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Creating more city corporations



We think that the issue in question should be judged from a number of points of view such as:

1. Whether the types and volume of services the existing city corporation is currently required to deliver can be improved quantitatively as well as qualitatively, if more city corporations are set up.

2. Whether other utility services, namely, water supply, sewerage (domestic sewage and storm sewage), gas supply, electricity supply, telephone services, city development, traffic control, etc. will be adversely affected with the creation of more than one city corporation.

3. Whether public access to the city corporation will improve or not.

Let us analyse the issues chronologically:

1. The performance of the city corporations with regard to birth registration, tax collection, solid and medical waste collection and disposal, construction and maintenance of foot overbridges or surface drains, bazar creation and maintenance, street lighting, issuing licenses for rickshaws and other licenses/certificates is likely to improve.

2. Even if more than one city corporation is established, the vital utility services will remain unaltered, as these are provided by independent bodies such as WASA, Titas gas, Desco, Rajuk, BTCL and DMP.

3. There is no doubt that public access to the city corporations to get various services will improve if more city corporations are set up and rationally located.

Finally, it may not be inappropriate to mention that the city corporation (s) must set up modern waste disposal systems and slaughter houses as early as possible. If this can be expedited with more than one city Corporation, we shall welcome the proposal.

Abu Shahjalal Azad
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka

Two dictators!

As the world watches the unfolding of Arab Spring in the Middle East and West Africa, I cannot stop thinking what would happen if Bangladesh's youth occupy Shapla Chattor and demand the end of the misrule by the two parties. None of the two major political parties goes through leadership change; probably it is also true for the marginal parties.

It is apparent that both have become arrogant, as they rule Bangladesh by turns. They say and do stupid things because they know no one is there to challenge them. The people of Bangladesh are in despair like the peoples of Egypt or Tunisia or Libya.

We have a strange situation prevailing in our country. We have an illusion of democracy. We can only choose one of the two same leaders. The past four elections are testament to that and the future also looks the same. How long is it going to take the Bangladeshi people to realise that they have two dictators, not one?

We, the people of Bangladesh, simply need to rise and demand to be heard. We need real democracy. None should be able to buy nomination. Party stalwarts with good service records should be nominated. Will it happen any time soon? I can bet it will, as people have always known to do the right thing.

Quazi Tareque Ahmed P.Eng
Ottawa, Canada

Solution looking for a problem!

I have long thought that one would consider recruitment only if there aren't enough qualified personnel to discharge the duties in one's company. But recently, I've noticed that the government appoints first and then decides on what functions the new ministers may discharge. I think that the appointment was a priority, and their function secondary in consideration.

Adnan R. Amin

Manufacturing wars

President is authorised to use military force against those who perpetrated the 9/11 attack and those countries that harboured those individuals. Well, more than a decade later, there was an article in The Washington Post where the US officials were anonymously saying that al Qaeda, the group that perpetrated the 9/11 attack, according to the government, was now dead.

There's only two leaders left, they say, in that entire region. It already rendered them "effectively inoperable". There is no more al Qaeda left in Afghanistan or Pakistan according to the US government. The group that perpetrated 9/11, according to it, is no longer even existing. And yet, we are engaged in mobilizing the military in a big way, constantly escalating war situation in many parts of the world.

There are six different countries in which the US is actively using drones: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Yemen, against groups that didn't even exist at the time of 9/11. What we are doing is not only going way beyond what we were supposed to be doing when the Congress authorised military force, but what we are really doing is we are constantly manufacturing the causes of our war.

Ted Rudow III, MA
Encina Ave
Palo Alto, CA



Why support Pakistan team?

I went to watch the Bangladesh-Pakistan T-20 match at Mirpur stadium on 29th November. As usual, the spectators were inspiring the BD team from the gallery by waving flags, showing posters of Shakib and Tamim, displaying placards with inspiring words and cheering when the Pakistan wickets were falling down. But I noticed that a few Bangladeshi were supporting the Pakistan team! They were waving Pakistani flags, drawing Pakistani flags on their cheeks and cheering at their success.

After the match, when I was returning to the campus by bus, I found two such spectators in the bus who were Bangladeshi but wrapped their bodies with Pakistani flags, 'Afridi' was written on their chest. I protested their shameless behaviour and they told me that it was their 'personal matter.' Could it be a personal matter? I was very upset at the defeat of our team and also stunned at the shameless disregard of a few Bangladeshi towards our country. Is there any logic in supporting another team when our own team is playing against them?

Yasir Arafat Nadim

Dept. of Economics
Surjanes Hall, University of Dhaka

We need a change

The political scenario of our country is very pathetic. After 40 years of our so-called independence, we still have to worry about our education sector. When will our people become literate? Our fate or future is beholden to the two political families. The people are bound to cast their votes for the two parties. This situation must change.

