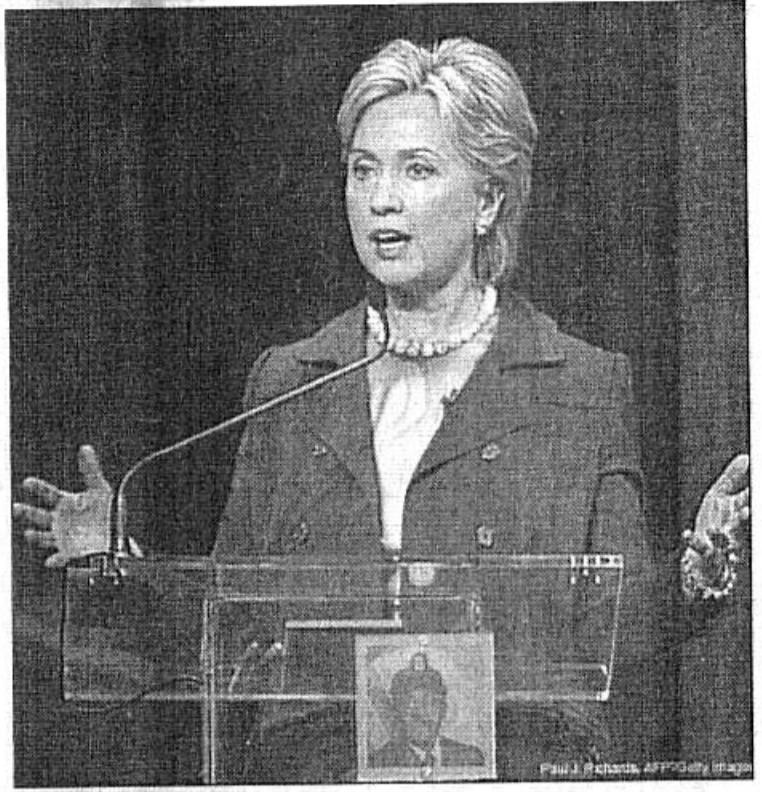


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

America's first woman president?



The year 2007 witnessed an unprecedented event- Prof. Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust became the first woman President of America's most prestigious and oldest university, The Harvard University which was established in 1636. So, it appears that the time has come for the American women to take up the leadership of the United States.

At the moment, a Senator from New York, Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton, is preparing to participate in the coming presidential race of the United States. If she is elected, and she definitely deserves to be as I strongly believe, she will be the first woman President of the United States. In my rating, Hillary Clinton is indeed a bold leader for a stronger and more friendly America. I sincerely hope that the democracy-loving Americans will vote for Hillary to be their next leader. I am confident that under the prudent leadership of Hillary Clinton America will enter into a more relaxed and tension-free era of prosperity and achievement!

I strongly support Hillary Clinton's candidature for the presidency of the United States.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Performing Hajj

We have seen the culture of going for Hajj and Umrah by our past national leaders and heads of state. Most of the citizens of Bangladesh remained unaware about the source of the money for making such pilgrimage. According to the principles of Islam, a person with adequate financial ability must go for Hajj once in his/her lifetime.

The expenses in such case comes from the person's own funds. Given the dire aftermath of the Sidr cyclone, political uncertainty, and the repeated outcry of the people for the rights of information, I think the top government functionaries could have postponed their pilgrimage for a year or so. Otherwise, they should publicly provide the monetary sources for making their pilgrimage this year. If they are using their personal funds for the pilgrimage to fulfil their religious obligations, then I think the people could

construe their timing of making such pilgrimage as an inconsiderate act not taking into account the misery in the cyclone-hit regions. If the money is coming from government sources, then they have failed to make a real change in the government, as they themselves will be blamed for following what their predecessors had done. I think the nation expects them to serve the cause of the people during this crisis and would appreciate if they could postpone their pilgrimage for a year or so.

The nation deserves their uninterrupted attention in matters of national importance as they have taken the solemn oath to uphold national interest over their personal interests.

Are we going to see a meaningful change in the ways the government runs its business?

