

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.

### Do something for them

We know about the first time successful but second time unsuccessful candidates of 27th BCS. This is the fourth month of stay & movement of the candidates on the Shahid Minar premises. In addition, it has to be mentioned that they have started the hunger strike unto death again and this is the second hunger strike. This is really a matter of great disappointment & regret that this issue is still unresolved. This is inhumane silence. The candidates are passing their days amid uncertainty and helplessness under the open sky.

So, I would like to request the authorities concerned to do something for them.  
Rezaul Haque Suman  
Dhaka

### Seats in parliament

This was mentioned in the front-page report on 1st February, in a national English daily. It was stated that Mr. M.K. Anwar said this in his press briefing about the seat arrangement that has "FRIGHTENED THEM", about the future of this term of parliament; where the BNP seems to have adopted a non-functioning, but all benefit enjoying role!

For one, cannot by any stretch of imagination, find what is so frightening and any logical link between the future of parliament and the seat plan; that ironically seems to be the most important and urgent point for them in Bangladesh today! How ridiculous! Is this the new "Natok" of the "Boro Natokio Party" (BNP) for the current parliament season? Unfortunately their Natok as the ruling party was a disaster, as their election performance correctly reflects.

Or is it that the BNP is frightened of the investigation into all their ill deeds centring around the "Hawa Bhaban" corruption scandals? That is logically and naturally frightening for the BNP; for they would opt, "heart and soul" with all determination to give all out support for the saying (slightly altered) that "The past is all lies; the present a misfortune, and the future; a "rosy dream"! Quo vadis BNP? An inquisitive supporter  
Dhaka

### Scientific family

Dr. Moyra McDeal is Professor of Mechanical Engineering at a famous university in Canada. In an international conference on science and technology held in July 2002 at the congress hall in Ottawa, she introduced herself as member of a scientific family. She belongs to a five member family and a scientific happy

couple. All members in her family are scientifically qualified. She was discussing on scientific advancement drawing examples from her own family. She tried to show how scientific couple can enhance the efforts of developing scientific family and scientific community in a country. It was a unique presentation for learning and picking ideas particularly for participants attending from developing countries. After a long gap of seven years, Dr. Moyra's suggestions seem very effective for us all.

From my personal scientific attachment, it is worth mentioning that we are a scientific couple and our family consists of five members. There was no pre-plan about education and profession of our son and daughters. We gave them the priority for selection. But our kids have automatically become scientifically qualified.

Dr. Moyra suggested that if you want to develop scientific culture in your country, create as many scientific families as you can. We are now the citizens of digital Bangladesh and we need all families to be scientific, i.e. scientifically literate to enjoy the benefits of digital Bangladesh fully.  
Prof. Lutfor Rahman  
Founder VC  
Science and Technology  
University in Rural Bangladesh

### Foreign training

It is good news that the PD of TQI-SEP has got the award for running his project well. Training is essential for professional development. So, teacher educators of TT colleges are going abroad for getting training on their professional development.

Some teachers did the same with the previous projects but most of the teachers were transferred to general colleges just after the training and the training was not suitable for the general colleges and some teachers went to retirement just after getting the training.

Some teachers will be transferred just after getting foreign training this time also.

So, I would draw the attention of the PD of TQI-SEP and the authorities concerned to this issue.

Nusrat Hossain  
Paharpur  
Dinajpur

### The universe and the Creator

In plain words the universe means the sky - the whole firmament that man finds spread over him, day and night, in which the sun shines in the day and the moon and countless stars glitter at night, which amazes him even when he sees it with the bare eye, but

which appears as vast, limitless when he looks at it through the telescope. It seems to be starting from nowhere and ending nowhere. Millions of times larger planets than our earth are moving in it like tiny balls; thousands of times brighter stars than our sun are shining in it, our entire solar system is located in a corner of its only one galaxy; only in this one galaxy there exist at least three thousand million other stars like our own sun, and man's observation has so far discovered one million such galaxies. Out of the lakhs of galaxies, our nearest neighbouring galaxy is so distant from us that its light reaches the earth in ten lakh years traveling at the speed of 186,000 miles per second. This shows the vastness of that part of the Universe which has so far been observed and explored by man. As to how vast is the entire Universe of Allah, we have no means to estimate and judge. If about the God Who has brought this huge and wonderful Universe into being, this tiny talking animal, called man, who creeps the earth, asserts that He cannot recreate him once again after death, it would be due to narrowness of his own mind. The power of the Creator of the Universe would not at all be affected by it!

