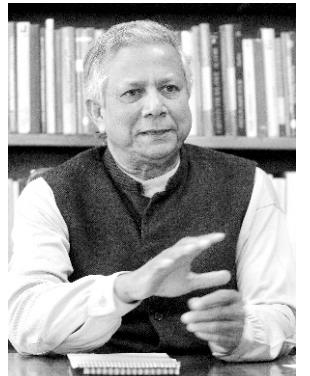


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Campus politics



Dr. Yunus' decision



Nobel winner and Grameen Bank founder Dr. Yunus has declared that he would discontinue his plan of forming a political party. It is a very good decision for him as well as his identity, because it is possible for him to help the country develop without becoming a politician.

He can help the country in several ways. Thank you, Dr. Yunus for your decision.

S.M. Imranul Islam Rajon
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Crossfire and some questions

In the last few years we have got lots of criminals killed in 'crossfire' by Rab, police etc. Who are they? Say Mominullah David, Pichchi Hannan and so on? What have they done? How much money (black) they had? They had patrons? Their patrons are now in jail.

Many "patron" godfathers are now rusting in different jails. These people are no doubt the worst criminals.

M Sharif Alam
Rehd govt. officer

Sangshad Bhaban area

This is to bring to your notice that on May Day we went to Sangsad Bhaban area with our small kid. But we could not enter the open field due to security reasons. Lots of people were present there as there are very few empty spaces in Dhaka city.

We do not find any reason behind blocking people from entering the free space, especially when there is no programme in Sangsad Bhaban.

Shahid Iqbal
Banker

We feel ashamed to see the political leaders being unable to accept one newcomer in politics. And we, the people, can't accept a man who wants to enter the arena of politics with a mission.

Nobel Laureate Dr. Yunus is no longer coming forward with his vision to lead the country towards its goal. And it is the politicians from other parties who have always been critical of his coming to politics.

But why?

Emran Chowdhury
Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Khaleda welcomes Hasina

The BNP chairperson, Khaleda Zia, on Monday welcomed her arch rival Awami League president Sheikh Hasina on the latter's return home. This thing is new for the countrymen. This may pave the way to friendly rivalry rather than a bitter one.

It is hoped that Sheikh Hasina will also demonstrate similar attitude which is ultimately beneficial for politics and politicians.

Saiful Karim

One-mail

The subcontinent

India's claim for credit for the creation of Bangladesh can neither be questioned, nor doubted. Although the division of Pakistan into two parts was unbearable for Pakistani leadership initially, Islamabad did come to live with the reality of Bangladesh existing as a sovereign nation. The fact that as a smaller country it could concentrate on its economic and other issues better was realised in due course in Pakistan and Islamabad began to worry less about loss of East Pakistan and focused on its developmental activities. India over the years has made Bangladesh an opponent as much as Pakistan is treated as an enemy.

Bangladesh became a sovereign state during the Congress regime in India. As India claims credit for the birth of Bangladesh now, it opens up a few issues regarding its responsibilities and its attitude to the concept of independence. As the chief architect of the creation of Bangladesh, India also has to shoulder the chief responsibility to assist it to become a strong nation as well by enhancing its economic and security environment. The world perhaps expected that India would even share its scientific facilities with Bangladesh.

The law in Bangladesh forbids public smoking which has not been followed properly by the unscrupulous smokers since the enactments of the law. They smoke even in the bus which causes great trouble for the non-smokers. Sometimes serious patients travel in the bus and they feel sick due to the smell of cigarettes.

Anyone caught smoking in public places is liable to be fined Tk. 50 as per the law, which, I think, is not enough. It is needed that the government gets much tougher on the smokers as well as the tobacco industry.

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam
Lecturer, Department of English
Metropolitan University, Sylhet

Medical practitioners' fees

I have read with interest the recent remarks of the Hon. Adviser for

Dr. Abdul Ruff Colachal

JNU, New Delhi

Thank you, Dr. Yunus

Like everyday I was looking at The Daily Star website from my home when one of the headlines caught my attention. A seminar was held in Dhaka where some academics got together and expressed their views whether politics should still be allowed in the public universities.

Personally, I am always against political involvement of the teachers and students in the public universities. Previously, when I was studying at Dhaka University, I always argued with fellow students on this issue and on many occasions students did favour student politics in the universities, though they themselves were not involved because it would harm their study and exam results. They always asked me to look back at the historical journey of student politics in Bangladesh starting from the Language Movement.

So, I was not surprised to see a couple of speakers in that seminar

still expressing their 'different views'.

My first question is, did the role of DU students in 1952 have anything to do with national politics? I would say, the term student politics was coined only after the liberation war when a couple of political parties formed their students wings.

My second question is, have the universities or the general students or the academically dedicated teachers gained anything from teacher or student politics? Yes, some teachers have gained promotions and also positions like the VC, Pro-VC, positions in the Senate and Syndicate, teachers' association, hall provosts etc only to help themselves, not to help the students or the universities. And the students, I mean, the few student leaders, have always gained some good pocket money from the parties to live on and spend on drugs, alcohol etc and of course

training on how to use arms and muscle. Yes, a very few of them ended up being parliament members!

