

Removal of BUET VC

Recently Prof. Dr. Nooruddin Ahmed has been removed from the post of VC, BUET before completion of normal tenure, which was otherwise supposed to end in mid-October 02. As a man of dignity he has quietly handed over the charge and left the campus within 48 hours. Anybody who personally knows him would get automatically attracted to him because of his scholarly disposition, amiable behaviour and strength of character. He belongs to the community of those rare teachers, the number of which is unfortunately shrinking very fast in our country.

Whatever may be the determining factor of the victor, if we allow this sort of slaughter and disgrace of the innocent and honourable by the non-entities of the other days, as a conscientious citizen we would be failing in our moral responsibility to the future generation.

M. S. Zoha
Dhaka

Only 2/3 is right?

The Daily Star has commended the completion of the Judicial Enquiry Report on the S.N. Hall incident, even before seeing the contents, but I am a bit more circumspect for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the term of reference was to find the person(s) responsible for ordering the police into the Hall to beat up the general students. The Commission has blamed only the Police. But even a toddler in Bangladesh knows that the police do what they are ordered to do, and it was the responsibility of the Commission to pin-point exactly who that person was, however high and mighty he might be, so that appropriate action can be taken against him, if not by the government, then by the people. I am certain the Commission has the mobile phone records of that night, and that would be a clear evidence of guilt of the "high up" involved.

It also seems strange to mention the VC, the Proctor and the Provost in the same breath when he apportions this moral responsibility. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam wrote a commentary about the "Dangers of Two-third Majority". It would appear that the Commission has found it convenient to apportion partial blame on two pro-BNP teachers (2/3) and one non-BNP teacher (1/3) equally, so that everybody is happy. In the gist of the report published, it was not clear to me where exactly the Provost had failed, whereas the lies, deceptions and harbouring of toll-collecting outsiders by the other two are well-documented facts. The lonely Provost, with no support even from her own party men, should have

ETV and rule of law

After declaring ETV's license illegal by the Appellate Division, it continued broadcasting for several hours. Is this the way to honour the court? Shouldn't they be brought to justice?

Oli Md. Abdullah Chowdhury
Khasdobir, Sylhet

ETV, the country's first private terrestrial television channel went off air on August 29 afternoon. I would like to draw the attention of all the concerned that, "Privilege once given cannot be withdrawn."

The Hon'ble Court should see whether the only private TV broadcasting license granted to ETV was fake and if it is proved so; then according to the existing penal code the punishment can be awarded to the fake license holder. Otherwise, privilege (license) granted by a competent authority cannot be cancelled, broadcasting switched-off or itself become null and void during licensing period for change of Administration in the government because there is existence of a Press Council in our country where a grievance of an individual, family, company, group, party or a nation can be addressed but under the Constitution of the country the rights of the citizens (viewers) cannot be willfully curbed.

Golam Ashraf
One-mail

ETV fulfilled the existing vacuum of good entertainment, authentic news and educational programs. They may not have proper license but what they have done is so praiseworthy that it supersedes their small folly.

A few days ago the enraged mob killed a top terror, Allauidin. This was considered as the outcome of extreme hatred and insecurity. This wasn't considered illegal.

Unfortunately, people's love fails to supersede anything— be it



ETV closure: But what about the viewers?

the removal of a beloved principal or banning a popular TV channel. People's love is undermined because justice is blind. The blow of justice is sometimes so hard to bear. It seems that people's liking and disliking don't really matter to our judges and the government, as they do not waste a moment to implement the verdict. Mass people's hatred may have a justification but their liking don't!

Shagufta Yasmin
DU

ATN, BTV, Channel-i and ETV have been the four local TV channels. But the viewers of ETV didn't feel the need to surf through other channels because of its quality programs and news. Now after the ban these viewers are left with no alternatives.

ETV became an indispensable part of our everyday life. In just two years it was able to win the heart of a huge section of people. It provided an alternative to the boring BTV programs and particularly the news.

So many commercial firms were depending on ETV, not to mention the 8875 (maybe more) employees. I congratulate them for what they have achieved in such a short time and sympathise with them at their great loss. I can only hope that good sense will prevail upon the present government and they will permit ETV to operate soon.

We, the youngsters do not understand the legal or political problems. But we know the taste of good programs and we want to taste it again. We also know when a tree bears fruit or gives shade to people or animals or gives shelter to birds the important question is not how the tree was planted but the question is whether it is useful for others. Now for us the important question is did ETV do something good for us? The answer is YES.