There is one more thing to think about. In spite of its amazing vastness the wonderful order of the Universe is so coherent and firm and its composition so perfect that there is no crack or cleft in it, and its continuity breaks nowhere.

This proves that Allah alone is the Creator of this whole Universe and its Master.

Md Nazmul Haque  
Astudent

### Law and order situation

Recently, the law and order situation has taken a dramatic downslide in the country. Every day the dailies are filled with news of murders, rape and all sorts of crimes. Surely, this is not the change people

prayed for while installing the new democratic government. The caretaker govt., although undemocratic and laden with a list of failure records, could at least boast of the considerably improved law and order situation. A developed Bangladesh means not only the cyber amenities, but also providing security to every citizen with regard to his or her life, honour and property.

We hope the new govt. will take speedy and meaningful action in that direction.

Anonymous

One-mail

I am referring to two articles published recently in your daily. The first one entitled "Understanding Bangladesh from a Neighbour's Door" (Jan 24, 09) by Nitish Sengupta and Arindam Banik from India, the second one entitled "Better Water Management for improved livelihood" (Jan 31, 09) by Muhammad Zamir of Bangladesh.

The issues discussed in both the articles are very relevant in the present day situation in Bangladesh and deserve some discussion. Particularly the issue of better water management vis-a-vis agriculture.

Agriculture is by far the largest consumer of available fresh water followed by municipal and industrial sectors in most countries, with

shrinking arable land and growing population Bangladesh is facing a bigger challenge in this sector. To cope with the population growth it has to produce enough food by bringing more cultivable land under irrigation. Therefore, augmentation of both surface and ground water through minor irrigation devices like deep tube wells, shallow tube wells, low lift pumps, floating pumps etc. will be the key factor.

Being a scarce resource, water can only be made available by managing it in a better way. Water management projects need investment and appropriate institutional network. Technology development and their extension need public sector institutional

support. In neighbouring India most of the states have public sector involvement in minor irrigation development. The state of West Bengal has a separate Minor Irrigation Ministry to look after this sector. Bangladesh can use their experience in this regard.

