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## Nurturing a Frankenstein

No student wing of any political party in Bangladesh has ever got involved in internecine factional clashes with so much obduracy and tenacity as the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). It is widely alleged that BCL leaders are now engaged in rampant extortions in and around campuses. They are shamelessly involved in seat trading in student dormitories, unlawful admissions and recruitments in collusion with the administration! Their lust for money and power is the reason behind the creation of factions, groupings and counter-groupings. Their factional infightings have often resulted in loss of lives. In the latest such bloody infighting a student at the JU was mercilessly beat up and killed.

But it is extremely surprising that the ruling Awami League (AL)'s top leaders have always shown indulgence to all these nefarious activities of their student front. Perhaps, they never tried earnestly to mend BCL's internal feuds. Now it seems that BCL is completely out of AL's control. BCL leaders' arrogance and waywardness have already caused an irreparable damage to AL's image.

AL leaders must have realised by this time that they have been carelessly nurturing a Frankenstein which now poses a serious threat to their political existence!

**Md. Mohsin Ali**  
 Senior Assistant Secretary (Retd)  
 Nutan Courtpara  
 Kusthia

## Ashraf should explain

We are astonished by the remarks of Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Awami League general secretary and LGRD minister Syed Ashraf Islam concerning the torture of a Bangladeshi by Indian border guards. Pranab Mukherjee told the media in Kolkata not to blow it "out of proportion" and Ashraf Islam in Dhaka said his government is not "much worried" about such incidents along the Indo-Bangla border area.

We just could not believe our ears. How could a minister say such a thing? Is this how our government looks at these incidents? If not, then why Syed Ashraf Islam is not being asked to explain his statement from the highest authority in the government? He must clear its position on this issue, otherwise people will think that the government is least bothered about the killings and torture of Bangladeshis along the India-Bangladesh border.

**Correction**  
 I take the opportunity to correct the information I had mentioned in my previous letter titled "Atrocities carried out BSF" published in The Daily Star on January 25. I misquoted Odhikar provided death figure caused by BSF firings to be at 3. But the correct figure should be 31.

**Nur Jahan**  
 Chittagong

## No rules for motorcyclists



The traffic management system in Dhaka city must be one of the worst in the world right now. The people behind the wheels don't really want to follow traffic rules and the men wearing the uniforms don't really want to bring the wrongdoers to book when they can make easy money by letting them go. But the prize for breaking rules most outrageously should go to the motorcycle drivers. These bikers don't stop at red lights, don't care about the safety of themselves or others, and the speed limit is none of their concern. They park wherever they want and they ride on footpaths showing utter disrespect to traffic rules. I am not saying there aren't any good and law abiding drivers, but the general picture is really horrible.

Strong traffic laws and their proper implementation are necessary for the betterment of traffic situation in Dhaka city.

**Shahriar Kabir**  
 Dept. of EEE  
 BUET, Dhaka

## Will India apologise to Bangladesh?

It took many years for the Australian government to apologise "for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' children from their families, their communities and their country." We do not know when the Indian government will stop killing poor Bangladeshis, let alone apologise to us for its continuous disregard to our right to life. It seems that the Western powers will continue to turn a blind eye to India's injustice to Bangladeshis, as the country is their strategic partner in world politics.

We the Bangladeshis know very well that all the Western precepts of human rights are intended to promote their political interests and not to stop the pain and misery of people like us. As a result, we the poor of the world continue to suffer. What is most surprising is the silence of Bangladesh government and its intelligentsia about Indian atrocities to their fellow people.

**Shimul Chaudhury**

## AL's submissiveness to India

This is certainly a good sign that an Indian newspaper has criticised its government for its wrongdoing. We are also grateful to the TV channel which aired the incident and brought BSF's inhumane activities to our notice. They really deserve appreciation for their protest against violation of human rights. Their friendly attitude also proves that Indian civilians' attitude towards us is not the same as that of BSF or the Indian government.

I feel ashamed when I see that our government doesn't have the guts to even condemn the incident of a Bangladeshi being tortured naked. The AL government has clearly proved itself as pro-Indian which is a common notion of the people. If our foreign minister has minimum self-respect, she should resign immediately.

**Harun Md. Shahed Bin Naim**  
 Executive MBA student  
 Eastern University  
 Dhaka

## Make the meritorious ones join teaching

Like other sectors, education is controlled by mediocre people. We have employed those people in the universities, colleges and schools who gave highest amount of donation or are affiliated with the ruling party. This system has systematically excluded the good ones from the educational institutions. Most of the teachers in primary and secondary levels follow certain cheap notebooks and do not give marks to the student whose answers do not match with the answers given in those notebooks. Cramming answers from the notebooks have been causing to erode the creativity of the students. Small wonder now we find a few students who can write an essay on their own.

