Wasa affairs



Wasa water supply during March' 2010 around Rashed Khan Menon Sarak area was very critical as the deep tube-well pump in this locality remained idle due to electricity failure, while the emergency diesel generator was not in operation. The Wasa generator was dead due to diesel shortage or mechanical breakdown as informed by pump officials of Wasa. The LGRD minister declared deployment of armed forces form the first week of April 2010 and miraculously the diesel generator went into operation and our water crisis was solved instantaneously. Thus presence of armed forces is essential for our daily day-today life, I believe.

Recently, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the LGRD ministry expressed great dissatisfaction regarding the performance of

Wasa. Even Transparency International raised the question of corruption in Wasa in their report. Should something not be done in the context of corruption control mentioned in the election manifesto of the

The simple self-billing system may be introduced like Titas Gas, so that a great chunk of revenue eaten by Wasa personnel can be earned by Wasa itself. Water consumption can be ascertained sitting in front of computers based on some data like house type, standard, locality, residents etc. etc. Let something happen in reality since mere crying in the wildness in not enough to control corruption.

Mahmud Ali Rashed Khan Menon Sarak

Peak of glory

Mount Everest is always fascinating like a heavenly body, that enchants the maverick souls. The people of Bangladesh are stunned by the outstanding success of Musa Ibrahim. For the first time, he has climbed Mount Everest as a Bangladeshi.

Musa has made us proud. Eng. Md. Mehebub Haque BUET

Appeal for help

Gonesh Kishore Das, S/O Ganendra Kishore Das, Barhatta Bazar, P.O + Upazilla-Barhatta, Dist.- Netrakona (mobile no. 01731-210051) is suffering from liver cancer. He is the vice-president of Netrakona District Krishak League, member of upazila government land distribution committee and member of Barhatta Press Club. In order to save his life, my appeal to the Honourable Prime Minister-- please extend your sympathetic hand to this disciple of Bangabandhu.

Would you please do something to save our Goneshda? Russell Rahman Barhatta Bazar Barhatta Netrakona

ONLINE

VOICES

BNP's policy

The BNP (the opposition party with previous record of governing twice), with only about one tenth of the JS seats, is making loud noises on bringing down the present regime. The party's jargon is familiar, without any new points. The criticism is entirely negative (as always). A minority of the voters also try to analyse the national problems and they find no solace in BNP's line of criticism.

Bangladesh's geographical location is a severe handicap for a new nation: surrounded on the West and East by a big neighbour; the Himalayas on the North, and the Bay of Bengal in the South. Thus its connectivity is severely hampered; especially with a myopic foreign policy.

In this global village, we cannot live in isolation, imprisoned in a dreamy golden cage. We need wings to fly around and be noticed. We have to give, and take; otherwise how could we become citizens of the world? Our human resources are weak in English. Now we are going to have higher education and degrees for our nurses (huge demand abroad). We export mainly unskilled manpower; whereas English-knowing

Indians are drawing huge investment response from the industrialised countries on relocation of factories and IT processing jobs (call centres).

Maintaining friendly relations with the neighbouring countries pay big dividends in the long run (no inferiority complex in foreign affairs). The BNP's monologues are boring: based on hatred and animosity (no statesmanship in the utterances). We have seen what it could do in ten years while in power. It is of no use to rely on past performances. The new nation needs a new approach to harmonious living. The AL, too, has to change its stance.

We get the government we deserve. It is ironical, but it is

A Husnain, Dhaka

Volatile share market

To the utter dismay of small investors, the Security and Exchange Commission's frequent interference in the name of protecting interest of small investors has made the share market volatile. The imposition of many restrictions such as restrictions on right shares, use of cash payment on certain shares etc.

has damaged the normal flow of the share market. When the GrameenPhone entered the share market, new investors in large numbers, even at upazila level, came forward to open BO account and invested in the GP with the hope to get a It is really commendable! return on their investment.

But the ground reality is that they are now frustrated. GMF Abdur Rob Baridhara DOHS Dhaka

BNP's call

The BNP recently called hartal throughout the country for June 27, demanding fresh national polls.

We request the party to avoid this path of violence. Habibur Rashid Ismail Chittagong

"Black Gold"

Save the valuable minerals 'Black-Gold' worth billions of dollars.