Towhid Salam
Los Angeles
California
USA

Remitter programme

Across the developing world, total global remittances from workers to their families (US\$240 billion) amounts to more than DOUBLE the value of foreign aid.

Why not create a "Remitter Programme" whereby individuals who remit above a certain amount of US\$ are given CIP status in a quick and hassle-free process? Perhaps the NRB conference in Dhaka was a good occasion to announce measures of this kind.

The "stick" of stringent legal action has resulted in tremendous growth of remittances via the official channel. Perhaps we also need a simultaneous "carrot" to "incentivise" additional sources of remittances. Bangladesh should be a savings destination for NRBs, not just a recipient of subsistence funds sent by workers to their villages every month.

Anwar Siddiqi
UK

Rules and regulations

Formation of the Regulatory Reform Commission (RRC) and the idea of circulation of drafted rules & regulations for public opinion (source: The Daily Star, 14-12-07) is certainly a praiseworthy measure.

It could make us, general citizens, conscious and protected from unexplained harassment-- the harassment we faced in the past due to absent or hidden public rules and regulations.

But as a conscious citizen, I have several queries and logical points to raise:

Can this RRC prevail after the next government takes over? And who would monitor the implementation of the rules & regulations?

To whom the public would place their objections in light of the newly formed rules & regulations?

Will the future governments be obliged to circulate any kind of change in the rules & regulations? Can the affected officials be compensated in any logical way?

Will the errant high officials be punished, either by demotion or financial compensation to the affected official?

In other words, the final rules & regulations must be formulated for the betterment of public. Ensuring its appropriate implementation is crucially important.

My logical points for future are:

a) All first class officers, I mean newly appointed ones, should be supplied with copy of Rules & Regulations, including their job responsibility. Absence of the latter made us suffer a lot in the past.

b) The Regulatory Reform Commission (RRC) might be the ultimate authority for hearing violations of the Rules & Regulations. Therefore a hierarchy of the hearing committee should be setup.

I believe the above should be ensured to attain the objectives of the RRC.

Dr. Laifun Nahar

One-mail

University teachers

Despite all hope for a "honourable" solution of the recent DU incidents, the issue seems to be getting into a "black hole". As an ordinary citizen we would once again request the government not to take any steps which would lead them to a point of no-return. That would only further destabilise the overall situation prevailing in the country including the present quest for democracy.

One relevant issue can be raised here: Will the government make public the judicial inquiry commission report?

We continue to hope and pray that the government would fulfill its solemn commitment to the teachers and students and release the four teachers within two weeks as reported by the media.

Our education system

The education system of our country, after 30 years of independence, still remains the same. Only the grading system has been introduced and every year a large number of students pass their SSC and HSC examinations acquiring Golden GPA-5. But still the main problem in this case is that the books published by the National Curriculum & Text Book Board cannot be compared with the international standards. The

syllabuses prescribed by the board which direct the students to do their studies in a planned way are mostly not practical. And majority of Bangla-medium students can't even speak English fluently, despite their knowledge of grammar and the introduction of FM method, communicative English and such other processes. In addition to this, the English books of primary level truly lack in quality and standard. Most of the SSC examinees memorise the essays, paragraphs, letters etc. from which they surely get one in the examination and they can easily pass without the ability to write freely in English.

So we cannot really think of a bright future.

Shetu Biswas
Veripara More
Rajshahi



Registration of political parties

Due to the political crisis and unstable law and order situation in the country, the people welcomed the formation of the reconstructed new civil caretaker government headed by Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed.

The present Election Commission has been making all out efforts to hold our stalled elections by December 2008 as per its declared roadmap.

But as the month of December 2008 is approaching, some people are becoming impatient and getting skeptical about the prospect of the scheduled election because of the following reasons:

1. Awami League leaders demand that their party President Sheikh Hasina has to be released from prison or they may not participate in the election.

2. BNP leaders demand

that their party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has to be released from prison or they may not participate in the election.

3. Some political parties demand of the Election Commission not to register the political parties which opposed the country's liberation war in 1971.

4. Some political parties demand of the Election Commission not to register political parties which practise politics based on religion.

