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BCB and poor cricket

There is a proverb - "if you want to destroy an institution, appoint a politician as its head". The situation is now heading towards this direction after the appointment of a politician to head the BCB. First of all, a change was made in the captaincy without any known reason. Only explanation given was Shakib's reported unwillingness to continue which the ex-captain later confirmed as correct. Next came the controversy over the selection procedure. The selection committee has little say in selecting players which is reportedly dictated by a few influential people in the Board supported by the chairman. The selection committee neither agreed nor disagreed to the news item published recently.

Our national team, enjoying Test status for the last ten years, was comprehensively beaten by the non-Test playing countries like Ireland and Netherlands. Whereas the same Netherlands team was beaten fair and square by the Zimbabwe A team a few days later. It was a total disgrace to our cricket. Apparently, the country's

cricket team lacks a unified team spirit. The most controversial announcement was made about the appointment of the bowling and fielding coaches by the BCB chief, which the other board members denied afterwards. Surprisingly, the national coach expressed his ignorance about the selection of the bowling coach.

Development and induction of new promising players in the national team is the prime and foremost responsibility of the BCB and it has so far failed miserably in this direction. To be the chief of BCB, one has to be a professional person who understands cricket. Otherwise, Bangladesh cricket will meet an inevitable disaster. The post of the chairman of BCB is a full-time position. It is a big question if the present incumbent, in view of his busy political and business (being an industrialist) commitments, shall have the time to be able to do justice to his responsibilities as the chief of BCB.

Mohammad Ataul Hoque
One-mail



Campus violence

Most of the public colleges and universities have become mini cantonments which are full of lethal weapons and ammunition. It is a great tragedy for the nation that the sanctity of the campuses of our educational institutions is being marred by violence. Campus violence is a festering wound. The places of nation-building are now centres of terrorism. Invaluable time, talent and money are being wasted by campus violence. The violence often forces the closure of the institutions and further worsens the already critical, session jam situation.

The general students are not strong enough to protest against it because the violence is perpetrated by some powerful mastans supported by the government and the opposition parties. As the nature of campus violence is basically political, it has to be faced politically if at all we want to stop it.

Khandokar Md. Ramzan Ali
Student, Department of Textile Engineering World University of Bangladesh

Manikganj accident

The tragic accident at Uthali, near Manikganj, where two top bureaucrats were killed vividly exposes our inefficient road safety system. Even the prime minister expressed her strong resentment. But result? In the following weeks casualty on road became higher. In reality other than expressing anger no positive step is taken to curb the killings. Police commissioner has issued

some directives which only increased confusion and anomalies on the road.

About the particular accident two or three points need careful examination. 1. It appears from the TV footage that the Pajero jeep that carried the bureaucrats was an unregistered vehicle. Plying of unregistered vehicle is illegal. How the transport pool sent an unregistered vehicle for such a long journey? 2. The short route to Tungipara, Gopalganj from Dhaka is via Mawa. The road is also in very good condition. When VIPs move special ferries are arranged. Why the driver chose the route via Aricha is also a question. In official travel shortest possible route is mandatory.

M. Sanaul Haq
Uttara, Dhaka

Power crisis

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is constantly blaming the BNP for the severe power crisis which has gripped the country in the last one and a half year. People did not suffer like this before.

But blaming the BNP could not be the answer. The caretaker government remained in power for two years and then the Awami League formed the government. During BNP regime people did not suffer like this. It is quite clear that without proper maintenance the power plants can not produce adequate electricity.

So, instead of wasting time blaming the BNP, the government must use all its resources to increase power supply, otherwise it will be in trouble.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Congratulations, Samin

Saiful Islam Samin has regained his ability to walk. It is very good news for the thousands of people in Bangladesh who have lost their legs in any kind of accident. I also would like to give my thanks to Endolite Bangladesh for their successful mission.

Now I have a few requests to Samin. No one would understand better than Samin the pain of losing legs or any part of our body. As Samin is now a sub-editor of Prothom Alo, it would be great if he focuses on the causes of road accident which is taking away the lives of thousands and making thousands physically disabled forever. Samin is undoubtedly one of those lucky persons who can now walk. But how many people can get artificial legs after amputation? Being a proactive man, Samin is obviously aware of the situation and would definitely take some more fruitful steps to free the nation from the curse of road accident.

