

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.



Education sector

I would like to thank the PM for taking the steps to make a digital Bangladesh. To implement your dream for digital Bangladesh at first you should recruit skilled teachers at school and college level for computer learning. At college level every teacher is skilled in their respective subject without computer. In computer, a teacher can come from other subject after doing a three-month course or one year diploma in

computer. It is funny that in other subjects, Honours and Master's degrees are must in the respective but in case of computer it is not applicable. Most of the lecturers recruited for computer are not experts.

The decision makers should address the issue.

Md. Amzad Hossain

One-mail

Joint power project

Two 1320MW coal fired power plants are to be set up in Chittagong and Khulna. That is indeed good news for the power starved people of Bangladesh.

Now that the agreement has been inked, there are hopefully no chances of it being negated by succeeding next elected government; even if it is not.

ALBNP has the tendency of cancelling whatever is in the pipeline proposed by AL; if they cannot get a slice of the pie; thanks to their all-powerful "Hawa Bhaban" pie eaters! However, the government should arrange the finance on top priority basis, and establish the Letter of

Credit before their term is over; otherwise anything may again happen! What is the tentative time schedule for the first unit; be it in Chittagong or Khulna. What about the arrangements for transmission line and switchgear to put the power on the grid? Is it also included in the order, or has this to be arranged separately? All these issues need to be sorted on top priority so the project progresses smoothly. Can we expect that at least the first power plant will be commissioned by 2016?

Regarding our power demand, one local English daily stated it to be 5500MW now. Assuming this to be real, which it could well be. Given a minimum 5% modest growth; the demand by 2016 will be 30% more, i.e. 7150MW!

If we really want to supply it on a (24x7) hour basis round the year; we must have at the least 25% more active but redundant generation capacity; to enable the plants to have regular needed maintenance and repair, without interrupting power supply. So by 2016, we must have at

least (7150+1788) say 9000MW on tap at all the time. Will this be available on hand by 2016? If not, then this level of generation capacity must be installed timely; and just not the 2640MW now confirmed! Given a pragmatic figure of 3500MW, as the present generation capacity; and based on the above realistic projected power demand; we need further 4000MW generation capacity by 2016! Let us not ignore this important matter; otherwise we will have to live with load shedding forever; throughout our lives! The government must move ahead for further generation capacity, right now, to have uninterrupted power supply available in Bangladesh by 2016 at least!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor

Dhaka

Poor Israelis

I feel sorry for the poor Israelis who have been driven so far from Him by their pride and stubbornness of heart. It is so easy to harden your heart and hate and curse those who curse you and those you love. But the Lord way is not one of anger and hatred. He will use him to judge this people and cause them to forcibly live in peace with their neighbours. The ways of this world are not the Lord ways, but He will use them to institute law and order and bring an end to oppression.

Peace will come, but only after a time of such great darkness as the world has never known before. After this darkest of hours, the brightest of lights will shine, and the dawn will never have looked so clean and bright as it will on that day. Peace and justice will come to this world again.

Ted Rudow III, MA

One-mail

Nazrul was an emotional soul, but his emotion was unstable and volatile. Those who came in personal contact with him were moved by his irresistible enthusiasm and sincerity. But his literary output falls far short of his merit, except the early poems in Agnibina. After Agnibina his best known books of poems and songs are Dolonchampa (1923), Biser Bansi (The poisonous flute, 1924), Bhangar Gan (Songs of break-up, 1924), Puber Haoya (The east wind 1925) and Bulbul (1928).

After a sudden attack of paralysis on July 10, 1942, he became silent forever and spent 34 years of his life before he ultimately died on August 29, 1976 at the age of 77.

