



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.

Separation of Judiciary



Talking only!

The mobile phone revolution has transformed our nation to a talking one. Nowadays people of all ages, classes and professions are seen with mobile phones on their hands and always busy in conversation. All the mobile phone companies are reducing the call rates gradually, knowing it very well that their revenue will increase as the people increase their talk time proportionate to the rate reduced. Mobile phone companies are making skyrocketing profit that is evident from their growth rate and regular advertisements in the media including primetime telecasting.

We are only talking and find no time to take a pause to think what we are losing. Of course mobile phone technology has brought unthinkable features and immense benefits in the communication arena but we should be careful in using it. The government should go for imposition of increased tax on these companies and allow only limited repatriation of the profit earned. We are to find out the ways to restrict the use of mobile phones by adolescents and unemployed section of the society in order to curb unproductive spending.

I also wonder when I see a group of young people (mostly school or college students) concentrating on mobile screens for hours together. I find it really hard to believe what I read in one newspaper that some satellite programmes of indecent films can be enjoyed through mobile phone displays which some students even watch while in classes seating on back benches! Mobile companies through innovative advertisements are encouraging the young section of our population to take advantage of reduced call tariff and keep on talking to their friends day and night & wasting time and energy.

It is high time for all of us to evaluate what we are getting & losing and go for action before it is too late.

Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur, Khulna

Luxury cars

I totally agree with the suggestion made by the Army chief Gen. Moeen to sell off all the luxury cars that are being imported by the MPs

under their duty free quota. In this process, the MPs are also misusing the hard-earned foreign currency. It is also important to mention that Bangladesh is in no position to make cars duty free for anybody, whoever they may be. The suggestions of the General to build a hospital for the poor with the auction money of these cars is very sensible.

I would like to advise the present caretaker government to promulgate a law and discontinue the special offer to the MPs.

A privileged class shouldn't get away with all the privileges at the cost of the public exchequer.

Humayun Hyder
Zigatola, Dhaka

Victory of Bangladesh

This is the greatest victory for Bangladesh surpassing the triumph against Australia in Cardiff. The win against South Africa will be treated as a landmark in the cricketing history of Bangladesh. The win will definitely help silence the critics. Thanks to the young guns of Bangladesh that they achieved such a great victory.

This success proves that Bangladesh are going in the right direction with a well-established infrastructure.

Zahedul Amin
Mailbagh, Dhaka

The match between Bangladesh and South Africa, billed as a contest between the Davids and the Goliaths, turned out to be an encounter that will remain fresh in the minds of the cricket lovers of this land.

Following two defeats in the hands of the Australians and the Kiwis, the Tigers bounced back with a bang. Thanks to the tremendous batting display of the players, especially Ashraful, the Tigers managed to post a healthy total of 251. The knock of that diminutive batsman was a unique blend of aggression and caution. After playing the role of the sheet-anchor for the most part of his stay at the crease, he came into his own in the later part of the Bangladesh innings. The way he belted the fast bowlers into different corners of the field was masterful.

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Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur, Khulna

National ID

Some of his shots were innovative in every sense of the word. It was unfortunate that he missed a well-established century.

The rest of the job was done by the seam bowlers and the spinners who bowled with accuracy and guile. Hats off to the marauding Tigers.

Zabed Wali
Pahartali, Chittagong

Crusade against corruption

It is so nice to hear and see that this nation is undergoing a big surgical procedure for curing its manifold ailments like corruption and misrule. It may be worth mentioning that about a quarter century back when a Singaporean was asked to do something wrong he would reply that he was scared of the big hands of law and he could not do that. But now when you ask for the same, they will answer that they are not supposed to do that. We hope and pray the same for our country—a nation that will be free of corruption and evil.

With all the best wishes for the ongoing reforms in all sectors of our society.

Dr. Asif Moazzam
Elephant Road, Dhaka

Dr. Yunus and the future of Bangladesh

I passionately congratulate Abdullah Momen on presenting an excellent case for supporting Dr. Yunus politically (The Daily Star 30/3/07). I have put his article on my wall as a reminder of the abundance of logic available for use by supporters of Dr. Yunus. I normally rely on more emotive ammunition. I look forward to when the political arena is finally open. We will have a quality of argument never seen before in Bangladeshi politics.

