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# No unemployment (!)



PHOTO: AFP

I am astonished to see the news where the Honourable Finance Minister replied in the above way when asked by some journalists regarding whether any special allocation would be given in the upcoming budget for employment generation. I would like to ask

the minister-- is there any statistical authentic data in favour of his claim or simply its a political statement? Or the concept and definition of unemployment needs to be explained. It is known to every economist when a skilled man or woman wants to work & if

there is not enough opportunity in the job market to accommodate him/her, it is said to be unemployment. More critically, in economics if skilled men and women are accommodated to such a field which is not relevant to their disciplines & if they can't

create any value, it is also treated as unemployment. And I think it is not unknown to the minister that the present unemployment rate of educated people is pretty high.

**Md. Asiful Huq**  
Kafur, Dhaka-1206

## Death of a General

Isn't it sad that we could not show proper respect by keeping the National Flag half mast honouring the death of the soldier who led the joint forces of Indian army and the Mukti Bahini to free our dear motherland from the clutches of the Pakistani occupation forces?

By not doing so, we have again proved how ungrateful we could be!

**Fahim Hussain, Dhaka**

## What a pity!

A couple of days ago I found an article in the newspapers that the Prime Minister had pledged to help a woman abandoned by her husband. The woman had given an advertisement in the newspaper to sell her eyes to mitigate her financial crisis.

Can we imagine her condition? No, we can't. It is a reality that Bangladesh is still a poverty-stricken country. We can't claim that the situation has changed a great deal by pointing at the luxurious shopping malls in the capital and the density of the crowd gathering there. We're far away from achieving Sonar Bangla.

**Ashek Ahmed**

**CSE, KUET**

## Banking situation

Now that the financial highlights of the banks are coming out in newspapers, we find that they are making huge profits while mere survival has become very difficult for small/medium businesses and industries. So, can't we say that banks are making "windfall" gains at the cost of such trading and manufacturing concerns by charging higher interest spreads/rates, taking exorbitant service charges/commissions, etc.?

**CNR**  
Chittagong

## Friday as working day

This is in response to Mr. Adenine Siddiky's reaction to my comments. Let us go by the "whims and wishes" of the World (North America

and Europe!). Suppose, Friday is a full working day in Bangladesh. When the Bangladeshis are going to work, my "forward looking" brothers in North America are heading for the bed - it's Thursday night. On Monday morning, when it is time to head for the office in Dhaka, it is dinner time in Ottawa! Four days are lost!

**MZ Islam**

**Dhaka**

## Don't forget Bangladesh

Our people are hard working and intelligent, but because of lack of opportunities this resource is being wasted. Where are our most intelligent people living now? The answer will be in foreign countries (*Bidesh*). Even when I look at my intelligent and brilliant friends, besides a few, most are gone, or looking for a way to get out. My father Dr. Abdul Awal, Professor in NSU, was a senior scientist in America. He came back to Bangladesh leaving a very high paid job only for his love for this country.

My only reason here to use his name is to tell my dear friends all over the world not to forget Bangladesh.

**Ubaidullah awal**

**on e-mail**

## Teachers

Teachers are honoured all over the world. Being an instructor, trainer and friend he plays a vital role in building up our personality which is also determined by environment, culture and experience.

My grandfather was a high school teacher, I witnessed how people respected him. We should not move away from the age-old norm of respecting our teachers.

**Roney**  
On-e-mail

## The sweetest word

A few days ago I read a letter written by Sadat Shahriar and its heading was "Mother, the sweetest word".

What a nice writing! Well done Sadat! Hope you will write again.

Thank you very much!

**S. Hossain, US**

## CCC election

We have witnessed another City Corporation election (CCC polls) with hope and anxiety.

To select a candidate through election, it is necessary to react with proper understanding and norms of political behaviour. Election to local bodies help people get familiar with the democratic process.

BTV was supposed to represent the people of our country, their hopes, choices, needs, likes and dislikes. You will see BTV has adopted a new slogan, "Desh o manusher kota bole(?)" Does BTV really speak for the common people?

**Cantara Wali Ruhi, DU**

## Bangla Motor crossing

Enough has been written here and there including your columns but

## BANGLA MOVIE

Have you enjoyed any recently released Bangla movie? You may ask me, "Are you joking?" I think most of you will oppose the word "enjoy". Because the man with a little bit of good taste must give up watching Bangla movies that are mostly story-less, senseless and full of idiotic, useless and unwise physical postures and violence. So it is totally impossible to enjoy. Any way! I am confused about the role of the Censor Board that allows such type of vulgar movies to be exhibited in cinema halls! How is it possible? A sensible man cannot allow such things.

