

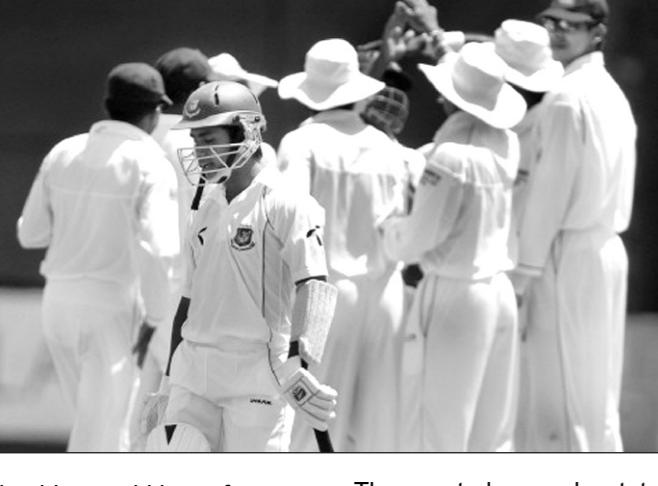
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## Poor show, cricketers

We observed yet another poor Test cricket show by our team, who suffered their biggest defeat against Sri Lanka. It was a miserable start to Mohammad Ashraful's captaincy career. He tried to clarify and pointed out mistakes, committing that the team includ-

cricket is not about having superb players, but about captaincy, strategy, motivation, application and team work, and above all, managing the existing resources well!

But I felt embarrassed to see the Tigers lose in such an unprofessional manner.



ing him would learn from these.

I am a fan of Mohammad Ashraful, and after the World Cup I was waiting for the time when he would replace the former skipper and employ a new strategy and approach to the game. We lacked good positive, effective leadership in our cricket and his captaincy was expected to bring better results for us. I know we are not among the top Test sides, but I am well aware that we have some very gifted players. I believe teams like the West Indies, New Zealand and Pakistan at the moment have similar strength as far as Test cricket is concerned. My guess is that doing good in

They posted a very low total in their first innings, and that too not for excellent bowling but for poor shot selections, something Mohammad Ashraful said they would try to avoid. They lost in three days and half an hour! Poor show.

None of his 'promises' made by the captain after the debacle in the first Test were reflected in their approach to the game, the worst of it is that Mohammad Ashraful failed to lead by example. He talked about loss of concentration. Why would Bangladeshi players lose concentration?

Cricket is their life, and there are many areas where they should concentrate on improving. They have every

back-up required (think about WI players; Lara said why would they play with motivation and concentration, they don't get a salary)! So why on earth would our players lose concentration? What are they there for?

I think it's high time we stop singing for them, and stop patting them on the back when they fail. They are the most beloved and privileged children of Bangladesh, and yet they don't play with any respect whatsoever for the game and their fans. They play according to their whims!

I also think it is time we critically looked at the non-performing or non-contributing players and BCB seriously started thinking what to do with them. In fact, the selectors and BCB have many questions to answer....I am not satisfied with them as well. We do not have 'Justin Langer' or 'Damien Martin' culture in our cricket --- nobody wants to leave even if it is clear that they are a burden, and they need to make way for newcomers. Until they are axed, they won't leave. But our cricket is not a testing lab for any particular individual. If someone wants to regain form, there is the First Division League.

We give chance after chance to players who are close to their retirement age, and wait, because once upon a time they played some good innings, scored some runs etc.

Can we afford that?

**Naima**  
UK

### "Black Gold"

Over the last three decades many news reports, letters, articles and editorials on beach sand valuable minerals 'Black Gold' have been published in national dailies, weeklies and magazines.

I found vast deposits of valuable minerals in Cox's Bazar and some of its surrounding areas in the year 1970. I have left no stone unturned for the commercial use of the valuable minerals either in the public sector or in the private sector, but in vain.

Very recently, after long 36 years, I revisited some of the old valuable minerals 'Black Gold' deposit sites in Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and Moheshkhali island. I am very much shocked and disappointed to see that valuable minerals worth millions of dollars are lying wasted, unused and lost into the sea for decades together due to lack of planning, negligence of duty and inefficiency of our authorities concerned.

I would request the present caretaker government to kindly look into the matter, hold a high level enquiry and save our valuable minerals 'Black Gold' from total wastage.

