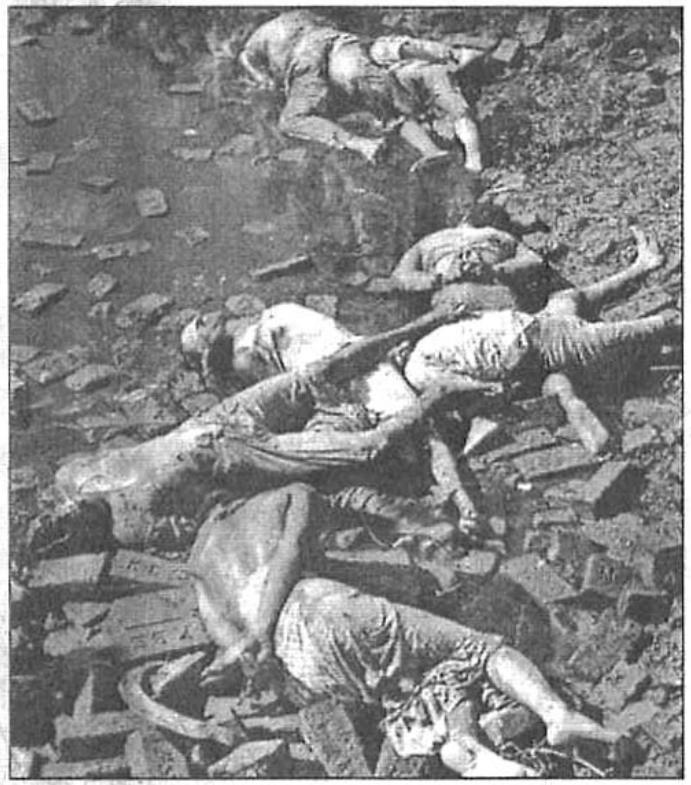


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Jamaat disowning war crimes!



amnesty by the Bangabandhu government those against whom there were no grievous charges.

At the time of Bangabandhu's killing on 15 August, 1975, the remaining 11,000 classified collaborators, Razakars and Al-Badrs were under trial and among them were Nizami and Abbas Ali Khan. They did not get any clemency or mercy shown by the Bangabandhu government, nor were they released from jail. On 4 November 1972, religion-based politics was abolished according to sections 12 and 38 of the constitution. Bangladesh Citizenship Act was introduced on 15 December 1972.

On 18 April 1973, Golam Azam and his accomplices were stripped off their citizenship through a gazette notification. The Bangladesh government issued an order, International Crime Act of 1973 for the Pakistani war criminals. Bangladesh Criminal Act/Collaborator Act was rescinded by a martial law proclamation on 31 December 1975. Furthermore, on 18 January 1976, the war criminals were asked by the ministry concerned to apply for citizenship. Accordingly, Golam Azam and other collaborators and Al-Badrs/Razakars, who lost their citizenship, were allowed to return to Bangladesh and get back their rights to participate in political activities. Golam Azam got his citizenship back under the patronage of Ziaur Rahman.

The bottom line is International Crime Act of 1973 is still active and effective. Article 47, Section 3 of the Act allows trial of war criminals of Pakistan if the UN and other humanitarian organisations agree. But the Bangladesh government must start the process first. Restoration of the 1972 constitution will allow total ban on religion-based political parties. However, banning the Jamaat from doing politics should not be a problem if the Election Commission in its election reform package and the Political Party Act includes the clause of debarring participation of parties based on religion the same way proven corrupt politicians and loan defaulters will be debarred from participating in election.

Let the opportunity not be missed! Let the common voice prevail.
Kazi Haque
Melbourne, Australia

Bhuiyan's followers

Followers of Mr. Mannan Bhuiyan are crowding at the house of Mr. Delwar Hussain since many of them like to remain always with the winning party. This time around, nobody can say who will win the race in the long run.

It is true all the political parties must make some reforms in their constitution, changes in their leadership and also in the attitude of serving the nation. Obviously, public at large do not any longer like to see the parliament as a federation of chamber of commerce or a trade organisation of moneymakers.

Politics must be taken henceforth as a great social service with dedication, sacrifice and patriotism and not as a profession to survive with wishful thinking and tall talks.

Those who are now trying to change the colour or the banner must meditate to change their mind, if they mean politics for the people and for the cause of the nation in the coming days.

Kumar Prithviraj Nath

Toronto, Canada

Party and politics

Woodrow Wilson, American President during the First World War, in his State of the Union message in 1917 remarked, "The world must be made safe for democracy". By this comment he probably meant that the path of democracy is not that easy as we generally take it to be.

To achieve it, a nation has to make a perilous and hazardous journey. The American President's remark dates back almost a century.

