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Open letter to the Chancellor of BUET

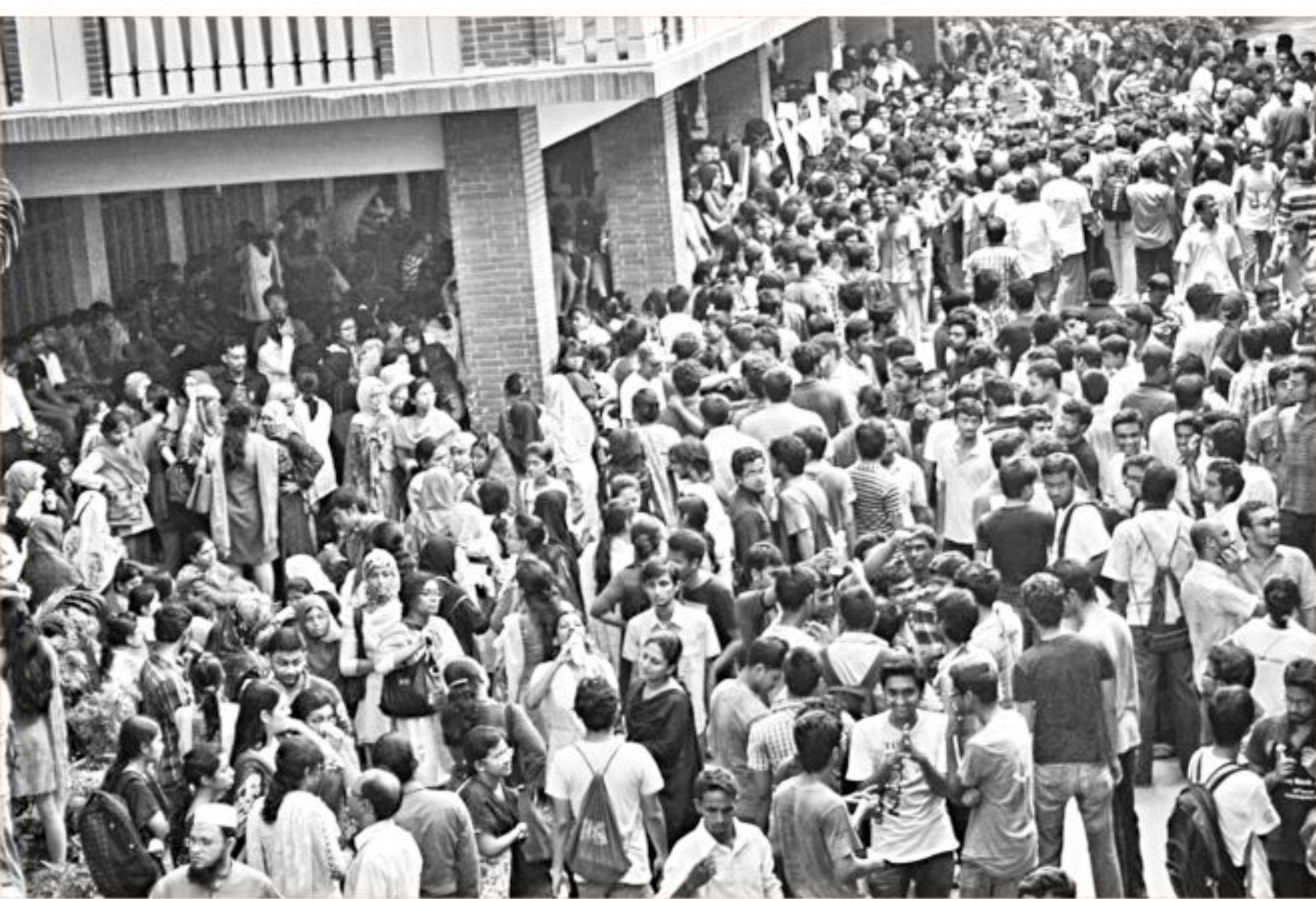


PHOTO: STAR

With a sense of urgency, we are showing our deepest concern on the current situation in BUET. We believe that you are in a position to resolve the issue. Although we have graduated from BUET years back, we still consider BUET as part of our home. Due to the untainted high reputation of BUET abroad, we have been able to get into some of the world's best schools for our graduate study which eventually landed us to highly successful careers in world reputed companies such as Intel Corporation, Nike Corporation etc.

