

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.

**Saudi Arabia and Iran**

Ian Bremmer, President of Eurasia Group, a political consulting firm and author of "A New Way to Understand Why Nations Rise and Fall", recently wrote: "Washington can also press the Saudis, who control virtually all of the world's spare capacity, to keep their output high to contain prices. Saudi Arabia's ruling Sunnis are more threatened than the US by Iran's support for a shift in the regional balance of power toward Shia Muslims."

Shiite Mullahs of Iran consider Sunni Saudi Arabia an impostor and the Shiites are the true inheritors of Islam. As such, the Saudis should fear a nuclear-armed Iran. Although the biggest exporter of oil in the world, Saudi Arabia, with only 25 million people, cannot match Iran with more than 70 million. Iranian armed forces are many times larger than the Saudi forces and Saudi Arabia's heavy dependence on the United States for security is at the root of al-Qaeda's antagonism to the Saudi ruling class. Emergence of Shiite-dominated Iraq also adds to the Saudi Arabia's concerns about Iranian domination of the Middle East. As such, Saudi Arabia's vulnerability will increase if Iran explodes its own nuclear bomb. It will simply increase Saudi Arabia's dependence on the United States and invite further attacks by al-Qaeda.

However, there is a way Saudi Arabia can use its oil weapon against Iran. Now the oil prices are falling steeply and instead of cutting oil production to spike up the prices, Saudi Arabia should increase its oil production and let the prices fall even more steeply. Saudi Arabia has enough foreign exchange reserves to weather falling prices. But Iran, with its larger population and greater military spending, might find falling prices unmanageable. Falling oil prices might also force Iran to back away from its costly nuclear programme. At least, it will make Iran less threatening. With oil prices falling, Iran will not be able to threaten the world with oil weapon and the United Nations can go ahead with sanctions if Iran continues its nuclear weapon programme.

Mahmood Elahi  
Iris Street, Ottawa, Canada

**Odd interests**  
Sometimes we the Bangladeshis people think that, to have been born in this country was a sin (for-give me). Lots of odd things are

happening here. People keep roads blocked whenever something goes wrong. There is nobody to think about the welfare of the common people.  
G.M. Shariful Hassan, BUET

**Chittagong Chemical Complex**

The Chittagong Chemical Complex located at Barab Kundu, Chittagong was closed on 15 December 2002. The technology was ultramodern, environmental friendly and energy efficient. The factory was renovated with an OECF soft loan of Tk 80 crore.

The factory was producing basic chemicals like caustic soda, chlorine, hydrochloric acid, bleaching powder and calcium hypo. The products were import substitutes and could play a vital role in market price control.

With its closure, 500 people lost jobs. A few hundred people lost business. The factory had no bank liability except the liability of OECF loan. The unit used to pay around Tk 4.5 to 5 crore to the government exchequer as duties, taxes and VAT. Still today I could not find out a single cause for shutting down this factory. The products of this unit are not available and that's causing unstable market price. Employment generation and contribution of industrial products to GDP are the primary responsibility of any democratic government. The unit can be restarted with little investment without further delay. This will relieve the burden of a loan of Tk 120 crore on the poor people of the country. Further delay will turn the factory to scraps.

The factory was closed during the tenure of Mr. M. K. Anwar and the present industries minister did not, as far as I know, take any initiative to restart the factory or hand it over to private entrepreneurs. Will the government clarify the position?  
Md. Sadeque, One-mail

**Sense & insensibility**

I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Shahnoor Wahid for his article "Should we call poor women fakirini, sir?". He really said what we wanted to say. He has made our voice reach the audience.

It often touches our heart when we see those poor mothers, sisters, wives, breaking bricks to earn their living while we ride shiny cars. Who gives them a goat or a duck unless there is a political motive behind it? But that was arranged by Dr. Md. Yunus who wanted to help these poor women. A sensible person

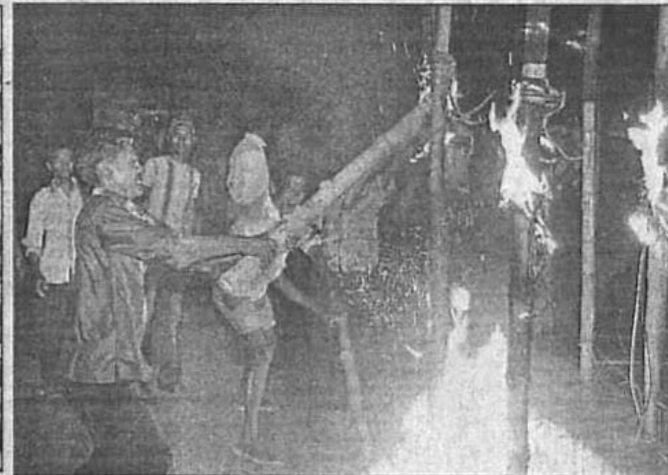
would have apologised immediately on the excuse of "a sleep of tongue". But we may not expect such a thing from all those "Kings of the Fakirinis".  
Arunangshu Dutta, One-mail

