

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.

Commuters' woes



In the capital city the middle class people have been passing through a crisis for want of convenient transport. The people are not getting transports to move to desired destinations for work, medical treatment, education or social visits. They depended on rickshaws as transport during the last five decades. Today a huge number of motor vehicles are plying the

streets of Dhaka. The length and breadth of the streets have increased manifold with the increase of the city area. But both cabs and CNG auto-rickshaws charge too high, leaving the people of limited income in serious trouble. And bus services are not available on all the routes.  
**Md. Ashraf Hossain**  
*Panthapath Dhaka*

Bangladesh on the world map

Bangladesh is passing through a paradigm shift. Most of our politicians are old and out of touch with the modern world. Politicians are way behind our youth. They will never catch up with the pace of modern life and will go into oblivion. Our old politicians will fall further behind due to lack knowledge and are copying the old style of whatever they call it (politics?). The story of Bangladesh is 7% GDP growth, huge remittance from expatriate Bangladeshis, export earning from RMG and FDI to boost our industrialisation. The Bangladesh brand is becoming attractive to the world commu-

nity. So our future is bright. The 7% growth will double the size of our economy from 70 billion dollars to 140 billion dollars in 10 years. We would not need foreign money for our growth, rather growth will propel from within. In the age of information technology, the whole world is connected and we are in an even field to compete with anyone. Being small is easier to quickly adjust with any shift in this ever dynamic world. So we really have an advantage in that regard. We will attract buyers from North America, Europe and even Asia. Thanks to Dr. Yunus, thousands of Bangladeshi expatriates, entrepreneurs and millions of people are putting us on the world map and creating a brand name Bangladesh

that all of us can be proud of. One small thing we have to eliminate is corruption. We shall overcome corruption just like we overcame the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.  
**Ekram Belal**  
*On e-mail*

Let there be light!

A few days back, I, along with my family visited Gaibandha (village named Ballamjhar and its surrounding villages) to visit my ailing widow mother-in-law. To my utter shock and disgust and also to my delight the villagers were very elated, as though they saw "light" after a long time. Let me elaborate-- by communicating with them, I came to realise that the Rural Electrification Board has a whimsical sense of humour in supplying power to mostly lower middle class villagers. These helpless "consumers of electricity" without having any scope of lamentation or remonstrations urged me to enlighten the press about the problem they are facing. It is imperative that the authorities concerned look into the matter and take necessary action to ease the trouble of these people.  
**Tajul Islam**  
*Gulshan, Dhaka*

DU teachers

Have they forgotten that they are teachers? Students always follow their teachers. What are they learning from them? Again, none of these teachers even said a word when the politicians were found to be guilty of stealing and extortion. So what are they after?  
**Nahid Mahmud**  
*IT Professional*

Sheikh Hasina's arrest

A famous British politician once said, "A nation gets the government it deserves." This quotation is so relevant to Bangladesh. The current regime in Bangladesh is working hard to curb corruption in every aspect, especially politics, which I think is the most corrupt area of all. Politicians make money not in one or two crores but in hundreds of crores! Everybody knows what happened in the last 15 years. Corruption was rampant in both regimes.

So why this outcry against Sheikh Hasina's arrest?  
**Anonymous**  
*On e-mail*

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The article of 27 July 2007 was the third in the series of invectives against Sheikh Hasina penned by Brigadier General Shamsuddin (retd). I am not fan of Sheikh Hasina but I find it hard to enjoy the sarcasm the learned writer wanted the readers to share with him on the media picture of the arrest showing Hasina holding a *tasbeeh* in her hand. It is surprising that of all the scenes in the melodrama enacted by the members of the law enforcing agencies, this particular one has caught the writer's attention.

