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# Our cricket

While the cricket authorities search for a coach, the turbulent phase of the national cricket team continues. Being an ardent fan of cricket since Akram Khan's men trounced Kenya in the ICC trophy final, I want to express my opinions.

Why does our team continuously fail to keep up the flicker of their occasional dazzling performances? The average age of our team, which faced the Sri Lankans in ODIs, is around 20. At this stage, they seem bright prospects, a bunch of young guns expected to learn from their mistakes. However, the average age of the team five years ago was also slightly over 20. Now, where on earth's face are those players? The harsh truth is that most of them have disappointed after their early success, leading to an inevitable generation gap. Al Shahrar, Hannan and Kapali have all appeared prodigiously talented at first, but their lack of responsibility made them wayward performers. Naturally, Bangladesh lack reliable batsmen in the age range of 26-30, the zenith of every batsman's career when maturity complements talent. It is now hard to imagine that once our middle order comprised dependable performers like Akram, Bulbul, Naimur and Minhazul. Hence, it comes as no surprise that Bangladesh experimented with more than a dozen opening pairs in the past five years that resulted in no success. Forget Australia and Sri Lanka, even Kenya has

veterans like Tikolo, Odoyo and Shah who can lend their vast experience to guide the youngsters. Unfortunately, this deficiency is one that has no immediate solution.

Complacency is a problem dominant at both team and personal levels. Being thirsty for success, they are carried away when they pull off a win over any heavyweight. In the last World Cup, when Bangladesh trounced South Africa, an elated Basher bragged, "We hope to reach the semifinals." For God's sake, they went to super-six with no bonus points, were thrashed in their first two matches and had to win all three remaining games to have a shot at the semifinals. They took their win against Ireland for granted. When Trent Johnson uprooted Basher's stamp, he was wrenched cruelly from his dreams and Bangladesh has not won an ODI since. Optimism is a virtue, but we expect them to set realistic goals for themselves. Bangladeshi batsmen are yet to learn how to resist crumbling under pressure.

Our batsmen can take a leaf out of the book of their own teammates, the bowlers. The bowlers have always used their limited resources to optimum output.

**Ananya Das,** *A Level student*  
*Cephalon International, Dhaka*



PHOTO: AFP

## Registration of mobile phone

Recently the govt. introduced the policy of registering the mobile phone users. It is always better late than never. But it seems to be a huge task on the part of the cell phone operators to complete the work correctly. By now the number of cell phone users has reached more than twenty millions. The illiterate public will definitely find it difficult to collect all the information required and the arduous task to fill in the registration form. Registration will for sure help identify the criminal and fraudulent activities. But the mobile phone operators can get the information in the same way they collect bills from the users. More so, the new rules can be introduced in case of new purchasers, while the information of the old users who already purchased the mobile sets may be collected by mobile phone operators using the simplest procedure. In the mean time, the govt. should keep an eye so that a group does not come out with the ulterior motive of making money, exploiting the illiterate people.

**Dr. S. M. Rahman**  
*On e-mail*

## Library

Education is the process by which our mind develops through formal learning at an institution like school, college or university. Education is the harmonious development of the body, mind

and soul. It helps us to know about freedom of learning, thinking and speaking.

A good library always bears evidence of a good civilisation. It can play a vital role in creating an educated society.

**Md. Ehsanul Karim**  
*PS to Registrar*  
*Southern University Bangladesh*

## Political leaders

It's amazing how top political leaders in Bangladesh can get away with anything and everything.

They seem to believe that they are above the law!

**Jony**  
*On e-mail*

## Surprise!

Surprise, surprise! He is the man who would decry the culture of not paying tax. And she is the woman who would sit at the helm of the government and run the country with taxpayers' money.

People should not be surprised at all! It all happened by mistake. Had they known that one day the ACC and the NBR would have the audacity to ask them to submit wealth statement and income tax returns, they would have asked their men to amend the constitution or pass a bill exempting them from submitting returns!

**Shafiqul Islam**  
*On e-mail*

## Share market

People are using small volumes to promote and advance the share

prices of their choice. The SEC has initiated new rules and that has cut down the volume of all shares. Only large investors supported by the SEC can advance the prices of their preferred shares.

The SEC should be thoroughly investigated by the Anti Corruption Commission for its activities. The rules imposed by the SEC are whimsical and insane. Even 100 years ago people didn't have these strange rules currently initiated by the SEC.

