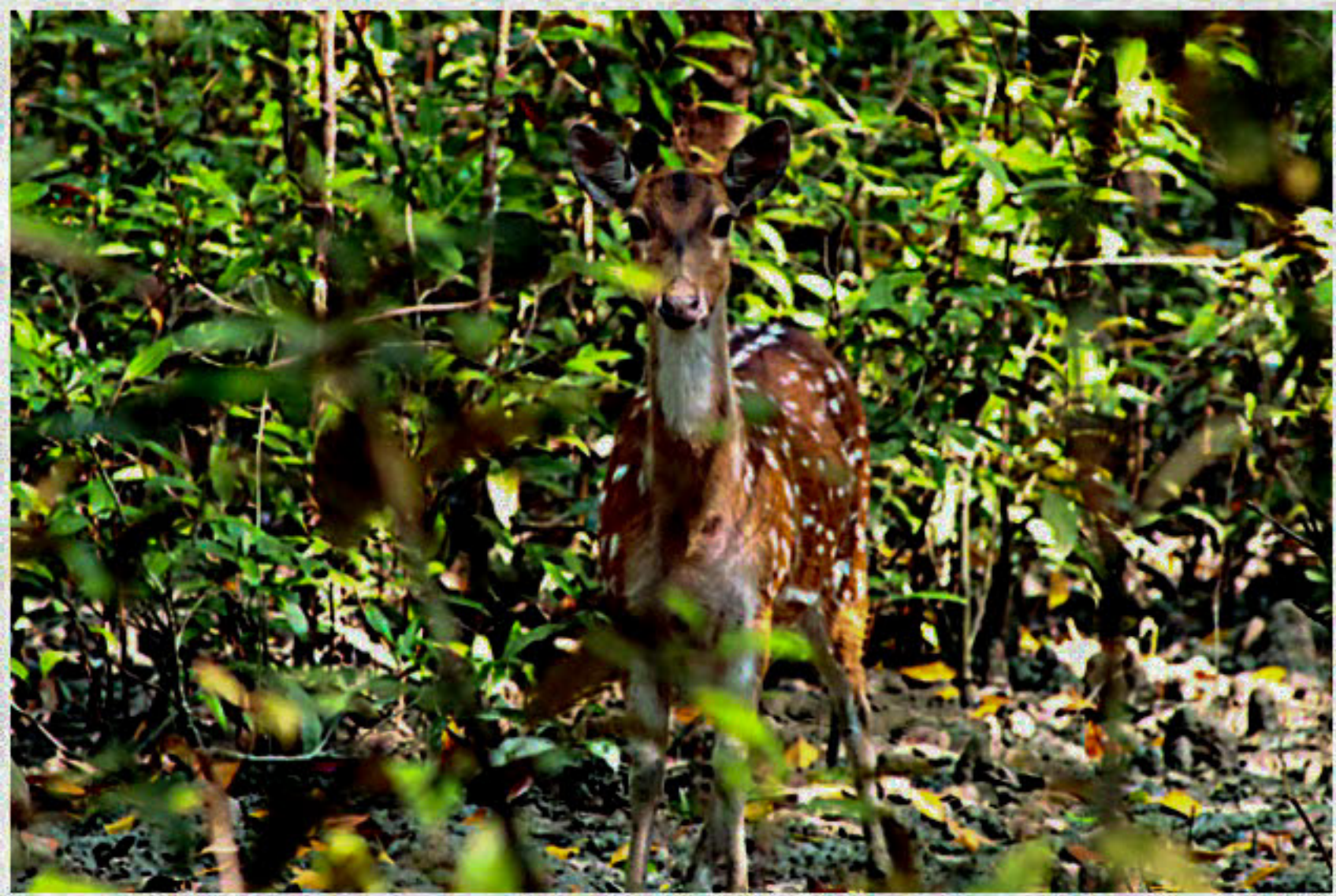


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 150 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



SHEIKH HASAN / DRINKNEWS

Will they not raise their voices?

Sundarbans apart from its unique ecological features is the pride of Bangladesh and one of the seven wonders of the Modern World. Over the last decades it has systematically been decimated by greedy exploiters aided by the corrupt Forest Dept (recent DS reports) spineless government.

The SEALS Programme by the EU has earmarked Tk. 20 crores for the development of the Sundarbans, to save its unparalleled flora and fauna. Private sector organisations working with the Forest Dept will implement the project over 3.5 years.

Four decades of experience of the institutional corruption and inefficient nature of the Forest Dept, tells me that will undoubtedly ring the death knell of the Sundarbans. They must be given no part or say in this project. Only dedicated, honest and courageous environmentalists and lovers of nature can save the Sundarbans from extinction. Will they not raise their voices?

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1
Dhaka

Development of tourism in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is known as the land of rivers. With tropical rain forests, beautiful tea gardens, world's largest mangrove forest, world's longest natural sea beach, rich cultural heritage, harmonious and colorful lives, it has become a land of beauty. Luxurious hotels, resorts, multi cuisine restaurants are representing the country's culture and heritage to the outside world. According to the BPC (Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation), the number of tourist arrivals in Bangladesh has increased from 113,242 in 1991 to 397,410 in 2007, which shows an average annual growth rate of 9 percent. Bangladesh has so many things to offer to the tourists and by developing infrastructural facilities, strong marketing policy and security, tourism authorities can contribute a lot to the country's economy.

