

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.

BCB should stress number of matches played



PHOTO: AFP

In the very first press conference the newly appointed president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) stated that he would try his level best to arrange an India tour for Bangladesh team. It is, however, not clear why the board is focusing more on organizing matches with some particular countries than trying to increase the number of test matches for Bangladesh. Big teams such as South Africa, England, Sri Lanka play approximately four matches in every bilateral series. On the other hand, Bangladesh hardly plays four test matches in a calendar year! Hence, it is certain that one or two additional test series against teams like India or Pakistan will not bring big changes in our cricketing scenario but bring enormous financial benefit for the Board. So, BCB should emphasise more to enhance the number of matches for Bangladesh team. Moreover, now Bangladesh is the vice-president ICC. Therefore, we have got the opportunity to bring some positive changes in Future Tour Programs (FTP) of ICC. By not getting biased we can bring significant changes for Bangladesh cricket. However, we need to focus more on these practical issues.

Khandker Nabil Abrar
Student, BRAC University

Agri-extension workers' challenges

Time has arrived when Agricultural Extension should get its approaches re-designed to face the new challenges like climate change coupled with overpopulation and depletion of natural resources. Extension personnel need to function as a link between farmers and additional sources of information. The extension personnel need to be more devoted to their professional commitment in introducing the farmers to new agricultural technologies plus new crops under the scheme of diversification of agriculture. Expansion of private initiatives in the field of agriculture and agri-business is essential for attaining sustainable agricultural development.

Recently some progressive farmers in our country contacted me for some information pertaining to palm cultivation and processing in Bangladesh. It is encouraging to learn that some farmers have started growing palm on their lands and the result is quite assuring. But they are facing problems with palm cultivation techniques and processing of the fruits to extract palm oil. In this regard, I contacted some district level officers of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) who informed me that they were aware of palm farmers' problems and were working on it. Well, palm may be a new crop in Bangladesh but it has the potential to enhance agricultural income among the interested farmers in the private sector.

Under the present uncertain climate and economy, extension personnel must intensify their extension activities through providing necessary information to farmers and private agri-entrepreneurs round the clock by attending to office call or even through cell phones. Extension personnel, no matter of which level, should cordially attend to the queries of farmers and other people interested to start any type of agri-business. I would like to draw the kind attention of the DG, DAE to this matter.

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



A victim of entrapment

The United States is capable of doing anything and everything save bringing the dead back to life. The Rezwanaul Ahsan Nafis episode of blowing up the Federal Reserve Bank is a glaring example of such an action. I was rather shocked and surprised to read the letter by Professor M Zahidul Haque of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka under the caption "Is Nafis guilty or innocent?"

I would like to make it clear to the millions of readers of this esteemed daily at home and abroad that the United States is in dire straits. About 46% of the population live below the poverty line, which implies that one can hardly expect to gain anything big by flattering the United States. The United States shall not hesitate to do anything for its interest even at the cost of millions of lives in any part of the world, since it has emerged as the lone super power after the fall of Soviet Russia.

It has now become clear that the 21-year-old Rezwanaul Ahsan Nafis is a victim of entrapment of the FBI. Only the FBI knows what actually happened and why it framed a poor young kid from a faraway country, Bangladesh. I have been living in the United States since 2006; I would like to make it clear, especially to Professor M Zahidul Haque, that it is not easy to become super-rich overnight here in the United States except by winning a lottery or by gambling, which he has emphasized in his writing.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub
Houston, Texas
USA

Political leaders, wake up

Why are there electricity crisis and load shedding, dilapidated condition of roads and highways, Sonali Bank scam, uncertainty over construction of Padma Bridge and so on?

Our leaders' political battle for power grabbing can not solve all these acute problems. Only our love for the people, honesty, and patriotism can bring peace and prosperity for us.

Will our political leaders and top government officials wake up from their hibernation?

O.H. Kabir
Hare Street
Wari, Dhaka

Too many suicides in CU

A few days back, a friend of mine named Fahamida Kanam, a graduate student of public administration department of Chittagong University, committed suicide. This is not the first case of suicide in our campus; at least eight or nine students committed suicide in the last three years. There were many reasons behind their suicides such as failure in love, setbacks in academic life, session jam, family problem, and so on. Bad teacher-student relation also contributes to the frustration of the public university students.

In my university, there is one student counsellor for 20,000 students. On the other hand, in private universities, there prevails a friendly relation between teachers and students.

If there is a student counsellor in every department to look after the students' problems, it might help to reduce the number of suicides. Moreover, it will strengthen the teacher-student relation.

Afzalur Rahman
Department of International Relations

Protect students from poorer classes

I am not sure how much 'cash poverty' has to do with the numbers of uneducated children. Some poor children are not in government schools because the 'not-so-poor' parents complain if their children are in the same class as, for instance, those of shoe-makers - shock! horror! It just needs the government to apply pressure - and moral training - to the Head and other teachers to welcome poor children, in accordance with their constitutional right to be educated, face up to snobbish parents (every nation has them!) and demand Management Committees do not cave in when wailing parents ring them up! Good Heads in every country have to protect the poorest pupils from the rest and move heaven and earth to find government and/or private donors so they can afford their uniforms and books.