As the valuable minerals are getting lost into the sea due to world climate change and rise in the seawater level of our Bay of Bengal, it is humbly requested that you may kindly publish special news, features, articles and supplements on the subject matter in the greater interest of our nation. OH Kabir

Bangladeshi brand

Dhaka

At present, the number of middleclass consumers is increasing gradually in the world, including Bangladesh. With the rising income & change in taste, the consumers also try to catch a better brand. So, there is no alternative to branding to survive in the competitive market.

In spite of not having quota since 2005 in the apparel sector, Bangladesh hasn't faced any problem yet to keep place in the world market. The main variable behind it is our low labour cost & low product price. But in the long run, to hold a place in the competitive world market & to earn consumers' confidence, it is important to increase product quality, rather than low price. So, to survive in tomorrow's world market we have to give importance to Bangladeshi

branding. At present it is important to introduce quality products in the world market. As western countries are the main importers, so we must observe western market behaviour. In the western world, consumers give importance to the quality of a product & its manufacturing company, rather than its low price & quantity.

We have to introduce our products by giving priority to quality.

Alauddin Mohammad Dept. of Economics University of Dhaka

Sweet water prawn

A report on the subject was published in the pages of a local English daily on May 5. It was interesting and encouraging news that we rarely

come across! Mr. Khan of Bismilla Hatchery deserves our congratulations for his innovative idea. His aim is to bring down the costs of production of fresh water fries to below 50paisa per kg. by 2011.

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.

Prawn is a valuable and rich food item providing essential minerals and vitamins for the human body. By bringing down the price of fries one can hope that it will lead to lower retail price for fresh water prawn.

It is such pioneers like Mr. Khan, who need national recognition and appreciation for a very valuable contribution to provide widespread availability of this important source of nutrition in our food chain!

It will be of general interest if you can follow up and report further about the progress in this matter periodically! S.A. Mansoor Dhaka

Thierry Henry

Current FC Barcelona player and once a living legend of Arsenal is thinking about his future in the Major League Soccer (MLS) in the USA after the 2010 World Cup. He was a god to Arsenal fans where he started to make his fortune. It was at Arsenal that Henry made his name as a worldclass footballer. Despite initially struggling in the Premier League, he emerged as Arsenal's top goal-scorer for almost every season of his tenure there. Under long-time mentor and coach Arsène Wenger, Henry became a prolific striker and Arsenal's all-time leading scorer with 226 goals in all competitions. The Frenchman won two league titles and three FA Cups with the Gunners; he was twice nominated for the FIFA World Player of the Year, was named the PFA Players' Player of the Year twice, and the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year three times. Henry spent his final two seasons with Arsenal as club captain, leading them to the UEFA Champions League final in 2006. In June 2007, after eight years with Arsenal, he transferred to Barcelona for a fee of •24 million. In Barcelona he did manage to win trophies but his striking skills began to lose its sharpness and in 2010 he spent most of his time sitting in the reserved players bench. It is speculated that now he is planning to join one of the lower rated leagues of the world (MLS) where he will probably spend rest of his career and leave football. Had he not opted for money, he would have been still one of the greatest players of Barclays Premier League, But

though. Badal Hasib SIBT University Sylhet

Alas! His endless urge for

money and fame is finally

pulling the curtain down on

his successful career. Arsenal

will never forget Henry,

Saving electricity

Our country is now facing a serious crisis of "electricity shortage". Various measures are being taken to save electricity. However, if we take the following measures we can save a considerable amount of power:

1. BILLBOARDS - It has been observed that a large number of billboards in Dhaka city are using electric lights at night. This should be stopped immediately to conserve power.

2. SHOP SIGNBOARDS - A large number of shops keep their signboard lights on throughout the night, although the shops are now closed at 7:00 pm. All shopkeepers should be advised to put off the lights at 7:00pm.

3. COMMUNITY HALLS- In many areas of Dhaka there are community halls which are used for wedding and other parties. These halls use a large number of decorative electric bulbs. It should be stopped immediately.

4. HOTELS - Some big hotels of Dhaka are using decorative lights to illuminate their premises for special occasions. This should be stopped for the time being.

These are some suggestions from my side. Possibly you can get more suggestions from your esteemed readers.

