

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.



Valerie's service

The people of Bangladesh are known for their hospitality. Then why this unwanted skirmish with Valerie Taylor who has been serving in

Bangladesh for the last 39 years, of which it took her 27 years to establish a centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP),

mainly accommodating and serving the paralysed (poor) patients of Bangladesh. People from middle class and rich households are also regular visitors to this centre for its quality treatment at an affordable cost. Bengalis have always welcomed guests with open arms, and the culture still flourishes, especially for one who has served our nation without any expectation for herself. We are out to destroy the institution, which helps the poverty stricken people to find some solace without paying beyond their means to get help and treatment. It is time we reflect on it before it's too late like all other issues in the past.

It would be our ardent request to one and all of the CRP trustee board to please protect this institution from being destroyed forever.

A citizen
Dhaka

Corruption and CTG

Although greeted with unbridled cheers (by the nation) when it took over, the CTG has gone seemingly a bit off track in its hunt for the corrupt politicians, businessmen and bureaucrats. My opinion consolidated when I saw a news item where combined armed forces recovered a pair of "tiger skins" and a "bag" from an ex-minister's house. And everybody knows how big a deal it is for an ex-minister to possess those stuffs in the current reality of our society. Recently, I was talking to one of my friends who runs his own architectural consulting firm in Dhaka; according to him, developers and apartment buyers are scared to death to even be seen near any real estate property nowadays. He also said that the whole sector of construction industry has come to a screeching halt due to excessive inquiries by the ACC. We all know that corruption is the biggest menace in our society now, however I believe the CTG has to prioritize and focus more on going after the culprits because time is not unlimited and corruption is rampant in almost all parts of our social fabric. It may remind us of one famous Bengali proverb, "ulu bachtay kombokol ujar", which means if someone tries to pluck out small woolen particles from a blanket -which is made of such millions of particles- he or she may take apart the whole blanket. This analogy can describe the very situation prevailing in our society. Nobody is for corruption and everybody wants to live in a corruption free society, except those who themselves are involved in it. However, that is not a reality but an utopia given the situation prevailing in our society.

If some real big guys can be brought to justice and given exemplary punishment, then the smaller ones can be phased out in



Courtesy: Transparency International Bangladesh

দুর্নীতি ভাই আর কত? বিবেক কর জাগ্রত!

course of time if the on going process continues. One of the biggest challenges for the CTG is to ensure the continuation of the same process of going after corrupt people even after its exit, I mean even during the rule of the next political government. We all know that a major step has already been taken in this regard by making the Anti-

Corruption Commission an independent entity.

My only fear is if the CTG loses its focus and things get out of control, it may create a bigger problem in the near future, because the time is limited.

Rayan Abrar Zafar
California, USA

Cleanliness

Please convey my suggestion to the present government to keep Bangladesh clean. In order to keep any city neat and clean, please ask the shop owners or the house owners to clean up the places in front of shops or houses.

They should also keep the drains clean. It should be compulsory for everybody.

This will make it possible for us to keep the cities and towns clean.

Dr. Md. Haidar Ali

GM, SKFL Factory

Bangladesh: image and rating

Mr. Waheeduazzaman's rating table in his article on the subject published on 28 May was difficult to understand. Apart from Political Freedom and Civil Liberty index, the other indices were not clearly defined in simple understandable terms!

However, in my opinion it appeared that the globalisation index at 58, close to india, turkey and pakistan appeared rather generous! It would have been better if it was more descriptive and easily understandable to the layman!

Perhaps the article was meant for restricted circulation; directed towards academicians only.

If so, its place in a popular daily seemed somewhat questionable! May be I'm wrong; but this is my personal viewpoint; take it or leave it!

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

Bangladesh Biman

There was a news item in the newspapers that the CTG is going to change the name, colour and the logo of Biman, Bangladesh Airlines.

My request to the government - please do not change the name, colour and the logo.

The name was given by the father of the nation, of which I'm a witness, as the first Flight Operations Manager (FOM) of our airline.

Mazhar-ul Haq
Gulshan, Dhaka

Massive drive

We are very glad to observe that the caretaker government is sparing nobody in the massive drive against corruption and misdeeds. It is essential to punish the guilty so that fear will be instilled in peoples'

minds and in the future no one will dare commit such crimes.

We hope the drive will continue until all the corrupt people are brought to book.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Power failures

It is worrisome that this year we are experiencing a very hot weather. The heat wave has been worsening and this is definitely hampering the everyday life of the people. Hospitals are crammed with patients of diarrhoea and other diseases related to extreme heat. This extreme heat is not actually the only problem: the worst problem is load-shedding. The government, for no particular reason, decided to close all the shops and market-places by 7:00pm in order to reduce load-shedding. But recently the power failure has increased so much that it is becoming almost unbearable. The question is, are these "men at the helm" sharing the same fate at their homes and workplaces like other ordinary citizens?

The government should not only focus on capturing corrupt politicians and businessmen but should also focus on other crucially impor-

tant issues, like supply of electricity.

Minhaj Ahmed
Uttara, Dhaka

New PSC chairman

The nation has breathed a sigh of relief with the appointment of Dr. Saadat Hussain, the former cabinet secretary and renowned civil servant as the chairman of PSC. Mr. Hussain has taken charge of the PSC at a moment when the situation is quite different compared to the past.

The PSC has lost its image for its alleged corruption over the years. The allegation of corruption is so rampant, that for the first time TIB has also published a report against it. Dr. Saadat will get unflinching support from the government in discharging his duties without influence from any quarters. The nation thinks that he is the right person for bringing a radical change in the institution as well as the recruitment system reflecting the popular demand.