5. The political parties demand trial of war criminals.

6. The declaration of the Chief Election Commissioner that "Many of the political parties including the BNP, which lack practice of democracy within, cannot register with the Election Commission

unless the parties amend their existing constitutions."

7. Dissent among BNP leaders.

8. Is it possible to amend the party constitution under the emergency?

9. Why did not the Election Commission issue necessary guidelines, terms and conditions for registration of political parties in time, six to eight months ago?

The functions of the Election Commission are defined in Article 119 (1) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. We are not aware of any other function as stated in Article 119 (2) of the Constitution.

Would the Election Commission kindly clarify the relevant matters?

O.H. Kabir

Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Family Planning
Janasankhya Bhaban
Azimpur, Dhaka-1205

সুষ্ঠু সংস্কার দ্বৰা স্বীকৃত
কৃতিত্ব দ্বৰা আন হয়।

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1. Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning.
3. Procuring entity name	Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management).
4. Procuring entity code	None.
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6. Invitation for	Procurement of Fork Lift (Powered Stacker) & Wheel for Fork Lift of Powered Stacker.
7. Invitation Ref. No.	DGFP/L&S-2/2007-2008/6249/1780.
8. Date	26/12/2007
9. Procurement Method	Open tendering method (OTM).
10. Budget and source of funds	GOB (Development).
11. Development partner	None.
12. Programme code	None.
13. Programme name	Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme.
14. Tender package No.	GFP/LP/07-08/04
15. Tender package name	Procurement of Fork Lift (Powered Stacker) & Wheel for Fork Lift of Powered Stacker.
16. Tender publication date	27/01/2008 within office hour.
17. Tender last selling date	28/01/2008 up to 11:30am.
18. Tender closing date & time	28/01/2008 at 12:30pm.
19. Tender opening date & time	28/01/2008 at 12:30pm.
20. Name and address of the office(s): - Selling Tender Document	1. Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka. 2. Office of the Additional Director (Drugs & Stores), Central Warehouse, Family Planning, Mohakhali, Dhaka. Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205, Office of the Director (Logistics & Supply), Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205 on 09/01/2008 at 11:00am.
22. Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum of last 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of similar goods. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 2 (two) years of experience in supply of specific goods. The tenderer shall have other qualifications as per tender documents. The minimum annual production capacity of the manufacturer shall be three times of 2 (two) pieces of Fork Lift (Powered Stacker) and 2 (two) sets of Wheel for Fork Lift of Powered Stacker.
23. Brief description of goods	Procurement of 2 (two) pieces of Fork Lift (Powered Stacker) & 2 (two) sets of Wheel for Fork Lift of Powered Stacker.
24. Brief description of related services	3 (three) years free services after installation.
25. Price of tender document	Tk 1000/- (one thousand) only (non-refundable). Payment will be made by Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Director (Logistics & Supply) & Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management), Directorate General of Family Planning, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.
26. Brief description of goods with lot number, price of tender document, tender security and completion of supply etc	Lot No. Name of item Quantity Price of tender document in Taka Tender security amount of Taka Time for completion of supply in weeks 1. Fork Lift (Powered Stacker) 02 (two) pcs 1,000/- 80,000.00 12 (twelve) weeks from date of contract signature 2. Wheel for Fork Lift of Powered Stacker [each set contains with seven wheels of various sizes] 02 (two) sets 4,000.00
27. Name of official inviting tender	Md Hossain Molla.
28. Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management).
29. Address of official inviting tender	Logistics & Supply Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205.
30. Contact details of official inviting tender	Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management), Directorate General of Family Planning, Janasankhya Bhaban, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh. Telephone : 880-2-8627557, 880-2-8625912 Facsimile number : 880-2-8625912 Electronic mail address : dir@dpn.com aad@dkko.net.bd
31. a. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders and not bound to accept the lowest offer by the tenderer. b. All clauses and sub-clauses of "Public Procurement Regulation 2003" will be strictly followed.	Md Hossain Molla Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage & Supply Management) Deputy Secretary Phone- 8627557

GD-4745

(Md. Tazul Islam)
Project Director
7171224

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