The government has tried many a time to remove notebooks from the market but in vain, thanks to the syndicate of shady publishers. Our enemy back in 1971 killed our leading intellectuals with a view to break our backbone. Still we are not able to put education on a solid foundation due to pervasive corruption in this sector. We must devise a plan to rid the education sector of mediocrity and criminality and give incentive to the meritorious people to join teaching profession, ensure them status and higher pay. There is no alternative to this if we want to cope with the challenge of the 21st century.

**Abdus Subhan, On e-mail**



## We want punishment of the BSF men

Every year hundreds of thousands of illegal asylum seekers, potential migrants and refugees enter Australia, Italy and many EU countries. But no one has ever been killed by the coast guards. Recently, the Australian opposition leader has called on their naval forces to turn about the boat that comes with illegal asylum seekers from Indonesia. But Australian naval forces denied his proposal saying that safety of human beings comes first. What great country Australia is!

But according to HRW, in last ten years more than 700 Bangladeshis were killed by Indian border guards. How uncivilised and brutal of a country in this modern civilised world! It shows no respect for human rights and international laws.

As an aggrieved citizen of Bangladesh, I request the government of Bangladesh to condemn BSF's atrocities on our citizens and demand punishment to those involved.

**Matiur Rahman**  
 Perth, Western Australia  
 Australia

## Use green transports to ease traffic jams

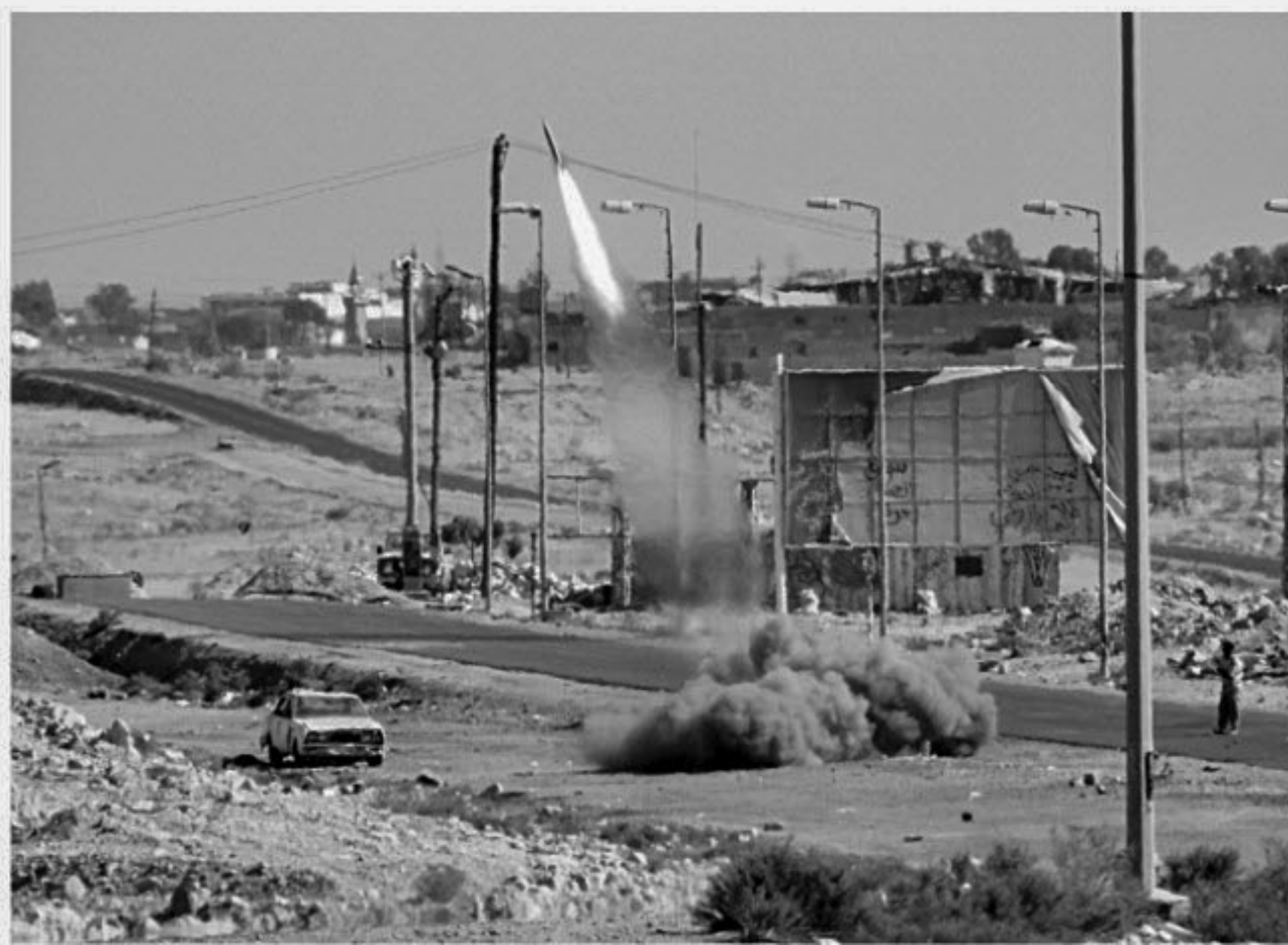
Why is the new minister so concerned about traffic jams, just like his predecessors, when the solution is simple and staring him in the face? All that is required is strict implementation of existing traffic laws. This is my 90th letter on the subject in the last four years containing the full blue print. Unfortunately, neither the government nor the authorities have the will to implement their own laws which are normal in most metropolitan cities.

