



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.

Bridge over River Karnaphuli

I have been following the debate over the type of bridge to be constructed over River Karnaphuli with much amusement.

It looks like another class of people (besides the bureaucrats who always seemed to be knowledgeable in all matters including engineering and medical) i.e. the politicians have joined the 'know it all' group.

Iqbal Mahmood, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Engineer
Petra Geotechnical, Inc.
Murrieta, CA

Bol chief-CPD encounter

I came to know from the BBC news last night (Aug 9, 2006) that the Chairman of the Board of Investment (Bol), Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, has filed a defamatory suit against a number of respected researchers of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). The court issued an order of arrest on them.

This is a matter of shame not only for our respected economists but also for the nation as a whole. We are to delve some depth to see where the wrong lies. Mr. Mahmudur Rahman said in the BBC interview that he was branded

choice, investors would always prefer information to propaganda. In fact, propaganda rarely sways an investor.

Mr. Mahmudur Rahman has now inadvertently revealed more to foreign investors than planned. A wounded high-ranking official is a perilous entity. In its quest for vengeance this entity is nonchalant about compromising legal and institutional protocol. Patriotism currently seems to be the justification for pathological arrogance.

Kaiser Kabir

Banani, Dhaka

Poor service

Two months ago I fell into a big trouble in my career of service as Assistant Commissioner. At that time I had to face two difficult problems at a time. Firstly, I had been avishly waiting for the last five years to be promoted to the post of senior Assistant Commissioner when it would be due to me. But before that I required to get a selection grade because it had been due in the year 2005. At long last the selection grade got the government's nod on 25th of May, 2006. Luck was not with me this time. I was looking for my name in the list of selection grade time and again. At first I couldn't find any reason why I had been dropped from the selection

problem at that time. So my request to the concerned authorities is, can't we be a little prompt in delivering our service to people?

Babor A. Mir
MPA student, LKYSP, NUS

IPM election-2006

The Institute of Personnel Management (IPM), Bangladesh has been contributing significantly in the improvement and development of both academic and operational sectors of personnel management in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, it is evident from the letters I have so far received from the fellow-members centring this year's Executive Council election that IPM is not in a good health. It must have been attacked by the contagious election fever!

Surprisingly, the Election Commissioner (EC) appointed earlier was removed by the Executive Council in May 2006 declaring all his decisions regarding election plus ballot papers sent by him null and void. A new EC was appointed and a fresh election schedule was announced.

Mentionable that all the voters will cast their votes through postal ballots.

Now the point is, if the ballot is mailed by the voters under registered cover then how can the name

Apart from the seasonal variation due to natural cleaning of the environment by rain/wind, perhaps steps have been taken to deal with the problem in the right way as a result of which the intensity of the menace is less although not totally eradicated as yet.

While fully concurring with the writer about our indifference to appreciate good work it is also hoped that the DCC will continue this task of making Dhaka city free from the curse as was once done by the late Habibullah Bahar Chowdhury when he was the health minister of the then East Pakistan. This is certainly possible today with all available advanced knowledge/technology as well as help & assistance from organisations like WHO, despite the unplanned overgrowth of this mega-city.

Z. Rahman

Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Targeting expatriate Bangladeshis

A serious attempt to cheat us was made in my Dhaka house on 7 July morning, and I think I should share it with you so that you can guard against similar incidents. This matter is particularly important to expatriate Bangladeshis.

On 7 July morning, at around 7:30am, somebody knocked at our

unscrupulous group is targeting the families, where a family member is living abroad.

So folks, please be careful. I express my gratitude to the Almighty for saving us from a swindling attempt.

Fida Hassan Rana

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

How long will we suffer?

Two lifts/elevators out of four are inoperative since long in Jibon Bima Tower at 10 Dilkusha Commercial Area. Presently, three important departments of ministries are situated here. Two months have passed already, the authorities have failed to take the proper initiative to repair the same ignoring people's sufferings every day.

We have to face a long queue every time when we use the lifts and it is becoming very annoying day by day.

Jibon Bima Tower is one of the oldest 20-story high-rise buildings in Dilkusha/Motijheel area. This building is owned by a government body - Jibon Bima Corporation. At present, different departments of ministries and Bol, SEC, and Privatisation Board etc. occupy most of the floors. Besides many international and private organisations are running their offices in the same building. The City Bank Limited is occupying seven floors of the building, as it is their principal branch. So, it is one of the crowded buildings in this area.

There are four lifts to carry all these people to different floors in the building. These lifts are under regular maintenance through a local vendor. But, the model is obsolete now due to age and they are unable to provide appropriate spare parts, and as a result the lifts are not delivering the needed service.

I am working for an international company in the same building and I have been suffering a lot from the beginning when we shifted our office to this place. Its movement is abnormal all along and some times we have to experience sudden bumping. I find lots of foreign investors who come to Bol to complete their business formalities and they look very much annoyed with the poor lift service.

