

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.

Treatment of garment workers

The way police pounced on the garment workers, the backbone of the garment sector, was unacceptable. Prior to her being elected prime minister, Sheikh Hasina was all for ensuring the dignity of every citizen of the country. Now when our largest foreign exchange earners are

forced to come to the street to realize their demands for three month's outstanding salary arrears and other benefits, the government let loose the police on them. The raw treatment of the poor hapless garment workers makes me wonder whether this government regard the poor peo-

ple as respectable human beings. Is it ethical or legal to shut down a garment factory without making alternative arrangements for their future livelihood and well-being? Far worse, the garment owners played with the lives of thousands of workers by not paying them the outstanding bills.

The garment workers were protesting not for unemployment benefits but for the wages they earned with the sweat of their brows and at the cost of so many ailments caused by unhygienic environment and long working hours.

The government instead of standing for their cause are ready with cudgel to suppress them. Did not these poor workers make wealth for the entrepreneurs and the country? And don't we treat them like African slaves?

Tinku
One-mail



TANVIR AHMED/DKNEWS

ety reduces to a certain extent. If they work sincerely, they will gain the people's trust and always have their support.

WasifWahed
One-mail

One can try to assess the performance from various angles, the net result would be a cloudy negative picture. The simple reason is, the main opposition has very successfully drawn the picture of continuous political instability in which nobody will ever be able to see any progress or growth in economy. The picture is as simple as that and not any abstract art.

The failure I can see is that two most important constitutional bodies like the ACC and the HRC have been turned into NGO because of weak leadership, and not necessarily for any lack of policy support from the government. These can be assured if the leadership is proactive and apply its power without fear or favour. The leadership has free option to apply their moral judgment to work in these two positions. We have not seen that yet.

It is necessary to make radical change in the selection procedures. This must be transparent. Look at Afghanistan. Out of 24 ministers nominated by President Karzai, only 14 could get approval of the assembly by secret ballot. Democracy in Afghanistan is a big question mark, but they have followed a good principle towards that end.

Areadar
California, USA

BNP's 11 points

The Daily Star carried an editorial on 22nd Dec '09 under the caption "Parliament sans Opposition". The BNP party has come up with 11-point demands in which only first two important demands are included in the list namely, 'dropping of cases against their party chief and her son and cantonment house'. The rest of the demands are for the sake of demanding.

According to our pundits, all responsibilities lie with the govt to bring the opposition to parliament to make it functional, we request the govt to please accept the present 11-points and wait for the next to come.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

Religion and politics

I am writing with reference to Front Page News: "Religion-based parties face ban," (Jan. 5).

Politics is about power and religion is about spiritual salvation and when both get



Police week

If the police inspector is made a first class officer, what will be the rank of the ASP?

I don't understand why such demands come from a meeting on law and order. Police week should be for

discussion on public welfare, but there was not a single word on the issue. It dealt with only the welfare of the police!

Hafiz Chandan
China

Drug addiction and parents

Drug Addiction is a curse to the young generation. The curse is just destroying our young generation. There are many people or individuals who are responsible for making a youth drug addict.

Sometimes our loving parents fail to play their due role in preventing drug addiction. Some parents never come to know what their children are doing.

Johura Alam Mitu
Lalbag, Dhaka

needy and down-trodden people for survival in these harsh winter nights!

It was a very thoughtful deed, and as stated by one of the pioneers, owner of a mobile phone shop, and I quote: "This year we just thought to share the joy with others who seldom have any delight." These young men are, as the saying goes "a friend in need, is a friend indeed". May Allah bless all of them for this wonderful deed of kindness.

S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

New Year celebrations

Anwar Ali's report on the matter published on 2 January in your pages is on an exemplary and wonderful way of celebrating the New Year initiated by the four young businessmen of Rajshahi. They pioneered a unique and thoughtful way of celebrating the dawn of 2010. They deserve recognition and appreciation from all of us for this inspiring deed.

