



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.

### A polluted capital

A few months ago, I had got a chance to go to Dhaka in order to attend a debate competition and took the opportunity to see the important places in Dhaka city. Now it is a city of pollution. Air, water are polluted severely because of unplanned urbanisation and indiscriminate throwing of wastes. The entrance gate of Dhaka city was a shocking experience for me. The ponds beside the railway stations of Dhaka city (i.e. airport, cantonment, Kamalapur, Mughalpara & so on) looked like black lakes or ponds. I did not see the natural colour of ponds in the city.

So, I would like to request the authorities concerned to ponder over this matter seriously and take remedial measures.

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### No opposition!

Is the opposition fading away? Its contribution at the JS settings is hardly noticeable.

The two-year interim period by the non-political caretaker government has opened the eyes of the political parties and the voters. Now the national events are being analysed in new perspectives. What's the regime offering?

The new political regime is faced with multi-problems of the changing society, and is yet to settle down to normal routine level. What is offered during the first quarter of the first year is not enough to appease the expectations of the masses. What is required is internal change (from the heart) in the approach to national problems and priorities. The old microphone techniques are out of date. The political 'mobility factor' has to rise. What is it? Ask the leaders.

The times are different. The global focus is on South Asia; therefore the local regimes have to sharpen their foresight and judgement values. Preventive measures have to be rehearsed for unexpected events like the BDR carnage.

Get out of the old grooves, and show the people new tracks. The poor standard of politics is akin to the current state of the neglected BR (Bangladesh Railways). The regime is hurrying with new mega projects (like another bridge on the lower side of the Ganges; and subway train network, instead of sky rail as a pilot project); and not paying attention to urgent BMRE schemes. Why the trial of the war criminals has to be held right now and cannot wait till the end of the year?

Two cementing factors are missing: political consensus at the national level; and national division due to the rivalry between two dynasties. The old order is not changing; we are lagging behind the global caravan in the desert of wilderness.

Leadership is there, but where is the lead? We are dragging heavy lead (metal)! We Bengalees are a society of adda-baaz; and loiter about in leisure dress, unfit to climb the

Everest! There is no plain living in the plains of deltaic Bangladesh. It is akaash-kusum, plainly speaking.

A Husnain  
Dhaka

### Create job opportunities

People have had the experience of being ruled by a non-elected government for more than two years. Especially, the economy of Bangladesh became infertile during that time. Before the election, spontaneously and surely, this government made us very optimistic. But already four months have gone by, and it is high time to perform better.

As the consequence of global recession, the private sector has been very hesitant in creating new job opportunities. But the number of jobless people in the country is increasing sharply. The government has to address the issue with a sense of urgency.

Please take necessary action to create more employment opportunities for the new generation.

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### Pepsi programme

Soft drink giant Pepsi organised the 'Prove yourself day programme' on 13 May for the short listed candidates who participated in its recent promotional scratch card offer. It was a very nice idea. According to this offer, the people who drank the highest number of Pepsi during this campaign period were invited to participate in the 'Prove yourself day programme' which was held at the Mirpur indoor stadium. I was one of the participants of this programme and hence I went to the Mirpur indoor stadium on time at 11:30am.

After going there, I had to wait for an hour in the scorching summer heat and finally they let me enter inside at around 12:30pm.

But we were told that inside there was another batch of participants who were being interviewed and so we had to wait under a Samiana till 4:00pm. The organisers gave everybody breakfast in the morning but after that we were simply waiting there without any food or drink. They even didn't let us go outside. But we were waiting helplessly for our turn and finally when our turn came, we went inside. But this time we saw many people who were already there before us and I realised that my turn would not come before 6:00pm.

But it was impossible for me to stay there since I was feeling extremely hungry and so I finally gave up and left the place without participating in the contest. Later, I came to know that many other people also left like me without participating. I was greatly disappointed.

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### NSU incident

On 13 May 2009 two articles were published in the DS that addressed the recent clashes at North South University and some other relevant issues regarding our private univers-

# Trial of war criminals



Recently, the report that Pakistan has been asked to seek forgiveness for the massacre and genocide they committed in 1971 was published in national dailies. The news came when Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mr. Alamgir Babar Khan called on Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni recently. They discussed bilateral matters. At one stage, our foreign minister raised the 1971 genocide issue.

