

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.

Consider our views

Honourable prime minister and her cabinet members give answers to the questions asked by members of parliament. I think it is one kind of accountability and transparency of the democratic government to the nation.

Honourable members don't often ask questions to parliament in public interest due to their 'over loyalty' to the government or party. So many important public issues don't get attention.

Moreover, general people have no access to the prime minister, cabinet members and other members belonging to the ruling party and the opposition.

The parliament secretariat may gather people's opinions through email or by post. That is how parliament members can learn about the people and their views.

Abbas Uddin
College Avenue
Barisal

Load shedding and electricity bill

Within 24 hours we suffer 6-10 times from load shedding and there is no electricity supply for 4-8 hours daily.

We are however puzzled and we fail to understand the mechanism and logic as to how the amount of our monthly normal electricity bill is on the rise every month.

In addition to payment of

increased amount of electricity bill we are required to spend a huge sum of money for purchase of costly candles and lantern kerosene to perform various domestic, commercial works and for studies of our children at night.

Would our Ministry of Energy, PDB and Dhaka Power Distribution Company the new wine in old bottle (DESA) kindly look into the sufferings and financial hardships of the common people?

We would request and suggest our authorities concerned to cut down the existing rate of tariff of electricity by 30 per cent in view of price hike of essential goods and commodities and untold sufferings of the people pending improvement of unabated and troublesome load shedding in the interest of public service.

O.H. Kabir
Hare Street
Wari, Dhaka

Power crisis

The generating capacity of power as assured by the present government will be increased up to 5,000mw within three years from the date of their taking office to run the government. But the Honourable Finance Minister's statement that it is not possible within three years because of financial as well as various other reasons has disappointed the whole nation.

The nation can run without luxury cars but not without electricity.

Mosharraf Hossain
Halisahar, Chittagong

Grading system

It is alarming to see that those students having A+ both in SSC and HSC don't get admission in a public university. The quality of teaching is falling day by day. The method of giving extra numbers in exams sheet should be changed. The number should be given according to the students' merit.

Low standard of education is a major problem. To solve this problem, the ministry of education has to take pragmatic steps and the guardians of students must also be conscious about this problem.

Bhasker Chandra Talukder
Medicine department
BAU, Mymensingh

May corruption live long!

Honestly (!) we are very happy. We have won the battle against the toughest enemy of our beloved (!) corruption. The government should declare a one-week vacation to celebrate it as we are proceeding well to win back our lost place in World Corruption Championship!

Mohammad Ariful Islam
Member of Biomedical
Polymer Research Lab
Seoul National University
South Korea

Observe the genocide day

May 5, 1971, is a red-letter day at the famous North Bengal Sugar Mills Ltd. at Gopalpur in Natore district, where about one hundred innocent people including my beloved eldest brother, then General Manager (Administrator), Shaheed Lieutenant Anwarul Azim, MA LLB, officers and employees of the mills were brutally killed on the staircase of a pond in the main mills premises with machine-gun burst fire, by the barbaric Pakistan army, during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

Their holy dead bodies were then floating on the said pond for several days.

Only three labourers escaped with critical injuries.

This holy pond is now called "Shaheed Sagar" by the local people.

A museum should be established in the mills premises, preserving photos, dresses, hand-writing, life sketches and other belongings of these martyrs.

I, on behalf of the families of these martyrs, earnestly request our government to observe this genocide day in honour of those martyrs in all sugar mills of our country on May 5 every year.

Mohammad Anwarul Quader
Masterpara, Chakdev
Naogaon

Crusader against corruption

The news of your resignation made me sad like many others in Bangladesh. However, we all knew it was coming. I am sure you also know that your resignation has relieved many of our corrupt politicians. Thanks to our State Minister for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs for making it crystal clear in an interview.

They are overjoyed because finally they get rid of a 'troublemaker' like you.

They want someone in your place who will be inefficient, and who will do whatever they want him to do. They will get a candidate like that very soon. We have no shortage of such people.

You as the ACC's chairman gave us hope about a corruption free Bangladesh when we saw some of our great leaders in jail. For many years, we thought that "no one is above the law" is a misnomer in Bangladesh. You made it true.

