

Journalism today

Journalism as a profession has acquired a broader dimension today. The skill-sets are no longer specific and the importance of digital media cannot be ignored any more. A holistic training is becoming imperative to equip students to meet the myriad demands of the industry. Above all, students are taught how to write well. We aim to deliver skills such as communicating ideas, problem-solving, team work, creativity and innovation, ability to work under pressure and, flexibility and multi-tasking. Students have to learn to write well, to communicate

clearly, work well in teams, work to deadlines and learn how to be persuasive to get interviews, among other things. This is the duty of our generation as we enter the twenty-first century -- solidarity with the weak, the persecuted, the lonely, the sick, and those in despair. It is expressed by the desire to give a noble and humanizing meaning to a community in which all members will define themselves not by their own identity but by that of others.

Avik Sengupta
Biochemistry, McGill University
Canada



PHOTO: SHAHDAT ANIKER

Drug industry

Our pharmaceutical sector is one of the developed and hi-tech sectors, which is contributing to our national economy. After the promulgation of The Drug Control Ordinance 1982, the development of this sector was accelerated. At present there are 222 licensed pharmaceutical companies, but now 164 of them are in operation in Bangladesh. Now Bangladesh is exporting medicines to more than 180 countries around the world. In the last fiscal year, the export of medicines was worth around BDT 300 crores.

The deaths of 25 children after taking paracetamol syrup point to the utter

disregard by the Drug Administration for public health. Once again The Ridge company scandal in Bangladesh has revealed the total lack of quality control mechanism of the Drug Administration for essential drugs. There is a rule that the drug superintendents and drug inspectors are supposed to visit the market from time to time and collect samples randomly for testing in the laboratory. But they did not do so, resulting in such deaths. Moreover, there are only 24 drug superintendents and inspectors at field level to collect samples. Besides there is shortage of drug testing laboratories in the country.

The main reason for this

scandal is undue profiteering through using low cost but poisonous ingredients for making paracetamol suspension. It is worrying to learn that a harmful element has also been found in vitamin capsule and syrup. So, now people will generally get worried to take medicines even with leading brands. It will ultimately reduce demand for medicine products at home and abroad which will result in sluggishness in the pharmaceutical sector. It also proves that our business ethics and morality are gradually falling only for monetary gains. For this reason the business persons are now paying more attention on profit maximization through whatever means available to them whether it is ethical or not. Though business ethics and morality are being taught in the leading business schools at home and abroad to the business students, but they often forget it when they become businessmen because of facing the reality that influences them to be unethical and corrupt. One of my course teachers once

stated that the Ridge company scandal in Bangladesh has revealed the total lack of quality control mechanism of the Drug Administration for essential drugs. There is a rule that the drug superintendents and drug inspectors are supposed to visit the market from time to time and collect samples randomly for testing in the laboratory. But they did not do so, resulting in such deaths. Moreover, there are only 24 drug superintendents and inspectors at field level to collect samples. Besides there is shortage of drug testing laboratories in the country.