Pradip Das
Lecturer BHPI, CRP

Canals

Here is an astonishing news report that among 47 canals of Dhaka, 20 canals are extinct because of corruption and negligence. Some canals exist on signboards only.

Something must be done in this regard.

Kbd M Alamgir Hossain
UEO, Chhataik

Why this leniency?

So, at long last, provisions are finally being made to scrap the errant realtors from punishment. (The Daily Star: August 4, 2010). What are the reasons which prompted the lawmakers' parliamentary body on Real Estate Development and Management to take this lenient decision?

I assume the members of the committee were never cheated, never made destitute by the realtors in any consideration, which some of our acquaintances were!

Nabila Raisa
Shekhertek, Mohammadpur Dhaka

Some water, please!

The security man in our building stops me as I was going to the office. Usually, he doesn't do that unless there's a problem. Assessing my past experience, I start counting from ten to one to let a rising tension go off.

Counting doesn't help. He says with his right hand ascending near his forehead: "Salaam sir, there's no water supply in the pipeline for the last two days."

I knew this was not a piece of good news; he never stops me for good news.

"What, then, are we using at this moment," I ask him, not letting him understand my nervousness.

He says: "We've been using what we had in the reserved tank."

I wryly smiled at him, expressing my helplessness as I realize that the albatross named "Wasa [Water Supply Authority]" is about to jump on my soldiers and play some havoc.

The inevitable happens; the reservoir dries out with no hope to get any water from the authorities that are "supposed" to help us during the rainy season [mind you! You'll be penalized if you don't pay your taxes].

When the reservoir dries out, we lodge an order for two tanks of water which would cost Tk 800. The first Wasa truck comes next day and fills out the tank a little. But the Wasa people leave with a promise to come back with another truck full of water at midnight.

The inevitable obviously happens. No-one turns up.

In the meantime, just before water flow at our locality stopped, a few officials of the buildings at Gulshan's Road 29 caught a Wasa official red handed. The Wasa official was turning the tap off from a point close to our residence. We asked him as to who told him to stop water supply to out neighbourhood, he mentioned that a high official did.

On the third day, when we didn't have any water to wet our toothbrushes, finding no other way to "achieve" any water, I call up my journalist friend at Baishakhi TV, hoping that he'd be able to help me by talking to Dhaka Wasa Chairman. He instantly acted. Wasa arranged the second truck and we got some water to use for a few hours.

The same situation happens at our neighbourhood at least three times a year. We stop cooking, bathing, and drinking water at our residences. We roam around our relatives' houses to get shower, if not to eat. I usually get my shower either at the office or at the cadet college club.

The water-wallahs do this when there's little rain or the weather heats up.

Contradictions

I find myself confused by the present crisis in the RMG sector because of many contradictions. It is our major foreign exchange earner, largest employer, gives opportunities to women and generates huge revenue. Unfortunately, this productive area is going through increasing unrest and violent upheavals. Both workers and owners are unhappy. To a layman, with access to only what he reads or sees on TV, the causes are many and the old merry-go-round blame game is being played with full vigour by the three parties involved workers, owners and government.

The workers' grievances of being exploited are very valid. What sort of a total minimum monthly wage is Tk. 1,662/- (\$24.23) in these days of rampant inflation? Tk. 3,000/- (\$43.73) fixed by the govt or Tk. 5,000/- (\$72.89) demanded by most workers is not much better. There is no subsidised ration, no healthcare or allowances, no facilities etc. Also what do the workers expect to gain by rioting in the streets destroying valuable property, vehicles and factories?

The owners bemoan recession in importing countries, cuts in prices and orders, load shedding, red tape tangles, labour unrest, interest rates, port delays, forced air shipments etc. They use these 'loss' arguments to resist any wage increases.

Successive governments are reluctant to solve these problems. Misdemeanours are dealt with a soft slap on the hands. Private and official strong-arm tactics are used to keep the work force subdued.

The contradictions arise when reports filter through, of nexus being formed to cut prices to cut out other groups. Under invoicing of exports is an age-old and risk-free method of cheating on local taxes and building nest eggs abroad. How else can you buy



A.M. AHAD, T.P. / DRINKNEWS

citizenships of Canada, ranches in USA, shopping malls in Dubai and beach palaces in S.E Asia, apart from the regular medical holidays in all the best resorts. In Bangladesh there is no dearth of palatial residences and extravagant farmhouses on which crores are spent. Lavish parties in five-star hotels and clubs where one dinner bill may be equivalent to the salaries of hundreds of workers.

