Murder on campus!

It is very difficult to absorb

the news. Within a week two

students of two renowned

universities have been mur-

dered viciously. It seems that

we live in a society where no

rules and regulations exist,

particularly on the campuses.

If we take the pain of doing a

simple equation then we can

easily find the causes of these

prevailing politics and stu-

dent politics is at the root of all

evils. Of course the main

responsibility goes to the

ruling party and its student

wing, Bangladesh Chattra

League (BCL). This contingent

of the present ruling party has

been fighting regularly not

against others but among

themselves since the incep-

tion of the present govern-

ment in early 2009. At the

same time conflicts between

two different parties is also

taking place, a very common

phenomenon in the political

However, I do not agree

with the claim that the BCL is

the main force behind this

volatile situation. In fact, the

student cadres are mere toys at

the hands of the politicians

who manipulate them in every

possible way. In addition,

there are some other predis-

posing factors acting at the

back. Absence of uniform

guidelines from the top, for

example, helps to develop

numerous fractions/groups

within the same party at dif-

ferent level. Lack of respect,

humanity and conscience

among the senior leaders

infects the junior leaders and

student cadres that ultimately

lead to the situation that

makes the life of a general

students risky and unbear-

reasons behind the violent

students like Abu Bakar of

Dhaka University become the

victims. We believe the

authorities concerned must

take proper steps to overcome

In conclusion, whatever the

innocent

culture of Bangladesh.

These are the outcome of

unruly activities.

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.

Bangladesh, with its propen-

sity to violence, is highly

undemocratic. When stu-

dents start killing each other,

they undermine the demo-

cratic principles that allow

them to participate in the

political process. This is also

because of Bangladesh's

violent past with political

assassinations, coups and

other types of highly undemo-

cratic activities. To stop the

students from indulging in

violent activities, student

politics must be separated

from partisan politics.

Student politics must remain

confined to the educational

institutions and must not be

allowed to be controlled by

is called mother of all parlia-

ments, provides a model for

Bangladesh to follow. British

politicians stay away from

student politics which is very

active in Britain in articulating

socialist principles and most

students unions in Britain are

very left-leaning. But student

unions in Britain maintain

their complete independence

from the political parties at

Winter Olympics

the national level.

Mahmood Elahi

Ottawa, Canada

British Parliament, which

political parties.

Contaminated water

We Dhaka city dwellers depend on water supplied by Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (Wasa). It is a government organization that is administered under the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD). We, the general people have no alternative but to consume water of Wasa. They drink Wasa water, cook with Wasa water, take bath in Wasa water, do household work and even perform construction work with WASA water in metropolitan Dhaka. The rich people can sink deep tube well



after obtaining license from Wasa but the general city dwellers are helpless.

In the last two decades, Wasa has miserably failed to supply pure water to the city dwellers. The large surface water treatment plant in Sayedabad area, has been supplying contaminated, cloudy and stinking water for the last couple of years. This so-called refined water when preserved in any container, blackish sediment is deposited on the inner surface and at the bottom of the container. Consuming this contaminated water people are suffering from cholera and dysentery frequently.

Almost the entire electronic media and newspapers focus on the contaminated water supply of Wasa. Incidents of agitation by people suffering for want of pure water are common phenomena in different areas of Dhaka city in the summer. But no mentionable improvement has been observed in the last couple of years.

The Bangladesh Standard & Testing Institution (BSTI) should investigate the matter and impose fine on Wasa and its employees concerned responsible for the crime of supplying contaminated water to city dwellers. A mobile court can also look into the matter and do something for the interest of common city dwellers.

Md. Ali Hossain Bashabo, Dhaka

JS sessions

Till February 11,2010 I was vexed with the opposition political party for not attending parliamentary sessions despite repeated assurance from Speaker Abdul Hamid that he would give them as much time as they want and would not switch off the microphones and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also urged them to join and take part in discussions.

So, when I heard that the opposition lawmakers are going to attend the JS, I sat to watch the TV with much anticipation but what a disappointment it was, and I no longer blame the opposition for not attending.

True to its character, BTV blocked the opposition members' speeches as much as it could, from the very beginning BTV acted ignobly, it did not even telecast the oath taking ceremony of the oppo-

From the fragments of which I saw from the IS session and from the newspaper reports it has become clear that the ruling party does not want the opposition to remain in the JS sessions, they only want a few moments in which they could verbally attack them and derive pleasure from it.

Parliament has become a platform for discussing the past, not the present or the future. The country is besieged with so many problems, they should have concentrated on these and found solutions.