The main reason for this

Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)				
Mahakash Bigyan Bhaban Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207				
Invitation for Tender				
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
01 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence			
02 Agency	Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)			
03 Procurement entity name	Project Director, EDREMONS Project			
04 Procuring entity code	N/A			
05 Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh			
06 Invitation for	Tender for goods (multiple lots)			
07 Invitation Ref. No.	SR/PA-326(Computer & Spares)/2007			
08 Date	29/07/2009			
09 Procurement method	Open tendering method (NCT)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10 Budget and source of funds	GOB (JDCF)			
11 Development partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12 Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A			
13 Project/programme name (if applicable)	EDREMONS Project			
14 Tender package no.	EDRE/2008-09/GD-19			
15 Tender name	Supply of Computer & Spares			
16 Tender publication date	05/08/2009		Time	
17 Tender last selling date	08/09/2009			
18 Tender closing date & time	08/09/2009		2:30pm	
19 Opening date and time (if different from 18)	08/09/2009		3:00pm	
20 Name and address of the office	Address			
Selling tender document	SPARRSO, Mohakash Bigyan Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.			
21 Receiving tender document	-do-			
22 Opening tender document	-do-			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
23 Eligibility of tenderers	Tenderer will have legal, financial, professional and technical capacity to deliver & have fulfilled the obligations of all tax requirements.			
24 Brief description of goods	As per schedule.			
25 Brief description of related services	As per schedule.			
26 Price of tender document	Tk 500/- (non-refundable)			
27 Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
1	Desktop PC, Notebook PC, Printer, Scanner & Spares	Dhaka	85,000/-	3 (three) weeks from the date of signing contract.
2	UPS & Power Ext. Board	Dhaka	8,000/-	-do-
3	Monitor & Graphic Card	Dhaka	20,000/-	7 (seven) weeks from the date of signing contract.
28	Name of official inviting tender	Muhammad Tahir Husain		
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, EDREMONS Project		
30	Address of official inviting tender	SPARRSO, Mohakash Bigyan Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				
Project Director EDREMONS Project SPARRSO				

GD-3585

defined business "as a process of getting out money from the customers' pockets at any cost." Although it does not sound good, but now it's the reality that most businesspersons follow.

Finally, I don't want to see deaths of innocent children any more through intake of poisonous medicines produced by a section of unethical businessmen. So, I appeal to the government to probe this scandal because it is the most sensitive sector relating to the life and death of a human being. Otherwise, our medicine exports to foreign countries would be badly hit.

Suman Saha
MBA (Strategic and International Management)
University of Dhaka

Jewellery shops

During my last visit to Dhaka in March, exactly on 23rd March 2009, I found myself in a Jewellery shop by chance selling gold and diamond articles in a Gulshan shopping enclave.

A very nice shop it was indeed and owned by a very decent merchant from Gujarat. I could have never imagined that there existed such a posh jewellery shop in Dhaka. I have never seen such a shop anywhere in Europe, for that matter. Gold and diamond on display in that shop would be worth hundreds and thousands of dollars. And there were about two dozen such shops around and I learnt that all were owned and managed by merchants from Gujarat, India. Still I cannot figure out how they bring such expensive goods to Bangladesh and then again how can they transfer their sales money and profit back to India?

Tayeb Husain
Lund, Sweden

Education

There are around nine hundred students in the commerce faculty of Dhaka University, while there are about three thousand and a half in the arts faculty.

The seat capacity in the same university is about a hundred in each subject like Urdu, Percy Language and Literature and Sanskrit. For Philosophy it is 200 and Political Science 250 while in Mathematics it is 150.

Better planning is necessary to impart need-based education.

Md. Tofazzel Hossain
Aruapara
Kushtia

Fact or fiction?

A detailed article, written by a professor of Khulna University, published in "The Financial Express" on July 26, gives some very interesting points about the Tipaimukh dam and BNP's hue and cry about it. In the professor's opinion it is all a political sham, engineered by the leader of the opposition to regain political ground shattered by her party's total defeat in the last election!

The professor states that the Tipaimukh dam is a hydroelectric project, similar to our Kaptai Dam; and similarly it will have no negative impact downstream in Bangladesh. He also positively states that the project proposal was given to Bangladesh back in 1997 when the dam was proposed by India, and when the BNP

First, the political quagmire in which the whole nation has been bogged down since the liberation period is getting

was in the government; and they raised no objection about this now "vile" decision taken by India!

Further, he states that the matter was raised in the 35th and 36th meetings of the Joint River Commission, held in 2003 and 2005 respectively; when again the BNP government was in power! Then too no objections were raised. Why now this about face?

Technically, the dam will create a reservoir upstream, and all the upstream water, coming in, will flow down the dam through the turbine or the spillway. No water will be retained anywhere, unless it is diverted elsewhere upstream in India. If this is not done, then there will be no loss of water flow volume downstream through Bangladesh.

