

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.

Schools in Dhaka

Recently, I went through the cover story of the November issue of PURPLE magazine. I came to know many surprising facts about our schools--private and public. Many amused me but most were frustrating.

after reading an article in that magazine, many of those things concerned me. Schools in Dhaka are not equipped with many vital services they ought to provide.

have sick rooms within their premises while only 20 percent have contact with nearby clinics to accommodate emergencies.

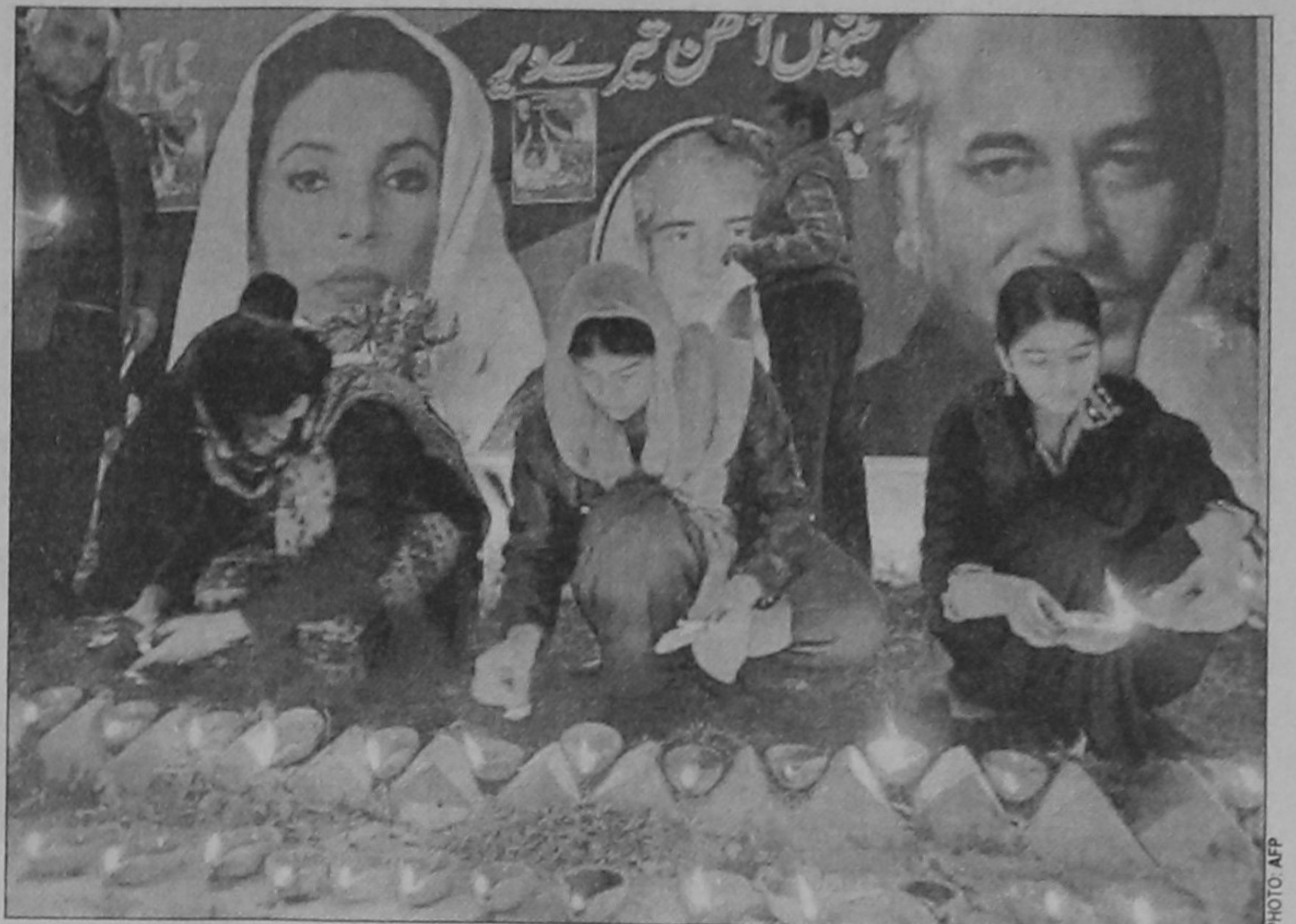
Assassination of Benazir Bhutto

The assassination of Benazir Bhutto is an attack on those people who want to see progressive, modern and educated leaders in the forefront of politics.

Pakistan come true. Arafat Hasan MBA student, IUB

The end of an unsuccessful dynasty! For the last thirty plus years, the country has been out of control and if someone thinks it can be fixed in a hurry, he will be up for a big surprise.