Without political party, people's participation in the government is out of question. Since the birth of

Bangladesh as a sovereign independent state we had many governments to hold the reins of the state without a political party in the real sense of the term. Most of the period we had a single party dictatorship in the garb of multiparty real democracy. We try to call three successive governments, which ruled the country from 1991 to 2006, as democratic government. But it is our consolation only. The people had cast their votes against symbols. They voted either for the 'paddy sheaf' or for the 'boat' in response to political slogans of the paid workers without seeing or knowing the person behind the symbols. Now is the time to do away with the political demagogues and select the real leaders who are known to be honest, fair and impartial.

The present caretaker government is working hard to bring in a system in which the brief-case political parties will have to leave the political profession for those who are people-friendly. Our politicians have made politics a highly profitable business. After 1/11 the whole nation has seen and identified the 'patriotic' looters, plunderers, thugs, ruffians, gangsters, hoodlums, and what not, hidden within the government. These people who ruled the country after dismantling the dictatorship in 1990 belonged to the parties only for pecuniary interest and convenience. It is said Tk 25 crore used to be spent on an average by a candidate for a seat in parliament. The sources of such a huge amount of money spent in the election were never enquired into by authority.

Yes, they belonged to political parties like the BNP, AL, BIP and many other small parties not worth mentioning.

A political party has multifarious functions and responsibilities, which may be summed up in the following manner.

First their business is to frame the political issues for the people. Out of numerous tasks for the welfare of the people they select a few areas on priority basis and place them before the people for their acceptance. In public meetings they declare the selected programmes and also publish pamphlets in the newspapers to explain and advocate their programmes. Secondly, they start to select their candidates for each constituency giving topmost consideration to their popularity, honesty and integrity. Another important function of a political party is to undertake the programmes for civic education of the electorate. Another function of political parties is to run the government efficiently while in power and to act as watchdog while in opposition. A strong opposition in most cases prevents the party in

power from being corrupt or inefficient. The above functions are only a few of the total functions of political parties. To perform the above functions members of a political party have to spend a lot of time in their constituencies with the people.

But what do we see in our political parties and the government? After the elections are over the MPs take their semi-permanent residence in Dhaka, leaving behind the electorate. Making 'tadvis' in this or that office for their yes-men and relatives is their main job. They also take full advantage of their positions.

People this time around are hopeful that the newly constituted independent Election Commission will frame rules for proper conduct

of the political parties and for holding the elections freely and impartially.

S.M. Matiur Rahman

Joint Secretary (Retd) GoB

Cricket commentators

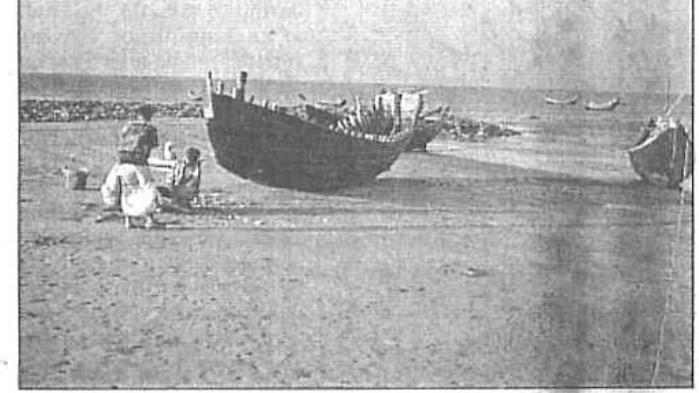
Watching our boys batting or bowling on TV gives us a great pleasure. Unfortunately, our commentators ruin that, and literally spoil the whole show. Not only it irritates but hurts when we hear Zaved Omer instead of Javed Omer and Rajjak instead of Razzak. Can't they pronounce J or Z properly?

Instead of delivering the names in their dramatic voices, they should concentrate on correct pronunciation.

Marghub Mawla

Gulshan, Dhaka

St. Martin's Island



Pinaki Roy's front page news report (Oct:27) details the epidemic growth of hotels and eateries in the pristine surroundings of nature. It has swiftly managed to despoil the natural landscape of the 3.34 square kilometer island; an attractive tourist spot.

Laws are there, gazette notifications, declaration of the island as "Ecologically Critical Area" etc. came one after another, and correspondences between various government departments flow hither and thither. But action wise nothing corrective is happening; it's all volumes of writings in files and nothing positive in action! As stated in the report: "The present government is planning to introduce a guideline for building environment friendly structures on the island". Naturally, this will be the beginning of files and volumes of papers yet all over again!

It was also mentioned in the report that: "a project to conserve the biodiversity, establish a marine park and develop ecotourism facilities on the island' was taken up". After spending Tk 13 (unlucky) crore over it, the project had come a cropper!