**Md. Yunus**  
*On e-mail*

## Why cry for them?

Reading the article entitled "If this government fails" by Mozammel H. Khan, one would wonders whether Mr. Khan's organisation is actually meant for human rights and democracy in Bangladesh or for upholding the interest of Sheikh Hasina. If human rights are the central issue, then the protest should have come over the first arrest made by this government without a court order. If we applaud the other arrests on similar charges, then on what ground we ask for different treatment to Sheikh Hasina (or for that matter Khaleda Zia)?

I am perplexed and dismayed at the double standard portrayed by some of our so called democratic-minded intellectuals. For me thinks if the current law does not allow prosecuting the corrupt politicians befitting their crimes, the government should use any means to contain them. Let's face the truth.

**S. Khan**

*New York, US*

## CU ambulance

Chittagong University is one of the biggest universities in the country. But it is beset with so many problems. We are astonished to see that the university ambulance is used for different purposes.

Would the authorities concerned look into the matter, so that the students could get ambulance service whenever necessary?

## Some students

*Dept. of Communication and journalism*  
*Chittagong University*

## A foreigner's experience

I write as a foreigner in Bangladesh who is treated as a complete fool. Both in Dhaka and the districts. I stay in three-star hotels that have sophisticated IT systems yet cannot manage hot water! The lies I am told are unbelievable.

I also hear such rubbish as, "We are such a poor country that it must be the will of God. Hasn't God given us creativity? Yet Bangladesh is in grave danger of being the first country to put a rickshaw on the moon! On the subject of rickshaws they are lovely in a world without cars, but the combination is lethal. I go around the cities seeing fat middle aged, middle class people being hauled by skinny poor men. Don't they realize how ludicrous the situation is? I have even had people tell me that the rickshaw men might turn criminal without work. What about proper jobs for the men? An English (IELTS 7) qualified student told me that English teaching in Bangladesh is rubbish. That was like a breath of fresh air I had suspected that to be the case. More truth please less unreality.

Where are the women? I get the impression that most are only allowed to be housewives and baby producers in a small country with the same population of Russia.

I meet lots of young people in my work who are delightful but confused. When are the educated people of this country going to say to the children. "Please forgive us. We've played silly games with politics, religion, education and business, because all we wished to do was to maintain our status".

My heart broke for Bangladesh.

**Martin R Porter**  
*London, UK*

## CTG and fading hopes

We appreciate the caretaker government's activities. But how long will we support them? They sent many corrupt people to jail; they are processing the separation of judiciary, reforming the EC, reforming the PSC and trying to force reform in our political parties.

But there is uncertainty everywhere. They have failed to control the price hike.

We've a great expectation from the present government. So don't let us down & don't try to effect farcical reforms in the political parties.

We need a free & fair election!

**Solaiman Palash**  
*East Jurain, Dhaka*

## Biman grounded

I am a Bangladeshi Canadian and has been living in Toronto since 2002 with my family. I sponsored my father and brother and eventually they got immigration after three years. On 13 August, they were scheduled to come to Toronto by Biman but it is very regrettable that Biman changed their schedule 3/4 times and my 73 years old father has been suffering physically & mentally. They have been waiting in a hotel in Uttara to get a chance to come to Toronto via London.

Could you tell me what I should do?

**Ashu**  
*Toronto, Canada*

## An appeal

It is pointless, perhaps, to talk about the issue of a fertilizer factory when the whole country is inundated due to severe floods. However, on 11 August, the Ghorashal Fertilizer Factory caught fire at around 3:45 at night. The factory which has a capacity of producing 1000 metric ton urea daily is now unproductive for an indefinite period due to that fire. The rumour is now in the air that it will be laid off.

Whatever happens, my education, also my younger brother's, is already under threat. My father is the only bread earner in our six-member family. My elder brother is unemployed, the elder sister studies BSS in a local college in Narshingdi, while I and my younger brother study in a private university. The expenses are high which is out of my father's means. But still we are studying, which is a struggle, for a better future, also because our parents want us to be educated. And this is the case with many of the families. To note, the university where I study plans to raise the tuition fees again.

Our fertilizer factories cannot meet the demand of urea. Then why should the Ghorashal factory remain inoperative.

Though it might be very expensive, the factory needs to be repaired as quickly as possible. The livelihoods of many people are involved inextricably with the factory. The demand of farmers for urea is also there.

Last but not the least, please set me free, or us, from the despair.

**Md. Shakhaowat Hossain**  
*A student*

## Telephone user's woes

My telephone no-9000828 is out of order since July 22, 2007 due to theft of cables. I have repeatedly asked the camp office, Kallyanpur & DE office, Mirpur about this problem. But the telephone connection is yet to be restored.

