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# Padma bridge with own money: A risky proposition



The cancellation of World Bank loan for Padma Bridge has upset as well as put us to shame. Now the prime minister's declaration that the bridge will be built with our own fund has increased our anxiety.

To us the decision seems unwise. The government did not listen to the World Bank's advice and took a path which will be disastrous for the country. To finance the Padma Bridge Project, the government will have to halt all the development works which are in dire need of funds. The reasons for which people are passing their days in great misery should be addressed first. But to satisfy its ego, the government is going to build the bridge, not caring about the existing problems and

people's woes.

A senior Awami League leader directed the Chhatra League activists to collect money for building the Padma Bridge. We are appalled and feeling frightened by the prospect of ruling party men's collecting money from people. Extortion will go on in a massive scale in the name of fundraising.

The situation would not have come to this, if the government had listened to the World Bank's warning and taken steps against a few people against whom allegations were made. The government's adamant attitude is responsible for the current situation.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

## Public's suffering at Wari Post Office

The old Wari Post Office building at Rankin Street was demolished. And in its place a new multi-storeyed building has been constructed.

The new post office premises are spacious but unfortunately, most of the time the public face various difficulties and their valuable time is wasted due to shortage of essential staff in the post office. Further, the Franking stamp machine is found out of order very often.

Would the Post Master General kindly look into the matter and address the said problems in the interest of public service?

**O.H. Kabir**  
Hare Street  
Wari, Dhaka

## European potatoes in local potato chips

I purchased a pack of locally made potato chips; and read "made from European potatoes".

Why we have to import potatoes -- and that too from far away Europe?

In the 1990s, I purchased potato @Tk 5 per kg in Dhaka. Are we short of potato production?

Similarly, we find in the market imported RMG from China and Thailand -- while Bangladesh is the second largest producer of ready-made garments. The question is: should we import politicians to run our country?

**Alif Zabr**  
Dhaka

# Missing points in MRP

Machine readable passports have been introduced in our country a few years back. It is modern and prevents forgery. But it lacks some vital information of the holders. It is true that with one click the immigration counter officer can get all the information. But there are more utilities of passports. At least the holder's profession, permanent and present address should be mentioned in the passport.

For example, in getting a SIM card one needs to provide one's address and the SIM card seller does not have time to click on internet to find one's address. In hospitals and hotels, one has to provide information about one's profession and address. In India and other countries they ask whether one carries the old passport where these information are noted. In view of such situations, the authorities issuing passports should include these pieces of information in the new passports for instant use by any service providers.

**DR. Q. M. Ohidul Alam**  
MBBS, Ph.D.  
Panchlaish R/A  
Chittagong



## Unpardonable offence

A staff correspondent's back page report, published in a local English daily on July 9th was about the ruckus and violence of doctors at BSMMU.

Surprisingly, it happened within the critical aseptic area of the Operation Theatre! It is a very sad and sorry example of utter irresponsibility shown by the doctors concerned. Have they given up their 'Hippocratic oath' as doctors; or are they not even aware of its seriousness?

Apart from the inquiry by the BSMMU authorities, the professional association of doctors in Bangladesh should thoroughly investigate the matter, and take the guilty party to task. Whoever was responsible for this shameful incident should have their professional registration and license to practice immediately cancelled after thorough investigation, and they should be debarred from practicing this noble profession! One wonders if there was a patient at the OT awaiting surgery, as nothing was stated about it in the report published.

**Elderly Patient**  
Dhaka

## Concentrate on problems at home

I don't know how the WB concluded that its money was stolen when they have not allotted any money yet! It's really strange. So, how can the GOB take action against any person unless allegations have been proved in the court? It is common practice that various multinational/national companies will manoeuvre to secure deals and for this they do have a large budget. In the USA it is institutionalized by a system of lobbyists whose sole job is to interact with various members of the government to secure deals.

Bangladesh government has nothing to be embarrassed with the behaviour of the WB. Rather many believe that the WB does not have the money to finance this project and they were looking for an exit strategy.

However, we must remember that we have to remain within our shoes for obvious reasons. Bangladesh being a poor country does not need exposure at global level through branding itself as the leader of the LDCs, lobbying for a representative in the UN Security Council, taking the lead in UN/global climate change issues, trying to play a leading role in UN peace keeping, making diplomatic efforts to solve the Middle-East problem, trying to lead the OIC etc. Besides, BD economy does not support its ambitious diplomatic roles at the global level. Therefore, I would urge the GOB to scale down its diplomatic activities and look inward to the fundamental issues at home.

**Islam**  
Dhaka

## World class service from RwandaAir

Every year, we spend time with our children's families in Kenya and Dubai. Previously, we travelled from Dhaka to Mombasa via Dubai and Nairobi. This year we availed a new direct service by RwandaAir from Dubai to Mombasa. This new service originating in the middle of "Darkest Africa" is little known. We were warned that going from Terminal 3 to 1 in Dubai is a maze and God help our luggage!

