



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.

## Waste disposal & public health

Our huge population is responsible for production of a large amount of wastes daily. These wastes range from household garbage, sewage, old papers, packaging materials, wood, plastic products, glass, metals to various industrial effluents such as: toxic inorganic heavy metals, organic solvents, reagents, dyes, thermal discharges, tannery disposal etc. These harmful wastes are produced in large amount in urban areas.

Sewage contains many varieties of extremely pathogenic micro-organisms which can cause serious health problem in the form of diarrhoea, hepatitis etc. The recent high frequency of hepatitis infections may have a direct correlation with our poor waste disposal system. Tannery waste is one of the major cause of air, water & soil pollution in the urban areas. Here, in Bangladesh, there is no environmentally safe solid & liquid waste disposal system.

The only solid waste disposal system is dumping the garbage in areas near slums while no well planned disposal systems are employed. These are a constant threat to the environment & carry a high risk of outbreak of pathogenic micro-organism which can cause serious diseases. The issue must be handled a lot more efficiently. **Kartik Dhar**  
Department of Microbiology  
University of Chittagong



### Gone with the wind?

So, finally all the promises for political and electoral regulatory reforms, corruption free society, freeing politics from musclemen and black money holders etcetera have now ended in fiasco like bursting of bubbles in the ocean. All the alleged corrupt politicians, money launderers, political musclemen, are now back in the arena due to wielding of "magic wand" and are now vying with renewed vigour to stage a comeback. It appears the country is now set to be taken over by the same people again who through their misdeeds during the last thirty years brought the nation to a virtual collapse. Autocracy and anarchy under the guise of democracy will prevail again. Imagine, how the news of a "fall" in bathroom of an under trial prisoner could lead to premeditated street vandalism by the political cadres, resulting in loss of life and property! Vandalism by the frontline organisations of the parties in various campuses, especially in DU, has already led to clashes amongst various factions and the academic atmosphere is disrupted. The ominous sign is everywhere. All hopes and aspirations of the peace loving general public are now shattered who, in the absence of the proposed electoral reforms, now have no role to play except watching and praying for the better days ahead keeping their fingers crossed. No doubt the nation has lost the golden chance for restoration of an orderly and proper democratic administration led by the educated and honest patriotic political leadership. Now who is to be blamed for the deba-

cle? Undoubtedly the two major political parties. Their controversial intransigent leaders put each and every kind of impediment in arriving at any sensible solution through the reform process the present administration was aiming at. While they are looking at the long term national interest, the major parties stuck to their guns of self interest only. National interest is an issue unknown to the politicians of our country. The present administration, having the overwhelming initial support in the wake of the national catastrophe created by the disgraced politicians, perhaps could take a stronger position against any unreasonable demands of the dishonest politicians. Perhaps their greatest folly was their initial misunderstanding and soft handling of the controversial politicians who tried to defy any kind of improvement in the political order of the country. Fishing in troubled water was the politicians' prime intention for survival.

All "angels" are now returning. But one should not be misled by such "welcome" from a handful of jumping and chanting benefit seeking party men as the voice of the nation. The silent majority's hope for an honest and democratic political set-up in the country is still on. Perhaps more sacrifice is needed to achieve the same, but when and how is a big question. **Mohammad Ataul Haque**  
On e-mail

**Cox's Bazar**  
Cox's Bazar was the number one wonder of nature for many days, but recently it was dropped from

## Jahangirnagar University, again!

Before settling the issue of harassment of girl students, the JU authorities have decided to violate the green environment of the JU. They have decided to cut more than 400 rare and environment-friendly trees. The reason, as reported in the media, is simply unacceptable to anybody with sound mind and heart. These beautiful trees are going to be the victim of the total mismanagement of the JU authorities. I do not know how to express our total disapproval. We would appreciate if the environment protection group come out strongly to stop this act of the JU management. Simultaneously, we would also ask the JU decision makers not to interfere with the natural beauty and the ecological balance of the campus. It is also important to mention that the JU is not a personal property of any individual or any institution, the JU campus belongs to the stu-

dents and the people at large. Any unilateral decision to cut all those trees identified will not only demonstrate their anti-environmental character, but it will also be an anti-people move, because the people would be deprived of their right to enjoy the green environment. To finish my letter, I would



request the JU authorities to watch the documentary on the environment issues presented by the former US Vice President AL-Gore. He has received the Noble Peace Prize for his contribution to the environment protection movement. Shame on the JU bosses!  
**A reader**  
On e-mail