Mohammad Shahidul Islam
Tourism Officer, BPC

Pakistan's cheating

Good things happen when the souls express them. Similarly, when cheating tendency is deep-rooted in a society -- all forms of evil express on a constant basis. (As feared by many) after the long history of association with Match-fixing, Doping, Murder probe (2007 World Cup), Injury feigning, Ball-biting, Ball altering, Betting, Pitch damaging, Religious exhibition during games, Organised crimes, Corruption and Cover-ups -- now a new 'Spot-fixing' cheating allegations are investigated by British police against visiting Pakistan Test Cricket team in England. Secretly filmed footage exposed one British-Pakistani bookmaker Majeed - who has 'managed' Pakistani cricket players over two years - accepting £150,000 (Bangladeshi Taka 16 crore) from an undercover journalist for guaranteeing 'no balls'. The allegations are related to 'no balls' delivered by Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Asif. ICC (International Cricket Council) and Scotland Yard are now investigating the matter. No players or team officials have been arrested yet.

When still a school student in his teens, Nazrul joined the newly recruited Bengali regiment (1916) and sent to Mesopotamia some months before the armistice. The regiment was not given a chance to face battle but all the same Nazrul got his fill of the fighting gusto which later-found expression in poetic effusion and warmth.

His first two significant poems, Pralayollas (Exhilaration at the Final Dissolution) and Vidrohi (Rebellion) appeared early in 1922 and his first book of poem Agnibina (The flute of fire) was out before the year was over. The book was received with an enthusiasm never experienced in the sub continent before or since. After that he joined the Kollol group and wrote mostly deft and pungent verses.

Nazrul wrote a good number of valuable poems, songs, novels and dramas. He had a good command on classic music. He could sing, recite and act with considerable proficiency.

M. Emad
Oxford, UK

For a better society

"Only the wisest and stupidest of men on earth never change." -Confucius. And as Bangladesh is neither the wisest nor does it possess the desire to prove itself the stupidest it has ultimately taken the initiative to bring in some change and do some good to the country at last. And that very initiative is the introduction of 'e-governance' concept.

During the last decade, when the government's unchallenged role for social change and economic development came under question, governance emerged as a vibrant concept from obscurity. Better government is complimentary and a precursor to good governance. And e-governance as salvation vehicle of good governance is now a widely discussed topic all over the world including Bangladesh.

E-governance means 'electronic governance'. It is such a system which has the capacity to empower the government to do things in a better way by reducing graft, inadequacy, inefficiency and mainly corruption by the use of ICT. It helps delivering government services and information to the public using electronic means and also helps promote participation, accountability, transparency and effectiveness at all levels.

As we know that the major obstacle towards good governance i.e. towards development in our country is corruption, it has become a challenge for our government to combat it. Corruption in our country has now reached such a level that to combat it, a mere increase in education or awareness is not enough. To remove it a much effective and forceful concept is required a concept such as 'E-governance'. Because we can't check corruption but IT can and it can and will increase government responsiveness. All the human beings-starting from the youngest to the oldest, poorest to the richest, powerless to the most powerful one - play a very important role in good governance. But as luck has it or I should say "AS THE BIG WIGS WANT IT" (!) all the relations of the government with the commoners have been cut out-so that a much easier and stronger field for corruption can be created. So, for the interest of the country, the e-governance model should be launched in all the spheres of the government-the sooner the better...because this is now the only possible means of connecting the citizens to the government and to bring the guilty to book.

Bangladesh is not a young girl anymore...she is now a woman - a woman of 38. she is now a mother who has her children to pamper. It is the 21st century...and the air is filled with hum - hum for a change, hum for the quest for a better life. The simple and innocent Bengalis cannot be fooled any longer.

Fatiha Noor Sreya
One-mail

Overhead cables

Recently, Bangladesh ranked 88th amongst 100 best countries of the world. Is it a joke or fun? I cannot guess. If we look above our head, across the Dhaka city roads, we shall see a cables jungle, electric 440/1100 KV lines above the roads. We came to know through DS that about 600 cable TV operators and 92 ISPs are using heavy weight of black wires illegally in the poles. We urge and hope that the authorities would take action to remove the wires and also to avoid tragedies like Nimtoli.

