

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.

Advisors of the caretaker government

At last, the 'non-party' caretaker government took oath. It seemed at first that including Advocate Sultana Kamal as an Advisor was a positive move made by the President and the chief of the caretaker government, as she is a known human rights activist whose neutrality is beyond question. But after reading the other names and journalistic predictions of The Daily Star, it seemed that a rare chemistry has been placed in the jar this time. It was obvious from the names and the political identities behind the names that followers of the BNP and its allies would get all the important portfolios like Foreign Ministry, Education Ministry, State Ministry and Law Ministry. In such a situation, as a concerned citizen, I would like to request the Honourable President to maintain the check and balance regarding the distribution of portfolios, so that the chemistry works neutrally and independently. The President has that choice in his hand. He can juggle the portfolios.

It won't be fair to mention any name in this letter, but I hope and pray that the President will play the game cautiously and neutrally.

Tapas Kanti Baul
General Secretary
Law Review, London

In his interview to the Press, Advisor Fazlul Huq was visibly annoyed that the political parties were observing their conduct. Advisor Huq should remember that he now holds a public office and is under observation by every citizen.

The political parties speak for the people. It is as unbecoming for an Advisor to feel happy for the support expressed by the BNP as it is to feel unhappy about the criticism by the Awami League and the LDP.

Eva Ameen
On e-mail



Tragic indeed

I saw very few such innocent faces like that of Mujahid. In fact he was a smart and handsome guy with a smiling face. I would not be surprised if I saw him as a model or cinema hero. He was a brilliant student also. Yes, I am talking about Mujahidul Islam, who was brutally killed by Awami League activists. I watched the killing scene in different satellite TV channels. I thought he would be like other cadres of both the parties. All we know is that political parties hire terrorists to kill people of the opposition party during clashes. That's why I didn't care much and I was not that much upset, although we had lost a human being. But today (Wednesday) a newspaper made report on Mujahid. I was astonished to see that he was not like hired cadres or terrorists! He was a CSE student of Stamford University! I become wordless. How wrong I am! We have lost an asset of our country not a terrorist! His innocent face tells that he could not be a terrorist. My eyes were full with tears. What nasty politics we have in our country! Why a young man like Mujahid is killed for so called politics? I cannot believe I was witness to such a brutal killing in broad daylight. I cannot think anymore. I want to cry. I want Bangladesh to cry.
Tarek, Dhaka

Corruption at BRTA

This is to bring to the notice of Hon'ble President currently holding the responsibility of the Ministry of Home, the plight of ordinary citizens who have to go to BRTA for various purposes in connection with ownership of private cars. The people on duty at BRTA office at Mirpur are subjecting us to intolerable humiliation. They

demand bribe for every little work they do like changing ownership of vehicles, fitness certificate etc. and even for supplying the book containing forms for making payment of government dues.

It is futile to try to complain because no officer there would listen. It is alleged that the bribe money travels up and distributed among officers and employees of the whole organisation.

I am a retired government officer who last held the position of a joint secretary to the government and while in service I never tolerated any kind of corruption within my jurisdiction. It was with a heavy heart that I had to agree to a pay a hefty amount for a fitness certificate and a book of payment forms.

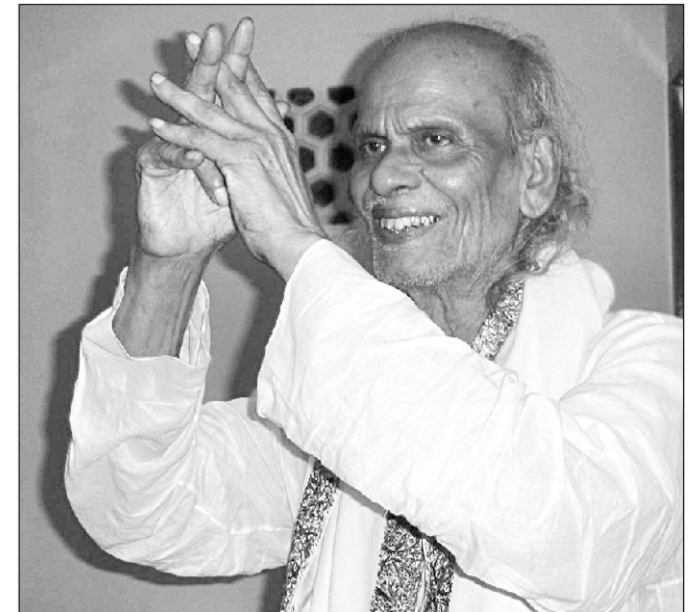
Please take some effective steps to stop this racket and save us not only from financial loss but also from the humiliation of having to submit to illegal demands from corrupt government employees.
Nasir Hamid, Uttara, Dhaka

For a fair election...

To ensure a free and fair election, the caretaker government should have a neutral administration. But the civil administration has been politicised over the last five years. With this administration, conducting a free and fair election is not possible. The previous BNP government had made a record number of officers OSDs and terminated jobs of a good number of brilliant officers during the last five years. The police were politicised and the chain of command was broken.

Though politicisation of administration is not new in Bangladesh, it was really bad time for the bureaucracy during the last five years.

AReader, Mirpur, Dhaka



Baul Shah Abdul Karim

I am not an artist, nor related to the music industry. I enjoy good Bangla music. Because there are so many options, my taste of music is changing every now and then.

Lately I bought an album called "Jibonto Kingbodonti Baul Shah Abdul Karim". The songs are so powerful and robust that I cannot even begin to tell you, yet the lyrics are so simple and 'straight from the heart' that they made me wonder how much of Bangla music I am missing every day. Now, did you know hits like "Maya legalise", "Gaari cholena", "Kemone bhulibo ami", "Gaan gai amar monre bujhai" and a lot more are creations of Shah Abdul Karim? I'm sure most of us don't know because our musicians/singers tend to give very little or no credit to him. Is it not piracy? Perhaps piracy of a different kind? Baul Shah Abdul Karim has written almost 1500 songs and six books.

Thanks to Sound Machine and all the artists who have contributed in this album for letting people know who Shah Abdul Karim is and also for giving him royalty earned by selling the album.

Moshikur Rahman
Kallyanpur, Mirpur, Dhaka

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6X2

12X3