

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 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Enough is enough

To the political parties and leaders of our country, enough is enough. We get your point. We understand. You can bring the whole country to a standstill, for several days if you want. You can disrupt, destroy, and even kill to prove this point. Again and again.

Point proven. But so what? Has the government collapsed because of crippling hartals day after day? No. Has the opposition disintegrated because of sending out the police or hijacking the courts? No. So, now what?

If you had spent one fraction of the energy - the planning meetings, the manpower, the time off work, the disruption, not to mention the money - on building a hospital, rebuilding a road, collecting blood, teaching destitute children some skill, working alongside the farmers to till the land or distribute food to the poor - even for a token day - all of these could have been really powerful symbols to show your power and ability to unify. And you could have done some good in the process.

And while those of you with huge bank accounts play this game out on the streets through your proxy army who wield guns, bombs, sticks, and rocks, those of us who are powerless - the vast majority of this Bangladesh of ours - are in no position to stop or even influence you.

But what is the point of even making this armchair protest of mine? Who is reading or listening anyway?
Sanjoy Kumar Nath, Chittagong

The 14-party alliance called a 36-hour hartal on 13 June. I turned the TV on at noon to get the latest news. I could watch a clash between hartal supporters and policemen. They had great fighting spirit and it soon became a pitched battle. All the hartal supporters were women. They were throwing pebbles and bricks at the police and scared them.

It was really an unusual scene.
Shoab M. Siddiqui
Dhaka City College, Dhaka



PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

before the chances of continuing with democracy are over.
A Bangladeshi abroad
One-mail

Governance

It is extremely frustrating to watch Bangladesh drifting into a blind alley. We consider the process as complete disrespect of democratic norms. The country is said to be following parliamentary democracy. But in practice, the parliament is not functioning, as it should be. In this tense situation, we hardly see our head of the government facing the nation and explaining the government policy options as part of the accountability of the government.

On the other hand, 4-5 ministers are handling the issues in a very unprofessional manner putting a lot of political spin, as they are quite good at it.

We, the neutral citizens of Bangladesh, urge upon the government - please listen to the voice of the people, rather than of the *chamchas* and ill motivated mentors. They will not come to your rescue. We have enough evidence of that.

We believe that the government and the opposition must sit for a dialogue to arrive at a solution of the current political impasse. The country is more important than politics, political parties and a few irresponsible public servants.
A reader
One-mail

Land grabbing

Land grabbing by the political and social power houses started in the sixties, when African countries were getting rid of their colonial masters and becoming independent. There is no shortage of land in most African countries, in fact abundant. Kenya with 30 million people is roughly five times larger than Bangladesh. Yet power elites of the country grabbed every piece of land that they found attractive.

The founding father of Kenya Mr. Jomo Kenyatta while travelling from Nairobi to Mombassa by road noticed a large well-organised agricultural farm, drove inside and asked the manager, "Who is the owner of the farm? I would like to have it!" the response was, "Gentleman you cannot buy it, the owner of the farm is Mr. Kenyatta".

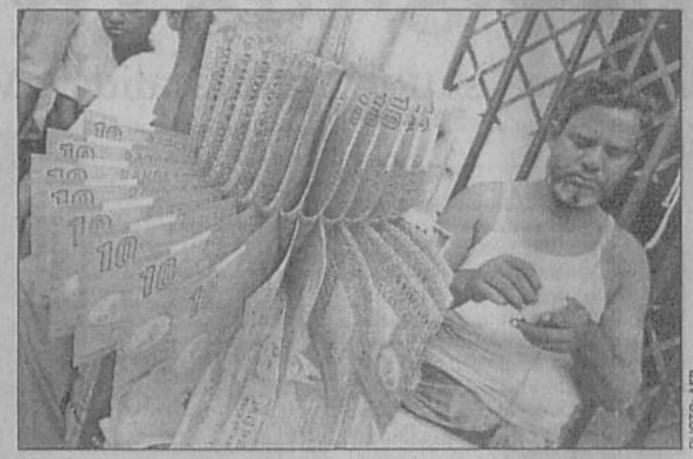
Mr. Kenyatta and his generous wife Mamangina owned so many such large farms that they could

not recognise one of their own miles long farms. They grabbed land in style, the stories are well known. Kenyatta and his successor Daniel Arap Moi ruled Kenya for over 30 years. They used to call landowners with lots of dignity. Messages will go out of President House to an individual that the Honourable President desires the company of the person for a cup of coffee. The President will have the pleasure to share the well-known flavoured Kenyan coffee, following the coffee session within hours the guest will part with his precious land. Such was the grand style of grabbing land in Kenya by the powerful.

