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Volatile political environment



This response was to an article in the pages of a local English daily on March 18th, on the subject. Our two major political parties are usually very adept in organising and carrying out disruptive activities. Doing things constructively is unfortunately beyond their ken.

One major political party was founded illegitimately at the whims of a self-made, self-crowned head of state; doing what he liked in the name of illegal constitution tampering, based on illegal elections; as a quasi civilian form of "Martial Law".

Regarding corruption, both the parties compete with each other when their turn to rule comes! While one progeny of the "first family" was prosecuted and found guilty in USA by FBI's prosecution on mega-corruption, they are, still today, absconding from the soil of Bangladesh!

The other party, not to be left behind, is keen on harnessing mega-bucks, whenever an opportunity presents! It is now under suspicion of the World Bank; yet still daring them to prove it! Meanwhile, many loans and grants from international agencies are now on hold!

This sums up the 'great' activities of our two 'great' parties! One is of a home grown family Royalist type, and the other a Loyalist group, where the 'leader' is all in all! When will this volatile environment evaporate?

Only then we will be free from our 'smog enriched' brand of black political air! A fooled voter!

Dhaka

Is it patriotism?

During the Bangladesh-India Asia Cup match, suddenly we experienced load shedding. As Bangladesh team was playing well and had a chance of winning, I listened to Bangladesh Betar to get the live commentary of the match. However, some patriotic songs were played at the same time with the commentary. It created a very chaotic situation. My point is, does Bangladesh Betar have to show so much patriotism denying its listeners the chance to hear the live commentary of a crucial cricket match? Isn't watching our country play and supporting them from the core of the heart patriotism as well?

Tauhidul Islam
The Aga Khan School
Dhaka

Free the footpath in front of Eden College

The footpath in front of Eden Mohila College is one of the busiest footpaths in the area. The footpath is used by all types of people. But now some hawkers have taken possession of the footpath creating trouble for the passers-by. They have already set up at least fifty small shops of cosmetics and clothes. At first there was only one shop but the number increased with the passage of time. Female students of nearby educational institutions and housewives from Azimpur colony gather there for shopping, as things are sold at a cheaper price here. It is very worrying to see that finding no other way the pedestrians walk on the main road (Mirpur road). If any accident happens, who will take the responsibility? All the shops from this footpath should be evicted and it should be made free for pedestrians' use only.

Abir Hossein

Permit import of one-day chick to protect consumers

Believe it or not, in the retail market of Dhaka, one egg is selling for Tk.10. It is unprecedented in the country. Only less than a dozen one-day chick breeders are mainly responsible for such sky-high price. The poultry farm owners, poultry feed producers and the government decision makers are partially responsible for this. The prices of poultry birds have become double. As the eggs and the poultry birds were relatively less costly, general people used to go for these options for meeting their protein need which are out of their reach now.

It is unbelievable that an elected government has been showing apathy to people's sufferings by not taking any steps. The one-day chick producers are spreading propaganda that free import of one-day chicks and eggs would spread bird flue and destroy the poultry farms in the country. It is indeed their strategy to monopolize one-day chick business and sell a one-day chick at even Tk. 60, which should not be more than Tk. 20.

To save the consumers, the government should resume import of one-day chicks and eggs.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
Central Bashabo, Dhaka



Wake up to reality

A person's real worth depends on his health, education and morality. Similarly, a country's image depends on how strong its education, health and moral standards are. That day I took my mother to our local public hospital. Doctors at the emergency prescribed medicine among which only saline was given free from the hospital. What is most troubling was that my emaciated old mother had to be taken to a distant diagnostic centre for the several necessary or unnecessary tests that the doctors usually give these days with a view to earning extra money.

Similarly, teachers also earn extra money by teaching students privately and writing guide books which are blamed for the lower standard of our education. We have seen how our position and opposition parties dissipate national wealth holding mammoth meetings and feeding false propaganda. A section of people boasts of abusing power in their favour and hold the general people in low esteem. We have seen how effective the government is keeping the opposition down by innovative means recently. We hope they can use this power for the betterment of this ill-fated county by promoting education, health and morality. What is needed is not sleeping and waking up to this reality that our seats of education are closing down for violence while lack of treatment and service in public hospitals and institutions are sucking the general people dry of their dignity and wealth.

Tigers have won our heart

Though our team has failed to win the match, yet I salute them for what they have achieved in this tournament. It seems the Tigers have united and played their role properly. At least, I can say now that Bangladesh is not a team of 'one man army,' they are now a team of commandos! How Tamim Iqbal played was really exceptional. He has managed to score four 50s consecutively. Shakib Al Hasan is the 'heart' of Bangladesh cricket team. Undoubtedly, he has won our heart once again by his extraordinary performance throughout the tournament.

The way the Tigers played in this tournament was way beyond our imagination. They have beaten the current world champion and the runner up and showed consistent performance in every match. I think we should be positive and inspire our team for better performance in the future.

