



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.

Voter list

I fail to understand what is the problem if voters application forms are distributed to all municipalities and city corporations holding numbers with request to residents to submit the voters forms duly filled in along with two passport size photographs. The Election Commission people can deliver the form to residents and collect it back after a week. Those who cannot submit forms with photographs can go to special camps and

get photographed. This can be a small beginning before moving for voter list at village level.

If western embassies here can issue digital visa stickers with photographs of passport holders on it, why can't the Election Commission do likewise for identity cards? Private data processing firms can also be employed to process voters application forms and identity card. I feel in the present era of high tech this is not that big a job or problem as

the Election Commission seems to be facing.

I hope all letters in your daily on this particular subject will draw the attention of the Election Commission. After all, opinions of would-be voters should also be taken into consideration. Why wait for only politicians' opinions?

Ziauddin Ahmed
On e-mail



Garment factory

A garment factory was established with two buildings at Indira Road with a few hundred employees working there. Due to the presence of this factory in a residential area like Indira Road, the area has become unfit for living! When a few hundred workers mostly females come to the factory before 8:00am, when they leave at noon and another shift begins and when they leave at night, it becomes very difficult for people to move through the crowd of workers. The factory creates disturbing noise through the huge exhaust fans which are directed towards the adjacent apartments. The owners were requested a number of times to look into the matter, but in vain. In

fact, no one dares to lodge any complaint openly.

In the interest of people residing in our locality, I appeal to the authorities concerned to address the issue.

A resident
Indira Road, Dhaka

Let's rebuild the country

Many things are happening right now all over the world, but you should think about the country first. We must say in one voice "yes" to this government, now or never—we trust you for your honesty.

Let's make history.
Some Bangladeshi children
Montreal, Canada

Begum Zia's com-

ment

Recently, BNP chairperson Begum Zia claimed that there was no dynastic politics in her party! An AL leader has termed it the joke of the year, and rightly at that.

Does Begum Zia think that people are nothing but fools?

Anisur Rahman
On e-mail

DSE index

The Dhaka Stock Exchange index reached 2003.58484 at the trading hours on Thursday indicating strong performance in the country's prime bourse. On the day there was trade of Tk 170.18 crore, prices of 123 items advanced, 46 declined and prices of 23 remain unchanged. After the share market bubble in 1996, this is the first time the index has reached 2003.58484. On May 27 this year the DSE set another record of transaction as on that day there was a transaction of Tk 179 crore which was the highest in the history of DSE. The recent road shows in divisional and district headquarters by the DSE authorities and the prudent fiscal and monetary policy of the government are mainly responsible for the strong performance of the DSE. Though a section of speculators are commenting that black money holders are coming to invest in the market fearing ACC action, it is true that if the government takes necessary steps to provide adequate securities, then there is no worry even after the next general election.

Similarly, people have seen on TV how Tarique Rahman, elder son of Khaleda Zia, crowned a Sr. Joint Secretary of the BNP overnight, started attending meetings of the BNP at different places of the country as chief guest, while senior leaders of the party, some of them of his late father's age or even older, only served as "accompanying" persons.

Were not the leaders of the two major political parties of the country more responsible than their chiefs for patronising dynastic politics? No leader was ever reported to have resigned in protest against the conduct of their chiefs or their offspring. The shame is more on the political leaders of the country at large, than anybody else.

R. D. Qureshi
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka

The WB issue

I am shocked to know that a corrupt man like Mr. Wolfowitz was at the helm of a reputable organisation like the World Bank. The WB is the largest source of multilateral finance. The WB, since its inception, has helped developing countries to finance projects by giving loans. It also offers useful advice and attracts investors for poor countries.

Since the WB is dedicated to helping the poor, an expert from any developing country should be its chief.

Nayeem Islam
The Aga Khan School
Uttara, Dhaka

PSC

I'm very happy with the latest decision taken by the advisers' council on the 27th BCS. We can symbolize it as the "resurrection" of PSC. A few days ago, the government appointed a competent man as the chairman of the PSC, which is the last hope for millions of young job seekers.

I'm still a student and will com-

pete for the next BCS exams. I have to depend largely on public jobs because the private sector is still offering only a limited number of jobs. Please create an environment where we can compete for jobs in a fair way.

Md. Asaduzzaman
Department of Sociology
University of Dhaka

Ready to wait

People are happy with the caretaker government. People are ready to wait patiently, they want to give the interim government as much time as is needed to hold a free and fair election.

The Awami League and the BNP are spent forces. People are not interested to cast votes in their favour. New political parties should be formed with people of good reputation. Until then we are ready to wait.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Leaders at fault?