Instead of having a wonderful and expensive dinner, they distributed much needed winter clothes and blankets to the poor and destitute. For these destitute persons seeking shelter at the Rajshahi railway station, it was the most surprising and desperately needed gift, possibly ever received in their miserable lives! For the poor people there, the young men bearing gifts of warm clothes and blankets were like angels from heaven. It was a much needed dream come true for these

Fiscal year

A fiscal year (Monetary or financial year or economic year, or at times budget year) is a phase used for calculating annual ("yearly") financial statements in businesses and other organizations. In various jurisdictions, authoritarian laws concerning accounting and taxation require such reports once for each twelve months, but do not necessitate that the period reported on constitutes a calendar year (e.g. January through December). Fiscal years differ between businesses and countries.

On top, a lot of companies discover that it is suitable for purposes of contrast and for precise stock taking to always finish their fiscal year on the same day of the week, where local legislation permits. Therefore a few fiscal years will have 52 weeks and others 53.

As a matter of fact, in terms of fiscal year a variety is seen throughout the whole world.

The U.S. government's fiscal year begins on October 1 of the previous calendar year and ends on September 30 of the year with which it is numbered. Prior to 1976, the fiscal year began on July 1 and ended on June 30. Furthermore, our adjacent country Indian government's Fiscal Year starts on April 1 and ends on March 31. Whereas in Bangladesh usually the fiscal year begins on July 1 and finishes on June 30.

Shohag Mostafij
MBA
University of Dhaka

AL's one year

After the Awami League won a landslide victory in the Dec 29th general elections, people had huge expectations from this government as their electoral manifesto, "charter for change," made us believe that may be this time around, we would see a government that is committed to fulfilling its electoral promises and bringing "real" change in the way the country has been traditionally run by past governments.

The present Awami League government, however, in its one year in office, has had some failures such as failing to control prices of essentials, especially during the holy month of Ramadan; failing to make much progress in the power sector and unnecessarily introducing DST; not being able to prevent its associate front organizations from engaging in tender manipulation and extortion activities; not keeping its electoral promise of empowering the local

government bodies (The UZ Parishad law has made MPs advisers) and also breaking its pledge of not politicising the civil administration and police force. Besides, the government has also not been much vocal against the construction of the Tipaimukh dam by India and the government also has not started the trial of war criminals yet.

For all its shortcomings, in its one year, the government also had some achievements like providing subsidy in the agricultural sector; ensuring free distribution of textbooks among students; distributing agricultural-loans among poor farmers; becoming more aware about recovering grabbed rivers and so on.

The Awami League government must realize that unless it manages to perform up to the expectation of the people, the people may not re-elect them again in the next election. So, they must seriously take into account the failures that they have made in the past one year and try to rectify them as soon as possible. They must try their best to fulfil their electoral manifesto; they must also practice inter-party democracy; they must strengthen the judiciary and other independent bodies like ACC and EC. They must also have a foreign policy that preserves the country's interest. Most importantly, they must try to improve law and order, especially by taking stern measures against the party activists involved in anti-social activities. And they must implement the annual development budget properly so that inequality in the soci-

relationship. We should not let our territory to be used for terror activities against our neighbours.

Mohammed Sultan

What on earth was BNP thinking when it patronized terrorists against India? Why did they take us on Pakistan's path? Don't forget that bomb blasts occur everyday now in Pakistan. Pakistan is suffering from the monster created by itself.

Shamim Yusuf

Mr Ashraf, why fire blank? If you have evidence produce it to the media. People must have access to credible information if you have any. Otherwise, do not indulge in mud-slinging. The government has the greater responsibility in a democratic society to create a healthy atmosphere.

Saleque Sufi

The BNP should say what the AL does with India in the name of friendship and cordiality. Of course, we know that both the BNP and the AL are the obstacles on the way to nation building, progress and stability. Hence, whatever they say is unimportant in the end.

Qamruddin Chowdhury

Thanks, Mr. Ashraf. The true face of BNP should be made visible to the nation.

Moinak Islam

I thought we were all Bangladeshis - BNP, AL alike! Is he trying to prove to India that the AL is more friendly to them than the BNP?

This is totally unpatriotic - our country is our business!

Raihan

This is dangerous talk about affairs of national security and international relations from someone who has no business poking his nose into this area. These comments will do great harm to Bangladesh's position, not only with India, but also with the US which shares India's concern about alleged Bangladeshi involvement in international terrorism.