Iffat Hossain
Jahangir Nagar University

We respect the court verdict. But we also don't want a good channel to be prohibited from broadcasting. If ETV did anything wrong by using illegal terrestrial transmission, there are other ways to punish the wrongdoers like monetary fine etc.

ETV did so many positive things for the people of this country starving for quality news and entertainment. It was indeed a great contribution. The citizens and the government must acknowledge this contribution. If the positive things are not acknowledged and supported by the government then the development of any country becomes really difficult.

For the sake of good entertainment, quality programming and news the government should soon take necessary steps to allow ETV to go on air and this time in a legal way, please.

M. A. I. Nahid
Nagoya, Japan

transmission of sound waves, those tests are of no significance. Abrasions, bruises, cuts (lacerations) which are observable by human eyes (requiring technology) were not reported. I hope the venerable doctor does not forget to jot down his clinical observation in his final report.

And a psychological trauma is no less than a broken bone. A broken bone heals in weeks to months. A broken soul takes longer.

MAH Selim, the Honourable MP promised to secure full security for Chhabi Rani anywhere in Bagerhat district. I wonder, since when an MP has taken over the job of law enforcement?

Mohammad Zaman
USA

Why did the plane take off?

A few days ago there was some disturbing news about our Home Minister getting shot at while boarding a plane in Barisal. But according to the news report the investigating team found no trace of bullets being fired. It was also reported that a nut from the propeller blade came

Dhaka

Name sign and towel

This is in reference to the letter "Name sign inside the office and towel on the chair" (September 2).

I've also often wondered about the towel. Why do civil servants have a towel on their chair? At first I thought that since many of the offices aren't air conditioned, the towel was to prevent officers from sliding off their sweat soaked vinyl chairs. Then I noticed, as the writer has pointed out that, even the ministers have the towel!

The writer forgot to mention two other peculiar mannerisms; the safari suit is still quite the fashion statement among senior government officers and the golden engraved red or green tissue box.

Kim
Dhaka

"Ilish"

Mr. Billah's letter (August 28) about "Ilish or Hilsha" (it's "Hilsha," not "Hilsha") might have missed the central point. The Latin term for Hilsha is Tenulosa Ilisha. I am uncertain of the etymology of the Bengali word "Ilish," but if the latter is

written down your name, your destination, your car number and you have to exit through the gate through which you have entered.

What do they have in BRRI to resort to such tight security?

And you guys are just blaming the army for not allowing us to use a road, amazing!

A concerned citizen
Dhaka

There are so many public institutions being run by army officers that it's getting quite confusing. I am not even sure of the actual number and The Daily Star is not helping although so many readers have commented on the same.

For instance did you know that the Bureau of Anti-Corruption is being run by Maj. General Abdul Matin? Does this presumably honest, upright, retired officer, put in a civilians place because civilians cannot be trusted, really think that every BAC case filed against the ministers of the last BNP government were false? If the General will not prosecute BNP leaders as well as AL, then how is he any better than your run of the mill corrupt civil servant? And if he isn't any better

much cleaner than Dhaka. In the morning one can see the disciplined cleaning gangs working diligently and trying to make the condition ship-shape.

Of course, there are nooks and corners, which are dirty and unclean, but unlike Dhaka you can find clean areas in Chittagong.

MAH
Dhaka

"Musharraf on the verge of absolutism"

Thanks for your editorial "Musharraf on the verge of absolutism".

It seems that the main reason behind Musharraf's swift intention to become a despot is his conviction that America is behind him. The double standard of American democracy of promoting despot abroad has perhaps become too old now. In a very unsettled nation like Pakistan where democracy never had a chance to take root, the United States can't expect that a military ruler like Musharraf will be in a stable position for a long time to serve its interests.

The very unpredictable nature of the Pakistani military establishment where antagonistic ideas are at play, encouraged Musharraf to keep himself at the helm of the military for next five years. From a practical point of view there is a very strong potential for a fundamentalist take over in Pakistan and this threat can only be thwarted if a truly democratic government is allowed to work there.

It is expected that the United States will soon realise that in their best and long term interests they must encourage a democratic system of government in Pakistan.

Akbar Hussain
Toronto, Canada

Strange Hasina!

Sheikh Hasina's comments are highly disappointing. She never seems to speak anything constructive. Someone should tell S Hasina to quit blasting her opponents and speak in the interest of the people she represents.