My third question is, what have these students lost doing politics in the universities? The list won't end here. One of my uncles, who stood 1st in his first and second year honours final at the Jahangirnagar University years back, got third class in his university final year exam and had to retake the exam only to get a second class as he became a popular student leader of one of the two major political parties!!

Now it is appropriate time for the lawmakers to look at this issue and take necessary steps so that the universities don't get bogged down by student politics.

Tariq Sadat Hai
Postgraduate Student, RMIT University
Melbourne, Australia

Ban on indoor politics

As before, I come to you on another very important and sensitive subject. The existing ban on indoor politics should be lifted without further delay because:

In our wildest dream we do not want to see obliteration or weakening of our traditional political forces, who are in favour of democracy and freedom. God forbid, because of this strict ban, if these forces are obliterated, then extreme forces of the right and left will fill the vacuum!! Saddam Hussain destroyed the traditional political forces with his Baath party, and when he and his party were destroyed by foreign intervention, today opposing extremist forces are dominating the country and the bloodbath continues. Now attempts to bring back peace through democracy is failing in that country. The ramshackle government there is offering to talk to those extremist factions. World History is testimony to many such courses in the life of nations. Germany and Italy in WW2 years, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Palestine, and many other countries are the examples of such fate in the present day world.

The reason is simple everywhere, "suppression of constitutional democratic processes"

We never want to see such a scenario in our country when authorities "will be talking" to JMB and PBCP!!

You have been rendering service to the nation with your editorials and commentaries, please concentrate on this issue. Struggle against corruption and social disorder is a continuous process that has to continue at all costs at all times!!

The responsibility is on the press to make the powers those be see light and to make them understand the short and long term probable consequences.

I am a Physician of Bangladeshi origin, I had the opportunity to participate in various struggles and the war of liberation in my time as a medical student in Dhaka in those turbulent days.

Though, I have spent much of my working life abroad, yet welfare of my motherland is a matter of great importance to me.

Dr. M. Hussain

One-mail

are blackmailed into it as the politicians threaten to make their lives difficult. They will avoid selling to government people at all costs, but sometimes they are cornered and have no choice. Most of the Rehab customers are shop owners, garments people, Bangladeshi living abroad, business people. The reason why sales have gone down is because these sectors are holding on to their money and fear the taxmen, they don't want the government delving into their affairs too much and creating problems for them, physical assets such as apartments are very easy to find and cannot be hidden. If this sector suffers, thousands of people (bricklayers, painters, steel workers etc.) will be unemployed and it will affect the GDP and the economy.

The point of the recent press conference was to highlight that the government is scaring the general public away from making purchases in real estate and other sectors and it may cost them in terms of employment. Why would the politicians live in an apartment anyway, when so many have grabbed land and had benefited from illegal plot allocations?

Shabbir Choudhury

UK

Opinion

We are impressed by the opinions expressed by Durreen Shahraz in the Point-Counterpoint page. We wish our political leaders read the points put forward by Shahraz and do their best in the interest of the people & the country. Unfortunately, the majority of our politicians do not read such presentations published in the newspapers.

I wish at least this write up could be sent to the political party offices for the attention of the party chief.

Fareed Islam

Toronto, Canada

Letter to chief adviser

Congratulations for your tremendous effort in the fight against corruption. Hope you will continue your fight until it is finished. It is your responsibility and a chance that must be taken.

I know you are facing many challenges, but challenges are not unexpected. Challenges are always good.

Dr. Khandker Ahmedul Haque

Trinidad & Tobago

GrameenPhone vehicles

Our attention was drawn to a letter in which a reader from Gulshan wrote about the inconvenience caused by GrameenPhone employee transport buses parked on the streets of the residential area.

We understand that a very legitimate concern has been expressed in the letter. We also received similar complaints previously. The reader will be happy to know that the buses concerned, used to transport our employees to and from work, have all been moved from the Gulshan streets to a special parking facility in Bashundhara, on land specifically acquired for this purpose.

In fact, the buses in question are being parked at Bashundhara since February 2007 and so will not cause any inconvenience to the residents of the Gulshan area.

Sayed Talat Kamal

Deputy General Manager Information GrameenPhone



Summer cricket

As cricket fans we warmly welcome the Indian cricket team. We wish them a pleasant tour, and an enjoyable stay in Bangladesh.

Summer cricket is far more taxing and a genuine endurance test for the cricketers, particularly if the players have to field a long innings. This is what worries me about the Bangladesh team, their physical

and mental fitness to withstand a long leather chase in this hot weather. Apart from technique and skill, a lot will depend on stamina; more so as the Indian team will definitely seek revenge for their World Cup defeat. After all, they have a point to prove!

Regarding Bashir, the captain, I have serious doubts, given his amateurish perfor-

mance in the World Cup. His selection seems more subjective rather than based on performance and ability. I am sure this is his last chance. Should he fail this time round, he should retire, for he has then no place in the team. Frankly speaking, the captain is on trial - as a batsman and fielder as well as captain. Let's forget a lot depends on

him. One wonders if the task is within his capabilities today!

Nevertheless, best of luck to our home team. We hope and pray they will put up a good fight. A Test win? Who knows, after all cricket is a game of luck and chance!

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka