

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.

Strike by primary teachers



The primary teachers' strike over the last few weeks has drawn my attention. I find it absurd that a primary school teacher is paid a monthly remuneration of Tk 750 only. It is shocking when we find that sitting in the parliament our lawmakers are discussing the enhancement of remunerations of the lawmakers who to my mind are already overpaid considering their overall output and service to the nation. I find it twice more offensive and aggravating when the Administration can spend crores in Death Anniversary Celebrations, the CEO of our Administration talks about budget constraints and limitations with regard to enhancement of salaries and benefits for the primary teachers. Today, I can assure you that most of the household staff (maids, cooks etc) at the residences of our lawmakers and ministers are paid at least four times more than our primary teachers.

We need to look after our teachers well, more so at the primary level, this is where the foundation of our future generation is laid. A teacher in today's world can hardly survive

with the kind of remuneration he or she is receiving. What education can he or she disseminate to her pupils living below subsistence level? We must find a way to enhance the pay of these teachers and bring it to the state approved bare minimum pay level without any further loss of time. If need be, let us divert funds from other budgetary allocations which have proven records of being unproductive and not so beneficial for the nation's long term future or otherwise. May I say that it is quite possible? To this day I remain highly confused and angry when I think of crores being spent in so called beautification of the city that include continuous breaking and reconstruction of footpaths and walkways only to be occupied by all sorts of roadside vendors.

The problem in reality lies with our third world mentality and moral bankruptcy.
Shamsher Chowdhury
Dhaka

Food bank

We need food bank to feed our people. We have banks for every service. There are vulnerable people who have no means to feed themselves. The government should consider setting up a food bank.
Imrul Islam
One-mail

Why import duty waiver on drum seeders?

In order to promote agriculture the proposed budget has made import of drum seeders duty free. As far as I know drum seeders are very easy to make and several local manufacturers are already manufacturing them.

Waiving import duty on this product will go against the proliferation of its local manufacture. Therefore, I strongly appeal for the cancellation of this waiver.
K Siddique-e-Rabbani
Professor of Physics
Dhaka University

On Tata's investment offer

Letters appearing in your daily suggest that Tata's offer for investment in Bangladesh should be rejected.

The overall impression one can gather from the letters of your readers is that we do not have sufficient gas reserves to meet Tata's demand. Some say we have only 15 or 25 years of gas reserves and Tata's proposed steel mills will devour the major portion of it, leaving us dry in a few years' time. Meanwhile, the Energy Ministry is pointing out the problem of negotiating the right price for supply of gas to Tata for twenty years. This raises a few questions in my mind.

First, since we have limited stock of gas as per experts' analysis then why should we agree to Tata's proposal even if they offer to buy gas at double the market price? Second, why didn't the Energy Ministry tell Tata at the first instance after going through their proposal that we have limited stock of gas and there was no way to accept their proposal?

Saying no to Tata will not affect them, as they are a global player and would seek to invest in some other country but it will certainly send a negative signal to overseas investors that Bangladesh has shortage of energy and investment in heavy industries is not possible there. I think the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Energy Ministry are now in a difficult situation.
Ziauddin Ahmed
Gulshan, Dhaka

US First Lady's stand

According to an AFP despatch from Washington which was published in a section of our local Press, American First Lady Laura Bush disagreed with her husband President George W Bush saying that she found nothing wrong with a new Spanish-language version of the US national anthem and singing it in Spanish. She said, "We are a nation of immigrants... we are a nation of many many languages because immigrants come and bring their languages."

Recognising the immigrants' role, the US First Lady further said "I recognise that we're a nation of immigrants and that we're a welcoming nation. And that's why we're diverse, that's why we're so strong."

While sincerely appreciating the above observation of the US First Lady Laura Bush, I would expect her to help immigrants peacefully settle in the United States without facing any discrimination or

hated!

Professor MZahidul Haque
Chairman, Language Department
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka

What's going on?

Politicians have been continuously failing us in ways that are by no means the expectation of the nation. Some MPs of the ruling four-party alliance are deliberately pouring derogatory words on the leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina in the sessions of the parliament. These are vulgar, mean and outrageous. One point that we got to be careful about is that any actions on the part of the representative politicians are not same as those of the common people to paraphrase Milton's words-- if an educated person becomes corrupt, he/she becomes the worst of the criminals.

Let's hope that we'll never fail our pride and dignity.
Rafiqul Islam Rime
Agrabad, Chittagong

On being AWOL!

In the early 80's, I had a posting as medical officer in rural Sylhet. It was very difficult to leave the comfort of intern hostel and the comfort of friendship that I was blessed with over a span of six long years. Yet the time came and I parted. I joined there at the remote Thana Health Complex. No, none was waiting there to greet a new doc just off from the school. The senior medical officer (administrator of the complex) was nowhere to be found. There was no place to sleep and no desk to sit on and work. It was made abundantly clear that the senior doctor shall not mind at all if I were AWOL (absent without leave). I collected a few personal letters from the non-existent office and then left the post of my first employment (!) without even seeing my immediate superior. I was young. My heart was yearning to go back to the city. I did not feel that bad at my dereliction. In fact I was happy!

