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Test match performance



I thank you for your editorial on 'Test match performance against India' dated January 28, 2010 and am glad to note your comments on the performance of our players. While some players displayed character at Chittagong, the match at Dhaka was a fiasco and our cricketers caved in without much of a fight against the mighty Indians.

A Test match is distinctly different from the shorter versions of the game. In a Test match you have the time to study each ball and deal with it on its merit. Shots are played so that the ball kisses the ground and if possible reach the crease and let runs come in singles and twos and a boundary when there is a bad ball on offer. You were so correct to write that 'aggression can never be a substitute for technique in Test cricket'. Sunil Gavaskar was heard repeatedly saying that the difference between a huge six and a boundary played along the ground is only two runs, but the risk factor is 100% more in the case of a six.

When Skipper Shakib came to the crease in the second innings at Dhaka and lifted a huge six in the first ball he faced, all Test cricket lovers were shocked. As if that was not enough he lifted another only to be caught and brought about the ruination of his team and country. With nearly two days of cricket left, the skipper should have led from the front by staying at the wickets and coaxing his players to refrain from hitting lofty, risky shots. If our team likes to remain a Test playing side they have to apply the time proven techniques of

Test cricket and not mix it up with the shorter versions of this wonderful game.

Md. Mahmoodul Haque
Gulshan-1, Dhaka

It was a matter of great pride when Bangladesh got the Test status in cricket and we got the opportunity to play the longer version of the game with all the cricket giants. But since then hardly any occasion came in the sports arena for which we can make ourselves feel proud in as much enthusiastic manner as we did during the time of getting the Test status. We also feel so much proud when our team plays well and beat different teams on different occasions. But it is not as frequent as the top eight teams do. Bangladesh have yet to win a race in a tri-nation tournament involving at least one strong team. And more recently concluded tri-nation tournament against Sri Lanka and India and the Test series against India were just another reminder of horrible performance by the Tigers. And finally again the Tigers have displayed a very poor show in the only T-20 match against the New Zealand team. In the circumstances, Bangladesh badly need the type of inspirer as we have seen in the role played by Tarik Anam Khan as a coach in the recently released much acclaimed film 'Jago'.

Gopal Sarkar
Axiata Bangladesh Limited (AKTEL)
Bogra

Food-borne diseases

Food-borne diseases are an ever-growing concern across the globe and it has been reported that in 2005 alone, 1.8 million people succumbed to death due to the diarrhoeal diseases mainly attributed to food and drinking water contamination. It's obvious that the poor and developing countries like ours top the list of most vulnerable countries due to many reasons like illiteracy, poverty, unscrupulousness of food manufacturers and sellers and lack of proper surveillance on the government's part etc. From the picture of the last few years it is as clear as the daylight that how horrible, grim and grisly is our condition in this regard. Deadly formalin in fish, milk and milk products, urea with rice, poisonous pesticides, chemicals and other preservatives with fruits and vegetables, artificial ripening and colouring of fruits, algae in so called pure beverage bottles, industrial dye and tar in sweetmeat, arsenic in water and even, recently, in paddy in fact, the list is so long that a whole book could be written on it. As a result of food and drinks adulteration and contamination the health of the people is breaking down giving rise to fatal diseases on a regular basis. Millions of taka is being spent behind treatment and the government is already gasping for air while coping with the ever-growing cost of health care.

Why all this? Why should we wait to die buying and having poisonous food and drink with our own money? If the punishment of killing is hanging, why then shouldn't they be hanged who are killing us with poisonous foods bit by bit?

A concerted effort on the part of the government, food industry and consumers is a

must to get us rid of this curse. National food safety systems must be strengthened as suggested by WHO.

A Rahman Shibly
Applied Linguistics and ELT
Department of English
University of Dhaka

Iran's nuclear policy

President Ahmedinejad resumed Iran's suspended nuclear programme. Ahmedinejad's foreign and nuclear policy escalated tension and also strained relations with the EU-3, USA, and even some Middle Eastern countries.

