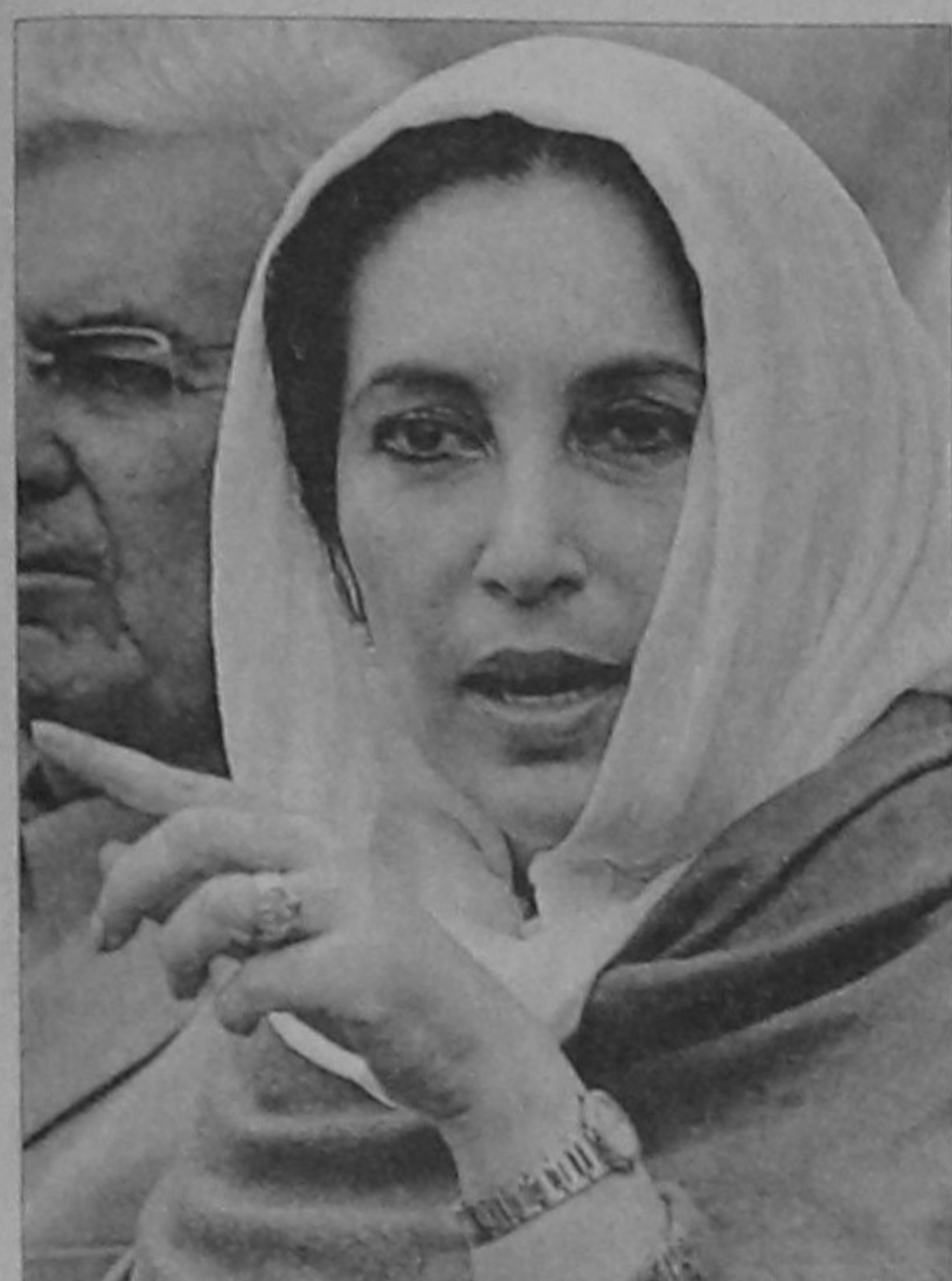




Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Benazir Bhutto



In his write-up, "The Legacy of Benazir" (DS, March 4), Mr. Moinuddin Chisti, after commenting on Benazir and her Pakistan, finally asks a few questions which are:

"What if this journey had gone on?"

Could she have succeeded in ending militancy and terrorism, violence and suicide bombings?

