

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.

# Horrific acts traumatize Syrian kids!



PHOTO: AFP

It gives us pain that horrific acts of violence are being committed against children in Syria. Children have been the targets of brutal attacks. Deaths of their parents, siblings and other children are taking place in front of them. We have learnt from a report of this daily that a global children's aid agency recently released a documentary named "Untold Atrocities", a collection of first-hand accounts of the conflict from Syrian children and their parents after fleeing their country. These collections contain graphic details of how children have been caught up in Syria's war witnessing massacres and in some cases, experiencing torture. More than 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the conflict so far since it erupted in March 2011. President Bashar al-Assad's regime

has been blaming the unrest and violence on foreign-backed terrorist groups, while the opposition has rebelled against Assad's rule. Even the opposition's foreign backers ramped up calls for Assad's exit recently at the UN's General Assembly in New York. However, the Security Council should follow the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's call to support the peace efforts of UN-Arab League peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi. We hope the United Nations (UN) would do the needful immediately to save the traumatized Syrian kids and to ensure children's rights there. **Mobarak Ali**  
RK Mission Road  
Gopibagh  
Dhaka

## Govt should take UAE visa issue seriously

We were greatly dismayed to hear the news that the United Arab Emirates has temporarily stopped issuing any kind of visa to Bangladeshis. Bangladesh received remittance worth around \$ 12.84 billion in last fiscal year. According to the Bangladesh Ambassador to UAE, "Thrust areas of growing Bangladesh-UAE relations are the presence of over 7,00,000 Bangladeshis as the 3rd largest expatriate community in the UAE, which is also the 2nd largest Bangladeshi diaspora after Saudi Arabia, a source of remittance of about 1.5 billion US dollar from the UAE to Bangladesh each year." So the UAE government's step is very harmful for Bangladesh. The prime minister should immediately visit the United Arab Emirates and discuss the matter of national importance with the UAE authorities. We humbly request the government to take urgent steps on the matter.

**Rafik Alamgir**  
Department of ELL  
International Islamic University Chittagong

## Condition of "Digital Bangladesh"

On October 14, 2012 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the 3G service of Teletalk at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre saying that the government has made much progress in implementing its vision of "digital Bangladesh." Her son Sajib Wazed Joy said if Awami League is voted to power again, 4G service would be introduced.

But people are more interested in getting their basic needs fulfilled -- they are suffering from acute scarcity of electricity, water, and gas; spiralling prices of essentials; criminal activities which are increasing day by day; and unbearable traffic jams. People want relief from these first; 3G or 4G could wait.

We do not know how many people are still subscribing to Teletalk, its service is so poor that except for a few, the majority of the people have switched to other mobile operators. Maybe within a short time Teletalk would lose all its subscribers. From the very beginning, people should have realised that departments owned by Bangladesh government do not function well. One could just look at Bangladesh

Biman, Bangladesh Railways, hospitals, and other utility services. State-owned land phone subscribers become frustrated when they call someone belonging to a different operator, because it is very difficult to get connected.

So, this is the condition of "Digital Bangladesh."  
**Nur Jahan, Chittagong**

## Stop this blood sport!

Bullfighting also called "tauromachy" or "tauromaquia, additional sport in Spain, Portugal, southern France, Mexico, Colombia, and some other Hispanic American countries. In Algemesi, Spain, young bulls are routinely tortured and beaten to death in front of a cheering crowd. In this blood sport, gangs of armed men savagely bully a single defenceless calf, stabbing it until the grand finale of its death. Even the horses used to entrap the bull are terrified and often injured as a result.

This horrifying demonstration of brutality on animals must be stopped. In this regard Care2 has submitted a petition to Spain's Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy requesting him to take appropriate action to stop this horrific blood sport.

It is sincerely hoped that the cruel bullfighting sport will be suspended in all the countries of the world that arrange this blood sport as part of their tradition or just for entertainment.

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

## Ensure safety and security of all communities

I am writing to express my deep shock at the recent events in Ramu.

The destruction of Buddhist monasteries, burning of Buddhist texts and the images of Lord Buddha should be strongly condemned by all. It is fairly clear from various news reports that these actions were pre-planned and that the local police failed to act promptly to prevent these actions. The authorities need to bring to justice those responsible for these actions and ensure the safety and security of all communities in Bangladesh.

## Ensure reasonable sugar price

We have observed that when a commodity price increases in the international market, instantly the price increases in the local market. But the same does not happen in case of price decrease in the international market. A few months back, the price of raw sugar in the international market was more or less USD 830 for each metric ton. The price has come down to less than USD 540 in the month of August. The sugar refineries in Bangladesh got the raw sugar at a lower price in September. But the consumers are not getting the benefit of lower price in the international market as yet. Is it not a sign of informal syndication of sugar refiners? The consumers have to buy sugar at the price level of July '12. The retail price should have been Tk 41 or Tk 42 for each kg.

I would like to draw the attention of commerce and industry ministries to safeguard the interest of the sugar consumers.