It is obvious that though Iran is trying its best to maintain the deal and conditions called by the IAEA but the west is not showing any positive attitude towards Iran's nuclear policy formulated as part of a peaceful energy generation programme.

Md. Atikur Rahman
Department of Islamic History & Culture
Dhaka University

Leaders, shoes and possibilities!

The AFP news from Khartoum, published in a local English daily on January 26, is the latest episode of shoe throwing, this time at the President of Sudan. Shoe hurling as a sign of extreme displeasure; started with US President Bush (the son) on his trip to Iraq! Having set the precedent, the next target was the French President (if I correctly recollect). Now it is the Sudanese President's turn. Next target is anybody's guess!

Shoes are meant for walking, now however it is becoming a popular manpowered missile! May be in the days to come, shoes may be used to hijack passenger aircrafts! If there are enough hijackers wearing shoes in the target plane, and if it is a smaller

missile of non-lethal variety! But who knows; there may be clever real life terrorists; who will design and use powder or some other type of chemical explosive as a lethal footwear. Leaders, beware, the shoe is coming a long way from foot pinching to life threatening!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
Dhaka

To Rajuk chairman...

I saw you in Bangla TV the other day. Unlike a lot of other leaders (political and non-political), to my mind, you came out very clean. So, one day last week I tried to call your office unsuccessfully. I know you are busy, but you must have a secretary to answer the calls of common people like us. Well, I thought, may be you will check your e-mail. So I e-mailed you and again very unsuccessfully...

I know, I did not have a chance but I gambled and I lost. Now, I am at a loss how to get my money back! I am an expatriate. I do not have the luxury of going to Rajuk Bhaban to plead for my case. In fact, the right thing for Rajuk to do is to send the money directly to the applicants since you do have their address.

Any way, I would love get my hard earned money back, hopefully with interest.

Mohammad Zaman
Ellisville, Missouri

Airport at Trishal

While I am writing, the govt. has already declared Rangpur as a new division and obviously, this is another mind-breaking news for the people of Mymensingh who are demanding Mymensingh to be declared a division for the last around 30 years. But the govt's a recent decision to conduct the feasibility study, though some reports claimed it a decision, of establishing a new international airport at Trishal has made the people of this area at least a little bit hopeful. This is a logical decision as we see the neighbouring countries especially India, Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea establishing their national airports at least 50-80km away from the capitals. Besides, through several unwanted developments Dhaka is now going to be dead city and govt. is desperate to expand its metropolitan area.

Not only as a permanent resident of Trishal, but also as a concerned citizen I expect eagerly that the govt. will handle the whole process very carefully to avoid any unwanted debate.

M. Zakir Hossain Khan
One-mail

PM deserves thanks

While presiding over a cabinet meeting on Monday, 25 January, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the

ministers, secretaries and public servants not to pile up files on their tables as she reminded that the present government did not come to power to while away time. She said, "We are here to serve the people of the country for their welfare and to improve their fate," also urging the ministers and bureaucrats to do their respective work with more sincerity, dignity and responsibility.

The welfare of the country, the opposition party alongside the ruling one must come forward and work together.

Habibur Rashid Ismail
Jamea Rahmania Madrasa
Chittagong

Our image

Searching for Bangladesh in the web is a disappointment, as stated by A.H. Chowdhury in his letter on 27 January. The simple reason is that our authorities do not bother about it. It is for them to put up a realistic and representative image of Bangladesh; and take it up with Google to be incorporated in their website!

Has our embassy in Washington done anything about it? I do not think so.

