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Grand opposition alliance



The 14-party opposition alliance is set to encounter the 4-party coalition in the upcoming general elections. The zero hour is drawing nearer. Still a lot of homework needs to be done to formulate the strategy, select appropriate candidates and decide what happens if there is no reform to the EC and caretaker government.

While discussing the election issue and seat distribution, the alliance must formulate a plan and make people aware of how they

will approach the various issues once they form the government, how a corruption-free, nicely governed country based on the ideals of the liberation war can be ensured. It's up to Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League to get ready for a great sacrifice. There is no option but to forge a greater unity to knock out corrupt anti-liberation forces from state power.

Saleque Sufi
Melbourne, Australia

গরমযঃ রং ঘষাধিঃ বেমযঃ!



ities have already totally destabilised the Middle East. Months back, while the whole of Bangladesh witnessed the abducting (I definitely cannot call it an emigrational transit) of a Bangladeshi-origin American citizen to the USA, we could say nothing, but justify the action of the Big Boss. We could not even protest publicly. But when two Israeli soldiers are picked up, Israel feels justified to launch massive attacks on Lebanon, killing over three hundred people till date. The USA believes that destruction of two buildings has given them the divine right to plunder and devastate two countries (at least for now). Wouldn't these be ample examples of the tested old saying that "Might is Right"? I just wonder where is the UN? And what is its role?

We, the weaker players, can just watch and hope for a better world. We may not see it, but history is on our side, no mighty power, be it Roman or British Empire, has lasted forever.

Sani, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

Saving refrigeration power

Large industrial type refrigerators and freezers (cold room) are used by restaurants, hotels, bulk cold storages and in some industrial and pharmaceutical processes. It is possible to save power through a simple electronic set-up that basically reduces power and hence the heat generated by condenser, coil evaporator and cold air circulating fans in the refrigeration process.

The actual operation is quite simple. A solid state control device slows down the condenser coil, evaporator and cold air flow circulating fan speed when the chilling compressor is in the off mode. This reduces the heat generated from the drive motors of these fans, thus reducing heat input into the cold room and delaying the restart of the chilling compressor. Reduction of heat generated by the fans reduces the compressor duty cycle, saving energy as well as compressor mechanical wear and tear.

Incorporation of these evaporator fan controllers which have been recently developed and are commercially available overseas can reduce overall power consumption of the cold unit by about (twenty five) 25 percent. Given the high cost of power today, the annual savings in power costs could be quite substantial! The block circuit diagram of a fan controller for a typical cold room set up is given below:

A commercial or industrial type walk-in cold compartment or cold room has a refrigeration compressor associated with fans in the condenser, evaporator and for cold air circulation in the cold room. About (forty) 40 percent of the heat is generated by these fan motors inside the cold compartment. The fan controller reduces this heat load by about (seventy five) 75 percent, and hence the thermostat based gap between compressor running cycles increases resulting in overall power savings by about (twenty five) 25 percent.

A typical cold room evaporator coil fan set-up generates around 12,000 BTU/ hour at normal cold state even when the chilling compressor is off! With the fan controller reducing the evaporator coil fan speed, the heat generation could be around 2,300 BTU/hour, while maintaining the cold compartment temperature. Continuously operated over the month (30 days) the process can save electric power corresponding to cooling 4,284,000 BTU to cold room temperature.

Apart from this direct power savings, the slower fan speed in the cold room reduces the air movement. This slows down dehydration of perishable foodstuff and thereby extends their shelf life. This is an additional saving in the storage of food, through enhancing shelf life, and reducing wastage by spoiling, which has not been considered in the power cost saving exercise. In the hot and humid climate of Bangladesh, as we develop our

food retail system through large supermarkets, the usage of large walk-in cold room concept of preserving fresh foodstuff is bound to increase. It will be a very useful and cost effective solution if these evaporator fan controllers with a very attractive pay back option can be incorporated in the refrigeration set-up.

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

UN Secretary General

Bangladesh has proven credibility throughout the international community via its contribution to UN peacekeeping operations around the world. The military of Bangladesh has come a long way from its formative years to a professional force, respected throughout the world.

Unfortunately, Bangladesh has yet to learn the true value of democracy and this may undermine any attempt to win support throughout the same community for our candidature to occupy the post of UN Secretary General. One must clean up one's own home before leading the international community to clean up the planet.

The world is in a critical state with new conflicts sprouting up everywhere that threaten stability all over the globe. Rather than nominating someone for the sake of nomination, we should ensure that our nominee is in a position to lead the international community in any crisis.

Abdul M. Ismail
Liverpool, UK

Freedom fighters' quota

The freedom fighters are the greatest sons of the soil. But it is a matter of great regret that most of them are passing their days in distress. In order to minimise their miseries, the government has set the special quota system for their sons, daughters and themselves as well. But it is often seen that the system is not followed.

The authorities concerned should look into the matter.

M. M. Emrul Kayas
Jahangirnagar University
Savar, Dhaka

Campus situation

Education, regarded as the backbone of a nation, cannot be achieved without a favourable environment. Unfortunately, this sort of environment doesn't exist in our educational institutions. There is bitter rivalry among the student-wings of our political parties.

Their aim is to control the educational arena. Therefore, Shibir, BCL or JCD, or whatever party we may talk about, never do anything for the general students.

MAlauddin Ansary
DU

BSF atrocities: Indian point of view

Lately BSF use of deadly force and indignant protests from readers have become a regular feature. Your readers seem to believe that the murderous BSF is killing innocent Bangladeshis for sadistic reasons.

Let me try to present some reasons why BSF might consider the use of deadly force necessary.

1. Terrorism: Indian intelligence agencies believe that Bangladesh has become a conduit for terrorists, explosives, arms and ammunition. If

BSF is trying to prevent terrorists from entering India, their use of deadly force would be justified.

2. Smuggling: Indo-Bangla border sees a fair amount of smuggling in cattle, addictive cough medicine and other goods. The government of Bangladesh and BDR support cattle smuggling, according to a recent investigative

report by an Indian journalist.



Now people might argue that smuggling does not justify use of deadly force. But BSF claims that the smugglers are armed and will resort to use of deadly force themselves.

3. Illegal immigration: Indians believe that illegal immigration from Bangladesh is a major issue.

4. Attitude: Obviously there is bad blood between BSF

and BDR. Both parties are probably responsible. What can the Bangladesh government do to stop killing by BSF? Allowing fencing and joint patrols of BSF and BDR may be a good beginning. Stop smuggling and prevent illegal immigration.

Kashi Vishwanath

On e-mail

Railway can help



I went to buy some mangoes at Shaheen Shopping Complex. I asked the shopkeeper about the price. It was a real shock for me when he asked Tk 90 per kilo mango (Fazli). I asked him why the price was so high. The reply was that he had pay toll to a lot of people since the mangoes came all the way from

Rajshahi. The situation is really bad. Can the Bangladesh Railway play any role in this respect? So far I know the railway does not pay any toll to anybody. It can carry cargo very conveniently to different places of the country. May be it would require some rescheduling of trains

and some booking booths. I hope the BR authorities would study its feasibility and come up with some idea to introduce a system, like commuter trains, to help the traders.

SM Parvez Akhtar
On e-mail