some, engaged in unethical business. Good luck to Professor Yunus, and I wish he comes out real clean from the scan of audit teams.

Anonymous k

If the Nobel prize were officially exchangeable, all these problems would be solved.

Anonymous

Why were the tax men sleeping so long and now are swooping on the Grameen Bank entities?

Maswood Alam Khan

The best way to salvage Grameen Bank now lies solely in the hands of Professor Yunus, if only he agrees to renounce the Nobel Peace Prize he was awarded, or pass it on to someone else in Bangladesh who is powerful enough to let the bank run as planned by its founders and shareholders.

Akhtar Sha

This is becoming extremely boring now!

Mahmud Hussain

It's a pity that a Nobel Prize winning institution such as Grameen Bank is being nailed to its ultimate death.

Ctg's decrepit buses

Every day I have to travel to the southern parts of Chittagong. The buses which we use are local buses-rundown vehicles that somehow hurtle to the destination. As it is the rainy season it often rains in the morning. When it rains, the window at the front of the bus looks hazy. In most cases, the windshield wipers of the local buses do not work. As a result, we can hardly make out the vehicles that are coming from the opposite direction. How does the driver finds his way is a matter of speculation. Needless to say, riding in those buses is a risky business.

We hope that the traffic department will look into the matter and take prompt action.

ZabedWali
On e-mail