I would also request our government to kindly form a team of experts, traders, businessmen, reporters and photographers to visit Cox's Bazar with me to see for themselves some of the valuable minerals deposit sites for their practical knowledge and experience, necessary action and commercial utilisation.

**O. H. Kabir**  
Wari, Dhaka

### Traffic control and rickshaws

In the name of traffic control, rickshaws are being banned from main roads, the latest being Mohakhali Road. This raises some questions amongst us, plebeians, on the following points. The total number of motorised vehicles in Dhaka is about 300,000 of which half are public transport trucks, buses, CNGs and taxis. The rest 150,000 approx. are private vehicles of the privileged class plying either empty, carrying the "bora sahib" to/tro office, the "memsahib" for shopping or the "chota sahibs" from/to school, occupying double the

space of a rickshaw while carrying half or less of the load. The questions: 1. Are existing Dhaka roads compatible with this huge traffic? 2. Are they not contributing to air and noise pollution? 3. Are they not wasting precious foreign exchange in burning imported fuel for avoidable short journeys? 4. Since acquiring a car is the first step for the commercial use of the valuable minerals either in the public sector or in the private sector, but in vain.

Yet it is for just such a minuscule minority that a vast majority of people have to run a gauntlet with death every day. They include women, children, the elderly, the invalid, the disabled, the sick and people carrying small loads who risk death by being forced to walk on the roads (footpaths are nonexistent or dug-up!).

The authorities must answer a few moral and just queries before taking such absurd decisions. 1. Have they given a thought to the affect at the livelihood of at least 20-30 lakh rickshaw-related people? 2. If rickshaws are banned from main roads, why have the cars also taken over the bye-lanes for parking (visit Gulshan-1). 3. Those who preferred to use rickshaws for short trips, now take to the road in their cars, thus compounding the problem. 4. When will the authorities show some guts by ensuring that CNGs and taxis do not refuse short trips?

One final point: If you think the daily jams have been untangled, just take a car trip from Gulshan 2 to Gulshan 1 and South Avenue any day after 4-30pm. You will be in for a rude shock and a long wait.

I only hope that when next the streets of Dhaka are flooded and the motorized vehicles stuck in the mud, all the rickshaws will observe a holiday. Only then will their usefulness be appreciated!

**Sikander Ahmed**

Niketan, Dhaka

### NAM flats

Possibly, the concept of allotment of NAM flats to our MPs was brilliantly devised by the same group of people who always proclaimed themselves to be the champion of the toiling masses but missed no opportunity to accumulate wealth! Probably, they wanted to remain nearer to the centre of power, that

is, in Dhaka so that they could manipulate the decision makers and implement their evil designs at a faster pace. Otherwise, personally I do not find any justification of the MPs loitering around the capital city when the session of parliament is adjourned. They are supposed to be nearer to the people of the locality whom they represent. If they remain away from their people and live in such posh apartments with their families and children, most of the time they would not only fail to appreciate the hardship and problems of the people of their area, but also would technically be disqualified to be called a representative of that area as they have already changed residency. This practice goes

contrary to the very essence of the parliamentary democracy where the members are supposed to be composed of the people from different areas of the country.

Moreover, if the public representatives and their families are not in the locality, definitely the pace of development of schools, colleges and hospitals is going to be hampered.

I would request the present government to take one more bold step and cancel the system of allotting NAM apartments to the public representatives as they have done in case of duty-free cars. Allotment of one room to each MP in the hotel as before is good enough and each and every MP should remain grateful to the poor

citizens of this country for their magnanimity.

**Mszoha Zoha**, One-e-mail

### Razzak's reform proposal

It looks very strange and unacceptable to us that one of the Awami League senior presidium members, Abdur Razzak, placed his 'personal' reform proposal to the nation without taking a collective stand.

Doesn't it contradict their position that they are looking forward to introducing 'collective' leadership in the party?

**Suman Shanto**  
One-e-mail

## Man-made floods

Unlike the past, heavy rainfall in the upstream region and water level increase in our main channels are not the only causes of flooding in our country. We have introduced a new flood which can be termed man-made flood. It is surprising that the number of people living in flood plains is increasing day by day and it triggers high flood frequency as well as huge loss. This is usually observed in case of low-income people who have no land to live in. It

is acceptable to some extent. But what about the educated and conscious people building multi-storied houses without thinking about the drainage system? As a result, a little rainfall floods the cities and towns.

The issue has to be addressed immediately.

**Md. Aynul Kabir**

Assistant Engineer, FFWC, BWDB



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