Mohammed Shahidul Islam
Assistant Instructor (Food and Beverage Service)
UCEP-BMET Hotel Management and
Catering Training Institute, Sylhet

Views on caretaker government

It is highly appreciated that the enlightened people are coming up with suggestions to enrich the caretaker government (CTG) concept. I agree with most of the suggestions given by Abu Shahjalal Azad in your esteemed daily on 24th June 2011. I would like to share my viewpoints too.

Members of the Parliament (MPs) are usually political persons. Caretaker government is expected to be non-political. So MPs may go against the non-political concept of CTG.

Independent MPs who did not declare allegiance to any political party, or individuals who contested independently in the last election but did not become MPs and also did not declare allegiance to any political party may be included in the CTG. This needs to be supplemented by some persons who have a good track record of handling issues related to governance.

A CTG will be formed on completion of the term of the running government, so that the full 5 years term is completed and not curtailed by 100 days.

Md. Shafiqur Rahman, PhD
Medical Officer (OSD)
Directorate General of Health Services

Police uniform



WAHID ADNAN / DRINKNEWS

I was enjoying a cup of tea in Shahbagh when a middle aged man came soaked in sweat and dirt, tired and exhausted by the scorching summer sun, and sat beside me. He was wearing a uniform which was made of very heavy fabric. It was the uniform of our traffic police. He was telling me how hard it was to stand under the scorching sun all day long, especially wearing a uniform like this.

In a country like Bangladesh where the weather is so humid and the average temperature in summer is above 20 degrees Celsius it is illogical to follow the trend of Europe where

weather is entirely different from here. Many private security companies are using different types of uniforms but our police department seems to be very oblivious to the comfort and convenience of its members. If the authorities kindly take some steps to solve this problem, not only it will be a great help but also it will encourage the members to work with enthusiasm and energy.

Zubair Barkat
Student, Department of International
Relations
University of Dhaka

Hartal: A lose-lose situation!

There are three categories of a situation. These are: win-win, win-lose, and lose-lose. In the win-win situation, each side of the deal feels that it is not loser and this situation is the best for any deal. When one side feels winning and the other side feels losing, the deal never succeeds. The devastating situation is created in lose-lose situation because both are losers in this deal.

If we consider BNP and AL as the two sides of a political deal on the national issues of our country, as they form the government by turns, we will see that they are trying to create a win-lose situation. But eventually, it turns into a lose-lose situation. It happens because both of them try to win by making the general people victims. As for example, when they are in opposition, be it BNP or AL, they call for hartal and achieve nothing, but it is the people who suffer.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road
Gopibagh, Dhaka

BCS preliminary results

The result of the 31st BCS preliminary exam has been published recently. One lakh and sixty four thousand candidates appeared in the test but very surprisingly only ten thousand two hundred and twelve candidates have qualified for the written test. This is a negligible figure in the context of the number of examinees. BCS preliminary exam is the most important public exam in the country. The preliminary test is not the only test by which a candidate's quality or eligibility can be measured. So, PSC should allow more candidates in the preliminary test who can sit for the written test. This is our expectation from the authorities.

A reader
Dhaka

ConocoPhillips - an incompetent firm

The National Committee on Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports has protested the offshore gas deal between Bangladesh govt. and ConocoPhillips of the USA. It is time for us to be aware of the limitation of the company's exploring skill. According to Wikipedia, the company does not have a good skill in exploring oil and gas. In USA, it caused accidents four times and 118 times it broke the terms and conditions of exploring. During that period they also caused damages to a great extent. US govt. has also warned this company.

How the govt. has signed the contract with such an inefficient company? Are we waiting for another Magurchhora or Tengratila event to happen which will eventually cause a great loss to our national wealth?

Md. Arshad Ali
Department of Physics
University of Chittagong

War crimes and uncertain justice

This is reference to your op-ed titled 'War Crimes and Uncertain Justice' of June 28th. I was really fascinated by Mr. Syed Badrul Ahsan's closing sentence that 'You ponder all this. And you wait to know if some men in Sri Lanka will answer for their own crimes committed in the course of the war against the Tamil Tigers' and his frustration about why the Pakistani military officers were never tried in Pakistan for killing many Bengalis in the 70's. Well, that is exactly what the three member expert panel report and the recently released Channel 4 documentary are commenting about the Sri Lankan government appointed 'Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission' to serve justice to the victims of the war.

There are many unparalleled parallels between the then Bengali issue and the longstanding conflict with the minorities in Sri Lanka. As far as back in early 80's, after one of the major ethnic riots occurred in Sri Lanka, the International Commission of Jurists Review stated

"The impact of the communal violence on the Tamils was shattering. More than 100,000 people sought refuge in 27 temporary camps set up across the country. The evidence points clearly to the conclusion that the violence of the rioters from the majority population on the Tamils amounted to acts of genocide" Leo Kuper, in his book 'Prevention of Genocide (1985)', said in commenting on the failure of the UN Sub Commission on Human Rights to condemn the genocide attack (July 1983) on the Tamils, thus, "It is unfortunate that the United Nations did not take a firm stand at this stage".

