



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.

## Global warming



With natural calamities around the globe, in different forms of extreme rainfalls, earthquakes, tsunami etc and with the global leaders going busy (lately enough though) to sort out measures to cope with them, the world seems, however, to have a little respite before conceding some unprecedent damage.

It is however to be mentioned here that the West, the USA (the developed countries) have been using industrial fuels (carbon) and thus emitting them indiscriminately right from the time of the Industrial Revolution. China, the Asian Giant, joined

them lately. Now the questions that are haunting us, when the whole globe is on the verge of a disaster are manifold: why didn't all these developed countries take the necessary measures to control the menace? If they had taken steps in this regard, then, at what proportion did they do it? Were they not aware of the future devastating effect of carbon emissions? And again, the more frightening point is that the developing countries, Bangladesh and some more, are going to be the worst victims of the calamity, where they had very little or no involvement whatsoever.

### Compliance officer

A new post has been created in the RMG sector. That is compliance officer. Nowadays it's a very challenging & sensitive post. The value of this post is increasing rapidly. But a compliance officer cannot perform his duties independently because some owners want to recruit compliance officers only to display before the buyers that they are complying with the set standards.

I think the best way to ensure compliance is to enhance the customers' confidence. Md. Enamul Islam Tejgaon, Dhaka

### Reaz Rahman on Shehabuddin book

I am prompted to write this letter to tell some truths which Mr. Reaz Rahman in his letter published in The Daily Star on 24 September preferred to conceal. Rahman refers to his crossing over to Afghanistan when he was denied permission to join Bangladesh in 1971. The fact is that Rahman crossed into Afghanistan only in early 1973 with many thousands of other Bengalis who were following the same hazardous route of the Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier and from there to Kabul and onward to New Delhi. These people after

## Perils of leadership

The toughest leadership job in the world: captaincy of the Indian cricket team, according to an article in the Internet, reprinted in the Dhaka press (Sep 20). Dhoni was under the microscopic test, after R. Dravid stepped out voluntarily, (earlier Tendulkar).

As a lifelong resident in hot-seat Dhaka, I offer other choices of risky leaderships: the many political governance of problematic Bangladesh -- note the wobbling images of the two Awami/Janata Begums, duly elected as reps of the misguided people (forced into non-transparent voting). Make hay while the sun shines is not good governance.

The masses can intuitively

Dhaka -- matching Ripley's book Believe It or Not.

One of the problems is the division of loyalty: public service or private gain. How long the latter could be hidden? Some of the camp followers would spill out and confess -- the have-not mentality is a bitter pill.

Captaining newly independent nations in the third world is tougher than imagined through book knowledge -- like IMF pre-conditioned prescriptions for economic emancipation. Closed mind citizens (majority illiterate and living below poverty line) are tough nuts to crack, and line up on your side. The other group of have-nots magnify

bonuses. The focus shifts from the central core issue/goal to peripheral adjustments all the time -- you have to be an expert on trimming exercises and non-transparent compromises. An empty or half-empty stomach has other priorities than chasing lofty principles -- the survival instinct.

In three decades, Bangladesh could not settle down to a routine implementation of the guiding principles of new nationhood. The situation in the other truncated state (now Pakistan) is no better. Why India is more stable, comparatively? The mass effect: too big and too diversified outside tiny New Delhi. Dhaka is different: you can't do business without



PHOTO: AFP

feel the strains of faulty leadership -- Bush is no exception. The history of dictatorships around the globe through the centuries confirmed the vicissitudes of the lonely life at the top. Being surrounded by sycophants is no protection in the future -- watch the way the CTG is removing the veils in

the glitter of money -- where is my share? Is this the background for forging national unity? A lone outsider trying to rob a beehive with 5,000 security guards?

In the South, the political environment for leadership is thorny and hostile; undisciplined; targeted on ad hoc

coming to Dhaka. Should we go for provinces, with provincial governments, and lessen the pressure on Dhaka, the national capital? One big reason is the high density of population in this deltaic region -- govern less people with more MPs.

A citizen  
One-mail

among many others, Reaz Rahman and his family at Delhi Airport on a winter afternoon in 1973. So Reaz Rahman's crossing over to Afghanistan one full year after the liberation of Bangladesh cannot be considered an instance of credit, much less of patriotism.

Reaz Rahman

defends his decision to return to Pakistan in early October of 1971 as he could not trust either Pakistan or India because they had their own games to play. Well, this is the very same defence of the Jamaatis for their hostile role against our liberation war in 1971. The Jamaatis say that they could not trust India. The difference here is that Rahman has added Pakistan with India but then, lo and behold, even then he returns to Pakistan which was a country he could not trust!

More importantly, when the Shehabuddins and the Amjadul Haques were joining the Bangladesh liberation war in Delhi, Calcutta, London, Washington and in many other places, Reaz Rahman could not trust India which was then our biggest partner! The Bengali drivers of the Pakistan High Commission also were deeply moved in 1971 to join the liberation war and Pakistan's then Deputy High Commissioner in Calcutta, Hossain Ali, took over the whole Deputy High Commission with his other 65 Bengali colleagues on 18 April 1971. In those days so many momentous and historical events were taking place every moment. But Reaz Rahman found nothing around him to encourage him to join the liberation war!

Finally, I urge all the leading nations to fight against this danger all united and quick. Nature, otherwise, might strike furiously.

Rafiqul Islam Rime

Agrabad, Chittagong

You see a huge signboard here. Advertisements say plots are ready, but you see the land is still under 10 feet deep floodwater! About a month back, the daily Prothom Alo ran a news report about private land developers taking full payment from buyers and they take 2-4 years to hand over the plots.

What about Rajuk? They received full payment from us some four years back for Purbachal plots. The officials of Purbachal Project said that plots would probably be handed over in 10-15 years' time. For the next generation! Where is the accountability of Rajuk, for that matter of the government? The caretaker government possibly can do something to expedite the completion of the project. Since Rajuk has received full payment for the plots and for all necessary works of the project, there should not be any reason for such inordinate delay.

May I draw the kind attention of the Honorable Adviser in charge to look into the matter.

Faria Hossain

Banani, Dhaka

### SAU's relief effort

The damage caused by this year's devastating flood particularly to our agriculture and infrastructure is enormous. With a view to helping our farmers to recover from the loss, the teachers, officers, and staffs of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU) in a recent meeting under Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. AM Farooque's chairmanship decided to donate their one day's salary to the Chief Adviser's Flood Relief Fund. A committee has also been formed to raise seedlings for distribution among the flood-affected farmers. The students have also contributed to the relief fund formed by SAU.

We are confident that we will soon overcome the hardship under the fair and efficient management of the present caretaker government.

Professor M Zahidul Haque

Chairman

Department of Language, SAU

### Begum Zia's appeal

I was surprised by Begum Zia's request to the CTG to send her son Koko to Singapore or Bangkok for better treatment (your daily 27 September 2007). Why Madam? I recall your last speech to the nation on TV and radio before abdicating power last year. You gave a long list of developments and achievements made by your govt. Didn't you develop our hospitals well enough so that your son could be treated here in Bangladesh?

I feel very upset when I see people like you heading for Singapore or Saudi Arabia for treatment of even minor ailments.

Mustafizur Rahman

One-mail

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