Abdur Raqib

Transparency of how the government conducts the state affairs should get the highest importance. The fundamental question is the authenticity of the information. The minister must produce the plausible evidence to substantiate his disclosure and on that point the BNP secretary general's response is in order. A cloud of ill motivated suspense created on Indo-Bangla relation has been vitiating our internal politics since liberation which needs to be settled once and for all. Public must exert pressure on both the parties to stop misleading the nation by creating a smoke screen around India. It is high time to call enough is enough.

ND Saha

Moitree man killed in BCL attack (January 8, 2010)

Seems to be an in-house affair among the boys of Chhatra League and its Moitree allies.

Slings & arrows

All the symptoms of the present Awami League government remind us of the post independence Awami League

government which eventually came to be known as infamous BAKSAL.

Rithkomol

Killing people for establishing supremacy on the campus. This is not only sad news but also a subject that should be taken care of immediately. Violence on the campus has been going on since the AL came to power one year ago. Students were given warning after warning with no results. What is more sad is that it is not a fight between two opposite groups, this is a fight within the same student groups. People should be concerned about this situation.

Mobaidul Huq

One more valuable life - together with it all bright hopes of a family - is blown to smithereens. Astonishingly, no party is for prohibiting nasty party politics in the guise of so-called student politics. After how many lives spent will the political god-fathers realize that indulging in dirty politics by the students cannot add anything good to national interest? What will these goons contribute to the nation when they are at the helm of national affairs?

S.Ali

The top most political leaders let this student politics continue.

Rasel

I do agree that it's not possible to ban student politics, but the PM should take some steps to control activities that go against the law or humanity. It appears to the people that the PM doesn't care about what the BCL does.

Saad

Construction spree

A series of steel framed cellular towers built by different mobile operators, spoiling huge area of agricultural land, can be visualized by a train ride from the urban to the rural areas of Bangladesh. It is indeed nice to see the mobile operators self affluent to have got the ability to afford several company-owned cellular towers. However we, as a nation, should feel pity for letting go the huge area of arable agriculture land. Technically, a single cellular tower can be used by several mobile operators for covering their network in a particular segment. This would not only be economical from the mobile operator's point of view, but would also help save huge areas of arable lands of our country. Moreover, the establishment and use of individual cellular tower remain under-utilised.

Thus, it is high time that telephone regulatory commission, on emergency basis, compel the telecom companies to use a specific tower for covering a specific region in non-agricultural lands, so that a single tower in a specific area can be used by all cellular companies. This will save our much needed agricultural lands.

Zahid A. Choudhury
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

Education

Education is the backbone of a nation. And education is the basic element of human life. So, the development of a country is fully dependent on the real educated people.

The government has taken some steps for education to develop our country. I think these will be effective.

Asif Salman Malik
Chuadanga



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Syed Ashraf spills the beans again

The BNP-led govt allowed use of Bangladesh land for subversive act against India, he alleges (January 11, 2010)

The government should concentrate on Bangladesh economy, rather than bashing other political parties.

Saleh Ahmed

We don't want to dwell on the pros and cons of alleged Musharaf-Chetia meeting in Dhaka, but everybody should be aware that divulging such classified information relating to a state's security strategy is itself seditious. The limit must not be crossed.

Abeer Rehan

I think the story narrated by the LGRD Minister is amazing but he is part of the ruling government. So, I think he should be more careful about what he says, as such stories whether they are true or false breed discord amongst the stakeholders.

Manzoor Ashraf

General Musharraf is a big guy. He won't be able to make any move particularly on a foreign trip without a huge security

set-up knowing his schedule.

Jumana Sarwar

Now Mr Delwar is saying that no one can talk about it. They can plan and carry out terrorist acts but you are to blame if you talk about it.

Saju

State policy may change with the change of government. But breaking state secrets, if any, will undermine the image of the country disgracefully.

Mohammed Uddin

Finally, Bangladesh admits! Sheltering ULFA has been against our national interest. We don't want Bangladesh to be like Pakistan.

Farhan

It is good to come clean and let the people know all the truth. I thank Mr. Islam for speaking out. It is in our interest to clear the air with India, our neighbour, and work to build a mutually beneficial