

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.



Myanmar situation

No matter what the people of Myanmar, UN, neighbours or other countries say, the abject situation of the country cannot be changed without active involvement in this direction by the closest superpower, China.

Communism is a form of feudalism by a governing elite. Feudalism is a straightforward power of muscle and might to subdue and rule the population and is the oldest type of rule known in human society which the Burmese generals are now practising. Communism is a little bit more evolved concept in that it is partially both 'anti-capitalist' and 'anti-democracy'. Russia and China have found so far only the merits of capitalism but no democracy (as practised in the west). An element of democ-

racy is of course 'human rights'.

For the US, UN and European powers etc., to condemn Burma for violation of democracy and human rights will fall on deaf ears of the rulers as they would for say Russia, China or any other country where there is no true democracy. Democracy seems to come about by a Hegelian synthesis of monetary power struggle between the capitalist rich who do not belong to the ruling elite (as in the west), and the rich who only belong to the ruling elite (as in Saudi Arabia and other kingdoms or feudalistic countries).

Unfortunately, there are no civilian rich of sufficient number in Burma who feel threatened by the military junta and

agree in their minds to bring about an end to their power. And there does not appear to be any reason why China should support a movement for true democracy there, as it would lose many lucrative trade deals, because a democratic Myanmar will naturally lean to the west. The other reason for China not to support the monks in Myanmar is its own conduct in Tibet.

So everyone concerned must surely look to China for a solution of the Burmese problem.

Another cynical solution to goad China into such an activity would be to help the Burmese military junta to acquire nuclear weapons! Engineer Shafi Ahmed London, UK

egoistic confrontational politics that the whole country faced a crisis. They politicised all public and national institutions with the ulterior motive of clinching power. The CTG's move to cleanse these institutions is widely acclaimed.

In spite of all good intention, the CTG made some excesses in implementing its rigid policy of eliminating corruption, irregularities and unlawful practices within a short span of time, which created panic. Countrywide eviction of hawkers and small traders from footpaths and government khas lands crushed their economic backbone. Rough and tough attitude and comments of some Advisers of the CTG caused fear and loss of confidence among businessman and the industrialist community. Arrest of some big business magnets on the ground of corruption and tax evasion and stringent measures against their business institutions added fuel to this process as many others were on the run abandoning their firms. Although it is a fact that there are corruption and tax-evasion charges against a group of businessmen and industrialists, but they should be given the chance to face trial keeping their businesses functioning in the interest of the economy.

As a result of these rigorous measures, the overall economic growth became sluggish, price of essentials rose abnormally, commercial and industrial institutions fell in management and liquidity crises, new investment slowed down, uncertainty of retrenchment grew among employees, common people's sufferings rose manifold, and so on.

Seeing the bad impact on the economy, now the CTG has realised that quick and harsh measures at a time would not bring solutions to all the problems.

Rather, reconciliation and gradual emancipation should be the right path to achieving the goal.

Shihab Uddin Ahmed Campbell Road Warren, USA

Khaleda Zia and the ACC

Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia resisted the formation of the Anti-Corruption Commission as long as she could. Bangladesh already inherited an Act entitled "Prevention of Corruption Act 1947". A department of the government called the Bureau of Anti-Corruption was entrusted with the responsibility for fighting corruption.

During the last year of Sheikh Hasina's tenure, Bangladesh was declared by the Transparency International as the most corrupt country of the world. Bangladesh continued to retain the position during the successive years in 2001, 2002 and 2003. The donor organisations put pressure on Khaleda Zia to form an independent commission to prevent corruption.

Finally, Khaleda yielded and had to create an independent anti corruption commission in 2004. She however took sufficient precaution to make the ACC ineffective in all possible ways! She appointed a 76 years old retired justice of the high court as the chairman and a 72 years old educationist as a member of the commission. The member was a staunch supporter of her party. The chairman and the member never saw eye to eye and so could not agree on any matter. Moreover, the tenure of office of the chairman and the members of the commission was fixed for a period of four years.

The events of 11 January 2007 foiled all her evil plans. A new caretaker government was formed. The chairman and the members of the Anti-Corruption Commission had to resign. A new chairman was sworn in with steadfast conviction to eradicate corruption. The ACC is now taking into account scores of glaring corruption cases against the former prime minister, her sons and ministers. Now Khaleda is being prosecuted by the ACC which she created.

After all, the man who invented the guillotine was also guillotined! Rafiqul Islam Gulshan, Dhaka

National government

The proposal of forming a National Government for 10 years sounds like a new realisation of a few leaders. Obviously, the country cannot continue with the existing multiparty system headed by a few professionals doing politics.

Surprisingly, those who are supporting this concept could not agree even in December, 2006 to update the voter list, change of Chief Election Commissioner etc.