Now 20 years later as I remember those days, my heart wells up with shame and sadness. Sometimes I try to understand and explain. I just, however, cannot explain without being even more shamelessly defensive! And for that I seek pardon in advance.

Except for a few bright & honest outliers, most of the garden-variety types are none but the product of our own milieu. Absenteeism in rural medical centres is rampant in South Asia. It is in the range of about thirty to forty percent. Even in the centres of learning (I mean, the Medical Colleges), absenteeism by the professors is rampant. During my third year in medical school, I had three-month clinical (clerkship) rotation under a famous professor. He never relocated from Dhaka to Sylhet. Once in a blue moon he used to fly to Sylhet to show up. In a period of three months we did not get more than five or six hours clinical teaching from him. True - that was an extreme case, but I never saw a professor giving us clinical teaching more than 2-3 times a week. They all were in town tending their own "Chambers" or some other obscure non-teaching profundity! That's how it was in the late 70's and early 80's. And I was a product of that culture where the concept of AWOL was not unholy.

Well, does this exonerate me of my failure?

I was a thoughtful 24-year-old college graduate at that time. I knew the difference between right and wrong.

No, these justifications definitely do not exonerate my guilt.
Mohammad A Zaman
One-mail

Import duty on raw sugar

The current budget (2006-07) has not provided any incentive to the newly established raw sugar refining industries in Bangladesh. Requirement of refined imported sugar for Bangladesh can be profitably supplemented by importing raw sugar and refining it locally in our sugar refineries. It can also act as a buffer to counter hoarding of finished sugar by importers. It could be a valuable resource to contain galloping prices in future.

Refining industries set up in Bangladesh with hard earned foreign exchange, investor funds and loans from financial institutions needs to be protected by duty advantage against finished sugar import. It has opened up a bright new prospect for local value addition in sugar manufacture. These refiners will enable us to reduce our dependence on import of refined sugar only; and can act as a useful catalyst for local processing for meeting the country's requirement of refined sugar. To support and encourage this new venture for meeting the long term needs of the country; it needs positive government encouragement and assistance to take off successfully in the overall national interest.

In the current budget, the government has unfortunately only encouraged import of refined sugar by removing the 43.75% duty ad valorem and replacing it by a specific duty of Tk 5, 000 per ton, irrespective of the import price. No such, encouraging duty structure has been provided to import raw sugar for the local sugar refining industries. By having the same duty structure (Tk 5,000 per ton) both for refined and raw sugar import, the budget has, as a matter of fact, encouraged import only of refined sugar in preference to the scope for local value addition and employment generation inherent in the sugar refining facility that has been set up. One wonders why this step was taken by the

Finance Ministry? Was it the pressure lobby of the sugar importers which took precedence over the entrepreneurs' need for sugar refining?

Needless to mention that for the import of raw and semi finished material for all other industries provision of preferential duty for raw and semi finished materials has been given all along. Why no such provision has been made for the import of the raw materials (raw sugar) for the local sugar refineries that have been installed? It may be mentioned here that to encourage the local cement industry there is a clear duty differential favouring the import of cement clinker for local processing as against import of finished cement.

In line with our cement industries the locally established sugar refineries also urgently need to be supported by having a favourable duty structure for raw sugar and it could be one tenth of the duty on finished sugar. Further, it would not be illogical to provide the sugar refining industry reasonable tax holiday for the gestation and rationalisation period of this new industry that has come up in Bangladesh.

It may be mentioned that to support local industries and encourage scope of local value addition various industries in Canada, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan allow separate and favourable duty structure for raw and semi finished materials. Under the circumstances, the 2006-07 budget should in the interest of encouraging locally established raw sugar refining in the country, have different duty structure for raw sugar. This is in line with the normal practice of encouraging local industries to establish themselves. One wonders why for this vital industry this principal was jettisoned?

S.A.Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board
Office of the Director Procurement
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Telephone Bhaban, Annex Building (2nd Floor), Dhaka

No. DP/L-7/1P/05-06/AA/Part/18 Date: 11.06.2006

Sub: Corrigendum of Tender Notice No DP/L-7/1P/05-06/AA/Part/11 Date 31.05.2006 AD for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 24 (twenty-four) Diesel Engine Generator at 24 (twenty-four) Upazila Digital Telephone Exchanges on Turn-key Basis.

Corrigendum of Local Re-Tender Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances following changes have been made of the abovementioned tender notice:-

Sl No	Particulars	Present description	Changed description
18	Brief Description of goods	Supply of 24 (twenty-four) Diesel Engine Generator (50 KVA each) at 24 (twenty-four) Upazila Digital Telephone Exchanges.	Supply of 24 (twenty-four) Diesel Engine Generator (20 KVA each) at 24 (twenty-four) Upazila Digital Telephone Exchanges.
19	Brief Description of Related services	Transportation, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 24 (twenty-four) Diesel Engine Generator (50 KVA each) at 24 (twenty-four) Upazila Digital Telephone Exchanges on Turn-key Basis.	Transportation, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 24 (twenty-four) Diesel Engine Generator (20 KVA each) at 24 (twenty-four) Upazila Digital Telephone Exchanges on Turn-key Basis.