Concerned
USA

Voicing the commuters' agony

The rickshaw commuters are afflicted severely by the VIP-road syndrome. The syndrome dictates that no rickshaws are allowed to ply on the VIP roads during the day until very late in the evening.

Rickshaws have been a "blessing" for the society, especially the people who travels everyday to work, school and office. For a few taka they can reach their destination effortlessly and conveniently. Aside from them, people buying groceries can go home by simply hiring a rickshaw and hence relieving the person to carry the loads.

But very recently, this "blessing" has been effaced from the society leaving the people in dilemma. Now, the employees will have to take the hassle of finding an alternative transport maybe bus or tempo and it might not even take the person to the desired destination, resulting in the person walking certain distance, reaching the work-place totally exhausted and sweaty.

Others with health problem will find it difficult to go in the overcrowded and noisy buses and tempos and eventually be compelled to walk all the way to work.

The school-goers may have to hire an auto-rickshaw and there is another problem. As the auto-rickshaw drivers are well aware of the prevailing situation, they will deliberately charge high fare, knowing that the passengers will comply with their demands, as they have no other choice.

The people buying grocery will also have to walk all the way home carrying the heavy loads which could have been averted had there been rickshaws.

CNG auto-rickshaw, justifiable fare and the commuter's plight

The other day, I was going to Cantonment (near post office) from Dhanmondi, Road no. 5. Seeing a green CNG auto-rickshaw, I was all excited and thought this was my first opportunity to experience the new mode of transport. I intentionally ignored at least 4-5 old 2-stroke auto-rickshaws and made a move for the new CNG one. When I told him my destination and asked him the fare, he told me it would be "taka 70". I politely asked him what was wrong and has something so bad happened that he should ask for such a fare? He ignored me for a minute and curtly replied "er niche poshayna". I just left the guy alone and made the trip on the old 2-stroke auto-rickshaw, who asked for "taka 50" which was a shade over the normal fare. Funny enough, I had travelled this route for as little as "taka 30" last year on a auto-rickshaw. I however recorded the number of the CNG scooter "12-6101" and promised myself that I would



Waiting to exit?

write in your columns to vent my frustrations.

Now my question is, is our Communication Minister going to do something about it? Can we have a clear response from him as to where he exactly stands on this issue? What it is that makes a driver ask for such a fare? Is the Communication Ministry at all interested in the issues that trouble the consumer, a citizen and a voter? For once, can the interest of the consumers make a difference?

While on the subject of CNG, my hopes were raised by a news a few weeks ago, again from the Communication Minister that a certain number of CNG stations will be set up within the shortest possible time to lessen the hardship of commuters travelling long distances and waiting in long lines to refill the gas. But from recent reports of two ministries at loggerheads about who is in charge of issuing land and permission for such CNG stations, I am no longer holding any hope for a quick resolution of the problem.

A Thinker
Dhaka

BAF Shaheen College is situated in such an area where rickshaws are prohibited. I remember what hazards I faced during a strike called by the three-wheelers. From Shaheen College I had to walk to Mahakhali with my exhausted daughter to catch a maxi to Shamoly. She was reluctant to board the transport since she had to share the seat with others. I know she behaved this way because of her awareness of privacy. Now I am very much worried what would happen to her sense of privacy after September 1. If she says she will not go to school who will be responsible? I know the three-wheelers are polluters, but what will happen if this hurriedly called ban on 2-stroke auto-rickshaw pollutes the career of my daughter?

Kamaluddin Ahmed
Shamoly, Dhaka

been praised in the report for uniting students of all parties, including even the genuine students of the JCD, for a just cause, instead of being criticised.

As somebody who works with the computer 14 hours a day, I find the stories about the malfunction of the Commission's computer incredible. Unless the author himself is the typist, there is always a complete manuscript first, which is typed into the computer, and hence it is simply a matter of a few hours' work to put everything back into the computer even if the file is corrupt. And in cases like this it is normal practice to prepare back-up copies on the hard disk as well as on floppies to counter such an accident.

Bazlur Rahman
Basabari Lane, Dhaka

Chhabi Rani medical report

"As per X-ray and ultrasonography reports, there is no mark of injury in any part of her body" said Dr. Biswas at a news conference.

Unless Chhabi Rani has an obvious broken bone or significant soft tissue injury leading to altered

loose and hit the window next to the Minister.

I was wondering that if a nut came loose from the propeller blade then why did the plane at all take off? Wasn't it considered a flying hazard to take off with a faulty propeller?

