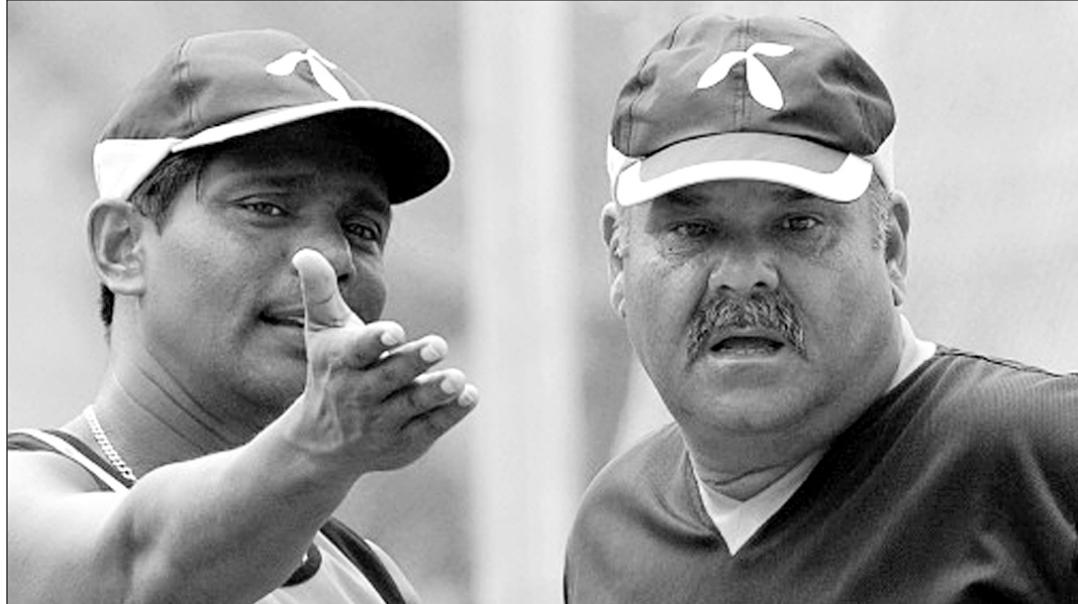


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



Next cricket coach

After two magnificent victories in the World Cup, we are looking for a new coach for our cricket team. At the moment, some names are being heard. All of them are quite high-profile coaches.

The success of a cricket match comes from the efforts made by the whole team. This is why, the

responsibility of the captain and the coach of the team is great. A good coach is needed not only to teach the game-techniques, but he also has a role in making the team a fighting unit.

Considering the above-mentioned points, it is necessary to select a coach who understands our team per-

fectly. At this moment, the former New Zealand captain John Wright is the most suitable coach due to the following reasons.

Now we need a coach who emphasises batting since our batting line-up is not so strong. We could not yet set good openers for our team. John Wright opened for New

Zealand, and was known as a tenacious, rather than spectacular, batsman. He was the coach of the Indian team.

He understands subcontinent cricket players that may help to improve our cricketers. Moreover, during the World Cup 2007, Wright commented and assessed our players indi-

vidually, which were proved true.

Considering all these points, we should think about John Wright as our next coach. We have no way to look back.

Dr Kamrul Kibria
Department of Surgery
Mitford Hospital
Dhaka

doing what is expected of it. It's making some determined efforts to root out corruption.

A Citizen
Chittagong

Relations with Afghanistan

Afghanistan has now become a land of business. After the fall of the Taliban regime, Afghanistan opened its door to the international community. We can capitalize on this situation. But regrettably we don't have an embassy there.

Hopefully, our present caretaker government will take some steps to build up a bilateral relation with Afghanistan.

Neyamul Hasan
Kalabagan, Dhaka

Article 63

I would like to draw your attention to the article 63 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It says: "63. War (I) War shall not be declared and the Republic shall not participate in any war except with the assent of Parliament." So what happens when there is no Parliament?

I want a scholarly article on the issue in your newspaper.

Reader
One-mail

Comments

I whole-heartedly agree with Zafar Sobhan's Straight Talk "This isn't 1990" in DS May 11, 2007. Sheikh Hasina has scored 10 out of 10 in her latest stand-off against the overzealous move of the interim government to exile her and equate with her archrival Khaleda Zia. Since Abdul Jalil's April fool, the so-called deadline, in 2004, the AL has largely lost its credibility. That is why it was unable to organise any strong protest after the assassination of SAMS Kibria and the attempt on Hasina's life. It also lost credibility due to calling frequent hartals and the October massacre in Palta.

The AL has regained the credibility with Sheikh Hasina's bold move against the exile plan and her stand against exiling her archrival. However, there is difference between being bold and being foolish. Any stand against any wrong move by the government will be bold and the AL has a good chance to score some points. On the other hand, considering this government as an adversary will be foolish and the AL might lose some credibility. However, joining hands with the BNP will be ill-advised and will lead the party to bankruptcy. This is not 1990; forming alliance with the BNP now will be forming alliance with Ershad.