Ashraful Islam, On e-mail

Congratulations to the NCC mayor

In 2007 I visited the office of Narayanganj Municipality regarding LGED-UGIP implementation. I saw in the face of Selina Hayat Ivy, glowing with strong commitment and determination. I hope, as the first city mayor, she would seize the opportunity in a better way in order to bring back the old glories of Narayanganj. The local citizens should not also miss the opportunity to extend their cooperation to get the best out of her.

M Mahbubur Rahman
On e-mail

Give logical vision to DCC split

The government has been insisting on how the DCC split is aimed at catering to the needs of rapidly expanding Dhaka city. The city corporations just have to scale up their operations and efficiency to handle the growing population everywhere in Bangladesh. Global experiences suggest that mushrooming of regulatory/administrative units lead to only higher corruption, not efficiency. The government really needs to communicate a logical strategic vision for the split. A 'North' Dhakaite



PHOTO: INTERNET

Tipaimukh issue

We have 57 international rivers of which 53 flow through India and Bangladesh. Countries having international rivers need to follow the international laws on sharing the river water.

The Indian government has signed a contract to build a dam on Tipaimukh of Barak river which imposes a serious threat to the eastern region of our country. As the Barak river enters our territory, it takes two names - Surma and Kushiyara. Later, these two rivers join Meghna, which then falls into the Bay of Bengal. Surma and Kushiyara are considered the heart of agricultural and economic activities of the people living in Sylhet division. Building the dam will reduce the flow of water in these rivers resulting in the death of several other rivers and haors connected with these rivers. Another thing is that this dam will increase the probability of earthquake. It will also destroy the environment, economy and culture of the people living in Manipur and Mizoram of India.

Recently, eminent Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar expressed his dissatisfaction over building of the dam on Tipaimukh without informing Bangladesh, though the Indian government assured in the past that they would not do anything that might let Bangladesh down. But it seems that they are going back on their promises.

It is a matter of hope that general people, several organisations and both the government and the opposition parties have protested this decision of the Indian government. We need to continue the protest until the Indian government repeals the contract of building the dam.

Seefat Kazol
University of Dhaka

Low birth weight and autism



A study conducted by the US researchers reveals that babies born weighing less than 1.8kg could be more prone to developing autism than children born with normal weight. It is a very bad news for us because the number of underweight children in Bangladesh is very high. I have learnt from a report published in this paper that Bangladesh's progress in reducing prevalence of underweight children has become static at about 40 percent since 2000. Doctors say that low birth weight brings many complications to the babies. We know that maternal malnutrition is the main cause of low birth weight of the baby and that malnutrition develops due to lack of diversified and animal protein-rich food intake.

However, I urge the government to take necessary steps, keeping harmony with the international organizations, who work for improving this situation, to ensure staple and nutritious foods at least for the expectant mothers.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka



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JS splits DCC in 4 minutes

Alliance MPs could not get chance to oppose the bill; appointment of 2 administrators by this week (November 30, 2011)

The government is ignoring the interest of common people through this unwise decision.

Md. Kawsar Pathan

Dividing Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is a right initiative to me. We just want a better Dhaka.

Ishtiaq Ahmad

It has been done so suddenly that many people could not understand what was really happening. This is surely unjust to the residents of Dhaka.

Anonymous

I don't understand. Will Bangladesh be divided into two parts, if any government fails to manage it? Is it the solution?

Dhaka cannot be managed by splitting it. Why not increase the efficiency of the human resource? Why not work to improve services, without butchering the historic city?

Faysal

Good attempt by the lawmakers not to waste time in splitting DCC. If our lawmakers and civil servants could work on pending files like this, the nation would be highly benefited.

Gopal Sengupta

This hurriedly-passed bill speaks volumes about the political motivation of present government. The government arrogantly ignores the public opinion on major issues like splitting of the DCC.

Anonymous

Why Awami league passed all the controversial bills hurriedly? To respect parliamentary democracy, the House, Speaker should have given MPs the chance to discuss the bill.

Nasirullah Mridha

Some people may want to term it a digital way of passing bills in parliament. Our question is what was the reason of the rush to stifle the voice of the opposition, when you have enough members to vote in favour of the bill?

Shah Mostain Billah

The government should have taken the opinion of the people of Dhaka before splitting the City Corporation. This initiative is now being bitterly criticised in all where.

Subash

It is time to evaluate the work of the two City Corporations on a regular basis including the election mandate of the elected Mayors and the councilors.

Turja

The promptness with which the DCC splitting bill has been passed surprised the nation. The people were not allowed to

Dr Islam

An effective law should be supported not only by parliament, but also by the people who will be affected by it. Splitting of Dhaka city was not mentioned in the election manifesto of Awami league. It is a major decision on the part of the government and must have been supported by the people of the city. In democracy, the government cannot force the people to accept any unreasonable decision. This was a sudden decision by the government for political reason.

Amdem

The country is not running well at all and so far Awami league has failed hopelessly in multiple sectors. Can we have two PMs or four PMs in the country?

Opee Monir

This four minutes' hefty action may indulge Awami League into years of tribulations. We hope