

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.

Punish Biswajit's killers



PHOTO: STAR

The photo of murdering an innocent man by the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, published in The Daily Star, is so much shocking and disturbing that I fail to describe my feelings to condemn such a murder. And I wonder how the 13-year-old boy could bear the pain of seeing the gruesome killing of a young man. The lives of common people have become unsafe, and in such cases the law enforcers just witness the incidents without intervening. It is pointless to ask the incumbent government to take any sort of action because they will obviously turn a blind eye to such activities done by their party cadres and will do nothing. Allah will never help the people of a country who do not help themselves to change their own fate.

Mashudul Haque
Dhaka

The tragic killing of Biswajit at the hands of BCL hooligans in front of a senior police official on the 9th December blockade in Dhaka has shocked us greatly. From the newspaper reports we came to learn that Biswajit, a poor tailor, was a resident of Old Dhaka who had no link with any political party at all. As seen in the video footage of different TV channels, the on-duty police official along with his subordinates were enjoying (!) how a hartal supporter (?) was being punished by the student wing of the ruling party. We appeal to the authorities concerned to arrest the people who took part in the killing, pay due compensation to his parents, and also punish the police personnel for their neglect in saving the life of an innocent youth.

M. Kamal
Dhaka

Blocking of YouTube

Blocking of YouTube has caused huge damage to the students who need to hear educational lectures on the site. Our policymakers are talking about digital Bangladesh. Is this a step for digital Bangladesh? A section of the government might have thought that the blocking of YouTube would go in its favour because no one would get any scope to post and re-post bitter TV talk shows on YouTube and so anti-government statements will not be disseminated. But we cannot suffer for a cheap movie made in the USA. In fact, many non-Muslims already rejected that movie. Unfortunately, our IT community failed to pressurise the government to open YouTube.

Shahidul K K Shuvra

Unending procession of death

"Ma, I am going to die. You will find me in a toilet" ... we can never imagine the pain and trauma Polash, one of the victims of the Tazreen fire, went through while he told this to his mother over phone, in the last minutes of his life. The criminals responsible for these deaths as well as the flyover tragedy in Chittagong, which also claimed several lives, should not go unpunished. Three girders of the 1.4 km long flyover collapsed over the local people and now the authorities are getting ready to give colossal amounts of compensations. Why? Couldn't they use that money to complete that already delayed flyover project? If they did so, so many lives could be saved. These current tragedies also show that the authorities concerned are not at all worried about anything, be it the government agencies or the owners of the firms. As a teenager, I firmly believe that observing a national mourning day or compensating these unfortunate people will not help, not at all. But, restricting our lax laws and supervising that the laws are implemented will surely help. I appreciate the government's move of countrywide inspection of ill-equipped factories by fire service teams but I also urge that it continues and not stop after a certain period. There is no point in playing the blame game.

Shafeen Mahmood
Class X (commerce)
Little Jewels School
Chittagong



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Heartiest congratulations to Shohag Gaji

Congratulations, Shohag Gaji. We are really proud of you. Before the match, we were afraid of Chris Gayle. You have provided the courage to all the cricketers and cricket fans to overcome that fear. Now you have become the symbol of fear to the Caribbeans. You sent Gayle to the pavilion before he could start playing. We are really hopeful about you. Now please try to perform consistently and take our country to the peak of honour.

Md. Abir Hossain

Is Abul Hossain more important than Padma Bridge?

From the very beginning, former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain's name was coming up again and again in connection with corruption in the Padma bridge project. But the government was brushing it aside. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina even called him a 'patriot'. Finally when the World Bank refused to sign any deal if Abul Hossain is in his position, the government removed him from his post.

The World Bank returned and the investigation started again. From the December 10, 2012 issue of The Daily Star we learned that Ramesh Shah, arrested official of Canadian firm SNC Lavalin, in his diary had mentioned Abul Hossain as the recipient of 4 percent out of 10 percent bribe from the sum fixed for bridge supervision work. The 10 percent is equivalent to tk 38 crore, sources said.

The ACC team submitted its draft report naming Syed Abul Hossain, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and businessman Nixon Chowdhury, brother of ruling Awami League whip Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury.

The name of the three were dropped in the final report and the World Bank's external panel which visited ACC the second time left Dhaka becoming very unhappy over the omission of Syed Abul Hossain's name as a top corruption suspect in the project.

So the question arises, is Abul Hossain more important than the Padma bridge, the dream of millions of people of Bangladesh?