A letter written by Mr. Ahmed from Boston, USA, questioning 'Sheikh Hasina's argument' appeared in The Daily Star of May 25, 2007. The writer has not only questioned the stand of Sheikh Hasina but also that of Khaleda Zia on 'dynastic politics'.

But are these two ladies solely responsible for what happened in Bangladesh in this respect? As 'succession to the throne' did not come to them by virtue of their own efforts and the grooming of their offspring for succession to the throne after them, it appeared to be a joint venture between the two ladies and their yes-men. Hasina and Khaleda are not solely responsible for the situation created in the political arena.

When Sheikh Hasina returned to Bangladesh staying abroad for a long time after her father's assassination, the senior leaders of the Awami League immediately placed the young, inexperienced woman at the helm of affairs. There was no fault on her part to think that she rightfully inherited the position from her late father. Similarly, when Khaleda Zia, a housewife, was placed at the top of the BNP by its senior leaders after her husband's assassination, she took it to be an inheritance from her late husband who had founded the BNP.

About grooming of their successors by the two ladies, Hasina and Khaleda are not solely responsible. People of Bangladesh have seen on TV how Sabir Wajed Joy, the young son of Sheikh Hasina, was received at Zia International Airport with garlands when he came from the USA for a short stay in his home country. It was a royal reception. Sheikh Hasina came to the airport accompanied by senior leaders of the Awami League and supporters of the party gathered to line up along the roads to Shudha Sadan. It did not occur in the minds of the leaders that Joy was 'nobody' of the Awami League, only the son of its president!

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Were not the leaders of the two major political parties of the country more responsible than their chiefs for patronising dynastic politics? No leader was ever reported to have resigned in protest against the conduct of their chiefs or their offspring. The shame is more on the political leaders of the country at large, than anybody else.

R. D. Qureshi
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka

Pregnancy allowance

The proposed Tk. 300 allowance for pregnant mothers will help to increase the already high birth rate in our densely-populated country. It will encourage destitute women to have more children.

A less detrimental policy would be to provide the allowance only for mothers expecting their first child. Whether the pregnant woman has any control over the use of the funds meant for her is also a matter of concern. Rather than handing out such doles, I think the government should take meaningful steps towards providing destitute women with equal opportunity and safety both inside and outside their home.

Qamrun Taslim
Department of Economics
University of Dhaka

An appeal

Is it possible on the part of the City Corporation to remove the garbage container stationed at College Gate on Mirpur Road (entrance of SAU) in the interest of public health and environmental safety??

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

Dealing with graft

In the United States the courts have



PHOTO: STAR

Price hike & governance

The CTG has miserably failed to contain prices of essential foods for the already hard-pressed citizens of the country. It

presents the typical attitude of an irresponsible administration with "no responsibility and no accountability" in its actions!

Without establishing an alternative distribution mechanism and inventories, the CTG has merrily gone about beating up the whole-sellers. This has created panic and chaos in the long established

commodity market mechanism!

The result: no dealer now dares to maintain an inventory. The CTG hastily went about setting up inventory limits without understanding the seasonality of various food items, and lead times! This has derailed the established market chain of procurement by distributors. The buck is now passed on conveniently to "international prices", with seasonal effect being forgotten!

Did the CTG study the trade and mar-

ket chain for imported non-perishables; like edible oils, pulses, sugar, garlic, ginger, turmeric, potatoes and other such kitchen items?

What concrete action plan does the CTG have to stabilise this run-away prices, besides issuing dictates and fiats? Sorry to say, they have failed the acid test of civil government!

S.A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

their people. This is done with the help of a proper workforce and good leadership.

Today, most nations are suffering from bad governance, thus poor development. Developed nations have better governments, thus better development for the people.

This has been true in the past and is true now and will remain to be so in the future also.

Sadly, it seems, that this truth has not dawned on the people of the underdeveloped world yet (though some had highly developed government institutions in the past). Corruption is responsible for all social ills. We have to fight this menace collectively.

The present caretaker government has to play a crucial role in this respect.

Shantoo
Mahakali, Dhaka

Good governance

Human development and civilized living always depended on good governance. Nothing has changed so far as the importance of developing good institutions is concerned.

Institutions of different countries have differed from one another and have evolved differently. Good governance is ensured when the institutions deliver to the people what they are asked to without hurting or unnecessarily burdening



PHOTO: AFP

Budget

The interim government is free from corruption and people expect good things from the government. Every year the govt. declares a

budget with lofty goals, but it does not bring welfare to people.

People want the kind of budget which will ensure an equitable distribution of

wealth and equal facilities for all.

Md. Ziaul Hoque
History(3rd Year)
University of Chittagong