

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.



Saarc rekindled

Saarc is the regional body of 1.4 billion people. For more than a decade, it was known as the 'community of poor'.

Over the years, it has gained popularity in other regions of the world as an important means for promoting cooperation and development for mutual benefits of South Asian and other states. The inclusion of Afghanistan

into the regional body as the 8th member and the observer status given to China, Japan, South Korea, the USA and the EU clearly indicate the growing importance of this regional organisation as a vehicle for strengthening and widening cooperation among the countries. Security and development are the two crying needs of the hour. And it is

economic issues which have become more closely intertwined with security issues.

It is imperative for Saarc to play its due role in changing the lot of the millions.

Dr. Nasima Zaman
Associate Professor
Dept. of Political Science
University of Rajshahi

of them also worked as the godfathers behind religious militancy. The party desperately tried to retain power by holding an unfair election.

I believe many will join me in my appeal to our present law adviser and the law enforcers to set an independent body to inquire if what the BNP has done to the country warrants a ban on it for a certain period of time.

Dr. Mannan Mridha
Stockholm, Sweden

I fully appreciate LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser's decision not to allow any new construction on Begunbari canal and convert the 265 acre canal into a lake.

S D Alam
Motijheel Commercial Area
Dhaka

Where is JMB godfather?

Six top militants of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were executed for killing two Judges. The family members of the judges and people in general were happy. But people don't yet know who patronise the JMB and where is their godfather.

The law enforcers must delve deep into the matter and find out which political parties or individuals supported these killers.

Md. Mahabubur Rahman
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

BNP's misrule

Banning a political party is an extreme measure in a democratic system. But has not been an uncommon practice in many democracies in recent years: political parties have recently been the object of legal and judicial bans in Israel, Turkey, India, and other non-Western democracies. In Western Europe, in some countries the government can ban a party based on the law or the constitution.

In majority of Western European democracies, instead, a party can only be banned by a judicial decision: the government can only go to the court through the public prosecution service, and the court will then rule on the matter.

During the last five years a large number of BNP lawmakers, ministers, the close relatives and advisers of the PM were involved in corruption on a huge scale. Many

I am not a politician, nor a political guru, but my gut feeling is that without a dream people will not be able to create alternatives to the big two political parties.

Syed Tanvir Husain
Texas, US

"No" to elective democracy

The army chief has made an excellent point to say NO to elective democracy. We have experienced democracy in the past 36 years and we do not want to go on experimenting with and experiencing it for centuries. We need to say YES to Selective Democracy. We need to define the democracy we need, and not follow the West blindly.

As proposed, the armed forces

should certainly be part of the National Security Council and I also suggest that the army and Rab take on the role of people's Ombudsmen so that the people can complain to them to control corruption and injustice.

I had proposed in an earlier letter that we should have a selected civil government as in the example of the CTG (caretaker govt), backed by our armed forces for the next 30 years.

No politics please. Please do not do politics with our future, or promote politics to ruin our nation again.

Qamruddin Chowdhury

On e-mail

Letter in response...

A letter entitled 'Power Shortage' by Siraj Haque, Houston, Texas, USA was published on 26 March, 2007.

It deserves praise. The writer suggested that the conventional light bulbs be replaced with CFB. He pointed out the costs of such replacement, as well as the ultimate effects of such replacement. He showed the calculation that a conventional bulb costs 75 watts, whereas CFB costs only 20 watts to produce the same light & lasts longer than a conventional bulb.

So, we can see that CFB is capable of saving 55 watts to produce light. The writer also showed the net result of such replacement—having an extra 110 MW to the national grid. And this will be helpful to reduce the power bill to the customers. Considering the above facts, the energy ministry and other semi-governmental & private concerns should take necessary steps to implement the plan.

Shahreen Sonia

Dept. of Accounting & Information Systems
Dhaka University

A good initiative

We welcome the present government's initiative to ban politics of students and teachers on the campus.

Undoubtedly, student politics is one of the most disquieting issues, as it has been obstructing education.

Md Golam Mostafa
Bangabandhu Hall
Jahangirnagar University

Good decision

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and other semi-governmental & private concerns should take necessary steps to implement the plan.

Peter Murphy

Dharmundi, Dhaka

that 90% of the working-class people use every day to commute to work. Now the commuters have to face difficulty in going to work since most of the ticket sellers have no specific place to sit to sell the buses, some of the buses the commuters use are off the road.

In conclusion, I would like to request the authorities to review the situation and construct bus stands in specified areas where the ticket sellers can sell bus tickets, thereby relieving the commuters from this harassment.

Peter Murphy

Dharmundi, Dhaka

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