Masroor Ahmed Deepak
Canada

Surprising

There is a report in your daily on September 1, "Hasina blames Govt for Death in Bus fire".

The Leader of the Opposition expressed her grief on the death of Khorshed Alam who sustained burn injuries in the bus fire on August 30. That's very nice of her. But what surprised me was that she blamed the government for the incident. How come the government be blamed for that? Did the BNP activists that set the bus on fire? Why should they do that? A similar type of incident occurred prior to the Parliament Election last year when there was a rumour that AL Leader's motorcade was under attack! Is there any linking to this? Please think before making a statement.

MAT

derived from the former I fear the joke, almost too painfully, is on Mr. Billah.

Khademul Islam
USA

The rulers and the ruled

Everyone knows how our country is doing in terms of law and order, economy and of course politics.

How long will we keep mum to such misrule? Is this what we call democracy? Is this the reason our ancestors sacrificed their blood?

We don't need AL, BNP, JP or Jamaat as they are unable to follow democratic norms. We want some one who can establish rule of law—a true democracy.

Shams Zakiuddin
Dhaka

"Great Army"

This is in reference of Mr. Shabyashachi (September 2).

Mr. Shabyashachi have you ever been to Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)? You can't enter BRRI unless you have a relative or an acquaintance working over there. Before entering you have to

than the typical civil servant, why is he holding a civilian's job?

Azad
Dhaka

This is in regards to the letter by Sarwar Ahmed. He says that the army is the only institution that can instil pride in us. Implying that it's the only one that works, the only ones not corrupt like our politicians, the only ones who do their duty.

It is also the identical justification given by General Musharraf when seizing power in Pakistan. As was the case with all their military dictators. I don't think that anyone would disagree in that Pakistan is about as much of a failed state as one can manage. Guess which proud, uncorrupt and trustworthy institution ran Pakistan for most of its history and held the key to power for all of it?

Gora
Dhaka

City cleanliness

If a resident of Dhaka goes to Chittagong for a visit he is bound to notice the difference. In Chittagong, at least the main thoroughfares are

I would plead the government to restore the "blessing" to the people so that they can have peaceful journey to their destinations.

Tommy
Gulshan, Dhaka

Of Bangla and English

The continuing criticism levelled at English medium students and schools have bordered from the highly objectionable to the highly mundane and ridiculous. I do not know how this entire thing started off but let me say that while the initial letters regarding this debate of poor quality Bengali education in English medium institutions, was entertaining and thought provoking...the ones written over the last few days have been laughable at best.

Some people have constantly criticised us, the English medium students for NO reason. They need to stop making stupid tales regarding us. Don't they have anything better to do than to investigate what kind of clothes English medium girls wear or what kind of accent they are use? We have been brought up with a certain degree of freedom and we revel in it. If there is any lack of propriety, it's from these so-called supporters of Bengali Language. We are not retarded children, we know how to speak and write in Bangla, we know the significance of the language. What we don't need are people with strange insecurities regarding English medium schools and institutions propelling them to come up with completely fabricated stories.

With a parting shot, let me add here that there are only a very few good Bengali medium institution whereas you will find quite a few excellent English medium institutions. That is the reason why parents choose to endure enormous sufferings but still insist that their children study in English based schools where they feel safe that their children will be able to learn about values and principles and also a good education.

Arafat Hasan
Dhaka

A recent debate upon this subject seemingly has attracted the interest of many people from different levels of the society. One could have never imagined that a letter regarding admission tests in Notre Dame could have taken such a turn and bring in so many views concerning the students of English orientation.

It is undoubtedly true that some students of English medium schools try to be more English than the British. One should also know that the majority of the students are unlike this. Moreover the scenario is not unique in the English medium schools only. Such examples are aplenty in Bengali medium schools too.

As for Bangla being neglected, the claims are also quite true. Most students of English orientation are indeed poor in their mother tongue. In fact the blame should not fall on the students, nor the teachers, but the Bangla examiners hired by Edexcel International. Despite being extremely weak in Bangla, most students usually get 'A' grade in the examinations. They want to leave this local subject undisturbed and it seems that there is an unofficial signal to examiners of Bengali paper to gloss over or sideline the question of proper stress on Bengali language.

However there are many students in English medium schools who are as proficient in Bangla as their counterparts in Bangla medium schools. Therefore it is unwise to comment about this topic only by meeting a few students of English medium schools.