A student

Dhaka

Residents of Dhanmondi

Those of you who frequent around Dhanmondi, during rush hours i.e. in the morning, afternoon and in the evening must have experienced unpleasant traffic situation on both sides of the bridge connecting the eastern part with the western part. As I have been experiencing this unpleasant situation on a regular basis, I kept wondering what is the cause of this unbearable traffic jam. In my observation, it is the dearth of bridge connection between the two parts of Dhanmondi. A few more bridges across the lake could have mitigated the problem to a great extent. It is though true that both Mirpur Road and Shatmashjid Road experience similar situation during such rush hours, even then I am inclined to believe that constructing a few more bridges across the lake shall greatly benefit the commuters.

With the passage of time, the traffic situation is getting worse by the day. Any effort by the authorities in mitigating the sufferings of the city dwellers should be a welcome relief for everybody. I therefore appeal to the concerned authorities to explore the situation and if found suitable they may construct a few more bridges across the lake.

Saleh Mohammad Ayub

Kalabagan, Dhaka

Tragic death

Just now I got the news from The Daily Star, about the death of a cute child named Hamim Sheikh. This is a really

Women in trouble

It's a shame for us that in our country-women still do not have adequate social security. This is a very alarming predicament at all levels of our society and even educated women often become victims of unbearable harassments and abuse.

For example, "eve-teasing" is a very widespread harassment that our women recurrently face in the streets and it's really unfortunate that some of the victims of such harassments become absolutely cynical about life. Recently, a teenage schoolgirl named Pinky committed suicide in the city due to unendurable eve teasing by some filthy beast. The suicide of this young girl, who had a decent socio-economic background, emphasizes the regrettable fact that no one is safe from the nasty grasp of such inhuman harassments that our women silently endure every day. Working women and students regu-

larly face such harassments that dampen their spirit to progress in life. It appears that our flawed social and legal systems are incapable of endowing our women with the needed strength to stand defiantly against these harassments. Generally, most of the perpetrators of such harassments get away with their transgressions, simply because we do not actively protest against such misdeeds and we do not have effective legal mechanisms to take stern actions against these wrongdoings.

We must understand how tormenting some of these harassments can be that the deflated victims decide to end their own life. We must not forget that only our persistent gallantry and united efforts can kick this noxious darkness out of our society, once and for all.

Kh. Asef Safa Kabir
Muhammadpur, Dhaka



PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

a pathetic as well as a shameful incident. We cannot give security to a small kid!

Our drivers are not only blind but also bloodthirsty. They probably want to drink the blood of the innocent people. And we the general public love to read in the newspaper about their heroic deeds! We never raise voice unless we lose anything of our own. This is our real character.

What punishment would the driver get? May be within a few days he will get released from the custody and go back to his usual work. There are thousands of drivers who are rendering "service" with fake license. How long would this continue? We the general public cry for the increase of salary, supply of electricity, gas but we do not utter a single word for the security in the road. Those who protest, they are considered cowards!

Nowadays many patriotic advertisements are made, especially by the mobile companies. They can do the same to raise awareness among general public about road accident.

Being a writer, I do not know what should I do. Will anyone respond if I protest? I do not think so. Still I have to continue my writing with the hope that one day my country will be free from the curse of road accident. We do not want to lose any more Hamim Sheikh.

Pradip Das

A novelist
Dhaka

Hanging of Bangabandhu's killers

Like most of Bangladeshis, I am happy that some of the killers have at last been brought to justice. It is sad that it took this long and the reasons are also known.

What saddens me is the distasteful demonstration of perverse pleasure by my fellow countrymen. While happiness and relief are natural instincts to see justice prevail, the expression could have been more civilized. We should remember that the families of the criminals did not commit any crime. Can we blame the parents, the wives, the children, brothers and sisters of the murderers?

These people had to live seeing their close ones hanged. How can a civilized society inflict more pain on them by showing distasteful, uncivilized demonstration such as throwing shoes at the coffins?

Iqbal Mahmood, Ph.D., P.E.
California
USA

Death on road

Reference to the death of four female university students in a Quraiyat (Saudi Arabia) bus crash. It is really an unfortunate and sad event. The motor transportation is one of the major means of transport in Saudi Arabia, hence the incidence of deaths on the roads is much higher. Some roads are badly planned and are one of the causes of accidents. Many drivers are low paid and do multiple jobs. Steps need to be taken to make sure that such roads are rectified or closed to avoid innocent people being killed or maimed. The drivers should also be properly monitored.