**What is Bangladesh?**

I reached Canada two weeks ago for MSc. Still now I cannot concentrate on my studies as I cannot overcome homesickness though my classes have started. I have met with some Bangladeshi students and they helped me a lot to settle down in this new city. Also I have seen some Bangladeshi people who are now studying in this foreign country and they will not go back to Bangladesh. Sometimes I ask myself what are they getting from this country? There is no doubt that everything is fine and systemic here and they are earning well but there is no Bangladesh. Now I am waiting for the day when I will land in Zia International Airport and will not leave Bangladesh though there may be lots of problems in our country. Now I would like to add some comments of one of my class teachers about Bangladesh.

"A trip to Bangladesh changed my view. Corruption was so rampant in Bangladesh that the government did not enforce standards. However, large buyers, such as Walmart and JC Penny, have staff in Dacca that have the right to inspect factories of suppliers, without notice, and to review financial records and talk to employees. These companies enforce standards: mandatory lunchroom, nurse on staff if more than 200 employees, no underage labour, and the legal minimum wage must be honoured. A factory failing these standards loses the contract. I have come to believe that corruption is a primary enabler of poverty, and what is terrible about it is that the corrupt are stealing from the poorest of the poor. One of my retirement projects is to research how Malaysia reduced corruption; I heard anecdotally that at one point it asked a foreign country to run its customs, in order to clear out all staff there and start over."

We know all about this but I am so much shocked because I am the only Bangladeshi student in that class and the class teacher mailed this information to 150 students as solved assignment. Can't we do something for Bangladesh so that no one can make any bad comments about our country?  
A Bangladeshi student  
One-mail



PHOTOS: AFP

**Political crisis...**

The political news from Bangladesh is very alarming. We all hoped and prayed to Allah that wisdom would prevail and the current dialogue would find a solution so that the nation could observe their greatest religious festival Eid-ul-Fitr in a happy and festive mood, rather than in fear of civil disorder.

We urge the political leaders to show statesmanship to deal with the political crisis. Statement and counter statement will not help. Kindly try to realise the situation in the interest of the nation and democracy, and avoid political spinning. Now the politics is in the "no spin zone". Failure to reach a logical agreement will firmly establish the failure of politicians to handle any crisis.

We cannot predict what we are going to hear or see next week. So far the future of democracy appears unsafe.  
A reader  
One-mail

Some ministers and BNP loyalists claim that justice Hasan has the constitutional responsibility and a right to be the next the chief advisor of the CG because of the 14th amendment to the constitution. How tenable is this argument?

When Justice Hasan retired on 27 January 2004 he had no idea that an amendment to the constitution would be made. Or did he? After all, he appears to be a bird of the same flock as the rest of the government. This amendment was made after he retired and only because he was a BNP loyalist. If he were a former member of the AL or any other party or even a neutral person, we can be absolutely sure that there would have been no such amend-

ment. The 14th amendment of the constitution was passed on 16 May 2004 in the absence of the AL and ratified by the president on 17 May 2004 and therefore the AL should also bear some responsibility for allowing this to go uncontested. It is however doubtful that the presence of the AL would make any difference to the proceedings.

The reason given by the BNP for raising the age limit of the appellate division judges was to retain experienced judges. This reason is not tenable because nothing happened to or in the Supreme Court at that time to suggest that the situation had taken a sudden turn for the worse to warrant such an amendment to the constitution. The amendment, even if necessary, should have waited for a couple of years until opinions on this issue were heard from all sides, especially because of its implications for the caretaker government. The caretaker government was made a part of the constitution by the 13th amendment after prolonged consultation among all the major parties and the same procedure should have been followed for amendments to it.

In my opinion, the 14th amendment is an act of supreme wickedness on the part of the BNP. Those who foam up their mouth reciting the sacredness of the constitution should know that clever people in power are capable of a great deal of mischief while remaining within the limits of the law. When they have the power to make laws or amend constitution the citizens are put in a very precarious situation. We may remember that apartheid was legally and constitutionally sanc-

tioned in South Africa, so were Hitler's wars and genocide. Pakistani atrocities in Bangladesh were said to have been committed in the interest of national integration.