Will someone look into the matter?

**A sufferer**  
*Dhaka*

## Postal savings

Relentless whipping of hapless postal savers by slapping extra levies and cuts by all governments only bespeak of their flagrant violation of promises given earlier (not to be aggressive on cuts) while alluring middle class savers. We know the government draws heavily from our postal savings on a regular basis. These postal savers are mostly govt. pensioners and retired private employees who, at the fag end of their lives, scrape modest pay-offs from their employment and other flimsy sources and deposit them to a safer place to run their families in this rip-off city. This is such a heart-breaking experience to see their interest money wither in excessive 'taxes' currently (10% extra levy), while the mighty and the rich get away unscathed in many other places!

We are not against paying taxes though, we only ask the government to be judicious with their micro-economic management and be mindful of the 'social powerhouse' which is the middle class people of the country. Please don't take us for a ride - a rough ride!

**Shah Mushtaque Ahmed**  
*Development Advisor*

*Lalmatia, Dhaka*



PHOTO: AMIRUL RAHMAN

# Language of indigenous people

I would request the CTG to give these indigenous people the right to learn their own mother language. We experienced the same suppression in Pakistan. And most important is to give the civil rights to all second and third generation people living in Bangladesh as

refugees. It is inhuman and a violation of international law to deny it. Bangladesh is a country where we should live together side by side in peace, it does not matter which religion-Islam/Hinduism/Buddhism/Christianity--or which colour or which race we belong to.

We are human beings! We have to have patience and tolerance.

Can't the issue of indigenous people's language be included in the textbooks?

**Dr. Majumder**  
*Darmstadt*  
*Germany*

## Jamaat's views

I am saddened by a recent report published in newspapers where a Jamaat leader approved declaring Bangabandhu as the architect of Bangladesh but not the father of the nation. Well, this is the same Jamaat, which opposed the independence of Bangladesh and

supported the killing of so many Bengalis and raping of so many of our mothers and sisters. Now they are trying to decide (at least partially) who will be the father of the nation and how we treat our father of the nation.

I used to know that the victors write history, not the vanquished.

Now, I wonder who the real winner was. I am an optimistic person and I hope Bengalis will not let the Jamaat to have a voice when it comes to officially declaring Bangabandhu as our father of the nation.

**Bidyutpal Sarkar**  
*Los Angeles, California*

# Demolishing tall buildings

I have recently read some news regarding Rajuk and the Civil Aviation Authority's plans of demolishing the top floors of 28 high rise buildings in Karwanbazar and Panthapath. Some of the buildings even house offices of important companies like WASA and Petrobangla. I believe that destroying Bangladeshi assets worth hundreds of crores just to clear way for the Not-So -Busy old airport will be totally irresponsible on the government's part. The old airport which should be abandoned sooner or later must not be given such priority, instead, it would be wiser to focus on building an alternative landing zone outside the city.

The government must also take into account that it was due to the failure of its own institutions that such buildings could be built in the first place. Demolishing parts of those now without considering how companies using them will be affected will not be justified.

I hope the government would refrain from going for such a drive that might disfigure almost all prominent buildings in one of the city's major commercial areas.

**Mirza Zeehan,** *Dhaka*



PHOTO: STAR

## Who will take care of them?

On the way to my office I saw thousands of people in the queue outside Sonargaon Hotel. They have to stand on the footpath throughout the day under direct sunlight or rain. Sometimes they get their tickets okayed and sometimes they have to come on the following day. They are working in Saudi Arabia, they are not very literate but they might be skilled workers. They are earning foreign currency for our country. They have to sacrifice their family life year after year for the same.

I think they have no other choice but to travel by a particular airline because they are working in Saudi Arabia. According to them, there is adequate space in the airline counters but only three-four staffs are deployed to handle the queue of thousands of people.

I hope the government will take the necessary steps to reduce their sufferings.

**Iftekhar**  
*On e-mail*

## Rangs Bhaban

We were waiting anxiously holding our breath to see the fate of the Rangs Bhaban.

The caretaker government had declared that it would be demolished because it was constructed on a land meant for a road.

**Nur Jahan**  
*Chittagong*

## Payment of gratuity

The hon'ble chief adviser's initiative in delivering the pension to a widow 30 yrs after her husband's death is

most admirable and praiseworthy. If the hon'ble CA had not taken this benevolent step, neither the widow nor her dependents would have ever received the money.