It seems she was more interested in power than anything else. Bidyutpal Sarkar One-mail



she has proved that it wasn't her desire for power that made her come back to Pakistan after

a long exile, rather it was her dream to see Pakistan becoming a democratic country.

May her soul rest in peace. Golam Faruque One-mail

আমার ডাইয়ের রক্তে রাঙানো একশে ফ্রেয়ারী আমি কি ভুলিবে পারি ছেনে হারা শত মায়ের অফ-গড়া এ ফ্রেয়ারী আমি কি ভুলিবে পারি

Place of Bangla

Our mother tongue has a permanent place in our hearts. We paid a very high price to achieve it. No one can overlook the enriched literature and tradition of Bangla.

I write this letter out of a felling of insecurity and fear of stripping Bangla of its grace. Bangla is the language of 230 million people which makes it the 4th-5th largest native language in the world.

In our country, we do not take pride in Bangla the way we should. There is a common notion among the public that it is 'good' to speak some language other than Bangla--especially English.

it is a matter of pride to insert English words while speaking.

Popular computer applications are being given Bangla interface these days. A great piece of news for us indeed! But it would be even better if it were done more accurately.

A sign of a developed nation is promoting its own culture and language, and not copying others! Ruhi Al Jawwad University of Duisburg-Essen Dept. of Electrical & Electronic Engineering Germany

Forestry graduates

In most of the developed countries, forests are managed by professional foresters who typically require a 4-year university degree in forestry and a professional licence to practise forestry.

The BFD still maintains an arcane policy in recruiting its entry level officers - the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) - who join the department through the Bangladesh Civil Service Exam (Forest Cadre) with a traditional master's degree from such disparate disciplines as botany, chemistry and zoology.

Therefore, the government must think of recruiting professional foresters with formal edu-

cation and training in forestry and more importantly, with the motivation to becoming one in an effort to break the vicious cycle of corrupt practices within the BFD.

I certainly hope that the adviser in-charge will look into the issue as to why the BFD is not recruiting only forestry graduates as its officers. Abu M. Nurullah, Ph.D. Forest Management Specialist Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources Olympia, WA 98540

AL plan

The AL front organisations' plan for agitation is indicative of a fundamental distance these organisations have from the plight of common people, who are looking for nothing more than employment and food, especially after the floods and the cyclone.

If recent trends are any indication, these agitations will not be of

much use except to disrupt the lives of common folk on the streets, and further tarnish our already bad image as an economic, political, administrative, and ecological basket case.

The authorities should do everything they can to contain these sabre-rattlers and miscreants, and the people should make it clear in no uncertain terms that we will no longer make any compromise on our economic well-being.

As for the unconditional release of their leader or anybody else before the holding of a free and fair election, I would have to ask them, why? Where is the connection between suspects in extortion and corruption cases, and the holding of elections? If they are innocent, they will be released through the due process.

The leadership vacuum can be filled by other, hopefully more competent individuals, and we want to see a change for the better. The status quo and political musical chairs between the two main political parties are the reason why we're so socially and politically backward. Iftekharul Haque One-mail

Need for national austerity

Mr. A.N.M. Nurul Haque, a columnist of The Daily Star in his article published on December 4, 2007 has very rightly advised the government to be serious about austerity to overcome the fallout of cyclones, floods and rising oil prices.

Donations and aids are coming from friendly states & interna-

tional agencies in addition to the encouraging response from within the country. But the government will not be able to meet this challenge only by the donations & aids received and promised. So, Mr. Nurul Haque has urged the government to announce a national austerity programme to check all unnecessary spending in government offices.

-Two meatless and one no-fish days in a week. -Strictly control the number of guests entertained in social functions & ban all sorts of lighting.

-One weekly day of private car-free roads when people will use public transports only. -Impose a nominal surcharge (that will go to the Chief Adviser's relief fund) on all mobile phone calls.

National austerity can save the nation from a subsistence crisis that is looming in the horizon. Engr. Md. Aminul Hoque Khalishpur, Khulna

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ওমারি-২০০৭ প্রকল্প পরিসংখ্যান ভবন (৭ম তলা) ই-২৭/এ, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ নং-বিবিএস/বাকুসং-২০০৭/এ(১৩)ক্রম/২০০৭-০৩ তারিখ: ০১/০১/২০০৮ইউ

Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute Savar, Dhaka-1341 Invitation for Tenders No: BLVPRO/Tender/2007/68 Date: 02/01/2008 Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers for supplying of chemicals & reagents.

Bangladesh Bank Sylhet Invitation for Tender Tender No.02/2007-2008 Date: 26-12-2007 Sealed tenders are invited from the bonafide contractors/construction firms for stripping & renewing plaster, providing polyvinyl distemper to wall & ceiling and renewing synthetic enamel paint to interior doors & windows at Bangladesh Bank staff quarters, Upashahar, Sylhet.