Zaglul Haider
English Department
Shanto Mariam University of
Creative Technology, (SMUCT)
Dhaka

Justice must prevail

The dropping of all charges against fourteen people including former Awami League lawmaker Dr. HBM Iqbal and AL MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon has made us astonished and indignant. They were charged for the killing of four people by firing on the procession of Bangladesh Nationalist Party on February 13, 2001.

We all know about the incident, the news of it was published in the newspapers with photographs, people all over the country were agast by the happening. So, when we learned that the Home Ministry decided to withdraw charges against Iqbal, Shaon and 22 others and gave instructions in this regard on August 17, 2009 we just cannot believe it.

Justice will hide its face in shame, what an unfortunate nation we are, we have no place to seek justice.

But injustice never pays, one has to answer for them one day or another.

Nur Jahon
Chittagong

Bleak future

The fact that only two out of some 702 chemical shops and stores in the old parts of Dhaka have valid fire safety licences represent the decades long mismanagement of the city by the previous governments. The present government has got to free the city from all kinds of congestions. To do this some ministries must be relocated outside Dhaka. The lakes and the rivers outside Dhaka must be freed from unauthorized occupation. All the residential areas should be drastically freed from commercial activities to avoid fire hazards. To evade the cataclysmic destruction of city in case of earthquake, all badly-constructed buildings should be demolished immediately.

Given the government is busy bashing the opposition parties instead of minding the nagging problems, we see a bleak future for Bangladesh.

Abdus Subhan
Lalpur, Natore

Shining government

We all should come to know that three of our national leaders Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman & Alhaj Hussain Muhammad Ershad while in power dealt more with the citizens and could discharge their duties on practical grounds based on proper verifications and thus the overall citizens could see the progress in the infrastructural works.

Whilst as women national leaders and prime ministers Begum Khaleda Zia & Sheikh Hasina put more signatures in the official files and spent more time, efforts & money for the welfare of the surrounding state & government civil & military officials & their staff

members and thus these subordinates remain quite happy, while the countrymen do not see much changes in the infrastructures.

Therefore in order to make a shining government the leaders must come out of the invisible cordon and work for the people.

Golam Ashraf
BTM Mayfair Apartment
Gulshan, Dhaka

Digital parliament

All laws are framed in parliament. Laws are passed in parliament by voice vote. Simply by hearing the sound coming from the floor the Hon'ble Speaker declares three times that ha/na joi jukta hoyachey. That means sound is the ultimate medium or indicator for passing a law in parliament. In a turbulent or a noisy situation in parliament, a common scene, it is difficult to hear the sound correctly creating confusion in making decisions. In this day of modern digital world, an old system based on hearing sound for taking a vital decision for passing law is not tenable.

It is therefore necessary to bring the activities of parliament under digital system which will also create an example for others to follow for making digital Bangladesh.

Md. Delwar Hossain
East Rampura, Dhaka

Ban on veil

Very recently a law has been passed prohibiting the compulsory use of veil in public places, I am concerned when a ban is imposed on the use of veil in this country whose majority of the population are Muslims, while the Honorable Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition are both women and are Muslims too.

Saleh Ayub
One-mail

Beggars

Thousands of beggars are rushing towards Dhaka on the occasion of coming Eid festival. About 30 thousand beggars across the country are preparing to gather at this capital city to earn some extra cash.

Beggars are seen everywhere in Bangladesh. As our religions are in favour of helping the poor, we are very much sympathetic towards them.

As Dhaka is an over-populated city, beggars are able to earn a handful amount of money daily by begging. It is certainly a good act to help the blind, disabled and actually distressed people. But a large portion of beggars take this profession commercially. I read about a 'beggar' who had a six-storied building. Some evil people/gangs have their own beggars who 'serve' for their employers. Some female beggars hire babies from others to draw the kind attention of people while begging.

In Dhaka, beggars knock at the ground floor residences and use the calling bells to collect money from the people of upper stairs. At every crossing of roads a huge number of beggars are engaged to collect money risking the lives of their own as well as the passengers of the vehicles. These new beggars will create additional traffic problem.



And it is not a decent scene.