Before joining the alliance, the AL should think of what the BNP has done to try the killers of Sheikh Mujib, Ahsanullah Master, SAMS Kibria, Ivy Rahman, etc.

Looking ahead, the AL should push for complete reforms in politics.

Zakaria Khondker
Boston, USA

Doctor's insensitivity

I am deeply moved by an incident in a city hospital. I barely could check my tears having read about the brutality of the doctors and staff of that hospital. But it is nothing new, rather it is a perennial problem. Actually we the people have fallen victim to the doctors' insatiable greed. They seem to be immune from law. Even our journalists are afraid to highlight their ghastly practices.

Or else, how doctors could take to the street or go on strike during the emergency? No newspaper has dared to run a story on how doctors have been earning money by keeping us hostage. Doctors are capable of rendering any middle class or lower middle class family destitute.

What is saddening is that, not a single doctor's name has featured in the list of the top corrupt persons of the present anti-corruption drive. But any investigative journalism could easily unearth bone chilling stories of how the patients

Hope fading away

The unfortunate people of this nation saw a ray of light when the CTG of Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed took over state power on 11 January 2007. People overwhelmingly welcomed the change and thought it to be a divine blessing. At the beginning, this new CTG took some steps with unprecedented firmness. Things were moving fast in the right direction and general people were thinking that something really would take place this time around. But in only about 120 days' time people now see that the light at the end of the tunnel is fading away and they will probably be in the same darkness as before.

The current situation has been explained in a post-editorial titled "Risk Assessment" by Mr. Zafar Sobhan. He has very rightly pointed out a few important aspects of the present CTG that majority people are really pondering. We can have a quick look at the government's progress report.

Its firm oath to eradicate corruption has been given a question mark by the rumour that the government may even let Tarique Rahman to go outside the country on the plea of medical treatment. So far, mainly political big fish have been targeted although everyone knows that the whole government system (bureaucracy, police, customs, tax officials, health & education sectors) is corrupt from top to bottom.

Separation of the judiciary from the executive has not been done although news was ripe that it would be done within weeks.

Virtually all steps/mis-steps surrounding the "minus two" plan gave a very bad impression about government's intention. This has been only successful in garnering further sympathy for the two ladies.

Demolition of illegal structures, slum eviction, removal of hawkers markets etc. have stopped at the half way stage. The CTG has been unable to show any success in bringing down the prices of essential commodities.

The most important and talked about thing is that no one knows who is making what decisions and on what ground and reasoning. The newspapers are reporting that the CTG is army-backed. But the people do not know under what arrangement and agreement the system is working as the situation is opaque because of the prevailing emergency rule.

But there is no doubt that the whole nation is backing this government and is ready to give necessary time to bring effective and sustained changes in all crucial government sectors, especially the EC and ACC, so that these two institutions can successfully present the nation an elected parliament and a government of HONEST people.

Eng. Md. Aminul Hoque
Khalishpur, Khulna

are counting money in the name for pathological or radiological tests, which could have been easily saved had the doctors been little human.

Let me give you one clue, if a diagnostic test costs you say Tk 1,000, the doctor invariably gets between Tk 400 to 600, which is either paid on a daily or a monthly basis. All the diagnostic centres, clinics and hospitals maintain a database or roster to see which doctor has sent how many references and pay them accordingly.

Even peripheral doctors referring from Barisal or Mymensingh are not deprived. So having paid the doctors almost half the charge of a test, the institute is put in a bizarre situation of making a balance between test or no test. If they carry out a proper test that they would barely survive. So there remains every possibility of a fake test, given the present malpractice of the doctors. The end sufferers are the patients. But if strict measures could have been enforced against taking commissions from the diagnostic centres, clinics or hospitals, patients would be able to conduct a proper test at a much cheaper rate.

One last point, why the patients should pay the doctors twice, once for appointment and once for test? Who will answer this question and if not now when?

G.M. Chowdhury
Kafrol, Dhaka

Foreign investment

The present caretaker government is going to deal with some big investments. Investment is good, if both sides get benefit from it. But it is very clearly written in the constitution that the caretaker government has no right to deal or sign any international business agreement with others, except on a

poll-related issue. We are sure Tata investment, gas pipeline, transit issue etc have no relation with free and fair election. But many foreign countries are pressing us for those deals.

It is not good. They should understand that this government cannot undertake such projects. If they could wait for 5 years, then why can't they wait for another 18 months? At present, Bangladesh is passing through a transitional period. They should understand it.

