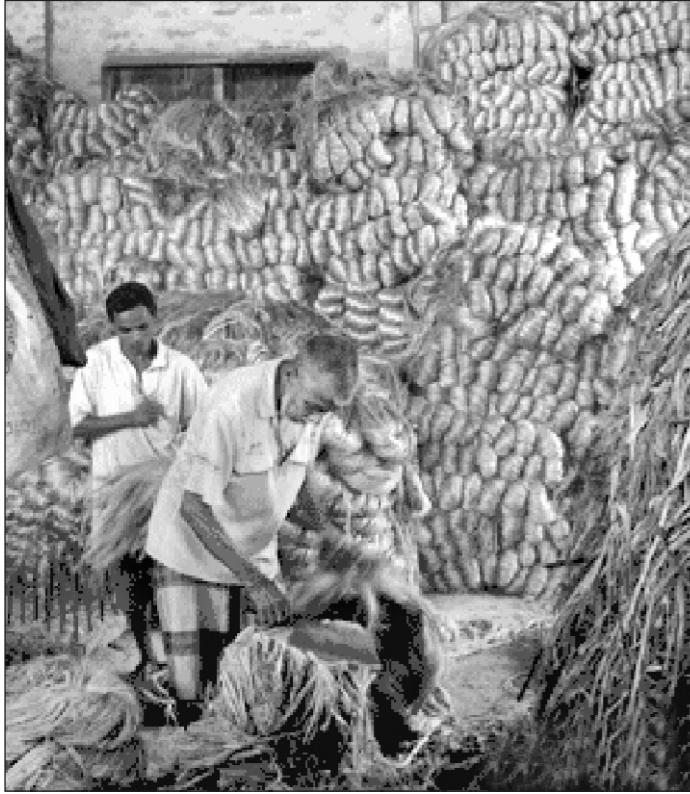


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

# Dead jute industry



None will hear anymore the sound of spinning machines or looms or any other mechanical sound, shouts of workers, whistle of the siren at the opening and closing hours of the jute mills.

It was long ago when people used to work in many jute mills along the riversides starting from Noapara to Khalishpur, a 30km long area near Khulna city. People worked there from dawn to dusk to get their daily meal, and support their families. Now they have nothing to do!

All those government owned jute mills are closed forever. This process of shutting down started many years ago, mostly in the last decade. And finally our caretaker government has taken very good care of them!

During the budget announcement last month there was not a single penny to revive these industries. The Finance Adviser said that it is not worth spending anything for these jute mills.

Nobody thinks about those people whose lives depended on those jute mills; what will they do now, how can they survive with their starving children? No answer!

The government is responsible with mismanagement and corruption for continuous loss in those jute mills for years, and we poor people are the sufferers.

Let us raise our voice to save the golden jute industry and the workers.

We can see the success of private jute mills, and we know why the government-owned ones failed. The CTG should address the issue.

**Zebunnessa Laizu**

Thailand

same mistake again. They are none but the same actors who actively or passively supported the looters.

But still there is a risk. Although, hopefully, the enlightened mass will not go again under the "bel" tree, the innocent people in our villages can be lured again to fall in the same trap.

Democracy is for those people who understand the real meaning of it. We have seen so much of damage done to our country by those elected in the name of democracy. We must stop this kind of "elected" people. Our caretaker government has to find out a way to stop this. We do not have a magic solution but it can be invented collectively by our intellectuals.

Why can we not change the system of election under democracy entirely and select the people who will govern our country like the way a company is run? Each of them will have an objective and a target to attain and if at the end of a year they fail to achieve their mission they will be replaced. The new president of France has selected his ministers in the line of above understanding and after a year the under-performing ministers risk to be replaced.

To stop misappropriation of money every ministry must have a reliable international auditor to check the accounts every now and then. No doubt, these auditors will be expensive but the money saved against corruption will be much higher than their fees.