An observer

Dhaka



Wal-Mart The other day, I saw in your daily that Wal-Mart has opened a store in India and a few more are on the pipeline. Bangladesh is just next door to India. It has 150 million people or so. Though most of them live below poverty line, yet I believe Wal-Mart would be overwhelmed to see the sale proceeds. Besides Wal-Mart would be able to cater to the needs of the overseas

Bangladesh. So far I know, Wal-Mart employs more than a million people worldwide. If Wal-Mart opens a store in Dhaka, provided the host government is wise enough to go ahead with such a plan, it shall generate employment facility as well. The place that is used for annual industrial fair in Shere-Bangla Nagar can be used for setting up the Wal-Mart stores. I am positive both Bangladesh and Wal-Mart would largely benefit out of the project. Gradually, if Wal-Mart desires it can also set up such stores in regional headquarters.

Mart has to change is its refund policy, or else it simply cannot survive. All sales should be final and no refund allowed. As for myself, I would never ever want to go back to the states if a Wal-Mart store is opened in Dhaka, the only thing that I miss here in Bangladesh. Saleh Mohammad Ayub

Kalabagan, Dhaka

Americans stationed in The only thing that Wal-

Khaleda's Paltan rally

The much vaunted rally at historic Paltan Maidan was held on May 19. Begum Khaleda Zia has said what she had to say to the people. The charges she brought against the government are not new and people knew what she had in store to say about.

All but one is a very important remark she made, "No terrorists exist in Bangladesh". It seems she is not at all aware of the existence of terrorists in Bangladesh.

If she is correct then who bombed the Batamul, who bombed 63 out of 64 districts simultaneously, who bombed cinema halls in Mymensingh, who are the Harkat-ul Jihad who were Bangla Bhai group, what is Hisbut-Tahrir and a

group called Shibir? Then comes the Lashkar-e-Tayeba, a Pakistan based international terrorist group. Recently, our law enforcement agency Rab arrested a huge number of their activists, unearthed their training centres in Bangladesh and many of them have confessed their involvement with Lashkar-e-Tayeba. Some of them have become citizens of Bangladesh.

I know the people of Bangladesh do no support terrorism. Some misguided Islamic extremists are a bit lenient towards these terrorists because they run their activities in the name of Islam and work mostly with the fanatics. They train terrorists in the name of saving Islam in madrasas, mosques and Islamic institutions.

They supply them with arms and send money collected from Pakistan. If Khaleda Zia believes that there is no terrorist in Bangladesh, she is deliberately trying to mislead the world.

While the present government is trying to create a regional anti-terrorist forces, the USA and other EU countries have offered assistance to Bangladesh to fight terrorism, Begum Zia is playing a flute of innocence.

Shafiqul Islam, NY

such if the aim of the politics is

The political parties use tained.

We pray for a real change in our attitude. Ahmed Munir Purana Paltan, Dhaka

Barking dogs...

In the early years of our lives, we learnt in school that barking dogs do not bite. Probably it was an adage. I was confused about its appropriateness, though. The confusion is still ingrained in my mind.

I do not also surely understand whether grooming a dog is a barometer of higher income and signifies higher social status.

I am talking about Shekertek area of Mohammadpur which happens to be an abode of government servants, businessmen and middle class people of different callings. Recently, a tendency of grooming dogs is growing alarmingly in this area. Rearing dogs or cats or any other domestic pet is naturally the matter of one's personal choice and freedom. But it is confusing again how far would it be considered 'personal'.

In our area, it is becoming increasingly difficult to have a sound sleep at nights, thanks to the consistent howling of the dogs in the middle of the night. May be the owners become happy hearing their dogs' liveliness and euphoria. But our children, elderly and patients are the prime victims of the barking of dogs.

So far I know, there are some age old laws as to restriction of this sort of public nuisance, but those are not applicable to the burgeoning rich. Then how will our children, our elders and the patients be protected and how to ensure a sound sleep, at least for a few hours, for the people who have to start toiling from the very next morning? Nabila Raisa

Shekhertek Muhammadpur, Dhaka

Hartal call

The main opposition party namely the BNP is resorting to destructive political programmes like HARTAL, but we know that politicians engage in politics for the welfare of general people. But we do not know how HARTAL can help the general people. So, we hope the BNP will withdrawits HARTAL call.