One cannot but agree with the views of the writer on the national character of the people. He wrote, "We decry the leader for all his failings and follies, which are in plenty and join the opposition chorus in condemning him and demanding not only his immediate fall from power but also his wholesale burial as political garbage." But being an ordinary citizen I fail to find anything wrong with this quality of ours. Remaining in total seclusion for a certain period of time may help a politician change his/her character and attitude towards the people. In neighbouring India, the distinguished Indira Gandhi had to suffer indescribable humiliation at the hands of the Indian people for her excesses, with her party driven asunder. Even when she managed to get a seat in parliament, she was not allowed to occupy the seat and had to leave with tearful eyes. But she staged a comeback after a couple of years and continued as prime minister of the biggest democracy in the world till her death.

There is no denying the fact that "the euphoria with the caretaker government is ebbing away fast " but the reason thereof is not the existence of a hint of the military jostling with power but the total failure of the government to bring down or check the inflationary spiral of the prices of the essential commodities. I would like to advise the decision makers to rummage through the files left behind by the late SAMS Kibria to educate themselves on how the theories of economics can be put to the solution of practical problems. There is some

element of truth in the statement that "there is a surfeit of sympathy for Sheikh Hasina", but that is not for anything else but for her correct and astute leadership and pragmatic approach in maintaining an equilibrium in the demand and supply of daily necessities. Finally, I cannot but wholly disagree with the writer and his likes when they try to put both Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia on the same plane. Sheikh Hasina failed and failed miserably to put a halt to the deteriorating law and order situation in the country but was known, both at home and abroad, to have run the government in the most efficient manner with tidbits of corruption (as compared with her successor ) and malpractice here and there. On the other hand, Khaleda Zia started her government with the sole aim to destroy all the institutions of the country by remaining steeped in corruption and corruption only.

**Rezaul Karim**  
*Malibagh, Dhaka*

Eve teasing

I am in Bangladesh this summer to intern and study development with an internationally renowned NGO. Unfortunately, I have received almost daily lessons in a particularly disturbing manifestation of South-Asian patriarchy: so-called "Eve teasing." The public groping and verbal harassment in Dhaka is shameless and beyond disgusting. Not only is it psychologically detrimental to me and the entire female population, it has serious consequences for Bangladesh's development as well. A society **cannot** reach its full potential when half the population lives under daily threat of sexual violence and has to be constantly preoccupied with maintaining their safety and sanity.

Women and men who want to live in a stable prosperous society cannot tolerate public violence of any sort. All the Nobel Prize winning programmes in the world will not be of much use until the women and girls of Bangladesh can commute to and from school and work without fear.  
**Taylor Cook**  
*On e-mail*

US policy

In domestic matters the US exercises President Abraham Lincoln's theory "Government of the people, by the people and for the people." But in foreign affairs it practises President George Bush's ideology "Killing of the people, by the people and for the people."

Why has Bush invaded and occupied Afghanistan and Iraq and now why is he moving towards Pakistan? 'Divide and rule' is his strategy. In the guise of human rights, freedom and democracy, he is engaged in monstrous activities and following the footsteps of Hitler.

The Iraqis and Afghans are killing US soldiers, Nato soldiers are killing Afghans and Iraqis and vice versa.

Not only that, the Iraqi Sunnis are killing Iraqi Shias and the Iraqi Shias are killing Iraqi Sunnis, The Afghans are also killing fellow Afghans. What is it all about?

Why are the US and Nato troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan? Why are not the Afghan, Iraqi, Canadian, British, German, Pakistani, Saudi Arabian and South Korean troops stationed on the soil of US for security reasons to combat terrorism?

The US claims itself to be the most successful democracy in the world, having a government elected by the people. It always advocates and supports democracy and people's elected government. But why doesn't it like and recognise the

elected democratic government of Ismail Haniya in Palestine? Why has George Bush ignited the fire of hatred and enmity between President Mahmood Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya? Why did the US support and recognise the terrorist government of Israel in May 1948? Why is it trying to cut Palestine into more pieces?

Would the civilised world and the UN let us know whither the independence, sovereignty and democracy of Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan?

**OH Kabir**  
*Wari, Dhaka*



PHOTO: AFP

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