**N.G. Chaudhury**

Luxembourg

## CTG's role

The present CTG has taken up the gigantic task of nabbing corrupt government officials. It has already nabbed some forest department officials. We expect it will set hands on other departments like customs, income tax, police, revenue office, municipality office, education office, electricity, telephone, gas and many others. Our nation is completely inundated in corruption.

Even our intellectuals and religious leaders whom we respect are not fully clean.

Similarly, in logic or philosophy we have no sure test of knowing what is true, but we have one way of knowing what is false by contradiction of evidence or arguments.

Obtaining guidance from these techniques, as a practical engineer I have developed a sure-fire test of knowing what is 'evil' in society, but no such test can be developed for finding 'good'. The test is as follows:

To determine whether an action is evil apply the action theoretically on yourself, on your goods, or on your dear ones. If you then feel sad and unhappy, the action is evil. For instance take 'theft'. If someone steals your belongings then you would be unhappy, which proves theft is an evil act. And note although such stealing makes the thief happy, the act does not become good but remains evil.

By applying such a test systematically on various actions the society may determine the evils in society and then remove them one by one to arrive at what remains as 'good' as a residual process.

Trying to positively 'do good' is counterproductive in the long run, and many evils in modern society are caused by the short-sighted 'do-gooders'. If everyone applies this sure test to identify evil and then refrains from such action, man and society will remain inherently good, and that is all that is necessary. To try to do more may be self-defeating.

The ten commandments given to Prophet Moses (pbuh) by Allah were all stated in such negative terms as "Thou shall not steal" etc and these stand out to corroborate the residual nature of good in society, after evil is subtracted out. That is, 'good' (again with very few exceptions like prayer etc) cannot be achieved by direct cognition or action, although a particular action might make one feel happy and good.

Dave Whatmore gave us a lot. He raised the dust ridden crawling Bangladesh Cricket Team to what it is today. Our team is feared by world's greatest teams. They always bear in mind that there is every possibility of being defeated by us. This is a good achievement and this is possible only for Dave Whatmore. He did not commit any mistake by wanting to be coach of India. Why not? He must have his own aspirations. He is not a Bangladeshi by birth. He was a paid coach of Bangladesh. He has the right to opt for more glory and more salary.

Our team management should have talked out the matter with him. They could have raised his salary. But no! we shall not do that. We shall only criticise. We shall not consider what we received, we shall only be annoyed for what we did not get.

Why baba? Why everyone should only give us something?

As said, we are ungrateful, and the best example is the cricket players. Nobody went to see off Dave! The man who did so much for them!! The players were like his children. He cursed them, he nursed them, but never let them down. He brought back, revitalised them, like a phoenix bird revived from ashes.

Show some gratitude! You, Ashraf, Habib, Javed Omar, Aftab and others, I implore upon you. Please call him up. Say how deeply indebted you are to him and how much you are missing him. Believe me, you will feel fresh.

**Dr. A.S.M Badruddoza**

Chairman & Project Director

# Pollution

We want to live in a world where there will be no pollution and chaos. But the fact is that there is vast difference between our dream and the real situation. It's very unfortunate that our planet is losing its beauty continuously. The world has become so polluted that water, air, soil, trees and all the living beings (including human beings) in it are seriously affected.

Environmental pollution and degradation has already created negative effects of various kinds. Only due to man's unwise decisions and greed, the situation has worsened to that extent. But what's the real situation in Bangladesh? The total area and diversity of our world famous Mangrove Forests, Sundarbans, is diminishing at an alarming rate. We have crisis of water (arsenic pollution, water logging, floods, and increased salinity). Biodiversity is about to be wiped out.

For solving these problems we have to adopt certain measures. So with



the government initiative, all conscious citizens must come forward to participate in the movement for a 'clean environment'.

**Shekhar Das**

Economics Discipline  
Khulna University

# Amartya Sen's observation



tarian" manifestations as the Babri Mosque affair and related massacre (plus the fact that the architect of the affair became Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister); the Gujarat carnage; the anti-Sikh pogroms....