The provision of importation of duty free vehicles by MPs is legal but highly inappropriate. Ask anyone who is not an MP and he will tell you that it is inappropriate for the government to allow MPs not to pay tax while rest have to pay through their noses.

People while in power may make laws as they wish to serve their own purpose and may impose them on the rest of us. Provision of duty free cars was made by Ershad and should have gone with him if our politicians and MPs had any spine.

People in power should be given a message that such laws cannot be the last word. Laws should be perceived as appropriate, fair and in public interest.

The 14th amendment has none of these virtues. It is, if anything, a proof of what pseudo democrats with the help of servile MPs can do to us, the people, if we are not vigilant all the time.

The 14th amendment is full of silly provisions and should be scrapped in time. Such acts only serve to increase people's apathy for laws, lawmakers and authority in general. If there is no time for amending it now, at least let us, by mutual agreement postpone the operation of a law that should not have been enacted in the first place.  
Mansur Ahmed  
Uttara, Dhaka

Career knows no laws, but Mr. Oli Ahmed has proved that it is not always true. In these days we hardly find peo-

ple still fighting corruption. I became very upset when I heard from his mouth that he joined another party only for this corruption. Like everybody I also think about three major issues. But nobody has any headache about corruption, which should be a major issue in the next elections.  
Sayed  
Dhaka

It was clear that the long awaited dialogue between BNP Secretary General Mannan Bhuiyan and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil would fail and the people of the country were going to suffer a lot for the irresponsible politicians. I am sure if Mannan Bhuiyan and Abdul Jalil were free men and were not controlled by the selfish hardliners of both the parties the dialogue would have brought something good for the nation.

Ironically, Chief Justice KM Hasan and Justice MA Aziz are also working irresponsibly and leading the nation to a war-like situation. Time and again it has been proved that Justice Hasan is not neutral and Justice Aziz will not be able to conduct the election smoothly. If Justice Hasan declares that he is no longer interested to be the chief of the caretaker government and Justice Aziz resigns from the post of Chief Election Commissioner there is every possibility that things will calm down. If there is bloodshed due to the failure of the dialogue Justice Aziz and Justice Hasan will largely remain responsible for this.  
Dr. Mahboob Hossain  
Associate Professor  
Department of Pharmacy  
The University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka

**Invitation for Tenders**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Govt & Rural Development & Co-operatives.
2	Agency	Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority.
3	Procuring entity name	Office of the Project Director The Project for Post Flood 2004 Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewerage System, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	Not applicable.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Construction and rehabilitation of 250mm dia PVC sewer at Road No 55, Gulshan, Dhaka (Job No S-582/06).
7	Invitation Ref No	TA-SW/04/PFRP/2006
8	Date	19.10.2006

**KEY INFORMATION**

9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10	Budget and source of funds	GOB & Dhaka WASA.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	None.

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12	Project/programme name (if applicable)	The Project for Post Flood 2004 Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewerage System, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka.
13	Tender Package Name	W-3
14	Tender last selling date	Date 22.11.2006 Time 12:00 Noon
15	Tender closing date and time	23.11.2006 12:00 Noon
16	Tender opening date and time	23.11.2006 12:30 PM
17	Name & address of the office(s)	Address 1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch/Fakirapool Branch/Posta Branch/Mohammadpur Corporate Branch/Mirpur Section-1/Mohakhali Corporate Branch, Dhaka. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch, Dhaka. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka. 4. Hongkong Shanghai Bank Corporation Limited (HSBC), Motijheel Branch, Dhanmondi Branch, Gulshan-1 Branch, Dhaka. 5. One Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch, HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka.
	- Selling tender document (Principal)	
	- Receiving tender document	Office of the Project Director The Project for Post Flood 2004 Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewerage System, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka.
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Project Director The Project for Post Flood 2004 Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewerage System, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

18	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderers must have completed at least 1 work of sewer line construction in last 5 years.
19	Brief description of goods or works	Construction and rehabilitation of 250mm dia PVC sewer at Road No 55, Gulshan, Dhaka. (Job No. S-582/06).
20	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.
21	Price of tender document (Tk)	300.00

Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
22	1 Construction and rehabilitation of 250mm dia PVC sewer at Road No. 55, Gulshan, Dhaka (Job No. S-582/06)	Road No 55, Gulshan, Dhaka	30,000.00	45 (forty five) days

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

23	Name of official inviting tender	Project Director The Project for Post Flood 2004 Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewerage System, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka.
24	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.
25	Address of official inviting tender	98 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
26	Contact details of official inviting tender	9132958
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Superintending Engineer & Project Director  
The Project for Post Flood 2004 Rehabilitation of Damaged Sewerage System, Dhaka WASA, Dhaka