Mohammed Sadullah Khan
Riyadh
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Book fair

It is said that books are the best mirror of one's life. We would request the government and the authorities concerned to organise the fair not only in Dhaka but also across the country.

Bipra Kanungo
Momin Road
Chittagong

More medical colleges needed

Bangladesh is lagging behind in imparting medical education it needs. If one looks at the performance of last four decades after independence, one would see that expansion of religious and general education got preference at the cost of technical and professional education.

Bangladesh needs to improve the medical services a lot both in terms of quality and quantity. So, more medical colleges have to be set up to meet our needs in the health sector.

The government should adopt a four year programme to set up at least one medical college in each district to impart LMF course and one medical college at each divisional city to impart MBBS course for LMF holders.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo, Dhaka

Insensitive VIPs

We are living in such a country where for a single person thousands of people have to remain stuck! These are those VIPs who don't care about the public in general. School goers, office goers even patients in the ambulance have to suffer a lot.

I think they don't know how terrible traffic jam is! So, they are not at all aware of our problems.

Mehruba
Shantinagar, Dhaka

War criminals

Five of the killers of Bangabandhu and his family members were hanged finally, although some of them are still at large. There's been a clear message on the way forward that killers and criminals can be booked, and it can happen in Bangladesh. Now, the journey begins for the booking of the war criminals.

There can be a clear articulation of preferences in Bangladesh. Once what was thought to be impossible is now possible. Yes, we've now a public leadership to speak about the injustices; we've now a leadership that can take action. Bangladesh is taking temperatures, and now, we want to see some twisting arms.

We don't want to listen to speeches only where the ruling party says they'll never stop fighting on booking the war criminals but want to see some concrete actions. We don't want to see our statespersons technically refuse to throw a real punch for organising the trial of war criminals.

Many of the ruling party stalwarts are giving interviews where they seem to endorse the initiative back and also seem to argue against doing anything of the kind that led the war criminals get a free go. But early leaks suggest that the government is yet to decide. Do they lack in confidence? The hanging of five killers suggests they don't.

Now, the nation is looking for actions to see the murderers hanged who had killed their kith and kin nearly four decades back. Please, focus on this, and then, we'll understand that our country is run by the rule of law, not by economic or diplomatic interest only.

Depending on what they think will happen, some bring up two threadbare situations. The first is Sheikh Hasina's tendency to patiently let the interest of the supporters subside before attempting to really hold the trials.

We saw this in the last twelve months. We saw it after the February mayhem, and Sheikh Hasina was holding her firepower in reserve. Some, however, point to a very different situation.

Sheikh Hasina, they say, has not shown herself to be a fighter for her policy commitments. Her posture as a national figure was defensive.

Sirajul Islam
Pisciculture Housing Society
Shyamoli, Dhaka

Volvo service to Uttara



To ease the haphazard traffic movement in this mega city, the govt. has taken a number of steps, including removal of age-old unfit commercial vehicles from the city roads and introduction of newer vehicles on some routes. But unfortunately for reasons best known to authorities, the BRTC Volvo Double Decked bus service has stopped operating on the Uttara route for the last one year. Students, women, children and office goers, who availed themselves of this service are now facing serious trouble. Older people and patients, who like to

go to BIRDEM, BSMMU, DMC etc. for treatment find no other alternative but to board a local bus which stops here and there to collect passengers and takes much time to reach the destination. Moreover, these buses take passengers beyond their capacity and one has to fight to get a seat.

Under the circumstances, we request the authorities concerned to restart the BRTC Volvo and at least one A/C bus service from Uttara to Dainik Bangla / Motijheel.

Dr Mushtaq Ahmad
Uttara, Dhaka