Sir, be happy because believe it or not you made many corrupt persons spend sleepless nights. Maybe some of them even thought of not indulging in corruption any more. That is a great achievement!

Dr. M. Zakiul Islam
Assistant Professor
Department of Architecture
BUET

Digital Bangladesh

I think the growing use of digitals in our daily lives will be a serious problem for mankind as a whole. In future the growing use of digitals will create unemployment problems. The humankind will be mechanized and they will forget to talk with each other. They will forget to learn languages from actual real teachers in classrooms.

True, there are some great advantages of digitalisation, but digitalisation may change our lives in such a way that we may end up entirely new beings!

Mohammad Rajja
Gono Bishwabidyalay
Savar, Dhaka

effectively, which is not true.

The legislature makes the law, the Judiciary interprets the law and the Executive enforces it. Bangladesh Constitution is a unique Constitution in the world and the framers of our constitution inserted Article-22, which runs as follows- "The state shall ensure the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive organs of the state."

The people of this country have a bitter experience from the British Colonial rulers to the Pakistani regime and in the independent Bangladesh how the Magistracy was run. So it is my humble submission to all concerned including our parliament members: raise your voice against this bill to save our Judiciary.

Sheikh Akhtar-ul-Islam
Ex-EC member
Supreme Court Bar
Association
Dhaka

Film on Bangabandhu

Red Rose Films Limited, a UK-based film producing company, has completed pre-production stage of making a full-length English film on the eventful life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with an estimated cost of \$10 million.

The indoor filming will be at Hyderabad in India and outdoors at Gopalganj, and a number of actors and actresses have primarily been

chosen from Mumbai and Hollywood apart from Bangladesh.

Instead of making a \$10 million film on Bangabandhu, why don't we invest that money to make the first Bangladesh ICT research University and model it after International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad (also IIIT-Hyderabad, IIIT-H) which is an autonomous, self-supporting institution that started in 1998 with support from the government of Andhra Pradesh. IIIT is a research university at its core. Our ICT research university should be named after the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Hope our PM will consider this seriously.

The major goal of ICT University for Bangladesh will be to impart a uniquely broad and interdisciplinary IT education of the highest academic quality. This will be achieved through an integrated curriculum that consists of a highly diverse set of IT courses, interdisciplinary IT research projects, day-to-day interaction with industry, preparation in entrepreneurship and personal development courses. Is it not a better way of keeping Bangabandhu's memories alive?