**Potato seeds**  
Four thousand tonnes of high yielding 'Diamond' variety potato seeds will be imported from Holland by November. Growers are in a worry of price hike of seeds. Last year they had to pay very high prices which resulted in high production cost and eventually led to price hike of potatoes. This artificial crisis was created by hoarders. The government should oversee the distribution process, so that the hoarders cannot hike prices of potato seeds. **S.M. Shamim-Ur-Rashid Tushar**  
Department of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University  
Sylhet

### Rickshaws and Dhaka

I do agree with the points highlighted by Mr. Sikander Ahmed on the rickshaw issue (DS 08.09.08) and express all my sympathy for the senior citizen of the country. I personally feel his agony as I was also living at Niketon a few years back. However, all the past governments and the respective citizens of Dhaka city failed to highlight the city's need of having planned roads and the Dhaka city bypass, keeping in mind the fast growth (planned & unplanned) of the city in the last 20-25 years in terms of business and population. Also the government and the residents during that time should not have let the city turn into a garment industrial park. With the growth of the garment industry, more and more people started to come to Dhaka and live permanently causing a huge population boom in no time.

The government probably let the industry develop at the heart of the city as there was nothing much of any business and industrial activity in the country alive and the residents rented out their homes, plots for quick cash without hesitation and consideration of the future. As a result, we see a different Gulshan, Mirpur and Malibagh today. If that time around people who were at their prime age did take up the issue with the government, write articles highlighting the different issues like we/they do in newspapers now, certainly it would have helped the city fathers and administrators of the past to take action, and we would not have to come to this situation at all now.

I am not a government functionary, nor am I a worker/member of any political party but as a resident of Dhaka & as a Bangladeshi I would like to ask the past generation (Our grandfathers/fathers) why would any government of recent times take the blame for not being able to control the traffic? What exactly the generation of the past did during their prime? I think they were too busy increasing the number of family members and did not have enough time to foresee the future of Dhaka and Bangladesh. It is true and it may sound ugly to some, that today or tomorrow the rickshaws in the Dhaka city have to go. No matter what their contribution are to the national GDP. As a fast growing city, Dhaka cannot certainly have slow moving vehicles on its major streets (even a poor city like Kolkata couldn't). We all no what miseries the rickshaws bring to the traffic. Apparently, rickshaws look innocuous as they are human powered and don't burn any gas or petrol, but they are one of the main reasons for the city pollution as far as sound and air are concerned. Due to the rickshaw, the faster vehicles have to honk (though some car owners/drivers honk for no reason) and in the traffic jams/congestions the cars waste fuel and send a lot of carbon dioxide into the air.

Let's hope the government can successfully implement the 20-year long Mega Transport Project and if this is done I am confident that the Dhaka city will be able to bring the traffic to systematic operation for the next generation who will be residing in the city. **Sohel Ahmed**  
Dhanmondi  
Dhaka

**"A welcome move"**  
This refers to the editorial of Sept. 12, with the above title. I was very disappointed after reading that editorial. Despite all that violence, deaths, broken promises, lies and corruption we witnessed in the past, it seems that The Daily Star still wants those two women to come back to politics! This is astonishing! Instead of asking them to retire gracefully from politics and making room for new talents, DS is encouraging them to stay in politics! What a shame. **Azad Miah**  
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Department of Business Administration  
Shahjalal University  
Sylhet

### Electricity without fuel

I read a news report in a Bangla daily dated September 12, 2008 (online version).

In that version I read an exciting headline with a photograph of "Invention of Electric Power without fuel" by a proud Bangladeshi young man Gias Uddin Kachi. I would say I was delighted to read that news.

But my main concern is that, as Bangladesh is a developing country, we depend on some other Powerful Countries and our administration may not be truly concerned about this type of highly potential invention.

So I am anticipating that the credit of the invention might be snatched away by someone.

