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Positive attitude
 Things like "session jam" and "delay in publishing results" have become synonymous with public universities. But in reality, there is the other side of the coin. Dhaka University's Department of International Relations has proved that nothing is impossible if the authorities handle the academic matters with due sincerity and efficiency.
 We, the 1999-2000 batch, had to wait for eight long months to get our BSS (honours) results. But this year, because of the whole-hearted attention of the exam-committee members and other officials concerned, the result was published within two months only.
 We thank them for their positive attitude.
A student
 Dept. of International Relations
 Dhaka University

Bhuiyan cruising along!
 It is contradicting when we find, in the ambience of the state of emergency when indoor politics or political meeting is barred, Mr. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is running the show of politics in the name of reforms in his BNP, as is very much evident from the electronic media exposure in particular. As general secretary of the BNP and an ex-minister holding one of the most important portfolios he herded like-minded leaders, and all their reform related activities amply indicate that he is the next man to lead the reformed BNP. Whereas the other general Secretary, his counterpart in the AL, Mr. Abdul Jalil, more aged, fragile with debilitating diseases, has been put behind the bars for his alleged corruption and misuse of power. Interestingly, reforms are

somewhat briskly pursued also by a few AL leaders, after he has been interned.
 May we ask, was Mannan Bhuiyan not aware of the unbridled corruption and loot of government money and property that his party and ministerial colleagues wallowed in, of whom many are now in prison? During their 5-year tenure, Bangladesh was each year ranked by TIB as one of the most corrupt countries and Mr. Bhuiyan was the person who was too loud and vociferous to bin the TIB reports.
 Corruption was the talk of the nation during their whole tenure, and his local government too did it massively because its development works that devoured major share of the budget were given only to the party men/cadres/activists and they overnight became men of riches. Could you say corruption was absent there?
Anonymous

Dhaka
"Your editorial"
 This is in reference to the above titled letter which appeared in DS of August 8 written by Dr. M. Hussain. A few days back I had written a letter in this newspaper that nobody is indispensable in this world and there is a replacement of everything. Take the instance of the murder of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We all thought that the country was going to be ruined. But in reality it was not. The people who put Hasina at the helm of AL can again put somebody else as a party chief. Hence throwing a challenge that none could take her place is totally unacceptable. We all know that changes are always better. We think that drastic changes are very much needed in a party because parties are riddled with lots of irregularities. Most importantly, there is no democracy in the party itself. The party chief acts as dictator and her/his decision is the last and final decision. This act of authoritarianism is totally contrary to democratic principles.
 Moreover, transparency is a must for all the parties which will not only make them accountable to people who voted them to power but also to party colleagues. I believe the reformists are now fully aware of their past mistakes and are prepared to go for the purge which was long due. And this is exactly what our present caretaker government is trying to make them accomplish.
Humayun Hyder
 Zigatola, Dhaka

like Tamim, Ashraf, Aftab on their day can pile up huge runs as Aftab and Tamim have the ability to score quickly which is an important ingredient of these 20-20 matches. All rounder Mashrafe can also contribute with the bat (as we have seen he is capable of hitting big shots). So if our team can put up "the elusive" good scores and also bowl with accuracy (especially the seamers), then we can put up a good fight. I may sound too optimistic but I agree that Bangladesh's recent performances have cast a shadow of doubt on the team's ability and people have lost their faith in this always-underperforming team.
 Even though I am hopeful that Bangladesh team will prove the critics wrong, but at the same time I fear that consistent failure of the top-order batting will still act as a barrier to ensuring competitive fights in matches.
Wasif Wahed
 Old DOHS, Dhaka

Miseries of flood victims

As the flood situation takes a turn for the worse, the miseries of the people multiply and assume a greater magnitude. Children sitting on a floor made of bamboo-poles, with water flowing underneath, old men clutching their belongings as they wade through the waist-deep water—these are some of the images that appear on the front page of the national dailies.
 Disastrous as it is, flood has brought man and animals on the same level. We see people and their pets—cows, goats and ducks—sharing the same habitation. The fury of nature has forced them to take refuge in the upper zones which are dry and above the level of rushing floodwater. One can see high roads being inundated by floodwater. Rows of vehicles, crammed with people and goods, being stuck up in flooded roads: another common spectacle.
 Water-borne diseases have broken out in those areas, as there is a scarcity of pure drinking water. Again, children are facing the risk of falling into water. Snakes also pose a great danger during floods as they look for dry space. In short, this time around floods have created a very difficult situation for the rural masses.
 Only determined and quick relief operations, on the part of the government, can alleviate,