These contradictions then stand out like a sore thumb. The ques-

tions are simple. If they cannot give a practical wage to workers, how can they afford such costly and unnecessary luxuries? How come the dozens of controlling authorities, have not noticed these contradictions, which are shamelessly exhibited with impunity and without fear? Have all concerned been purchased? Has the conscience of the privileged become totally numb?

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

On the fifth day, today, 10 August, I discover I don't have any water to brush my teeth, not to talk about other purposes. I search our house and find one jar of water in the kitchen kept for cooking.

What would I do and think at this moment? Should I still think that Bangladesh has a future?

Ekram Kabir
One-mail

BNP's opinion

I am really happy to note the contents of public address of Begum Khaleda Zia in her party's public rally at Paltan on 9 August 2010. Her whole speech was within usual accusations of government's failures and faults. Most opposition parties in the world do the same as she has done. People also know this fact and did not take it seriously except few diehard supporters who are again out of income due to their party's present position and some media outlets which are projecting it as a threat and confusing the people.

However, I have noted two important points from her speech, one is the just concluded Agreement with India and the other one is the court cases against her party men. The first point she has used purely on political reason necessary to speak out against as an opposition party leader and the second one is not only for her party men, it is her own interest as she is one of the accused in court cases.

Regarding Indo-Bangla agreement, she has termed it

sector. Now, let's consider some backdrops of our science education on which they can work.

To begin with, research facilities in our universities are below average, I should say. Also, the textbooks don't cover the latest updates of scientific developments. Then, teachers are not highly trained or knowledgeable enough. On top of all these backdrops, the career opportunity of core science subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, and math is very low.

A secular and science oriented pro career education policy is must for the development of our country.

Surjo
Department of Marketing University of Chittagong

Political compromise

In the month of Ramadan we expect a political trade off since the elders are extending invitation for Ifar. The opposition has already made a breakthrough in the process by making governance to a certain extent quite difficult for the present government. It is difficult to make any guess in the backdrop of poor performance in power sector and city management. To be straightforward, the AL is in power but the BNP controls the strategic areas of governance by their loyal set ups in trade, commerce, power, RMG and whatnot.

I cannot think of any compromise because of distinctly different ideology and choice of governance followed by the BNP. That is why a trade off is more acceptable to them which would strengthen their party and earn relief for the religious allies helping them to get back to power in due course. If that happens, we might see a new Bangladesh with changes and recharge every sector of the government to erase the present planning foundation of development and diplomacy. I am afraid whether the extremists in the opposition party would put pressure for some fundamental change in our statehood. Do not be surprised by any unforeseen development and change in Bangladesh if the present government cannot come out of the deep crisis they are in currently.

That is why a political trade off might be on the table for a political compromise. We only expect that our hard earned democracy and individual freedom would not be taken away on any pretext.

Quadir
California, USA

Promoting science education

A statistical finding has been published some days ago in an eminent Bangla newspaper telling that the number of students in science group is going down drastically. Students are now more interested to study in commerce group as they think that commerce-oriented courses, especially business administration, are more pro-career than science. It's no way the fault of our students to think that way as every human being considers his/her future. The mindset of the student can only be changed if they find bright career prospects in the science courses. The policymakers of the education system of our country should go for an overhaul in this

Encroachment of roads

There is no sign that the present traffic jam situation will improve soon. And we can imagine the worst traffic jam in near future. The government has taken many steps to improve the traffic system in Dhaka. But the ultimate result is zero. In my opinion, the main reason is - nobody follows the traffic rules and the traffic police also do not care about the traffic rules.

We have heard about encroachment of rivers and canals, but we did not hear anything like encroachment of roads. I think the authorities concerned have not noticed it. Roads are made for the movement of vehicles and for the use of common people. But roads are used as market, parking lot and workshop

in our country. And some roads are used as garage. Sadek Hossain Khoka Road, behind the Madhumita Cinema Hall, is one such example. During office hour it is difficult to recognise this road. There are many garages and workshops on the road.