So it is high time to protect that person with his formula and to take other necessary actions so that we can use this formula in Bangladesh only. This must help to fill up our power deficiency. And after that, I strongly believe, it is a great opportunity to pull our country into the focal point of the world within a very short time.

I also believe that it will be stupid thinking to sell the formula for Millions of Dollars, rather than giving him sufficient prize money along with lifetime support for him from the government.

As per my Canadian experience, I believe electricity is the main weapon to become an economically sound country. **Mizanur Rahman**  
Programmer Analyst  
IT Department  
Discount Car & Truck Rentals,  
Toronto, Canada

### NU website

The National University website is one of the problematic, troublesome websites in our country, especially when the results are published. Those cyber-cafe owners get the maximum benefit from it. They charge Tk 20 to 30 from students for each result seen. There is hardly a chance to see the result without the roll number, though there is an opportunity to see it college wise and department wise. National University has a huge number of students but it is not aware of the needs of the students. The authorities should look into the matter. **Md. Tarik Ali Chowdhury**  
Student  
Sylhet

**Leaders**  
The caretaker govt. has failed to punish the top ranking political leaders for their corruption. The minus two formula has now turned into "managed two". We don't want corrupt leaders in the political arena of Bangladesh. We need a statesman like Mahathir Muhammad. **M.K.U. Parvez**  
University of Manitoba  
Canada

**Spirit of Ramadan**  
Ramadan or fasting is meant to teach the devotees patience, sacrifice, humility and encourage them to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate. Ramadan is the time to fast for the sake of Allah, pray for guidance to the right path, ask for help in refraining from everyday evils and purify ourselves through self-restraint and good deeds. But it surprised me to observe the spree of mouth-watering iftar offers of various food corners. The majority of the customers are from the young generation and it doesn't take them a minute to squander Tk 500 for one day's iftar. Isn't it just a waste of money living in a country where people work hard for the whole month to earn a little amount, the Sidr victims are still homeless and fasting without getting any guarantee of having anything for iftar and a lot of people marooned by the floods are struggling for their livelihoods. Considering this situation, I would request the young generation to take the lesson of Ramadan and stand by the people in distress. **Shanjida Yasmin**  
DOHS Baridhara  
Dhaka

**Teaching in school**  
Our secondary education system is poor compared to the developed countries and our students do not get enough care from our so-called school teachers. When I was studying in high school, I saw that our school teachers were not serious enough while teaching. They had no responsibility for our academic results. They did not teach well in school. But they were so much responsible and attentive to their

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## Our ICL warriors

In a resounding post editorial 'Rebel Warriors' on 19 September, Mr. Zafar Sobhan uttered the voice of all sensible Bangladeshis which should be read word by word several times by our cricket governors and their wailing sycophants. Mr. Sobhan categorically explains some solid points: firstly, our cricketers did not do any crime comparable to a wee bit to any egregious practice like match-fixing; secondly, ICL unlike the IPL has truly honoured our cricketers by creating a wide opportunity for them to compete as a 'Bangladeshi' team with international teams; and finally, playing or not-playing for the board has nothing to do with the issue of patriotism. Remember, ICL is at best 'unrecognised', not 'banned', by ICC. The reason is also known: ICC survives on BCCI's wealth. Come on, money talks! Whatever our BCB has done out of BCCI appeasement is laughable given that BCCI hasn't allowed a single Test series against Bangladesh in their soil in the last three years.

Amid all emotionally charged-up hullabaloo from some quarters, let me ask all a simple question: when hundreds of thousands of educated people of our country, that include university professors, brilliant graduates, corporate executives et al, become immigrants to the lands of fair-skinned people even at the risk of doing jobs disproportionate to their standards, we do not question their

patriotism, do we? And these cricketers who have chosen their profession in cricket and haven't migrated to India anyway instantly become 'unpatriotic rebels' only for going to play cricket in a professional tournament! I had personally talked with Habibur Bashar Sumon today and found how tremendously hurt he and others are by this unjust insensitivity of some quarters.

Let me be further straight. Is it a crime for the cricketers to think of future financial security given the woeful plight our sportsmen have to suffer as soon as they quit sports? Who cares to look after them at that time? Federations? Boards? Government? NGOs? None. Most of them, until they have otherwise socio-economic footing, have to live neglected traumatic lives only to become news items on TV channels and newspapers at some later point of time.