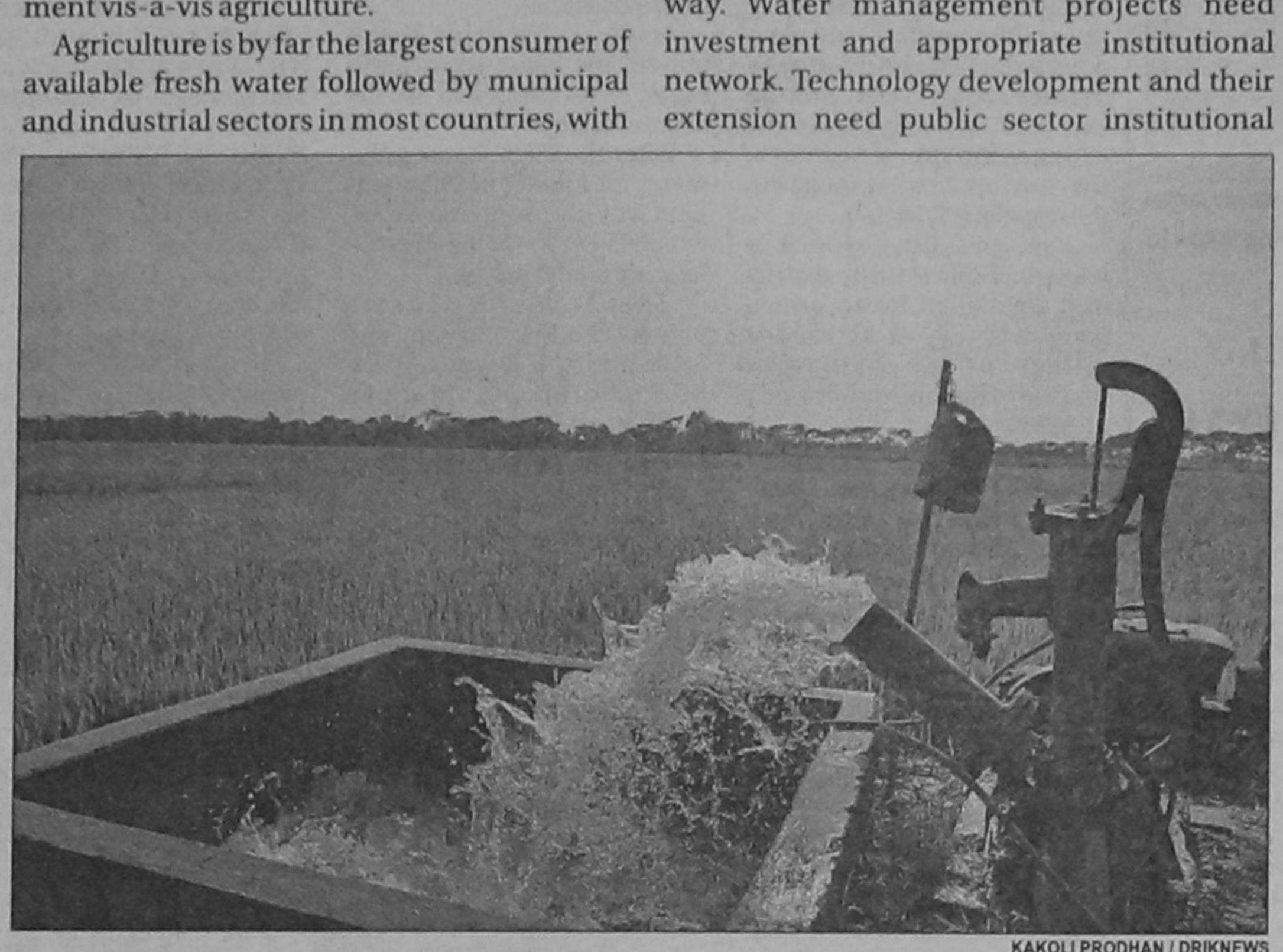
The issues of flood mitigation, river training including water sharing with neighbouring countries are of prime importance. Dry season water scarcity has become a major concern for people living in Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin area. As a lower riparian country, this concern in Bangladesh has turned into a bone of contention.

In a recent editorial (Jan 03, 09) Anandabazar Patrika of West Bengal has voiced the same concern. Another article captioned "Ecologists warn that the world is running out of water" (Loe Lewis, Times of London dated January 22, 2008) has mentioned this (the excerpts) "There are places West Africa today, the Ganges-Brahmaputra river system in Nepal, Bangladesh and India, and Peru within ten years where major changes in the rivers generate a significant risk of violent conflict. Good water management is part of peace building."

History repeatedly taught us one thing without fail, that unilateralism and isolationism have always been the "recipe for disaster", because the real security and prosperity of one fifth of humanity lies in unison not in unilateralism.

AK Shamsuddin  
Mississauga, Canada

## Water management for agriculture



KAKOLI PRODHAN / DRIKNEWS

### Swimming in recession

With the news of slashing of jobs almost every now and then in big multinationals like

Toyota, Harley-Davidson and many others, millions worldwide are swimming in the current critical recession. We often hear of dim forecasts by giant corporations and their big stories of huge losses. Experts and analysts are anticipating many a drowning cases in multi dimensional fields in the coming days and red signals of a global meltdown are already on the cards.

Different nations have already rolled out various financial packages to fight against this crucial situation of economic downturn which expects many small and big businesses to go off and kick a rise in the level of unemployment.

Ours is a small nation with a small economy. However the number of swimmers in the pool of this world recession is not small - thanks to our huge population. If proper thoughts are not put in immediately by analysts and respective professionals, it would not take long for our ship to capsized in the chilly water of recession like many other multi dollar valued corporations did very recently.

To minimize the chances of drowning, we need to build different detours and numerous backup plans. We need to create a condition where our swimmers, that are the large scale population, get a ground before freezing water of recession enters their nose and ears. The new government should take the charge of encouraging people all over the country to invest in the economy and participate in economic activity. The government should keep looking for other alternatives for generating income so that they can try on reducing tax from general people's shoulder, which I believe will help increase investment.

