

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.

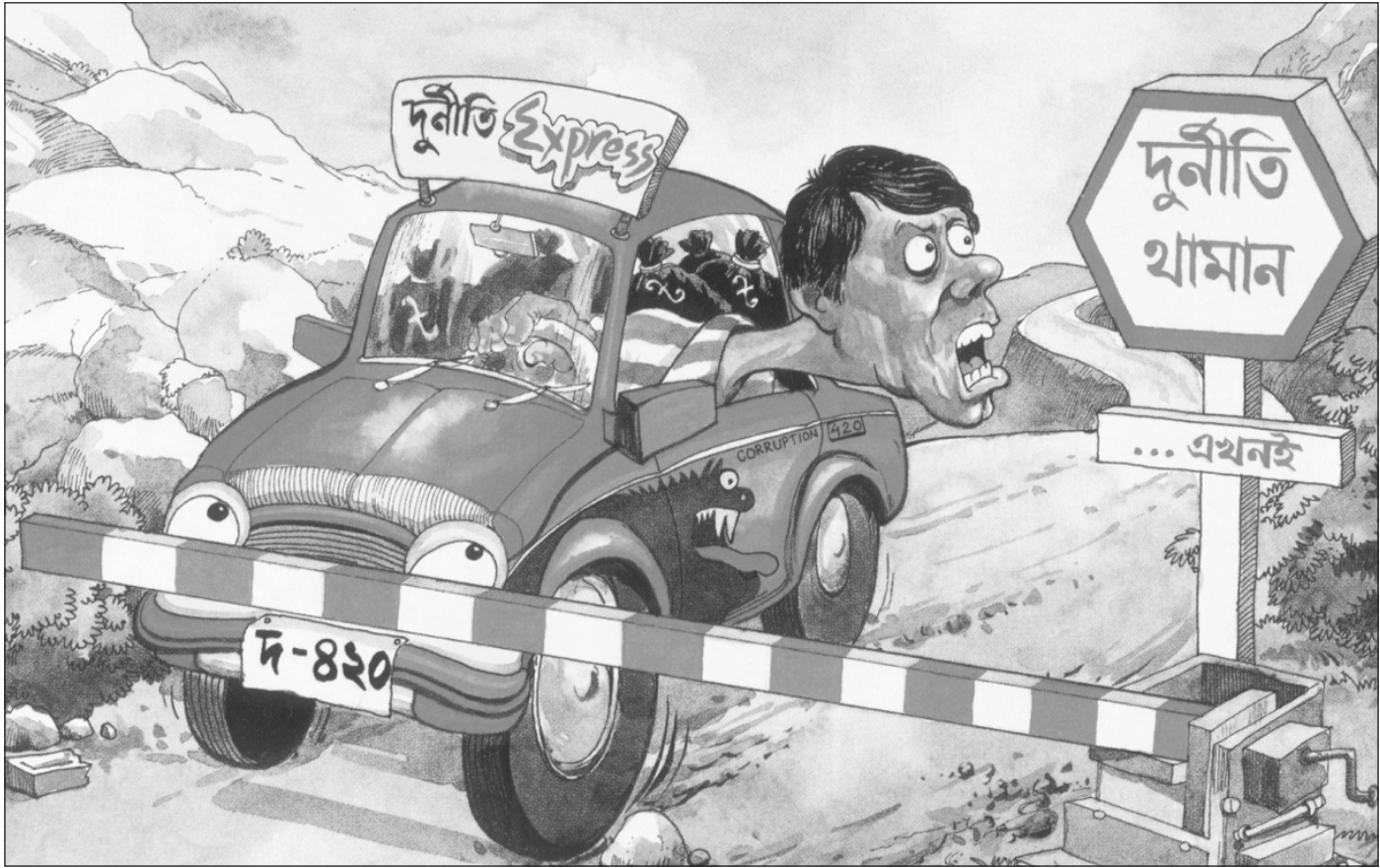
Well-timed drive

The current move of the caretaker government against illegal/unauthorised establishments is being highly appreciated by all quarters. It seems political leaders, elected by the people, can do very little for the welfare of the country. Whereas the present CTG has already proved within a couple of weeks that many things can be done despite having limitations, if there is a strong will and, of course, the precondition is neutrality. I would like to draw the kind attention of the government to the existing chaotic situation in the residential areas of Dhaka city. Almost all residential areas have lost