Today the empty land in Dhaka city is being grabbed. Filling up and grabbing lakes, water-bodies and playgrounds is a way of life for the powerful elites.

Some 40 years ago, a friend of mine was returning to Dhaka after completing his studies in the US, the dean of the school invited him for dinner, when my friend told him that he was taking his car home, the professor responded by saying, "Is there a car worthy road in your country since most of the time your land remains under flood water?"

Perhaps it will be wise for the Mercedes-walas and BMW-walas in Dhaka to order small luxury boats to use over Dhaka city roads during monsoon for many years to come. It will be a good investment indeed.
Munim Chowdhury
New York, US



Introduce inheritance tax

To curb the instinct of greed and dynastic accumulation of wealth, the Bangladesh government must introduce an inheritance tax like the U.K.

Recently, Princess Margaret's estate was valued at £7.6 million and 40% death duties on it came to over 3 million pounds. Her children Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah must pay this sum to the exchequer before they can inherit anything. So they were forced to auction and sell the Princess's jewellery, furniture and art collection, which took place on 13 June 2006 at Christie's London.
An inheritance tax of 40%

on anyone dying in Bangladesh and possessing an estate valued over 2 crore taka on death would go a long way in redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor and have a 'trickle down' effect on the whole economy. Of course capital transfer tax or gift tax at the same rate must be imposed on any property being handed over to anyone during the lifetime of a rich person also, with perhaps exception of gifts to charities or philanthropic institutions.

Such provision of an inheritance tax should be enshrined in the Bangladesh constitution.
Shafi Ahmed, London, UK

Guantanamo Bay



Did you know that the three deaths in Guantanamo Bay Prison do not represent any 'asymmetrical act of war' (as the Americans outrageously claim), rather an act of absolute desperation!

Over 460 Muslim prisoners continue to be held in the Guantanamo Bay, many of whom have been held there for years without any trial or charge!

So I call upon the US authorities not to cause further world outrage but free the prisoners and close down the detention centre.
A. Rahman, One-mail

Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority

Setu Bhaban, Bir Uttam Ziaur Rahman Road
Banani, Dhaka-1212

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Communications.
2	Agency	Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority.
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Director.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Supply of stationary, electric, printing & miscellaneous consumable goods.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	JMBA/Sada/Pro/21-2/97(Vol-III)-565
8	Date	11-06-2006

KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.

FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A
14	Tender package No.	N/A
15	Tender package name	Procurement of goods.
Date		
16	Tender publication date	15-06-2006
17	Tender last selling date	05-07-2006
Date		Time
18	Tender closing date and time	06-07-2006 12:00 noon.
19	Tender opening date and time	06-07-2006 12:30pm.
Name & address of the office(s)		Address
- Selling tender document (principal)		Finance & Accounts Department, JMBA, Setu Bhaban, 3 rd Floor, Bir Uttam Ziaur Rahman Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212 during normal office hour.
- Selling tender document (others)		N/A
- Receiving tender document		Deputy Director (Adm. & Estate), JMBA, Setu Bhaban, 2 nd Floor, Bir Uttam Ziaur Rahman Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.
- Opening tender document		Conference Room, JMBA, Setu Bhaban, 2 nd Floor, Bir Uttam Ziaur Rahman Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212. Interested tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Place: JMBA conference room Date: 20-06-2006 time: 11:00am.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	Potential tenderers who have required experience of supplying of printing similar goods as mentioned in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS). The intending tenderers shall have to apply in their letterhead pad to the designated officer to obtain permission for issuance of the tender documents.
23	Brief description of physical services	Supply of stationary, electric, printing & miscellaneous consumable goods during the financial year 2006-07 under the framework contract to be executed as per clause 16(3) of the PPR-2003 and clause 16(5) of the procedures for implementation of the said PPR.
24	Brief description of related services	N/A
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	300/- (three hundred) only non-refundable.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
30	Name of official inviting tender	Md Faruque Ahmed.		
31	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director (A&E).		
32	Address of official inviting tender	Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, 2 nd Floor, Bir Uttam Ziaur Rahman Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.		
33	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9861755	Fax: 9888414	jmba@citichco.net.
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

GD-1560

Md Faruque Ahmed
Deputy Director (Admin & Estate)

Voter list controversy

Now the EC has decided to revise the voter list. The process seems to be new and innovative. What a drama!