We notice how those who argue against Dr. Yunus never say that their own party is any better. Thank you Mr. Momen. Let the game begin!

Ezajur Rahman
Kuwait

National ID

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Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur, Khulna

National ID

It's a matter of regret that all the newspapers including yours are discussing about separation of the Judiciary from the Executive without attaching due importance to the problems associated with such separation. It seems to me that you think that the separation of the Judiciary is the panacea for all ills of society. I strongly oppose your stand on this matter. I was a member of the BCS (admin) service and I'm now working in a multinational company. I had been a magistrate for 5 years and worked under the district magistrate and deputy commissioner. My observations are as follows—

They consider the magistrates as strangers in the Judiciary. On the other hand, officers of the administration cadre consider themselves superior as they represent the government at the field level. It is also seen that usually the local lawyers and advocates have more access to the judges than the magistrates. So they are always on better terms with the judges than magistrates. Again, it is a matter of holding the law degree and the lawyers consider magistrates as the inefficient judicial officers. So it may not be possible for the magistrates to work smoothly when placed under the judiciary.

Considering our present socio-economic and political situation, it is not high time for such separation. Let our present caretaker government organise a free and fair election so that the competent people can fill the seats of parliament and then let the political government go for required reformation, revision and correction on the issue of separation of Judiciary.

Mahzebin Ahmed

On e-mail

Can't we share the Pakistani experience of how they implemented the national ID card project? If we can find out and use some of their experience it may help our Army to have an idea of where to start and where to end (voter ID)!

That of course does not mean it should go without proper open tender and wider participation of companies for a better deal. Our Army has got a countrywide network but having good expertise of this project is a different ball game. The Army can give infrastructural support, but knowledge & expertise we have to hire from a credible and proven source who has done similar projects.

Be careful of the self-declared IT experts, lurking behind the door to make some money out of it!

Razzaque
UK

Priorities of the caretaker government

Of course the "popular" elected regimes won't admit to indirect sabotage through bad governance, but these are facts, as revealed by the bull-dozing actions of the non-political interim govt.

No law & order (implementation), no disciplinary actions; nepotism, bribery in every sector of life. The Pandora's evil box has been opened, and bad "politics" will have to commit suicide.

There must be a place for the new political regime to come into existence. We are going to see a cascading effect (of black money & corruption).

This interim government will take some time. The priority is not election, but clean-up. Looks like the violent phase is round the corner.

Acitizen

Dhaka

Give due respect

Thank you very much for the comment "Give due respect to our leaders and let the nation move on." It's timely and appropriate. I fully agree with your opinion. But I am not comfortable with the statements made by the Bangladesh Army Generals, both active and retired.

They are not political leaders.

Selling and buying dollar

And now that, at long last, the Central Bank has intervened and instructed the scheduled banks that the difference between the selling and buying rates of the US dollar should be lower than Tk.1.00, a foreign bank, as published daily in the business page of The Daily Star, has started to maintain their "BC Sell" rate exactly Tk.1.00 higher than their "TT Buy" rate!

The business community had taken up this issue strongly saying such differential is the highest in this country compared to others in the region of South Asia.

CNR
Chittagong

Being human

The reward of being human out of 10-million or so species outweighs even the Noble Prize. And someone (!) out there is trying to help us realise the potential of being human, and get a taste of true freedom. This could even enlighten the rest of the world. After all, the Creator we believe would not make justice if He did not provide a level playing field for all humans.

We have a choice to make—accept the reward or reject it.

KR Rabbani
Toronto, Canada

History of Bangladesh

Our children born after independence are deprived of knowing the correct history of Bangladesh. It is unfortunate that misleading history was written by the two major rival political parties and the children of this age are completely confused. Since the majority people accepted the present "caretaker government" as a trustworthy, bold, honest and neutral government, they should take an immediate initiative to write a correct impartial history of Bangladesh.

I highly appreciate the visit of the CA to Bangabandhu's mazar and also his intention to visit valiant freedom fighter and late president Ziaur Rahman's mazar. He has correctly placed the horse before the cart and not vice versa.

I again urge the present CTG to write the correct history of Bangladesh.