Coming to the proficiency of Bangla medium students in their mother tongue, how would it be if I say most of them memorise 20 essays from guidebooks before S.S.C. exams? And if the prophecies are correct (which normally is), they just put down the exact memo-

rised words in their answer scripts. This case has never occurred in case of students appearing the British exams, as the essays have topics chosen from a wide variety, which makes it impossible to predict.

So far we have been concerned about students of English orientation being weak in Bangla. If we look at it the other way round, students of Bangla medium schools are much weaker in English than English medium ones. The degree of 'weakness' is much higher in Bangla medium schools.

For a poor overpopulated country like ours, much more emphasis in English language teachings should be given in all levels of schooling and all over the country. We have back-paddled too many years. It is time we seek divine blessings for God-speed!

Waseem Alim
Bangladesh International Tutorial,
Dhaka

This refers to the letter by Farzeen Saleh (August 27). She could not agree with the opinion of Mr. Hoque in respect of this topic and indicated him to reveal the source of his

"interesting piece of information" i.e. "statistics show Bengali medium students to be doing better at home and abroad than their English medium counterparts".

Well, in her own writing she mentioned that most visa seekers flocking in U.S Embassy are Bengali medium educated. A significant part of that group must be constituted of students having Bengali medium backgrounds. Most Bengali medium educated students comprise of the lower middle-class or poor. Their parents do not have the resources to send their children abroad for higher education. So, those who manage to get student visa on the basis of their H.S.C results, SAT 1 TOEFL are granted scholarship in majority of the cases. This signifies that they are meritorious. On the other hand, parents of the English medium students are rich and they can afford to educate their children in reputed universities abroad, even if they do not have excellent results.

As regards, performances of English medium students at home, it is also not very satisfactory. The problem is that the lectures in most public and private educational institutions are delivered in Bengali to facilitate the understanding of majority of the students. Furthermore, the teachers use the Bengali terms in science, commerce and other disciplines. The English medium students being unfamiliar with those have their comprehension obscured, which leads to lower their performances below that of Bengali medium ones. Hence, the corroboration on Mr. Hoque's statements has been presented.

Altaf Hossain
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Bravo! Saurav Ganguly

The way India fought back after their defeat in the first Test against England was praiseworthy. Skipper Saurav Ganguly has done a laudable job. Gaunguly led the team skilfully and played an important role in achieving victory. His critics must be speechless now.

It seems that finally India has found a capable leader who can lead the team in the long run. Hats off to the prince of Kolkata and lots of good wishes for the coming days!

Mohammed Sohel Hara
Tophkana Road, Dhaka

Announcement
Due to huge flow of letters it has become impossible for us to accommodate the longer ones. The valued readers are therefore earnestly requested not to send letters exceeding three hundred words.
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Editor

Bangladesh-- the most corrupt country, again!



Corrupt Bangladesh and an ashamed nation

Once again we've been labelled as the most corrupt country in the world and all the politicians are interested in is blaming each other for securing this position. Does it matter whose fault it is? It is the people who are to bear the shame. We indeed are a hapless nation.

Selina Sultana, Lalmatia, Dhaka

The recent news about Bangladesh again topping the chart of the most corrupt nation is not surprising, though shocking. If a more thorough investigation could had been conducted, the picture would have been more grim and frustrating. The index would have gone far below the present index of 1.02!

Now the time has come to realise our real position in the eyes of others nations. If any Bangladeshi qualified person ever stands to compete for any position in the world body, this national image of corruption would work negatively.

Don't we have anything to be proud of? Or we are just proving the casual remarks passed by Lord McCaulay, (the then Deputy Commissioner of Bakerganj at the end of 19th century) that "as sting is to bee, paw is to lion so spontaneous and fabricated falsehood is to nature of people living in the lower Gangetic delta".

M. Ayub Khan, Ottawa, Canada

As a Bangladeshi I feel extremely ashamed cause I am a citizen of the number one corrupt country in the world. Congratulations to the ruling party, the opposition, the bureaucrats, the police and all others for securing this post again!

Corruption and terrorism are now controlling our politics. Politicians and bureaucrats are the most corrupt lot. Our police department has also become most corrupt thanks to our politicians.

There is no security of life and no peace in society. Still there is no initiative to improve the situation.

But I'm hopeful. Surely one day we will emerge as a nation free of corruption and terrorism and won't be securing positions which humiliates the entire nation.

Mohd. Tariq, Kuwait