Eventually, our electronic and print media started to focus on this issue. Some days back, a Dhaka court summoned 36 war criminals. The media did not make any mistake to give it a huge coverage then. Later, a minister said that this case could hamper the real trial of war criminals.

Dr. Dipu Moni should ask the Pakistani authorities to hand over the 195 identified war criminals to Bangladesh for their trial. Because, officially these 195 people are identified as war criminals. They should face trial before others.

Ali Ahmad  
One-mail

### Same old story?

ANDAUL HUQ/DRINKS

Modest and reasonable media coverage is helpful for keeping the people abreast with what is happening in the country. But excessive propaganda reminds us of similar activities of the previous ruling 4-Party Alliance and thus of the proverb "Old wine in a new bottle". Student, youth and volunteer wings of the ruling Awami League are getting increasingly involved in snatching tenders, contracts, extortion, occupying student halls, controlling admission in educational institutes in the rural areas, etc.

But the question is, will the HC ruling be enough to stop harassment of women? Mahfuzur Rahman Manik IER, Dhaka University

### Sexual harassment

The High Court has laid down guidelines against sexual harassment of women.

This is good news, no doubt. In educational institutions women are harassed by their own teachers. So they have no security.

But the question is, will the HC ruling be enough to stop harassment of women?

Mahfuzur Rahman Manik IER, Dhaka University

### Thanks, fire brigade and DESA

We are accustomed to listening to such news that the fire fighting team arrived late and did very little to extinguish the fire, and many such things which degrade the reputation of the fire brigade. Moreover, the private universities offer merit-based scholarships, which's an option that impoverished students might utilize only if they can study hard.

I think the whole NSU incident is extremely regrettable. Misunderstandings can occur. The university authorities should have announced the fee-enhancement earlier. But that doesn't justify vandalism and uncivilized conducts by the students.

Instead, today financially better off students prefer private universities to public ones because private universities generally offer an atmosphere that is free from political turmoil. The author also fails to comprehend the fact that in our public universities associations similar to what he euphemistically regards as 'student governments' have recurrently paved ways for mischievous conducts that have repeatedly hampered the academic processes of these institutions.

Moreover, if there are 'student councils' who will elect their leaders? The election processes will inexorably bring more 'politics' and favouritism. The consequent conflicts between different groups of students will further jeopardize our academic endeavours.

K.A.S.K  
One-mail

In Bangladesh's context, student councils will certainly attract party politics because here political parties are keen to place their representatives in crucial organizations so that they can use them for political purposes. I'm not cynical about the basic characteristics of our youth. However, I cannot be optimistic either about the overall political culture of our country, various elements of which might mislead our naive youth.

Moreover, an ineffective 'student council' may provoke students to be unruly about trivial matters and make them oblivious to their more sacred obligations. About the NSU fees enhancement the author argues that many students who have been paying the 'Campus Development Fees' will never be able to attend the new campus because they will graduate by that time. However, the university authorities cannot predict which students will attend the campus because how long it takes for a student to graduate depends upon his/her academic aptitude and his/her personal choice of taking courses.

This fee must be viewed as a 'contribution' from the students, irrespective of their duration of study. And understandably it was not fair to charge different fees from different students. In his article Mr. Badru Ahsan underscores different unwanted events that took place in private universities in the recent time. However, these incidents (although 'unwanted') are nothing

more than

misunderstandings.

By relocating offices, different government organisations and their headquarters to different cities, the government will be able to provide jobs for the people of the host cities/towns. It would even be cheaper to run (cheaper accommodation).

It would also save our citizens their travel expenses particularly those poor people who can't afford the costs of hotel accommodation, restaurant food, etc. of the capital city. And, of course, it would reduce the capital city's congestion/population (as mentioned by the writer).

The government may seriously think to re-appoint some of the efficient police officers, those who were forced to retire on political consideration by the BNP government. Definitely, they with their long experience, dedication and sincere commitment, will make things better.

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