An initiative should be taken to rationalize the much talked about quota system as it goes against the merit principle. Merit cannot be compromised in the cadre service i.e. in terms of building policy makers for the nation. For upgrading the backward sections of society, the quota system may be kept in other non-cadre services.

A well-structured system of examination should be developed for recruitment to the cadre service so that only the meritorious/genuine candidates come out successful. And marks for viva voce should be reduced to 50 from 100.

Finally, we hope the circular for the next BCS exams will be published as soon as possible.

M. Omar Faruq Khan
Senior Principal Officer
Arab Bangladesh bank Ltd.

Dirty notes

It is very unfortunate that for a pretty long time rotten, wrinkled and dirty taka two currency note is in circulation in our country.

Doesn't the ugly note carry germs? It is unhygienic and harmful to health.

Does this dirty note depict and portray our sick economy, poverty, price hike of essential goods and commodities and untold sufferings of our people?

Doesn't it tell upon the image and prestige of our country?

We wonder what has been the duty of our past political government and the present caretaker government. Why are the Ministry of Finance and Bangladesh Bank sitting idle?

How much time and money do we require to replace the filthy, torn-out and dirty notes, print and issue new and fresh ones in the interest of public?

Would the authorities concerned kindly look into the matter and do the needful without further delay?

OH Kabir
Wari, Dhaka

Multiple speed-breakers

I would like to draw your kind attention to the potential traffic hazard points recently created by construction of a series of speed-breakers on the Airport Road which has a high traffic density. There are as many as 9 (nine) such multiple speed-breakers on both sides of the road. The intention is to reduce the speed so that accident may not happen. However, these spots have become potential traffic hazard points for the following reasons:

i) Nowhere in the world are such multiple speed-breakers erected on a highway having a high density of traffic.

ii) The intention is to lower down the speed; but trucks and buses do not require to do so. They simply just pass over the 'speed-breakers' at high speed. It is only the small cars with little weight which are required to slow down with the probability that some vehicles may hit them from behind.

iii) Suppose, a car, traveling at a speed of 60km per hour, all of a sudden notices the existence of these multiple speed-breakers (normally these are unexpected on a highway) & presses the brake. Then the vehicle following it at a normal speed may hit it from behind.

iv) In Bangladesh, 15 people are killed on an average every day in road accidents, and let's not increase this number by making wrong moves.

M. Bazlur Rahman
Ex Addl. C.E. RHD
Uttara, Dhaka

Containing corruption

China announced the death sentence for its former head of food and drug regulatory body. If the present CTG is serious about protecting Bangladeshis from the scourge of corruption, then it must follow China's path.

As for those corrupt Bangladeshis who have taken shelter in other countries, Bangladesh should try them in absentia and sentence them to life with no provision of parole. Such types of sentences will not allow the convicted criminals to hide behind the anti-capital punishment shield being presently used by the convicted murderers of Bangabandhu and his family, such as, Lt. Col. (retd) Nur Chowdhury in Canada, Maj. (retd) Mohiuddin Ahmed in the USA etc.

Shahed Nasrullah
Canada

"People's wishes"

I have one and only one question that intrigues, puzzles, disappoints and even infuriates me. It is one question I have for all the political leaders in Bangladesh, especially the leading ones in the limelight now.

Q. When these leaders make public comments, statements or outcries against anyone, they always say that these are the "people's wishes". My question is how have they come up with this inference that their comments/opinions are "people's wishes"? Do they run a statistically significant random sampling of over 1000 people that gives an error of plus/minus 3% each time or any time? Yes, I am probably being sardonic in saying so, since I doubt this even crosses their mind. If there is no such fact based under-scoring of the assertion, then it is all hearsay and tantamount to lying. I say this since friends and acquaintances who are in Bangladesh give me a totally antithetical, discordant view from their perspective.

So, who are these "people" they refer to? Only their blindly sycophantic supporters, I suppose. But do they represent the majority people of Bangladesh?

Khan Kabir
NY, USA

Reform issue



Recently, some politicians from the two rival major political parties in their bid to please their party chiefs stated that any reform in the party would have to be made by retaining the existing party chiefs. This has totally disappointed the vast majority who expected at least there were some sensible leaders in the political organisations who for the sake of the country's welfare would seek a change in the leadership of their parties. We do not understand how a person with a modicum of patriotism could think of retaining a person as their party-head whose family members, close party aides and the ministers are languishing in jail on alleged charges of extortion, corruption, theft of relief materials and so many other criminal activities. No one from the party appears to have ever questioned their leader how those criminal activities could happen right under the nose of that leader.

It is now clear those criminal activities were carried out with direct or indirect consent of the party leader in exchange of sharing the benefit. This is an unthinkable example of shameless sycophancy by the benefit-seekers within the party. Such attitude only gives a message to everybody that the present political leaderships within the parties are not interested in the welfare of the country and its people but interested in their own benefits only.

The latest move by the leader of a political party in allocating her brother an important portfolio in the party unilaterally is a glaring example of the continued intention to retain family control over the party leadership in total defiance of the popular sentiments both in the country and within the party itself.

The leader of the other major political party has stated that, there is a "suffocating situation" in the country in the absence of democracy. May I ask that leader what type of democracy she was referring to? Was it hartal, blockade, killing of people with logi and baitha, arson and destruction of public properties? That was a suffocating situation for the public but for that leader perhaps it was an ideal situation.

May Allah save us from the clutches of those so-called leaders of the political parties.

Mohammad Ataul Hoque
On e-mail