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# Twenty20 cricket

I just love the way the atmosphere builds up during the match. I am fascinated as the commentators tell us everything about the teams, and the camera pans round the packed grandstands and we feel the crowd's excitement and ..... But then, reality strikes with a nauseating thud. The TV station cuts to yet another advertisement.

We miss the commentary between the overs. We cannot watch the captain reset his field. We do not see the replay and analysis of critical moments. We miss the introduction and background of the new batsman as he strides onto the field. We miss the. Well, everything actually.

In fact I miss the adverts as well, because I immediately switch to BBC World / CNN at the end of every over. Anything to avoid the repetitive, annoying, intrusive, insulting adverts.

When the Cricket World Cup comes to South Asia in 2011, Bangladesh has the chance to really make a difference and to stamp its indelible, unforgettable, mark on the game.

I realise that cricket is big business and needs its sponsors, but the Bangladesh Cricket Board and TV broadcasters could strike a blow for all cricket lovers and win the respect of millions of viewers all over the world. Let the authorities insist that advertisements can only appear at the start / finish of the broadcast, or maybe allow them after every 10 overs. That way, true fans can absorb so much more information about the actual game of cricket.

I realise that seems a pipe

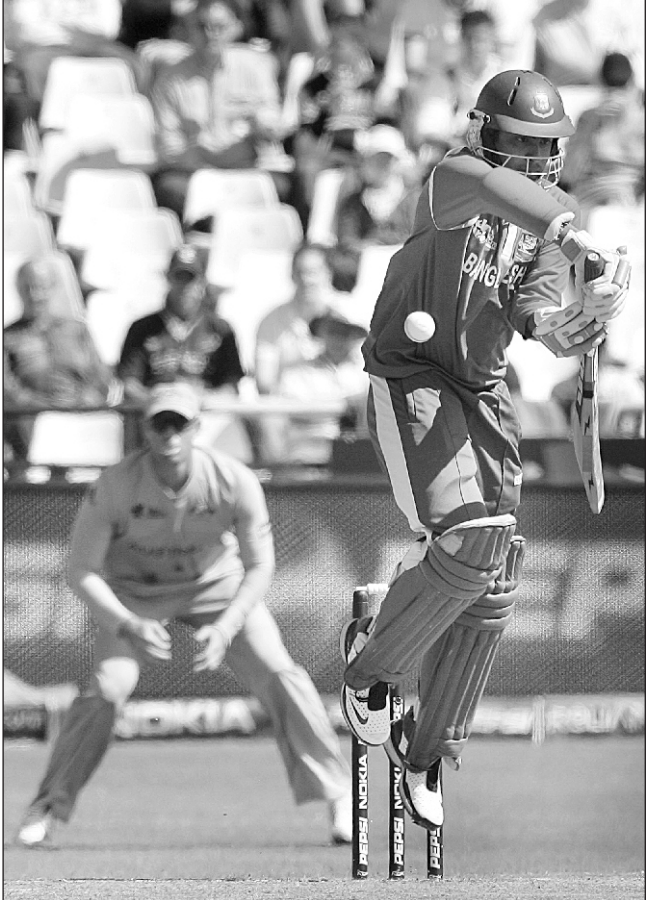


PHOTO: AP

dream now, but anything is possible if the authorities had enough courage and creativity to fight back against the tyranny of the advertising industry!

Finally, let me say that what makes it especially sad for me is contemplating the fact that a whole generation of cricketing fans is growing up in Bangladesh who have never had the opportunity, as I did as a young man, of watching cricket without any ads! Yes, children, once upon a time on the BBC, we could watch cricket all day and the only breaks in transmission would be at lunch and tea.

Can you imagine how much better that was? Can you imagine how much we learned about the game from the knowledgeable commentators throughout the match?

Oh well, until a miracle happens I will have to wait for the highlights (which have fewer ad breaks), rely on the print media or keep the remote control in my hand for a quick switch every few minutes. What a bore!

**Keith D Cundale**  
*Gulshan, Dhaka*

of the government will increase which will penalise the taxpayers in the form of higher tax burden. The government will require a huge amount of money to demolish this building. They also have a plan to build new roads which will aggravate the situation. Since the demand for road space is inelastic, this new road that will be built will again get congested and the whole traffic system may get disrupted. On top of that, there will be an increase in the level of government expenditure in building new roads which again may affect the taxpayers.

It is a good sign that the government is arresting all the corrupt people.

But I have a question. Will the economy attain stability if the government continues arresting these people?

The people keep complaining about the higher prices of goods and services. Subsidising the local producers will reduce the costs of production, leading to a fall in the price level. This will increase the living standard of general people and hence they will be benefited. Higher inflation will affect the low income households and the country will also lose international competitiveness leading to exhaustion of the foreign reserves.

