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Voter list isn't the issue



From different articles published in The Daily Star and other newspapers we see that there is a tendency to point out that the reason behind the election boycott is the voter list. Is that really true? We have to understand the real problem before we will be able to address it. I agree that the voter list is

not perfect. But it was not perfect when the AL decided to participate in the election and also they didn't put any condition that if it's not absolutely error free they would withdraw from the election. We all know that the voter list that we have today, was created by the AL government back in 2001 and it con-

tained more than a crore of extra voters. If by making a voter list according to your wish you can win an election then the AL would be in power for the last five years. So that's the not the issue. Both the BNP and the AL know that. The real issue is Ershad. He is really thought to be the king maker by both the parties at this point. If he agreed to be with the BNP then his case won't be brought forward and he would win five seats. Now the BNP doesn't want to lose the election so they stopped Ershad from being part of the AL-led alliance. The situation is as simple as that. You can have a perfect voter list but without Ershad the AL won't feel confident of winning and vice versa.

Now the whole premise of the agitation is to bring down the government and bring in someone who will let Ershad participate in the election. So someone trying to solve the problem will have to address this issue first. Let's forget about the perfect voter list. Without ID cards a perfect voter list means nothing and we can't have ID cards because neither the BNP nor the AL wants that!

Saif
On e-mail

wealth; the same terror groups of the political parties; the same powerful sons and brothers of the political stalwarts.

Moreover, knowing the nature of these known politicians around, none of the other parties would accept the flawed election result on one pretext or the other and thereafter would resort to street arsons, anarchy etcetera as usual and as being noticed now. So, where is the respite for the common people, the silent majority? It is clearly evident, after the (so called) election is over, the grand alliance which boycott the election, would unleash fresh agitation and violence. This is more so because there are too many issues still unresolved for holding a free and fair election under an impartial administration which the chief of the caretaker government, either due to his inefficiency or at the instance of certain political party to which he belongs, miserably failed to address. Owing to the inability to resolve those issues by a single person the country has now plunged into total uncertainty and nobody knows the price the people of this country would have to pay for the blunder of such a person. He seems to be dancing to the tune of his party stalwarts that it was the constitutional obligation to hold the election within 90 days. But he should not at the same time forget that it is also the constitutional obligation to hold a free and fair acceptable election under an impartial administration, which is totally absent at this hour. So what is he going to achieve by holding an unfair election? Will not that violate the constitution? He should understand that the constitution is not the end but a means to an end. The ultimate end is the country's and its people's welfare for which the constitution was written.

The recent court order banning the EC to seek declaration by the candidates on certain issues at the time of filing nomination papers, has put the final nail on the coffin of a transparent democratic system in the country. Recently, Dr. Yunus put forward a suggestion to form "All party vigilance committees" to ensure free and fair election at the polling centres. In my opinion the idea was excellent and the intention was honest. But in the present political atmosphere, where the major political parties are at a dagger's drawn with each other, it may not be congenial enough to implement the idea right now.

However, he should not be criticised by those who cannot themselves offer any solution to the on-going political impasse.

Mohammad Ataul Hoque
On e-mail

English cricket and Geoffrey Boycott

English cricket legend Mr. Geoffrey Boycott taunted the Bangladesh national cricket team by saying that even his mother was capable of playing against a team like this. This is true that the performance of our cricket team has not been up to the mark and in many cases was disappointing, but ever since I read Mr. Boycott's comment, I wondered whether such an invective against a relatively new playing cricket nation was appropriate. To be more precise, I would say Mr. Boycott by his remark neither has proved his modesty nor has achieved any accolade.

Now, after this pathetic performance of England in the recent Ashes Series where it got miserably whitewashed by its arch rival Australia, I wonder what thought Mr. Boycott has now in his mind to salvage his team out of



this predicament!
Ishtiaque, Banani, Dhaka



Improve 'attitude' at ZIA

There is stark contrast between Dhaka airport and Bangkok Subarnabhumi Airport. Bangkok airport is passenger friendly and convenient. Dhaka airport is rude and unfriendly. I would like to draw a comparison between the two with the intention of improvement of the services and attitude.

As we arrive in Dhaka airport departure area we confront security personnel as if we require only security at our airport and life!

There are two terminals but in name only. Airlines do not guide from which terminal passengers should enter. Security will not allow the passengers' relatives to enter the lounge. It seems that we are living in a police state. The immigration police gossip more than they work. On 23 December we witnessed an immigration officer quitting the

desk while ten persons were still in the queue. He had to be requested and brought back.

In Bangkok airport we just walk into the departure area and make a queue. An official of the airport authority directs the passengers to the reporting desk. There is no breach of line or discipline. Luggage is weighed and boarding card is issued. Passengers then can relax with his/her friend or family and enter the departure lounge. We are received with smiles everywhere. People are not overtly overburdened with security measures. We would request the authorities concerned to arrange passenger friendly orientation courses for the officials working at the airport and also open the arrival and departure lounges for public.

SN Mamoon, On e-mail

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