

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 those who toy with workers' lives



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

No word of condolence or act of sympathy can ever compensate for the losses of so many precious lives in Rana Plaza collapse. This grave accident has raised questions about the incompetence of the agencies concerned in the due enforcement of law and management of the infrastructure of our country to ensure safety. Such kind of catastrophe occurred in the past but no action was taken to ensure that such accidents could be avoided. The poor RMG workers who make the largest contribution to our economy, earning about 80 percent of the country's export income, repeatedly fall victim to the callousness of their employers. Their lives are constantly being snatched away while the so-called successful garment factory owners sit in the comfort of their homes and get away scot-free. The lives of the poor workers seem insignificant to them. If strict measures were taken against these culprits, these tragedies might not have happened.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The labour rights of the deprived RMG workers should be established: They should be covered by adequate life insurance policies and paid reasonable wages and provided with safe working conditions, so that their corrupt employers are not be able to exploit them and toy with their valuable lives.
Engr. Naome Syed
 Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Lies and half truths

This is in reference to Syed Badrul Ahsan's article entitled "When Fazle Elahi becomes Shah Aziz," in the April 24 issue of your newspaper. It is one of the best articles that I have ever read in any English daily newspaper of Bangladesh or Canada. I am a writer myself and an avid reader of newspapers, books and magazines, and anywhere and everywhere I go I love reading. Bangladesh politics is not my cup of tea; I do not respect many politicians representing our country and her people. Yet I loved reading this informative write-up. The half truths and distortion of facts similarly mentioned in this article have degraded and downsized the fame, glory and pride of our beloved motherland. Not forgetting the fact that the history of Bangladesh is yet not factually clear to the younger generation both within and outside the country. Intellectuals and learned people like Syed Badrul Ahsan should come out more and more to set the half truths, distorted truths and ignorant bliss aside and make Bangladesh a haven of honesty, sincerity and street smart literacy. There will then be a purpose for living in and outside Bangladesh.
Rummana Chowdhury
 Toronto
 Canada

Give Prof Yunus his due



PHOTO: AFP

It is a great honour for the nation that Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has been conferred the highest civilian award of the United States which he has dedicated to the people of Bangladesh. The Presidential Medal of Freedom and The Congressional Gold Medal have been awarded to Dr. Yunus in 2009 and 2013 respectively. But it is a matter of regret that the government did not pay minimum respect to a man respected for his social business concept worldwide. Even the government forced him out of the Grameen Bank without any substantial reason. Dr. Yunus has made the country proud many times. But the government is yet to congratulate him. We, the people of Bangladesh, demand that the government comes out of its obdurate position and recognise Prof Yunus and his contribution to the country as soon as possible.

Samiul Raijul
 Bangladesh University of Textiles
 Dhaka

Death of a brave patriot

We were introduced to him in a seminar arranged by Bangkok Hospital at the auditorium of a local renowned club four years ago. Mrs. Shabnam Shenaj Chowdhury, DMD of Evance Group of Industries introduced us with him.

We were overwhelmed with his very simple and polite behaviour. From then on, we had the opportunity to meet him several times. He was always very helpful and tried his best to extend his support in our attempt to increase the service network of Bangkok Hospital in Bangladesh.

He played the key role in signing a Medical Service Agreement between Bangkok Hospital and RAOWA club but always remained behind the scene. It was his nature to work silently without any desire to have any gain, name or fame.

On 18th April 2013 we arranged a Milad and Doa Mahfil after Asar prayer in our newly opened Bangkok Hospital Information Office at Banani, Dhaka. He joined us in time in the Asar prayer, passed a few minutes with us, wished us best and then left to see one of his ailing friends.

And the next morning we got the news that such a brave, dedicated patriot of Bangladesh is no more with us. We have lost a real well-wisher and the nation has lost a hero.

Dr. Nilanjon Sen
 Managing Director
 Bangkok Hospital Information Office
 Dhanmondi
 Dhaka

Help building a school

Dilip Roy's report along with a photograph of the deplorable condition of a primary school at Siberkhuti village in Lalmonirhat sadar upazila was published in your pages on 11th. April. It deserves attention of our political leaders.

Prompt action has to be taken so that children's education is not affected. The opposition parties comfortably spend huge amounts of money on hartals, violence, burning and killing on a daily basis.

If they just spare one day's wasted money it would be enough to rebuild the school at a location safe from the fury of the river that has washed away and destroyed the school.

A voter
 Dhaka

NOTICE

Esteemed contributors,
 The letter column will come out every day in a single column in the Op-Ed page from May 1, 2013. It would be highly appreciated, if you please keep the size of your letters within a maximum of 150 words.
 --Editor

Why is life so unpredictable?

Life is so strange. The events happening in our lives are most unpredictable and we do not know what is going to happen the next moment. Everything is hidden from us.