We have heard that when JS session is in motion, it costs a huge amount of money per minute, these are the taxpayers' money, we do not want to see wastage of it. We hope the government and the opposition will remember it and act accordingly. Nur Jahan

Chittagong

PM late for meeting

I was trying to understand what is the substance of the news about PM showing up late for meeting to make easy the movement of SSC students. Am I to understand that the PM and the competent people planning her itinerary in advance are not cognizant of these big events and the conflicts that may take place? If they are, that should have been communicated to organisers and if not, the PM should not have set an example by coming in late, deliberately, to a meeting and keep the people waiting. Or, the PM just decided to make a symbolic gesture at the expense of time of attendees?

A far better example would have been set by fixing the transport issues.

BCS exam centre

BCS exam centre in London,

With due respect, I'd like to request you on behalf of all Bangladeshi students in the UK, who are interested to take part in BCS exams, to restart the UK BCS Exam centre. As you know, it is very expensive to attend the exams for the students residing in the UK.

This will be of great help to

Md Rezwan Mahfuz

Students

As a developing country Bangladesh is beset with many problems. And it is better understood when we flip over the pages of dailies. Here being the educated citizens of the country if the young students make the headlines of dailies for their criminal activities, then we can only bemoan our fate. Learnt much earlier that a good citizen should have three qualities namely intelligence, self-control and conscience. Our students are grazing in the highest field of knowledge without being bestowed with the true faculties of an ideal human being.

Ahsan Uddin Tohel Department of English Shah Jalal University of Science and Technology

RE: Request for re-starting

On behalf of UK students

Democracy

the present crisis.

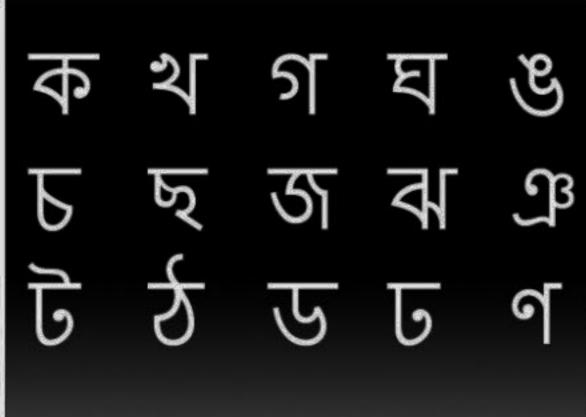
Md. Azharul Islam

student politics,

is said that democracies don't go to war against each other. This is because the democratic governments must consult their people before going to war and people are unlikely to opt for war against another democratic country because consultation always leads to compromise. This is why when France became a democracy after Napoleonic war, Britain and France -- historical enemies became friends. The same happened after the second World War when Germany became a democracy and a

nation based on rule of law. The same applies to domestic politics. When domestic politics turns to violence, democracy is threatened. Student politics in

Bangla pronunciation





In the month of February we as a nation pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to uphold the honour of our mother tongue. We feel a certain degree of pride in our language which boasts a very rich tradition. The stream of visitors pouring the book fair is indicative of the people's love of their mother tongue--an expression of their great emotional attachment to their language.

trend-the distortion of the pronuncia- one's heritage. tion of the tongue. Some presenters of ZabedWali electronic media are in the habit of Pahartali, Chittagong

speaking Bangla with an accent! Their vocabulary appears to be rather limited as they use some hackneyed English words too often--the texture of their utterances is a kind of uncouth mixture, to speak the least.

As the young people imitate the way of speaking of these hosts, they are likely to pick up a very phoney style of speaking their mother tongue. This may be viewed as an instance of cul-At this point we find a shocking tural decay--or sheer negligence of

I was watching the Opening Ceremony of Winter Olympics on ESPN and I was quite amazed to see some nations participating in the competition for the first time. I always had the belief that Winter Olympics belong to the athletes from European and North American Nations. But I was wrong to think like that. In this year's Winter Olympics there are participants from Ethiopia, Pakistan, Iran, India, Nepal, Senegal, Ghana and even Mongolia. I was really amazed to see the participants from these nations. was only asking myself, i athletes from conservative nations like Pakistan and Iran could participate then why can't athletes from our country participate in Winter Olympics?

I think our government should encourage the young children to take sports that are played in Winter Olympics. Minhaj Ahmed Uttara, Dhaka

"My Name is Khan"

Shahrukh Khan's latest movie, "My name is Khan" has become the talk of the subcontinent as Shiv Sena threatened the superstar.