She is now "Making hay, while the sun shines"! But she must not forget there is another potent proverb which says: "Truth shall prevail!" The interesting article is worth reading. It makes one wonder if the opposition leader is dwelling on facts or fiction about the Tipaimukh dam. Interested readers may read the article and give their views upon it.

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

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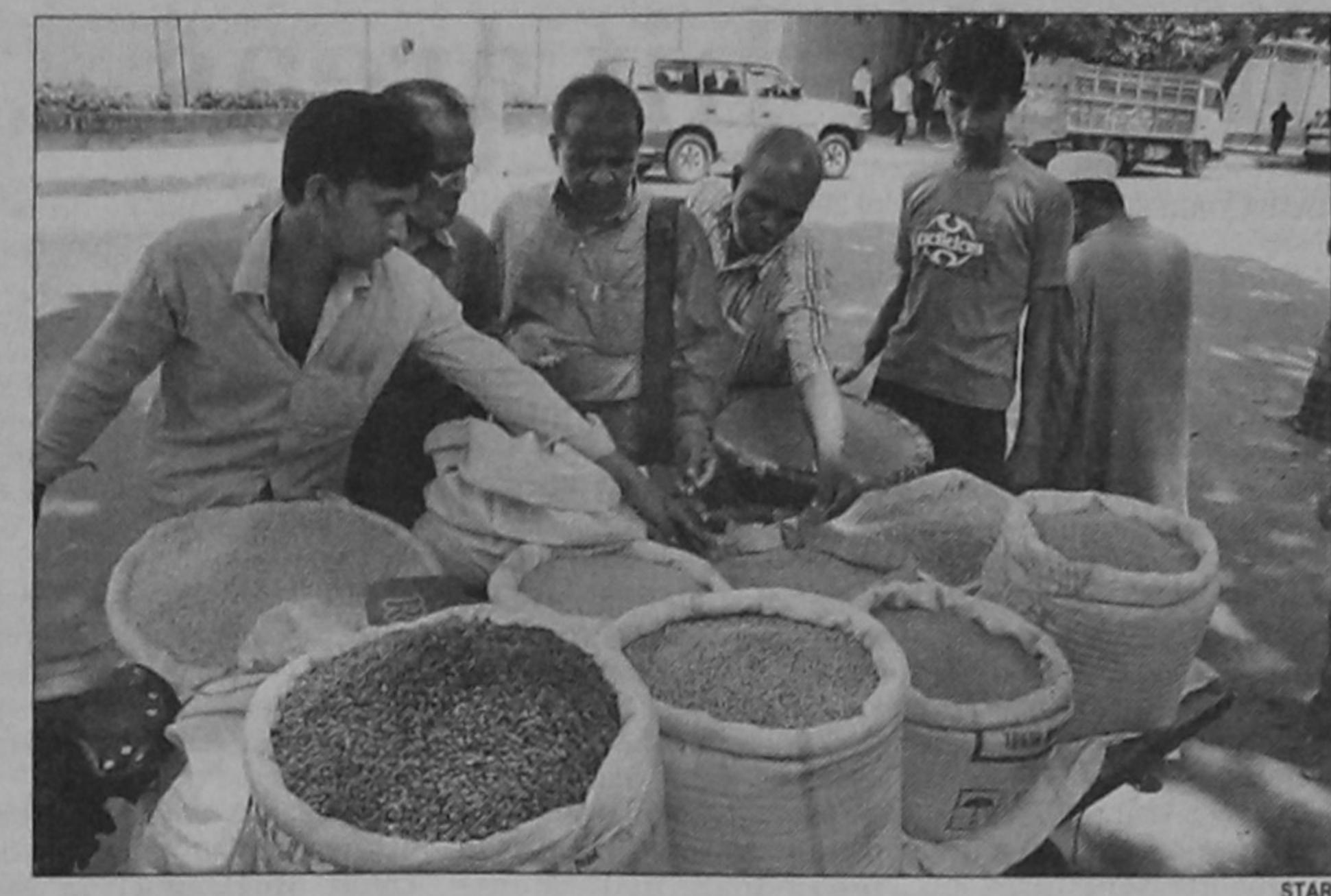
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EDITOR