What, however, he cannot overlook is the fact that the Indian society is strictly hierarchic, with the Dalits treated hardly as human beings. Consider the caste struggle, the name of an article in Newsweek (July 3rd, 2000, pages 18-22). According to the article, "Every hour, two Dalits are assaulted, three Dalit women are raped, two Dalits are murdered and two Dalit houses are burned".

If that's the picture of a vigorous democratic society, arguing away over the hookahs about human equality and human rights, while denying a fraternal puff to all untouchables, then Amartya Sen is very wrong about his own country, his own culture and his own religion.

**Ittekar Sayeed**  
Dhanmandi, Dhaka

## City Dental College

### Technical education

Munshiganj is a densely populated island district adjacent to capital Dhaka. Rivers like Shitalakhya, Dhaleshwari, Meghna and Padma flow through or surround it.

Direct road communication has been established between Munshiganj and Dhaka through the recently constructed bridges. Another bridge is being constructed at Muktarpara area to facilitate road communication between Munshiganj and the rest of the country.

It is needless to explain the importance of technical education. Everybody knows that to face the challenge of the modern world and the new millennium, technical education is indispensable.

So, we urge the government to set up an engineering college in Munshiganj district.

**Ziaun Nahar**  
Deovog, Munshiganj

### Comments

I have enjoyed reading recent post editorial write-ups by Shahnoor. They are no nonsense and to the point comments pulling all the punches. Well done.

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**Akhtar Shah**

On e-mail

### Political parties and reforms

It is obvious that at the prodding of the caretaker government, the main political parties are drawing up proposals to amend their party constitutions with a view to doing away with the absolute powers of the party Chairperson/President. However, unless the authorities

propose and amend the party constitutions properly. Otherwise, at a later date when there will be no emergency in the country, the charismatic leaders of big parties would, most likely, stage a come back and sweep away all the proposed reforms in no time!

**Abul Mohsin**  
Siddheswari, Dhaka

# Dowry and its ill effects

The NGOs and some other organisations are trying to raise awareness among women and protest against dowry. But still some people devoid of all moral values want to extort money from their wives' parents unlawfully. Even a few government service holders who sign up on a stamp, before joining the jobs, and pledge not to give or ask for dowry, break the promise made in their life afterwards. Dowry has led to many committing suicide while some others died due to their husbands' beast like behaviour.

But the question that comes up now is "Will women be treated like this until the end of the world?" The government should take firm steps against this detestable wrong-doing without further ado to resist this heinous crime.

Education of women should reach a satisfactory level to eliminate this social malady.

**Shatabdi**  
Regional Public Administration Training Centre (RPATC)  
Officers Quarter, Rajshahi



# Power crisis

People will never get rid of frequent load-shedding and the sufferings it leaves for the power-starved. Are we on the right way to finding this position established as an eternal truth? It's really sad to even think of it while, on the contrary, we survive (!) with the reality that bears burning proof of it. The problem is even worse in the rural areas.

This is the symbol of how the previous governments floated the country in the surge of progress. Any way, we now want a solution to this problem from the CTG. It's impossible to ensure total solution within a short time, but I think the CTG can at least make an attempt to achieve a sustainable level of power supply.

It'll be a really praiseworthy move.

**Mominul Islam**  
Arambag, Dhaka



### Proposed UGC recruitment rules"

This has reference to Dr. K. Maood Elahi's letter on the above topic. I wholeheartedly support the views expressed by him. The recruitment rules should equally be applicable in case of private universities. Recently, I saw an advertisement of a newly established private university for admission of students. In the ad, the name of a professor appeared. He never had any teaching experience and I am sure he does not possess any qualification to become a professor. These people would definitely be a liability for the university as they would not be able to deliver anything good for the students.

I would request the UGC and other relevant authorities to look into the matter.

**SMR**

On e-mail

### Good governance

We have to be very careful again. Now that the "two Begums" are almost gone we hear about the emergence of a third one who was dormant for sometime.

Let us be alert. The parties who ruined our country are now trying to impress the people by talking about reforms. But we know them and we are not going to commit the