The new battery powered and now the solar powered rickshaws (DS, B3, 26 January) offer an attractive alternative to the problems of mass urban transportation for the middle classes. They are 'green', quiet, cheap, comfortable and non air or noise polluters.

Mass produced they can replace the polluting Gas Guzzling Monstrosities (GGMs) and the arrogant CNGs and in time even the pedal rickshaws. The only ones who are likely to 'suffer' are the owners of GGMs with big egos.

**Sikander Ahmed**  
 Niketon, Gulshan-1  
 Dhaka

## Is Libya sliding down into a bottomless pit?



## READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Govt slaps ban, BNP shifts date"

### M. Shafiqul Alam

Politics, once again, has taken an ugly shape with feuding political parties engaging in fierce clash and police taking one side. The Awami League is out to gain absolute power where they do not like any role of the opposition whatsoever. BNP on the other hand is out to regain the state power that it lost miserably in the last election. Power is a favourite treat that ensures status, comfort and control over the vast resources that belong to the people. This power game of the arch rivals is likely to intensify further which may lead to anarchy and disorder creating hardship for the common people.

### Aftab

The Awami League declared that it would hold a rally to encounter BNP. This indicates that AL's leadership is getting desperate. It is a pity because as a ruling party it should show more maturity and tolerance.

### Anonymous

For the sake of public convenience and free movement of traffic, all political gatherings in the metropolitan cities should be banned once and for all.

### AA Nuton

BNP's "do or die" approach against the current Awami League government is only to put an umbrella over the war criminals. Certainly, their "do or die" approach will obstruct foreign investments!

BNP should work with the government for the betterment of the country and wait for the next election. As a citizen, I don't want any chaos in the country while she is working to develop it in every way..

### Jumana Sarwar

BNP has made a wise move by shifting its date of holding programme. However, Awami League leadership should understand that in an era of information they won't be able to fool the entire nation and hide the real intent of their obnoxious and confrontational politics.

### Minhaj Ahmed

None of the political parties give priority to the people's demands. Don't these so-called politicians know that these mass processions will only create further violence and traffic jams?

### Ahmed

The BNP took the right decision by postponing the programme date to avoid clashes.

### Anonymous

The AL should be more democratic in letting the opposition practice their democratic rights like holding rallies and pro-

After a fresh protest against the new government, the deputy head of Libya's ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) resigned recently. We know NTC has been formed with the influential leaders who led the movement against Gaddafi's 42-year rule. Recently many people took to the streets demanding the government's resignation. They even smashed windows and forced their way into the NTC's headquarters, especially in Benghazi. It is learnt from the media report that in Benghazi the protesters are expressing their anger so vehemently that anything like it could be seen since Muammar Gaddafi was ousted.

Meanwhile, NTC Chief Mustafa Abdel Jalil has appealed to the protesters to be more patient and said, "We are going through a political movement that can take the country to a bottomless pit."

But the fact is that the present Libyan government has not got enough time to stabilize the situation due to the turbulences of the revolution. The people's expectation from the government is very high after ousting the dictator. However, it is an irony that what is now being said by the NTC chief in response to the present protest against his government sounds like what Gaddafi once said: There is something behind this protest that is not good for the country.

**Mobarak Ali**  
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