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### Dhaka University incident

It is sad to see pictures of student led agitations on the streets of Bangladesh. It is sad to read about the incidents of people being killed in violent clashes and public and private property being destroyed as a form of protest. It is even sadder to see teachers jumping on the band-wagon with unruly "students". It seems even 36 years after independence we are unable to recognise that violence only hurts us as a nation since we are no longer under foreign occupation.

In any civilised country a minor incident where one spectator blocked the view of another during a mere soccer match would not have sparked nationwide violence.

The army is partly to blame.

At the same time, the so-called "students" do not have a carte blanche to hit out at law enforcers. Law enforcers are also sons and daughters of the soil and they have a job to do and make a living. They are human beings too and expect to be treated with equal dignity and honour. Just because they may not have had the good fortune to have a higher education does not mean they can be treated as the enemy. It is not only confounding but also utterly shameful that their teachers have used this minor incident to make political demands. Bangladesh is a country of some 150 million people. Most of the teachers and students involved in this incident clearly enjoy a tremendous amount of social privi-

lege by virtue of being the select few that are in our highest seats of publicly funded educational institutions. Imagine what will happen when the student(s) depicted in the newspaper photos as beating up someone in uniform comes to a position of authority himself; (s)he will only know how to be destructive. May be that's what we are seeing today from the so-called student leaders of yesteryears!

Perhaps as a nation it is time we came to our senses and realised that violence isn't the only way to deal with an issue. Army officers and anyone in a position of authority also have to realise that they have been entrusted with safeguarding our nation in one form or another. By donning a uniform, they must remind themselves of that solemn

vow to protect Bangladesh the vow to protect our people who include people like Choles Ritchie, the rickshaw puller who was killed in these violent incidents, the students who were watching the soccer match and anyone and everyone who is a citizen and a resident of sovereign Bangladesh.

Students have to realise that they are the future of the nation.

Instead of arming themselves with brick-bats, they need to arm themselves with knowledge and skill. Instead of learning how to set fire to cars, they must learn how to design and build cars so that one day global automobile manufacturing industry can take a foothold in our country. Students should learn how to strengthen our legal system and our administration so that one day we can be truly independent, instead of having to follow antiquated statutes and rules imposed on us by the British centuries ago. Students must learn how to deal with the healthcare and social needs of an over populated nation how to turn that liability into a powerful asset. Teachers must realise that moral responsibility to guide and mentor their students to build that confidence.

I would like to see exemplary punishment of all those who were responsible for mistreating the students in the first place. I would like to see the immediate expulsion of all students who are judicially proven to have taken the law into their own hands and I would also like to see suspension if not lifetime ban of all teachers who misguided their students into turning this into a political protest. Trouble makers have no business in participating in building a better Bangladesh. We are better off without them, especially when we have no shortage of people.

This is a litmus test for the interim government of Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed. We would like to see a fair but stern reaction to this sudden eruption of violence that has posed a national security threat. Do not fail us because if you do, we will very soon revert back to the days of cancerous corruption at every tier of society. More than anything else, we would like to see this interim government succeed in its holy mission of cleansing our society and not allow itself to be sabotaged by this type of incidents. Shabbir A. Bashir, Ph.D. Vancouver, USA

It appears that political parties, finding no other alternatives, provoke their student fronts to create anarchy and take advantage of the situation to start a 'movement'. Unfortunately, the general students are subjected to these sorts of unruly activities and their academic life is hampered.

This is an age-old story of Bangladesh and this way all the political parties have fooled the nation.

Yes, if anybody is found guilty by the independent inquiry body, only then he or they may be punished as per the law of the land.

Kazi Nasim Ahmed

Zigatola Notun Rasta

Dhaka

regrettable DU incident. We need to keep in mind that the incident was prompted by the actions of an individual or few individuals of the army and must not blame the army as an institution. The army has admirably bent backwards in accommodating the students' demands. Prompt actions by the CTG and the army must be appreciated.

Nothing can justify violence and destruction of properties as a means of protest. The government must take any measure needed so that the unruly elements do not use such incidents to disrupt peace and stability. The nation as a whole should stand behind the CTG and our patriotic institution of army, in their effort to protect peace, public life and property. Citizens must be vigilant that trapped, corrupt politicians can not manipulate these incidents to destabilise the country and escape the rule of law that has indicted many of them for misuse of power and corruption.

The CTG and the army need all out support from the law abiding citizens to ensure that our objective of establishing a just and corruption free society is not compromised under any pretext.

Iqbal Mahmood, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Engineer

Petra Geotechnical, Inc.

Murrieta, CA

### Go by the law

First, I demand a thorough investigation into the incidents of Dhaka University by an independent body which will find out the reason as to why such a small issue developed into such a big matter and who were instigating it.

By the way, it is an incident deliberately designed to embarrass the CTG and ensure its early departure.

We have seen earlier that the political parties, finding no other alternatives, provoke their student fronts to create anarchy and take advantage of the situation to start a 'movement'. Unfortunately, the general students are subjected to these sorts of unruly activities and their academic life is hampered.

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## Flood shelter



PHOTO: AFP

It appears that flood in Bangladesh has become a part of our life and is destined to occur at least once in two or three years, if not every year. To try to find causes of flood or try to prevent it would be a futile exercise and an absurd proposition because such exercise would not help us in any way due to practical reasons.