Sayed Rahman
Founder, BANGLAIT

Three projects

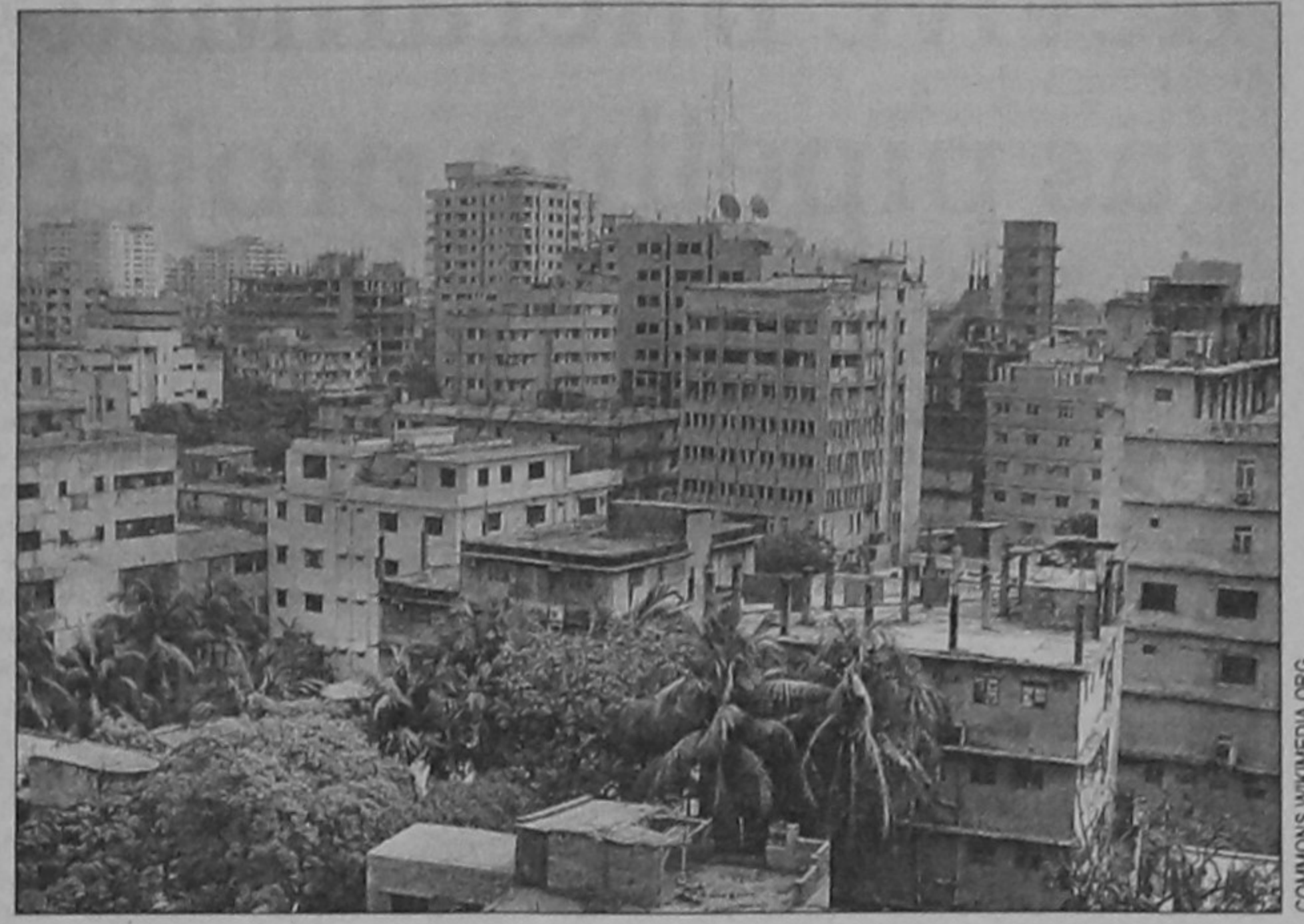
I saw a report a few days back in most of the national dailies that the government is planning to have metro rail or subway at Dhaka city. Indeed this is very good news for 125 million city dwellers. But if I am not wrong the then 4 party government also initiated this mega project to save the commuters of Dhaka city from the trouble of long traffic congestion. Lots of studies have been carried out in the last five years to ease the traffic jam & a Strategic Transport Plan has been chalked out to get rid of this acute problem. Experts observed that metro rail or subway would be the best solution for the huge population. I would like to draw a few points on a recent statement made by our communications minister in parliament on this mega project. He has informed the Jatiya Sansad that the government is planning to implement this project, which must be appreciated. In Bangladesh, this is a completely new concept & I am afraid whether proper feasibility study has been carried out or not. To the best of my knowledge, this subway train requires uninterrupted power supply to run to & from. On the other hand, a local firm has put forward a proposal for Letter of Intent to the government. It is not clear whether this local company has any previous experience of this sort of job. Our honourable communications minister has also informed parliament that they are going to start another mega project "Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project" by next year which will cost around Tk 11,000 crore approx. So far I have seen that the government has by this time got commitment of about Tk 7,000 crore from donors like World Bank, ADB, JICA & Kuwait Fund for Development, the rest 4,000 crore is yet to be collected from other sources. As we all know that global recession is persisting & the effect of it has already been felt in the USA, Europe and South East Asia. "Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project" is also an election pledge of this government & we hope that this government will try to implement this project as 75% of funds has already been committed by major donors. But the subway or metro rail would require another approx Tk 7,000 to 9,000 crore to complete the whole project.

Besides this, we have another burning problem standing in front of us which is shortage of power. This is the most challenging job of this government and as such they have already initiated negotiations with Russia for nuclear power plants of 1,000mw capacity each. We understand that a MoU is likely to be signed with Russia on the nuclear power plant. This according to experts would roughly require about Tk 10,000 crore. When these two vital projects need implementation on a priority basis, then the talk of another mega project like metro rail or subway seems to be irrational.