Most probably, Shahrukh jockeys cast themselves grace-Khan's biggest challenge in his carrier is to face Shiv Sena, the radical Hindu group. A movie needs story,

sequence, scenario, music, songs, players and many other things to be complete, as a silver screen movie. Shahrukh's "My name is

Khan" fulfils all the criteria. In the movie, it has got nothing said by Shahrukh that Shiv Sena might be threatening Shahrukh Khan, and vandalise any cinema hall or burn posters. But still the radical Hindu group, Shiv Sena is the biggest threat to the actor.

In a democratic country like India, such a threat to an actor and sports club owner is unacceptable.

The Indian authorities should take a quick initiative to stop Shiv Sena activities to maintain the country's secular identity.

Mahmud Ali Kabir Ex-BSS correspondent Gopalganj

Japanese

First it was Toyota, and now it is Mazda, as reported by APP from Tokyo, published by you on 11th. February. It is reported that Honda too is having problems with their inflated air bag, essentially a safety feature, it has itself become very unsafe!

fied the physicians who flouted all norms and regulations with the blessings of the then BMA leaders. The report calls for immediate demotion The report states, that in and expulsion of abnormally rewarded physicians. Would be delighted to see the immediate execution of the report. Similar irregularities also prevail in the govt. medical colleges and hospitals. We urge upon the Parliamentary Standing Committee to probe alleged irregularities in the govt. medical colleges immediately and give exemplary punishment to the offenders, so that this is not repeated in future.

Gulshan 2

quated. But Radio Today

transmitting 89.6 FM has

rekindled the seized glory of

radio by presenting thrilling

music of home and abroad.

Consequently, being Stranded

in the monotonous traffic jam

or liberated from the worries

of work, Radio Today now

gives free rein to one's imagi-

nations. And the way Radio

fully is really entertaining.

Rubab Abdullah

Residential Area

Dhaka

Dhaka Cantonment

News heading

I was attracted to a news head-

ing in your 13th June On line

edition " Many things to be

done to make Bangladesh

Gul" I eagerly read the whole

news item to find the Turkish

President's comments on

what Bangladesh needed to

reach the status of a middle

income country. To my utter

surprise and disappointment,

not a single word or phrase I

could find directly about this

matter. Only reference was

that " infrastructure and legal

readers are not deceived by

such lack of care in captioning

Professor A. T. R. Rahman

City University of New York

My hats off to the report of the

Parliamentary Standing

Committee of Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare. The

Committee has rightly identi-

Health sector

We sincerely hope that

issues" were discussed.

news items.

USA

Middle income economy

Radio Today Conservation The principle aim of conserva-At some stage in my school life, tion is to ensure the survival of freed from routine tasks of life in all its forms and variety, schooling, my favourite pastime was to listen to World and to make certain that natumusic on radio conducted by ral resources are not used beyond their capacity for smart fellows in English at renewal but continue for the noon. And I used to gather the benefit of future generations. information of latest numbers Conservation requires an of Top chart of UK and USA understanding of ecology and from radio and tried to find the the interrelationships of the cassettes in music markets. different plants and animals There was a rush among friends who could get the (including our own spelatest ones. With the advent of cies) with each other and with Satellite TV arguably provides their environment. Concern for the health of very useful enlightenment in the environment is steadily certain fields of development of mind which radio could not increasing as can be seen from impart with the same efficacy the growth of conservation and multiplicity. The signifiorganisations in almost every cance of radio among comcontinent. mon people has been decreas-Ever increasing human ing. A year before or so, listening to the radio became anti-

populations lead to an increase of the demand for natural resources. This has many effects including deforestation, habitat loss, pollution of air and water etc. Poaching of animals for meat fur and the medicine trade also reduces animal numbers. Conservation is an active means of slowing down or reversing these trends in an attempt to safeguard the environment and all living things within it.

Saffa Sameen Haq Aga Khan School, Dhaka

Sky train system

Dhaka needs a mass transit system like other modern cities. Underground system is costly. Also rescue and evacuation in an emergency are extremely difficult and during the construction phase of the underground system, there will be chaos and pandemonium for surface traffic and service providers like water, gas electricity etc.

A sky train system is a much more attractive proposal which can carry the same number of people, and is so much easier to construct and maintain. Existing roads can be used on both sides to erect pillars. Only station areas need to be covered up with self cleaning glass domes.

This can be built in about one fifth of the time at one fifth of the cost as against underground tunnel system.

Many such sky train systems exist in Japan, Shaghai and other parts of the world and are most suitable for Bangladesh cities.