The icy wind of recession is pricking people all across the globe and it is high time for our government to pick professional, pilots like Captain Chesley Sullenberger who bravely landed the US aircraft at the Hudson River and saved hundreds by making use of his flying skills, so that our experienced as well as young politicians can navigate our country safely. The government can put thoughts into bringing back some old professionals and performers who can support the commerce, industry and financial sector of our economy. Let us recall the clarion call of the most powerful citizen of the planet, Barack Hussein Obama who vowed to remake America in his address after oath taking.

Let our politicians along with the people strive hard to rebuild Bangladesh as a prosperous nation and get as least affected as possible from the ongoing global recession.

Zahid A. Choudhury  
Dhaka Cantonment  
Dhaka

### Minister

Now that a case has been filed

against Mr. Abdul Latif Biswas (DS, February 06), the Fisheries and Livestock Minister, for causing gross violation of code of conduct in January 22 upazila election, the minister should immediately resign from his cabinet post. His resignation is necessary so as to proceed with the case smoothly without any political interference. Above all, it is necessary for Mr. Biswas to show his respect for rule of law and democratic norms.

Once Mr. Biswas is exonerated from the charge he could honourably come back to the cabinet.

Syed Ashrafuzzaman  
Mohakhal DOHS, Dhaka

### Don't hurry!

We are happy to know that US Assistant Secretary of State for

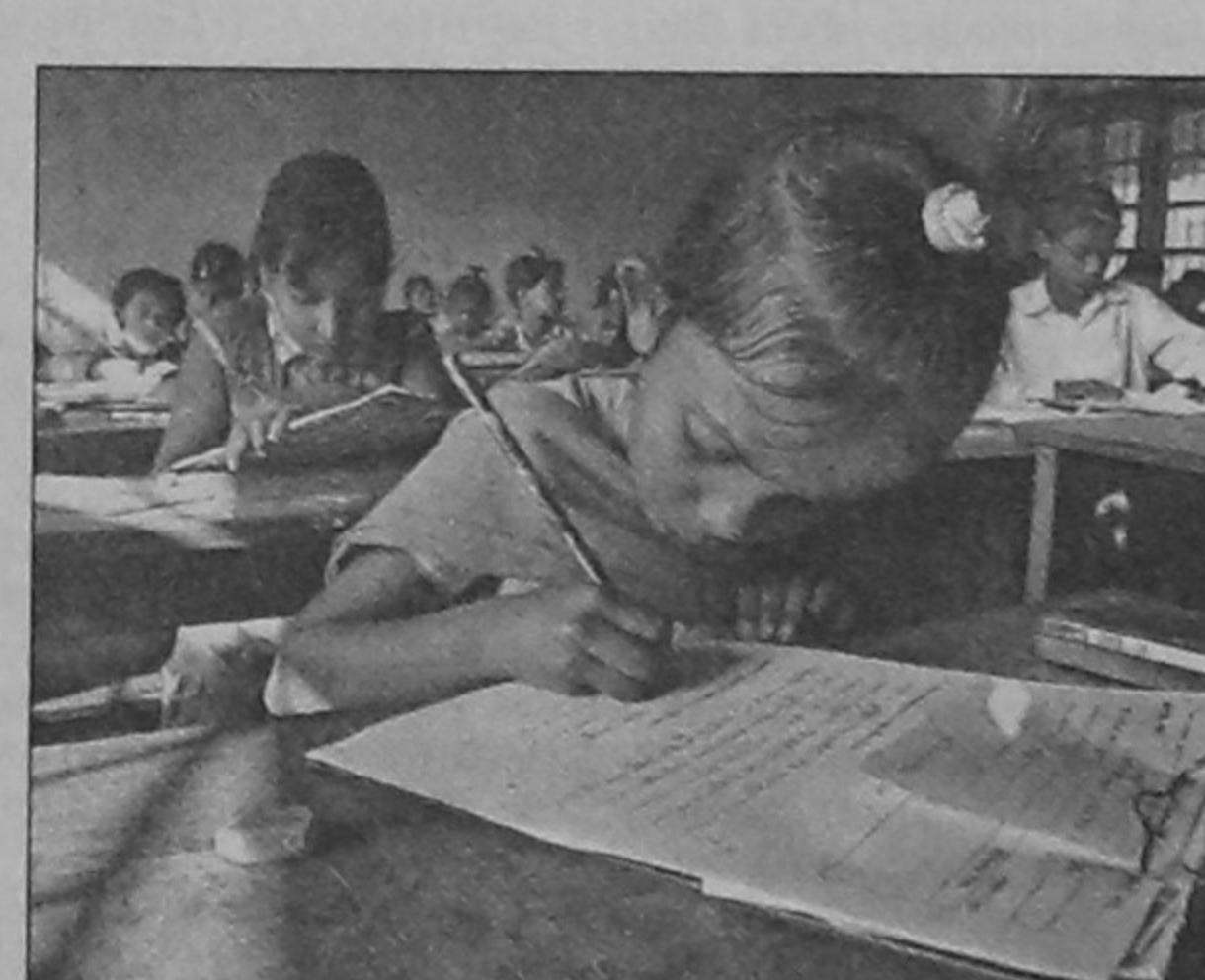
South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A. Boucher has said that till now Dhaka and Washington did not have an active negotiation on Trade