Maybe, some politicians are now trying to find a way out of the "awkward" situation. Kumar Prithwiraj Nath Toronto, Canada

Mass transport options

Various types of city mass transport systems for Dhaka was described by the staff correspondent (Oct. 8) of a local English daily. These types are by any means a high-tech system. Maybe, it could be so for a

technically undeveloped country like Bangladesh. Such modes of transport had been running in many countries for around half a century if not more! Naturally, it is being modified and upgraded periodically; which is done to all plants and equipment in any technically developed country.

Hi-tech refers to new innovations, inventions or patents that have only recently been put into service. High-tech is a super high speed mass transport system now under development in the USA combining maglev (a high-tech system) and vacuum technologies. This driver-less (train like) vehicle can reach speeds of 6500km./hour! That will be a real high-tech transport system; coming from existing technologies based on proven principles of physics; but modified beyond imagination.

Between the three options described in the report (elevated expressway, underground electric trains and monorail); personally I prefer monorail; which is the cheapest of the three options.

Also it is more flexible in types of traction option (can run on diesel, LNG or LPG as fuel), and is environment friendly through natural airflow ventilation and easier to operate with no chance of derailment!

For underground railway, large amount of dedicated (with 100percent redundancy) fool proof high voltage power for train traction and also low voltage for continuous underground shaft ventilation and lighting are needed (all essential); with no option for power failure or load shedding! The prospect of derailment is also present. Given our power sector's performance till date, our record is probably second to none in this world, we should think twice before adopting any plan.

S.A. Mansoor Retired engineer, Dhaka

Creators of marvels!

Most people, living in Dhaka, have seen the statues of heron standing in front of the Biman office in Motijheel. Many people making bus journeys have also witnessed the 'sea-shell shower' beside the VIP Road and the 'car of chain and steel' in front of Southern CNG refueling station beside Tejgaon Industrial Road.

These things are very charming and can attract people of all ages. Children, often, stare at the 'car of chain and steel' and sometimes insist their parents and guardians to look at it when their car stands on the queue to refuel from that CNG station. But readers, I have one important question for you. Who created all these? Are you interested to know who created these establishments? If yes, then how would you know?

Luckily, I came to know about one of the eminent artists directly from my student. When I first went to my student's home, I was welcomed by a man who is my student's father. In the first class of my student, I asked him about his father's profession. I got an answer from him that flabbergasted me. "My father is an artist and he designed many foundations (all the three things mentioned earlier)," he said. Then, I enquired about his father's name. He replied, "Mrinal Haque." I was completely stunned because I had never heard about the brilliant artist who has accomplished so much artistic works around this metropolitan city. Now he is working on two new projects. One in front of Hotel Sheraton and another in front of the airport.

I bet most people in Dhaka city are unaware of the fact that Mrinal Haque is the creator of so many marvels around the city. This country has numerous radio stations, newspapers and television channels. So, why are artists, like Mrinal Haque, hiding from us? Do the news reporters and organisers think that such wonderful creations deserve no coverage? Or more specifically, aren't these fabulous productions part of news?

Like him, many artists have raised various beautiful structures throughout the city, but how many artists do you know? Md. Sakib Niaz Malibagh, Dhaka

Power-sharing deal in Pakistan

President General Pervez Musharraf has cleared a key hurdle to his smooth re-election after agreeing to a deal with former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto that paves the way for power-sharing. The draft of the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) as part of a power-sharing deal has been finalised between the two.

This deal will bring benefits to Benazir and the Pakistan People's Party. It will not create a level-playing field for all the political parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz. I don't think this deal will make the way for transition from military dictatorship to civilian democracy. It will actually violate the spirit of

The greatest revolutionary!



This month marks the 40th death anniversary of probably one of the greatest revolutionaries, anti-imperialist - none other than Ernesto Che Guevara. October 9th, 1967, was the day when this great man was killed by the CIA-backed Bolivian government.

He might have died that day, but his deeds will forever be remembered and he has now become a symbol of revolution. People associate the name of Guevara with revolution. The most important initiative taken by Che was that he fought against

American Imperialism and in the present day world, America seems to be dictating the terms in many developing countries and also in many important world issues even if their judgment and assessment are mostly self-centered. So this was a man who fought against injustice, against America's ever commanding attitude.

