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Separate ticket counter for foreign tourists



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I am a man of German origin and I am here for a while in an official tour. During my short stay in Bangladesh, I could observe the potential of this country as a destination of international tourists. There are a number of scenic places that surely attract the nature lovers. Moreover, the long sea beach of Cox's Bazar and the largest mangrove forest of the World Sundarbans are two exclusive places of Bangladesh. I believe the international travellers can hardly check their temptation of visiting Bangladesh once they come to know about these two places. Bangladesh has many things to draw the attention of the international tourists.

However, I strongly feel that the country should create a more congenial and safer environment for the international tourists. It has the obvious problem in physical infrastructure particularly, roads and highways. Given the poorer road network, railway seems to be a safer as well as more comfy means of travel in Bangladesh. However, to avail this facility I find the toughest job is to get the ticket. Always there is a long queue in front of the counter. For a foreigner it is almost impossible to manage a ticket in the normal procedure. Given the situation, I feel that the government may think of a separate and dedicated ticket counter for foreigners. This type of arrangement is a common practice in India. I hope this initiative, if taken, will lessen the hassles of the foreign tourists and will play a positive role in attracting international tourists to the country.

Jonas Ulrich
Dhaka

Hillary's remark, our mindset

Reading some of the comments on Hillary Clinton's visit, tells me that the vital issue for some is not "Was she right or was she wrong?" but which country she came from, what job she did and how could she assume she could say what she did?

This mindset makes me think of the 19th century educationalist who said it was important for the poor to learn to read, as they had to know what instructions they should follow, but less important for them to write as who was interested in their opinions? Exactly! "My pre-judgments first. Truth second!"

No nation can develop properly without enough key people who put Truth first, however painful. When the focus is only on the passing personal issues that 'wind us up' - and make a good story - rather than long-term and moral principles, then the Devil himself will ensure progress goes nowhere except round in circles...

Those of us who have grown old trying to live as people of truth, know how often it comes to us via people we don't like! Thus God/Life teaches us humility. The truth will set us free but first it will make us miserable.

Angela Robinson
Gulshan, Dhaka

Why are schoolchildren forced to suffer?

I very often read in the newspapers and watch in the television news that schoolchildren all over Bangladesh are kept standing on roads under scorching sun for hours together to greet the ministers, state ministers, deputy commissioners and even thana nirbahi officers. This is not acceptable because Bangladesh is not a kingdom but a democratic country. These high officials, for whom the poor children are forced to suffer, are public servants employed for the benefit of the citizens of Bangladesh and don't require any honour to be shown by torturing our young citizens.

So I would request the relevant authorities to identify the people responsible for making the children suffer in this way, punish them and stop this kind of medieval brutality permanently.

Kazi Mizanur Rahman
Gulshan-2, Dhaka

Stalking and our morality



Stalking is going on in the country unabated. As days pass by, the severity of stalking continues to increase in urban as well as rural areas. According to Ain O Salish Kendro, a human rights organisation, 62% of the school girls become victims of eve teasing!

I think the main reason behind eve teasing is the degradation of morality among the young generation. Our culture is losing its good characteristics.

Our education system has no moral anchor. So, these shameful incidents occur in schools, colleges, universities, restaurants, you name it, they are there. It makes us wonder whether education contributes to controlling such problem.

We need tougher legislation which should be properly implemented to stop this menace. The government must take appropriate measures to stop violence against women and the offenders must be brought under the purview of the law to ensure that justice is served.

Md. Yeasir Arafat Nadim
Department of Economics
University of Dhaka

Free us from hartals

A staff reporter's news item was front-paged in a local English daily on May 4. It was about FBCCI's efforts to free us from hartals -- a totally wasteful, lawless and violent event that only hurts, injures and even kills innocent citizens.

At present, violent hartal seems to be the only subjective way that the party in opposition acts. Hence public examinations are stopped; shops are shuttered in fear of looting; and public transports ply at the risk of being burnt. Meanwhile, the hartal party calls it a grand success, with everything stopped in their support!

Why does not BNP have a civilized way to protest which will win them public admiration and support? Probably they are not interested in this as their activists get profitable return on investment by looting and destroying public property! Why not have non-stop public fasts in Dhaka and all other towns and cities of Bangladesh, instead of the violent measures adopted?

Hartal is nothing but burning, looting and wild violence. Under no stretch of imagination, this violence can be called a democratic right, where people are forced to stay away from work. Shops, offices and educational institutions are closed never in support but in fear of violence, looting and burning.

Fed-up Urbanite

Dhaka

Sad indeed!

It is sad and we did not expect it. We would watch on TV in the past that police harassed Bangabir Kader Siddiqui only because he went to the BNP office. Then he was seen lying on the street protesting the police atrocity. Now we have watched Mirza Fakhrul along with many other leaders of BNP being taken to the court. Mirza Fakhrul is a gentleman and sensible person. It is a bad practice in our politics that the government party harasses the opposition by sending its prominent leaders to jail. Both AL and BNP resort to this practice when in power. Sad indeed.