News of terrible happenings reaches us from home and abroad jolting us deeply and question arises in our mind: why has this to happen?

On April 16, 2013 a terror attack was carried out on a sporting event in Boston, USA. Two bombs went off 13 seconds apart near the finishing line of Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring 176 others, 17 of whom are in a critical condition.

They were enjoying the event, being unaware about the horror awaiting them. We learned from The Daily Star that a man was killed and 10 others were injured as a container of Chittagong-bound freight train fell on a slum along the rail tracks in Dhaka's Banani area on April 18, 2013. The accident occurred at 12:30 pm when Majibur Rahman (35), a rickshaw puller, was sleeping with his son beside him. Majibur Rahman died instantly and his son is fighting for his life. How sad! When he went to sleep little did he know that he would not wake up again!

Death is inevitable, but we can not accept untimely and unnatural deaths. In fact, I wonder why we were created and why there is so much suffering-- physical and mental. Almighty Creator is The Most Merciful and The Most Beneficial. But then why His creations have to go through pain and misery? I do not know if anyone has got the answer.

Nur Jahan
 Chittagong

Preserve our folktales

An essay published in Star Literature on 16/3/13 sent a chill down my spine realising how people destroyed books -- the reservoir of knowledge -- so widely in a planned way! Since ancient times notorious people conducted nefarious operations to annihilate books.

Besides this type of heinous act to exterminate knowledge, our ignorance of the need to preserve literature may sometimes force them go into oblivion. Even a decade ago, in most rural areas there was the practice of telling folk stories. People of all ages, from children to older people would gather in open places at night to listen to numerous folk tales about kings, queens, ghosts, monsters, talking birds, beasts, trees and so on.

Unfortunately, modernisation has changed the practice of telling and listening to folk stories. People have various other sources to entertain themselves other than listening to such stories. Nowadays we can hardly find a story-teller in a village. The saddest aspect of it is that the unique folk stories have started to become extinct as many of the stories have not been preserved in writing.

Dinesh Chandra Sen and Jasim Uddin have done a great job by collecting a lot of folklore literatures. We need to make efforts to preserve the rest of the stories before our Thakurmar Jhuli (Grandma's sack of folktales) loses all its treasure.

Avik Chowdhury
 Bangladesh Agricultural University



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

Murder, not accident

Signs of collapse ignored by building owner; he vanishes after rescue; only Brac Bank responds to evacuation call. (April 25, 2013)

Sabina G

Thanks for publishing his picture. I was wondering if you could also publish pictures of factory owners who forced these workers to work, so that we would know a murderer is among us when we see them. Not only that, it would also help those who seek job in their factories.

Faruq Haider

The owner of the building along with the factory owners is fully responsible for the accident. All of them should be hanged in public to set an example for playing with poor people's lives.

Nds

No, it is definitely not a case of accident. It is a clear case of sheer greed, utter negli-

gence and total damn-care attitude on the part of both the owner of the building and the factories there. Local administration's negligence is also equally responsible for this catastrophe. The owners being members of the ruling party know it for certain that no law in this country will ever be able to touch them. This sense of insured impunity has turned them into monsters and they are out to devour the lives of common people to satiate their fathomless greed. The ruling parties, whoever they might be, are the main source of their nourishment and sustenance. As a matter of fact, any comments on this disastrous tragedy will sound like a sort of mockery for the bereaved families who have been the tragic

victims of our collective inhumanity.

Faisal Zakaria

It is mass murder and genocide.

Nasirullah Mridha

Hang Rana right now for his flippant remarks on Ekushey Television.

Sunburn

People like him will remain unharmed.

sl_jay1946

This is cold-blooded murder for money. The owner of Rana Plaza, Sohail Rana is an established godfather politician who must be arrested before he vanishes. BGMEA may claim that Sohail Rana is an angel as Delwar Hossain of Tazreen Garment who got away scot-free, giving birth to callous and greedy scoundrels like Sohail Rana. Monsters like them can easily convert 5-storey buildings into 10-storeyed because of being a political gunman or remaining under political shelter.

Atowar Hossain

This unfortunate happening will continue until and unless the greedy owners of

those illegally constructed buildings are awarded punishment they deserve.

Banglaman

Power corrupts and greed has no limit. As long as the guilty are not brought to book and no strict building regulations implemented, I'm afraid more disasters like this will continue to happen in our country. Foreign companies are also to blame in looking for cheap goods and cutting cost for which the poor people have to pay with their lives.

Tonmoy Ahmed

Accident! No! It is a pre-planned murder! Each of the owners of the building and factories is responsible for this.

Nazmul Haq

These kinds of tragedies obviously happen when business and politics go hand in hand combined with corruption. I think there is no law and regulation in our country to prevent these accidents.

Iftekhar Hassan

Congratulations to the BRAC Bank officials for making the smart choice.