We want to live in peace. Rowshan Ali Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Flags

Just prior to the "Greatest Show on Earth", FIFA World Cup 2010, people have started hoisting national flag of the team that they support. From previous experience we know that flag is hoisted in each and every house, residential areas, university halls, roads, shopping complexes, clubs and even in public transports. The presence of our beloved national flag, which symbolizes our nation, is not that much noticeable, though.

Let us not hoist flags of

other countries in such great numbers. Yeahia All Mamun Dept. of Soil, Water And Environment University of Dhaka

Sanity in student politics Student politics is not bad as

to learn how to develop the country and how to do good for the people. But it seems it is getting convoluted nowadays. Students should concentrate on the study first because the knowledge they gather can be utilised when they will be at the helm of the country. But, unfortunately, the present student political activists, except a few microscopic exceptions, are now engaged in possessing illegal lethal arms, extortion, tender snatching, sometimes kidnapping and killing, as if they have been there to learn how they will continue those bad practices in their greater lives.

them for their own mean interests. Sometimes they just instigate their student wings to kill opposition supporters. Sanity will never come in our educational institutions, unless law and order is main-

Musa conquers Everest (May 24, 2010) him a safe return to history.

Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports.

Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

Malay Mridha Congratulations! You have proved that we can scale great heights. We also proved it in

1971! Arif M Abdullah

Bangladesh.

What an achievement! We are extremely proud of this young man.

But why is this news so under-

rated and understated as far as Bangladeshi media is concerned? You deserves to get much more

attention. **F.Choudhury**

You made us proud. We salute you. **Jakir Talukder**

Proud to be a Bengalee. Wish Hats off to you! You have made Ashraf Siddiquee Bitu

Heartiest congratulations. Yes, we want to see such excellent & striking news in our dailies. Keep it up, and let there be more young Bangladeshis joining this sort of adventurous and amazing projects that would uphold the name, fame will be found with another & image of our country. Best of

Md Mosharrof Hossain

Very few people have such an opportunity to make the whole nation proud. Congratulations! Hassan Bipul

As a member of NACB, I have been with Musa Ibrahim since

Hats off to awesome news. Musa - the hero. Debabrata Das Limon

Congratulations! Your achievement will be a landmark for the new generation. I salute you,

our pride. **Prodyot Roy**

Ibrahim! It's his determination and perseverance that enabled him to touch the peak. Our youth will get the inspiration to shun negative things and strive for such big achievements.

Syed Mahfuz

Bravo Musa, bravo Bangladesh. You will be placed in our national history with great honour and pride. Your name proud son of the soil, Brozen Das, who had swam across the English Channel. Congratulations to you. Shah Mostain Billah

feat. You will live long in our history. Your adventure sets an example for the youngsters. Nothing is impossible! the beginning of our club. It's DrS.M.A. Rashid

You have accomplished a great

Hartal on June 27 Declares Khaleda at Paltan rally; speaks of new election to get an effective parliament (May 20, 2010)

As a citizen of Bangladesh, we feel ashamed abroad when our politicians call 'hartal'. Begum Congratulations to Musa Zia could have considered other forms of protests, rather than this old tactic.

Mizanur Rahman

Khaleda Zia will remain Khaleda Zia, she will never change. She never could become the people's leader. G.M. Panaullah History is going to be repeated.

The BNP is doing what the AL did by using the hartal culture which hurts the national economy and its image. But the ruling party, at any given time, should refrain from creating the grounds for such desperate action by the opposition. Ashim Dhar

the culture of hartal anymore. Although the precedence was set by the AL in the past, it must be denounced. It will cripple our economy; it is against the interest of the nation. It will Nasirullah Mridha

We cannot possibly go back to

destabilize the country, if not the government. We need an urgent solution. No more hartal, please.

Shamima Begum Shelley

The very fact that Khaleda Zia could address the rally at Paltan so peacefully is proof that there exists a relatively much better law and order situation than her time. In a similar rally of the Awami League during her time, the present PM was almost killed in a terrorist attack. She claimed that about 1500MW power was added to the national grid during her time. Where has it gone?

The BNP is alienating itself from the people. This is simply embarrassing.

Khondkar Abdus Saleque

Rafik

I thought there was a against hartal during the caretaker regime, if not there should be one, as the political battles ruin normal life and business. Sultana Razia

As a citizen, I have nothing to say if hartal is observed peacefully. In our country, hartal is imposed on the people. The AL or the BNP, whoever calls hartal, it will be successful!