The government must look at the sky train proposal from experts, before going in for a costly, disruptive and difficult to construct and maintain alternative like an underground system. **Engineer Shafi Ahmed**

London, UK

Ekushey February 21 is a glorious day to us and is observed as the International Mother Language Day. Now the day is not only observed, but also it is celebrated with great significance throughout the world. But to achieve this day, we had to move gradually. In 1948, the then West Pakistani rulers declared that Urdu would be the state language of Pakistan. But the people of East Pakistan

strongly reacted to the unilateral decision. On 21 February in 1952, many students brought out a procession to get their demand fulfilled. Suddenly, police fired on this procession and some valiant students were killed. Since then, 21st February is observed as a "Shaheed Dibas".

Afterwards, on NOVEMBER 17,1999 UNESCO declared it as the International Mother Language Day.

We have to uphold the dignity of our language. That is the best way to pay homage to the Martyrs of 1952. Md.Al-Helal

HSTU, Dinajpur

Terrible traffic

Traffic jam is a monstrous problem in Dhaka city. I think the problem is more technical than administrative. However, so far we have not seen any methodical approach being taken by the government to proceed in the direction of easing this problem. Police are thinking it is their matter and they are continuously issuing orders, guidelines, and rules assuming that it would reduce traffic jam. We do not know if they have any scientific data in support of issuing such orders or guidelines. All seem to be

assumptive. Recently, they issued an order to maintain lanes. But we do not see any move by the police to enforce the orders, except fining some owners of private cars. We have not heard of any incident of fining the bus drivers, though they are the number one violators of the new rule.

Now police are saying that it has not helped in removing traffic jam though discipline has been restored. They are further saying that they have advised the government to put restriction on registration of vehicles. The government is saying they will build monorails. At times the name of underground rails is also being heard.

They are also saying they will build elevated express-

The economists are preaching that given the per capita income of the people, the underground rail or elevated expressways are not viable in Bangladesh.

The main reason of this confusion is that no comprehensive scientific study has yet been made so far as to how to solve the traffic problems of Dhaka city.

Some sporadic studies have been carried out by the bidders themselves. So, they are premeditated and not independent. As a result, the government is in a dilemma as to what to do to solve this problem, though time is running out fast.

So, I feel it is imperative on the part of the government to conduct a comprehensive engineering study by internationally known transport experts to create a base of recommendations/priorities to solve the traffic problem. Engr. Abdul Wadud Head, Dept. of Mech.

Engineering, IUBAT

Renaming ZIA



We the undersigned, active participants of an on-line Bangladesh Aviation related discussion forum, write to express our disgust at the recent government decision to rename Dhaka's Zia International Airport.

We feel that this shows little more than pettiness by the present government. What will happen when the current opposition, whose founder the airport is named after comes back to the treasury benches? This obsession and priority of naming and renaming national institutions

and landmarks by the two main political parties in Bangladesh goes to show their indifference to meaningful development work. The net effect of this game of musical chairs is it makes the whole of Bangladesh look silly in the eyes of the world. What's next? Will the security X-ray machines at the airport be named after people too? We would like to know the

logic behind naming an airport in Dhaka after a great saint from Sylhet. The state operated airline, Biman, already carries the names of our famous saints

around the world on their aircrafts. As far as stake holding international organisations such as the International Air Transport Authority (IATA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as well as the airlines that operate out of this airport are concerned, the gateway continues to be identified as DAC or VGZR. So, all the hoopla and of course expenses will be on the poor taxpayers for making up new signage, letterheads, rubber stamps, etc.

Frankly, some of us are sick of this petty politics. By changing the name, the prime minister is perhaps taking all the votes for granted. Majority of the people of Bangladesh did not give her a mandate to prioritise pettiness. We urge the newspapers in Bangladesh to conduct an online poll and see how other people feel about this game of naming and renaming.

Karib Ahmed, Dhaka Shabbir Bashar, Vancouver, USA Towhid Islam, Ann Arbor, USA Shakil Maruf, Minneapolis, USA

automakers two months of 2009 and in

two days of February 2010, a total of 947,913 vehicles were recalled by Honda for rectification of these potentially dangerous feature. Meanwhile, by February 9, 2010, Toyota had to recall 400,000 of its Prius; their pride hybrid (petrol-electric) model! Toyota has taken the matter seriously, and pledged to rectify the problems of this model car to over 87 million vehicles across the whole world!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor Dhaka

Shamim Ahmed Dhaka