But the question arises as to whether the value of the money 30 years ago was the same as it is today.

Now is the appropriate time to set a time limit for payment of pension or gratuity. The delivery official concerned who fails to comply with the time limit should be penalized and the pensioner paid along with interest. This interest should be deducted from the salary of the official concerned, and not from the funds of the enterprise. Such a law will deter unscrupulous officers from harassing the retired personnel.

Everyone will retire one day. Surely then no one would like to get harassed for their dues for 10-30 yrs.

I retired from the BJMC Eastern Jute Mills in 2000. But I have not yet been paid 25% of my gratuity. What was the market price in 2000 and what is it today? The retired personnel have to suffer this great loss. Many retired personnel have died due to lack of proper treatment for want of money which was rightfully theirs.

**Syed Hossain Ali**  
*Khalishpur Housing Estate*  
*Khulna*

## Stop smoking

Every year more than one crore taka is burnt through smoking!

Smoking is one of the worst habits that harm people directly and indirectly. So, it must be stopped!

**Md. Mahmud Sayeed**

*Student of AUB*

## Power project priorities

Sharier Khan's write-up on the issue (August 13) discusses the order in which the Meghnaghat-3 and Sirajganj 450MW power plant proposals as well as the new Bibiyana 450MW proposal is being handled by the IFC and ADB for approval. It seems that the lenders are more in favour of processing the Bibiyana proposal first, as gas is readily available for it.

Currently, gas supplies are rather dicey, given the leaks in the gas line in the Karotoa river bed. Apart from this, there is overall gas shortage in the country. In contrast, there is gas readily available for the Bibiyana proposal from the installed Gas Processing Plant near it. With gas supply available, naturally the Bibiyana proposal deserves priority regarding transmission infrastructure to the proposed plant; it should also be included with the package.

Since ensured gas supply is the top priority, there seems to be nothing wrong in going for the Bibiyana proposal. After all, a bird in hand is worth two in the bush!

**S. A. Mansoor**  
*Gulshan, Dhaka*

# Disaster preparedness

Bangladesh is in the grip of unprecedented floods, perhaps the worst in recorded history. We usually have high floods in mid August and the government was caught unawares when the floods came in early. Two of the advisers admitted that they were not sufficiently prepared for the floods. Things would not be different even if the floods came in September. My question is, a huge amount of money was spent in the name of disaster preparedness. Hundreds of bureaucrats and a huge number of medical personnel under the supervision of the health ministry/BMA underwent

training and workshops to tackle such adverse circumstances. Many of them were sent abroad on this pretext. Millions of taka was spent so that they could come of some use under such circumstances.

Where are those trained, skilled and talented personnel who can deliver tall talks on flood/ tornado/earthquake management in air-conditioned rooms? What are they doing and why public money was spent on them if they cannot contribute anything during this time of emergency?

**Mamun**  
*On e-mail*

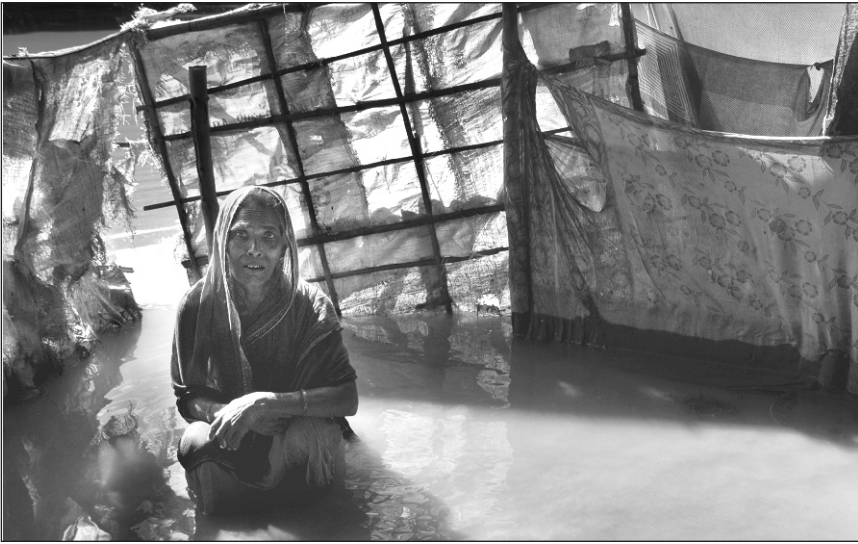


PHOTO: AMIRUL RAHMAN