Could she stand by firmly to the ideals of a true people's Raj, ending poverty and illiteracy, and raising per capita income of the average Pakistani?

Most of all, could she ever take steps for establishing welfare politics and welfare economics?

Could she fine tune the armed forces and engage them solely in the defence of Pakistan?

Could she fight Islamic extremism and yet make good a commitment to Islamic ideals, values and principles?

Then Mr. Chisti answers: All this (these), sadly, we shall never know.

This conclusion, I am sorry to say, is very difficult for me to accept when the writer could take so much trouble to mention many things about Benazir and the Pakistani politics. Benazir's assassination and the premature end of her political life should not, certainly, blind us.

Daughter of a politically corrupt politician and herself a totally corrupt person, both politically and economically, Benazir Bhutto, had in her all embodiments of a highly corrupt figure.

This Oxford educated lady was cruel; she did not mind killing her own brother to keep her strong grip on power. She professed social justice but was dishonest and took bribe in collusion with her husband, an equally corrupt and megalomaniac usurper in politics. One need not be an Aristotle or Rousseau to predict what she could do if her life was not shortened by an assassin's bomb. If she were alive, she would have won the election no doubt because there were no other alternatives for Pakistan but to choose her. And that is what exactly happened under her too. The Pakistanis voted for the PPP or the PML-N to reject Musharraf's political hegemony in collusion with the USA and the West. Terrorism, violence, suicide bombing are the results of bad Pakistani politics since 1947. Benazir was not a saint herself.

Expecting any good from an evil is wishful thinking!

Tayeb Husain
Lund, Sweden

East Timor and we

The shooting of East Timor President Jose Ramos Horta and Father of the Nation and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao brings back memories of the conspiracies that Bangladesh went through in its childhood. There are amazing similarities between these two nations in terms of events in the pre-independence, independence and post-independence eras. Consider the following:

1. Both East Timor and Bangladesh are small nations in their respective neighbourhood with homogeneous ethnicity.

2. In both cases, the occupying army (namely Indonesia and Paki-

stan) perpetrated genocides and Henry Kissinger has been proven to be involved in both of these.

3. The backdrop of the shooting of the father of the nation of both the countries is identical. In the years leading up to the killing of Bangabandhu, there was confusion and resentment that Bangabandhu was strengthening the Rakhi Bahini to create a parallel force. This, along with the anarchy in the civil administration, allegedly were the reasons for a group of "ambitious(?)?" military officers going on to kill the father of the nation and the four leaders. In the case of East Timor as well, renegade soldiers led by Alfredo

Reinardo attempted to kill both Gusmao and Horta on the same day. The reason? Soldiers from the western part of the country claimed that they were being discriminated against, in favour of soldiers from the eastern part of the country, and all these in a country stretching barely 15,410 sq. km with a population of 9,47,000. It is like saying that people of Motijheel are being discriminated against in favour of people of Shantinagar.

History does repeat itself, and so does blue-prints by imperialists to expand their empires.

Esraj Fairuz
Department of Management Studies
University of Dhaka

Niketon-Gulshan walkway

The walkway constructed from Niketon Bridge to Mohakhali Road on the Gulshan-1 side is one of the more laudatory projects of Dhaka City Corporation. Its picture really deserved its pride of place in the Star City section of DS some days ago. However, like most such projects of DCC it has been left incomplete. Here is why:

1. Earth compaction on the Niketon Lake side has not been done, so the walkway is already starting to crack and may not last many monsoons. This can easily be done now by dredging the lake to provide the earth compaction cheaply.

2. Once earth is filled up, there should be a sloping landscaped grassy verge going down to the lake. A few benches would be welcome on a summer's day as would some shade trees.

3. As a measure to stop land grabbing, the walkway is very effective, but what are the two dozens or more sewerage pipes, jutting out from houses on both sides of the lake under the walkway, doing? Is this a reservoir of clean water or sewerage?

4. The existing area between the walkway and the lake has become a household refuse dump for the houses on both sides. With water levels falling as summer approaches, only those with perfumed handkerchiefs on their noses will be able to use the walkway. The stench already makes breathing an impossibility.

5. To complete the project and serve the same purpose, an identical walkway should also be constructed on the Niketon side up to Partex/ Mohakhali Bridge. From the Niketon Bridge to Gulshan Avenue between Niketon Society and the proposed park (wrested from DCC sweepers two years ago), the smaller lake could well serve as an additional place of recreation with the same improvements.