According to the experts on war crimes issues, Sri Lankan war has more similarities to the 'Srebrenica moment' than the Bengali issue. Sri Lankan President at the end of the war said 'we are all Sri Lankans, there are no majorities or minorities in this country'. Mladic overran and occupied the UN safe areas and pledged to the civilians "don't be afraid", no one will harm you" before killing at least 8,000 civilians. The UN report on Sri Lanka and the Channel 4 documentary are also facing similar criticism from the Sri Lankan administration.

Mrs. Sandy Vadi
Alton Towers Circle
Toronto



Readers' instant comments on The Daily Star Online reports. Log on to thedailystar.net to leave your comments.

Unelected people must not come to power again

PM says opposition's 'fair' views on caretaker issue will be taken even after passage of constitution amendment bill (June 29, 2011)

Sanwar Moni
Caretaker or non caretaker is not the considering issue rather the issue is trust. This trust could come through free and impartial Election Commission. So the focus has to be on a free EC. If AL can establish an EC free from all influences then people would go with them.

Eddo Brandis
We cannot believe elected politicians as they are fascinated to power. BNP also said the same but AL did not agreed then. Now why AL is trying to wipe it out?

Abul Kashem
If this happens, then why the nation had to pay in past through hartals called by the PM and suffer irreparable losses. Who will compensate for them?

Both parties had a bad experi-

ence about the CTG. We expressed thanks to the previous caretaker government for showing the hidden faces. We need another CTG like Fakhruddin to disclose the face of some AL leaders.

Nasarullah
Despite all the good words, the country still feel to have the caretaker government for conducting next two terms elections to ensure justice, fairness and gradual movement with consensus of all major political parties which will create a salutary political environment.

Nasarullah
Our nation has bigger problem than the CTG system. Many progressive politicians are unfortunately compromising with dream of Bangabandhu and millions of martyrs. Winning next election is more important than peoples' rights

to them. Without open discussion secret deal may not be better for nation. We like PM's right actions, but not all. PM, please reconsider real issues.

Dr. Karim

People elect parliament members for five years but the opposition wants to go to power before five years. It is same for both AL and BNP. Stop this undemocratic practice. Behave like people's representatives.

EB

Everything is possible in politics. Once AL found that CTG is the most perfect system, now PM discovered that scrapping of CTG is the only way.

Abu Zubair

We also agree with the PM that unelected people must not come to power. We urge her to be more vigilant so that some elected people act responsibly.

Dr Islam

Present situation in Bangladesh do not allow us to hold the next general election under an interim government. It must be under CTG. If BNP disagreed with it, there will be no acceptability of any election in Bangladesh.

Anonymous

We want an elected caretaker government if unelected people can not run the country.

Anonymous

PM has made a valuable comment. Unelected people must not run the country. We appreciate your understanding. The provision for an elected caretaker government can be made. Parliament may provide it. They will be elected with the precise purpose of forming the caretaker government. We do not think that this will be difficult.

Anonymous bangalee

We got the caretaker government system after a long hardship. Now it has lost its credibility to AL! BNP opposed the system when AL fought for it. Now it has earned credibility to BNP! Again the political confrontation has started on the same issue. What a fun! Mass people are the victim of such confrontation.

SU Ahmed

We want to see a fair election under a caretaker or political government which will be above any question.

Abdullah al parvej

I guess the problem is in the statement of the Prime Minister that the government is in favour of keeping the present cabinet or a changed one as the interim government. These lawmakers were not elected to be appointed at anytime for the caretaker government. It will not be fair if the present cabinet is kept as the interim government.

Anonymous

How does an undemocratic party like AL or BNP come to

Reserved seats in public buses



PHOTO: STAR

There are nine seats reserved for women, children and physically challenged persons in each public bus. In counter-based buses more or less this rule is maintained, but the problem occurs in local buses by which mostly poor people commute. Often men ignore this rule by not letting women to sit in those seats, even though it is written above those seats in the bus.

Sometimes older women, women with little child, and physically challenged people have to stand in the crowded bus because the seats are already occupied by other women. I think older women and children should get priority to sit on the reserved seats. I have never seen any young woman leaving her seat for any physically challenged person or kid.

Samsul Huq Siddique
East West University
Dhaka

Pay scale of govt. banks

Private banks offer very attractive salary for recruiting brilliant persons. The employees offer good service to the clients because they get good salary. But unfortunately, pay structure of govt. banks is very poor, although they have been turned into Limited companies. For improving the performance of govt. banks, the Finance Minister promised them a separate pay scale about a year back. Although the minister is sincere in his intentions, he could not materialise the plan due to protests by Finance Ministry officials. But at least what he can do is to give them five or six increments in their existing pay scale to mitigate their sufferings.

Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury
DOHS Mohakhali