Small shop owners took possession of footpaths several years ago, and now they are expanding their business towards roads. Very soon we will see no movement of vehicles or people on the roads as the grabbers will grab the roads the same way as they grabbed the rivers and canals.

I request the authorities concerned to enforce strict rules so that nobody can park their buses, cars and rickshaws on the road.

N. S. Chowdhury, Dhaka

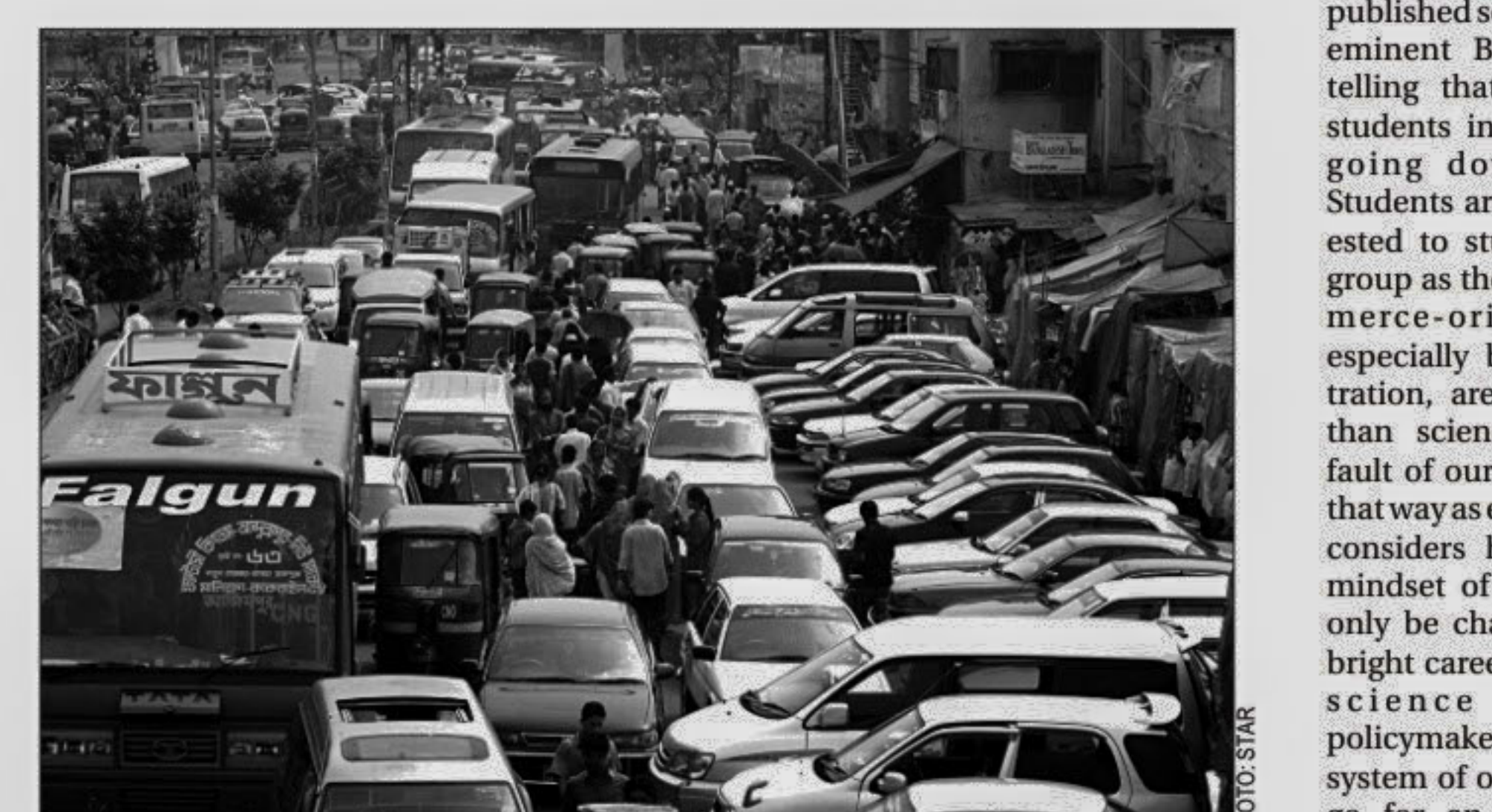


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