We are indebted to BUET for our career and accomplishments at home and abroad. The rich history and culture, combined with high ethical standards of BUET, has positioned itself as one a premier institute. We find it painful to witness our beloved institution go astray right in front of our eyes. We feel, as Ex-BUET students, that we have a responsibility to speak out.

The allegation brought against the current administration is very serious and is also unprecedented. Under the circumstances, where the teachers, students and alumni are showing their open, clear and intense dissatisfaction with the actions by the VC and the Pro-VC, we find it hard to imagine how the institution can function with the mentioned persons remaining in their positions.

This is jeopardizing the entire university and its reputation. Also we are concerned with the fact that the issue has not been dealt with due urgency. On top of that we were astonished at the manner the university was closed ignoring the future of the students. This is unacceptable and we strongly feel that the demands raised by the teachers association and the students should get due consideration and response. We seek your prudent and immediate intervention in resolving the crisis.

As you hold the highest authority in our education syndicate, we entrust you to preserve the prestige and image of this world class institution.

We would deeply appreciate your kind attention to this matter.

BUET Alumni Association- Oregon Chapter
 Hillsboro, OR, USA

Padma bridge financing

Now that World Bank has turned its back on financing this pride project of the nation, let us on a nationwide basis face this problem on a war footing.

For effective fundraising and the progress in bridge construction, I as a humble citizen, propose the following two important issues that can ensure us to overcome this financial dilemma on a rational and pragmatic basis.

These are summarised as under:

1. Let all our political parties commit to unite for implementing this nationally important cause. Let us have a common and united platform. We should achieve this in national interest; and this will overcome and resolve all problems of raising funds, for the project.

2. Let all concerned, politicians, bureaucrats and different organisation, ministry or person who are, or who will be related to this project, vow to work with clear conscience, and avoid all unfair means and practices.

If these two vital criteria are met, then I firmly believe, that no issues will be difficult for us, and we shall be able to meet all challenges for building the Padma bridge, making our national dream come true!

Engr. S.A. Mansoor
 Dhaka

Donate blood, save life

We come to this world for once and so if we get a chance to do something for mankind we should utilise the opportunity. If more people show interest in donating blood then it will be good for all because professional donors often turn out to be drug addicts. Often they carry diseases. The youngsters should involve themselves in voluntary activities like blood donation. It is a noble thing to do. Healthy people can easily donate blood once in every four months. Blood donation is not risky at all; it does not have any bad impact on health. On the contrary, it is a very good practice and quite conducive to health. Yet, when it comes to donating, not everyone shows interest. It is a fact that the blood banks still collect the major portion of their blood from the professional donors, which is indeed a matter of concern. So it is very important to donate blood, and the willing ones among us must come forward.

Cantara Wali Ruhil
 On e-mail



Infra-red and ultra-violet rays

Often our students get confused about the status of the above two colours. In fact, both infra-red and ultra-violet are not colours because they are invisible to human eye. The word 'Infra' means 'below' or 'under' and infra-red is below the visible colour red while 'Ultra' means 'beyond' and ultra-violet is beyond the visible colour violet. The colours we can see are actually the visible parts of the electro-magnetic spectrum. The detail scientific importance about these colours can be learned from any advanced science or physics book.

Professor M Zahidul Haque

Dean
 Faculty of Agriculture
 Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
 Dhaka

Tale of a dental patient

Poor Ghiasuddin had come all on a sudden after a very long time, from Agha Nawaber Dewri, Old Dhaka and told us that he had been suffering from severe toothache for the last ten days. My wife gave him taka two hundred and told him to go to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. But he refused to take the money saying that he had gone to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. There he met a person who advised him to go to a particular dental clinic for quick relief and better treatment. He went to the clinic and paid the dentist a consultation fee of taka three hundred. He (the dentist) wrote him a prescription and told him to get his teeth X-rayed.

Ghias purchased the medicines for taka two hundred and also got his teeth X-rayed for taka three hundred and fifty and the next day he went to the dentist again.

The doctor examined the X-ray report and said that his teeth needed to be cleaned and also a tooth needed to be pulled out which would cost him taka seventeen hundred only. The doctor further said that if there was any difficulty in pulling out the affected tooth, Ghias would have to undergo an operation for which he would have to pay taka eight thousand only. Poor Ghias stood there astonished and puzzled.

After a week, Ghiasuddin again came to us and said he had pulled out his tooth for taka one hundred and fifty only at a footpath dental shop in Court Road and felt much better now.