Therefore, our cricketers have done a brave thing by joining ICL. I am sure, millions of Bangladeshi fans are eagerly waiting for Dhaka Warriors to fight against other international sides. Hopefully, our cricket bosses would feel the pride as well. The latest news is, Sri Lankan board has lifted its domestic ban on ICL players. No comments required indeed. **Dr. Faheem Hasan Shahed**  
Dhanmondi  
Dhaka

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educated people was running in full steam. Law and order was normal, no hartal, no agitation even the road discipline improved. The only problem the government faced was slowing down of economic activities. We took it as the teething period and hoped for improvement in no time. The government reformed some public institutions like ACC, PSC and EC. Many corrupt businessmen and politicians were detained and harrowing stories of corruption were unearthed. Even a state minister in charge of the home ministry was reported to have hushed up a murder case in lieu of crores of taka. Stacked up money was recovered from most unlikely places like mattresses/pillows.

In the mean time, due to mismanagement and other factors prices of essentials spiralled causing immense suffering to the people. But none complained hoping for better governance and peace in future.

Unfortunately, the dreams of Bangladeshis were shattered in less than 18 months' time as we witness the gradual return to a chaotic situation. The ACC working with the task force got a big jolt when most of the corruption suspects were returning to public life with renewed strength. Though no case is disproved, these corrupt people are not only coming out of their dubious medical hideouts, but they are also showing victory signals and organising demonstrations ignoring dwindling emergency provisions. But in the recent past jute mill workers were mercilessly beaten when they came to the street to demand their rightful dues.

People are now in a state of complete bewilderment. The government came with so much promise. Will they leave without any tangible results? They find no solace from reformed institutions even. The straightforward chief of the ACC does not look as confident as he was a few months back. The PSC also could not show any improvement. The EC has already made itself controversial by mishandling many issues.

The CTG should concentrate on holding a free and fair election and hand over power. People are getting tired of seeing failures of the present govt. **A citizen**  
On e-mail

**Teaching in school**  
Our secondary education system is poor compared to the developed countries and our students do not get enough care from our so-called school teachers. When I was studying in high school, I saw that our school teachers were not serious enough while teaching. They had no responsibility for our academic results. They did not teach well in school. But they were so much responsible and attentive to their

own students who attended coaching classes at the teachers' homes. Because it was a source of their extra income. The students who could not attend such classes were deprived of good teaching. So, I earnestly request and expect that the authorities will address the issue with due sense of urgency. **Rezaul Haque Mostafa Chowdhury**  
Dept. of Microbiology  
University of Chittagong

**"Tomakei kujchhe Bangladesh"**  
"Tomakei kujchhe Bangladesh" is one of the popular talent hunt programmes which is telecast by ntv. Getting inspiration from ntv, some other channels are going to launch this type of programmes. My question is, is it an appropriate title? "Tomakei kujchhe Bangladesh" (Bangladesh is looking for you).

Can we imagine that 14 crore people are looking for a singer whose only quality is that he/she can sing well and entertain people. Some enthusiastic people voted through SMS to choose their idol. But a large number of people do not show any interest about such programmes. I would like to mention here that "Tomakei kujchhe Bangladesh" is an appropriate title but we are not looking for a singer who can only entertain listeners, instead we are searching for a transformational leader who can lead 14 crore people of our country. According to Craig Macalister, "Pain is a fundamental driver of change...Seize the moment when pain exists because when pain goes away, so does the motivation and energy for change associated with it".

Therefore I would like to call upon all the TV channels to produce a programme which will encourage our new generation to become a future leader of our country. We are currently looking for a transformational leader. **Md. Mursheed Kabir Azimur, Dhaka**

## Rights of indigenous people



This is good news that with great enthusiasm a special day is being observed for the indigenous people in our country. Over forty minor ethnic groups are living in Bangladesh for a long time. They are fighting for establishing their human rights, own culture and lan-

guage related to their individual ethnicity. We should help them establish their rights as equal citizens of the country. **Mostafa Tarequl Ahsan**  
Department of Folklore  
University of Rajshahi