As a citizen, I would appreciate if the sources of these funds are made public by the ministries concerned. My personal view is that the present global recession will continue till 2010. So, we have to be cautious. To conclude, I must say that I am an optimist but all these development projects together look like a dream, not reality.

Syed Shahid Hossain
HR Haban, Kakrail
Dhaka

The metropolis



The main problems of Dhaka city are traffic congestions, scarcity of water, load shedding and lack of accommodation, since there are too many people in Dhaka.

If the government takes some measures, the severity of some problems can be reduced.

The government is constructing more flyovers and strongly considering underground subway or sky-rail in Dhaka city to ease the traffic system. Waza is trying to use surface water instead of setting-up deep tube-wells as water levels are falling.

But Dhaka is overburdened with population. So, we should bring down population of the city to manageable figures. We should decentralise in all areas.

To make Dhaka a habitable city, we should decentralise national university first, earlier the colleges of Chittagong

division were affiliated with Chittagong University. It was easier for people to travel from a remote area of a district of Chittagong than going to Dhaka. And the other colleges of the country were affiliated with the local universities as well.

The delegation of power is essential; there are about 30 thousand educational institutions across the country and a huge number of teachers and employees are working there.

Some important offices could be shifted to places adjacent to Dhaka; like Directorate of Primary Education to Mymensingh, DSHE to Gazipur and some universities and colleges to Savar, Dhaka and so on.

Mawduda Hasnin
Raninagar
Kajla, Rajshahi

Trees

Trees present us flowers, the most beautiful thing on earth. They keep the atmosphere cool and bring down rain. Yet some people are so ungrateful that they recklessly cut down trees to draw quick profit. The little forests in Chittagong, Khulna, Dinajpur, and Tangail areas are shrinking day by day owing to increase in population. As a result, our forests cannot meet our timber requirement. To make our country prosperous and to check air pollu-

tion and to save our earth from greenhouse effects, we should plant more and more trees. Trees make the earth beautiful.

The earth without trees would be a big desert where all living beings will die. So, we should plant more trees.

Iqbal Khan
Teacher of English
Birshrestha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles
College
Pilkhana, Dhaka



Empowerment of executive magistrate

A bill of criminal procedure code titled 'Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act 2009' is now on table of the present session of parliament to empower the executive magistrates. That creates great suspicion and confusion, whether the present government really wants to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. It is our ill-luck that in the year 1972 our heroic people framed a constitution where it was clearly stated that the Judiciary must be separated from the executive and our political leaders including the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said in parliament, "Judiciary shall be separated from the administration to ensure justice for people." People of this country are still waiting after long 38 years for real justice and effective separation of Judiciary from the Executive. One of the framers of our constitution, Mr. Suranjit Sen Gupta MP, is now also the Chairman of the present parliamentary committee and the daughter of Bangabandhu is now the leader of the house. It is very much clear that some vested quarter is working for undermining the spirit of the historic Supreme Court verdict on separation of judiciary on a lame argument, that without the Magistracy power administration cannot run