Today, his famous image produced by Fitzpatrick, stands imprinted on countless T-shirts, wrappers, cigars, walls etc but the important thing is that people who are

buying such products (which have his image imprinted on them), must realise who Guevara actually was. They must know the ideals he fought for and they must know that this was a man who managed to overthrow the cruel dictator Batista and save Cuba from America's grip. Hope the people who oppose Che and term him as a cold-blooded murderer, will one day realise the true intentions that he had. Wasif Wahed Old DOHS, Dhaka

Sports

It is common knowledge that countries across the world use sport events to advance their so-called national interests. Excellence in sports gives a special status and esteem to the country having the best kind of sport arsenal to its credit. But what generally happens is that sport events and skills are exploited for the nation's other purposes and used as bargain chips to advance the economic, nuclear, military hardware or other special interests. The sport mafias operating in these fields broker the deals between the countries, or even the countries directly clinch the deals themselves. Thus a winning team or an individual loses to another as per the "instructions" obtained from "above". As a result, sports become highly volatile and totally unpredictable. Dr. Abdul Ruff Colachal JNU, Delhi

English language skills

I would actually like to portray the alarming state of English language in Bangladesh. Most of the people do find the English language pretty difficult to handle, despite having advanced educational degrees. The performance of those people in all aspects of the language (i.e. listening, reading, writing, and speaking) is depressing. The inability to learn and use the English language has greatly affected us and we are left behind!

The world has become more competitive in the era of globalisation and we are definitely falling behind due to the poor standard of our English. Md. Badiuzzaman Tamal Mirpur Housing Estate, Dhaka

DSE General Index

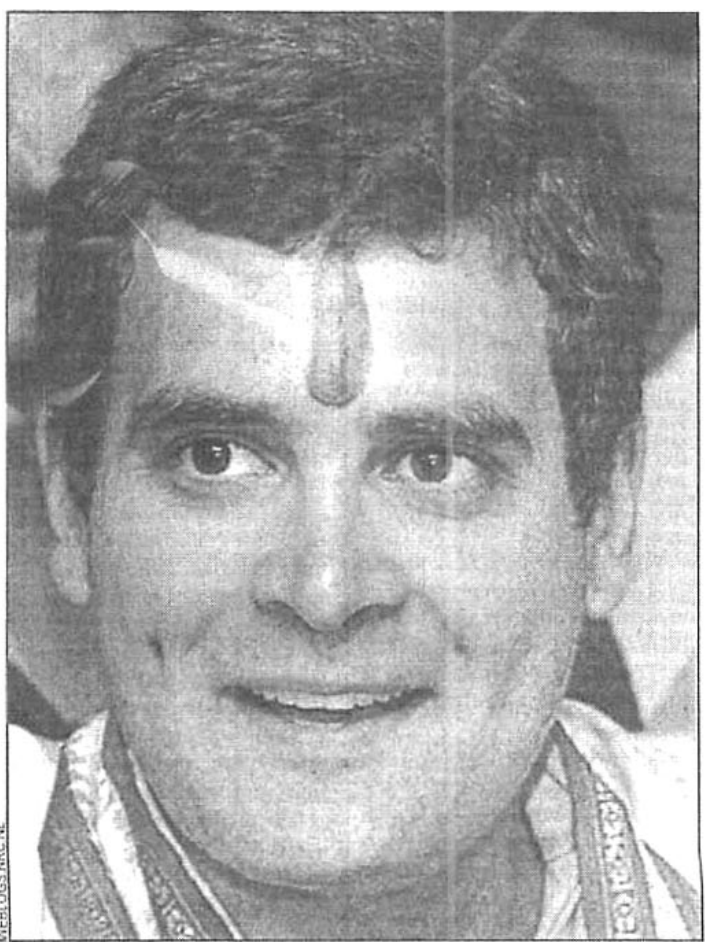
The Dhaka Stock Exchange General Index on Tuesday reached 2802.61 marks for the first time in

Rahul Gandhi

Recently, Mr. Rahul Gandhi, son of the former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, had a conversation with the former British PM Tony Blair, foreign secretary David Milliband on the issue of more investment in India. But Joy, son of the former Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina, has called upon all Bangladeshis overseas not to send remittances to BD after his mother was arrested. The fact is that Joy just loves his mother....

On other hand, the two sons of the former premier Khaleda Zia are detained on corruption charges. So, what can we expect from them?

Emdad Islam London, UK



Voter list

We all welcome the news that the general election might be held by October 2008. The CEC in a press conference has narrated the steps being taken for preparation of the voter list with photo, possible timing of the city corporation elections, etc. He has also mentioned his satisfaction regarding the work already done for the preparation of the voter list with photo in some selected areas, and also expressed his satisfaction with the progress of work in other places at hand now.

For the purpose of transparency, the EC may kindly inform the people regarding the following aspects in course of their next press conference:

a. What procedural steps and formalities are being followed while a voter list with photo of a given constituency or area is considered complete?

b. Statistical data like number of voters with photo, gender wise, in each completed constituency or area.

c. Under the new law, is it a part of the prescribed proce-

dures to make a draft list and put it on display for public viewing in the area, and after certain date, make it final taking into consideration any objection or prayer for inclusion of omitted names?

The above issues are basic about finalisation of a voter list. Therefore, we think it might be useful to raise these questions for more clarity on the status of preparation of the voter list with photo.

A reader One-mail