One will not be unfair to say that the EC has failed to perform its task. They have lost their credibility, though they are still enjoying the confidence of the government. The EC may kindly pave the way for more credible personalities to perform the test,

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Air Quality Management Project (AQMP)
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Department of Environment
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Bid (IFB)

IDA Credit No. 3404-BD.
IFB No. 13

Memo No. Paribesh/AQMP-174(SAMS)/2004(2nd part)/2372 Date: 13/06/2006

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Air Quality Management Project (AQMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under contract for purchase of ladder, tripod stands, umbrella & torch (Contract Package No. G59 (Group-A)).
- The Project Director, Air Quality Management, Department of Environment (DoE) now invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures from eligible bidders for supply of ladder, tripod stands, umbrella & torch. Procurement is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Bank's Procurement Guidelines. However, countries not eligible under this project also include: The Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Oman, Qatar, Singapore and United Arab Emirates.
- Payments made under this contract will only be in Bangladesh taka. Interested eligible bidders (including foreign bidders who are willing to receive payments in Bangladesh taka) may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of the Project Director, Air Quality Management Project, Department of Environment, Paribesh Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh. Telephone No. 88-02-8119031, Facsimile No. 88-02-8119031.
- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Tk. 450/- (four hundred fifty) only in the form of Bank Draft or Payment Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
- The provisions in the instruction to bidders and in the general conditions of contract are the provision of the Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial, Edition-June 1997) approved by the World Bank, Dhaka Office. The sample forms (except price schedules) of the SBD remain unchanged.
- Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 3.00 hours on 19th July, 2006 and must be accompanied by a security of Tk. 10,000.00 (ten thousand) only as provided for in the instructions to bidders.
- Bids will be opened in presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 3.15 hours on 19th July, 2006 at the office of the undersigned.

Project Director
Air Quality Management Project (AQMP)
Department of Environment
Paribesh Bhaban, E/16, Agargaon,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Biswanath, District: Sylhet

Memo No. LGED/UE/Bis./2006/339

Dated: 7-6-06

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

Tender Notice No: 09/2005-2006

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender documents for the under listed works as per terms & conditions stated below.

1	Project name	Primary Education Development Program-II (PEDP-II).					
2	Source of funds	ADB, IDA, DFID, EU, NORAD, Netherlands, Canada, SIDA and GOB.					
3	List of work(s)	SI No.	Package No.	Name of works	Amount of tender security (Tk.)	Price of tender documents (Tk.)	Time for completion
		01	PEDP-II/SLT/BIS/W1.3208	Construction of additional class room and attached toilet (Horizontal extension) of Dash Paika Anarpur, Janaiya, Nayarai & Tengra GPS.	1,61,000/=	2,000/=	365 days
		02	PEDP-II/SLT/BIS/W1.3209	Construction of additional class room and attached toilet (Horizontal extension) of Bandhuya, Sakharikona, Sasram & Siger Kach(2) GPS.	1,61,000/=	2,000/=	365 days
		03	PEDP-II/SLT/BIS/W1.3210	Construction of additional class room and attached toilet (Horizontal extension) of Dhormodha, Hazi Hamid Ali, Siger Kach(1) & Sherapur GPS.	1,61,000/=	2,000/=	365 days
4	Date, time and place of pre-tender meeting	Date : 18-6-06, Time 11.00am Place : Office of the undersigned.					
5	Last date, time and places of selling tender documents	Date : 11-7-06 Time : 4:00pm Places : (a) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Maintenance), LGED, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. (b) Office of the undersigned. (c) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist-Sylhet. (d) The Upazila Engineer, Upazila-Balaganj, Dist-Sylhet.					
6	Last date, time and places of receiving tender	Date : 12-7-06 Time : 12:00 noon Places : (a) Office of the undersigned. (b) The Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist-Sylhet. (c) The Upazila Engineer, Upazila-Balaganj, Dist-Sylhet.					
7	Date, time and place of opening of tender	Date : 12-7-06 Time : 3:00pm Place : Office of the undersigned.					
8	Tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days after tender opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified above. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested tenderers may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in Cash/Treasury Chalan/Bank Draft from the places mentioned above. The tenderer or their authorised representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tenders.						

Md. Habibur Rahman
Upazila Engineer
Biswanath, Sylhet

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