In view of the above, we would request the building authorities to solve the problem immediately.

Zahir U. Hyder

On e-mail

Demerits of mobile phone

Mobile phone is a great invention of modern science. The number of users of mobile phone is increasing day by day. People are getting benefits. But it is unfortunate that mobile phones sometimes become the cause of health hazards, especially the children are affected much. Scientists believe that mobile phones cause brain tumours, genetic damage and many incurable diseases. They believe that invisible uncontrolled radioactivity of the phones causes irreparable damage to human body. They say that government should control radioactive sources (both ionised & non ionised). It is true that millions of people are getting benefits from modern cellular telephone but most are blissfully unaware of the danger associated with it. Doctors say that if a user continues his or her conservation for more than two minutes the "blood brain barrier" gets damaged. The blood pressure gets high and red blood cells (RBC) are damaged if a person gets continued exposure of radiation caused by cellular telephone.

Using cellular telephone is also harmful to the pregnant women. So, the government should impose an official ban on use of mobile phone by children & pregnant women.

Faqrul Islam
Mirpur, Dhaka

Dear Nur Hossain, please forgive us



Nothing about Bangladesh politics surprises me anymore. And I am quite sure most Bengalis or Bangladeshis (depending upon our identity politics) are like me. It is rare for us to get shocked by anything. Although, I will be surprised if we have a visionary leader in the near future. It is impossible for us to be indifferent about politics, but we have learned to live with the daily injustices, even when they occur in front of our eyes. This is Bangladesh.

Our national leader talks to us from her dais and she is as distant as a star in the sky for most of us. Our opposition leader confuses justice with tyranny by constantly vowing to avenge killings by more killings. I rest my case!

It takes a lot to make us complain now publicly. The quiet peasant revolution in Kansai is of course an exception. But again, our law enforcement agencies ruthlessly crushed it. Don't get me wrong. In private, when we meet for our adda, with a cup of tea in our hand, we may start discussing literature, love, life, and jobs; but we always come back to politics. We grieve over our current politics. There is a gulf of difference between us, the ordinary citizens and the wealthy elites. They can afford to totally ignore us and do whatever they want with our lives and our homeland.

Except for election time! Then they suddenly remember that their power is at stake. It is time for another game of chess.

Am I going insane? Or are the politicians really that incapable of making a moral choice? I don't care whether or not Ershad is being cajoled to join the BNP-led coalition for the next election. I don't care about BNP's fear about losing that election. And I

know for sure our politicians don't care about me or as a matter of fact for any ordinary citizen. They don't even care about our history, our nation's past. But how can I hold back this burning rage within me? Yes, we are a nation which pardoned the razakars and reinstated them back to power. Yes, we forgot 1971. And yes, 1990 happened a long time ago.

We already forgot how corruption spread to every segment of the society like a virus during his authoritarian rule. We are unable to recall how the Ershad regime ensured the political and ideological space for razakars. We suffer amnesia when we are asked how Bangladesh moved away from moderate politics.

And now a former dictator is the key element in deciding who is going to win the next democratic election!

Did Nur Hossain die in vain in 1987? Do we really remember Dr Milon who was gunned down in November, 1990? And what about the mother and child who were killed by stray bullets during the late 80s? What about that student demonstration when the police drove their trucks into terrified activists?

Before the 1996 election we saw Sheikh Hasina making a pact with Ershad and now we sit quietly to watch another drama unfold.

Am I the only one who can hear Nur Hossain crying? Am I the only one who can see his slogan?

"Shoirchar Nipat Jak, Gonontro Mukti Pak!"

"Down with Autocracy, Let Democracy be Unchained!"

Dr Bina D'Costa
Australian National University

Shibir politics

The Islamic Chhatra Shibir is threatening to eliminate all their rivals, particularly the BCL from the academic arena.

Everyone knows what this organisation is up to, but when will we be trying to rein them in?

Sarwar Abu Kausar
On e-mail



Local TV channels

This is an answer to Mr. Minhaj Ahmed's letter on the local channels. He wrote that our local channels are not worth watching at all. Among all the channels that we are served by the cable operators, I think the Bangladeshi channels are very good. If you consider the Hindi channels you will find that some of them always telecast Hindi songs with absurd videos like a broken record and some others are busy with showing never ending drama serials where family politics is the prime issue. Those channels never represent the real India but I think our channels give a picture of the real Bangladesh.

Mr. Minhaj blamed the local channels for presenting vulgar films. I think that is true more about foreign channels.

Kamrul Hasan

BUET

Unplanned urbanisation

With the growing urbanisation projects taken up by developers and real estate agencies, Dhaka is losing the beauty of its past. The projects are further endangering the earthquake prone Dhaka city. Already, the city is overburdened with its population.

The departments concerned should address the issue.

Dr. Walid Islam, Apollo Hospital, Dhaka