Transit, gas pipeline, Tata investment are big issues for Bangladesh. Our political government will discuss those issues in parliament. Then they will evaluate how much benefit we will get from those deals. It is our misfortune that no political party discussed those issues in parliament in the past. They overlooked those issues for cheap political reasons.

Sumon Dutta
One-mail

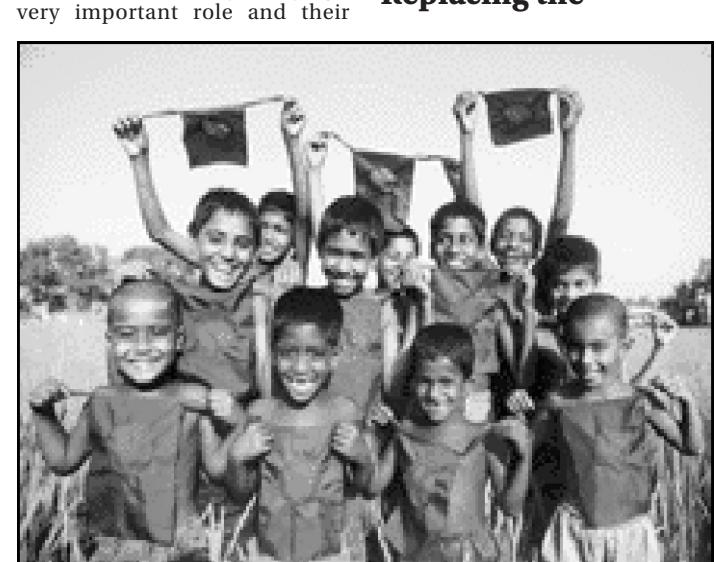
Bashar fails

Habibul Bashar's stubbornness in hanging around the team while making zero contribution is really intolerable. In the last two matches his captaincy and complete lack of ability as a batsman was holding back the rest of the team. The guy is nothing more than a passenger who is hanging around, despite having outlived his usefulness years ago at least in one-day cricket. Bangladesh needs someone who will lead from the front. How about that eternal fighter Rafique, even as a short term solution? It was unbelievable how defensive and negative Bashar was as a captain against this young Indian team.

As for his batting in the last year or so, the less said the better.

Shejuti Khan
Dallas, Texas

CONTESTING FROM MULTIPLE CONSTITUENCIES



Better days ahead?

We, the demoralised Bangladeshis, witnessed three almost miraculous happenings lately:

- Nobel Peace Prize for a Bangladeshi, Professor Yunus.

- Installation of an efficient caretaker government.

- An inspired and spirited Bangladesh team beating India

in World Cup cricket.

After seeing all the bad things that happened in our country due to the mismanagement of our past governments, we believe that our bad days are over and Bangladeshis can now expect the end of this wretched life and drudgery.

N.G. Chaudhury
Luxembourg

Dr. Yunus' decision

This is in reference with the report published in different newspapers that Nobel Prize winner Dr. Yunus announced that he had abandoned his plan to launch a political party.

But I am shocked by the report not based on facts.

Shajahan Ali
A successful candidate

In the ideal practice of most parliamentary democracies, candidates are not permitted to contest from more than one constituency, and are required to be residents of the constituency they are contesting from. But the practice in Bangladesh has been way apart. Candidates can contest from up to five constituencies and every Tom, Dick and Harry can contest from any X, Y or Z constituency. This practice leads to huge loss of national resources as the EC has to arrange many bi-elections and the candidates contesting in bi-elections have to spend the campaign money twice. A struggling country with scarce resources like Bangladesh can not afford this wastage.

Often the impact of this provision can be far reaching. A party may form government after winning a certain number of seats in the parliament, but after completing the bi-elections the table may turn around if the party loses some

seats. Such a situation will lead to chaos due to intimidation and election manipulation, should the winning party find itself at risk of losing power.

The provision to contest from five constituencies was created by the political leaders who wanted to secure their seats in the parliament. We can not allow some politicians who want to be elected by hook or by crook to secure their self-interest at the cost of national interest. If contesting from multiple constituencies is allowed, the MPs should also be allowed to keep those seats if elected since they have been elected by the people who want them to be their representatives.

Professor Dr. NA Kalimullah, Chairman of Janpop, has been advocating the idea that one candidate should be allowed to contest from one seat only, and I totally agree with him. Having to contest from multiple constituencies means that the candidate is not confident enough of his/her popularity. In

that case, should the candidate think of being a national leader and leading the nation? Leadership must start from home.

Contesting from constituencies one doesn't belong to or resides in should also be discouraged. This practice will lead to confining leaderships in the hands of a few people and will not allow new leaders to rise. A parliament member will have a better understanding of the local problems and policy requirements.

Now that the EC has opened discussion with the civil society on proposed election law reforms and is in the process of amending the laws, I hope the above points will be taken into consideration.

Javeed Ahsan
Dhaka