The reality is clearly expressed in the last few lines of the news report, coming from the local Hotel Owners' Association. Quoting it as reported, it said. "Nobody told us about any approval or provided any guidelines for building structures in an "Ecologically Critical Area", which covers all of the island!" What and where was the shortcoming of this all paper and no action situation? It was the lack on the part of the authorities in creating and spreading awareness among the islanders and the stakeholders. All the good decisions and directives possibly remain buried in some embossed file somewhere in the various offices; possibly far away from the island itself!

The net result is that the pristine St. Martin's Island is destined to become an ugly eyesore!

S.A. Mansoor, Dhaka

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)-HR Specialist

EOI No.: 2/2007

Location: Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), 1st Annex Building, 1st Floor, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka, Phone: 9550301/7125740.

Date: 24 October 2007

The Microcredit Regulatory Authority has been allocated public fund from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) towards the cost of Promoting Financial Services for Poverty Reduction (PROSPER) Program, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this fund to payments under the contract for HR specialist.

The services may include:

- a. Planning and Recruitment
 - i. Prepare and finalize core job description
 - ii. Identify personnel after analyzing requirement
 - iii. Requirement planning
 - iv. Prepare ToR to hire staffs
 - v. Selection decision (selection process, legal requirement and other consideration).
- b. HR development policy
 - i. Training need assessment
 - ii. Career development program
 - iii. Performance evaluation methods/process
 - iv. Plan to improve performance.
- c. Disciplinary action policy-
 - i. Staffs' rights
 - ii. Disciplinary policies and procedure
 - iii. Management actions.
- d. Staffs' security and compensation-
 - i. Compensation program
 - ii. Government regulation of compensation
 - iii. Incentive plan
 - iv. Employees' benefits program (pension plan, retirement program etc.)
 - v. Safety and health (safe work environment).
- e. Auditing human resources management program
 - i. Approaches to HR Audit
 - ii. Indicators for evaluating the work environment
 - iii. Utilization of findings.
- f. Office management policies/procedures
 - i. File/document management
 - ii. MIS planning.
- g. Any other HR related/office management policies seem necessary during the work or proposed by the specialist.
- h. Completion of work: 12 (twelve) months.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2003.

Interested consultants may contact during normal office hours at the address above for additional information.

Microcredit Regulatory Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all application without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Expressions of interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned shown above by 25 November 2007, 5pm, and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for MRA, HR specialist".

PRPD: 48/2007-1752
Date: 25.10.07
GD-3704

Khandakar Muzharul Haque
Executive Vice Chairman
Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)

Anti-Corruption Commission

1 Segunbagicha

Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender (Goods)

1.	Liaison Ministry/Division	Cabinet Division.				
2.	Agency	Anti-Corruption Commission.				
3.	Name of the procuring entity	Anti-Corruption Commission.				
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.				
5.	Invitation for	Tender for procurement of govt. vehicles.				
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	ACC/SADA/51/2007.				
7.	Date	28/10/07.				
8.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (PPA/2006).				
9.	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget of 2007-2008, GOB.				
10.	Tender package No.	Lot-A.				
11.	Tender package name	Purchase of government vehicles.				
12.	Last date of selling tender schedule	18/11/07.				
13.	Tender publication date	30/10/07.				
14.	Tender closing date and time	19/11/07, 12:00				
15.	Tender opening date and time	19/11/07, 14:00				
16.	Name and address of the office(s)	Anti-Corruption Commission, 1 Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.				
- Selling tender document (principal)		Assistant Director (Account & Finance), Anti-Corruption Commission.				
- Receiving tender document		Director (Administration), Anti-Corruption Commission, Tender Opening Committee.				
17.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Optional (if necessary notice will be served).				
18.	Eligibility of tenderer	Well reputed and financially solvent tenderers (authorized agents/distributors/licence holders) having the office establishment, repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and good quality vehicles in government sectors within the prescribed time.				
19.	Brief description of goods or works	Vehicles are to be of latest model/international standard, good quality, brand new, fitted with modern amenities high, efficiency engine (EFL/Equivalent) CBU by the country producing engine, chassis, body and other accessories etc, in original with detailed specifications (supported by original catalogue/brochure).				
20.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/month
A	Minimum 2300 cc Max. 23	No's Jeep 4x4 Drive Cross Country Vehicle.	Dhaka	2000/-	67,500/- per unit	3 months
21.	Name of the official inviting tender	Md Abdul Wadud				
22.	Designation of the official inviting tender	Director (Administration)				
23.	Address of the official inviting tender	Anti-Corruption Commission, Dhaka				
24.	Contact details of the official inviting tender	Tel: 9352115				

The procuring entity reserves the right to increase or decrease quantity of goods and also to accept or reject all tenders.

GD-3734