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# Monument of corruption?



COURTESY: TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

Fakhrudin Ahmed took over things are going ahead very well. Many people believe it to be a real divine blessing. The government of Dr. Fakhrudin Ahmed has rightly identified elimination or control of corruption as the number one target. If this monster can be tamed then the government will easily succeed in bringing the desired changes in other areas.

There is no doubt that corruption has engulfed the whole nation. A section of politicians, government officials and business bodies are earning money illegally at the cost of the people. If it is a fact that a state minister owns 132 flats in the capital then one can easily guess how gigantic is the size of corruption. The present caretaker or interim government through the Anti Corruption Commission has already identified the leading corrupt persons. General people can expect that the government shall forfeit / realize the ill-gotten wealth & properties from these corrupt persons / bodies because that wealth & properties really belonged to the

people. If particular victims are identified, as happened in a case in Narayanganj, where the army-led joint forces arrested a ward commissioner & forced him to pay Tk 6 lakh to a widow as compensation for grabbing her three-storied house in the town, then the victims would get compensation, otherwise the forfeited wealth & property will go to state fund / exchequer. With the money realized from the vast volume of corruption the government can think of implementing some big projects for the benefit of the people like construction of Padma bridge, power plants, gas pipe lines network etc. which may even remain as "Monuments" to remind the people as well as the corrupt ones that there is always a limit to everything and no one should dare to exceed the limits. Although I am feeling uneasy in using this particular dignified word to express what I mean, I would be happy if someone can offer some appropriate term.

Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque  
Khalishpur, Khulna

I do not know whether it is right to use this term "monument of corruption" in its usual sense or meaning. As a nation we are at the top of the corruption list at global level and for about a decade we are holding that

position. Existing political and governance system and structure have failed to do anything about it. Rather things were going from bad to worse. Since the caretaker government headed by Dr.

## Hasina's reference to Dr. Yunus

Sheikh Hasina's oblique reference to Dr. Yunus in a recent meeting with cultural activists is condemnable. Is Dr. Yunus' announcement of joining politics a bolt from the blue to them who,

using the name of their father and husband, started politics and are surrounded by a bunch of corrupt persons, hooligans, terrorists and money launderers? All along, the two leaders of the two big parties have patronised hoodlums, terrorists and corrupt people in their parties. They have misera-

bly failed in their leadership. The people of Bangladesh have already experienced the quality of their leadership. Due to their misdeeds, the country has plunged into the current situation. We are fortunate that Dr. Yunus has come forward to salvage the sinking ship. There is no denying that our

politicians have contributed a great deal to the liberation of our country, but the country has not been leased to them forever so that no one will be allowed to form a new party with a new vision. Obviously, there are lots of reasons for their nervousness as these parties will not be able to

use the politics as a money-making business any more.

I hope Dr. Yunus will be able to show a new path of progress and prosperity for Bangladesh and kindle a sense of hope among the young generations.

Kamal Tauseef

Canada

## This government should stay

After a long time, it seems there is a proper government in our country. We are very pleased with the present government and their activities. Political parties are passing different comments against this government and demanding polls as soon as possible but people of Bangladesh do not think about polls now. We don't want to go back to Khaleda or Hasina's tenure again. We need good people in politics. Otherwise, things won't change.

So this government should stay until reforms in politics are carried out.

Only reforms at the EC or ACC are not enough.

Reaz Fahme  
Uttara

## A pertinent question

Could someone enlighten me as to the reason we call Ekushey February by the name of a month in the English calendar, rather than the date in the Bangla calendar? It seems ironical in the extreme.

Mir Abdur Rashid Mostafa  
New South Wales  
Australia

## The army and ID cards

It is good news that our army is confident of preparing voters' identity card, electoral roll or national identity card for all citizens of Bangladesh within a few months with a reasonable budget that they proposed to the government on February 17, 2007.

I think our dynamic caretaker government will consider it in a positive manner.

Saif Tinku, *On e-mail*

# Some suggestions for Dr. Yunus

The day has now come in Bangladesh. We must be ready to take the opportunity to work with you for a new essential course, that you are so capable of providing to the nation.

However, I have the following suggestions:

a) Your party will have the main job of fighting corruption and bring PEACE to the people of Bangladesh. So, you will never run short of goals!

b) Please do not remain in power for more than one term (if your party wins the next election).

c) While in power, please find and create leaders to succeed you, and I am sure, with some effort you will find able people.

d) Please do not include your close relatives in the government. Your relatives can continue to do their current good work.

e) Please let the heart of Bangladesh, the rural people, develop through ICT in health, education, food production and business. Only then we will be able to reach the MDGs. Wish you all success!

Dr. Mannan Mridha  
(M.Sc.Eng., M.Ed., Ph.D.)  
Professor of Biomedical Engineering,  
The Royal Institute of Technology  
Stockholm, Sweden

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Let us not talk any more but do something. For long 36 years we had been silent watchers while our country was literally going down the drain. The honest people were simply doing their duties but were "afraid" to



do something to change the situation.

Many of us took shelter in the "comfort" of foreign countries. Some of us wanted to return and actually went back but could not stay long being harassed at every stage of life for "bribe".

Now that a brave man is daring, please, let us not just talk and criticise but join him to get our country out of this mess.

Let us not use the conventional and cheap word of "politics". Professor Yunus is not "entering into politics" or "forming another party". He is simply trying to "liberate" our country from the tyranny of 36 years.

Let other "liberators" join him in his noble venture.

N.G. Chaudhury  
On e-mail