Therefore, instead of sitting idle and suffer as a fait accompli, perhaps we may try to adopt measures which may mitigate the sufferings of the flood stricken people, particularly belonging to the far flung areas.

In this respect I have thought of following steps which may be of interest to the authorities and other quarters:

1. Construction of six storied flood shelters in the remote inaccessible areas throughout the country to provide temporary shelters to the displaced persons and livestock of the locality. The shelters should have at least five thousand square feet in each floor with helipad facility on the roof.

2. Each shelter should be provided with two large boats for use during flood.

3. One of the floors could

be exclusively used as clinic and temporary residence for physicians and their staff etc.

4. These shelters could be used as school or madrasa during off-season. A portion of the shelters could also be used as community centre so that letting out those could generate funds for maintenance and meeting any other expenses.

5. The management committee of each shelter may comprise of representatives from local public, UP members, law enforcing agencies, NGOs like BRAC, Grameen Bank etc. The shelters should be under the overall legal and administrative supervision of the Ministry of LGRD.

Since the proposed project would entail investment of a substantial amount of money to materialise, appeals may be made to foreign donor agencies, Bangladeshi expatriates, local NGOs, and the public for contribution.

Perhaps Grameen Bank could consider participating in such a noble project. So far they are known for their contribution through a commercial and profit making venture. Let them now come up with some voluntary activities for the welfare of the distressed people. The

country would now like to see Dr. Yunus' benevolent role for the benefit of and in mitigating the sufferings of the distressed humanity.

In the recent floods it was noticed that public came up spontaneously to donate to flood relief funds without asking for any "label" as was asked by few major political parties in their usual manner of politicising every issue. But for want of any safe transportation such as motorized water crafts, far flung areas could not be reached by them. As a result, it was seen that, the flood affected people in and around the cities were the only recipients of the relief materials.

I believe the proposed idea would mitigate the sufferings of the flood affected people to a great extent as relief could be reached and distributed in an organised manner in the shortest possible time at their doorsteps. The services of the armed forces also could be sought to provide their logistic support to help the civil administration in the distribution of relief materials smoothly in a proper manner.

Mohammad Ataul Hoque

On e-mail

### Invitation for Local Tender

#### Bangladesh Power Development Board

Sealed local tenders are invited by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) from eligible & reputed local firm/organisation for performing commercial operation works including computerise billing of S&D Division Tangail of BPDB for three years as describe below and specified in the tender document:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.
2	Name of procuring entity	Bangladesh Power Development Board.
3	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
4	Tender invitation for	Appointment of contracting firm for performing commercial operation works including computerise billing of S&D Division Tangail of BPDB for three years.
5	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
6	Source of funds	BPDB's revenue fund in local currency.
7	Tender number and date	CZ/POB/Mymensingh/07/115 Date: 21-08-2007.
8	Date of selling of tender document	Upto 27-09-2007 during office hour.
9	Time for completion of the service	3 (three) years.
10	Eligibility of tenderers	The tenderers shall have experience of performing the similar works as mentioned in the tender document.
11	Price of tender document	Tk 5,000.00 (five thousand) (non-refundable) in shape of Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Dy. Director (A/C), RAO, BPDB, Mymensingh.
12	Amount of tender security	Tk 500,000.00 (five lac).
13	Validity of tender	150 (one hundred fifty) days from the date of tender opening.
14	Validity of tender security	178 (one hundred seventy-eight) days respectively from the date of opening of tender.
15	Name and address of the office tender invitation from	The Chief Engineer (Distribution), Central Zone Bangladesh Power Development Board Bidyut Bhavan (1st Floor) Kewatkhali, Mymensingh. Tel: 091-65977
16	Place of tender documents selling from	1. The General Manager, Commercial Operation Bangladesh Power Development Board Rony House, (2nd Floor) 153, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. 2. The Chief Engineer (Distribution), Central Zone Bangladesh Power Development Board Bidyut Bhavan (1st Floor) Kewatkhali, Mymensingh. Tel: 091-65977
17	Place of tender dropping and tender opening	The Chief Engineer (Distribution), Central Zone Bangladesh Power Development Board Bidyut Bhavan (1st Floor) Kewatkhali, Mymensingh Tel: 091-65977
18	Date and time for submission of tenders	On 30-09-2007 up to 11:00am (BST).
19	Date and time for opening of tenders	On 30-09-2007 at 11:30am (BST), tender shall be opened in presence of tenderer/tenderer's authorised representative, if any.
20	Place of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.
21	Date & time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.
22	Clarification on tender document	Any clarification only tender document purchasers can apply to Chief Engineer (Distribution), Central Zone at least 15 (fifteen) days before the tender opening date.
23	Special instructions	Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tenders shall be declared late, will be rejected, and returned unopened to the tenderer. The purchaser reserves the right to accept any tender, to annul the tender process, or to reject any or all tenders, at any time prior to contract award.
24	Brief description of work and services	Establishment of computer center for computerise bill preparation, electronic ledger maintenance and consumer ledger printing, payment clearance certificate printing and distribution bill distribution, taking meter reading, new consumer connection service connection, bank collection and commercial reporting, meter exchange/installation, disconnection/reconnection, meter sealing and achieving given system loss and collection target for S&D Division Tangail of BPDB for three years.

The Chief Engineer (Distribution)

Central Zone

Bangladesh Power Development Board

Bidyut Bhavan (1st Floor)

Kewatkhali, Mymensingh

Tel: 091-65977

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