and Investment Framework Agreement (Tifa).

He believes that it is nothing but a few basic ideas and principles that both the parties can discuss further to expand trade and investments. He has also said, "I wouldn't be too much excited about the framework agreement." It makes us hopeful. Agreements and contracts have long-term effect on any nation. So, taking time before signing is wise. We hope that our newly formed government will take much time to get better points regarding this agreement.

This government is allowing us to think till the year 2021. It should not do such things which can be misrepresented. Moreover, there is no reason to hurry up. You will be in power for at least five years. So, wait, see and evaluate. Take the action which you think best for the nation.

Abdul Hamid  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. of Business  
Administration  
Shahjalal University, Sylhet



NOOR ALAM / DRIKNEWS

## Textbook crisis

The AL-led grand alliance assumed power at the beginning of this year and soon has been faced with a veritable challenge which has been plaguing Bangladesh for the last several years - textbook crisis.

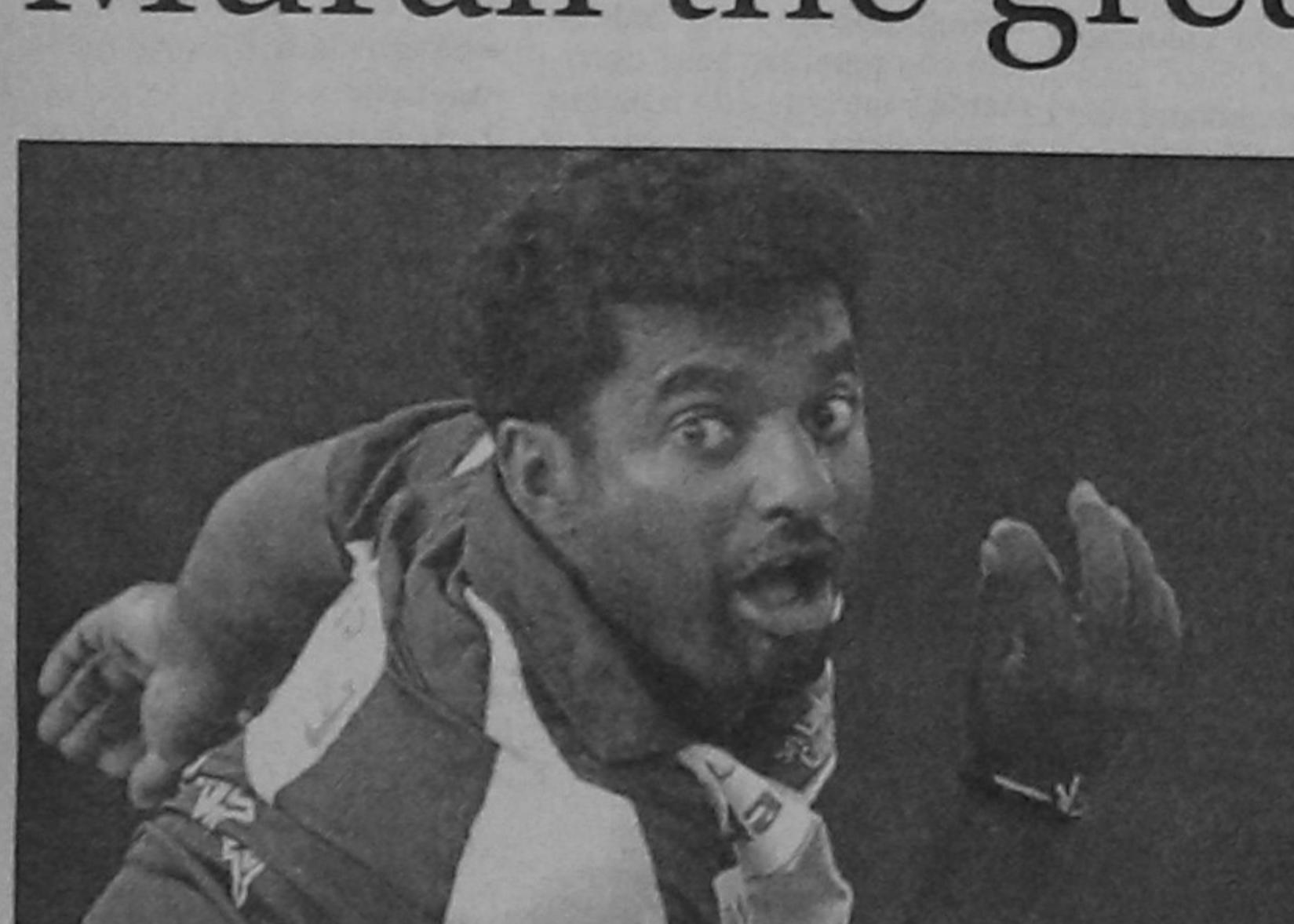
I wonder how publishers and their accomplices - some venal officials of the authorities concerned - can perpetrate such a heinous act like keeping our secondary school students, the future of our country, hostage for satiating their greed for filthy lucre!