Spirit of Ramadan



STAR

Ramadan is the month of self-restraint. If we go by the spirit of Ramadan and teachings of Islam, then consumption of food items should go down. As a result, demand for food items should also go down and in that case dwindling demand would automatically force the prices down. As a matter of fact, this should be the situation in the Muslim majority countries during Ramadan. But the opposite is seen everywhere. The spirit of Ramadan and the teachings of Islam being taken out of the context year after year, consumption of food goes up. So much so that for the last few years successive governments in

Bangladesh are facing the challenge of their existence during Ramadan over the prices of food items! It got worse when the print and electronic media jumped into the bandwagon.

DS should come forward to lead the change of tone on this front. Instead of pressurizing the govt to tackle the prices of food items during Ramadan, you should appeal to the conscience of God-fearing Muslims reminding them of the true spirit of Ramadan and the teachings of Islam for this holy month. Consume less to be able to empathize with the fellow Muslims who have less to consume!

Moinul Chowdhury
Gulshan, Dhaka

trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and four great leaders, the leader declared that "if the killings are not resolved permanently, division within the country cannot be resolved permanently."

And many of us, myself included, believe that we really got the enthusiastic administration that, like the nation, believes in real change of political culture.

G.M. Farhad Kabir
Dhaka University

Bring them to justice

A parliamentary standing committee expressed its deep concern that some political people of the government party were involved in crimes like tender hijacking in many places in the country.

Now it is the duty of the government to bring the hijackers to justice and thus make parliament effective.

A citizen
Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Military Engineer Services
GE (Army), Savar Cantt.

Invitation for Tenders

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Military Engineer Services GE (Army), Savar Cantt.				
Invitation for Tenders				
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.			
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services (Army).			
3. Procuring entity name	GE (Army) Savar.			
4. Procuring entity code	Dhaka.			
5. Type of inviting tender works	Project works.			
6. Invitation of tender Ref No & date	4000/IT/01/E-4 dt. 23 July 2009.			
7. Procurement method	Opened tender method (OTM).			
8. Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh.			
9. Development partners (if applicable)	3/1931/0120/7011 & 3/1931/0120/7016			
10. Project/programmed name	As per SI No. 15			
11. Selling of tender	20 August 2009 (during office hours only).			
12. Last date and time for submission of tender	10 September 2009 at 1200 hours.			
13. Date and time for opening of tender	10 September 2009 at 1230 hours.			
14. Name & address of the office(s)	GE (Army) Savar, Savar Cantt.			
15. Brief description of works	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Completion time
a. Supply of office stationary at GE B/R-III		13,065/-	150/-	07 days
16. Name of official inviting tender	GE (Army) Savar, Savar Cantt.			
17. Designation of official inviting tender	Major.			
18. Address of official inviting tender	GE (Army) Savar, Savar Cantt.			
19. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 02-7791584			
20. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
21. If the date of selling, submission and opening is disturbed under unavoidable circumstance next working day at same time and same place will be applicable for the tendering procedure.				
ISPR/Army/09/2515				
GD-3600				
GE (Army) Savar				

Notice for Time Extension
The "Invitation for Bid" (IFB) for "ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION & COMMISSIONING (EPC) OF 132KV GT SUB-STATION & 132KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT UNDERGROUND CABLE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING WORKS" on turn-key basis at Goalpara, Khulna, was published vide Memo No. 254-NWPGL/T-1/KLN 150 MW/2009; date: 22.06.2009, where the deadline for submission of bid was scheduled on 17th August, 2009 at 12:05pm(BST). Considering bidders' prayer, the deadline for submission of bid has been extended up to 8th September, 2009 at 12:05pm(BST). The last selling date of bid document has also been extended up to 7th September, 2009. The technical bid will be opened on 8th September, 2009 at 12:35pm(BST). All other terms & conditions of bid document shall remain unchanged.

Dipak Kumar Dhal
Company Secretary
North-West Power Generation Co. Ltd.