Whatever excuses are given, I suspect most pupils drop out because of boredom from bad teaching. Girls can cope with boredom better than boys. For them, the alternative to school is staying at home and doing domestic work whereas for the boys, it is having fun in the fields or markets - and probably picking up bad habits and company! Getting rid of bad/boring teachers need not cost money - unless it is for a 'golden handshake' for early retirement! Some consider they have a 'job for life' having 'bought' it or received it for some 'favour'. (Obviously the AL man who was reported as having assaulted a headmaster for not giving him a job assumed that he owed it...) The concept of 'jobs for life' not only encourages incompetence but is lethal in education. Teacher absenteeism and reluctance to take the classes of absent colleagues is the business of internal discipline - as is resistance or rudeness by 'senior' teachers to newly-trained or re-trained teachers who arrive with refreshing new methods that show them up. No wonder it is hard to find Heads. They need a lot of support in the necessary disciplining of teachers, pupils and parents!

We thank God for those in education who are competent and caring and ask, "Why should the others keep their jobs and add to the number of pupils who drop out?"

Angela Robinson

Humanist Sunil Gangopadhyay



During my childhood, I used to wait with bated breath for the stories of 'Kakababu', the physically challenged brave character rendered immortal by Sunil Gangopadhyay, in the special Puja editions of Bengali magazines. What a tragedy that my favourite author has passed away right in the middle of Durga Puja!

Gangopadhyay was versatile enough to leave his imprint on short stories, plays, novels, poems, literary criticisms, travelogues and children's literature as well. His 'Kakababu' series, based on the adventures of the protagonist throughout the country and the world, provided a brilliant insight into history, culture, people and various locations around the globe. While his epic novels like 'Shei Shomoy' and 'Prothom Alo' remain a historical document of society during the epoch of Bengal iRenaissance with the likes of Vidyasagar, Rabindranath Tagore

or Vivekananda being as vanguards, the secular self in Gangopadhyay had inspired him to come up with 'Moner Manush', the main protagonist being Lalon Fakir --the epitome of communal harmony and humanism.

Gangopadhyay, the author of 'Purba Pashchim' a novel based on the partition of Bengal, was one of the bridges that joined two Banglas together -- emotionally and culturally. It is the duty of the Bangalees, of both sides of the international border, to maintain this sense of brotherhood as envisaged by the humanist Sunil Gangopadhyay.

Kajal Chatterjee
Peerless Nagar, Kolkata, India



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

Bangladeshi Terror Suspect Conflicting images emerge in US (October 20, 2012)

Ripon
Bangladeshi people are always for peace and we have a reputation for that. So, Bangladesh government should meet the US government to save our past glory. Otherwise, our higher education abroad will be in jeopardy.

Reaz Hassan
FBI sting operation to entrap a 21-year-old Bangladeshi into their net is morally indefensible (it is illegal in Sweden and in the Netherlands). Nafis might have been a practicing Muslim but FBI instigated and indoctrinated him, and indeed planned, financed, and led the operation A to Z leaving only a contrivance in his hands to ignite the blast. It is quite

possible that the boy even did not know what Federal Reserve Bank is. The FBI's dirty game on a gullible Bangladeshi boy has probably been staged to earn credit (or discredit?) for themselves and to instill a sense of security to the American public of their ever vigilant homeland security schemes. We, on our part, must employ worthy attorneys to defend Nafis.

MH Khan
Youths can suffer from frustration and depression at times. A good society's responsibility should be to help them in overcoming those hurdles. If a society like the US try instead to provoke and push youths in

committing cleverly designed crimes, it can justifiably be called the worst and tainted society in the world.

Maliha
What will happen to other Bangalee students who are already studying in America and those who are planning to take their higher studies in America?

Jakaria Bulbul
This sort of purposeful entrapment based on mere assumption does not go with the image of a country like the USA that advocates human rights so fervently.

Zabi
As a Bangladeshi, I would want a fair and open investigation. If he is guilty, he should be punished accordingly. If he is not, he should be released with compensation. Bangladesh, being a peaceful country, does not deserve such kind of negative attention.

Sabir Majumder
I hope the Bangladesh government will obtain the rele-

vant information from the US States Department and take a strong position in this case. The safety and reputation of the Bangladeshi community in the US depends on this.

Niloufar Sarker
It's a tragedy for Nafis and his family that he chose a path of destruction in a land of opportunity. Nafis needs to be investigated thoroughly since his grades began to slide. Obviously, he was involved in something detrimental to his education. Normal religious students do well since they lead a disciplined life.

Shah Deeldar
As a foreign student, Nafis should have studied harder and made his parents proud. Instead, he made a great fool of himself by falling into the FBI's trap. By getting into this mess, he maligned Bangladesh and the good reputation of Bangladeshi students abroad.

Dev Saha
The US is pretty strict about this kind of crime. Nafis may