As far as I have seen, the government is not doing any of these and this will aggravate the condition of the economy to a large extent. Since our country is not in a strong position, the government should take some wise steps that would benefit the people.

**S. Choudhury**  
*Uttara, Dhaka*

## US-led naval exercise

We can recall our history when the US Navy's Seventh Fleet came to the Bay of Bengal in 1971 to defeat the Liberation War of Bangladesh. It was the time when this fleet tried to intimidate India as it fought Pakistan along with Bangladesh freedom fighters in a war that led to Bangladesh's birth. It was the period when the Indian foreign policy upheld the principles of Non Aligned Movement and followed the path towards self-reliance. But now, the situation has changed.

Ironically, the same Seventh Fleet was back in the same waters, equipped with a second aircraft carrier, a nuclear submarine and scores of fighter jets in the biggest US naval assembly in 36 years. According to Reuters, the fleet anchored under cloudy skies in the middle of the Bay of Bengal had the US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, which was involved in the war against Iraq in 2003, while an Indian aircraft carrier sailed along with it.

This event clearly signals that by departing from the Nehruvian foreign policy, the present government of India is trying to establish closer military ties with the US and also to put itself in the strategic orbit of the US, which is a long desired agenda US agenda. This new trend of Indian foreign policy has been seriously criticised by the intellectuals, security analysts and the left political parties of India.

After a tense face-off with the UPA government on the Indo-US nuclear deal, the left parties of India are hitting the streets in a nationwide mass campaign against the US-led joint naval exercise involving India, Australia and Singapore. According to a September 2 report of PTI, the four parties kick-started two simultaneous processions on 4 September from Chennai and Kolkata to protest the naval war-games, besides organising separate campaigns against the "anti-people" policies of the government. Indian left parties are of the view that the joint exercises in the Bay of Bengal from September 4-9 was a major step towards India joining a "strategic security coopera-

tion" with the US, Australia and Japan.

While this is the evaluation of Indian security experts and left political parties, what would the Bangladeshi security experts say? Will they welcome the Seventh Fleet? Or oppose this imperial war-game?

**Hasan Tarique Chowdhury**  
*Secretary, Bangladesh Peace Council*

## Energy saving lamp

Much is said about ESL; as if, it is our only saviour in these days of power crisis. While calculating power or energy with conventional electric lamps, such as tungsten filament lamp or florescent tube, the power factor is taken to be unity by electricity supply authorities. But while comparing ESL with tungsten filament lamp or florescent tube, it is seen, the power factor of ESL is taken as unity and that for conventional lamps is set at 0.8. Why is it done? Is it to give ESL an edge over conventional electric lamps in matters of saving energy? Is the power factor of ESL actually unity? Does the ESL have uniform efficiency all over its life? Does its efficiency hold good at all voltage level? What effect does it have on eyes of human beings? A lot of questions like these cross our minds, but nothing of this sort is publicised. The intensity of light of ESL is higher than those of conventional electric lamps, no doubt; but its brilliance impinges on the eye. So what should we opt for health or economy?

**Md. Tozmil Hoque**  
*Kanasgari, Sherpur road Bogra*

## Discourteous!

The other day, I wanted to watch a TV serial on one of the private channels. As is probably true about most other TV programmes, it was also sponsored by a list of commodities/companies. But it was a horrible experience to be repeatedly distracted by commercials coming in the form of courtesy. It is understandable, in the age of market, that one can't expect to gain something, even entertainment, for free; here comes media endorsement of commodities. But too much is simply gross!

I just switched off the television and got to bed. My humble reminder to such programme planners would be that even courtesy should not forget its limits!

**A citizen**  
*Dhaka*

## Biofuel and food security

Your staff correspondent's report (Sept:15) about an Indian NGO personnel (expert?) on the subject is subjective, and should be ignored by all concerned. Possibly it relates to the Indian scenario, blessed with vast resources of coal, and now also new offshore resources of oil and gas. To some extent food grain as source of Biofuel production is used in the US, Brazil and a few European countries, and maybe India. However the quantities used are very little compared to their food production; incidentally highly subsidised and surplus to their needs! The fact is that Biofuel can be produced from a wide variety of feed stock; like "shapla" growing wild in water bodies that cannot be contained; plant and vegetable refuses of all types, plant stalks, sugarcane bark, and skins of peeled fruits and vegetables going to garbage! It can also be produced from all types of animal and human solid excreta.

Given this broad spectrum of feedstock, the priority for using food grain in Bangladesh context does not arise; and the statements of the so-called expert is to discourage our endeavour to generate biogas, and

# Reopen Dhaka University



PHOTO: AWIKADIAN SIDDIQUI

We are optimistic, the campus will regain its throb of life with the footsteps of the students. Birds will chirp and city dwellers will get their retreat to breathe fresh air.