the residential character. Residential areas like Dhanmondi, established by the government, is now suffering from serious problems due to unbridled commercialisation. It seems that the residents of Dhanmondi R/A are now living in a commercial zone as it is being inundated with shops, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, clinics, community centres etc. The residents (including lawmakers) of Dhanmondi R/A have tried several times to improve the situation but failed. The present neutral and non-party caretaker government should address the issue.

Shamsuddin Chowdhury
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka

I fully endorse the crackdown on politicians by the caretaker government. The CTG must also crack down on bureaucrats in the government who still possess the old British mentality of considering themselves the masters of Bangladesh, even though their salaries come from the hard-earned income of the majority of the people who happen to be poor.work!
Keep up the good
Sabina Karim, *Maryland, USA*



Tips for the govt

The present govt should bear in mind that anything half done is nothing done. Don't go for things that you can't do but go for what you can do and do it efficiently. You know peoples' mind. So go for what you are required to do-- tasks that are very important in order to set examples and create right tracks for all to follow the same in future. Your time is not unlimited. The faster you accomplish your mission, the more support & cooperation you will get from the people. Listen to our foreign friends but don't trust them 100%. They are here for doing their own jobs and services. They often care most about their own career even at the cost of our nation. The success ratings of these bodies

are minimal. Think of what is the root cause of our failing as a modern nation. The answer in my opinion is lack of acceptance of others' views. The major parties' top leaders are best examples. If they had tolerance and respect for each other the countrymen wouldn't have to go through the ordeals and agonies that we have all experienced. Enough is enough. They have proved time and time again that they treat each other as their enemies. They will never correct themselves and meet the peoples' aspirations. So, what's the way out? The simple answer-- the top leaders of the BNP, AL & JP should be ousted from politics in the greater interest of our nation.
MM Ali, *Dhaka*

Govt on the right track

We are happy with the current caretaker government in Bangladesh. The previous government was corrupt (in our opinion) but the caretaker government is actually doing its job. They separated powers, arrested the corrupt ministers, and are eliminating corruption from all corners of Bangladesh. Speaking for the Bangladeshi people in Los Angeles, we would like to comment that the caretaker government should continue its job of working for the country. We would like to personally thank the chief adviser of the caretaker government, Dr. Fakhruddin, on behalf of the Bangladeshi com-

munity in Los Angeles.
Mohammed Nazmul Ahsan
Los Angeles, US

Cheating patients

In medical treatment use of technology like laboratory tests, instrumental examinations are a blessing of science & development. Of course, it involves additional costs for the patients. Various tests and examinations are conducted to diagnose a disease or to know the position of a disease. Patients have to pay for the tests & examinations. Here it is a general notion that most of the medical practitioners, not all, advise more tests and examinations than needed for a particular patient. The patients go to the doctors, as they are not experts in medical science, to get advice and

treatment when they feel uncomfortable physically, mentally or both. Medical practitioners are experts and after discussion with the patient they are supposed to diagnose the disease. They may take help of different tests and examinations to confirm or to know about the severity of the disease. Usually, it is expected that the tests and examinations, which a medical practitioner suggests, will reveal some abnormality. But what do we observe from our experience? When a patient needs, say, two tests a medical practitioner advises 10 to 12 tests and examinations. In most cases the results show nothing. Why is it so? When a patient goes to get the tests done at a diagnostic centre/ laboratory, they charge a lot of money. And after the tests the diagnostic laboratory has to pay 40% to 60% of the money to the medical practitioner who advised the tests. The present caretaker government should look into the matter and do the needful to stop the illegal business run by doctors.

Mohammad Ashraf Hossain
Panthapath, Dhaka

Tax evasion

On last Friday morning, I was reading a newspaper article where I found the NBR chief very much concerned about tax systems loss. At that very moment I could listen an adviser to the caretaker government talking on television about the transparency and honesty of the government. However, tax evasion takes place in almost all organisations in some form or the other. The government should delve deep into the matter and ensure that nobody can evade tax.