Tigers, you may have lost the Asia Cup, but you have won our heart.

Safran Fazle Rahman
A-level student
Uttara, Dhaka



Reach a settlement over CTG issue

We have had enough unrest over the issue of the caretaker government; we do not want to suffer anymore; the government and the opposition political parties must come to an understanding as soon as possible. We think it is the duty of the government to see that the issue is settled in a way which is acceptable to the opposition because the CTG was formed to fulfil the demand of the Awami League and was subsequently dissolved by them without any consultation with the opposition.

We do not want to hear any more rhetoric over this issue, we want to see concrete results. If the issue is settled, much tension will be eased and people will heave a sigh of relief.

Enough time has been lost. The government must not dilly-dally anymore and should come to an understanding about the CTG which would be acceptable to all because people will reject the general election if it is held without a neutral government.

Nur Jahan
Chittagong

Students' responsibility

Parents send their children to universities for higher education hoping that one day they would be able to lead the country. Most parents go through many difficulties to send money to their university-going children. Regrettably, a good number of the students seem to become oblivious of their parents' hopes and expectations the moment they walk into the campus. They get involved in various destructive and virulent activities, even over trivial matters. Clashes among students infuse tension not only in the parents but the nation as well.

Students of public or private universities should try their best to make their parents as well as the nation tension-free by keeping away from any clash or harmful activities.

M Faysal Saleh
Department of Law

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Yunus among 12 greatest entrepreneurs"

Zafar Benzadid

Dr Muhammad Yunus is a man of letters. He is supported very enthusiastically by the poor people for his great innovation on poverty alleviation. He brought great honour to our country by winning the Nobel Prize. We salute him.

Suahmed

It is a lesson for those who don't know how to show respect to a person of dignity recognised by the whole world.

Fida Likhon

We all Bangladeshis are proud of him. He is a man of international repute.

Md.Shahidul Islam

He is an asset for Bangladesh. We should honour Dr Yunus.

Rch

I hope he does not get into problem for this.

Anonymous

The government's treatment of Dr. Yunus is the cause of the nation's economic decline because no foreign aid is coming to the country now.

Makhan

Now, will the PM reverse her decision to again appoint this man of extraordinary calibre as the CEO of Grameen Bank? We should learn how to respect the visionary of our time who happens to be a Bangalee. Our country will be greatly benefited if our PM takes his valuable and far-sighted advice, if she is sincere enough about the welfare of the common people. We are afraid that this time he may be harassed again and have to leave the country for such extraordinary recognition.

Ferdous Jalil

Dr Yunus is a legend. He has shown how market friction can be put aside to help the poor. The amount of jealousy that we have seen over the last two years was not because he wanted to be a politician but because for the first time a Bangladeshi became more popular (in every possible way) than anyone else.

A Bangalee

Are the government personnel listening? Now do they see what damage has been done to the country?

Faqrul, USA

I know him personally, love him and respect him like many in Bangladesh.

Shahadat's poor performance

After two consecutive victories over India and Sri Lanka, I had firm belief that Bangladesh would do well in the final also. They played well undoubtedly, but came short by just 2 runs, disappointing millions. I feel that the person mainly responsible for this loss was Shahadat who gave 19 runs in the last over. He always puts pressure on other bowlers to check the runs. He had taken a hat-trick in One Day International cricket previously, but his current form suggests that he has lost his control over his bowling. Our selectors are so generous to Shahadat but when it comes to Nazmul, they are not considerate, although he plays much better than Shahadat. I hope our selectors would be judicious in selecting the players in the future.

Tashfia Islam



Rehabilitation plan for beggars

We are happy to know that work is underway to rehabilitate 10,000 beggars of Dhaka. Primarily 2,000 beggars would be rehabilitated at their own hometowns, as Social Welfare Minister Enamul Hoque Mostofa Shaheed told parliament recently. It is really encouraging that Beggar Rehabilitation Cell of this ministry is planning to provide mobile shops, rickshaws, rickshaw-trolleys, sewing machines and money to start small business to the beggars capable of working. In addition, the Cell will arrange motivational orientation classes for the beggars to infuse into them the inspiration to be self-dependent.

We have learnt that four categories of beggars are begging in the streets of Dhaka City. They are: autistic, women and children, seasonal and

professional. Of course the officials concerned will have to take different measures for different categories to make the initiative effective. It should also be noted that a single campaign is not enough to eradicate professional begging from the street for a long time; it should be in action as a continuous process.

However, it is undeniable that the government usually takes many good plans but many of them remain unimplemented or unfinished for a long period. Sometimes corruption makes a good initiative pointless and deprives poor people of the justified aid. We hope the rehabilitation plan for beggars will be implemented properly and timely with utmost sincerity.

Mobarak Ali
RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, Dhaka