Once, a poor man begged to our prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Pbuh). After selling the man's blanket, the Prophet bought an axe for him for creating a permanent source of income. We will not remove poverty by giving alms; we have to create sufficient jobs for these men and women.

Rashid Harun
Dhaka

Pakistan cricket

Pakistan cricket has been going through some turbulence for several years now. They haven't won a rubber since 2006. After the retirement of skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq who was apparently the last of the Mohicans the team became imbalanced. Leadership kept changing and whenever there was a sign of consistency players' internal brawl ruined it. When these miseries were not good enough terrorists took over by attacking the Sri Lankan cricket team, which cost Pakistan the right to co-host the upcoming World Cup.

This team has suffered by betting allegations before but this "Spot-fixing" issue has arisen at a time when the moral of the country is broken by both man made and natural occurrences. The teenage sensation who is being praised by former cricket greats and cricket analysts for his surprising performance has come up with a surprise that no one was looking forward to. According to my own understanding Spot-fixing is a very silly thing which hardly has any impact on the overall result of the game. But its appeal is tremendous which is proved by the amount of money involved.

ICC lent its helping hand to help Pakistan to overcome its current crisis by arranging and sponsoring the Test series against Australia in England. The series was tagged as "Spirit of Cricket" but Pakistan has returned the compliment in the harshest manner. We the long suffering fans of Pakistan cricket feel cheated as well as are ashamed. If the investigation finds the suspected players guilty, it's very obvious that we will see some key players being suspended and there will be a fresh side, which will need time to get accustomed to top level cricket. I think Pakistan Cricket Board should put a pause in their Test itinerary for a certain period of time and build the team from the core.

Md. Shafat Imtiaz
Cardiff, South Wales
UK



Misery of an ordinary man

Last Friday a group of policemen came to my residence at Gopibagh, Dhaka for arresting me. They said that a cheating case was filed against me with Rajbari Magistrate Court (though my home district is at Chandpur) and accordingly the Court issued warrant against me. I was not at my house at that moment of police raid. My wife who is a gynaecologist was surprised and panicked to see the aggressive attitude of the policemen. However, as per the information of the police officer I have collected a copy of complaint petition from Rajbari. Surprisingly, I do not know the complainant and other accused of that case. Policemen again came to my residence to arrest me but I was at my office at that time. Then I have talked to a lawyer of Rajbari regarding bail. He says, "Rajbari Court may not grant you bail well you should go to the High Court." But the regular work of the High Court is closed now due to one-month-long vacation and

these sorts of anticipatory bail-cases do not get priority in the Vacation-Chamber-Judge. As a result, I am moving under an arrest warrant and it disturbs my normal life in the office and in the house as well. Who can help me and where should I go?

Mobarak Ali
Asst. Vice President (T&D)
Kohinoor Chemical Co. (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Tejgaon Industrial Area,
Dhaka

People and leaders

How long our politicians will continue playing the game of making laws? It is now an established practice that, one party while in power makes law according to their will and later on when their opposition comes to power reverses it. Is it the duty of politicians? Clearly, it is a sign of divide, which is very much unfortunate. The proverb goes 'united we stand, divided we fall'. There might be difference of opinion, but it should not be so fatal leading divisions. People expect politicians as their friends. Politicians should consider them as the servants of the

people. Delay in realizing this truth by our politicians shall delay our progress.

The citizens also must be aware of their duties and responsibilities. Mutual efforts towards development shall bring success.

Mahmudun Nabi Miron
One-mail

BCL activities in RU

Activists of the BCL in RU are committing many crimes on the campus like throwing a student from the upper floor of a building, inserting nails in legs of students. Law enforcers are not taking adequate measures about these crimes resulting in their continuation. BCL are perpetrating these crimes using the backlash against the Shibir. It seems that they are provided clemency when they brand the victims as Shibir men. But it is the law enforcer not BCL who should take action against the bad elements. The government should take the matter seriously.

Pradyut Kumar Saha
Kazipara, Dhaka