6. To maintain it, the completed project could be leased out to a private organisation to run fishery/poultry/nursery projects.

7. Finally, what in the world is that electric guide-wire doing in

the middle of the walkway? If its purpose is to trip unwary pedestrians in the dark, it is doing its job magnificently. I have already fallen victim twice, which for a 75 year old, is too many.

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Dhaka

Al Gore?

According to many observers, in the Democratic convention in August, "Al Gore, the former Vice-President, could emerge as a compromise candidate." It may be recalled that Al Gore, already a Nobel Laureate, has since become a grand ecologist and he appears more a benefactor of the mother earth than just a politician of the United States. He has been lecturing on the topic of global warming, which he labels as "the climate crisis." Despite all these, the public speculation is already there in the United States as also in the rest of the world over the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination. However, Gore frequently stated that "I have no plans to run". At this stage, no one can say for sure as to who is going to be the next President of the United States although a very few can guess that Al Gore, if nominated by the Democrats, could prove to be one of the best Presidents the United States ever had.

Hafeezul Alam
A consultant, LJCBP, Dhaka

Steve Bucknor

Jamaican Umpire Steve Bucknor raises the question again: should he stand in a Test match after wrongly judging Rafique LBW in our 1st Test match against the South Africans.

Bucknor's poor performance during the infamous Sydney Test in January led the BCCI to threaten to boycott the series against the Aussies, if Bucknor stood again in the series. Later, he was sacked from umpiring for the rest of the series.

The 61 years old Bucknor has umpired in more Test matches than anyone else and stood in five successive World Cup finals from 1992 to 2007. But the recent slump in his umpiring raises many questions about his ability.

A cricketer like Saurav Ganguly is not getting chance not because of his performance but only because of his age, as modern day cricket theory is: "Pick the young". Then why the ICC is not following the same theory in selecting umpires, as Bucknor is not performing well.

Majumder Isnad Ahmed
BBA student, Southeast University

Age limit of 28th BCS

I would request you to write a befitting column and urge the PSC to reconsider the age limit of the 28th BCS exams. You know that almost after 30 months the PSC has recently issued the circular of the 28th BCS exams. Already, a good number of candidates have crossed the age limit.

So, to avoid doing injustice to anybody the PSC should reconsider the age limit.

Mohd. Masum Miah
One-mail

Save the trees

During a recent visit to a relative in Gulshan 2, I was surprised to see that half the road was dug up and the otherwise quiet, pleasant area was a complete mess. I enquired about what was going on and was told that they wanted to expand the road from building to building. First of all, I would like to know where the pavement will be for the pedestrians. Secondly, this is a residential area and doesn't need more expansion of the roads. Thirdly, with half of Gulshan lake being taken by encroachers all the time, shouldn't the DCC have other priorities rather than to break up an already nicely kept area? I then realised that the government bodies don't normally take action unless they are forced to by higher powers or there is some profit in it. I looked carefully at the tree lined roads and therein lies the clue! This is obviously a pretence to cut down all the beautiful trees of Gulshan-2 and make some timber money. This will not be the first time people would wake up to see all the trees gone overnight; this happened during the BNP government.

The joint forces must look into



Jamuna Bridge

The Daily Star must be applauded for bringing the authority's attention to the need for the immediate repair of the Jamuna Bridge (Editorial, Jamuna Bridge in Jeopardy? Tuesday, February 26, 2008). This bridge is indeed a national treasure and can be considered the most important economic lifeline for Bangladesh. To save the bridge, and possibly many lives, and to avoid the nightmare of a closed bridge or even the cost of a more extensive repair or replacement in the case of a collapse, the authorities must repair the bridge immediately. In the past, at the request of the residents of California, the California Department of Transporta-

tion (CALTRANS) sent teams of in-house expert bridge design and maintenance engineers to other countries to investigate the causes of bridge damage and to provide repair recommendations.

I would like to make an open offer to the authorities in Bangladesh to contact me if there is any need for such expertise. If requested, CALTRANS might be willing to send a team of in-house expert staff to review the Jamuna Bridge and to provide expedited repair recommendations at no cost to Bangladesh.

Engr. Mohammed S. Islam, Ph.D
State of California Registered
Civil and Geotechnical Engineer
Senior Transportation Engineer/
Seismic Specialist, CALTRANS

what is going on here and ensure that the beautiful trees remain untouched.

