



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.

Power shortage

There is a shortage of power, this is the hard fact and this shortage cannot be resolved overnight. The situation will remain difficult for another 2-3 years. It will take minimum 2-3 years to add another 3000MW to the national grid. So during these 2-3 years we are to manage power from whatever sources we have.

A few suggestions in this respect.

1. Weekly holidays 2 days in govt. & semi govt. offices & banks.

2. Factories one day weekly holiday but the holiday must not be on the same day for all the factories should be fixed on 7 different days for different factories.

3. Schools, colleges two weekly holidays.

- a) Schools should start at 7:30 to 9:30am.
- b) Govt. offices - 8:00am to 4:00pm.
- c) Banks - 9:00am to 5:00pm.
- d) Shops from 9:00am to 7:00pm excepting hotels, food and medicine shops. There should be one day weekly holiday. When all shops close at 7:00pm, there will be no effect at all on sales.

This will also help ease traffic congestion in Dhaka.

4. Electricity tariff should be at least 15% more for any office, shop, residence which uses AC.

Load-shedding should be done for one hour at a time and may be done as many times required in 24 hours but not 2-3 hours at a stretch.

Md. Abul Kalam Azad
Purana Paltan, Dhaka



DTUA- a political party?

Ending their 2 day programme on 22 July- wearing black badges on the 21st and a half day work stoppage on the 22nd- the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DTUA) general secretary talked to a private TV channel in the evening, wherein, he demanded three things from the caretaker government (CTG): one, immediate lifting of emergency from the country, two, holding of general election without delay, and three, immediate resignation of the law adviser.

One must wonder if the DTUA general secretary by placing his three-point demand to the CTG as mentioned has not placed himself in the position of a political party spokesman and possibly the DTUA as a political party!

M.T.Hussain
Ibrahimpur, Dhaka

Minus Two

I am tired of reading about people criticising the CTG and being sympathetic to Hasina and Khaleda. Most people fail to see the big picture. Without them the country will be a whole lot better. Do we want to go back to the way our country was before the CTG took over? In my opinion the CTG is the best thing that happened to Bangladesh after the liberation.

I know it sounds harsh, but let's not forget that corruption happened under their political leadership. We should not feel sorry for them and let's forge ahead into the future. A few bad

days shouldn't be in the way of 150 million people.

Mamoon
One-e-mail

Arrest of Hasina

I appreciate the concern people have with regard to the arrest of Hasina. However, my heartfelt congratulation to the caretaker government for taking this step.

The arrest of Hasina shows no one is above the law.

Fazle Karim Chowdhury
Barrister at Law
London, UK

DTUA

When I read the news that Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DTUA) will be abstaining from taking classes, I thought, there must have been something that went very wrong at DU. I was perplexed, not surprised, as this is nothing new if we look back to the recent past. Yet again, thinking of the imposed emergency situation by the military backed caretaker government, I went on reading to know as to what the actual reasons of their protest are. I was short of becoming astonished to grasp that the strike was in protest of arrest of Sheikh Hasina, and "malreatment" to Khaleda Zia.

As part of the protest, some DU teachers in different faculties wore black badges. Newspaper report says classes were not held in the Arts faculty, whereas some departments in the Curzon Hall area were open for classes.

These days, we all know, from the free press and widespread availability of information from many sources that there have been some serious allegations against many of our most popular political leaders. If a person, be he or she a former prime minister, is not guilty of corruption, let it be cleared by the judicial system.

Wearing black badges and abstaining from taking classes, like ordinary political activists, by a large body of DU teachers not only send a wrong message to the general students but are also a shame for the nation. Students have the right to get a fair academic environment, which can only be achieved if the teachers abstain themselves from party politics, rather than from the classes.

By this act of self destruction, the DTUA has tarnished the already dilapidated image of the university and its teachers to its very end. Snapping political affiliations of the teachers and students in all the universities could be one of the many ways to help these educational institutions do what they are supposed to.

A young citizen
One-e-mail

Speaker's medical bill

It is rather pathetic that the "Hon." Speaker spent Tk 28 Lakh of the tax payers' money on his medical expenses abroad. The point is not whether it was spent legally or illegally. If he has ever visited a government hospital he could have seen

hundreds of critically ill patients lying on the floors and corridors unable to buy the very basic life saving medicines. Tk 28 lakh could have saved thousands of such lives.

He must also know that a government servant gets a mere Tk 500 per month to meet his medical expenses. He quotes precedence, which itself is unethical.

As custodian of democratic norms and values, the least he can do is to tender a public apology and return the money to the government exchequer.

ACitizen
One-e-mail

Biman PLC

Many thanks for publishing your editorial and my letter to the editor on the above subject.

But two important points have been omitted, viz., the inefficiencies of the government secretaries to do anything profitable have led our country to total degeneration and deregulation in terms of law and order and honesty, liberty and citizens' rights (just one line in the first para of my letter).

Another line in the last para suggested that airports could be developed from the departure taxes, landing fees, etc. as the highways are built through toll collection.

Qamruddin
One-e-mail

Non-government sector

A non-government job is for spirited, dynamic and honest people. A non-government job is output-oriented. People's quality is properly evaluated in such a job. In non-government offices, close supervision and monitoring are ensured. As a result, employees can contribute a lot to the development of the organisation. The non-govt. sector is free from nepotism, bribery and mismanagement.

In comparison to the government offices, non-govt sectors can ensure much more production and service. The developed countries are an example of the contributions made by the private sector.

A.K.M Emdadul Haque
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Metropolitan University, Sylhet

Lord Buddha's hair

I would like to thank the writer of "Lord Buddha's Hair" published in your daily on 23-Jul-2007. He expressed the thinking as I held in my mind on the issue.

The handing over of the sacred hair of Lord Buddha was a very poor decision of the government in the name of friendship. If the government thinks the decision was right, let's start giving away the other valuable things to friendly countries weakening our own heritage.

Mujib
Monipur, Mirpur
Dhaka

Political consciousness and democracy

I'm a Bangladeshi student completing my undergraduate degree in Economics and International Relations at the University of Toronto. I have taken it upon myself to check your newspaper on the internet every morning to keep myself updated on the political developments back home. While I am ecstatic over the recent crackdown on the corrupt politicians, it saddens me to point out that the CTG and those striving for a truly democratic free and fair election, whenever that might be, have failed to address an issue that is very important if they are to realize their goals- that of developing political consciousness among the poor, the disadvantaged and the uneducated. One has to consider himself or herself in the shoes of a destitute farmer, striving and struggling to put two square meals on the table for his family. It is quite obvious that the poor and uneducated do not and cannot in

essence really care about who is running for elections to represent a constituency or who is going to serve his interests better, who is going to be corrupt and who is easily be bought over come election year, when they utilize a puny fraction of the vast wealth they have amassed through unfair means, to hand over a 'lungi' and a 'saree' and Tk 50 asking them for their votes in the next election. Having been given the false hope of a better future and being fed a bunch of lies, these poor people are left with no choice but to cast their votes for a politician who is very unlikely to even look over his shoulder and remember his promises, once he has won the election and settled into his office.

After all, he has better things to do than address the plight of his constituents, say for example rigging a tender selection process.

The concept of public service is non-existent in the minds of our elected representatives. One enters politics in Bangladesh in the hope of exploiting and abusing his or her power to amass a disgusting amount of wealth. While the CTG's efforts in what they have done so far are commendable, I hope that they have given some thought to raising public awareness about the importance of voting for someone who is educated and worthy of the responsibilities that come with the governance of a country as fragile as Bangladesh.

Ahmed Adnan
One-e-mail



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8X2