What is the job of the members of the Censor Board? Are they sleeping? I was very much surprised when I heard that "MATIR MOINA", an artistic movie, was censored but many sleazy movies are being released.

Lots of questions are being raised about the role of the Censor Board. Will it respond to popular queries?

**Sadat Shahriar, EEE, RUET, Rajshahi**

**Sarwar Kamal**

**Dept. of philosophy, CU**

## One eyed BTV?

No matter whatever the ruling party is, it must not influence the role of the state run channel --BTV. Sometimes BTV makes me stunned, I watch and keep pondering for a long time whether BTV has any choice of its own or not. Especially, I request you to watch BTV news. I could not find anything except propaganda of the candidate of the ruling party whenever I watched the BTV news. Just ridiculous!

nothing has been done so far. No new underpass or overbridge has yet shown up in the busy cross-roads.

There was a sigh of relief (a bit) when the crossing (Bangla Motor) got the service of traffic lights; but would you believe (if not, come and see by yourself) the not-so-wide road cannot be crossed if a young man doesn't run before the light changes, forget about the school children and women. And to the detriment of the road-users, traffic on the main road doesn't stop right away (reducing further the time for

crossing), in spite of the fact that the crossing is attended by no fewer than four traffic policemen. Thanks to the smart controllers of signal lights and lethargic police force.

I believe the earlier the authorities wake up the better; we cannot afford to sacrifice more lives only for crossing a road section. I want to stress the importance of an underpass in this critical and important crossing for hundreds and thousands of school children and garment workers who use this crossing every day and night.

And by the way, the idea of an overbridge, if there is any, should be abandoned and the under-pass preferred, for it's most suitable for the children, women and elderly and also very convenient during the rainy season.

**AF Rahman**

**on e-mail**

## State of ACC

Going by newspaper reports, a retired colonel seems to be the focal point of All Confused Condition (ACC) that reigns in ACC till date! One feels the ACC will remain in a permanent state of confusion, to the satisfaction of the corrupt. Despite notification by the establishment ministry issued on 26th April; this gentleman carries on, and on top of that has made himself a Director of ACC.

It goes to show how impotent is our governance.

**A confused citizen**

## Should I be proud?

It's been four years that I have returned to Dhaka after spending almost a decade in England, as I wanted to spend time with my father. However, my dear father passed away two years back and since then my kids have been pressing me to return to the UK.

I am not a political person nor have I any intention to pass comments concerning prevailing law and order scenario. However, perhaps I can comment on the modalities of day-to-day affairs like commuting to work and lack of green fields. Either my wife or I have to drop the kids to school, as we

country where most houses had big green in the front side, which was kept for a bit of gardening as well as allowing kids to wander around. This has become unthinkable in present days, as we have already shifted from two-storied houses or a single story bungalow house to high rising block-of-flats. My purpose is not to blame anyone, let alone any government present or past. I just want to feel more proud and assured that we can do it here as well. I mean we went abroad, had got higher degrees, worked in blue-chip multinationals side by side with Europeans or Americans, didn't we? Why cannot we do it here? I'm sure the positive 'can do mindset' is strong enough to push us forward. We appeared to have accepted the unacceptable these days, as we do not disapprove or condemn unsocial, unethical and immoral practices anymore.

**Muhammad H. Kafi**

**Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209**

## Tea

I really don't understand why everyone goes gaga over tea. I don't want to hurt the feeling of millions of tea lovers of this country, but to me, by getting over-excited about tea, we are just showing our unfaltering loyalty to our colonial masters who first gave it free! Once we got addicted they made us pay for the drink and get money from us.

We have got our very own green coconut (*dab*) which is far more nutritious than the addictive tea. Let us free ourselves from the chain of slavery and learn to appreciate our very own *dab*.

**Saif, Dhaka**

## A positive approach

Every day people from different areas suffer from unexpected traffic problems, some are artificial and some are because of ignorance. In Dhanmondi every month (almost) there are markets being built and they are growing like mushrooms. One of them is situated at Road 7A, which does not have a proper parking place for the customers, as a result people park their cars in the middle of the road, creating obnox-



PHOTO: AFP

**BANGLADESHI**

## cricket team

Bangladesh cricket team is now visiting the UK for a two match Test series and for a triangular one-day series. Many well known cricketers and British media think that Bangladesh are quite good for Test cricket.