Areader, *On e-mail*

Dream team

I am a Bangladeshi settled in Portland OR, minding my own business and living a happy life. Like most of the expatriates, I always keep in touch with the events in my country. I had a dream last night-- a dream of hope. The world had opened another chapter; though lots of the countries both in the developed world like England and developing world like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan had stepped forward by electing women to run the country, the US for the first time elected Hilary R Clinton as the president. Earlier this year, people of the US elected Nancy Polesi as the speaker of the house.

Around the same time, Bangladesh elected the head of the newly-formed party DSE (Democrats for Social Economy) as the chief executive of the country. During the interim government a fair and healthy environment for election had been created by the team of caretaker advisers backed by our armed forces. Operation "clean politics" by the joint forces was a huge success. Along with that the separation of judiciary and



PHOTO: ISHTIAQUE BIN KASHEM

Ekushey book fair

As usual, the Ekushey book fair--an event that has become part of our city life-- is being held on the Bangla academy premises. This fair --an occasion when the readers can meet their favourite authors-- promotes the habit of reading. Reading books is a practice through which we understand what it means being a human being. As the afternoon sun turns a

bit mellow, people start to throng the place, ignoring the dust. As they enter the ground, they can move around, browsing books placed in different stalls, set up by publishers. Readers of different age and taste frequent the fair. They can listen to the speeches of the intellectuals who offer their deliberations on a wide array of topics, related to Bangla language and literature.

It is unfortunate that the city-dwellers of the other major cities do not get the opportunity to visit a book fair which is comparable to the one organised by Bangla Academy in Dhaka. We hope the authorities concerned will take the initiative to organise similar type of fairs in other districts also.
Zabed Wali
Pahartali, Chittagong

administration, a competent team of anti corruption department and an independent banking sector set the check and balance of money and politics. The new head is not a trained politician; he is a banker, economist, poverty alleviator and socially responsible businessman. He is in the frontline among the advocates to bring capitalism to its maturity by morphing it to the socially responsible corporations. The business and trade community formed a coalition to bring him to this responsibility. For the first time in Bangladesh history, people found a role model. Parents found an example to show their children to aim for. A person who live by example. Business and trade community saw an opportunity to take their business to the next big leap. They saw the

opportunity that opens through the personal friendship between Yunus and Hilary, the leader of the poorest and the leader of the richest, the executive of the smallest economy and the executive of the biggest economy, the problem solver of the poorest of the Arkansas under her husband's governorship and the problem solver of the poorest country, partnering with her country while she is the president. They are in a mission to develop a formula. As part of my daily routine, I

Why the negative approach?

Obviously, many a sleeping citizen is jolted into realisation how they have been taken for a ride to extreme hardship while a few benefited in the name of leadership and politics.

The parties can immediately avail this great opportunity to clean their own systems and reconstitute and regain the lost grounds. And of course learn from past misconception. If the leaders may recall history of all political turmoil in the world, they may notice that there had always been only two directions to obtaining power or leadership. One of them is terrorising the subjects and the other is working for the nation. Now why our politicians always opted for the former is anybody's guess. Of course, the positive approach should pour out from patriotism and

the heart.
Sazzad Hossain, *Gulshan 2, Dhaka*

'Shath manusher Khojey'

Your front page news item [Feb 9] makes interesting reading when reflecting on scarcity of honest persons in this land of over 14 crore people! While the CTG is chasing the corrupt ministers and other bigwigs, we have an AP news item on the integrity of Osman Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi taxi driver in New York. This reinforces my belief that it is the educated, competent and capable who are the root of corruption in Bangladesh; barring a few honourable exceptions! We need more Osman Chowdhurys in Bangladesh, and we should be proud of him. It is people like him who build up our image, in contrast to our politicians who, when in power, preach a lot about upholding our image!

My question to them: Ladies and gentlemen, is this the way you have built up our image; when foreign ambassadors diplomatically say that all was not well? In proof thereof today our leaders are in hajat mostly on grounds of corruption and misuse of power.
S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

8X8