Resident
Gulshan, Dhaka

Dr. Kamal's stand

Nice to know that "Dr Kamal vows to resist any move against poll roadmap" (Re. report by your staff correspondent dated Feb 25,

2008), but why did he "keep silent" when asked "whether the constitution permits formation of a government based on national consensus"?

Perhaps the doctor does not know what use his recommended medicine has. How confused these leaders are!

An expatriate
One-mail

Office of the Superintending Engineer and Project Director
Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion & Rehabilitation Project
WASA Bhaban, 9th Floor
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka
Tender No-TA-01/IUSERP Date: 05/03/2008

Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative/Local Government Division.				
2.	Agency	Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA).				
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project (IUSERP).				
4.	Invitation for	Procurement of different diameter B-class UPVC pipe for construction & rehabilitation of sewer line within Dhaka city.				
5.	Invitation Ref. No & date	TA-01/IUSERP Date: 05/03/2008.				
6.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).				
7.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.				
8.	Project programme name	Interim Urgent Sewerage Expansion and Rehabilitation Project (IUSERP).				
9.	Tender document last selling date	30/03/2008 during office hours.				
10.	Tender closing date and time	31/03/2008 at 12-00 noon.				
11.	Tender opening date and time	31/03/2008 at 2-00pm.				
12.	Address of the office receiving & opening tenders	Office of the Superintending Engineer and Project Director, IUSER Project, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (9 th Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215				
13.	Name & address of the offices selling tender document	1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch/Fakirapool Branch/Posta Branch/Mohammadpur Corporate Branch/Mirpur Section-1/Mohakhali Corporate Branch, Dhaka. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch, Dhaka. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka.				
14.	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) The tenderer shall have a minimum 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. (ii) The tenderer shall have a minimum 2 (two) years of specific experience in the supply of similar goods.				
15.	Brief description of goods	Different diameter B-class UPVC pipe for construction & rehabilitation of sewer line within Dhaka city.				
16.	Brief description of related services					
Package No.	Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender document price (Tk)	Tender security (Tk)	Completion time (days)
Package No-1	1 Lot	Supply of 150 & 300 mm dia B-class UPVC Pipe	DWASA Central Store at	Tk 1000/-	Tk 1,15,000	30 days
Package No-2	1 Lot	Supply of 200 & 300 mm dia B-class UPVC pipe	Pagla, Dhaka	Tk 1000/-	Tk 1,10,000/-	30 days
Package No-3	1 Lot	Supply of 250 mm dia B-class UPVC Pipe		Tk 1000/-	Tk 75,000/-	30 days
17.	Special instruction	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
<div><div>Md. Alkas Uddin</div><div>Superintending Engineer & Project Director</div><div>IUSER Project</div><div>Dhaka WASA, Dhaka</div></div> <div>WASA-PI-207/2008</div> <div>GD-1126</div>						

Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
RPGCL Bhaban
Plot-27, Nikunja-2
Joarshahara, Dhaka-1229

Invitation for Re-Tender

নাকতকরণে আৱাৱাজসূচন অৱকাৱৰদ্ধ।

Invitation for Re-Tender

Ref. No: 05.06.94/ Dated: 05-03-2008

- 1 Procuring entity name Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Own cash foreign exchange.
IFT # RPGCL/KFP/07 (2R).
- 2 Source of funds
- 3 Tender package No. IFT # RPGCL/KFP/07 (2R).
- 4 Invitation for tenders Ref. & date IFT # RPGCL/KFP/07 (2R), Date: 05-03-2008.
- 5 Tender name Design, procurement, installation and commissioning of flare on turnkey basis.
- 6 Eligibility of tenderers
 - i) Must have 10 (ten) years experience in engineering, procurement and construction of gas flare system and related services.
 - ii) Authorized local agent having up-to-date trade license, Vat registration, import permission etc. can participate in the tender.
- 7 Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document
 1. Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited.
Kailashilla NGL Fractionation Plant Project Office
RPGCL Bhaban, New Airport Road, Plot # 27, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.
 2. Accounts Department
Petrobangla, Petrocentre, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
- 8 Name and address of the office(s) receiving and opening tenders

Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited.
Kailashilla NGL Fractionation Plant Project Office
RPGCL Bhaban, New Airport Road, Plot # 27, Nikunja-2, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.
During office hours on 08-05-2008.
- 9 Last date and time for selling tender document
- 10 Last date and time for submission of tender document At 11:00 hours (BST) on 11-05-2008.
- 11 Date and time for opening of tenders At 11:15 hours (BST) on 11-05-2008.
- 12 Special instructions

Tenderers and their authorised representative are allowed to attend. In case of unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, govt. declared holiday etc., tender would be received and opened on the following working day at the same place and time. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders prior to acceptance.
- 13 Price of tender document BDT 5,000.00 in cash (non-refundable).
- 14 Brief description of works and related services.
Design, procurement, installation and commissioning of flare system on turnkey basis.

RPGCL/PR/16/2007-08
GD-1104

Aziz Ahmed
Project Director

Office of the Superintending Engineer
Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director
Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project
Dhaka WASA, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
Memo No: 145/DC(R&D)/Dra(O&M)-D-1 Date: 04.03.2008

Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Local Government Rural Development and Cooperative.			
2.	Agency	Dhaka WASA.			
3.	Procuring entity name	PD Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project (RWLP).			
4.	Invitation for	Construction of 1050,900 & 750mm dia Storm Sewer at Uttara Sector, Sector-9, Road No. 3, Uttara, Dhaka. (Job No. D-150/08) Package No. 145/Dra(O&M)-D-1			
5.	Invitation Ref No.	145/DC(R&D)/Dra(O&M)-D-1			
6.	Date	04.03.2008			
KEY INFORMATION					
7.	Procurement method	National opening tendering method (NOTM).			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
8.	Budget and source of fund	GOB & DWASA.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
9.	Project/programme code				
10.	Project/programme name	Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City (RWLP).			
11.	Tender publication date				
12.	Tender last selling date	During office hours from 12.03.2008 to 02.04.2008. No tender document will be sold in the day of opening of tender.			
13.	Tender closing date & time	Date: 03.04.2008	Time: 12:00 noon.		
14.	Tender opening date & time	Date: 03.04.2008	Time: 1:00pm.		
15.	Name & address of the officers				
	Selling tender document	1. Janata Bank, Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch/Fakirapool Branch/Posta Branch/Mohammadpur Corporate Branch/Mirpur Section-1/Mohakhali Corporate Branch, Dhaka. 2. Agrani Bank, WASA Branch, Dhaka. 3. Uttara Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch. 4. HSBC, Gulshan Branch/Motijheel Branch/Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka. 5. One Bank Ltd, Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka.			
	Receiving tender document	Office of the Superintending Engineer, Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project, Dhaka WASA, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.			
	Opening tender document	Same as above.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
16.	Eligibility tenderers	The required number of similar contracts (storm sewer/sanitary sewer (Pipe sewer/brick sewer) construction works) completed shall be 1 (one) with minimum tender amount of Tk. 20 (twenty) lac in a single tender during last 5 (five) years.			
17.	Brief description of works	Construction of 1050,900 & 750mm dia storm sewer at Uttara Sector, Sector-9, Road No. 3, Uttara, Dhaka. (Job No. D-150/08) Package No. 145/Dra (O&M) D-1.			
18.	Brief description of related services	N/A.			
SI	Name of tender	Location	Tender document price (Tk.)	Tender security (Tk.)	Completion time (days)
(A)	Construction of 1050,900 & 750mm dia storm sewer at Uttara Sector, Sector-9, Road No. 3, Uttara, Dhaka. (Job No. D-150/08) Package No. 145/Dra (O&M) D-1	Uttara, Dhaka	1000/- (one thousand)	Tk. 1,31,000/-	45 (forty five) days
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
19.	Name of the official inviting tender		Engr. Md Waliullah Sikder.		
20.	Designation of the official inviting tender		Superintending Engineer Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project.		
21.	Address of the official inviting tender		Office of the Superintending Engineer Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director Removal of Water Logging in Dhaka City Project, Dhaka WASA, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.		
22.	Contact details of the official inviting tender		Telephone: 9559142.		
23.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject or accept all tenders.				
<div><div>WASA-PI-198/2008 GD-1087</div><div><div>Engr. Md Waliullah Sikder</div><div>Superintending Engineer Drainage (R&D) Circle & Project Director RWLP, Dhaka WASA</div></div></div>					