Landing in Dubai after midnight, we availed the buggies plying for the convenience of transit passengers. At the RwandaAir counter, we got our boarding cards and were assured about our luggage. The plane took off at 6.45 AM. I was astonished at the spotless interior of the plane and the cabin crew, all locals. Throughout the 6 hour flight, they exuded an air of efficiency and professionalism, expected only on major airlines. About their hospitality - the breakfast was out of this world, and titbits were liberally thrust upon us every minute with profuse apologies for the slight delay. At Mombasa, our luggage turned up intact.

Rwanda is a small country amongst giant neighbours and came to the limelight about 15 years ago for their terrible genocide. A genocide, which in terms of casualties per capita, far exceeded that, which we in Bangladesh are supposed to have suffered. Yet in just a scant decade, Rwanda has recovered and its new airline runs an ever-expanding network of regional flights. If my bitter experience on my last Biman flights is a pointer, the 40 year old can learn a lot about service and efficiency from this infant airline.

**Sikander Ahmed**  
Umme Kulsum Road, Mombasa, Kenya

## Engage armed forces in repair works

Most of the roads (almost 90%) in Dhaka were dug up for WASA's Sewerage pipe laying. After laying the pipes the roads are left in almost unusable condition. Entire Dhaka city roads need urgent repair and proper carpeting.

If the job is given to R&H department, almost 30% to 40% money will be lost due to corruption and the repair work will be an eyewash, which will last not even a single monsoon. Moreover, they will spend endless time to get the job done --- we can say this from our past experience.

If the government hands over the repair and carpeting works of all city roads to our Armed Forces, the result will be the following:

1. The job will be done as per the time frame.
2. The work will be done properly as per specification.
3. It will be corruption free.

Lastly, the armed forces will make a handsome profit as per prescribed rate. Thus the profit can be utilised by the armed forces in their own welfare and development projects.

**Aminur Rahman**  
Jahangir Tower, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka

# Doctors need to listen to patients

There are only a few doctors who patiently listen to patient's complaints of pains and sufferings before writing the prescription. Recently I had to visit a number of doctors because my younger sister has been suffering from PLID/HTN. During the course of my visits and consultations, I found one wonderful physician who very patiently listened to the patient and critically reviewed the patient's history and prescribed the medicine rationally. Perhaps it would be appropriate to mention his name here because other patients may take his advice. His name is Dr. Azizul Hasan, Coordinator & Senior Consultant - Internal Medicine, Apollo Hospital Dhaka. He is a physician of high level of professionalism.

I would sincerely call upon the esteemed medical professionals to please treat your patients with patience and care. A physician's assuring words can bring back life even to a dying patient.

**Professor M Zahidul Haque**  
Dean  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University  
Dhaka



**ONLINE VOICES**

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## Buet plunges into crisis

Deans of all faculties, heads of depts, institutes resign en masse protesting 'irregularities'; Syndicate for judicial probe (July 12, 2012)

It's really shameful for us when almost all the teachers and students want the VC and Pro-VC of BUET to quit but they are trying to remain in their positions. They are also denying the allegations. But they should have resigned from the posts instantly.

**Mohammad Jashim Uddin**

We want politics-free BUET and all other educational institutions. But will it be possible in next 100 years?

**Mahbub Alam Dalim**

into darkness! There is now no amicable solution left. The problem could be solved before, when the PM assured the Teachers Association. But now the ball is rolling in a very delicate way and government should take immediate action to end the stalemate.

**MH Uddin**

This is the consequence of politicising a highly renowned and respected educational institution like BUET.

**Truth Teller**

It's hard to believe that only to get control of the university by their own partisans, the government is throwing thousands of young engineers

I wonder why the government is still backing up this two people in post. All the departmental heads and institute directors have already

resigned. Now who is going to run BUET? The VC and Pro-VC have completely failed to run the institution. They think they own BUET and can do whatever they want. We just want to see them removed as early as possible.

**Tanvir**

The BUET VC and Pro-VC have lost their moral right to remain in office. Do they not see the crowd of senior teachers and students who are asking them to step down?

**Reaz Hassan**

This is simply sick politics and malignant for the nation. We are with the teachers and students and asking the government to restore peace through justice.

**Anonymous**

Under the circumstances, it is absolutely unbecoming of someone of the stature of the VC of a public university not to accept responsibility and step aside. We must remember that a VC is responsible for leading the institution with a clear vision of where he/she wants to take it in 20, 30 or 50 years. At the same time, a VC has the overall responsibility of

managing the institution by delegation of tasks for which there are already well established procedures. From that point of view, it appears that the responsibility is misplaced.

**Anonymous**

If this is the situation of the most renowned educational institution of our country, then what can we expect from the rest of the institutions? We urge the government to please solve the problem and restore the glorious academic atmosphere immediately.

**A student**

It surprised me how the incumbent VC claimed the whole steps as conspiracy. A neutral inquiry committee should be formed to prove the allegations without further delay. The education minister has shown his negligence regarding the most sensitive matter to date. He could have taken a brave and praiseworthy action by nipping this problem in the bud. I wish the Prime Minister would not negotiate or compromise with corruption and take urgent steps at least to keep the government's image right.