Teachers and students will move together, they will share their views and ideas.

I hope the authorities concerned will soon reopen Dhaka University.

**An activist**  
*Dhaka University Students Association*

nip it in the bud! The speaker is unaware of the intelligence and business scene of our farmers; which is not inferior to theirs in any manner! They will only sell their products to the highest bidder; and they produce crops based on local demand.

If any organisation (local or overseas), is willing to invest US\$1 billion, as reported, then we should look at it pragmatically, and not be swayed by some pseudo expert's shallow views! May be a similar start was done regarding inciting public opinion about open pit coal mining, while in India they are going all out for it! My frank advice to this expert from India is: "Physician Heal Thyself".

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

## Mannan Bhuiyan's contention

RE: Expelled Secretary General did not want to lie at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

The recently expelled BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was besieged by the journalists; he faced questions about the current hot issues in our country. In reply to the questions of the journalists the expelled BNP secretary general said, "Today is the first day of Ramadan, I do not want to deliver any political speech on this holy day".

This is what has caught the attention of a young student studying abroad like me. I have been observing that the sacked BNP secretary general has become one of the most talked about persons in Bangladesh and he has been dominating the headline of our newspapers with little ups and downs. Judging the comment of a former leading politician of Bangladesh by an 18 year old student might be crossing the limit, but I would just like to take the opportunity to express my feelings and thoughts on his comment.

As far as I know there is no such thing in Islam that you cannot give a political speech at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. Politics should be for the people, for the advancement of a country. I also know from the Holy Quran and the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that the whole life of a person can be counted as *ibadah* if it is guided by the holy book and the Sunnah.

If politics is for the people and for establishing the rights of the people, then it is also a good deed. Why did Mr. Bhuiyan refuse to answer the questions of the journalists on the first day of Ramadan?

**Lutful Karim Gufran**  
*Multimedia University Malaysia*

## IMF issue

The Daily Star should run more stories about the dealings of the IMF. The public, myself included, reside in ignorance. Talking to

people from developing countries, it sounds as though the IMF coerces the countries into taking loans from them on certain conditions. I urge you to bring the truth to light.

We must distance ourselves from these agencies which, in the name of helping the poor economically, only want to exercise political influence on foreign nations. It is modern day equivalent of British imperialism - the Brits also thought that we were not capable of helping

ourselves. In the name of helping developing countries, IMF threatens to label the countries as failed nations if they do not take loans to improve "national security" etc. Such are the allegations against them.

**Ishtiaque Ahmed**  
*On e-mail*

# Ramadan price hike



We were gearing up for the holy month of Ramadan last week amid massive price hike. The start of Ramadan, the ninth and the holiest month of the Islamic calendar, is traditionally determined by the sighting of new moon. For the month, we are required to abstain from food, drink etc from dawn until dusk, as life slips into a lower gear during the day, and it peaks between iftar, the breaking of the fast at sunset, and sehri, the last meal of the day before sunrise.

This year in Dhaka, however, the shopping frenzy began weeks ago.

Has the government done anything to control the prices

of essentials?

**Scionara Shehry**  
*Mastermindi Dhanmindi, Dhaka*

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We are flabbergasted at the lack of realisation of the impact of price hike on common people.

The sooner the government comes out to solve the problem of price hike, the better for the nation. Otherwise, God forbid, a trifling incident may ignite a spontaneous outbreak.

**GMF Abdur Rob**  
*Baridhara DOHS Dhaka*

# Global warming



For God's sake, please wake up. Things are going from bad to worse every day. For quite some time I have been trying to convince the world that we are just trying for a remedy on a wrong diagnosis.

What is happening worldwide? Is it just warming? Definitely not.

Every moment we are receiving heat from the sun, most of which radiate back to the space. But due to the Green House Effect, a very small part of it is trapped inside the planet, which might cause global warming (so far we are thinking like that). But what about the total heat we are injecting into the planet by burning millions of tons of chemical, atomic and other fuels every day? As soon as we are converting those chemical, atomic and other fuels into heat energy, there is no turning back, this energy cannot be taken back. This heat only keeps on increasing, there is no chance of this heat radiating to outer space.

The consequence is grave and fatal.

There are three major effects.

1. It is warming the planet, that is the temperature of the planet will be rising and at some point it may rise up to 60 to 80 degC.
2. It will melt the ice of the glaciers; as a result the water level of seas and oceans will keep on rising.
3. It will bring in more rain worldwide and at some point there will be only one season in the world, that is, rainy season. It will raise the chances of floods, cyclones and tornadoes.

So please stop, I repeat stop burning fuels of any kind. Try to develop cold engine, cold engine is the only engine which can save the Extinction of Human Race from this most beautiful planet.

Please wake up, before it is too late.

**Engr. Mainac Goutam**

*On e-mail*