Eng. Mahbub
Australia

Fare hike of CNG autorickshaws

I refer to the news item on the above issue appearing in your newspaper. I expect some comments from you on this matter considering the following points:

a) The existing fare was fixed considering petrol as the fuel which was never reduced, though promised, on account of converting to CNG and the price of CNG has not been raised.

b) The owners are allegedly collecting a daily deposit of Tk. 500 or more already.

c) Over-reading of the 3-wheeler meters by 10 to 20%.

Hasibur Rahman

Gulshan, Dhaka

Bangladesh cricket matures

The convincing win over South Africa heralds the maturity of Bangladeshi cricket. The team deserves our unqualified congratulations for their professional performance. One more victory will fill our cup of joy. Hopefully, we have stepped into the list of teams which

on their day can take on any team in

the world of cricket. We are rightfully proud of the Tigers!

A little more discipline in batting and going for the basics in running are the areas to improve. A little more tenacity and stamina, then we will be a cricketing force to reckon with. The tour of Indian cricket team next month will be crucial for our reputation. After their disaster in the World Cup; which was our doing; they are out for blood and revenge both in the ODIs and the Tests! Pre-warrior is pre-armed; and we must be on our toes to keep the Indians at bay. A Test victory against India, if not a certainty, should be a probability; and our team should be focused on a good show when we host them.

Secondly, in one part of the editorial it has been mentioned "But democracy is a time-tested system." while referring to the general's thoughts on homegrown democracy. The statement tends to indicate, among other things: democracy cannot be validated through



Plight of Palestine

Under the auspices of Saudi King Abdullah, The Hamas govt and the Fatah Party head have agreed to forge a coalition government.

Under the Mecca declaration, Both the Hamas and Fatah reached agreement that they would form an alliance government within the next few days.

Hamas has been facing serious impediment from the very beginning since they defeated Fatah in a landslide victory last year.

Not only those Western countries earlier blacklisted Hamas as a terrorist organisation, they also curtailed all sorts of funds that have brought a miserable condition to the impoverished Palestinian.

Though people of Palestinian gave their verdict for Hamas but so called protectors of democracy have ignored the Palestinians' democratic choice considering Israel's interests. Israel and its allies have already hinted that they would not accept the alliance govt.

The key players in the region should go for a more objective assessment of the situation prevailing there.

Md Zonae Emran
Dept. of Political Science
Dhaka University

S.A. Mansoor

Gulshan, Dhaka

Upset?

I would like to draw your attention to the headline "Tigers Roar Again/ Ashraful hits strokeful 87 to cause the biggest World Cup upset against Proteus".

I don't understand why you describe our win against South Africa as "the biggest World Cup upset against Proteus". How can you term it an upset?

Shadman Sharif

Toronto, Canada

Think about Chappell

I think this is time for Whatmore to quit, we thank him for his effort to build up Bangladesh cricket to the current stage. Now it is time to go for someone else. The best choice is Greg Chappell. India couldn't use him as they have many so-called superstars. But we have many young players who can become super players with proper training.

Chappell is an academic coach who is required for a team like ours. We can also use Chappell to train our local coaches. Chappell can help develop our local cricket structure. I mean Chappell can be an extremely useful man for us.

He is a very high-profile coach, so he would be costly but if BCB has correct plans to take out the maximum service from him, there will be many things for Bangladesh to get. Reza Zaidi

Kakrail, Dhaka

Editorial on General's views

Here, I am referring to today's (5 April 2007) first editorial of DS. It was written in light of Lt. Gen. Moeen U Ahmed's views on democracy. The chief expressed those views at a regional conference of International Political Science Association. Based on my initial review of the editorial, I have, at this point in time, at least two comments to make on the piece.

Firstly, the factors such as: Gen. Ahmed is, among other things, a citizen of Bangladesh; and the opportunity afforded to him by the conference organiser as a keynote speaker in the conference apparently qualified him at least to share, with conference participants and others, his views on democracy, among other things - as did The Daily Star when it comes to sharing the paper's view on his speech (as appropriate) with the readers through the editorial mentioned.

Taking into cognizance the above - does it imply, the General by doing that "may have gone far beyond the purview of a serving CAS ..." as the editorial indicated?

Secondly, in one part of the editorial it has been mentioned "But