if not totally eliminate, their miseries.
Zabed Wali
 Pahartali, Chittagong

Civic disorder



There are some niceties which do not cost money but leave a big impression about a nation's culture. If all of us make it a habit of following them, we as a nation will be tremendously benefited. I will like to enumerate some of these as follows:
 1. Queue up at bus stands and at all such points for boarding and buying tickets.
 2. Allow the persons to get down first and then board the transport in a disciplined manner.
 3. Pick up any papers or empty boxes and drop them in the nearest dustbin.
 4. Don't smoke or spit in public places.
 5. Don't gossip in a loud voice while travelling in public transports—reading or even silence is

preferable.
 6. Avoid overloading of public transports, especially launches.
 7. Extend cooperation and assistance to persons in need, especially after accidents.
 8. Use of loud microphones should be discouraged as noise disturbs the sick and old.
 9. Use of horns and especially hydraulic ones should be avoided unless it is extremely necessary.
 10. Use of public toilets should be encouraged.
Mohammed Alauddin
 Green Road, Dhaka

Law
 All are equal in the eye of law and law is equal for everyone, we hear these two phrases or proverbs very frequently nowadays. In practice, are we really equal?
Shafiqul Islam
 One-mail

Twenty20 World Cup
 The Twenty20 World Cup is set to be held in September in SA. Bangladesh, after coming back from the heart-breaking tour of Sri Lanka, need to concentrate hard on this tournament. Although many may consider this tournament as trivial, or as some say that this is not "proper cricket," I beg to differ with them. According to me the 20-20 version of the game is very entertaining, particularly for the audience and it also brings more excitement, fun, thrill etc into the game. In my opinion, Bangladesh stands a good chance of shocking some of the mighty teams in this tournament, since our players seem to be more suited for the shorter-version of the game. This mindset of theirs is reflected by the erratic shots being played by our batsmen even in Test matches and their tendency to always aim for big shots. Players

My father
 At the age of six or seven years, now I am 53, (still I feel my father is alive), I was beaten by my father only once, because one day I did not have my meal. That day my mother was so busy in the morning that she had no time to serve me my meal. I went to school starving.
 When school was over, I returned home and found her as heavily busy as she was before. She had no time even to have a look at me. But I was losing my patience. I decided to teach my mother a lesson for ignoring me.
 I fled to Daria Nodi the nearest river. I sat there on the bank all day long counting waves. I was listening to the rustle of the leaves (of a Chatim tree) over my head and clattering of bamboos clustering alongside and looking at surges of paddy fields made by strong winds. I saw the sky smeared with black cloud rain was due.
 I felt strongly to go back home. But my ego was so overwhelming... I was losing my strength. I could not resist having a look at the way behind me that might take me back home easily. All of a sudden, I saw my father in front of me with a stick in his hand.
 My father hurt me on my back with his stick only once. I must remember that I was never beaten by my father before or after that day.
 However, my father caught me by my hand not by ears as usually done by the guardians and pulled me straight to the way home giving me a chance to weep. He did not scold me not even a word.
 My father entered into the room still holding my hand. The meal was ready there. White boiled rice with milk and mango juice. A meal that was not even available in heaven! I was fed by my father. I ate to my heart's content. I felt my mother

was standing alongside the open door watching me with tears in her eyes not having her meal yet.
Md Abdus Samad
 Deputy Director
 Bangladesh Bank, Rangpur

Population of Dhaka
 The news on the size of population in our neighbouring city Kolkata has drawn my attention. According to a recent survey, it has been revealed that the net population is decreasing there. New people come to Kolkata but many of them prefer to live not in the city but in places near to it.
 Now think of Dhaka. It is a megacity and two crore people will live here by 2020 if we fail to do

anything about the problem.
Harunu-ur-Rashid
 Mohammadpur, Dhaka

National Hajj Policy
 It is gratifying that the govt has declared the National Hajj Policy, 2007. The sponsored pilgrims will be looked after by the district administration assisted by the Islamic Foundation officials. The non-govt pilgrims will be assisted by the eligible Hajj licensees. The individual pilgrims will require to deposit Hajj package money to bank accounts of the Hajj licensees. We do not as yet know the names and addresses of the eligible Licensees, the names of their banks and the relevant account members. The time limit of such bank transactions will be over in about one month.
 We would, therefore, request the Ministry of Religious Affairs to publicise the names of the eligible Hajj licensees, the names of their banks and relevant account members in at least two national dailies.
M. A. Samad
 Lalmatia, Dhaka

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