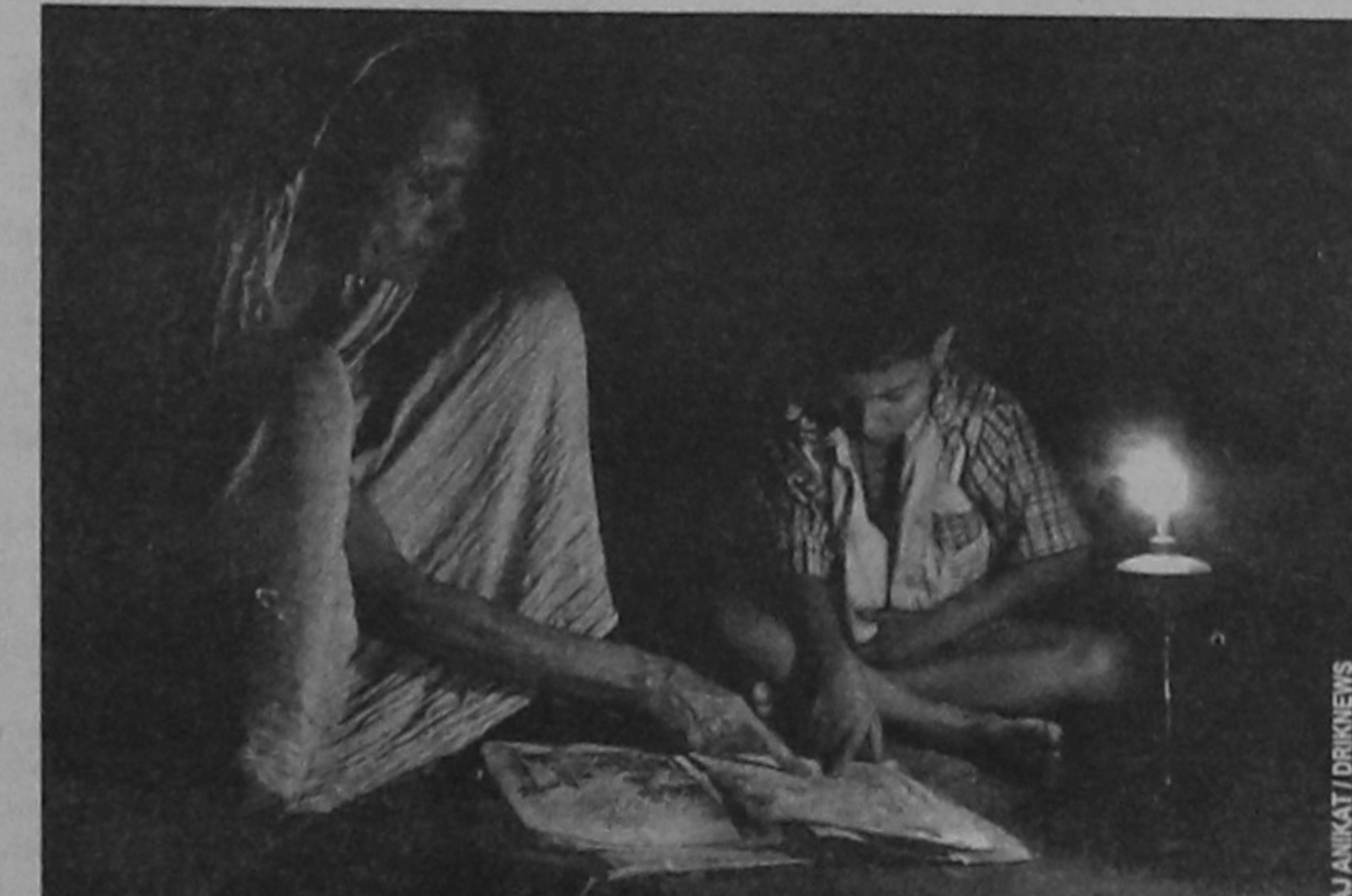
effectively, which is not true. The legislature makes the law, the Judiciary interprets the law and the Executive enforces it. Bangladesh Constitution is a unique Constitution in the world and the framers of our constitution inserted Article-22, which runs as follows- "The state shall ensure the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive organs of the state."

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No electricity!



Much has been said about load shedding. Many initiatives have been taken so far, but no remedy is in sight. It is intolerable for us as the frequency of load shedding is growing higher day by day. We all know that power is indispensable for the overall development of a country, but we have done nothing in this sector. Consequently, our country is facing acute power shortage.

Besides, how is it possible to keep Bangladesh on the way of development? To accelerate production and prosperity of the country, power sufficiency is a must. Besides, to material-

ize the dream of digital Bangladesh, smooth and uninterrupted power supply must be ensured as soon as possible. So, the govt. can adopt short & long term policies to meet up the growing demand of power on a priority basis. For instance, solar energy, wind power and bio-gas can be potential sources. Unless the govt. takes necessary measures to solve the crisis & boost production for rapid development, the dream of digital Bangladesh will not come true.

Md. Yeasin Eon
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