WASA-PI-400/2006  
GD-2632

**Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Civil Circle, Kurmitola, Dhaka

**Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the undermentioned work as per following terms and conditions:

1	Name of work	O&M of ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka during the year 2006-07 (SH: Repairing of damaged and depressed pavement of North Taxiway from Ch. 58+00 to 59+00 with bituminous carpeting and other allied works).
2	Source of fund	Own fund of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).
3	Tender package no.	CD-1-197/2006-07
4	Invitation for tenders ref. and date	CAAB/W-568(E-1)/Part-113/826 dated: 26-09-2006
5	Time for completion of work	20 (twenty) days.
6	Eligibility of tenderers	CAAB enlisted "C" class and above civil contractors of gov/semi gov/ autonomous body's same nature of contractor firm.
7	Price of tender documents	Tk 500/- (five hundred) only (non-refundable).
8	Amount of tender security	Tk 14,000/- (fourteen thousand) only to be furnished in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order/irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
9	Name and address of the offices selling the tender documents	a) PA to member (Ops & Plan), CAAB, HQ, Dhaka. b) PA to Chief Engineer, CAAB, HQ, Dhaka. c) PA to Superintending, Civil Circle, Dhaka. d) Director, ZIA, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. e) Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka. f) Executive Engineer, Civil Division-I, Dhaka. g) Cash Section, CAAB, Headquarter, Dhaka.
10	Name and address of the receiving tenders	Office of the Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
11	Name and address of the office opening tenders	Office of the Superintending Engineer, Civil Circle, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
12	Last date and time for selling tender document	20/11/2006 up to 14.00 hours.
13	Last date and time for submission of tenders	21/11/2006 up to 12.00 hours.
14	Date and time for tender opening	21/11/2006 at 12.30 hours (in presence of tenderers or their authorised representative, if any).
15	Special conditions	If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the tender, tenders will be received on the next working day. Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CAAB/PR-59/2006/1437  
Date: 22-10-2006  
GD-2626

Md Azizul Haque  
Superintending Engineer  
Civil Circle, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka

**বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
**Bangladesh Open University**  
Engineering & Estate Division  
Gazipur-1705

**Invitation for Re-Tender**

1.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Education.
2.	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Open University.
3.	Invitation for	Construction of 10-storied Multi-purpose Building (up to 4 <sup>th</sup> floor) at BOU Campus, Gazipur-1705.
4.	Invitation ref. no.	BOU/E&E/(Civil)/2006/18.
5.	Date	15/10/2006.

**KEY INFORMATION**

6.	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

7.	Budget and source of funds	Bangladesh Open University.
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

Date	Time
23/11/2006	Up to 5:00pm
27/11/2006	Up to 1.00pm
30/11/2006	At 2.00pm

11.	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling tender document	i. Cash Section, Finance & Accounts Division, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705. ii. Regional Resource Centres of BOU at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi & Rangpur.
	- Receiving tender document	iii. If the tenderer wants to receive the tender document by GEP, he would require to submit the application 3 (three) days before the last selling date. The tender document will be sent within 3 (three) days of receiving application and receipt of the payment.
	- Opening tender document	(i) Engineering & Estate Division, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705. (ii) Regional Resource Centres of BOU at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi & Rangpur. Engineering & Estate Division, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

12.	Eligibility tenderer	Enlisted contractors of government, semi-govt & autonomous bodies who have: i. The experience during the last 5 (five) years of the satisfactory completion of building construction including electrical works of at least Tk 250 (two hundred fifty) lakh in a single tender. ii. Annual average minimum turnover of Tk 300 (three hundred) lakh during last 3 (three) years, and iii. Minimum cash flow of Tk 70 (seventy) lakh.
13.	Brief description of works	Construction of 10-storied Multi-purpose Building (up to 4 <sup>th</sup> floor) at BOU Campus, Gazipur-1705.
14.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 5,000/- (Taka five thousand) only.
15.	Tender security amount (Tk)	Tk 10,00,000/- (Taka ten lakh) only.
16.	Completion time in weeks/months	12 (twelve) months

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

17.	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md Ekramul Haque.
18.	Designation of official inviting tender	University Engineer (Additional Charge).
19.	Address of official inviting tender	Engineering & Estate Division, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705.
20.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9291121 Fax: 9291121.
21.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders	

Engr. Md Ekramul Haque  
University Engineer (Additional Charge)  
GD-2618