Nur Jahan
Chittagong



Stephen Hawking's spending puzzle

A news item with interesting information, published in this daily recently, has drawn my attention. Stephen Hawking, the former Lucasian professor of mathematics holding Isaac Newton's chair at Cambridge University, has won the Special Fundamental Physics Prize.

The report suggests that Professor Hawking will have to ponder how he would spend \$3 million that has landed in his bank account after winning the most lucrative science prize ever established.

However, Stephen Hawking, who is widely regarded as the most brilliant theoretical physicist since Einstein, was born in 1942 on the anniversary of Galileo's death.

Interestingly, his sense of humour still surprises us and encourages us to understand the value of life. In an email he said he was delighted and honoured to receive the prize. He also added, "I will help my daughter with her autistic son, and may be



buy a holiday home, not that I take many holidays because I enjoy my work in theoretical physics." However, though Professor Hawking has not yet settled on how to spend the prize money but the authorities of the Fundamental Physics Prize has clearly settled to give him prize for a lifetime of achievements, including the discovery that black holes emit radiation, and his deep contribution to quantum gravity and aspects of the early universe.

May Stephen Hawking come round soon to tell us more tales of strange beauties of black holes!

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

Unresolved mystery of Ramu violence

The 9/29 attack on the Buddhist monasteries, temples and houses in Ramu is a disgrace to the non-communal history of Bangladesh. Though it has been more than two months into the Ramu violence, the inquiry committee has not been able to provide any satisfactory answer. This Ramu event can be analyzed from different perspectives. For instance, it can be scrutinized if any individuals or political leaders were involved in the attack in order to gain some political and personal interests.

Secondly, the possibility of the Rohingya involvement in the attack needs special attention because grievances over the absence or denial of shelter might explain their concern. Lastly, whether any institutions have played any role in spreading the news of a picture, on the Facebook profile of a Buddhist which resulted in the attack on the Buddhist temples, is also a matter to consider. We, therefore, demand a proper investigation report on the violence and call for government's attention to Ramu violence in order to prevent any kind of communal mayhem in the future.

Fahmida Yesmine

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Thank you all"

Ashim Kumar Paul, DU

Though it has been 41 years since we have gained our glorious Victory that came through a great sacrifice, the trial of the war criminals is yet to be completed. This hurts the Bangladeshi people who, since 1971, have been waiting to see the punishment of the war criminals. It is more painful to see that those war criminals have been brought back, settled down, awarded with legislative power instead of going through trial and punishment. Still, we are optimistic that we will see the trial and punishment of the war criminals because it was the present government's electoral pledge. But the ruling government must remember the axiom: Justice delayed is justice denied.

Md. Amanat Ullah Sahn

Thanks to prime minister for giving our foreign friends such honour.

Sengupta, Canada

We will never forget their valuable contributions and supports for freeing our country.

Turja, Canada

Great effort. Makes me proud.

Mirza Md. Nasir Uddin

Honouring the foreign friends by our government on behalf of the people of Bangladesh is an epoch making event in history. Such gratitude is rare in the world; but as a great nation we can do it. It is a timely decision of the government.

Barkat

Just wonder why it took 41 years to say a 'thank you'. In all those 41 years, many a time, the AL was in power including the period of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Why now this 'thank you' when most of them are either dead or too old. I am not at all ashamed to say that it's more of a political drama than a genuine expression of gratitude.

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Friend among foes"

Niloufar Sarker

Syed Asif Shakar's story is really moving especially when his whole family including his father went against him for taking a stand against the genocide. He showed great courage, and fought as well as endured torture by Pak army like a freedom fighter, for our liberation. He is, indeed, a freedom fighter. His request for honorary citizenship should be granted by our government.

Dev Saha

Thank you, Sir, for your great courage. We would love to have you as our honourable citizen. People like you are the true catalysts for real change!

rch

We tend to generalise and stereotype the Pakistanis. But there are exceptions who stand up for what is right. I have great respects for people, irrespective of their nationality or creed, who do the right thing against all odds.

GR

Pakistanis cannot separate politics from religion. They have abused Islam more than any nation. Come to Bangladesh or visit Malaysia or Indonesia, see how Islam is practised-- politics and religion are sepa-

Rehabilitate the poor

That night I got down from a bus at Azimpur. The weather was cold. I had to wait there for a few minutes to get on a tempo to reach my home. Suddenly I saw a middle-aged woman sleeping with her two children on the footpath. The children were naked. One of the children was sleeping almost on the road. I wish our government would take effective steps for reducing poverty. We always hear from the government about eliminating poverty but in reality we do not see any change. The government should find effective ways to rehabilitate the poor.

Md. Abir Hossain