I am sure that the Tigers will play very well, at least they will put up a great fight.

**Shashi Khan, Bottala, Tangail**

to the authorities.

**Badal Hasib**

**Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209**

## University teachers

I would like to know from you : Is there any section or clause or provision in our constitution that has given autocratic powers to our teachers of public universities ? Or is there any ordinance in our country to give immunity to the teachers that they can do whatever they like ? That is, they can't be asked about their responsibilities ! Or they can't be challenged in the court. I would like to know to whom they are responsible for their duties. They are not taking a minimum number of classes in different courses in programmes in public universities.

Most often they are not regular in the class and that ultimately creates session-jam. Rather, they are taking classes in different private universities, depriving the students of public universities. And most often students are compelled to sit for exams with incomplete courses and lack of preparation.

Is there any solution to the above problems ?

**Md. Asiful Huq**

**Ibrahimpur,**

**Kafur, Dhaka-1206**

## Friday as holiday

In a sort of suspended amusement I have noticed the letters about having the appropriate day of the week as weekly holiday in Bangladesh. The irony of the issue is that it is the crowd supporting keeping Friday as holiday who are guilty of blindly imitating the Christian West, ignoring the teachings of Islam.

The fundamental reasoning behind the Christian day of rest is the belief that Almighty God Himself rested on the seventh day, after "labouring to create the world for the previous six". Of course, it is anathema in Muslim belief to think that the Almighty has any 'needs', let alone a need to "rest". Hence, it is no surprise that during the time of the Prophet of Islam and the subse-

quent righteous caliphs, business went on as usual during Fridays on the bustling market-places of Medina, Damascus, and Baghdad. Indeed there was a proper break of trade during the congregational Juma prayers, just as there was a short break for each of the other five canonical prayers. The Holy Koran is very clear on the matter: it asks believers to suspend trading once azaan is called and then go back to their business after namaaz is done. The idea of having entire Friday off on the premise of Juma prayers is not only absurd, but possibly an un-Islamic innovation of practices blindly imitated from colonialist Christians.

If there has to be a day off, it should be the day that does the least damage to the economy of the country and the well-being of its inhabitants: not only does Islam allow for this but probably, as a religion which places such a high premium on business and trade, mandates it.

**Esam Sohail, Kansas, US**

## DU campus

Since there is no restriction many couples come from outside to spend time on the campus. Things at times look rather odd. Teachers blame the students who actually are not responsible for the problem.

The university authorities should address the issue.

**Jahid Hasan**

**Dhaka**

## Immigrant's thought

My name is Mirza Hassan and I am an immigrant child living in the UK. I feel that your newspaper neglects achievement of the Bangladeshi people that have sought to start a new life abroad.

Their task is not easy and you should give the support that they need.

**Mirza Hassan**

**UK**



PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea Football Club was founded by H.A. Mear in the year 1905, and fifty years later, back in 1955 it won the title of league champions. In the last session Chelsea showed skills and talent on the ground but was unable to win any titles.

Then came Jose Mourinho, the new manager. He had a wonderful squad with goal-keepers like Peter Cech, Carlo Cudicini, strong defence

with players like William Gallas and John Terry, and world class midfielder with Jole, Damien Duff, Arien Rodden, and of course Frank Lampard. It also had great strikers like Drogba and Gudjohnsen but had some problems when Kezman was scoring little, unexpected!

After all, this team was one of the hot favourites in UEFA Champions League, but disappointed its fans when it

unfortunately lost to Liverpool in the semi-finals. But all the sadness was washed away when Chelsea were crowned the champions in the English Premier League.

For Chelsea, it may be the beginning of their era and we may see them winning more titles.

**Tahsin Hyder**

**Dhanmondi, Dhaka**

# Elections in Britain

The British General Elections of 2005 is historic in every sense of the word. Tony Blair, by winning three consecutive Elections, became the second Prime Minister in British history to complete a hat-trick of victories, and he also became the first leader of the Labour Party to secure a third term as well.