All other terms and conditions of tender will remain unchanged.
PR: 4-1/2005/Part-1/22
GD-1614

Dy Director (Local Procurement)
Phone: 8150700

Eastern Refinery Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Post Box No. 35
Chittagong-4000
Bangladesh

Fax No. : 88-031-740296 Dated: 18th June, 2006
E-mail No. : erlctg@spnetctg.com
PABX (Ctg) : 88-031-740361, 740362
Dhaka (DLO) : 88-02-8313074, 8313118

International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders along with the original proforma invoice/catalogue/brochure are invited from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/agents for supply of the following materials on C&F Chittagong basis as per specifications, terms and conditions mentioned in the schedules of relevant tender documents:

Tender number	Description of materials	Cost of tender schedule per set	Last date for purchasing of tender document	Dropping date of tender	Opening date of technical offer
ER/PUR/IT-21/2006 (Re-Tender)	Various Electric Motors	Tk. 200.00	27-07-2006	30-07-2006 at 15:00 hours	01-08-2006 at 15:00 hours
ER/PUR/IT-22/2006 (Re-Tender)	Structural Steel	Tk. 200.00	27-07-2006	30-07-2006 at 15:00 hours	01-08-2006 at 15:00 hours
Tender number	Description of materials	Cost of tender schedule per set	Last date for purchasing of tender document	Dropping date of tender	Opening date of tender
ER/PUR/IT-23/2006	Oil Colouring Dye	Tk. 200.00	27-07-2006	30-07-2006 at 15:00 hours	01-08-2006 at 15:00 hours

Tender documents may be obtained from (i) Accounts Department of Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong or (ii) Manager (DLO), Eastern Refinery Limited, YMCA Bhaban, 2nd Floor (West side), 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on payment of the cost of tender document in Taka or equivalent USD (non-refundable) as mentioned above. No tender document will be sold on the dropping date of the tender.

The tenders must be dropped in the tender box kept in the Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong and ERL Dhaka Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban, 2nd Floor (West side), 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 as per date & time mentioned in the tender documents. Further, this is for information of all the bidders that the technical/commercial offer will be opened at ERL Office, Chittagong as detailed in the tender document.

Eastern Refinery Limited authority reserves the right not to accept the lowest offer & reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

GD-1620

Fake rickshaw licence



Nowadays the number of rickshaws has increased manifold. It is very easy to buy a rickshaw and run it with a fake licence.

Unauthorised rickshaws have been plying safely within their designated areas, which the leaders of the associations fix while issuing fake licences. There are many rickshaws and many licences and they collect them from associations affiliated with political parties.

The traffic authorities should look into the matter and remove the anomalies.
Yousuf Hassan, Uttara, Dhaka

Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)
Nalka, Sirajganj

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Petrobangla
3	Procuring entity name	Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL),
4	Procuring entity district	Sirajganj.
5	Invitation for	Pipeline rehabilitation & maintenance work at Bagabari-Ishwardi 8" dia pipeline, Sirajganj, Pabna & Ishwardi Distribution Network.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	77.18.87(01) Date: 15.06.2006
KEY INFORMATION		
7	Procurement method	Opening tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
8	Budget and source of funds	Company revenue budget.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9	Starting date of tender selling	Date: 21.06.06
10	Tender last selling date	Date: 10.07.06
11	Tender closing date and time	Date: 11.07.06 Time: 11.00
12	Tender opening date and time	Date: 11.07.06 Time: 11.15
13	Name & address of the official(s) - Selling tender document (principal) - Selling tender document (others)	Account Department, Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), Nalka, Sirajganj Dhaka Liaison Office, Flat No. 2B, House No. 109, Mashjid Road, Old DOHS, Bariani, Dhaka. Conference Room, Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), Nalka, Sirajganj. Conference Room, Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), Nalka, Sirajganj.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
14	Eligibility of tenderer	Contractors enlisted with distribution companies BGSJ, JGTDSL, TGTDCL under Petrobangla as a 1.3/1.4 category contractor for gas pipeline construction works and having experience of construction of pipeline rehabilitation and maintenance works (minimum 4" dia) within last 10 (ten) years (1996-2005). Pipeline rehabilitation & maintenance work at Bagabari-Ishwardi 8" dia pipeline, Sirajganj, Pabna & Ishwardi Distribution Network. Not applicable.
15	Brief description of goods or works	
16	Brief description of related services	
17	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 1,000.00 (one thousand) only.
18	Lot No.	Identification of lot
18	1	None
		Bagabari, Shantia, Pabna, Ishwardi & Sirajganj
		Tender security amount (Tk)
		32,500.00
		Completion time in weeks/months
		120 days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
19	Name of official inviting tender	Engr Md Rezaul Islam Khan
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (Operation)
21	Address of official inviting tender	Pashchimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL), Nalka, Sirajganj.
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 0751-63820, 02-8754776 Fax: 0751-63820, 02-8754776 E-mail: pgcl@dtcchc.com
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	
PGPH-019/2005-2006 GD-1616		