Sad pilgrim

On e-mail

Harassment of NRB share investors



PHOTO: AFP

Is there no limit to the creative genius of our bureaucracy to invent new methods to harass the public? Here I highlight the woes of NRBs investing in the stock market. SEC and DSE have already been informed many times but without any response.

1) If an IPO application is allotted, everything is fine. If not, then the refund process takes at least 4-6 months. If the refund warrant is sent by courier, they never deliver it. After waiting and waiting, you go to the office and if lucky, get the refund warrant. It takes another 2-3 months for the warrant to be cashed! Why cannot the refund FC amount be credited straight to the NRB, FC account of the applicant just as RB refunds are?

2) Recently, dividends warrants of shares against NRB applications are sent in taka with the FC bank account (Prime First Mutual Fund from ICB AMCL), so it cannot be cashed. When pointed out, they require all sorts of documents from the NRB, totally sidestepping the authority given to Nominees. After a lot of correspondence, they have now asked the brokerage house to confirm. God knows what? Mentionable that it is my signature as Nominee against which the shares were allotted in the first place, but now my status as Nominee is in doubt!! Result--- the dividend is lost somewhere.

I am an 80 year old Nominee of my NRB children running their accounts for over 5 years. Is it possible for me to run from pillar to post for illogical bureaucratic tangles?

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1
Dhaka

Act rationally

People have become very disappointed by the action of the government. It has failed miserably to make people happy in more than three years of its tenure. People's life has become miserable due to so many problems.

In addition to these, the government's dealing with the opposition is bizarre. The government has filed cases against many senior leaders of the opposition including Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi and LDP President Oli Ahmed.

Can one imagine them torching buses or throwing cocktails? But such charges have been brought against them?

We are baffled by the explosions in the secretariat compound, how could anyone throw cocktails in such a well protected area? It seems mysterious.

It has been reported that not only a large number of activists, but also 78 leaders of the opposition have been arrested.

It is a wrong move by the government. The government is trying to divert people's attention by taking ruthless action against the opposition leaders and activists in the name of keeping law and order under control. But people are no fools, they can see through it. So, the government must come to its senses and act rationally.

And, as for the opposition, they should shun the practice of hartal as people do not like it. Hartal inflicts great suffering on the people and causes huge loss to the economy.

Nur Jahan

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Hasina trusted by 77 percent"

Rezaul Karim

The survey result is simply unbelievable. It will neither help Hasina nor her party. What's the underlying motive behind publishing this old report of 2011?

Salauddin, UK

Most of the people in Bangladesh love Sheikh Hasina because of her patriotism.

A Bangalee

There is something wrong with this poll. It is like buying the honorary degrees with public money.

Amdem, USA

As the poll result seems to be unbelievable, I would like to urge The Daily Star to write an editorial or a news analysis on this.

Saleh Tanveer

This kind of poll is unreliable in countries with no tradition of independent polling. I think people who voted here assumed that they would get into trouble if they expressed their opinion against the government in power.

Hasan

Well, the survey based on the response of 1000 people a year ago is "irrelevant." A lot has been changed since 2011. I wish there was a popularity meter which could instantly give results in seconds or milliseconds.

Kazi Salim

The PM and her party should not be complacent with this survey report. More emphasis should be given on improving the overall law and order situation of the country.

Sazzad H Siddiqui

I am, in fact, perplexed whether the sampling is representative because amid price hike, forced disappearances, political vengeance etc. the result is really surprising to all.

Jishan Rahman

No doubt, they have done this survey among the AL workers.

Hussain

At this moment, the law and order situation in the country is much worse. May be the result was believable two years ago.

Hasan Tareque

I have a few questions about the survey and its result. 77 percent is a very high rate of approval. Considering the prevailing situation of law and order, economy, standard of living, widespread corruption, high prices of commodities, electricity-gas-water crisis, I cannot find any good reason that justifies this result.

It would have been great if we as citizens of Bangladesh could know what was the basis of this survey. With the exception of a few, almost all the heads of the governments in the world generally lose their popularity with their time in office. If now almost at the end period of this government and with many failures the prime minister has an approval rating of 77%, what was her approval rating in 2009 according to Gallup? No doubt the prime minister still has strong support among the people of Bangladesh. It would have been realistic if the number were around high forties or almost fifty percent. But 77%! This is too high a number for me and I believe many of my fellow citizens will also hold an identical view, considering the ground realities of

What is our actual territorial limit in the Bay of Bengal?

I have been following the media reports on the territorial limit of the Bay of Bengal awarded in favour of Bangladesh through a verdict by the ITLOS. This is indeed a significant gain for Bangladesh to reap the enormous benefits from the bay.

But unfortunately, the actual territorial limit awarded measuring 110,000 sq. miles has been misquoted in many media reports and seminar deliberations as 110,000 sq. kms during the last few weeks. This is a grossly mistaken report as one should know that there is great difference between a mile and a km (kilometre).

In order to make it right, we should quote the actual territorial limit of the Bay of Bengal for Bangladesh as 110,000 sq. miles.

Dr. K. M. Elahi

Dhaka