Although this General Election was a much closer contest than the previous two Labour landslides in 1997 and 2001, Labour did win the elections with a 60+ majority. Labour lost 47 seats and the Conservatives gained most of the Labour losses, by gaining 36 more seats and securing their position as the main opposition party, after all the hullabaloo of Liberal Democrats being the "Real Alternative" and increasing their tally substantially because of the "anti-Iraq war" factor. Lib-Dems gained a meagre 11 seats and still remain very much a "protest party" with very little to offer. Although the Iraq war did play a part in Lib-Dems gaining most of their 11 seats, and the far-left Respect Coalition gaining a solitary seat in

Bethnal Green & Bow, its effect in the General Elections was exaggerated. Polls conducted by Populus and YouGov show that only 3% of the British electorate said that Iraq War was the single issue which would determine which party they would vote for. Issues such as the introduction of student top-fees by Labour played a major part in getting the youth or student vote, which proved crucial in Cambridge and Cardiff, which have a substantial number of students. Issues such as crime, immigration and taxes, where the Conservatives are the strongest of all the three major parties, played a massive part in the Tories gaining 36 seats, and their outstanding show in London and South East, where they won back 8 seats from Labour (Putney and Hammersmith & Fulham being the two major scalps), emphatically prove that. If the anti-war effect was so huge, the Lib-Dems would gain from the anti-Blair factor and not Conservatives and Mr Howard, who strongly supported the military intervention.

Nevertheless, Mr Blair deserves congratulations for an outstanding victory, a far cry from a party which was in the opposition for 18 years from 1979-1997 because of the economic mess that socialist Old Labour left Britain with during the 70s. There are calls, however, from the Left of Labour for him to step down, but it is the electorate which determines who stays or not - and their verdict is another term of New Labour with a reduced majority, and a revitalised Conservative Opposition. This election was historic from the other end of the spectrum as well - with one Catherine Taylor-Dawson getting the lowest share of vote in the history of British General Elections -receiving only ONE vote in Cardiff North. Believer her or not...she vehemently denied voting for herself as well! May be some old woman crossing the wrong box.....

**Aranya Syed**

**Member, Conservative Party**

**London, UK**

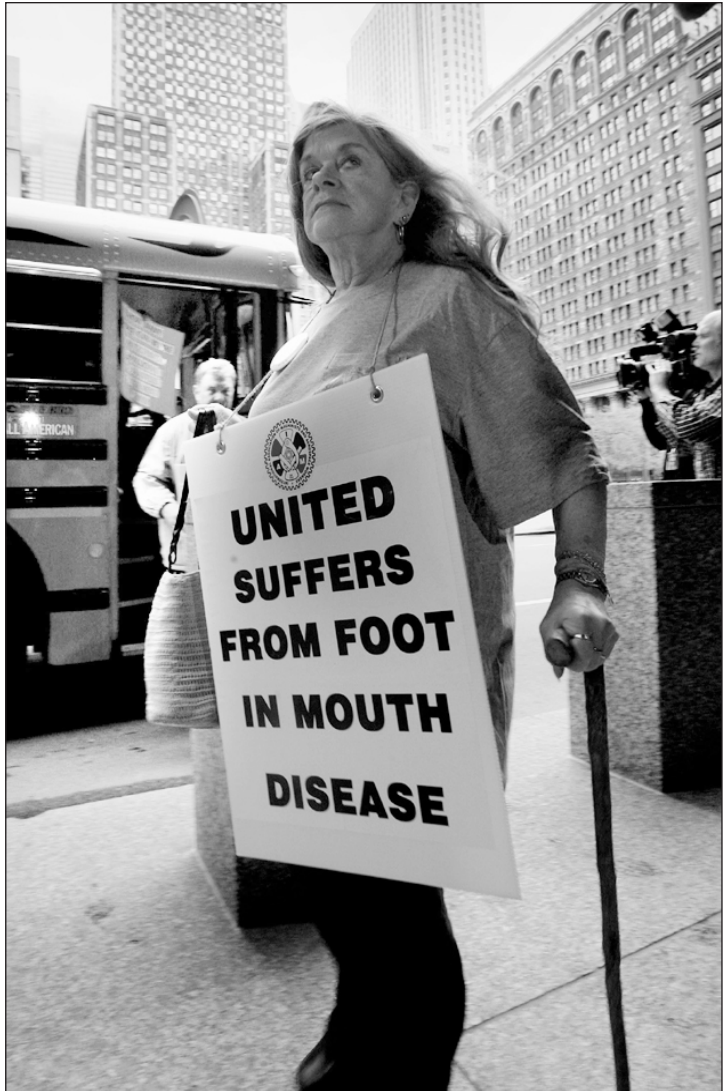


PHOTO: AFP