If so is the story of Ghiasuddin, we wonder how the majority of our poor patients would go for medical treatment. Would our health minister kindly make any comment on the matter please?

O. H. Kabir
 Hare Street
 Wari, Dhaka

Causes of global warming



This planet had once been an alluring home for its dwellers. For many centuries, mankind has lived peacefully on earth with little problems. But what threatens our lives today is Global Warming.

Our planet is being heated up constantly by two major reasons--- the Greenhouse Effect and the Ozone Depletion. These two factors lead the route to Global Warming. In heavily populated countries such as Bangladesh where the roads are almost always a flood of vehicles, great amounts of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide are released out into the atmosphere. These gases tend to increase temperatures and make life difficult for living beings. Our earth is shielded from harmful ultra-violet (UV) radiation from the sun. But scientists have discovered that harmful Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which are given out from spray cans are hugely depleting the layer. As a result, UV radiation is more free to enter the earth as there is nothing to block its path. High temperature triples the evaporation rate in Bangladesh and is currently causing massive floods.

But as we all know, if there's a colossal problem, there ought to be a solution. We can fit catalytic converters into the exhaust pipes of vehicles which convert harmful greenhouse gases into non-harmful gases. We can ban the use of CFCs, and find better substitutes. If meticulously followed, these can prevent global warming. I would kindly request our government to take strict actions in order to ensure a peaceful life for us in the future.

Faiyad Rahman
 Uttara, Dhaka

Corruption in police dept.

I was standing at Panthaphat Signal near Bashundhara Shopping Mall when I noticed a traffic police stopped a car and asked the driver to produce the necessary documents before him (traffic police). The driver failed to produce any kind of paper and so offered the police tk 100/-. But the traffic police did not accept the amount. Then the driver offered him tk. 200/-. This time the traffic police took the amount and allowed the driver to go.

I was thinking at that time about the unfortunate condition of our country, that the funding of the Padma Bridge Project was cancelled by the World Bank due to corruption. Can't we make our country a Sonar Bangla where there will be no corruption?
 Md Hasibul Haque

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Sunday's The Daily Star news report headlined "Govt free to disclose WB's graft reports"

Robin

I would like to see the faces of the ministers now who were vociferous against the WB. I would also like to know Prof. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury's response to Ellen Goldstein's comment on the Chinese company. However, it is clear that World Bank will not reconsider its decision.

Munna, Kuala Lumpur

So there is no obstacle to the disclosure of the report by the government. We need to see the report. If the government does not publish it, we will point our fingers at its ministers.

Anonymous

Now the duty of Bangladesh government is to publish all the reports and letters. WB gave the permission. So publish all the reports and letters soon.

Upfront

The issue is becoming more complex than a mere case of corruption. The Daily Star would do justice to both Bangladesh and the global lender by immediately taking a similar e-mail interview with Bangladeshi prominent jurists.

Suahmed

The cancellation of loan agreement for Padma Bridge was a great shock for the nation. The government is trying to cover up the corruption behind the cancellation of the agreement. Now it is the responsibility of the government to disclose the report without any delay for the sake of public interest.

Tajul Islam, Beijing

Rather than diverting the money to projects in other countries, the World Bank should consider lending the money to international investors for investing in the power projects in Bangladesh which are awarded through international competitive bidding conducted under the supervision of World Bank. That could equally benefit the country.

A Bangalee

The World Bank has permitted Bangladesh government to publish the reports, but will the government publish really?

Asfi Siddiqui, USA

Now WB's position is clear. All we want from DS is an investigative report so that everybody involved in Padma bridge corruption is exposed.

Engr. Mohammad Zahinul Islam

Ellen Goldstein has put the ball in the finance minister's court in a very prudent manner. Now all eyes are glued to the finance minister to see his action on this matter. Indeed, people of the country are looking forward to information which will ensure clarity and uphold transparency.

GM Sumon

If the government wants to prove that they have no fault, then they must have to produce well-argued clarification against WB's claim.

Ripon

The government should disclose the names of the corrupt persons so that the country can know who is to blame for the fate of Padma Bridge. Let's see the courage of our government now.

Amdem, USA

That is what we have been asking for. Every event should be published so that everything can be open to the people. But WB should also be careful; it should see that the report is not edited and nothing is omitted. The complete report should be published. But it seems that Bangladesh government will not publish the report as stated by finance minister. As everybody knows, Bangladesh government keeps everything secret. There is no bar to publishing, now