It seems to me that measures taken to get rid of the crisis on the part of government are lackadaisical. If the government would have given this issue its due attention from the onset, the situation could not deteriorate to such a grave extent. Failure to face the crisis successfully may start to undermine the trust of people in the government's ability to run the country properly.

The perception that Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid is a man of integrity engenders expectation among us that he will leave no stone unturned to resolve this issue, once and for all.

Ahmad Ferdous Bin Alam  
Motijheel, Dhaka

## Murali the greatest



The Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan on 5 February became the highest wicket taker in one-day internationals, darkening Pakistani pace legend Wasim Akram's world record of 502 wickets. The legendary off-spinner dismissed Indian opener Gautam Gambhir to become the most successful bowler in the history of the game as he already holds the record of the most Test wickets (769) in 125 matches.

The 36-year-old spinner achieved the feat playing in his 328th match, while Akram had played 356 ties to create his tally.

The Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan became the highest wicket taker in one-day internationals when he claimed his

blessed with natural talent and I have worked very hard throughout my career."

"I would like to dedicate the record to my parents and family who have always been there for me through good times and bad."

Muralitharan has taken five wickets in a Test innings on 66 occasions and collected 22 10-wicket match hauls in a career plagued by controversy because of his unusual bent-arm action which relies on a super-flexible and strong wrist.

Despite breaking the record, Muralitharan had an otherwise disappointing time with the ball against India, ending with figures of one for 66 as Gambhir hit a career-best 150 off 147 balls, including 14 fours and a six. Gambhir was well supplemented by the captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's 94 off 96 balls as poor ground fielding and wayward bowling by Sri Lanka enabled the tourists to score 332 for five by the end of their innings.

India's scoring was all the more impressive for the fact that Sachin Tendulkar and Zaheer Khan were rested and replaced by Rohit Sharma and Irfan Pathan with the tourists 30 up in the five-match series.

Mohammad Shahidul Islam  
One-mail

503rd victim today.

Muralitharan had India's Gautam Gambhir caught by wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara for 150 in the fourth one-day international in Colombo to move above the Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram at the top of the list.

The 36-year-old Muralitharan, who reached the milestone in his 328th one-day international, is also Test cricket's highest wicket taker with 769 victims.

"I am very proud and happy to have achieved this record and it is a great honour for a small nation like Sri Lanka to now hold two bowling world records," Muralitharan said in a televised interview. "There is no secret to my success apart from the fact I was fortunate to be

the first to do it." The Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan has become the highest wicket taker in one-day internationals, darkening Pakistani pace legend Wasim Akram's world record of 502 wickets. The legendary off-spinner dismissed Indian opener Gautam Gambhir to become the most successful bowler in the history of the game as he already holds the record of the most Test wickets (769) in 125 matches.

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