**Mohammad Ashraf Hossain**  
Ramna, Dhaka

## Don't occupy the playgrounds

Just like other places in the city there is lack of playgrounds in Uttara. However, the youth in the area still manage to spend some time playing outdoor sports at places like Uttara Friend's Club. It is extremely disappointing to note that the open space in Uttara Friend's Club and also in Uttara Sector-11 park has been taken over to build stages for Durga Puja. This is unacceptable because the place is not reserved for political or religious programmes. Bangladesh is a country of religious harmony, and we would like to see a peaceful celebration of Durga Puja. But does that mean the youth will have to suffer? There should be some designated places to build stages for Durga Puja. This way the children will have to suffer no more.

**Tauhidul Islam**

## Build some small flyovers

If we can build several giant flyovers in Dhaka, why can't we build a few small two-storied and three-storied flyovers to ease and tame Dhaka's terrible traffic jam?

Almost daily on our main and busy roads, hundreds of running vehicles such as buses, trucks, cars, CNG-run auto rickshaws, rickshaws, pushcarts, etc., halt abruptly at road squares, road crossings and road intersections several times. This creates terrible traffic jam and the sufferings of the people know no bound.

We feel it is imperative that our ministry of communications, Roads and Highways Department, RAJUK, DMP, DCC and others concerned sit together and consider constructing of small flyovers at 1) Airport road railway crossing, 2) Bangla Motors, 3) Eskaton rail gate, 4) Shahbagh, 5) Topkhana-Naya Paltan and 6) Nawabpur-English Road, for the smooth movement of traffic and relief of millions of people of Dhaka.

**O. H. Kabir**  
Hare Street  
Wari, Dhaka



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Save our future generation



PHOTO: AFP

How can I ensure that my kids are getting proper nutrition from food especially fruits, vegetables and fish available in our markets? Instead of healthy food, we are always giving them contaminated food which is very harmful to their health. I think this problem is not less important than Padma bridge. The government should stop the sale of formalin and other poisonous chemicals to laymen. If our industries need to use formalin, they should buy it from the government. And the government should sell these chemicals only to the designated persons of the industries. The government should also check that no harmful chemical is smuggled to Bangladesh from India. As a parent and citizen of Bangladesh, I earnestly request our government, especially the prime minister to take quick and effective steps in this regard to save the future of the nation.

**Forhad Uddin**  
Polashi  
Dhaka



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

### Commentary

#### Don't blame the messenger, heed the message

Four-fifths majority has made ruling alliance reckless (October 17, 2012)

#### Mahbubur Rahman Sharif

We would request the government to receive the TIB report positively and start working against corruption.

#### R

Excellent writing! I hope prime minister would acknowledge the truth instead of denying it.

#### Shamim H

Political leaders are egotistical and reckless in their words.

#### Commoner

It is disgraceful to encourage corruption. A lawmaker can not be a law breaker.

#### Iftikhar-ul-Awwal

The parliamentarians have become small potentates in

their own constituencies by gobbling up all the powers of the executive and other local bodies. Unhindered and unrestrained, they commit all sorts of irregularities and crimes. They rule as well as reign. The expression of public opinion, if negative, is regarded as conspiracy or attempt at conspiracy, and therefore, must be gagged and muzzled.

#### Mahfuz Rashid, Sydney

Dear editor, your explanation and comments are so clear and to the point.

#### Anonymous

Mr. Mahfuz Anam, you are right in saying that four-fifths majority made the alliance reckless. The alliance feels that people have given them absolute power and it can do

anything it like, which is a mistake. They are misusing their power.

#### Raz

Why doesn't the PM conduct a genuine survey among people, who are the part and parcel of democracy?

#### AKM Ziaul Huda

I am 73 years old now and totally frustrated. I wish good sense would prevail among our leaders.

#### N D Saha

It seems the politicians in power have made it a strategy to use conspiracy theory as an invincible shield against any charge of corruption and abuse of power. They scrupulously try to inculcate a culture of conspiracy phobia in the minds of the people.

#### Putool

Honourable editor, hats off to you for your bold commentary.

#### Jumana Sarwar

Please don't make it light by comparing it with British MPs.

#### Harun Rashid

Being an ordinary citizen it hurts me a lot. Why are our political leaders so furious about this TIB report? Why

our PM termed this as a conspiracy against democracy? Hence I would like to ask them, are we really living in a democratic country?

#### Anonymous

TIB should be more professional in presenting their report for their credibility.

#### K Morshed

Dear editor, thank you for standing up for common people.

#### Translucent

I applaud the author for putting across his views on the TIB report. The comparison with the British expenses scandal trivialises the extent of the offences committed by the Bangladeshi lawmakers. According to the TIB report, most of the parliamentarians in Bangladesh are involved in criminal and civil offences, where there was no criminal offence committed by the British MPs. That is also an important difference between the two scandals.

#### W. Khan

Excellent commentary as usual! It is not just TIB that pointed to the corruption, the World Bank, IMF, even the Indian government is also worried about funding for BD Railways. Of course, in Bangladesh corrupt